

The **PLAIN TRUTH**

A magazine of understanding

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W H Y . . .

the Seven Last Plagues?

If God is LOVE, why will He punish humanity by sending the frightful plagues depicted so vividly in the Book of Revelation?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

MANY BELIEVE that the *plagues* of Egypt and the *seven last plagues* constitute the one great exception to the statement: "God is LOVE."

A common idea is that God is about to close probation—that the time of salvation will soon be over—that no people can be saved thereafter. *Then*, according to this conception, a God of Wrath will glut his rage and revengeful passion by pouring out vials of torture upon defenseless, helpless heads. A doomed humanity will suffer the most excruciating pains imaginable.

This is a PAGAN conception of a god capable of all the base passions of degraded men.

This concept is *not true!*

Why God Must Deal with Humanity

It is time we understand exactly how rotten the human race has become. The nations are filled with robbery, rape and murder. Two thirds of our women are fornicatrices, and over 95% of men. Drunkenness and prostitution fill the land.

Atheistic communists have enslaved millions from the cradle to an untimely

grave; wealthy capitalists have famished the laborer while the laborers steal from one another.

Whole nations have tortured captive races, roasted their victims alive, gassed millions scientifically. Religious hatred smolders in many lands, awaiting the hour of outright persecution.

This is the world we live in *today*—a world of scientific "progress" and moral decay!

How would YOU deal with such a wretched lot of human beings? How merciful would YOU be to those who have enslaved others? How would YOU teach them all a lesson they would *never* forget? How would YOU correct the nations till they finally have their bellies full of their carnal, murderous ways?

HOW God Will Deal with Man

Now let's understand what GOD will do about it!

Notice Jeremiah 25:31: "A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Eternal hath a **CONTROVERSY** with the nations, *he will PLEAD with all flesh*; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Eternal."

Did you notice that God will *plead* with lost sinners? Probation will *not* be closed! God will send Jesus Christ to **PLEAD** with all flesh to bring them to salvation.

In His controversy with the nations, God *pleads* with humanity because He *loves* the human family. "God is love" (1 John 4:16). But there is only *one* kind of pleading which human beings seem to understand permanently—*physical force!*

Do you realize that for nearly 6,000 long years God has already pleaded with the human family—thru **PREACHING**—by the spoken and written word?

No More Verbal Pleading

God **IN PERSON** spoke to Adam, the first man. On the very first day after Adam's creation—that very first Sabbath day—"the Eternal God **COMMANDED** the man, saying"—that the wages of transgressing God's eternal laws is **DEATH**, but that God's **GIFT** was eternal life! Yes, God preached **THE WAY OF ETERNAL LIFE** to the first man.

But God made the man a free moral agent. God, sovereign **RULER** of the universe, deliberately *ruled* that man must

CHOOSE. God commanded Israel: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore CHOOSE!"—But God commanded them to choose LIFE and BLESSINGS! God's laws are LOVE. They are the way to peace, happiness, joy—BLESSINGS, and God's free GIFT of eternal life. But God *allows* man to reject THIS WAY, and to choose curses and death. In no other way can GOD'S GREAT PURPOSE HERE BELOW be worked out!

God pleaded with the world thru Noah, but the world scoffed and jeered—and chose the fate of drowning! God sent His prophets—but the people stoned and killed them.

God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ—who SPOKE God's Message of GOOD NEWS, of HOPE, of ETERNAL LIFE. They rejected His Message and crucified the Son of God. They martyred His apostles and true ministers of the first and second centuries. Then they turned to FABLES and deception, while appropriating the NAME of Christ, and proclaiming to the world that Jesus *was* the Christ! (Mat. 24:5; II Tim. 4:4).

Men have proved they *will not* (except for the very few) voluntarily respond to God's pleading thru WORDS!

God *will not*—CANNOT, without defeating His own purpose—remove the prerogative of free moral agency from man. He WILL NOT *force* men into right ways. But now God *will* PLEAD in a stronger language than soft words. He will PLEAD with humanity to turn to the right ways *in the one language carnal humans seem willing to heed*—PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT!

Punishment in LOVE!

As any wise and loving father *punishes* his children FOR THEIR OWN GOOD when they refuse to respond to verbal admonition, so an ALL-LOVING GOD will now plead with rebellious humanity with physical FORCE—with PLAGUES!

That time IS AT HAND—coming inside of 25 years! After the first six plagues, administered with increasing severity, shall come the *seven last plagues*—plagues of horrible sores, of blood instead of water to drink, of intense heat from the sun to scorch men, of quakes and terrifying hailstones (Rev. 16).

He will give the world a taste of its own ways—a lesson it will *never* forget. It will be for our own good and for the salvation of the nations.

We read in Hebrews 12:5-6: "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVETH HE CHASTENETH, AND SCOURGETH EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVETH."

Yes, the plagues are a manifestation of God's *love*! He desires that all nations might come to a knowledge of salvation. He will *plead* with the world to accept the way to peace which the nations have not known.

It Happened Once Before

When God says He will *plead* with the nations in the only language they understand—physical force—*He isn't fooling!* HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS! It happened once before, and it will happen again!

Understand this! The former plagues fell on Egypt (Exodus, chapters 7 to 12). The last plagues fall on Babylon. You will find this recorded in Revelation, chapters 15 and 16.

The plagues on Egypt were *real*. The seven last plagues will be equally *real*.

Israel, in the days of Moses, dwelt in Egypt. God *pleaded* with the Egyptians to let His people go. He finally delivered the children of Israel after sending ten plagues on Egypt. The purpose for delivering Israel was to make the Old Covenant.

Now notice the remarkable parallel. Israel, today, is in "Babylon." God says: "Come out of her [Babylon], my people"—God is speaking to His people Israel—"that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of *her plagues*. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (Rev. 18:4). This is repeated in Isaiah 47:1, 6 and 48:20. Remember that the Jews went *into Babylon*.

Observe what will happen at the *coming exodus*: "As I live, saith the Eternal God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, (the last plagues), will I rule over you: and I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein you are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury (last plagues) poured out.

"And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I PLEAD with you face to face. *Like* as I *pleaded* with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of *Egypt*, so will I *plead* with you, saith the Eternal God. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the *covenant*. And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against Me; . . . and ye shall know that I am the Eternal" (Ezek. 20:33-38).

God will again send His *plagues* to cause the nations to release His people Israel. He will punish the rebellious in Israel and bring the remainder into the *new covenant* relationship, described in Jeremiah 31:31-34.

"Behold, the days come, saith the

Eternal, that I will make a *new covenant* with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah."

What Is Modern "Babylon"?

These prophecies are, however, meaningless unless we understand who "Babylon" and "Israel" are today.

In the book of Daniel we have pictured in chapters 2 and 7 the succession of Gentile governments from that day until now. The entire system is pictured as a great *image* in chapter 2; and as four wild beasts in chapter 7.

The first of the Gentile governments, beginning in Daniel's time, was BABYLON. Thereafter came the vast empire of the Medes and Persians, followed by Alexander's Greco-Macedonian Empire and its four major divisions. Next came the Roman Empire which lasted until the traditional fall in 476 A.D. That Roman Empire has been revived six successive times, beginning in 554 under Justinian.

God names this whole system after the original BABYLON, from which it descended. "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON, THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (Rev. 17:2, 4-6). She is the 20th Century DAUGHTER of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon (Isa. 47:1, 5).

This great system is the source of false doctrine which has made the people of all nations spiritually drunk until they cannot discern truth from error. That is why it will take the supernatural power of God, sending physical *plagues* to bring the people to their senses! They will understand in no other way!

Now that we have identified the modern Babylon—*soon to rise up once again* as a "United States of Europe"—as the continuous system of Gentile world governments, we need to understand who *Israel* is.

An Astounding Revelation

Biblical prophecy has probably meant little to you if you have *not* understood who Israel is. You probably have missed the astounding significance that the prophesied catastrophes mentioned throughout the Bible are destined to befall OUR PEOPLE—AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN and the democracies of north-western Europe!

You NEED to know who Israel is! Write *immediately* for our FREE booklet "THE UNITED STATES AND THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH IN PROPHECY" which *proves* our national identity as the House of Israel! There is no knowledge more astounding or thrilling

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Millions do not Know What Christ Really Was!

Shocking tho it is, Millions of sincere believers are deceived by a diabolical deception. ANTICHRIST IS HERE ALREADY! Perhaps YOU have been misled! Was Christ human, or Divine? Read the TRUTH about this vital subject that has puzzled millions. Your very SALVATION depends upon it!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

REAL "Utopia" is just around the corner. God is soon going to intervene in world affairs and SAVE this world from itself.

Prophecy foretells it. World events show it is coming. Many of YOU will see it with your own eyes.

While most people seem to want to scoff at the idea that their Creator has power to intervene in human affairs, nevertheless God's prophetic messages continue to be fulfilled. Now we are swiftly reaching the point where the world's only hope will be the intervention of God to REDEEM misguided humanity from the horrible result of their wrong ways.

God alone has power to SAVE man from the inevitable result of competition, greed, selfishness, and resulting world war. God alone has made it possible for man to be saved from the results of SIN. "For God so LOVED the world, that he GAVE his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Do we realize what a tremendous sacrifice had to be made to redeem us from sin and give us eternal life?

God so LOVED this world that He gave His own Son to save it! God is love!

Collectively, man is about to reach the end of his rope. He will finally come to realize God's great LOVE when he is supernaturally saved from world suicide. And individually, we need to really understand just HOW God has made it possible for us to be spared from the penalty of our wrong ways.

Unusual Problem

The problem of just how God ordained that the penalty of human sin be paid is one that has puzzled theologians for generations. In fact, it was the basis for many of the early heresies after the time of the apostles.

