

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

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HOW TO BE Saved!

Millions have been led to think they are saved, who are only deceived, and don't know it!—Here is a frank, daring article, making the truth PLAIN!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT'S DIFFICULT to believe, but it's true—in *today's* religious confusion *millions* have supposed they had salvation spiritually—they have believed on Jesus Christ—and *are not saved!*

Would you suppose one could actually *worship* Christ—and all in vain?

Can One Worship Christ—IN VAIN?

Do you know *what* Jesus Himself said of these people who want to worship Him without *obedience* to God's Commandments?

Listen to His words: "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For, laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men . . . Full well do ye reject the Commandments of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 4:6-9).

Back to the Faith Once Delivered

But what does GOD tell you in His Word?

Thru Jude, God says: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the *common salvation*, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for *the faith which was once delivered* unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares . . . ungodly men, turning the GRACE of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 3-4).

Yes, even before the New Testament was completely written, ungodly men had crept inside the Church to corrupt it—turning GRACE into LASCIVIOUSNESS.

And what is "lasciviousness"? It means "license"—unrestrained liberty,—abuse of privilege. In other words, license to do that which seems *right* in human eyes—according to human *conscience*—tho it *disobeys* God's LAW! And that is exactly what those ungodly men, even in the first century, did—turned GRACE into unrestrained privilege to disobey God's law! turned to *human conscience* as a guide! And once introduced, the practice has persisted and spread over the whole world until today!

This is one of the FABLES the Apostle Paul warned us men would turn to. Paul said: "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, *deceiving*, and *being deceived!* . . . For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts (lasciviousness—*human* reasoning—) shall they . . . turn away their ears from the *truth*, and shall be turned unto FABLES" (II Tim. 3:13-4:4).

But, one will argue, Jude said these men would *deny* the Lord Jesus Christ. Do *not* the men who teach a "no works" doctrine *believe in Christ*? Do *they* deny Him?

Yes, *they* DENY Him! God says: "They *profess* that they *know* God;

but *IN WORKS* they *deny* Him, being abominable, and *disobedient*, and *unto every GOOD work reprobate*" (Titus 1:16). The way of human reason—that *seems* RIGHT—is often *DISOBEDIENCE* to God!

What the Saviour Himself Taught

These deceived teachers have just one favorite text. They quote Acts 16:31: "BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Now that text from the inspired pen of Paul means what it says. But there are *two kinds* of BELIEVING—the *living* faith that brings salvation, and a *dead* "no works" faith that produces only DEATH!

But WHY do they, in their tracts and their sermons, never quote *what the Saviour Himself said* in answer to the question? WHY?

Jesus was asked: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18). Some might try to tell you that the SAVIOUR Himself did not know, or teach, the way of SALVATION—He was teaching Old Testament religion. Well, He was asked *HOW* to gain ETERNAL LIFE. Is that salvation? It certainly is! Old Testament religion teaching lasted *until* John—not until the cross—not until "Pentecost." Just *UNTIL* JOHN (Luke 16:16). Jesus preached the *SAME* Gospel He commanded His disciples to teach *ALL* nations—Gentiles included—the same Gospel Paul preached to

Gentiles. He preached *only* the NEW Testament Gospel. He revealed THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Here is His answer—that of the SAVIOUR HIMSELF ON HOW TO BE SAVED:

"If thou wilt enter into LIFE, *keep the Commandments*." And He enumerated enough of the Ten Commandments to show it was this particular law that must be obeyed AS A CONDITION to receiving eternal life as God's GIFT. Jesus said "IF"—(there was a CONDITION)—"IF" we are to be saved, by God's grace, WE MUST KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS! God lays down His own terms and conditions. His FREE GIFT is conditional—you get it ONLY if you "keep the Commandments."

You can't EARN it. God GIVES it—but only to those who "KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS." God will not GIVE you eternal life *in sin*. And what *is* sin? "SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW" (John 3:4).

Some who pervert God's truth insist Jesus did not name ALL of the Ten Commandments in the above Scripture. Sin is the transgression of THE LAW. It is a COMPLETE LAW. He named enough of its points to designate WHICH LAW He was talking about. And James says that law has "POINTS"—and, if we break any ONE of the ten points of the Ten Commandments, we BREAK THE LAW, and are sinners! (James 2:8-11)

The very same day the Holy Spirit came—the very day the NEW Testament Church commenced—thousands, hearing the inspired Peter's sermon which struck straight to their heart, asked: "What shall we do?"—yes, WHAT SHALL WE DO TO BE SAVED?

The *inspired* answer was:

"REPENT, and BE BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Jesus said, "REPENT YE, and BELIEVE THE GOSPEL." We must BELIEVE not only in Jesus as Saviour, but we must believe also THE GOSPEL He brought and preached—the gospel of the Kingdom of God—the AUTHORITY of God and the WORD of God *over our lives!*—a message not preached today by most organized churches.

After His resurrection, in His parting instructions to His disciples for preaching the way of salvation, Jesus said "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that REPENTANCE and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:46-47). This is the Gospel for ALL NATIONS!

But *what* must we repent of? WHAT IS SIN? Do you realize that VERY FEW people know? Very few know the BIBLE definition of SIN.

God's inspired definition of sin is this: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Paul would not have known what was sin, except by the law. But *what* law? The very law which says: "Thou shalt not covet" (Rom. 4:4). That law is the Ten Commandments.

This law is summed up in the one word—LOVE! It is further defined in the two Great Commandments, LOVE to God, and LOVE to neighbor. But the same law is further defined, and divided into ten points, by The Ten Commandments—the first four of which tell us how to love God, the last six of which tell us how to love neighbor.

James Inspired Answer

And thus it is explained in James: "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well" (James 2:8). Here is the Royal Law—the whole Law—as a general principle.

The law is LOVE—and LOVE is the fulfilling of the law. Jesus fulfilled it, setting us an example that we, too, should fulfill the law. We fulfill it *with* LOVE—not any natural, carnal love in human nature, but "the love of GOD is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5). The Holy Spirit in us is merely GOD'S LAW IN ACTION IN OUR LIVES! And so, if we fulfill this Royal Law, we do well—but if not, we commit sin (James 2:9). Now read verse 10. If we keep the WHOLE LAW—the general principle of LOVE to neighbor—yet offend *in one point*, we are guilty—we have broken the law—and the penalty is DEATH, not eternal life.

Notice, please, the law is divided into points! And it is divided into TEN POINTS—the Ten Commandments. These are merely the ten points, or subdivisions, of the general Royal Law, LOVE to God and to neighbor. "For He, that said (or, that law which said), Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery"—if you do not break that specific point—"yet if thou kill"—you just break that one point—"thou art become a transgressor of the law" (Jas. 2:11). So you see the TEN COMMANDMENTS is the very law it is sin to transgress.

It is a SPIRITUAL law (Rom. 7:14). It is fulfilled by the SPIRITUAL LOVE which is God's precious gift to us—His love placed within us. "Wherefore the law is HOLY, and the commandment HOLY, AND JUST, AND GOOD" (Rom. 7:12).

To REPENT of sin means to turn from sin. It means to QUIT SINNING! And that means to *stop transgressing*

God's holy law. And the way to stop breaking it is to begin KEEPING God's Commandments—ALL OF THEM, for if you break only one, you bring on yourself the penalty—ETERNAL DEATH, and you *lose salvation*.

Now Jesus "magnified the law, and made it honorable" (Isa. 42:21). When we put a spiritual "magnifying glass," so to speak, on the Ten Commandments, it is enlarged in spirit and principle into many more points. And in a larger aspect the ENTIRE BIBLE is a magnification of God's Law. The Law is the basis of all Scripture. It defines THE WAY of life—THE WAY to success—THE WAY to peace—THE WAY to happiness, joy, eternal life!

Notice how *like God* it is! The Law is GOOD (Rom. 7:12). God is good.

The Law is HOLY (Rom. 7:12). GOD is holy!

The Law is JUST (Rom. 7:12). GOD is just!

The Law is SPIRITUAL (Rom. 7:14). GOD is spiritual!

The Law is PERFECT (Psalm 19:7). GOD is perfect!

The Law—including all His Commandments—is immutable, ETERNAL, stands fast FOREVER AND EVER (Psalm 111:7-8). And GOD is eternal!

Of course—for the Law is the very character, the very nature, of God! It is the WILL of God.

Conscience Not Your Guide

But in the modern-day Babylon—confusion of conflicting teachings—you may have been taught, falsely, that YOUR CONSCIENCE tells you what is sin. But your conscience only troubles you when you do what YOU THINK is *wrong*! And what you think is wrong, *another* may think is *right*! Your CONSCIENCE IS NO GUIDE!

Sin is not the doing of what you think is wrong. Not the transgression of conscience—"sin is the transgression of God's LAW" (I John 3:4). Sin is thinking and doing what GOD SAYS is wrong—and He says it in His Law! Some think it perfectly all right to divorce and remarry. Others think it is a sin. To do it would trouble the conscience of the latter, but not of the former.

One who does what he thinks is right may be committing a great deal of sin!

God says: "There is a way that seemeth *right* unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of DEATH!" (Pro. 14:12 and 16:25.) Again, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes" (Prov. 12:15). And: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes" (Prov. 16:2). The world has been going the WAY that seems right to man for some 6000 years. But this WAY has brought only unhappiness, emptiness, discontent, poverty, (Please continue on page 13)

PROPHESED TO HAPPEN to the United States and Britain!

Here is the fourth installment of Mr. Armstrong's forthcoming book—the most startling book of this generation. Few people are aware of the drastic turn of events soon to befall our people!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS INSTALLMENTS

THE MOST colossal disaster of all history is soon to fall upon our nations. Yet almost no one is warning our people of this *very next prophesied event!*

Why?

Because few know *where* our peoples are mentioned in Bible prophecy!

Our wealth is covered by many aggressor nations. But the astounding fact that we were prophesied to be the wealthiest of nations in this generation is almost entirely overlooked.

God promised this might to the patriarch Abraham and to his descendants. He said to Abraham: "Thou shalt be a father of **MANY NATIONS**" (see Genesis 17:1-5). To Abraham's daughter-in-law it was proclaimed: "Let thy seed possess *the gate of those that hate them*" (Genesis 24:60). The gates of nations would be vital passageways such as Gibraltar, the Suez and Panama canals, and Singapore. The Jews never possessed these gates.

DUAL Promises Made to Abraham

Few today seem to realize that *God made DUAL promises to Abraham*. The spiritual promise—called the Sceptre—was of the Christ and salvation. The material promise of national greatness is called the Birthright. These two distinct promises were handed down through Isaac and Jacob.

The UNCONDITIONAL promise of colossal material inheritance became SEPARATED from the spiritual promise in Jacob's sons. "But the BIRTHRIGHT WAS JOSEPH'S" (I Chronicles 5:2). The Sceptre was NEVER to depart from Judah (Gen. 49:10).

