

FEBRUARY 1982

the

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



Middle East Peace Prospects
EGYPT'S PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK
TALKS WITH
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

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Vol. 47, No. 2

ISSN 0032-0420

February 1982

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ABOUT OUR COVER

Plain Truth Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong met with Egypt's new President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo last November 21. During their meeting, which was reported by the Egyptian press, the two discussed the peace efforts of the late President Sadat, recent events in the Middle East, and the overall problem of attaining world peace.

Cover photo by Warren Watson—PT

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 United States: 300 W. Green, Pasadena, California 91123
 Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2
 Mexico: Institución Ambassador, Apartado Postal 5-595, Mexico 5, D.F.
 Colombia: Apartado Aéreo 11430, Bogotá 1, D.E.
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Personal from...

Larry Onasia

Meeting Egypt's New President

THE BOILING CALDRON in the Middle East continues to boil over. Even the Polish crisis has not taken world attention off the Middle East.

Right now we are in the recess between World War II and World War III—the nuclear war that would blast all humanity off this planet except for the supernatural intervention of God Almighty. And the final massing of the world's armies at ARMAGEDDON will occur on a battlefield north of Jerusalem.

We should be tremendously interested, therefore, in the Middle East.

Somewhat more than a year ago, in October, I had personal visits with both Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Last October 6, on the eighth anniversary of the Yom Kippur war initiated by Mr. Sadat, the whole world was shocked by the assassination of Anwar Sadat. He was in the reviewing stand watching the anniversary military parade. I had expected to have another private meeting with the Egyptian president this past November.

I did have the private meeting with the Egyptian president on November 21 last—but with the new president, Hosni Mubarak, in his palace in Cairo.

President Mubarak has received little publicity in the United States, and is not known by the public in the Western world as was Anwar Sadat. Yet he is now a very important world leader in the explosive Middle East, and I think the Western world needs to know more about him. I therefore devoted an entire telecast to my meeting with him, and we are devoting the cover article of this issue of *The Plain Truth*, and this "Personal," to him and Egypt's role in the peace process started in the Camp David meetings with former U.S. president, Jimmy Carter.

As I said plainly to President Mubarak, the peace negotiations are not going to bring peace. Only the intervention of God Almighty himself, and establishment of the Kingdom of God—a

ONE-NATION RULE over all nations—can bring us peace. Hosni Mubarak agreed. But we both agreed that efforts of national leaders toward peace should be carried on. We should do what we can. But it will require the supernatural power of the Great God to do what we humans cannot do for ourselves.

As long as humans are ruled by human nature there can be no peace. We humans cannot achieve peace by ourselves—it will

have to be done *TO* us! Jesus Christ, soon to come in the supreme POWER and GLORY of God Almighty will have to *compel* the people of earth to live GOD'S WAY of life—to *compel* humans to enjoy peace, contentment, (Continued on page 45)



Larry Onasia—PT

Egypt After Sadat-

HOW PEACE WILL COME TO THE MIDDLE EAST

by Gene H. Hogberg

In giving his life, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt made his ultimate sacrifice for peace. Yet enemies cynically rejoiced at his death. Do peacemakers stand a chance in the strife-torn Middle East? Thankfully, one peacemaker *will* succeed.

NOWHERE in the world is peace more needed, yet so illusive, as in the Middle East. Nearly everywhere in this sad corner of the world there is strife and turmoil. Just look at the following "scorecard":

Iraq and Iran are bogged down in a seemingly endless border conflict. Lebanon—once called the Switzerland of the Middle East—has been ripped asunder by internecine fighting between its Moslem and Maronite Christian populations. The 25,000 "peace-keeping" troops from Syria at times disturb the peace rather than enforce it.

The kingdom of Jordan cannot contribute to overall peace in the Middle East because Palestinian radicalism exerts a powerful brake on its policies. And last year Jordan and Syria nearly came to blows because of Jordan's support of Syria's arch-rival, Iraq, in the Iran-Iraq war.

Across nearby North Africa, wars and rumors of wars persist. Libya has

pulled its troops out of Chad, but its billions of dollars of Soviet weaponry make its neighbors all around nervous.

Further west, the government of Morocco is challenged by Soviet and Algerian-backed guerrillas in the hotly contested Western Sahara.

On the Arabian peninsula are conflicting cross currents of international intrigue. The Soviet Union has established a toehold in South Yemen, now a training ground for world terrorism.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG stands by the tomb of Anwar Sadat near Cairo. Egypt's government under President Hosni Mubarak intends to continue the Camp David peace process.

In 1979 Saudi Arabia's regime was the object of an attempted coup by religious extremists and political radicals—stirred up indirectly by Soviet agents. Despite new assistance from Washington, the Riyadh government has little real influence in Middle East power struggles.