This subject requires clear thinking

and a willingness to be corrected and reproved by the Word of God—our only infallible source of information. We must be careful to consider ALL the scriptures on this subject, and realize that one scripture cannot be used to contradict another—for God does not contradict Himself, and as Jesus said, "The scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

First of all, we need to understand that the reward of sin, the penalty for going the wrong way, is DEATH. God's inspired Word says: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

When Jesus took our sins He paid the penalty we have incurred—not eternal life in hell-fire, but DEATH. "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3).

But if Jesus were only human His life would pay the death penalty for only ONE other person. No one human being could save mankind. The full penalty for everyone's sins must be paid!

Yet God alone could not of Himself pay the penalty of man's sins. The penalty is the forfeiting of human life—not animal or any other kind of life. And God, as the source of all life and the One who has life within himself, and is a spirit being, cannot die (John 5:26; II Cor. 4:18).

Therefore it was absolutely necessary that there be One who was both human and divine.

Christ Was Divine

In order to pay the penalty for your sins and mine, it was necessary that Christ be Divine—that His life be worth all our human lives put together.

Man does not have life inherent within himself. He has only a chemical existence which soon ends. As God told Adam after his sin: "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen.

3:19). Then God drove man out of the garden of Eden, "lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" (Verses 22-24). So we see that Adam had no eternal life whatsoever inherent within himself—and God did not permit him to attain it at that time.

The New Testament also shows clearly that man has no eternal life inherent within himself. One example is this inspired statement of John: "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (I John 3:15).

God alone has and can give eternal life. "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:26). Again we read of Christ: "In him was LIFE; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4). Jesus told Martha, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). Paul described Christ as the One "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto" (I Tim. 6:16).

If Christ were only human, He could have saved but one other human, and given eternal life to none. To do this required God—the life and power of the Creator.

Christ Is Creator

In John 1:1-2, we read that Christ—the Word or Spokesman—was with God the Father in the beginning. "All things were made by him (Christ)" (verse 3). Paul wrote of Christ: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth" (Col. 1:16). Christ is also proved to be the One who did the creating in Hebrews 1:8-10. Christ, the Word, the Divine Spokesman, "spake and it was done."

Therefore Christ's life is the life of the Creator God. Paul called Him "God

our Saviour" (Titus 1:3). Yes, in the person of Christ, the very *Creator* became our *Saviour*!

Christ is our Maker and a member of the Godhead. Therefore, His life which He *gave* for us is of *greater value* than the total of *all* human beings.

In Hebrews 7:1-4, we find a description of the One who "was made like unto the Son of God" and now "abideth a priest continually" (verse 3). The entire book of Hebrews reveals the present office of Christ as our High Priest. This description can fit none other than the One who came in the flesh as Jesus the Christ.

He is described as being, "Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life" (verse 3). Hence, we see that He was not the "Son" of God until He was born of the virgin Mary.

Then Christ, the One through whom the Father had created the heavens and the earth, was translated into flesh and born of a human virgin. Matthew writes that Mary "was found with child of the Holy Spirit" (Mat. 1:18).

An angel spoke to Joseph telling him the child was conceived of the Holy Spirit and commanding him: "Thou shalt call his name *Jesus* (meaning *Saviour*): for he shall *save* his people from their sins" (verse 21).

The narrative continues: "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name *Emmanuel*, which being interpreted is, *God with us*" (verse 23).

Here we see that even Jesus Christ's name revealed Him both as *Saviour*, and *God with us*—a *divine* being *with us*, *in the flesh*—to *SAVE* us from our sins.

Only His life—that of the *Creator*—could pay the full penalty of *sin* for all mankind.

Jesus Was Also Human

In order to pay the penalty of human sin, it was not enough that Jesus was *Divine*. He must also have been *human*.

The Bible definition of sin is this: "*Sin is the transgression of the law*" (1 John 3:4). God's spiritual law was given to *man*—not the plants, nor the animals, nor the angels. The Ten Commandments govern the relationship between men, and between man and God. The transgression of this law constitutes *sin*. And, as we have seen, the wages, or reward, of sin is *death* (Rom. 6:23). God exacts the forfeiture of *human* life as the penalty for sin.

"For it is not possible that *the blood of bulls and of goats* should take away sin." (Heb. 10:4). It required HUMAN BLOOD!

Christ, then, *must* have been *human* in order to pay this penalty.

Paul explains in 1 Cor. 15:21-22: "For since by *man* (Adam) came *death*, by *man* (Christ) also came the *resurrection* of the dead. For as in Adam all *die*, even so in Christ shall all be made *alive*." Since eternal LIFE is made possible only by MAN'S resurrection—and the resurrection to eternal life is made possible for all men *only by the resurrection of the ONE MAN—CHRIST*—and since He was resurrected *from the dead*—therefore the DEATH of the ONE MAN, Jesus Christ, was necessary to pay MAN'S penalty.

Adam, the father of the human race, introduced *sin* into the world. And all of us have succumbed to it. It is the *human* race that is under the death penalty for sin—and that penalty *must be paid*—BY HUMAN LIFE!

So since only *God* has power to save and give life—and since only *man* can pay the penalty of sin—the *only possible way* to save mankind was for Yaliweh—the "Lord" or "Eternal" of the Old Testament, the One who executed the creation for God the Father—to come *in the flesh* as a HUMAN—GOD become MAN—and *die* for the sins of the world.

Only thus could the penalty of *all human sin* be paid by *one man* as *Saviour* of the world. *That* life was the life of our MAKER, become HUMAN, for the very purpose of death—a life greater than the sum-total of all human lives! MARVELOUS MYSTERY!

Jesus Had HUMAN Nature

God came *in the flesh* as Jesus Christ, lived *without sin*, and thus was able to *die* and pay the full penalty of sin in our stead.

The apostle Paul was inspired to write: "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made *under the law*, to REDEEM them that were under the law, that we might receive the sonship" (Gal. 4:4-5). Christ was made of a woman—born of the virgin Mary. He was made "under the law"—His very purpose in coming in the human flesh was to take our sins upon Himself, which would put Him "under the law"—under its *penalty*, *death*. He did this to *redeem all humanity* which is "under the law"—under the *penalty* of DEATH. Jesus was GOD made *mortal human flesh*, "*for the suffering of death*" (Heb. 2:9)—FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE!

So Jesus took *human* nature upon Himself and was made subject to *death* in order to be our Saviour. "He also likewise (as the children are partakers of *flesh and blood*) took part of the *same*"—took on HUMAN NATURE—became flesh and blood—"that through

death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).

As Mr. Armstrong fully explained in his article "*Was Jesus Dead?*" which appeared in the June PLAIN TRUTH, Jesus was really DEAD during the three days and nights His body was in the grave. He who had been one of the personalities in God—was *changed* into flesh so He *could* DIE for our sins.

Paul explains that Christ: "Being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be EQUAL with God: *But made himself of no reputation*" —EMPTIED Himself of His *divine glory and power*—"and took upon him the *form* of a servant, and was *made in the LIKENESS of men* . . . and became obedient unto DEATH" (Philip. 2:6-8).

When Christ was in the human flesh, He said: "*I can of mine own self do NOTHING*: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because *I seek not mine own will*, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (John 5:30). Jesus had *emptied* Himself of His *divine glory and power*. He plainly said he could of Himself—in His own *human* strength—do NOTHING.

In John 14:12, Jesus said: "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and *greater works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." Here we see that any outside *help* and *power* that Jesus had—coming from God the Father—we *may also have*, and may accomplish *greater works* through the power of the Holy Spirit which He went to heaven to send.

In living a *perfect life*, in doing great *miracles*, Jesus did NOT have any special help from God the Father that we cannot also have.

Christ, one of the beings in the Godhead, had now been *changed* into flesh—still having the *personality* and *will* to do right which distinguished Him as an entity—yet now had become *human*, having HUMAN NATURE with all of its *desires, weakness, and lusts*—and subject to *death* just like any other human.

This is a truth about which *millions* are DECEIVED!

Doctrine of Anti-Christ

The Satan-inspired doctrine that Jesus was *not* human that He did *not* inherit the sinful nature of Adam, that He did *not* have all the normal human passions and weaknesses against which all of us have to struggle—in a word, that Jesus did *not* really come "in the flesh" as a normal human being—*this is the doctrine of the Anti-Christ*. Notice Romans 8:3: "God sending His own Son in the likeness of *sinful flesh*."

"Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come *in the flesh* is NOT of God: and *this is that spirit of anti-*

christ, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and *even NOW already is it in the world*" (I John 4:3).

Millions are being taught, in one form or another, this deception of Satan the Devil! Some believe that Jesus had a "special" kind of blood in His veins—not containing *human nature* with all its weaknesses. Then there is the belief that *denies* the fact that Jesus inherited *human nature* from His mother, Mary. This theory thwarts the meaning of the many scriptures showing that Christ Jesus came as the son of *man*—inheriting His *hu-man* nature from a normal, human mother.

Yes, as the scriptures clearly state, this Satan-inspired doctrine of Anti-Christ is "*even NOW*" in the world—and some honest and sincere people are being deceived by it.

Doctrine Explained

Now, *listen!* The underlying PURPOSE of Satan—the *Adversary*—in formulating the doctrine of Anti-Christ is this: *It is an attempt to deny the fact that a normal man—with HUMAN NATURE—could, with the help of God's Holy Spirit which is now accessible to every man* (Acts 10:34-45), *live in perfect obedience to the LAW OF GOD as Jesus Christ did*. Again notice WHY Christ came in the likeness of *sinful flesh*: ". . . and, for sin, condemned sin in the flesh"—WHY?—"that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled IN US, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:3-4).

The idea Satan is trying to put across is that it is *impossible* for man to keep the spiritual law of God, and so Jesus came as our Saviour—not "in the flesh" with normal human nature—but through some "special process" so that He could keep the law of God *in our stead!* And therefore we don't have to keep the Spiritual Law. What Christ did *in our stead* was to *die* for us! But His *obedience* was our EXAMPLE!