The Sceptre promise involved GRACE, not RACE. It was the promise of the *kingly* line and of Christ. But in carrying out this promise, God made *another* covenant—an unconditional and everlasting covenant—with King David. *This* Davidic covenant involving the Sceptre is as little known as the Birthright.

God promised David concerning his son: "*I will establish the throne of his kingdom FOREVER*" (II Samuel 7:13). Again He promised David: "I have made a covenant with my chosen . . . Thy seed (his dynasty) will I establish *forever*, and *build up thy throne TO ALL GENERATIONS*" (Psalm 89:3-4). And: "David shall NEVER lack a man to sit upon the throne of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL" (Jer. 33:17).

David's dynasty WOULD NEVER CEASE! God promised David that though his sons would sin and would be chastened, yet He would be merciful and NOT take the throne away "*AS I took it from Saul*" (II Sam 7:14-15). Yet as far as the world historically knows, the last king of David's dynasty to sit upon that throne was King Zedekiah. *Did* David lack a man to sit on the throne and continue his dynasty?

Christ did not take the throne. He was crucified and ascended to heaven. Then *has* the Sceptre—the promise of a kingly line—departed from Judah? The infallibility of the Bible is at stake!

Where is that throne today?

Let us continue the story of these intriguing promises and notice what happened to the Sceptre and the Birthright.

CHAPTER IV CHILDREN OF ISRAEL BECOME TWO NATIONS

THE HOUSE of ISRAEL is not Jewish! Those who constitute it *are not* JEWS, and never were! This fact we shall now prove conclusively, beyond refute.

After David's death, his son, Solomon, succeeded him to the throne over Israel. Solomon taxed the people excessively, and reigned in a gorgeous splendor probably never equalled before or since. He also married Gentile wives from outside nations.

Because of them, he burned incense and sacrificed unto Moloch and other idols. As a result of this, "The Eternal said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast *not* kept

my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend *the kingdom* from thee, and give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding, in thy days I will not do it, for David thy father's sake; but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away *ALL the kingdom*; but I will give *one tribe* to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen" (I Kings 11:11-13).

ISRAEL Separated from David's Throne

Note it! It is THE KINGDOM, not part of it, which is to be rended away. It is the PART, *one tribe*, which is to remain. And note—for right here is expressed the great WHY of this whole question—that, tho Solomon himself deserved to have it UTTERLY rended away, God will leave one tribe, not because of leniency toward Solomon, but "FOR DAVID'S SAKE"!

God has made a perpetual covenant with David, unconditionally, which He cannot, and will not break. David's dynasty cannot be broken! THAT is the reason the Sceptre promise is not destroyed; but the ruler is to be permitted to rule on, without a single generation's gap, over at least a part of the children of Israel.

In I Kings 11:26 you read of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite, or Ephraimite, Solomon's servant. He was made ruler over the "house of Joseph"—or Ephraim and Manasseh.

Speaking to Jeroboam thru Ahijah the prophet, the Eternal says: "Behold I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give *ten tribes* to thee . . . Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: . . . *for David my servant's sake*, whom I chose, *because HE kept my commandments and my statutes*. But I will take THE KINGDOM out of his son's hand, and will give it to thee, even ten tribes. And unto his son will I give one tribe, *that David my servant* (remember WHY) may have a light always before me in

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Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen to put my name there. And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and thou shalt be *king over Israel*" (I Kings 11:31-37).

These words make plain two facts: The NATION, ISRAEL, is to be taken away from Solomon's son, and given to Jeroboam. It is not just a tribe, or a few tribes, but *the nation* called by the title *Israel* which this Jeroboam, of the tribe of Ephraim, is to rule. The ten-tribed kingdom was the one to which the national title "Israel" was given. For truly, the name "Israel" was named on the sons of Joseph! (Genesis 48:16).

On the other hand, BECAUSE of His promise to David, the Eternal left one tribe, Judah, in Jerusalem under the sons of Solomon, so that a son of David might continue to sit on the throne of David over children of Israel. God had promised David, unconditionally, that the time should never come when he should not have a son or descendant sitting on the throne ruling over children of Israel. The children of Judah, tho they are not ALL the children of Israel, —tho not called by that national title, nevertheless ARE children of Israel, and thus God can keep His promise to David—can avoid abolishing the Sceptre promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And at the same time God can visit punishment upon Solomon, by taking away the NATION, Israel, and leaving a son of the Sceptre promise sitting on the throne over only one tribe. Note the very important point that, tho a punishment must be inflicted, God DOES NOT BREAK ANY OF HIS PROMISES.

David's Dynasty Rules over Judah
God had promised that "the Sceptre

SHALL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH." He did not break that promise. Now note carefully that the ten tribes, rended away, are called by the title "ISRAEL," and that the one tribe remaining under Rehoboam, Solomon's son, is called, merely, "Judah," or the "House of Judah." They go by their tribal name, while the ten-tribed *kingdom* continues to carry the name "Israel."

When Solomon's son, Rehoboam, succeeded to the throne, the people at once demanded that the heavy taxes imposed by Solomon be reduced. They sent their leader, Jeroboam, as spokesman, to Rehoboam.

Pleaded Jeroboam: "Thy father made our yoke grievous; now, therefore, make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon

us, lighter, and we will serve thee" (I Kings 12:1-5).

The reply was: "My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions" (Verses 6-14).

Israel rebelled. The command to the people was "To your tents, O Israel!" The challenge to the royal house was "Now, see to thine own house!" (Verse 16).

"So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day (the day this was written). And it came to pass, when *all Israel* heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation and *made him king over ALL ISRAEL*: there was none what followed the house of David, *but the tribe of JUDAH only*" (I Kings 12:19-20).

Then "Rehoboam . . . assembled all the HOUSE OF JUDAH, *with the tribe of Benjamin*" (Verse 21). Rehoboam commenced to fight to subdue and bring back the House of Israel, but God said: "Ye shall not . . . fight against your brethren the *children of Israel* . . . for this thing is from me" (Verse 24).

Israel Divided into TWO NATIONS

Did you notice that it is now the ten-tribed kingdom—headed by the Ephraim-Manasseh tribes, with an Ephraimite as their king—the inheritor of the Birth-right promises—which is called the HOUSE OF ISRAEL?

The tribe of Judah left to Rehoboam, with some of the Benjamites and, of course, a sprinkling of the priestly tribe of Levi, is called in Scripture, NOT Israel, but THE HOUSE OF JUDAH. They are all actually children of Israel, but are no longer called, nationally, by that national title. This is emphasized so much because the common conception is exactly the opposite. The average conception today seems to be that the tribe of Judah which remained carried the title "Israel." Most people seem to think of the ten tribes as merely certain tribes driven out from the nation Israel.

But it is ISRAEL which now sets up its kingdom under the Ephraimite Jeroboam, in the land of Samaria, north of Jerusalem. It is not Israel, but *Judah*,—a mere tribe broken off from Israel—which is left behind in Jerusalem. The ten tribes were not broken off from Israel. Israel did not remain in Jerusalem. Instead, JUDAH WAS BROKEN OFF FROM ISRAEL. Israel rebelled against its own throne and moved out, setting up a new king of its own!

Israel at War with the Jews!

Notice it carefully! The House of Judah, now including the tribe of Benjamin under King Rehoboam of David's dynasty, was about to fight against the

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other ten tribes headed by Ephraim and Manasseh, NOW A DIFFERENT AND SEPARATE NATION.

Now let us have scriptural PROOF that the ten-tribed people called Israel, often prophetically spoken of as Ephraim, are NOT Jews, and *never WERE Jews!* Remember that the term "Jew" is merely a nickname for "Judah." Hence, it applies to the one nation, or House of Judah ONLY—never to the House of ISRAEL.

From any exhaustive concordance you can learn that the *first time in all the Bible that the word "Jew" occurs is in II Kings 16:6.* Nowhere in all the Bible before this, does the name "Jew" appear. Notice it!

Ahaz began to reign as king of JUDAH (Verse 1). He sat on David's throne (Verse 2). At this time a man named Pekah was king of ISRAEL. King Pekah of Israel formed an alliance with Rezin, king of Syria, AGAINST Judah, and together the armies of Israel and Syria, allied, came up against Jerusalem. They besieged King Ahaz of Judah, but could not overcome him (Verse 5). "At that time," says verse 6, "Rezin, king of Syria"—the ALLY of ISRAEL, fighting with ISRAEL against Judah—"recovered Elath to Syria, and drove the JEWS from Elath" (Verse 6).

NOTE IT! The first place in the Bible where the word "Jew" is used, we find ISRAEL at war against the JEWS!

WHO drove the Jews out of Elath?

The ALLY of King Pekah of ISRAEL! The army fighting WITH Israel AGAINST Judah. And the children of Judah who resided in the town of Elath are called JEWS IN A MANNER WHICH DISTINGUISHED THEM FROM THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, WITH WHOM THESE JEWS WERE AT WAR!

Observe the significance of that!

The first place in Scripture where the name Jew appears, the *Jews were at war against ISRAEL!* They are of a different nation altogether. They are, individually, children of Israel. But they do not have that *national* title—House of Israel.

It is wrong to call the Jews of today "Israel." They are not Israel—they are JUDAH! And wherever ISRAEL is today, remember that ISRAEL *does not mean* JEW! Whoever the lost ten tribes of ISRAEL are today, *they are not Jews!* Wherever you see the name "Israel," or "House of Israel," or "Samaria," or "Ephraim," used in prophecy, remember this—IT NEVER REFERS TO THE JEWS, but to Israel, who was at WAR against the Jews!

House of Israel NOT Jews

No place in all the Bible does the term "ISRAEL" refer to the JEWS exclusively. When the sense is not na-

tional but individual, the term "Israel" alone, or "children of Israel," may, and sometimes does, *include* the Jews, where all twelve tribes are included. Such an expression, for instance, as "Ye men of Israel," as frequently occurs in the New Testament, refers to Israelites as individuals in a collective sense, *not* a national sense. It usually refers to Jews as individual descendants of the patriarch Israel (Jacob).

Moses may not, scripturally, be called a Jew. He was a Levite. Abraham was NOT a Jew. Neither was Isaac nor Jacob—nor Adam or Noah for that matter. The descendants of the patriarch Judah are racially Jews and also all who joined themselves nationally to the tribe of Judah.

Jews are Israelites, just as Californians are Americans. But MOST Israelites are *not* Jews, just as most Americans are not Californians. The Jews are the House of Judah *only*, A PART of the Israelites. But when these people are spoken of as NATIONS, rather than as collective individuals, the term "Israel" never refers to the Jews. "House of Israel" NEVER means "Jews." The two tribes at Jerusalem under the Davidic king are called, merely, the house of JUDAH. But of Ephraim and Manasseh, sons of Joseph, the dying Israel had said, "Let my name be named on *them*." And truly they now BEAR the name of ISRAEL. It is the TEN tribes that are called "ISRAEL."