In late 1981, the eight-point Saudi peace plan was rejected outright at the Arab League summit in Fez, Morocco—a "non-event" that collapsed after the first session because of deep splits and dissensions within the Arab world.

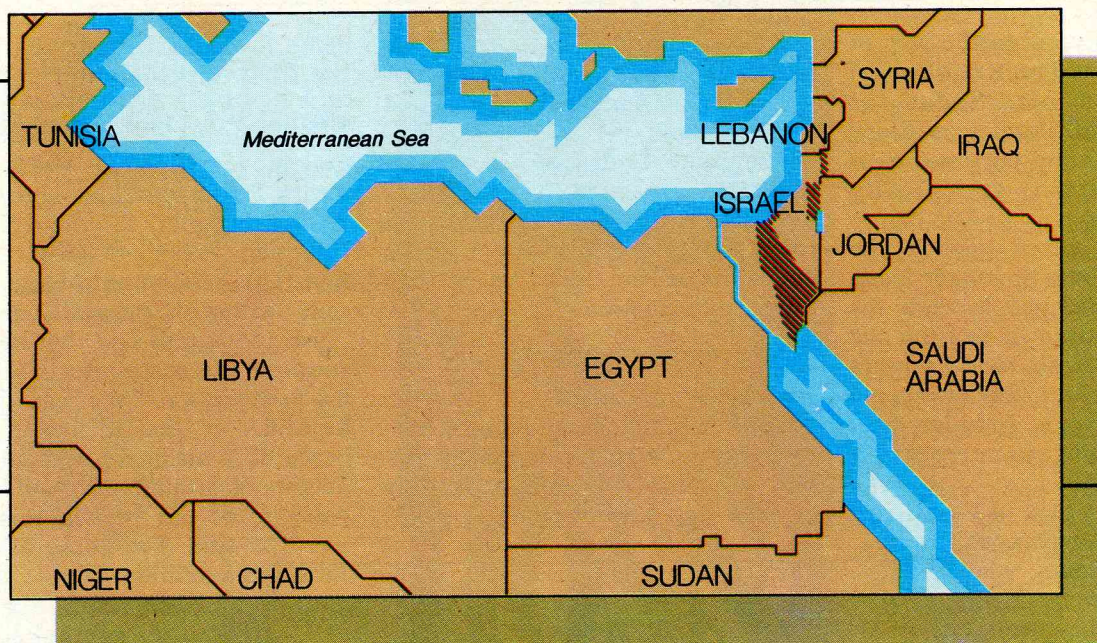
Then there is the sickening story of Iran—a nation gone mad, with its grim weekly tolls of political executions.

Note that in all of the above we have not even mentioned *Israel* yet. Nevertheless the tiny Jewish state is usually portrayed as the number-one obstacle to peace and stability in the Middle East.

It should be clear, however, that even without the "Zionist entity" so despised by its principal enemies, the Middle East would still be plagued with wars, assassinations, coups, ethnic and religious strife, religious fa-



Larry Omasta—PT



naticism and secular revolutionaries, to say nothing of Soviet meddling in an attempt to gain a deeper foothold in this most vital energy-rich region.

A Fitful Start Toward Peace

It is against this background of continuous turmoil that one sees the magnitude of the peace effort launched by Egypt's late President Anwar Sadat in November, 1977.

Mr. Sadat electrified the world with his visit to the Israeli Knesset (parliament) in Jerusalem and his courageous offer of peace. "You would like to live with us in this region of the world," Mr. Sadat told Israel's assembled leaders, "and I tell you in all honesty that we welcome you among us."

Now this was a genuine peace offer—undiluted and straight from the heart.

Thus was launched the Mideast peace process. It began between Egypt and Israel and culminated in the Camp David agreements of 1978 and the peace treaty between the two nations in 1979.

It is unlikely that anything—even Israel's announced annexation of the former Syrian Golan Heights area last December—will block the next major step in the Camp David process. On April 25 of this year, the last portion of the Israeli-occupied Sinai is to be returned to

Egyptian control, marking the complete restoration of Egyptian territorial integrity.

Egypt Needs Peace

While some Mideast observers wonder about Egypt's course of action after April 25, it should be obvious that Cairo is not about to put its control of the Sinai—which it lost in the 1967 war with Israel—in jeopardy once again.

Egypt desperately needs peace to tackle its monumental domestic problems. Already overcrowded with 43 million people—half of whom are under 15 years of age—Egypt adds one million more mouths to feed every year. And these mouths are fed with a food supply of which half is imported. Wheat from the United States alone goes into one out of every three loaves of bread baked in Egypt.