Those who believe this doctrine seem to *forget* that Jesus obeyed God in *every* way, "leaving us an EXAMPLE, that ye should follow his steps" (I Peter 2:21-22), that Jesus taught, "IF thou wilt enter into life, *keep the commandments*" (Mat. 19:17), and that He said of *all mankind*: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but *by every word of God*" (Luke 4:4). We are not only to keep the letter of the law, but to follow it as it is magnified throughout the Bible in "every word of God."

As Jesus explained throughout Matthew 5, we are to DO and TEACH even the *least* of the commandments (verse 19), and should go far beyond the scribes and Pharisees by obeying even the *spirit*, and *intent*, of God's great law of love as summed up in the ten commandments.

Satan the Devil, through His *false ministers* who appear as "ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:13-15), is trying to *deceive* the world into believing in a FALSE CHRIST—a Christ who *did away* with the Father's spiritual law and made it possible for us to inherit eternal life without having to build, with the help of God's Spirit, the kind of holy, righteous CHARACTER which would enable us to *obey* God's eternal, spiritual LAW both now and forever.

Truth Made Clear

Now that we understand the real motive behind the doctrine of Anti-Christ, let us consider a few final scriptures which will clear up the *truth* of this matter once and for all time.

In James 1:13-14, we read: "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for GOD CANNOT BE TEMPTED WITH EVIL, neither tempteth he any man: *But every man is tempted* when he is drawn away of *his own lust*, and enticed."

How plain! How abundantly clear! Not having *human nature* with its *passions* and *lusts*, God CANNOT be tempted with evil. And on the contrary, *every* man is tempted of his own *lust*—because *every* man *does* have *human nature*.

Now turn to Hebrews 2:17-18. Here God shows that Christ is *qualified* to be a *merciful* and *faithful* high priest—"For in that he himself hath suffered being TEMPTED, he is able to succour them that are tempted."

Again, in Hebrews 4:15 we read: "For we have not an *high priest* which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but WAS IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED like as we are, yet without *sin*."

Could *anything* be more CLEAR?

God CANNOT be tempted. Yet Jesus Christ WAS tempted in *all points* like we are. He was HUMAN. He was tempted through the *lusts* of His HUMAN NATURE.

He said: "I can of mine own self do NOTHING" (John 5:30). In the days of fleshly weakness, He cried out to God who was able to save Him from death (Heb. 5:7).

In spite of having *human nature* just as we do, with all of its passions and weaknesses, of being "tempted" in *all points* like as we are, He was "yet WITHOUT SIN."

He willingly suffered every human trial, privation, and persecution, "leaving us an EXAMPLE, that ye should follow his steps: Who DID NO SIN, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Pet. 2:21-22).

Jesus Kept Commandments

Though having *human nature*, Jesus

did not sin! And what is the Bible definition—God's definition—of *sin*? "*Sin is the transgression of THE LAW*" (I John 3:4).

Then Jesus, though having *human nature* obeyed God's LAW. He said, "I have *kept* my Father's commandments" (John 15:10). He instructed: "If thou wilt enter into life, *keep the COMMANDMENTS*" (Mat. 19:17).

So it is not only *possible*—but *obligatory*—that we obey God's spiritual law, the *Ten Commandments*, as they are magnified throughout the Bible. Keeping them in the spirit does NOT mean "spiritualizing" them away, but really *obeying* them as *Jesus set us the example*, thru the power of God's Holy Spirit, which He gives to them that OBEY Him! (Acts 5:32).

By cleverly twisting, distorting, and misapplying scattered scriptures, Satan—operating through his *false ministers* preaching the doctrine of Anti-Christ—has been able to *deceive* nearly all of professing Christianity on this subject.

Peter knew that men would especially try to twist and pervert the writings of Paul in regard to the law of God. He was inspired to write that Paul's epistles contained "some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (II Peter 3:16).

God does not contradict himself, and literally hundreds of plain, clear scriptures teach us to OBEY the commandments of God, the holy, spiritual LAW of God. And your Bible clearly reveals that Jesus—born into the *human flesh* and having *human nature* even as you and I—*kept* His Father's commandments and set us a *perfect example*.

Exercising Character

The *only difference* between Jesus and any other human is that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit. Therefore He obeyed God's laws *from birth*—and never had to go through the process of *repenting* of going the wrong way, of *unlearning* wrong ideas and habits, and of gradually learning to *exercise His will* to do right continually.

He, who had been God, was now changed *into human flesh* with all its weaknesses and lusts. Nevertheless, He retained in His personality the *determination*, the WILL to obey God *always*.

The *temptation* to do wrong, the *idea* of *sinning* entered Jesus' mind. Yes, it DID occur to Him to disobey God. He WAS tempted in *all points* like we are!

But from birth, Jesus would always *reject* these wrong ideas, these temptations. He said, "Get behind me, Satan!" He WILLED to do right. He went to God the Father for POWER to do always right. And, praying for the strength He

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By the Radio Church of God

needed through the Holy Spirit, *He always did right.*

But it WASN'T easy! Jesus had exactly the same day-to-day battle with sin that we do.

Jesus needed outside help sorely. And He knew where to get that help. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there PRAYED" (Mark 1:35). When He needed strength to go through the terrible ordeal of the crucifixion, "being in an agony he prayed more EARNESTLY: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44).

Perhaps now we can better understand Paul's inspired statement in Romans 8:3: "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of SINFUL flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."

Yes, Jesus had sinful flesh—human nature. But by exercising the WILL to always obey God, and by receiving the extra help He needed to master His fleshly desires, Jesus repudiated the sway of sin in the human flesh and showed that the law of God could be kept.

Right here let us understand the scriptures which show that Jesus was worshipped while He was yet in the human flesh. In Mat. 2:11, 8:2 and seven other places in the gospels, we find accounts of how men worshipped Jesus.

Yet we know that the Bible forbids us to worship another man.

To understand this, we must realize that in Jesus, "God was manifested in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16). Men were permitted to worship Jesus because He was the personality and perfect will of one who was God—and He exercised the character of God. They were not worshipping Jesus as just another man, but as the holy, righteous, perfect character of God manifested in the flesh.

He was GOD—in the human flesh!

God's Great Purpose

And so by exercising the WILL to obey God, Jesus "condemned sin in the flesh" for what purpose?

Here is the real ANSWER to why God had to come in the human flesh! Here is the real PURPOSE for the great SACRIFICE Christ made in emptying Himself of His divine glory and power, and coming to strive with sin in the flesh and finally DIE the ignominious death of the cross!

The answer is given in the very next verse of Romans 8. Christ came to condemn sin in the flesh—"That the righteousness of the LAW might be fulfilled in US, who walk NOT after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (verse 4).

Christ came in the flesh to set us a perfect example, then to DIE in payment for our sins and make it possible for us to be reconciled to a holy, righteous God and receive of His Spirit—His very life and character implanted within us.

Then He was raised from the dead and ascended to heaven, having now qualified through human experience to

be our merciful and faithful high priest—now to guide us and strengthen us through the Holy Spirit so that we, too, can learn to OBEY God's laws perfectly, can WILL to do right always, can develop the holy, spiritual CHARACTER of God—and finally be found worthy to inherit eternal life as the born sons of Almighty God.

How great is God's love in coming into the human flesh to save us and make us His own! How wonderful is His plan when we really understand it!

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of The WORLD TOMORROW!

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"The WORLD TOMORROW"

STARTING SUNDAY, JULY 24TH

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

WABC, Channel 7—11:30 P.M.

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WBKB, Channel 7—9:00 A.M.

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KTLA, Channel 5—10:30 P.M.

PORTLAND, OREGON

KLOR, Channel 12—9:30 P.M.

DENVER, COLORADO

KLZ, Channel 7—10:30 P.M.

TYLER, TEXAS

KLTV, Channel 7—10:45 P.M.

STARTING SUNDAY, JULY 31ST

SAN FRANCISCO-STOCKTON, CALIF.

KOVR, Channel 13—10:30 P.M.

TEXARKANA, TEXAS

KCMC, Channel 6—10:30 P.M.

SEATTLE-TACOMA, WASH.

KTNT, Channel 11—10:30 P.M.

HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

KTVH, Channel 12—2:30 P.M.

KANSAS CITY

KMBC, Channel 9—10:30 P.M.

HOUSTON, TEXAS

KPRC, Channel 2—11:30 A.M.

SORRY!

A typographical error completely reversed the meaning of a very important sentence in the June PLAIN TRUTH. Get your June PLAIN TRUTH and correct it now. It's on page 4, column 2, the third paragraph from the top. It should read "Jesus Christ was now dead!" Reread it so you understand it correctly.

This Universal Lack of SELF CONFIDENCE

Most people have a sense of inner timidity, doubt, inferiority—don't you? It's a terrible handicap. Here's the Cure!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

PROBABLY *you* are afflicted with a serious handicap. It's more nearly universal than you'd suppose!

Most people call it "lack of self confidence." Psychologists call it "inferiority complex." Millions suffer from it. It's a principal reason for countless failures. It brings worry, frustration!

Those plagued with it are somehow *afraid* to push on to success. They shun the acceptance of responsibility, limiting the success they *should* achieve in life. They shrink from making decisions, from *acting* on decisions, from leaping out where they realize they should. They constantly *fear* insecurity, often flee from reality. They bog down to mediocrity.

But of course they try to *hide* this embarrassment from others.

The Psychologists' "Cure"

My father has told me about a book he read in his late teens, titled, "He Can Who *Thinks* He Can." It was one of the "inspiration" books published in those years—several by this same author, Orison Swett Marden. These books had a profound influence on my father.

He has told me how, as a boy, he was always a follower instead of a leader—filled with a feeling of inferiority. Then, at age 16, away from home for the first time on a summer vacation job, his employer continually expressed confidence in him—told him he was destined to make a big success in life—fired him with ambition and zeal.