From here on, the tribe of Judah, with Benjamin and a portion of the priests of the tribe of Levi, are called "JUDAH," —*not* Israel. The TEN tribes, headed by Ephraim and Manasseh from this time on are called "ISRAEL." They are not Jews, and never were called Jews!

From this time on, the children of Israel, twelve tribes in all, are *divided into TWO NATIONS!*

And now, for the first time, the BIRTHRIGHT goes into one nation, ISRAEL, headed by Ephraim-Manasseh; while the SCEPTRE remains in *another nation*, called the "House of JUDAH." The two phases of the promises to Abraham now are separated into TWO ENTIRELY SEPARATE NATIONS!

For many generations Israel and Judah remained as separate nations, in adjoining territories, having their own separate kings. Why should ministers and professed Bible students be in ignorance of this, when four whole books of the Bible, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, are devoted to explaining it and recording the history of these separate, rival kingdoms? Look at the maps in the back of your Bible. There you will see the territory of each nation plainly shown.

Judah retained the City of Jerusalem, its capital, and the territory known as Judea. Israel occupied the territory *north* of Judea. Samaria became its capital city, and the House of Israel often is called "Samaria" in prophecy. This, too, is a vital "key" to understanding of prophecy. "Samaria" *never refers* to the Jews in prophecy—but always the TEN tribes, the House of ISRAEL.

We want to impress, here, that Israel and Judah are not two names for the same nation. They were, *and still are*, and shall be till the second coming of Christ, TWO SEPARATE NATIONS. The "House of Judah" ALWAYS means "Jew."

This distinction is vital, if we are to understand prophecy. Because most so-called Bible students are in ignorance of this basic distinction, they are unable rightly to understand prophecy!

The next place where the term "Jew" is mentioned in the Bible, the House of Israel had been driven out in captivity, lost from view, and the term applies ONLY to those of the House of JUDAH. There are NO exceptions in the Bible!

Israel Rejects God's Rule

Immediately on becoming king over the House of Israel, Jeroboam (tribe of Ephraim) set up two golden calves, introducing idol worship in the kingdom. The account is found in I Kings 12:28-33.

Jeroboam was afraid lest his subjects, in going once a year to Jerusalem according to God's injunction through Moses, should return to Rehoboam and he should lose his new throne. The introduction of idolatry was to prevent this and to keep the people home.

This idolatry, with Sabbath-breaking (Ezek. 20:10-24), was the great national sin, which became such a curse to Israel. Generation after generation, God pleaded with the House of Israel to turn from tradition — from their fathers' ways, and to return to keeping God's commandments. But, through nine different dynasties under 19 kings, Israel continued these national sins—sins SO GREAT in GOD's sight, that finally God caused them to become a conquered, captive nation.

Now let us note a passage which has been consistently misinterpreted. In I Kings 14:15-16, we find, "The Eternal shall smite Israel (not Judah) as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel, out of his good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them (not Judah) beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the Eternal to anger. And He shall give Israel (not Judah) up, because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin."

This is dealing specifically with the

result of Jeroboam's idol worship in *Israel*—in the northern ten-tribed kingdom which possessed the Birthright promises. It is **THESE** people who were to be rooted up and scattered beyond the river. Not the Jews. Yet this passage is quoted by nearly all students of prophecy as pertaining to the scattered condition of the Jews today—the very people to whom it does NOT apply. This gives one example of the fact that what we are here covering is a veritable KEY to an understanding of many long-hidden prophecies. Unless this is kept firmly in mind, prophecy can never be correctly understood.

The people which this passage says shall be rooted up and scattered beyond the river, never were called Jews. They were the people headed by Ephraim and Manasseh, possessors of the unconditional promises of becoming a great nation and a company of nations—becoming so numerous they number into the hundreds of millions, possessing the gates of enemy nations, becoming a colonizing people, spreading out till their colonies spread around the globe.

Yet, many who come to see this distinction between Israel and Judah—between Jew and the other tribes—after having seen it as a great new light, will, by force of years of habit, fall right back into the old rut and apply texts referring to ISRAEL to the Jews!

The terms "House of Israel," or "all Israel," when the meaning is national, or the terms "Jacob," or "Rachel," or "Ephraim," or "House of Joseph," or "Samaria," often used in the Bible in prophecy, RELATE TO THE TEN-TRIBED BIRTHRIGHT PEOPLE, NOT TO THE JEWS. This is a KEY, and a master-key, to Bible understanding!

Israel Driven Out and Lost!

And in the year 721 B.C., the House of Israel was conquered and its people were soon driven out of their own land—out of their homes and cities—and carried captives to Assyria, on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea! And then . . . LOST FROM VIEW!

"Therefore the Eternal was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of His sight: *there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.*" (II Kings 17:18).

The Eternal removed who? Israel! It is ISRAEL which was removed, and driven from the Eternal's sight until they became lost from view. Who was left? Judah ONLY—Only the Jews! Israel is now gone! They became known as the LOST Ten Tribes and are so designated today.

In Leviticus 26 we find God's solemn warning to all the children of Israel. IF they would worship Him *alone*, avoiding idolatry, and keep His Sabbath,

walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, they would inherit the national material promises to Abraham. They would become great, rich, and powerful—the dominant nation of all earth. But, if they refused and rebelled, they were to be punished SEVEN TIMES—a duration of 2520 years—in slavery, servitude, and want.

How Long Are "Seven Times"?

Now let us see how the Bible interprets the meaning of *times*. Turn to Revelation 12:6, 14 and you will see by examination that the two periods mentioned in these verses each amount to 3½ literal years. Therefore we know that in a prophetic sense the word *times* simply means *years*! ALSO, in verse 6 we see that the Bible *itself* shows that these years can be divided into 360 days each. Now multiplying these seven times or years of punishment by 360, we find that this gives us 2520 days.

But where do the 2520 years come in? Let us see God's prophetic definition of *days* when applied to the punishment of nations. In Numbers 14:34, God said Israel would bear their iniquities after the number of days they searched the land; forty days, *each day for a year*. This is the Bible definition of a day of punishment! God is consistent!

So we see that the *seven times* of years of Israel's punishment equal 2520 days (7 x 360), and that these *days*, according to scriptural interpretation, are actually 2520 years.

The House of Israel now entered—721 B.C.—(remember this date)—upon their 2520 long years of national banishment, to last until 1800 A.D.!

Israel Loses Sign of Identity

And BECAUSE the House of Israel lost their identifying SIGN—the Sabbath—the sign which identified them as ISRAEL—they utterly LOST THEIR IDENTITY! They lost knowledge even of their national name. They came to be considered GENTILES!

In Exodus 31:12-17 it is recorded that God made the Sabbath the covenant SIGN between Him and Israel. A sign identifies. At creation God rested on, blessed, made holy, and set apart for man the one day for man's rest and worship which could keep him always in the true worship of the true God—the day that pointed back to CREATION. Creation is the PROOF of God. It identifies Him as the true God. It was intended to keep man in the true knowledge of the true God. When Israel threw aside God's Sabbath, Israel soon threw aside God Himself, and went into idolatry. The Sabbath identified Israel as God's own people because all other nations long since had departed from its observance and gone into idolatry.

Israel was the only nation which kept it. Because they rejected this SIGN, they were driven out, and lost their identity. (Read Ezek. 20: 10-24.)

And strange to say, even those who know where Israel is today do not acknowledge this SIGN!

Judah, too, went into captivity largely because of Sabbath-rejecting. (See Jer. 17.) But those Jews who returned 70 years later under Ezra and Nehemiah had learned their lesson. They became legalistically strict Sabbatarians—adding so many of their own restrictions to it that Jesus had to sweep aside this maze of man-made rules, saying "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." To this day orthodox Jews have retained the original Sabbath. And BECAUSE those Jewish people who descend from the Ezra-Nehemiah leadership have retained God's covenant-identifying SIGN, the world today looks upon them as ISRAEL! And yet they actually are only a *part* of JUDAH!

Gentiles Replace the House of Israel

Now notice II Kings 17:22-23. "For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as he had said by all his servants and prophets. So was Israel (not Judah—not the Jews) carried away out of their own land to ASSYRIA unto this day" (written about 620 B.C.).

Observe that the people who had the national title "Israel," and the Birthright promises, who were not Jews, were CARRIED AWAY OUT OF THEIR OWN LAND—Samaria. They left that land—never yet to return!

Now note the following verse of this same passage: "And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed THEM in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof" (II Kings 17:24).

It is these foreigners who were living in the land of Samaria in the time of Christ, and who were called Samaritans in the Gospel records. It is well to keep that in mind. For the Samaritans of the New Testament were not in any sense a racial mixture with the Israelites. Only *one* individual—a priest—returned from among the captive Israelites to teach the newly planted Gentiles the corrupted religion of Israel. Only *one* individual returned (II Kings 17:27-28).

A more detailed account of the captivity of Israel is found in II Kings 18:9-12, and 17:5-18.

(Please continue on page 13)

Will Man Reach the MOON?

World famous scientists are planning to visit and explore the moon! They now report this will be accomplished within 25 years. Is this dream possible—or is it a futile hope?

by Kenneth Herrmann

THE VERY thought of mortal man leaving this earth whenever he pleases, visiting other planets far off in space and safely returning, staggers the imagination.

The idea seems fantastic.

Yet enthusiasts make it look quite easy. The plans are drawn for each piece of equipment. Volunteers form a long waiting list and are impatiently awaiting the moment of take-off!

All that is needed, they say, are a few billion dollars and perhaps as few as fifteen years of preparation. And then . . . the first space ship from earth would voyage into space! Regularly scheduled flights to the moon, Mars and Venus would be sure to follow!

New frontiers would be opened up for conquest. Pioneers to the planets Mars and Venus would prepare the way for the earth's surplus population.

But can this be done? Do but a few decades and a few billion dollars stand between man and his conquest of the solar system? Can man, the self-styled master of the earth, become master of the universe? Or will he *destroy himself* in the attempt?

These are intriguing questions. The answer is positively ASTOUNDING! When you know the answer, you will be SOBERED. You will realize there are no more exciting questions in this fast-moving, chaotic modern world!

A View from the Moon?

Curiosity alone accounts for much of man's desire to reach the moon. A telescope set up on the moon would be the delight of any astronomer. The stars would shine brilliantly even in the daytime. No atmosphere would be present to destroy the view. No cloudy days could spoil the reflections.

Our earth would look like a giant blue moon in the sky. A perfect spot for an observatory? Or a perfect location for an enemy to control earth's fearful millions? We shall see in a moment.

Military men are seriously interested in the use of the moon for world conquest. Suppose an enemy reached the moon first. Could we survive considering the devastating new weapons that human imagination might produce?