In order to keep domestic peace, the Egyptian government subsidizes the cost of food so heavily that the price of a loaf of bread is still only about two cents—the same price as a quarter century ago. (It was Mr. Sadat's decision to raise the price by one penny that triggered massive food riots in January, 1977. The decision was rescinded.)

Despite the subsidies, which divert funds badly needed else-

PRECARIOUS PEACE IN VOLATILE MIDDLE EAST: In April, Egypt and Israel complete normalization of relations, with Egypt regaining full sovereignty over the Sinai Peninsula, lost to Israel in the 1967 war. But tensions abound elsewhere in the Middle East: Iran and Iraq continue at war; Lebanon is torn by civil strife; Soviet-backed Libya remains a threat to its neighbors.

PT Map by Minette Smith

where, Egypt's poor people—the vast percentage of the population—still spend 60 percent of their meager earnings on food.

A concerted effort on the part of the government, launched in 1974, has resulted in the formation of top level national councils designed to lay down long term strategies to improve all aspects of Egyptian life by the year 2000. It will be a tough task—and peace is the very cornerstone to its success.

Dealing with Extremism

President Hosni Mubarak has promised his people that he also will take a firm hand in dealing with the religious extremism that erupted in Egypt in the last few months of President Sadat's rule—and ultimately led to his death.

Shortly before Mr. Sadat's violent end, Egypt had been in the throes of mounting internal unrest, aggravated, if not actually orchestrated by Soviet agents, who

wanted to see Egypt go the way of tumultuous Iran. The Kremlin had never forgiven Mr. Sadat for expelling 17,000 Soviet military advisers in 1972 and putting Egypt into the Western, specifically American, camp.

Stirring up hatred against the Jews and Israel was no longer feasible. The Egyptian people were, for the most part, tired of bearing the brunt of the Arab world's wars against Israel. But Soviet agents knew that Egypt's Achilles heel was its vulnerability to internal religious dissension.

Among Egypt's 43 million people, about 10 percent are Christian Copts, who claim descendency from the original Egyptians. (Official estimates place the Coptic population at about 7 percent, but the Copts claim they are deliberately undercounted.)

In June of last year isolated troubles erupted between Moslems and Copts in Cairo, triggered by Moslem fundamentalists. Pamphlets called on true Moslems to rise up and destroy the "impious enemies of Islam." Coptic anger naturally rose in response.

President Sadat at first refused to take the report of Soviet strife-seeding seriously, but he knew there had to be a reason why the Moslems and Copts, who had been on generally good terms throughout his tenure in office, were suddenly at each others' throats.

Finally, last September, less than a month before his tragic end, Mr. Sadat cracked down hard. The Soviet ambassador was sent back home, along with six top Soviet diplomats and hundreds of Soviet technicians and their families. Religious leaders were rounded up in an attempt to defuse what the government called "sectarian sedition." Mr. Sadat's political enemies who were attempting to capitalize on the situation also were rounded up.

For a while, tempers subsided

and events appeared to return to normal—until a handful of stirred-up religious fanatics assassinated the President.

President Mubarak has continued the pressure on religious extremism, resulting in the arrest of 356 members of one group accused of masterminding the Sadat assassination.

But Beyond Camp David . . . ?

Because of the collapse of the Arab League summit conference in Morocco, the Camp David peace process—incomplete though it may be—has the field to itself.

“This world is composed of an endless array of struggles for power among nations. It should be obvious by now that until these struggles are brought to an end, mankind will not experience peace.”

Israel and Egypt have agreed to walk together, because they are basically in agreement on what needs to be done. However, the Middle East is full of powerful forces that reject peace and accommodation outright.

While much is made of the need to accommodate the needs and aspirations of the Palestinian people, for example, little can be accomplished as long as the charter of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) calls for the destruction of the state of Israel as a preliminary to “peace” in the region.

Other parties, too, take a “rejectionist” stand. Syria's President, Hafez al-Assad, asserted in December that his nation would never

come to terms with Israel, even if the PLO ultimately did.

Meeting President Mubarak

On November 21, 1981, *Plain Truth* Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong met, for the first time, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Their 20-minute-long discussion dealt with, naturally, peace.

Mr. Mubarak said that he would continue the peace efforts begun by his predecessor. “We want peace,” he said, “at least to live in a very peaceful atmosphere with all of our neighbors around us. And we are going to do our best in this direction. I'm going to do the maximum.”

Then, after Mr. Armstrong remarked that “You're setting a wonderful example,” the Egyptian President made a profound observation: “I think peace will prevail sooner or later, *whether we like it or we don't like it.*”

This truism expounded by President Mubarak has been the focal message of the *Plain Truth* magazine for 48 years (this is our anniversary issue). Lasting peace will come not because of man's efforts but in spite of them. God—or *Allah* to Moslems—is the only one

who can bring about world peace. And He will do so—whether men like it or not!