For the first time he began to *believe* in himself. Confidence skyrocketed. These "inspiration" or "pep" books implanted the idea he could accomplish anything if he only *thought* he could, prepared diligently for it, worked hard and energetically at it, and stuck with it thru thick and thin.

Perhaps you've heard him explain, in his broadcasts, how he studied intensively, "burned the midnight oil," adopted a rapid, "hustler" walking gait, generated boundless energy commensurate with a *belief in himself* that displayed intense

"cockiness," and simply "oozed" self-confidence and conceit. But because he studied incessantly, thought intensively about what he was doing, and worked industriously, he was becoming successful—unusually successful, in his field, for a young man his age.

He had gone, as the few who leap out of the inferiority rut usually do, over to the opposite extreme. That's human nature. But he has also told you, over the air, how terribly he had to suffer, later, to have this cancerous disease of *belief in himself* cut out, and replaced with THE ONLY RIGHT KIND OF CONFIDENCE! More of that, later.

My father had adopted the psychologists' cure for inferiority. And then he had, in turn, *to be cured of that cure!*

It's human nature to go from one wrong extreme to the other. Instead of finding the REAL CAUSE of his troubles, man has tried to deal with the effect. Many popular modern writers and philosophers have written books and articles telling people how to overcome this timidity and inferior feeling.

The methods usually recommended for developing confidence include positive thinking, the desire to reach others and the expression of SELF. The doubts and fears will flee, they say, with faith in *yourself*.

To cultivate this faith, you must free yourself from hesitancy and anxiety by "kidding" yourself into believing you really *have* the assurance you lack. This means *flattery* of the self, *careful coddling* and pampering of the self.

Among business men's groups, speakers' clubs, lodges, and women's clubs, these practices are followed. There is the usual insincere flattery, on-the-surface discussions, empty, useless and profitless conversation.

The real *objective* behind this practice is *what other people think of you!* The only goal set forth for gaining self-assurance is that of gaining more friends, having people "think well of you," and the acquirement of material possession. By telling yourself "I'm pretty good" or,

"I'll make it all right, I don't need anybody else," the "moderns" assure their eager followers that they may have plenty of *self-confidence*.

The *ways* of this modern society, of flattery, back-slapping and hand-shaking each other into believing in themselves, leads to the *false* values and the *synthetic* foundation for REAL CONFIDENCE. The flattery will begin to take effect. The one being flattered begins to really *believe* in himself. He begins to think these things are really *true* about him, and perhaps he *is* the best speaker, the most personality-filled and competent man in the group after all.

What a letdown it is—what a disheartening SHOCK it is, when this individual finds all the pseudo-confidence has fled, that he cannot meet a difficult situation, and all his ego and trust in SELF is shattered! Then, after being swept to the heights of SELF-confidence and trust in the SELF, he is dashed to the gutter of despair and hopelessness—feeling himself to be a complete FAILURE.

Part of the heritage our father has bequeathed to my brother Dick and me is this very lesson he had to suffer so terribly to learn. And he has passed that lesson on to the vast radio audience. God help us all to heed, and avoid needless suffering by the cruel teacher, EXPERIENCE!

For this is exactly what happened to him. God was calling him for a very special mission. So God took away his business—his success—shattered his self-confidence—plummeted him from the heights of egotistic conceit all the way down to the deepest chasm of despair, disillusionment, and feeling of utter failure. Then God was able to reveal to him the only REAL confidence, and start him toward REAL success!

The Right Kind of Confidence

What does GOD say about the way to confidence? WHY, THE EXACT OPPOSITE, OF COURSE!

God said through the prophet Isaiah that the wicked man had to *forsake* HIS

WAY! God tells us to **THROW SELF AWAY**—not to pamper and fondle it. God says to **GET RID** of self—*man* says to **FLATTER** self. Man talks about “positive thinking,” and God says to forsake even your own thoughts! (Isa. 55:6-9.)

The wisest man who ever lived, under the inspiration of God, wrote many scriptures concerning the differences between those following the customary way of this world and those who were willing to listen to the instructions of God. Solomon knew the difference between confidence in the **SELF** and the *right kind* of confidence. He called the person who trusts in his **OWN** heart a fool! (Prov. 28:26.)

Jesus Christ directed one of His parables toward those who **TRUST IN THEMSELVES**. Christ said those who *exalt themselves* shall be abased; and those who *humble themselves* shall be exalted. (Luke 18:9-14.)

The *real test* of one who has the **RIGHT KIND** of confidence comes when the “chips are down.” The man who sets his jaw and says: “I will **NOT** quit!” despite all the handicaps and apparent obstacles, is the one who has the quality for success. Solomon wrote, “If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small” (Prov. 24:10).

How can **YOU** have *this kind of* strength and confidence? God plainly says He will **RESIST** the proud, but give *grace* to the humble. His instructions for finding the only true source of confidence is to **BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY!** (1 Pet. 5:5-6) And so, once again, we see that **GOD’S WAY** is the exact *opposite* from man’s way!

Confidence in Others?

In this modern age of pact-making and peace parleys, you are constantly seeing men putting their confidence in one-another. Nations place trust and confidence in allies, who, perhaps a few short years later, become their bitter enemies. Strange though it may seem, this, too, is another extreme. Because of the widespread lack of confidence in **SELF**, people begin placing their confidence in other people!

At this moment, the United States is putting her confidence and trust in many foreign nations, two of which were our hated enemies a few short years ago. What is the reason? **IT IS BECAUSE THIS NATION HAS FORGOTTEN ITS GOD!**

God shows that putting confidence and trust in another *man* is also an evil—and commands man **NOT** to put his trust in a fellow human like himself! “Put **NOT** your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; *in that very day his thoughts perish*” (Ps. 146:3-4).

David wrote in the Psalms that it is

better to trust in The Eternal than to put confidence in man! (Ps. 118:8-9)

Christ, an Example of Confidence

Today, you hear a good deal *about* Jesus Christ. You are constantly told what a great man He was—what a great **PERSONALITY** He had. But few have heard very much about the **MESSAGE CHRIST BROUGHT!** Jesus plainly said He came as a messenger into this world, bringing a message directly from God the Father to mankind! (John 8:38 & 42). But Christ also said that He **COULD DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING BY HIMSELF!** “The Father (**GOD**) that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works,” He said. Christ said it was the **WORKS** He did that bore witness of Him (John 5:36).

THINK OF IT! The very Son of God, for all His personality and energy, said He could do **NOTHING** by Himself! **CHRIST** had absolutely **NO self-confidence!** *How much less, then, can you and I accomplish by trusting in ourselves?* (John 5:19 and 30). Yet Jesus Christ had **MORE CONFIDENCE** than any man who ever lived!

What was this source of dynamic **CONFIDENCE** exhibited by Christ? *Let’s not assume!* Let’s ask Jesus Christ Himself! He said it was the **FATHER DWELLING IN HIM** that did the works! (John 14:10). **THERE** was the source of the absolute **CONFIDENCE** of Jesus Christ! It was *faith in GOD!* The **FATHER** who lived *in* Jesus through the power of His Holy Spirit did the mighty works which Christ performed! *Christ did not have one iota of self-confidence—but He had ALL confidence in God!*

Notice the *complete* confidence that was in Jesus Christ. Confidence such as **NO OTHER MAN** has ever possessed—because it was not confidence in Himself—but confidence in the Almighty God! When Jesus was called to the tomb of Lazarus, He demonstrated the constant *attitude* of mind that gave Him this great confidence. Christ did not have to “beg” or “plead” with God to raise Lazarus from the dead, but was in the *attitude* of **SUCH CONSTANT CLOSENESS** and **ONENESS** with God that He simply “lifted up His eyes, and said, Father I thank you that you have heard me. And I know that you hear me always, but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that you have sent me” (John 11:41-42).

Christ thanked the Father for having already heard Him before He prayed aloud.

This complete and total *confidence* in God gave Christ the assurance and faith to call out “**LAZARUS!, COME FORTH!**” And a man who had been *dead* four days was brought back to life, and walked away from his tomb!

We, too, may have this *same* kind of

confidence! “For the **LORD** shall be your confidence, and shall keep your foot from being taken.” (Prov. 3:26.) Jesus Christ said: “Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and **GREATER** works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (John 14:12).

Confidence with Obedience

Confidence, faith, trust; all these are closely linked to and are inseparable from obedience. Without obedience, you cannot have confidence!

Abraham, called the Father of the faithful, had the kind of obedience that God wanted. It was this obedience that gave Abraham the complete **CONFIDENCE** he needed! God said it was **BECAUSE** of Abraham’s obedience that He would make the promise given to Abraham of inheriting this earth **UNCONDITIONAL!** (Genesis 26:5.)

Abraham met one of the greatest tests ever placed on a human being. God told Abraham to take Isaac, the son he had waited so long for, and to go to a certain place to kill him. (Genesis 22nd chapter.)

Abraham did not question God’s command! He didn’t ask **WHY**—he did not try to remind God this was the son God had given him, after waiting for so many long years—he simply **OBEYED!**

WHY?

Because Abraham **BELIEVED** God! (James 2:23.) Abraham had **COMPLETE CONFIDENCE**—**NOT** in *self*—but in God!

God had **PROMISED** to give Abraham many multiple thousands and thousands of sons. Abraham knew *immediately* that God could either raise Isaac from the dead, or bless him with other sons according to His promises. Abraham was **FULLY PERSUADED** that, whatever God had promised, He was **ABLE TO PERFORM!** (Rom. 4:21.)

What a sad lack of that kind of confidence today! People do not believe God **WILL** keep His word! People do not **FEAR** God—neither do they want to **OBEY** Him! But to those who **WILL OBEY**, who **WILL** believe His word and **DO** those things God shows them they must do—God says “**BLESSED** are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart.” (Ps. 119:2.)