Control of the moon is becoming a matter of utmost importance, of feverish planning. It is fast becoming a question

of who will get to the moon first!

A Man-Made Satellite

The first step short of reaching the moon has been planned over a quarter century ago. Build a space platform 1075 miles above our earth! Inside this structure would be stationed men, equipment and supplies. It would circle round the earth every few hours like a tiny moon. Rocket ships from the earth would support the men with food, air, water and supplies—perhaps *military* supplies to destroy a helpless enemy?

This space platform would be the jumping off place for journeys to the moon and other planets. Space ships would be assembled here, and set out with a full supply of fuel for more remote sections of the universe.

Such a man-made satellite is conceived by some to be a *potential military weapon*. Observers using telescopes would be able to keep close watch over an enemy's every movement. Guided missiles could be launched to their destination with perfect accuracy and almost without warning. Civilization itself would be threatened with annihilation.

How much of this is baseless speculation? How much is *possible* for man to achieve?

Unforeseen Danger at Every Turn

There are numerous highly-important factors to consider aside from the rosy pictures painted by those who call themselves "astronauts" or space-travelers. (They have yet to earn the title by traveling into space *in deed* and not in fancy!)

The idea of building rockets powerful enough to take a payload up 1075 miles into the air to build a space-island is *only a dream today*. The return trip to the earth from this 1075-mile altitude is also an impossibility with today's knowledge. But let's assume it will be feasible in the future. The proposed space-platform and rocket ship would be traveling in an orbit around the earth at the speed of 15,840 miles an hour. To drop freely back to the earth would mean to increase tremendously the speed.

How could the ship possibly slow down for a safe landing? The use of parachutes or any similar device depending on air resistance is out of the ques-

tion. An encounter with even rarified atmosphere at that speed would burn the rocketship to a crisp and send it across the sky as a flaming meteor.

A *rocket-controlled* descent appears to be the only answer. But the problem of fuel is a critical one. It would require the same expenditure of rocket fuel to descend safely to the earth as it had taken to ascend from it.

Perhaps the harnessing of atomic energy in some way for rocket flight might solve the problem. This also is but a dream today!

Safety on the Earth

Could man survive the hazards which exist 1075 miles above the earth?—and this, remember, is only the first step in reaching the moon! Here on earth we are protected by a blanket of air 600 miles deep. It presents a formidable barrier to meteorites and deadly radiations which might easily bring disaster to the crew of any space ship.

Air is such a commonplace thing—something we are hardly conscious of in our everyday affairs. Yet it is vitally important! Our atmosphere is far more than the breath of life to us. This 600 mile thick blanket of air presses downward on every square inch of the earth's surface with a weight of over fourteen pounds, due to the pull of gravity. Over a ton of air is above each square foot of surface over the entire world! This ocean of air gives us unbelievable protection—comparable to 52 inches of the toughest steel! The only meteorites which ever reach through to the surface of the earth are those which could have penetrated a steel barrier over four feet thick.

The proposed space-platform would not have this protection.

Protection from solar radiation and cosmic rays is also provided for us by this blanket of air. Only certain types of radiation are allowed to come through and the intensity of others is limited to a level safe for human existence.

With regard to these radiations, the air gives us the same safety as a wall of lead three feet thick. Yet this marvelous shield of air—which prevents harmful radiations from destroying all human life—permits the passage of every portion of sunlight necessary for our health and well being here on the earth.

No space-island would have this protection, either!

Bombardment from the Sky

The danger of sudden destruction from meteorites is too frequently dismissed. Large ones would seldom be encountered—that is true. But billions of billions of smaller particles from the size of a grain of sand down to fine dust piece the earth's atmosphere every day. They are turned to ash by friction with the air and float harmlessly to the earth.

No such protection would be had by the occupants of a rocket ship, nor by the inhabitants of a man-made satellite built above the earth's atmosphere. Here's what might happen:

Meteorites the size of a marble or larger invade the atmosphere at the estimated rate of over a million every hour. These particles, hurtling at speeds of up to 45 miles per second, would be a grave danger to any space ship. The chance of one of these striking the space ship would be rather small but certainly disastrous. Millions of hours of human labor, billions of dollars in production costs could be instantly destroyed.

The idea of men climbing around on the outside of their space ships clad in pressurized suits is fantastic in the light of these facts. Any tiny particle puncturing a man's space-suit at the speed of 45 miles a second would certainly cause death. Even if it were warded off by a specially constructed space-suit, the force of impact might easily disable a person. Chances are, he would be struck by dozens of these in a brief venture outside the space ship while the ship itself is vulnerable to destruction by unforeseen cosmic fragments.

Temperature Control

Variations in temperature present an extreme difficulty—if not an *impossible* barrier to overcome. Surfaces facing the sun a few hours without atmospheric protection would reach a temperature far above boiling. These portions in shadow would drop quickly far below zero. Continual absence from the sunlight and any form of heat would drop the temperature to a minus 273° Centigrade, as cold as matter can get. Metals become brittle, air solidifies. A brief contact with such frozen matter by the human body results in *one's flesh being FROZEN* and the tissue being permanently destroyed unless immediate treatment is possible.

The problem of obtaining materials for the space ship and for space suits which would stand these temperature changes offers no easy or cheap solution. Some way must yet be found to keep all surfaces close to ordinary temperatures.

It is the blanket of air surrounding us here on earth that keeps objects at

an even temperature. How much superior is God's CREATIVE MIND to man's puny inventive genius!

Space Flight Possible?

Can any nation successfully undertake the problem of space flight? Could we *allow* any nation to achieve it?

The idea that the difficult things can be done immediately—or the impossible things be accomplished given a little more time—could hardly be applied in this case. We are dealing with finite things, with mortal man and his frail constitution *suited ONLY to his earthly environment*, with materials of the earth and their definite properties, with the laws that govern this material universe *to keep man earthbound*.

The probable results should any nation attempt to place a man-made satellite in the sky for *military* purposes—and the *MILITARY* purpose is the *only real one*—are

1) Enthusiastic supporters claim it would allow man to have a bird's-eye view of everything that occurred in enemy nations. They claim that a high-powered telescope would even show up the movements of individual people. Yet consider the absurdity of attempting to watch over the movements of people scattered over several continents. The satellite would remain only a few minutes over an entire country. Consider how easily an area could be camouflaged. Not to mention the ticklish task of getting a large telescope safely up to the satellite.

2) Supporters claim that the first nation to put such a satellite into operation would be able *to rule the world*. Notice that man exerts his efforts at conquest—building to destroy! It is far more likely that *the first nation to attempt such a feat would spend itself into BANKRUPTCY both economically and in terms of trained scientific personnel*. A few million billion might be a more accurate estimate of the cost should the project prove feasible at all in the light of unforeseen, though possible, technical advances.

3) Military men have been told that such a platform in the sky would make possible perfect pin-point bombing by radio-controlled missiles. Grave doubt exists as to whether this would be true. If one nation could set up such a station in the sky, another could by more advanced knowledge in a single field use the satellite for a target and *shoot it down*. Or should biological warfare or some other weapon become foremost in importance, even a successful satellite would be nullified in importance.

4) If any nation were to set out with the intent of achieving success in a venture of this sort, it would be gambling all on a one-in-a-million chance of gain-

ing absolute advantage in a military way.

Remember, this pertains only to a man-made island—just the *first step* in reaching the moon. The odds *against* being able to reach the moon and return *are even greater*. Each step out into space brings new hazards, new threats of sudden death. A trip to Mars can only be done in one's imagination.

The ideas of space travel are in part those of a man whose influence led Germany to concentrate on building V-1 and V-2 rockets rather than conventional aircraft. The resultant drain on Germany's industry left her comparatively defenseless to bombing and, historically, was certainly a factor leading to her downfall.

It is evident that stories of space travel and satellites in the sky still belong to the comic-strip heroes, or to Sunday-paper scientists and armchair generals. They are interesting to read; they stimulate the imagination and take man's mind momentarily from the unpleasant realities of the present chaotic world.

At the present man *does not know how to master* the scientific and economic problems that prevent him from establishing a space-island. And this space-island is only the *first step* in his attempt to conquer the moon.

But, *given time enough*, man might conceivably conquer nature and REACH THE MOON!

Would It Bring Peace?

From the beginning, human beings have sought new frontiers to conquer. Men and nations have constantly struggled for conquered wealth, for military glory, for peace and security. But will reaching the moon bring man any nearer to peace?

Through this continual struggle for world rule by man-devised systems of government, the world at last has arrived at the place where man can invent and produce such frightful forces of destruction that, if a power-crazed dictator should appear at the right time, human life **COULD BE BLASTED FROM THIS PLANET**. This is the terrifying world in which we live today!

And man's desire to conquer the moon is just one more proof of the fate that is awaiting man . . . **UNLESS GOD INTERVENES!**

Human beings want the blessing of peace and security, but "the **WAY OF PEACE** have they *not* known" (Rom. 3:17). Nations *struggle* with one another for new territory, new continents—and now for space-islands and the MOON! But all in vain. Man has *not* found **PEACE**.

Nearly 4300 years have passed since the world was *one*—when men thought
(Please continue on page 16)

Why God Must Intervene in World Affairs

The second coming of Jesus Christ is an absolute NECESSITY. If this world understood the real PURPOSE for it—and would learn the lesson contained therein—untold suffering could be avoided.

by Roderick C. Meredith

WHY DOES every attempt of man to bring about world peace *fail miserably*? Why is our so-called "enlightened age" now on the verge of *human annihilation*?

Do *you* believe God is concerned with humanity's threat of self-extinction?

Stop and think! Will the Creator of heaven and earth allow man to completely destroy this world as we know it—or is there a great PURPOSE being worked out here below of which most men are in ignorance?

Modern Attitude

Most of the educated people of this world have come to regard the prophecy of the second coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, as a *myth* or *superstitious idea* held by a few ignorant folk. They smile knowingly at one another whenever the subject is mentioned.

Very few of our modern ministers ever speak about Jesus' return. Most of those who do preach on this subject often bring discredit on themselves and their message by making startling statements to frighten people, or by setting exact dates for certain events for which they have no Biblical basis whatever. Their particular exposition of this subject is so obviously in error that the educated listener usually winds up disbelieving the entire doctrine.

It has come to the place that most so-called "Christian" churches in our time no longer teach their members about the *hundreds* of passages in the Bible which speak of the second coming of Jesus Christ to rule this world. Most of the larger denominations do not directly deny this doctrine, they just carefully avoid mentioning it, or else they try to "allegorize it away."

Is the "*sure word of prophecy*" which Peter speaks of to be relied upon as a *fact*—or can we relegate these prophecies to the rubbish heap as of no consequence?

Are these prophecies actually taking place *right now*? Does the continuance of human life on this planet *demand* the intervention of God which the

prophecies in His Word foretell? Is God's intervention a *logical* solution to mounting *world chaos*?