How YOU May Have Confidence

How can **YOU** come to have the real **ASSURANCE** and **KNOWLEDGE** that you need in making decisions in this life?

The Apostle Paul gives us the first step toward the *only real confidence* in Romans the 12th chapter and the first two verses: “I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, *that you present your bodies* a **LIVING SAC-**

(Please continue on page 13)

SPIRITISM—Truth, or Fraud?

Do Mediums really produce supernatural phenomena that baffle Science? What did Houdini, Thurston, and others learn? What about the witch of Endor? What does the Bible say of Spiritism? Here is the first of two eye-opening installments revealing the surprising truth on a mysterious subject of world importance.

by Herman L. Hoeh

London, England

THIS GENERATION is suffering from "mass softening of the brain," quips a leading writer in an American magazine. And right he is!

Never has any generation so rapidly lost its moral and spiritual balance. The breakdown of family life, the loss of sound judgment, the unconscious fear of the future—these and many other factors are creating a DANGEROUS WORLD-WIDE atmosphere in which almost anything can happen!

Many youths, otherwise normal, sometimes commit the "craziest acts." Their only explanation is that they felt an uncontrollable urge to murder or rape or steal; or they heard a voice that haunted them until they committed an obnoxious deed.

Not only insanity, but neurosis and psychosis affect millions of ordinary individuals. Then there are the thousands of psychiatrists who try to understand the subconscious problems of OTHERS. *because they can't understand themselves!*

Whether we like to admit it or not, we are BREEDING A RACE OF MENTAL AS WELL AS PHYSICAL WEAKLINGS. We eat wrongly, we think wrongly, we live wrongly. Is it any wonder that people everywhere suffer emotionally, mentally and spiritually?

The FUTILE Search for Security

The most impelling passion today is the quest for security and for the assurance that all will be right in the future. Young couples want to be "assured" that their marriages will be successful. Businessmen want to be "assured" that the signs of the zodiac are promising. Many seek to the mysterious in order to know if they are pursuing the right career.

Here, for example, is an illustration of this trend:

Nearly everyone has heard of Monsieur Dior, the famous Paris designer of clothes for women. In a recent article describing this international figure, we learn of his driving passion to know how his designs will appeal to the

feminine world. He consults "lady mediums for advance information." In the flickering light of a candle, these spiritist mediums consult the "next world" and give him assurance that his latest collection will be a wonderful success!

Monsieur Dior is only one out of millions who do the same thing!

I have been especially conscious of this since I reached London. Spiritism and kindred occult doctrines have spread their influence far and wide.

From a local newspaper I quote the following: "An interesting meeting is being held in one of the committee rooms of the House of Commons this week for the benefit and instruction of Members of Parliament who may want to know more about our subject"—spiritism and psychic phenomena.

Men and women—and particularly women—of high and low rank, dictators, kings of Europe, even past presidents of the United States, business men, politicians, scientists, theatrical stars, clerks and housewives—all consult the mysteries of occultism and spiritism.

This practice is an *international menace*, bringing ruin upon nations. During the last war, Adolf Hitler ordered the establishment of the Occult section of the Health Department.

According to the Spiritist newspaper "TWO WORLDS," those present at the *seances* of the noted medium Lillian Bailey included "the late King of Greece and Mackenzie King, one-time premier of Canada, as well as many well-known film stars and others of show business." The influence of Lillian Bailey extended to "Loni Logue, the brilliant Australian voice specialist who cured King George VI of his stammering." A *medium* is one who pretends to contact the "spirits of those who have died and gone to the next world."

In Scotland "the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland had declared that psychic research was not contrary to the teaching of the Presbyterian faith. Members of the church were not forbidden to take it up," states the newspaper "TWO WORLDS."

Such famous men as Sir Arthur Conan

Doyle, the writer and lecturer, Sir Oliver Lodge, one of the greatest scientists of our day, Sir Edward Hall, famous British barrister, have given their unre-served support to spiritism.

Trickery, Fraud and Deceit

Many who have heard of Houdini the magician, who conjured up all kinds of "magic," have recognized that trickery, fraud and deceit are often associated with spiritism. Any number of spiritist phenomena are the direct result of hypnotism, of the clever frauds perpetrated in semi-darkness, of the fact that the hand of the medium is quicker than the eye of those attending a seance.

Many direct-voice contacts with the "other world" are purely the result of ventriloquism. Photographs of the materializations of "spirits" have been demonstrated to be frauds—the result of miniature pictures attached to tiny flash lights, often secreted in the palm of the hand or in the pockets of the medium. In the semi-darkness the opening of the camera was cleverly timed with the flash of a miniature flash light bulb on which a picture was pasted. Though there was actually *no* materialization of a "spirit" from the other world, there was a photograph!

Frauds have been so prevalent in spiritism that *there is hardly a prominent medium who has not on certain occasions had recourse to deception*. Case after case has been carefully documented against scores of mediums who have been caught red-handed in perpetrating their trickery.

Fingerprints, supposedly of deceased, have often been faked in semi-darkness. Finger print experts have been called in and have proved that the prints were not those of the deceased but of the medium.

Acts of levitation—being lifted up into the air without physical means, or floating in the air—have been demonstrated, in certain cases, to be *the result of hypnotic suggestion*.

Documentary evidence of these examples which I have mentioned is accessible to nearly anyone. H. Dennis

Bradley, a one-time proponent of spiritism, presents an excellent case of fraud in his book "*—and After,*" published in 1931. So does Harry Price, in his demonstration in the "Bulletin of the National Laboratory of Psychic Research" (1931). Certainly the most thorough works have been those written by Herbert Thurston, S.J., a Roman Catholic. Two of his books are *The Church and Spiritualism* and *The Physical Phenomena of Mysticism*.

Anyone who has investigated spiritism recognizes that much of what is performed in the flickering light of seances is plain dishonesty and common fraud!

But it is NOT ALL FRAUD!

Science Is Baffled

The very reason for the increasing prevalence of spiritism is that *not all* of its manifestations are fraud. Many documented cases prove beyond doubt that there is unnatural power present in spiritist sittings and demonstrations.

Says Henry Thurston: "The knockings and the table movements . . . cannot all be explained by mere trickery. Investigators," he continues, "who, following in the track of Houdini the conjuror, began by denouncing all the manifestations as fraudulent, have found themselves compelled to modify their views." (From the booklet "Spiritualism.")

Absolutely astounding occurrences have been proved to be associated with spiritist phenomena. In one particular instance, the testimony of a medium was used to track down a criminal. The case was that of Harry Dobkin, convicted of murdering his wife. The sister of the murdered woman, Polly Dubinski, grew suspicious of the long absence of her sister. She therefore visited a spiritist medium who told her that her sister was murdered and who revealed the manner of her death. The police were informed. They visited the medium and obtained the details. Upon checking into the case of the missing woman, they found the medium's account of the death verified. Harry Dobkin was arrested and convicted!

The medium Marion Trevor recently received a message of the Sidon disaster in Portland harbor, nearly 12 hours before the submarine sank. This same medium apparently foretold the passing of King George VI and of Queen Mary.

These and many other remarkable incidents associated with spiritism have defied the explanation of scientists. They **KNOW** these phenomena occur, but they are at a loss to explain them.

The Origin of Spiritism

Modern spiritism is little more than one hundred years old. It had its origin in Hydesville, New York, in 1848. A

farmer, John D. Fox, lived in Hydesville with two of his daughters, Margaret and Kate. They had recently moved to their home. At night noises disturbed their sleep. As usual they attributed the nuisance to mice and rats. But upon retiring on the night of March 1, 1848, the rappings commenced with special violence. Kate addressed a few words toward the direction of the noisy rapping. Instantly the rappings responded!

Shortly thereafter the mother of the Fox sisters received a message from a "spirit" associated with the rapping noise. The "spirit" claimed to be that of Charles B. Rosma, which revealed that he had been murdered in that very house several years previously. Upon searching in the cellar a large portion of a human skeleton was found. It was later determined that a man answering to the description of Rosma had been seen visiting the house, but his whereabouts thereafter was unknown.

The neighbors soon discovered that there was intercourse with "spirits" in the Fox residence. They came to investigate. Lost articles were found; questions were answered from the unseen darkness. Many became convinced that the Fox sisters were in contact with the dead.

Thus Spiritism spread from the little hamlet of Hydesville to the whole Western World!

But let's notice what happened to the Fox sisters.

After forty years in the service of spiritism, or "spiritualism" as it is sometimes called, the Fox sisters had become the slaves of alcohol. They were moral degenerates, cursed and swore. They died mental and physical wrecks, the objects of charity! These facts are admitted by spiritists themselves. *You* may verify them in any published work on the subject.

This is what the influence of spiritism can produce! This is the kind of diabolical influence that motivated Adolf Hitler in many of his decisions. **AND THIS IS THE INFLUENCE THAT PERMEATES OFFICES OF GOVERNMENT IN OUR NATIONS TODAY!**

Is it any wonder that we have sex pervers infiltrating the government of the United States—or any wonder that true spirituality is nearly dead in Great Britain, where many leading men have espoused spiritualism?

Is it any wonder that women are now seeking to give birth to their children under the influence of hypnosis?

But to continue—Remember that I mentioned that *modern* spiritism began in 1848. That date is *not* the real origin of spiritism.

SPIRITISM IS THE OLDEST FORM OF DECEPTION IN THE WORLD TODAY! Let's understand how it began.

What Is a Spiritist "Medium"?

First, in every contact with "the other world" or with "spirits," there must be a "medium"—one through whom contact with the next world is supposedly made.

Second, there is always a "guide" or "control" who is in charge of a medium. Usually women are mediums, as in the case of the woman whom Saul visited. The account of this amazing episode is found in I Samuel 28:7-25. According to the adherents of spiritism, spirit guides or controls direct the woman "until she is fitted to act as a permanent 'mouthpiece' through which he can give out the individual teaching, messages, demonstrations, healing, and so on that he came . . . to convey." These spirit guides so influence the medium that finally "the guide can order and direct his instrument as *he* wills." "On the medium in a passive condition is directed a stream of thought, originating in some attendant spirit entity, *which expels for the time being the medium's ordinary consciousness* and makes trance communication possible."

These statements, by adherents of spiritism, explain what happens to a medium who is under the influence of a superior spirit entity. Now let's examine the *first instance of a spirit using a medium*.

It occurred in the Garden of Eden!

The first medium was the SERPENT in the garden. Notice that this account, given in Genesis 3, has been scoffed at by materialistic scientists as *impossible*. But it is no more impossible than the hundreds of other *genuine* spiritist phenomena which defy scientific explanation!

That *first* medium "was more *subtil* than any beast of the field." Here was an animal which had *subtil* characteristics. Suddenly *under satanic influence*, it spoke! Eve listened. Then she was deceived!

The overwhelming suffering, the sin, disease, sorrow, grief, misery, war and death that you witness today *is the result of mother Eve attending a seance by a medium!*

She acted upon the advice given by the evil power that influenced the physical serpent. She persuaded her husband against his better judgment, to do what he knew should not be done.

That is how spiritism influenced the world from the beginning!

Ancient Greeks Were Spiritists

Little wonder that spiritism influences so many learned individuals today. It was believed and practiced among the Greeks, from whom comes our modern philosophy.

An outstanding feature of the religion
(Please continue on page 13)

Government Authority— Should you submit to it?

by Herman L. Hoeh

IS IT YOUR DUTY to reform the government or to resist bureaucratic ordinances? Do you really have to show respect and pay taxes to political office holders even when they abuse their high offices? Are officials responsible "to the people" or to God? Which?

What Does the Scripture Say?

The past few generations have grown up in an atmosphere of disrespect toward authority, both in the home and in public life. Nearly everyone wants to act *according to the way he feels* about leaders, and *not* according to the way *God says* we should conduct ourselves. It's high time to realize that there is a judgment coming and that it does make a difference how you act toward those in authority.

The apostles devoted many verses in their epistles to explain the relationship of Christians to human governments. Paul wrote at great length because he knew how easily this subject would be neglected, as it is today in nearly every denomination. Here is what he said in Romans 13:1-7:

"Let EVERY soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be ARE ORDAINED OF GOD. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: AND THEY THAT RESIST SHALL RECEIVE TO THEMSELVES DAMNATION."

Notice the emphasis which the apostle places on this matter. "They that resist"—those who refuse to submit to authority—"shall receive to themselves damnation."

"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. *Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause PAY YE TRIBUTE ALSO:* for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. *RENDER THEREFORE TO ALL THEIR DUES: TRIBUTE TO WHOM*

TRIBUTE IS DUE; CUSTOM TO WHOM CUSTOM; FEAR TO WHOM FEAR; HONOR TO WHOM HONOR."

This is not just Paul speaking. It is Jesus' directive to His church for all times and generations. It is very important—let every person be *subject to higher authority*.

Instead of preaching this truth from the Bible, most ministers preach their own words about "getting out the vote" and "supporting a Christian candidate." "It is your duty," they say. This is not what Jesus or the apostles taught. The real Christian duty is *NOT* to mix with the political affairs of this world, but to be subject to authorities. You are to be *separate from* the world, although living in it (John 17:15, 16).

Does Government Authority Come from the People?

Contrary to the common teaching, the Bible proves that government authority and power is **ORDAINED OF GOD**. It is not derived "from the consent of the governed"—the people.

"There is **NO** authority but of God." "The authorities that exist are ordained of God." Human beings seem to reason that because men may be elected or appointed or may seize power, that their only authority proceeds from the people that supported them. How untrue this assumption is!

This is an age when men don't know who rules in earthly affairs. Almost everyone is as ignorant of this matter as was Pontius Pilate because the clergy is failing to preach the truth. Jesus had to tell Pilate that the authority vested in him came from the Almighty. Notice how similar Pilate reasoned compared with people today: "Then saith Pilate unto him, *Speaketh thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?*" Jesus answered, "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, **EXCEPT IT WERE GIVEN THEE FROM ABOVE**" (John 19:10-11).

Since any authority is ordained of God we are to be subject to it. Anyone **WHO RESISTS THE AUTHORITY OF HUMAN GOVERNMENTS IS ACTUALLY REBELLING AGAINST GOD WHO ORDAINS THAT AUTHORITY**. This applies equally as well to anyone in a position

of authority, whether a school teacher or a foreman in a factory.

Thinking Up an Excuse

It is only human nature for people to think of an excuse to circumvent these ways in which God says we should live. You have heard it said that God does not approve of the evil that some politicians or other officials commit. Then it is argued that corrupt leaders have thereby forfeited their right to command our respect and submission.

This is a clever but faulty argument. Why?

God ordained rulers to punish evil works, not good works. Even though officials may be elected or appointed by the people, rulers are actually *accountable to God who permits them to exercise authority*. Persons in responsible positions may fail to execute the commission of their offices—to punish wrong deeds and to preserve order. They may corrupt the government. But as long as God permits them to be in authority and to retain their office, you are commanded to **REMAIN** in subjection to the divinely ordained position which they hold.

You pay respect to God by respecting the men who hold their offices by God's permission and authority. Until He removes them, you would be rebelling against the will of God by refusing to honor the positions which such representatives exercise.

It is so hard for human beings to conceive this principle because nearly everyone has been deceived from childhood by the fable that God has nothing whatsoever to do with the civil governments of this world. Perhaps you were never told that *the right to exercise authority over human beings is solely the prerogative of the divine Creator*. Human beings do not inherently have the right or the ability to rule properly over fellow human beings. But God is a God of order, not confusion. Since men won't submit to His own government and laws, He has given permission *in this age*, before the return of Jesus Christ, that men may exercise authority in all phases of life.

Human beings in any position may be serving themselves and the devil, but the **OFFICE is ordained of God!** You

honor the person *because of the office* which he holds, even though his deeds may be evil.

Example of Saul and David

Consider the case of Saul and David. King Saul obtained his position from God, as do all rulers. Saul was disobedient to the Eternal and David knew it. Did David therefore rebel and seek to organize the people to remove him from office?

No. Instead, David said this: "The Lord shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle and perish. The Eternal forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the Eternal's anointed." (1 Sam. 26:9-11)

Notice that David recognized the fact that it is *God's right* to put persons out of office. It could not be the people's right since the people have never been given the right in God's sight to put such men into office in the first place. David respected and honored and submitted to the office which Saul exercised. He left it in the Lord's hands to remove him from office. Christians must do the same.

Nebuchadnezzar had to learn this truth, and it took him seven grueling years. He finally admitted after gaining his sanity that "the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the BASEST OF MEN" (Daniel 4:17; 2:21).

If God decides to place in office the least capable and the basest men, because of the sins of the people, who are we to condemn the wise judgment of God? *And strange as it may be, it is often the people, who, in their attempt to make themselves wiser than God, elect the least capable, ACCORDING TO THE PLANNED FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE ETERNAL GOD.*

God never sanctions the corruption, the abuses of office holders. Neither should you. Your obligation is merely to respect *the authority of the office*, not the corrupt deeds, the gifts of mink coats, the lucrative vote-getting jobs.

Is Submission Always Obedience?

There are certain powerful churches, particularly in Europe, but also in America, which teach that human government is not only of divine origin, but that respect for authority and submission to officialdom means **TOTAL OBEDIENCE TO LEADERS** and even dictators.

This teaching is absolutely *false*!

Jesus' words in Matthew 23:2-4 are quoted to support this terrible error. In speaking to the multitude and the disciples, Jesus said: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: *all* therefore *whatsoever* they bid you observe, that

observe and do . . ." It is at this point that these denominations stop quoting the words of Jesus to give the impression that you must observe everything that a person in authority commands.

But what did Jesus continue to say? "But do NOT ye after their works: for they say, and do not."

There it is. Those Jewish religious leaders taught part of the truth, but they themselves were not obeying the truth. Therefore Jesus had to instruct the people that the *religious authority* of the scribes and Pharisees must be respected. They were to observe *what-ever truth* was preached, but they were *not to follow the error*.

In Acts 4:19 you are given the true Bible definition of "submission." The disciples were commanded to *disobey* God. What did they say to the authorities? That *obedience* to God is more important than obedience to men. Notice, however, that the apostles did not resist them. They *submitted* to the *penalty* imposed by their accusers. (Acts 5:40)

Thus you have the true relationship that should exist between every Christian and the human government under which he lives. You are to honor and respect authority *and submit to every ordinance of man*. ONLY when obedience to human rules and regulations would violate the laws of God should you steadfastly decline to obey. But then *you must submit to the penalty*. So said the apostle Peter.

What Does Peter Command?

The apostle Peter recognized the importance of Christians' relationships to human government. He had the courage to preach the truth to the congregations. Here is what he said: "*Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man* for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. **FOR SO IS THE WILL OF GOD . . . Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.**"

Take careful note of his wording: "Submit yourselves to every ordinance." Peter did *not* say, "*Obey every ordinance.*" Of course not, because he knew that many human regulations were wrong. Here again you can see that Peter intends that all Christians should obey whenever possible, and always submit to the penalty in case obedience to a human law would be sin.

Christians are always to be examples of perfect submission to government regulations, no matter how childish or absurd some stipulations may be. "Be subject to principalities and powers . . . to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of NO man." (Titus 3:1, 2)

Is It Wrong to Speak Evil of Officials?

It is a common practice for people to resist government regulations and to accuse office holders, whether the President or the corner policeman. This supposed "right" of the people is being abominably misused. There is a righteous limit to the "freedom" of speech.