Present Conditions Prophesied

When Jesus Christ was here on earth, His disciples asked Him to describe the signs that should precede His second coming and the end of this world—or *age*. Study His answer in Matthew 24. In verse 21, He foretold a terrible time of trouble "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Most people will read this prophecy and say, "Yes, but there have *always* been wars and troubles in the world—so how do we know what to go by?"

The *answer* is contained in the very next verse of this momentous prophecy. It reveals that a time *is* coming when God will INTERVENE in world affairs and *shorten* the course of events in this age! He will do this as a *loving Creator* to *prevent* HUMAN ANNIHILATION. "And except those days should be shortened, there should NO FLESH be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (verse 22).

Here are *definite statements* in your Bible in which Christ already predicts a time of trouble at the end of this age to which no other can be compared—a time when God must intervene in world affairs to prevent man from blasting himself into oblivion with *hydrogen bombs*.

Could this prophecy refer to any other time than the present and immediate future? Has man ever before had the means to *completely obliterate human life*?

The apostle Paul was also inspired to describe the condition of humanity in this end time. In II Timothy 3:1-4, he says that "perilous times shall come," and predicts that at this time men would be *traitors, truce-breakers, greedy*, coveting the wealth and territories of each other. This condition would *not* get better, but *worse*, for Paul said, "Evil men and seducers shall wax *worse* and *worse*, deceiving, and being deceived" (verse 13).

Yes, in spite of all our "peace" con-

ferences and high ideals, the lust and greed of carnal men is expressing itself in *worse* and *worse* depredations against what peaceful society remains.

Yet, even though most carnal men can see the "handwriting on the wall" and know that this world is plotting its own doom, they scoff at the idea that the Creator God should intervene in human affairs. Peter wrote, "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days *scoffers*, walking after their own lusts, and saying, where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (II Peter 3:3-4).

Peter says these men are *willingly ignorant* of the fact that God has *already* intervened once in this world's affairs to send a flood to destroy corrupt and violent civilization of another day (verses 5-6). And how true this is! In our day above all others, countless scientific findings in the fields of geology and archeology point conclusively to the *absolute reality* of the flood of Noah. But carnal men use every clever device and artifice possible to hide their eyes from this FACT.

Contrary to what these "scientific" scoffers think, all things have *not* continued as they once were. Man's basic lust and selfishness is the same—only a little worse. *But the physical means of expressing that lust in war and conquest have radically CHANGED.*

Here Are Startling Facts

Events in this world are moving more swiftly toward *global destruction* than we realize. We live in a different world than our parents did a half century ago. It is a *fearful* world. Yet we have grown so accustomed to world-shaking news in our day that we have become *callous* and *indifferent* to the terrifying reality of this world's approaching DOOM. The March 22, 1954 issue of the Los Angeles Times contained an article about a German scientist that should make us *shudder*.

It states: "The man who invented Nazi Germany's V-2 rocket said today he thinks atomic research will make war

impossible within the next 12 months. Prof. Hermann Oberth said that by then it will be possible to reach any point on the globe within 45 minutes with ATOM BOMB-LOADED ROCKETS.

"This means that in case of war all big cities of the enemy can be destroyed within two or three hours. Personally, I definitely believe that then no Minister will decide himself for a war because he would sign his own death sentence at the same time."

This scientist also spoke of the practicality of giant "space mirrors" to focus the sun's light on the earth. If many small mirrors were directed at one point, temperatures up to 572 degrees Fah. could be generated, he said, "burning whole cities or armies."

"Such a system could be more fatal than the atom bomb," Oberth said. "It would be easier to construct than one imagines."

Astonishing? Yes, but even as this is being written the newspaper headlines are screaming the terrifying results of the latest hydrogen bomb tests. They showed conclusively that the hydrogen bomb can be made hundreds of times more powerful than the atomic missiles which destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki! To any thinking person, the destructive effect of this latest hydrogen bomb is *frightful*—HORRIFYING!

And we know that RUSSIA DOES HAVE the HYDROGEN BOMB.

Only One Hope

Our leaders now realize that the only hope of saving our civilization from self-destruction is the formation of a strong WORLD GOVERNMENT. But all attempts at this encounter suspicion, distrust, and *hate*. The hard fact is that man has consistently failed—and will continue to fail to attain this objective.

Men will never achieve a successful world government because the greed, covetousness, and lust for power of world leaders will *always* keep them from being willing to make the sacrifices such a universal government would involve. The apostle James says that these same lusts are the basic cause of war: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not, ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye FIGHT and WAR, yet ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:12).

Human nature has not changed.

Men are still quite willing to spill the blood of their fellows to satisfy their lust and greed. Do the men of this world really know the WAY to peace? God Almighty says of sinful men in general: "The WAY of peace have they not known" (Romans 3:17). We hear a lot of sentimental platitudes about the

hopes of achieving peace through the United Nations—but the pitiful results confirm Paul's inspired statement that *carnal men simply don't know the way to peace*.

This may be an unpleasant fact, but it is still a FACT.

Let's not hide our eyes from these realities and be overtaken by our DOOM. The events in this world prove that the Bible stands fast. Evil men are continuing to "wax worse and worse." More than at any other time in history, men are traitors and trucebreakers as Paul prophesied. Man has proved himself incapable of bringing peace to this earth. He does not even know the WAY to peace. His character is basically lustful and evil—and waxing worse in these end times. Only God can change it.

Most significant of all, man now has terrifying weapons of destruction which were formerly unheard of. Guided missiles, horrifying nerve gases, the atom, and now the hydrogen bomb—all these make WORLD SUICIDE a definite, fearful possibility!

The ONLY real hope is the intervention in world affairs of the Creator God Himself.

Is such intervention clearly and definitely promised in His Word?

A Definite Promise

Jesus' own prophecy of His second coming to prevent human annihilation has already been briefly discussed. But in this very prophecy, Jesus warned that most men would either disbelieve or be in ignorance of this momentous event until it actually took place. He compared them to the men in Noah's time who unheedingly continued in their worldly endeavors "until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Mat. 24:38-39).

Why are men so in ignorance of this vital subject today?

It is that they are in ignorance of the countless prophecies which clearly reveal that as part of His plan to save mankind, God has ordained that Christ shall rule this earth, teach men the way to peace, and show all men the right way to live. Your Bible shows that this is to occur after a definite series of events—and after man has had time to write a lesson in human suffering to show once and for all that his own ways lead to death (Rom. 14:12).

The prophet Daniel foresaw the rise and fall of four great world-ruling empires which would culminate in the establishment of God's government on this earth (Daniel 2:36-45). These kingdoms are known by all Bible scholars to be the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greco-Macedonian, and Roman Empires.

Verses 41-43 indicate that the continuation of the Roman Empire would be less powerful than at first, but would continue in some form until God intervened. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever (verse 44).

Isaiah prophesied that in the "last days" God's kingdom would be established here on earth, and that "all nations shall flow unto it" (Isaiah 2:1-4). At this time Christ will teach men the WAY to peace. "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANYMORE" (verse 4).

Yes, Christ is coming to save this world from itself—to teach men the WAY to peace.

God inspired the prophet Micah to proclaim this same good news of God's rule on this earth (Micah 4:1-5). At that time, "many nations shall say, Come, let us go up to the mountain (kingdom) of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us HIS WAYS, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (verse 2). Here is pictured a time when all nations will learn of God's ways, and when His law of love and peace will be understood by all.

One of the principal thoughts in these prophecies is that Christ is coming to save the world from SELF-DESTRUCTION and will begin to teach all nations—with force as necessary—the WAY of peace.

The book of Revelation, together with Matthew 24, shows the exact order of world shaking events preceding Christ's return to this earth. For a complete exposition of this particular subject, write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet, *The Key to the Book of Revelation*.

Jesus Christ is to come during the time of trumpets—symbolizing a time of war—and as the last trumpet sounds, there are voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

Christ is coming to take over the kingdoms of this world before they erase human life from this planet.

As King of kings and Lord of lords, He will teach all men the WAY to peace, and through His Spirit will implant within men the love of God to replace the warring human lusts. Then, they shall not "learn war" anymore.

Today's Religious Doctrines...

how did they begin?

Part VI

by Dr. C. Paul Meredith

THE FIRST five articles of this series reveal the startling fact that many of our so-called "Christian" religious customs began thousands of years ago—in paganism.

Soon after the flood, Nimrod—the first human despot—founded a *civilization* based on a false way of life—man's rule without God (Genesis 11). After his death, his wife, Semiramis, developed a false *religious* system which has permeated and deceived the world to this day!

Knowing the basic facts about the coming Savior, she *pretended* to be the virgin mother and claimed that an illegitimate son—whom she said was her dead husband reborn—was the promised Messiah. She not only counterfeited the Messiah, but she counterfeited his teachings over 2000 years in advance by giving them an *unscriptural* twist. An example of this is the *false* meaning she placed on baptism, as we learned in the last installment.

From this original *perverted* religious system have stemmed the counterfeit religious beliefs and customs that masquerade as "Christian" today.

God calls today's confused Christianity, with its hundreds of churches, "Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots" (Rev. 18:1-4). How true—for it is actually the continuation of the same counterfeit religious system which Satan inspired at Babel soon after the flood.

Pagan Doctrine of Penance

We have seen that the *Devil's* deceptive *doctrine* practiced by many churches to this day is that man does *not* have to *change* from his old evil ways and then be baptized to obtain forgiveness of *past* sins. The question now arises: What sort of perverted doctrine does he have regarding the forgiveness of sins we commit unwillingly *after* baptism?

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT WE, THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST'S SHED BLOOD TO CANCEL OUR PAST SINS, MAY USE THIS TO COVER THEM (Rom. 3:25, 28, 31). Now let us note the *BONDAGE* of the *pagan counterfeit* of forgiveness which many churches practice today.

"In regard to justification, the Chaldean doctrine was that it was by *works* and merits of men themselves that they must be justified . . . perfection de-

pended on the exertions of the individual." (Hislop, pp. 144, 145.) The doctrine of many churches today is the same. From the days of Cain downward, the doctrine of *human* merit and *self*-justification has everywhere been indigenous in the heart of *depraved* humanity.

In the Middle Ages according to legends, Michael the archangel had committed to him the *balance* of God's justice and that in the opposite pans of the balance the merits and demerits of the deceased are placed. (Review of Epistle of Dr. Gennadius Harvet, Book ii, chap. xiv).

This same system of human merits for justification is found in paganism over the world. Wilkinson's *Egyptians*, vol. v. p. 447, shows that in Egypt, the land of Ham, it was to Anubis that the *SCALES OF JUSTICE* were committed. If a person is found wanting, he is rejected and Osiris (Nimrod) pronounces judgment. The same system is found in Grecian and Chinese mythology. In China, lists and comparative tables of good and bad actions are recorded (Davis's *China*, vol. ii. chap. "Religion—Buddhism").

"In spiritual despotism in every age, both pagan and Papal . . . ITS GRAND OBJECT HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO KEEP THE SOULS OF ITS VOTARIES AWAY FROM DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE INTER-COURSE WITH A . . . MERCIFUL SAVIOR." (Hislop's *The Two Babylons*, pp. 148-150.) Continuing, Hislop quotes from a decree of the Council of Trent: "No man can know with infallible assurance . . . that he HAS OBTAINED the grace of God." It seeks "to keep its devotees in continual doubt." "In the *confessional* there was from time to time . . . a mimic rehearsal of the dread weighing . . . when they have a man of influence . . . or wealth . . . they will not give him the slightest hope till round sums of money . . . be cast on the scale."

Notice how the pagans acquired merits for justification. Hislop continues, "Nimrod was the *first* after the flood that *violated* the patriarchal system, and set up (himself) as 'king' over his fellows . . . In almost every land bloody worship prevailed . . . human victims . . . were his most acceptable offerings. In *pagan* Rome the worshippers of

Isis (Semiramis) observed the same practice in honor of Osiris (Nimrod). When it is remembered that Saturn (Nimrod) was cut in pieces, it is easy to see how the idea would arise of offering a welcome sacrifice by setting men to cut one another to pieces (in war) . . . to LAY UP A STOCK OF MERIT . . . in their behalf."

In these "latter days"—TODAY—a turning away from true doctrines was foretold (I Tim. 4:1; Heb. 13:8-9). GOD HAS GIVEN MEN A SIMPLE WAY TO HAVE THEIR PAST SINS FORGIVEN, BUT THE COUNTERFEIT SYSTEM ENSLAVES ITS FOLLOWERS IN BONDAGE! MANKIND TODAY STILL FOLLOWS THE OLD BABYLONIAN SYSTEM IN SEEKING TO HAVE THEIR SINS FORGIVEN! IF THEY DO NOT PAY FOR FORGIVENESS, THEY abstain from some things which THEY HAVE DECIDED ARE EVIL: going to shows, dancing, card playing, to mention a few. They hope to BALANCE any evil they might do by abstinence from these. BUT these same people go on divorcing and remarrying, and observing other practices which the BIBLE clearly condemns. THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM THEIR WAY (REPENT) SO THEY CAN HAVE Christ's BLOOD FORGIVE THEIR SINS—the ONLY WAY by which sins may be forgiven (Acts 2:38)! Romans 5:9 says we are "JUSTIFIED by His BLOOD!" MANKIND CONTINUES TO DESIRE TO LIVE BY PRACTICES WHICH YIELD ONLY UNHAPPINESS, BONDAGE, AND DEATH. "There is a way which seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12).

Forgiveness BY BLOOD UNNECESSARY? NO!

God says that without the shedding of BLOOD there is NO remission of sin (Heb. 9:22). Modernism stands condemned!

Where then does today's idea of an UNBLOODY sacrifice originate? Evidence shows that this is of BABYLONIAN origin.

NO *blood* was allowed to be offered on the altars of the Paphian Venus (a Grecian form of Semiramis). These rites came from Cilicia in Asia Minor. (Tacitus' *Historia*, vol. ii, p. 106.) Cilicia in turn, had acquired the rites from Babylon when Sennacherib, the Assyrian,

built Cilicia in express IMITATION OF BABYLON. For this reason the *bloodless* altars of the Paphian Venus are the same as the *bloodless* altars of the *Babylonian* goddess Semiramis from which she was derived. (*Bunsen*, vol. i. p. 718). This false worship was carried from Greece to the Roman Empire. The worship of Semiramis differed from the worship of her son Tammuz whom she carried in her arms.

He, as we have seen, was represented as delighting in *blood*. She was the mother of grace and mercy, the celestial "Dove"—the hope of the whole world (*Bryant*, vol. iii, p. 226). Whereas *he* desired bloody sacrifices, she desired only an "unbloody sacrifice"—*cakes*. When her followers were initiated into the higher *mysteries*, they could eat of these cakes or wafers.

"All this was done," says Hislop, p. 159, "to EXALT THE MOTHER, AS MORE GRACIOUS AND MORE COMPASSIONATE THAN HER GLORIOUS SON." THEREFORE WE FIND THE WOMEN OF JUDAH "OFFERING CAKES TO THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN" (Jeremiah 44:19). *Today*, many professing Christians thinking they worship Christ actually worship Semiramis through the eating of the cakes or wafers at communion.

Semiramis also bore the name of "Mylitta"—that is Mediatrix. But Scripture says THERE IS ONLY ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN—CHRIST (I Timothy 2:5). The idea of a Mediatrix as held in some churches today has its origin in paganism, not the Bible! It is CHRIST WHO IS MEDIATOR FOR US—he paid the penalty for our sins through the offering of his blood.

Communion with the Sun-God

Christ said, "I am the bread of life." This statement by Jesus has been *twisted* to confuse the world for centuries.

Some religions TODAY are *very* insistent on the *roundness* of their unbloody sacrifice—a round cake like that formerly used in the rites of Semiramis, queen of heaven. Why is this *roundness* so important? Hislop says that the ROUND DISK, so frequent in the sacred emblems of Egypt, SYMBOLIZED THE SUN. Osiris (Nimrod) the *sun-divinity* became incarnate and was reborn (p. 160). Recall that Semiramis in her *mysteries* represented Nimrod after his death as being reborn as her son Tammuz—corresponding to the birth of Christ as a human being. The round wafer used in communion does not really represent Christ at all. It came from pagan sun-worship.

"When OSIRIS, THE SUN-DIVINITY . . . was born," says Hislop, pp. 160-163, "it was not merely that he should give his life as a *sacrifice* for men . . . , but also be the LIFE AND NOURISH-

MENT OF THE SOULS OF MEN It is universally admitted that Isis (the Egyptian goddess representing Semiramis) was the original of the Greek and Roman Ceres . . . ; she was worshipped as the mother of corn." The child she brought forth was symbolized by "the Corn." Those who were *uninitiated* into the *Mysteries* worshipped "Ceres for the gift of material corn to nourish their bodies, *but* the *initiated* adored her for a higher gift—FOR FOOD TO NOURISH THEIR SOULS."

Here then, *long before* the apostles' time, was the counterfeit of Christ as the bread. He said, "My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven" (John 6:32). CHRIST SAID, "I AM THAT BREAD OF LIFE" (verse 48).

"That the *initiated* pagans actually believed that the 'corn' . . . was not the 'corn' of this earth, but the 'Divine Son' through whom alone . . . eternal life could be enjoyed, we have decisive proof. . . . The Druids were devoted worshippers of Ceres . . . ; the grain of corn is expressly identified with 'the lovely babe.'"

"THIS SON WHO WAS SYMBOLIZED AS 'CORN' WAS THE SUN-DIVINITY incarnate according to the sacred oracle of the great *goddess* of Egypt 'The fruit which I have brought forth is the Sun.' What is more natural then, if this incarnate divinity is symbolized as the 'bread of God,' than that he should be represented as a 'round wafer' to identify him with the Sun?"

"In Egypt, the disk of the Sun was represented in the temples In Babylon, the golden image of the Sun was exhibited . . . ; in Peru, the *disk* of the sun was . . . upon the wall The Paeonians of Thrace were sun-worshippers. In the worship of Baal, as practiced by the idolatrous Israelites, the worship of the sun's image was equally observed . . . : the image of the sun was erected *above the altar* Even in comparatively *modern times* . . . among the Cushites of the East, . . . we find the image of the sun If the *sun-divinity* were worshipped in Egypt as 'the seed,' or in Babylon as the 'Corn,' precisely so is the *wafer adored in Rome*. 'Bread-corn of the elect, have mercy upon us,' is one of the appointed prayers of the Roman Litany, addressed to the wafer." THE SON BECAME THE SUN! Here we see churches of today paying homage to the *sun*!

Now, I ask, is it possible that a world-wide *worship of the sun* as had persisted from the time of the flood right up to the time of the Protestant "Reformation" should suddenly stop with this Reformation?

WHY DO CHURCHES TODAY HAVE EASTER SUN-RISE SERVICES? It is the SAME service the pagan Assyrians used

to honor their goddess *Ishtar*! The pagans' celebration commemorated the birthday of Semiramis who was the *mother* of the *Sun-god* Tammuz. They faced the rising *sun* just as many sincere people do today. Why do *today's* churches speak of having *pagan* LENTEN SERVICES? Why do *they* OBSERVE THE REBIRTH OF THE SUN GOD NIMROD ON DECEMBER 25TH (CHRISTMAS) just when the *sun* is starting to wax strong again in the sky? And why do they have communion on SUN-DAY (day of the sun)? If they are not still worshipping the *Sun-god*, then why do they still observe the same customs the pagans used to honor him? THEY ARE WORSHIPPING THE SUN-GOD! PEOPLE TODAY, IN KEEPING THESE CUSTOMS, ARE STILL IN BABYLON AS MUCH AS OUR ANCESTORS. In ignorance people HONOR THE SUN AS THE ONE WHO WILL SPIRITUALLY NOURISH THEM!

BUT REMEMBER THE SUN AND SERPENT (THE DEVIL) WERE IDENTIFIED TOGETHER! Sun-worship, then, is devil-worship!

GOD SHOWS WHO THE REAL SUN IS THAT WE SHOULD WORSHIP: "UNTO YOU THAT FEAR MY NAME SHALL THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ARISE" (Mal. 4:2). Who is this? God said, "I will raise . . . a King . . . and this is his name . . . he shall be called *The Eternal* OR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer. 23:6). CHRIST IS THE REAL SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, says God!—But He is not to be worshipped by symbols of the sun—that is IDOLATRY! Satan has a false *sun*—the sun in the sky! When the pagans accepted Christianity they mingled their pagan sun-worshipping practices with the teachings of Christ. They believed they thus honored the True God. But what does God say about doing this? God said, "How do these (pagan) nations serve their gods? . . . Thou shalt NOT do so unto the Lord thy God" (Deut. 12:30-31). YOU CANNOT WORSHIP THE TRUE GOD BY CELEBRATING PAGAN CUSTOMS AND HOLIDAYS!

The CHURCHES OF TODAY ARE DECEIVED BY THE DEVIL JUST AS THE PEOPLE WERE IN THAT DAY WHEN, AFTER THE MYSTERIES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, THE MEANING OF THE DIABOLICAL SYMBOLS WAS NO LONGER EXPLAINED TO THE PEOPLE! PEOPLE TODAY are DECEIVED BY OUTWARD APPEARANCE. They will continue to be unless they use what the BIBLE says as their standard with which to judge.