The Bible sets that limit by commanding you to refrain from speaking evil of dignitaries. Solomon said you are *not* to curse officials even in your thoughts. (Ecc. 10:20)

It is reproachful to Christ as well as a dishonor to His authority for Christians to hurl or to repeat *needless accusations* against rulers. This, of course, does not mean that you can't say anything about a man's mistakes. Rather it means that no gossip or misrepresentation of facts which damage a person's character is to be repeated.

Christians should not fight the government in its own courts as certain deceived religious sects sometimes do. Rather submit, and patiently pray for God to change the circumstances according to His will.

Most Christians ought to pray more earnestly that their minds and hearts would be free from slanderous thoughts, **NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE PERSON SEEMS TO DESERVE THEM**. Nor even the righteous Michel *accused* Satan. He calmly said, "The Lord rebuke thee." Only the *ungodly* dig up evil to throw needlessly at their enemies. (Pro. 16:27)

There is also another important point which has often been overlooked. In Romans 13:4, you read that Christians are to "be afraid" of government power, if they have committed evil. Yet Jesus taught us *not* to fear man, but rather fear God (Luke 12:5). How can you reconcile these verses?

By the fact that Christians are *not* actually to be afraid of the *men* in office, but rather "*of the power*" which they wield by God's permission. You fear their authority because they are the servants or revengers of God to curb crime. In reality, then, you are only fearing the power of God who gave this authority to rulers.

When you do good, you "may boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper, and I will NOT fear what *man* shall do unto me.'"

(Hebrews 13:6)

Is the Payment of Taxes Necessary?

Now comes an often misunderstood part of this vital message. Should you pay taxes if you are a Christian? If so, why?

Paul said that Christians **MUST PAY TAXES, CUSTOM DUTIES AND TRIBUTE** to those in authority. Why? "For they are God's ministers," His servants, "at-

tending continually upon this very thing." It is their job, their work to regulate society and to punish crime. They are worthy of their hire.

Because of covetousness, especially when income tax or land tax bills appear, some seize upon the words of Jesus in Matthew 17:24-27 as an excuse for failure to pay taxes. Notice what Jesus really said: Christians, being free and heirs of the Kingdom of God, should not be required to pay tribute to a *foreign* government, "notwithstanding, lest we should offend them . . . give unto them" the tax.

Yes, Christ commands you, just as Paul did, to pay taxes, and they should not be paid grudgingly either. It is the right of leaders to receive remuneration for their duty. But what if officials are not performing their duty properly or are squandering tax money for private ambition? Are you to pay taxes?

Certainly. As long as any person is in office, you are to honor that office by submitting to it. It is so easy to forget that human beings are not the judges of one another, but God is the Judge. Officials are not responsible to the people, but to God. Your responsibility ceases once you have honestly paid the tax or the duty. It is the official's responsibility to see that he properly administers the money.

Although this is the day of exorbitantly high taxation, you should never fear that God will fail to provide the amount necessary to conform to state laws. Jesus provided Peter with the extra tribute money beyond the normal increase. (Matthew 17:24-27)

Prayer for Officials

In the days of the Roman Empire, when Jesus was training his disciples, it was the custom of the government to *compel people to carry mail* and goods belonging to the Empire. Jesus referred to this forced practice when he said, "Whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." (Matthew 5:41)

Notice that Jesus taught submission, not resistance.

Today the government does not compel its citizens to bear this responsibility. How thankful have you been for this fact, as well as for all the other benefits that have accrued in the fields of communications, transportation and public safety? It is so easy to forget and to neglect Paul's admonition that "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men: for kings, and FOR ALL THAT ARE IN AUTHORITY; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour." (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

Now do you see that the Father has established earthly governments to *keep order* until His Kingdom should come? It is your commanded duty to submit to them, patiently, excusing the obvious faults inherent in human leadership. It is your privilege as a Christian not to be burdened with the heavy responsibilities of this complex world, but rather to recognize that all human history is a record of the tragedy of human self-direction contrasted with obedience to God.

The Scripture is given to make known

to us the fact that *all authority belongs to the God Family*. We are not to take it upon ourselves to mix with this world's faltering society, but rather to call others *out* of the error of human self-rule. By growing in patience and understanding, we shall be born into the family of God and have His powers and abilities and character which will enable us to rule the world in righteousness. (Dan. 2:44; Rev. 3:21; Rom. 8:19) What are you doing about your eternal calling and selection? Are you making it sure by obeying every word of God?

Lack of SELF-CONFIDENCE

(Continued from page 8)

RIFICE, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And BE NOT CONFORMED to this world, but be you TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

God's way to find confidence is the DIRECT OPPOSITE from the *false* ways of this world! God's way is the way of GETTING RID OF ALL SELF, of *throwing away* the rebellious, cast-iron human WILL that is *contrary* to God—of CRUCIFYING THE OLD SELF with Christ!

Paul explained in Galatians 2:20 that He was *crucified* with Christ, but that he still lived by the FAITH of the Son of God!

The only worth-while confidence is the knowledge that you have actually *given* your very SELF—your will, your desires and your complete MIND—into God's hands. If you have *real* confidence, you'll be saying with Christ, "Not *my* will, but YOUR will be done, Father."

God inspired John to write, "And now, little children, *abide in Him*, that when He shall appear, we may have CONFIDENCE, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming" (1 John 2:28).

The one most central reason for the FALSE confidence on the EXTERIOR that people have today is because they are much more CONCERNED about what

people will say, what *people* will think—the impressions they are making on other *people*, than they are about WHAT THE ALMIGHTY GOD THINKS OF THEM! Jesus Christ did not fear what *man* thought of Him! Rather, He had the Spirit of the FEAR OF GOD! (Isa. 11:2.) And Christ was HEARD of God—because He feared! (Heb. 5:7.)

If you really FEAR God—you will want to obey Him! The way to real confidence is through *unquestioning obedience*! God tells us through John, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then we have CONFIDENCE toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, *because* we keep His commandments, and do those things which are pleasing in HIS (not our friends' and relatives') sight!" (1 John 3:21-22.)

Do YOU want *this* kind of confidence? Or do you, like most "moderns" of today, want God to "keep His nose out of your business?" God says, "See? I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU THIS DAY LIFE AND DEATH . . . CHOOSE LIFE!" (Deut. 30:15-19.) God offers life on the one hand—*eternal* life and rulership with Christ, and *death* on the other. God *commands* you to MAKE YOUR DECISION which one you will take! He will not make that decision for you.

God grant that *you* will make *your* decision with CONFIDENCE!

SPIRITISM—Truth, or Fraud?

(Continued from page 10)

of the Greeks was the practice of divination or clairvoyance by entranced persons called oracles. Clairvoyance is defined as the power to *see* what others are unable to see. Clairaudience is defined as the power to *hear* what others are unable to hear.

The most famous of these oracles was attached to the temple of Apollo in

Delphi. It was not only a national, but an *international institution*! It influenced world politics!

The Delphic oracle or medium, a woman who was a priestess, was consulted by rulers, military generals, legislators and innumerable others on important matters of law and order. Whenever international matters developed into

serious controversies, the oracle was consulted. It advised when the nations should use their military strength.

The written records and decisions of the oracle were kept with other official documents in the archives of the various Greek city-states.

Plato is recorded to have written: "All questions of religious detail should be left to the decision of the oracle, as is the usual practice in Greece."

Such has been the *international influence* of spiritism!

A Counterfeit of Truth

When asked the question, "How does Christianity square with spiritualism?" Margaret Lawrence gives this as her answer:

"I suggest that we take the Bible 'by and large' as a wonderful old record *in general*; but do *not* try and live by every individual word in it . . . The *main outline* . . . is true. But much of the rest should be read with caution—and above all, with the help of common sense and knowledge. And this knowledge the study of Spiritualism can give you." (From "What Is this Spiritualism?")

Compare this with what Jesus tells us: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but *by every word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Mat. 4:4).

And again, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

True knowledge comes from God. "The fear of the Eternal is the beginning of knowledge" (Pro. 1:7). The apostle Paul warns us against "the opposition of knowledge *falsely so-called*: which some professing have erred from the faith" (I Tim. 6:20-21).

According to the spiritists, Jesus Christ is not the one true Mediator, but rather in His place is "that gifted class of people called Mediums, who can bring heaven to earth and unite the two worlds in one . . ." (Finlay's *The Rock of Truth*, pp. 297-8).

Spiritism denies that Jesus Christ was God manifest in the flesh to redeem mankind from sin. It denies that Jesus is the ONLY Mediator between God and man. Paul writes that there is "one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all" (I Tim. 2:5-6).

A Substitute for the Bible

Spiritism manifests itself as the one true religion which alone can bring the joys of a millennium to humanity. It masquerades as the final source of truth. Notice how its manifestations are meant

to counterfeit Scriptural Revelation:

Spiritist mediums, both now and in Bible times, claim the power of clairvoyance—the ability to see visions, and the power of clairaudience—the ability to hear what others are unable to hear. As Ezekiel says: "They have seen vanity and LYING divination, saying, The Eternal saith: and the Eternal hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm *the word*" (Ezek. 13:6).

The visions and the voices come to the mediums because *they want to believe* what they think they see and hear. Often spiritist manifestations are the result of the subconscious mental desires, but at other times they are direct manifestations of "spirits." Here is what Jeremiah says: "They speak a vision out of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Eternal" (Jer. 23:16).

What many fail to realize is that the human mind can be influenced by outside forces—for either good or evil. The great question which spiritist mediums are *unable to answer with PROOF* is how they know *which* influence they are yielding to!