Yes, SATAN HAS SUBSTITUTED A FALSE CHRIST AND DIABOLICAL CUSTOMS. THOSE WHO OBSERVE THESE PAGAN CUSTOMS AND REJECT THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST SHOW BY THEIR AC-

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Prophesied to Happen

(Continued from page 6)

Now the House of Israel began to "abide many days without a king" (Hos. 3:4). Since THEY were the people who carried the title "Israel," it is THEY, not Judah, who must become LOST in identity!

Israel, Not Judah, Lost

The Scriptures plainly tell us that *Israel* was to lose its *identity*, its *language*, its *religion*, its *land*, and its *name*.

In Deut. 32:26 God had warned them thru Moscs: "I said, I would scatter them into corners, I would MAKE THE REMEMBRANCE OF THEM TO CEASE FROM AMONG MEN." That warning *cannot* be applied to the *Jew*!! The remembrance of the JEWS has not ceased. The remembrance of them could not cease unless their identity and name were lost. This applies to the LOST tribes, not to the Jews.

Now notice Isaiah 8:17: "And I will wait upon the Lord, THAT HIDETH HIS FACE FROM THE HOUSE OF JACOB." Jacob's name was changed to Israel. In other words, this applies to the House of Israel—the ten-tribed kingdom.

The Eternal would cease speaking to them in their own Hebrew tongue, but with "another tongue will he speak to *this people*" (Isa. 28:11). This cannot apply to the Jews, who still read their Bible in the Hebrew tongue.

Isaiah 62:2: "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory (after Christ returns): and thou shalt be called by a NEW NAME, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." Israel is known by a DIFFERENT NAME TODAY. That cannot apply to the Jews. They were known then, as today, as Jews.

ISRAEL Never Returned

The House of Israel did NOT return to Palestine with the Jews in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, as some erroneously believe. Those who returned to rebuild the temple and restore worship in Jerusalem at that time, 70 years after JUDAH's captivity, were *only* those of the House of Judah whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried to Babylon.

Note well these facts.

1) In 721 B. C. ISRAEL began to be "carried away out of their own land to Assyria." (II Kings 17:23). They were soon ALL removed—completely. "There was none left but the tribe of Judah only" (II Kings 17:18). JUDAH, *only*, remained.

2) More than 130 years later, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon carried the Jews

—JUDAH—who *only* remained in Palestine away to Babylon. So NONE of the House of Israel dwelt in Palestine at the time of this captivity of Judah.

3) Those who *returned* to Palestine to rebuild the temple and restore worship 70 years after Judah's captivity, were ALL of the House of Judah—all JEWS—ALL of those whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away. They returned again "unto Jerusalem and Judah, *every one unto his city* (Ezra 2:1).

ONLY those of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi, who constituted the house of JUDAH returned at that time (Ezra 1:5). Consequently those in Jerusalem in the time of Christ were of these three tribes, NOT of the House of ISRAEL. And most, if not all, of those converted were of the tribe of Benjamin, as Paul said he was.

The House of Israel became known as the LOST Ten Tribes! Now known by ANOTHER name, speaking a different language!

By WHAT name are they known today? Whoever they are, wherever they are, it is THEY, and not the Jews, who are the BIRTHRIGHT possessors. It is THEY, not the Jews, who, after the ending of their punishment in 1800 A. D., must inherit the UNbreakable promises to Abraham of national greatness, resources, wealth and power. It is MANASSEH who, after 1800 A.D., was to become the world's greatest single nation—Ephraim a great COMMONWEALTH of nations! Who can they be, today?

How to Be Saved

(Continued from page 2)

sickness and disease and finally, CHAOS and DESPAIR all over the world! It has produced NOTHING GOOD!

God says: "SEEK YE the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake HIS WAY, and the unrighteous man HIS THOUGHTS; and let him return unto the Eternal, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, saith the Eternal" (Isaiah 55:6-8).

And *there* is THE WAY of Salvation! There is THE WAY to find GOD! SEEK HIM, by forsaking—WHAT? Forsaking YOUR WAY—your thoughts! The way you have THOUGHT to be right.

The WAY of SALVATION

The first step toward salvation is to REPENT—and that means forsake your way—the customs and traditions you have been following—the ways of man—the ways you have been living. FORSAKE YOUR OWN WAY. Turn to God's

way—the way of HIS LAW! The way of HIS WILL! Yes, the WAY of peace, happiness, and joy—the WAY of success, achievement, doing good, of prosperity—the WAY of the full and ABUNDANT life—the WAY of ETERNAL LIFE!

Since the entire Bible contains the magnified explanation of GOD'S LAW, the Bible becomes OUR GUIDE FOR RIGHTEOUS AND SUCCESSFUL LIVING! That is why Jesus said man shall live by *every Word of GOD*!

True repentance means you give your SELF to God. And the only kind of repentance that is prerequisite to the gift of eternal life is COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER TO GOD—to His will, which means to HIS LAW. You become HIS, literally, and wholly, with no reservations! Repentance is a COMPLETE CHANGE in your life—in your *attitude TOWARD life*—your *purpose* in life—your THOUGHTS and your ACTIONS.

It means forsaking some of your old friends and companions—if they are living the worldly life that seems *right* to MAN. It means turning from and forsaking worldly social and religious customs, interests, pleasures that are contrary to GOD'S WAYS.

It means THE BIBLE becomes the SUPREME AUTHORITY over your life—your *guide to living*—yes, to happy, abundant, gracious living, and SUCCESSFUL and righteous living, henceforth and forever—to live your life from now on with GOD'S HELP, and BY HIS POWER, according to the spirit and principle, as well as the letter and precept of His Commandments. You henceforth STUDY THE BIBLE—not just carelessly read, but STUDY, to learn GOD'S WAYS, and to LIVE BY EVERY WORD OF GOD!

Now ask yourself, candidly: HOW MANY people who profess salvation—who have "accepted Christ"—do you believe have REALLY COME TO THIS KIND OF REAL REPENTANCE? "Except ye REPENT," warned Jesus, "ye shall all likewise PERISH." And again, "He that SAITH, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His Commandments, is a LIAR, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4). Yes, MILLIONS ARE DECEIVED!

But if millions are deceived about the prior CONDITION of repentance, just as many millions are deceived as to the KIND OF FAITH that SAVES!

The FAITH That SAVES

Now *think* a moment! Use your REASON! We are taught, and rightly, that we cannot EARN our salvation—it is the GIFT of God. It is by GRACE—and "grace" means *undeserved pardon* and *free gift*. Yet, notice how inconsistent people are! They argue there must be NO WORKS—no OBEDIENCE of the Commandments, or doing GOOD—no

recognizing of God's AUTHORITY over your daily living—because salvation comes by GRACE—God's free GIFT. And yet they seem to believe that somehow WE must supply the FAITH that brings salvation! If WE work up, or if WE supply this FAITH by which we are saved, *would not that*, in fact, amount to our producing *our own salvation* by the very WORKS of supplying this FAITH?

So notice, briefly! Notice more CLOSELY than you did before! "For BY GRACE are ye saved through FAITH; and that (that FAITH) not of yourselves; it (this saving FAITH) is *the gift of GOD*!" (Eph. 2:8.) The faith that really saves is GIVEN TO US by GOD—it is a GIFT from HIM! YOU don't supply it, or work it up.

Did you ever notice that before?

Well what, then? In Gal. 2:16 Paul explains a man is justified only "by THE FAITH of *Jesus Christ*." Notice, he does not say, by the man's faith IN Jesus Christ—he says by "the faith of Jesus Christ"—which means CHRIST'S FAITH—the faith HE has and uses—the same faith with which He performed all His miracles—the same faith by which He lived—HIS faith, placed by a miracle, as a gift direct from God, into the man!

So PLEASE UNDERSTAND! Salvation is GOD'S GIFT. You do not, cannot, earn it. God GIVES it. But—and here is where people become mixed up, and stumble—God will GIVE it only on condition! Yes, there are terms and conditions! God has set these terms, and you can't alter them, and He won't change them!

I want to make this perfectly PLAIN. It is not *your* faith in Christ—a faith YOU supply in BELIEVING in Him as Saviour—that saves you—it is CHRIST'S faith, which He supplies and places in you by His Holy Spirit, which actually IMPARTS ETERNAL LIFE. But WHAT, then? Is it not necessary for YOU to believe, with YOUR OWN faith, in Christ?

Now let me make this PLAIN! Salvation is GOD'S FREE GIFT—it is by GRACE ALONE. Yet the very purpose of God demands TWO prior CONDITIONS on YOUR part. First, you must REPENT! Second, you must BELIEVE in Christ as Saviour. But you cannot believe in Christ unless you also believe His message—the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 16:15-16). But NEITHER your repentance, your obedience, NOR YOUR faith earns any salvation! They are merely prior CONDITIONS. But when you supply these two ingredients, then God STANDS BOUND BY HIS PROMISE to impart to you by His Holy Spirit, HIS *righteousness*, and CHRIST'S *faith*—and THESE, supplied by GOD are the ingredients that SAVE and impart ETERNAL LIFE!

Paul explains "even we have believed

IN Jesus Christ, *that we might be justified BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST*" (Gal. 2:16). You must repent and believe in Christ, as a condition, a prerequisite, IN ORDER THAT you may receive, and be saved by the faith OF Christ—by HIS faith placed within you!

Cut Off from GOD

You see, my friends, ALL have sinned. All have gone the way that seems right in human eyes. And our sins have cut us off from God. "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isa. 59:2).

Now salvation—eternal life—comes from GOD. But your sins have cut you off from God. The connection is SEVERED. YOU severed it! God will not GIVE you His gift of eternal life until you are reconciled to Him!

But He SO LOVED you, that He GAVE His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to DIE FOR YOU so that you need not perish—but, thru Jesus Christ, be brought into contact with Him so He can GIVE you eternal life!

The PENALTY of transgressing His law is DEATH! Jesus paid that penalty in your stead. If, and when, you TRULY REPENT, as I have explained at length, and BELIEVE on Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour from sin and from sinning, then by and thru HIM you gain access to GOD THE FATHER.

The two conditions of turning FROM sin, and accepting Christ (including baptism), YOU must DO YOURSELF! That's what YOU must do! That is NOT *what saves you*! It merely *reconciles* you to GOD—brings you into CONTACT with God, so that God will then GIVE YOU His HOLY SPIRIT—and HIS SPIRIT is the gift of the FAITH that saves—and it is also the Spirit of UNDERSTANDING, of knowledge, of the LOVE that FULFILLS the Law, and imparts GOD'S *righteousness*!

So my friends, that is it! Millions have been *deceived*, and believed *falsely* that they *have* a salvation which they do NOT yet have at all! GOD HELP US, then, to UNDERSTAND.

What You Should Do

Now, finally, just HOW shall you go about it?

Must you go down the aisle in a church? Must you go to a public altar, and shed tears in front of others, and pray aloud before others?

Being converted is not an initiation into a lodge or secret society! It is not a rite or ceremony! It is a matter of turning FROM the old life that was false, yet may have seemed right to you—of turning to a new and TRUE way of life in Christ Jesus, living by every Word of God, in and by the power of God's Holy

Spirit! When you UNDERSTAND the real MEANING and the PURPOSE, you'll see that it is something that takes place down deep in your HEART and not a matter of THE PLACE or THE SURROUNDINGS, or the presence of other people. What Jesus said about confessing, or denying Him before men did not refer to a rite, or ceremonial form of being converted. Being converted is the receiving of the Holy Spirit—the *very life*—of God.

You CAN, of course, make this full surrender and consecration to God in front of others, at an altar. You *can*, also, make it just as sincerely and fully, in a private room at home, all ALONE with God! You can pray in church before others and do it sincerely from the heart. Yet Jesus said, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet (any small room), and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

Well, WHEN you come to this *parting of the ways* from the old life—when you come to the place of making this COMPLETE CHANGE—this total unconditional surrender to God—this complete consecration, GIVING your SELF to Him, accepting Christ as your personal Saviour—turning FROM your sins, and TO God's way of life as you'll find it in the Bible, you'll want to PRAY! Yes, you'll want to throw yourself completely on God's mercy, and ask Him thru Jesus Christ to FORGIVE YOU all your past sins and transgressions against Him.

It is not perhaps of great consequence where you do it—whether in a church meeting, or ALONE WITH GOD AT HOME! But the IMPORTANT thing is to DO IT—and to DO IT NOW!—not to delay or put it off, and let the temptation to keep on putting it off finally rob you of your salvation altogether. The longer you put it off the harder it will become. WHY it should be difficult to just go and throw yourself on God's mercy, and ask His forgiveness, and give your SELF to Him, is hard to understand—yet something in the lower nature within you will keep tempting you to PUT IT OFF. That temptation is not of God, you may be sure.

If you are sick and tired of the empty, fruitless, materialistic life you have been living—IF in your heart you DO want to turn from it to the FULL and JOYFUL life filled with God's SPIRIT, then WHY DELAY? Why delay another minute, even? Wherever you are now go where you can do it—into the privacy of your own room if you are at home, YES, RIGHT NOW!—get down on your knees, make your full surrender to God, give yourself without any reservations to Him—ask Him to forgive—no matter how
(Please continue on page 16)

AN OPEN LETTER to those awaiting baptism

By Herman L. Hoeh

WE HAVE good news! Many of you have been waiting weeks for this announcement. This summer, as in past years, baptizing teams will be sent from Ambassador College to meet those of you who are awaiting baptism.

And here is *more* GOOD NEWS! Not only will the consecrated and well-trained men on these teams cover the United States from coast to coast, but two of our ordained ministers will be in the British Isles to contact those of you who are abroad and wish to be baptized.

In every way this work of God is growing. Hundreds, just like you, are beginning to surrender their lives to God, are coming to real repentance. They want to have their lives CHANGED. They want to be BAPTIZED!

Unconditional Surrender!

Life is a constant struggle. All humanity has been struggling against GOD!—without realizing it. We have all been the enemies of God. As James said: "Whoso therefore intends to be the world's friend maketh himself God's enemy" (James 4:4, Panin trans.).

When God begins to convict us and to call us out of this world with its trials and troubles, its pains and diseases, we might as well admit we can't win. There is nothing left worth struggling for. Resisting God by rebelling against His perfect law has been a losing battle all along! Then comes that moment—when you recognize that God demands your *unconditional surrender!*—your *repentance!*

Repentance means *unconditional surrender* to the rule, the AUTHORITY, of God. It means a total *change of mind*, an admission that you have been doing wrong. When God deals with you He *breaks you up totally*—brings you to heart-felt repentance and godly sorrow which makes you want to quit sinning and obey Him. He then takes you as His child to remake you, to remold you, to rebuild you into the right kind of character through a process of RE-EDUCATION. You will need to study the Bible to find how you ought to live. You will have to surrender to God's will as expressed in His law.

Real repentance involves a willingness on your part to live by every word of God. It involves a process of, first of

all, *unlearning* all the error you have had stuffed in your mind since childhood and then, secondly, opening your mind to believe and practice what God commands in His Word—the Bible. Jesus said we must all *repent*—repentance means a CHANGE of mind, a determination to quit breaking God's law, to quit sin (I John 3:4)—and *believe*—recognize Christ as Savior and believe the gospel of the kingdom which He preached (Mark 16:15, 16).

What Conversion Means

Thousands are realizing for the first time that this work of God which is spreading the true gospel of the kingdom—the government, rule and authority of God around the world is the event PROPHESED FOR NOW! (Matthew 24:14.) It is stirring, thrilling—different from anything you have heard before. It is changing the lives of thousands. The true gospel gives *conversion* a new meaning. The message of Christ, buried for centuries under the rubbish-heap of superstition and pagan doctrines and rituals, makes clear what is *wrong* with the world and what YOU need to do about it.

Conversion is not joining a church denomination or merely believing in the person of Jesus Christ. Conversion means a CHANGE, a turning around into the right way to live, instead of following the crowd or doing what seems right to the carnal mind. It means a life of OBEDIENCE to God's law. It means a total CHANGE of behavior, a new outlook on life, a new viewpoint, new goals and new thoughts. Everything becomes changed.

Conversion is not accomplished in a minute—it's your lifetime work. It is a process of *growing* to maturity—mental, emotional and spiritual maturity! You have to GROW UP IN EVERY WAY (Eph. 4:15). You have to learn self-discipline, self-mastery, self-control, patience and love. You have to endure to the end.

But you can't do these things *alone*. You need God working in and through you. As Paul said: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is GOD who works in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12-13).

Why BAPTISM Is Necessary

Since you *cannot* remain converted without the continual assistance of the

power of God in your life, how are you going to receive that help?

Remember what Peter shouted to the multitudes on the day of Pentecost? "Repent and be BAPTIZED"—then what? "And ye shall receive the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT" (Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit is the character of God, the nature of God, the power of God implanted within you after you have been baptized. It is the spirit of a sound mind (II Tim. 1:7). Paul wrote that if we become converted we begin to master the evil thoughts and inclinations of our carnal mind because "we have Christ's mind" (I Cor. 2:16).

Think of it! You can have the mind of God in you through the Spirit of God, IF you repent, believe and ARE BAPTIZED. These are the *conditions* to receiving the gift of God's spirit. You must be willing to *obey*. Peter said God gives the Holy Spirit "to them that *obey him*" (Acts 5:32).

Baptism pictures a BURIAL, a death of the old self with its carnal desires and appetites and sinful thoughts. It symbolizes a RISING from the grave to a new kind of life (Romans 6:3-5). Only immersion properly pictures the meaning. When you are buried by baptism you not only follow a command of Christ (Matt. 28:19), you are also acknowledging that you want to destroy your old self, and live a new life through God's help—to "walk in newness of life." When you have thus been baptised, God has bound Himself to give you His Holy Spirit. He cannot break His promise!

God's Spirit is His mind. It will open your mind to understand the Bible as you have never understood it before. It will help you to master yourself as you study the Bible to find out how you ought to live. You will begin to live and act according to the *law* of God.

Important!

Baptism should never be delayed once you have come to real repentance and faith and are willing to surrender your life unconditionally to God. If you have not already done so, write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's *free* booklet "*All About WATER BAPTISM*" which will explain dozens of questions and problems that naturally arise.

ALSO, *write immediately*—do not delay—to have your name put on the baptizing list so that one of the teams may

reach you this summer. Tours need to be planned *in advance*, so be sure *not* to put off writing until the last minute. (Those of you in Europe who want to be baptized should write to our London address.)

Today's Doctrines

(Continued from page 12)

TION THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT SALVATION REALLY IS! Satan has substituted a false baptism—a *mechanical* act which does *not* signify the burying of the old self. He has perverted the teaching of God that man must *repent*. HE HAS THUS BLOCKED THE VAST MAJORITY WHO FOLLOW HIS TEACHINGS FROM BECOMING SONS OF GOD NOW UNLESS THEY CHANGE THEIR WAYS!

Read in the next issue about more of these *seemingly innocent* practices which confuse the world today and have so great an effect on *your* life!

Reach the Moon?

(Continued from page 8)

they could bring peace and security by organizing themselves *without* God. Notice the amazing prophecy for our day! As God looked down on the city of Babel—man's original vain hope for security—He said: "Behold the people is one, and they have all one language; AND *THIS THEY BEGIN TO DO*!" "If this is what they do, to start with, *nothing* that they ever undertake will prove too hard for them" (Genesis 11:1-9). Notice that God INTERVENED to *delay* man's inventive genius which would have destroyed mankind hundreds of years ago.

But now we see the world trying to become ONE again—and man's inventive genius is making it possible to obliterate human life from the earth. "This they begin to do, and now *nothing* will be restrained."

Nations have constantly turned their inventions into weapons of war. The plan to reach the moon is no different. *Military* and scientific minds have conceived it, *military* expenditures could make it possible. With such powers and might at the disposal of conquering dictators, human life would be destroyed . . . UNLESS GOD INTERVENES!

God Will Intervene

Once before, in the days of Noah, God intervened in human affairs to preserve mankind. And Jesus said: "*As it was* in the days of Noah, *so shall it be* in the days of the coming of the Son of man." Yes, God *will have to intervene* to establish His Kingdom and rule on earth. Man will *not* be allowed or permitted to utilize the moon in suicidal warfare!

Neither will God allow the moon to become the possession of any nation now struggling for world dominion.

"The Eternal WRECKS the purposes of pagans, He brings to NOTHING what the nations plan; BUT the Eternal's purpose stands forever!" (Ps. 33:10-11).

And soon, now, we shall actually *have* WORLD GOVERNMENT—but the exact antithesis of the kind the scientists of this world would create.

Soon now, it shall be proclaimed, "The kingdoms of this world ARE BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD, AND OF HIS CHRIST: AND HE SHALL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER" (Rev. 11:15).

It is only when God Almighty takes rule away from men, and rules the world

thru Christ—it is *ONLY* when men turn to God and say: "TEACH US!"—it is only when GOD'S LAW goes forth, and the earth is full of God's knowledge, and when men start to WALK IN HIS PATHS, that the world shall at last have PEACE.

How to Be Saved

(Continued from page 14)

terrible, or how many have been your sins—He will forgive them all—and acknowledge Jesus Christ as your living Saviour! God will accept you as HIS! Just UNLOAD that burden of your sins on HIM—go and do it NOW! This is *just the start* of the real Christian life. Don't look for a certain feeling, but repent and believe. God laid down the terms. Conform to them, NOW!

Then write and tell me, if you care to, what you have done, and ask me about being baptized as tours are being planned this summer. A free booklet on baptism will be mailed on your request.

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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