Spiritism does not reveal the future in a clear understandable LIGHT as does Bible prophecy inspired of God. Spiritism does *not* reveal the way man ought to live. Instead, the manifestations of spiritism deal with *insignificant* details, with *unusual* and unnatural signs, with *ridiculous* rappings. *Where in Scripture did the true prophets of God use these manifestations to attract attention?*

No Genuine Happiness

Look a spiritist medium in the face. SEE her abnormal expression. LOOK at her empty features, her shallow personality. She is not developing her mind. She is letting another power think for her! All mediums admit that they are not fully conscious of what they are saying or doing.

Nearly *all* at one time or another have recourse to *trickery, fraud, deceit*—though at other times they obtain genuine manifestations which are NOT the result of physical laws known to science. These phenomenal manifestations—including the stigmata, bodily elongation, odour of sanctity, and incorruption of "saints" during the Middle Ages—are *not* limited to spiritism. *They are associated with both Catholic and Protestant religious groups, and also heathen religions. Why?*

What is the power that manifests these strange influences? Are the "spirits" or "guides" of mediums really the spirits of dead men and women who want to communicate with the present world? HOW WILL SPIRITISM INFLUENCE THE NATIONAL DESTINY OF OUR PEOPLE?

What is the real explanation of the magicians of Egypt who withstood Moses? And did Samuel really speak to Saul when Saul presented himself to the medium at Endor? These and other questions will be answered in the next issue of The PLAIN TRUTH in Mr. Armstrong's thrilling article: "*SPIRITISM . . . fraud or fact?*" Don't miss it!

WHY—the Seven Last Plagues?

(Continued from page 2)

than recognizing where we are mentioned in Bible prophecy!

Notice, now, what God says He will do for our people—America and Great Britain:

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again *the second time* to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea"—Gentile lands throughout the Near East and Africa and the islands or coastlands of the sea—"And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, *and* gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim [Great Britain] shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah [the Jews] shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not *vex* Ephraim.

. . ." It shall be "like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt" (Isaiah 11:11-13, 16).

This second exodus will take place only *after* we have been scattered as captives among the Gentiles—*after* the coming revival of the Roman Empire in Europe—modern Babylon—turns upon us and destroys us because of our sins! Our captors will be no more willing to let our people go than the Egyptians were. God will therefore plague our captors till we are freed!

Not the Zionist Movement

The return of a few Jews to Palestine from Europe and Africa and the Near East is *not* the great second exodus of the House of Israel *and* the House of Judah. The presence of Jews in Palestine is merely to fulfill *other* prophecies that the Jews would be fighting at Jerusalem when Jesus Christ returns.

Here is the prophet Jeremiah's de-

scription of the *coming* exodus: "Behold, I will bring them"—notice that *God* brings His people back; it is not an armed rebellion of Jews against Arabs in Palestine—"I will bring them back from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born" (Jer. 31:8-9).

This is not a description of the Zionism movement.

The exodus from Egypt was merely a TYPE of the coming exodus. Here are God's own words:

"Therefore will I cast you out of this land"—out of America and the British Commonwealth—"into a land that ye know not, neither ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve other gods day and night; where I will not shew you favour."

Our people will be serving the Gentiles and their idols AS SLAVES in a different land. This is speaking of the revival of modern Babylon which shall conquer us—a religio-political revival of the Roman Empire (Isa. 47:1, 6).

Another Exodus Coming

Continuing, "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Eternal, that *it shall no more be said*, The Eternal liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of *Egypt*; But, The Eternal liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither He had driven them: and I will bring them AGAIN into their land that I gave unto their fathers" (Jer. 16:13-15).

There is another exodus coming! The first exodus will be all but forgotten. Its plagues will not compare with the terrible punishments which God *will* visit on this world. The Egyptians have forgotten the lesson their ancestors once learned. But in the coming exodus the Gentiles will NEVER forget. The plagues which God shall send will burn into their minds this all-important lesson. They will REMEMBER for all time that the Eternal God of Heaven *rules* over the nations and that His ways alone lead to peace and happiness and eternal life.

The Terrible Day of the Lord

America and Great Britain TODAY are in "*Babylon*"—the Babylonish system, which has deceived the whole world. And because we are not willing to amend our ways and turn in FULL repentance to our God, He will cause us to

be taken as slaves to the literal place over which modern Babylon rules politically and religiously. That is the only way in which we will learn just how wrong the Babylonish civilization in which we now live really is!

Once we learn our lesson, *in captivity*, God will send His Son to deliver us and to give the Gentiles a taste of their own ways. This time of God's intervention in world affairs is called the "Day of the Lord." It is a time of *punishment*! God is a God of justice as well as of mercy. He will punish the world exactly as one nation has been punishing another.

As this modern Babylon has treated us, so will He treat the Babylonish system. As they will take us captive, so will He send them into captivity *under the Communist heel*. As they will torture us, so will He send them catastrophic punishments of nature—the *seven last plagues*!

"Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her" (Rev. 18:8).

The prophet Zephaniah vividly describes this city Babylon which rules over the nations today: "She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the Eternal; she drew not near to her God . . . her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law" (Zeph. 3:2, 4).

What happens to this Babylon: "The great day of the Eternal is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Eternal: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of WRATH, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced [defenced] city, and against the high towers. And I," says God, "will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Eternal: and their blood shall be poured out as the dust, and their flesh as the dung"—God punished them as they punished their starving slaves.

"Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Eternal's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy: for He shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land . . . Seek ye the Eternal all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be HID in the day of the Eternal's anger" (Zeph. 1:14-18 and 2:3).

Yes, there is a WAY of escape—"seek the Eternal while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near: let the

wicked forsake His way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: let him return unto the Eternal, and He will have mercy upon him" (Isa. 55:6-7).

God's WARNING to America and Britain

Turn now to the 48th chapter of Isaiah. Here is God speaking: "Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel"—AMERICA and BRITAIN, *listen*!

"All ye, assemble yourselves, and HEAR . . . Thus saith the Eternal, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Eternal thy God which teacheth thee to *profit*, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldst go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my COMMANDMENTS! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:"—*keeping God's commandments* is the way to peace, but our people think they know a better way.

"Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before Me."

But because our people refuse to keep God's laws, He says: "Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans—" we must be *in* Babylon, not in our own lands, because we *flee* from our captors—"with the voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth: say ye, The Eternal hath *redeemed* his servant Jacob. And they thirsted not when He led them through the deserts: He caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: He clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out" (Isa. 48:12, 14, 17-21).

This is not referring to the exodus under Moses; *this is the coming exodus under Jesus Christ!*

A WARNING Before Destruction

God never sends destruction without first sending a warning of impending danger. *What you are now reading is that WARNING!*

The great denominations refuse to warn the people! The prophet Jeremiah was inspired to write: "My people hath been lost sheep; their shepherds have caused them to go astray . . ." (Jer. 50:6).

The shepherds or pastors—the churches—have been responsible for not instructing the people to OBEY God—neither have they given the people warning of the consequences of sin and our national calamity soon to come!

Continuing God's warning: "Thus saith the Eternal of hosts; the children of Israel and the children of Judah were oppressed together: *and all that took them captives held them fast*; they refused to let them go. Their Redeemer is strong; the Eternal of hosts is His name:

He shall thoroughly PLEAD their cause, that He may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon" (verses 33 and 34).

America and Britain are to be conquered! But our God will PLEAD our cause, *once we repent*.

He will punish our captors as they punished us. The only *pleading* they will understand is the *physical* punishment of the PLAGUES OF GOD—the seven last plagues!—horrible sores, plagues of blood, intense heat of the sun, blinding darkness, thunder and lightning, devastating earthquakes and terrifying hailstones (Rev. 16).

These are all *just* punishments: "For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink" (Rev. 16:6).

Now I want you to notice another part of this warning. These terrible plagues will also come upon US unless we forsake this Babylonish system *now*!

Here is the Lord's warning through the apostle Paul: "Wherefore *come out from among them*"—those who have been deceived by this Babylonish system or civilization—"and *be ye separate*, saith the Lord" (II Cor. 6:17).

Just as national Israel must flee the physical confines of Babylon, so God commands us today to *flee the customs and practices* of this all-engulfing Babylonish society in which we live, and OBEY GOD instead.

Here is what will happen to those who refuse to separate themselves from the false customs of this age and come under God's protection: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting *gospel* to preach to them that dwell on the earth . . . saying . . . Fear God, and give glory to Him; for *the hour of his judgment* is come . . .

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made *all nations* drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Whoever follows this foul, rotten system that permeates the world "*shall* drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out *without mixture* into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb [Christ] . . . Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:6-12).

Notice, God's wrath is unmixed—undiluted—full strength!! God must reveal to the world just *how much* He hates sin. Only those who patiently endure and keep the commandments will escape.

NOW Is the Time to Repent

Repentance is one of the most difficult acts which a human being must perform!

NOW is the time to repent and to receive God's protection. YOU have just read what, God warns, will happen if you refuse to repent!

And REMEMBER, *most* people will *not* repent *when the plagues come*! We read that they still "blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and REPENTED NOT of their deeds" (Rev. 16:11).

Do *you* want to be among these?

God says *you will be* among these if you don't "come out of her"—the customs of this Babylonish system—"that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

God commands me to say to you: "As

I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked *turn from* his ways and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL?" (Ezekiel 33:11.)

These words are God's *final appeal* before He sends physical force to punish us. And if we still don't repent while in captivity, then He will send the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES—sores, blood instead of water to drink, scorching from the sun's heat, intense darkness, lightning, earthquakes and hailstones until *all* the wicked are destroyed!

God means BUSINESS! He warned the Egyptians. They refused to listen. *The plagues CAME!*

God means what He says *today*! He is warning our people *now*.

Are we going to refuse to listen? Then God WILL send the plagues—far worse punishments than He visited upon the Egyptians, until we learn that His ways are right!

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?"

The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "Freely GIVE." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a PRICE upon the PLAIN TRUTH.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!

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