On the evening of November 23, at a banquet in Cairo's Nile Hilton hotel, Mr. Armstrong spoke to members and guests of the Egyptian Political Science Association. He told this gathering of Egyptian leaders:

“The Jews have been looking for a Messiah. They don't know that that Messiah did come as a human prophet. Islam recognizes Jesus Christ as one of the prophets. He did come, but he came as a human prophet. And he came with a message, which is good news, the good news of this one [divine] world gov-

(Continued on page 44)

AS THE IMPRESSIVE military parade passed the reviewing stand in Cairo last October 6, a man little known outside his native Egypt sat at Anwar Sadat's right hand.

Hosni Mubarak, 53, had been Egypt's Vice President since 1975, yet few Westerners had ever heard his name. Even within Egypt Mr. Mubarak was something of an enigma. A powerful and influential personality, he worked in relative obscurity, behind the scenes—in the shadow of Anwar Sadat.

As the fatal bullets tore into the reviewing stand, Hosni Mubarak's obscurity came to an abrupt and unexpected end. Anwar Sadat's protégé and handpicked successor was forced out of the shadows and catapulted into Egypt's highest office. The eyes of the world fell upon him.

Who is Hosni Mubarak? What chain of events has led him to the pinnacle of Egypt's political pyramid?

War Hero

President Mubarak was born in 1928 in Egypt's poor Nile delta province of Menoufia, the same northern province where Anwar Sadat had been born 10 years earlier.

At the age of 20, Mr. Mubarak graduated from the Military Academy of Cairo. He then entered the Air Force Academy, where he trained as a pilot.

Mr. Mubarak first met Anwar Sadat in the early 1950s at a military base in El Arish, on the Sinai Peninsula's Mediterranean coast. Mr. Sadat was impressed by the young air force officer, and jotted down his name in a notebook for future reference.

Mr. Mubarak subsequently trained as a bomber pilot in the Soviet Union. At that time, under President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt's principal military support came from the Kremlin. He also



HOSNI MUBARAK

New Man At Egypt's Helm

by Keith W. Stump

Egypt is destined to play an important role in future Middle East events. Here is a close-up look at the new leader of that ancient land.

taught at Egypt's Air Force Academy, eventually becoming its director in 1967.

In 1969 Mr. Mubarak was promoted to the rank of general after having been named Air Force chief of staff by President Nasser.

Three years later, Mr. Sadat, having succeeded Nasser as president, remembered Hosni Mubarak's name from their brief meeting some two

decades earlier. President Sadat appointed General Mubarak air force commander and deputy war minister. In that capacity, he set about completely reorganizing Egypt's air force.

It was General Mubarak's role in planning the air battle against Israel in the October, 1973, Mideast war that won him full admittance into President Sadat's inner circle. The surprise air attack master-minded by General Mubarak had enabled Egyptian ground forces to successfully storm across the Suez Canal.

Those initial victories in the October War restored Egypt's dignity and self-respect that had been severely shaken in the Six-Day War of 1967. General Mubarak's role—"He worked wonders,"

President Sadat declared—earned him the rank of air marshal and membership in the "October Generation" of confident and capable Egyptian leaders prepared to deal with the Israelis on an equal basis.

Vice Presidency

Two years later, in April, 1975, Anwar Sadat (in his own words) "asked General Mubarak to abandon his military uniform, don civilian clothes, and assist me as Vice President." As such, he became Sadat's political heir.

No one in Egypt was more surprised at this development than General Mubarak himself.

President Sadat confided to him: "I need a Vice President who will share with me state responsibilities at all levels. No one can foresee the future, and state secrets must not be known by one person alone." It was time, President Sadat felt, that the leaders of the 1952 revolution who overthrew the monarchy began to turn responsibilities over to the October Generation.

During his tenure as Vice President, the stocky, square-faced Mubarak exceeded President Sadat's highest expectations. He became increasingly responsible for the day-to-day running of the country. Administrative problems were delegated to him, freeing President

Sadat to deal with the larger-scale considerations of national and international policy. Vice President Mubarak quickly gained a reputation for thoroughness, precision and—rare in Egypt—punctuality.

For more than six years, Mr. Mubarak had the opportunity to closely observe President Sadat at work. "I have learned a great deal from him . . . a man with more than 40 years of experience in politics," he has admitted.

While Mr. Sadat conferred with foreign leaders or delivered speeches, Mr. Mubarak customarily sat nearby, silently taking notes. When Mr. Sadat had private, one-on-one meetings, as at Camp David, he later briefed Mr. Mubarak in minute detail. In Hosni Mubarak's words, "There was nothing he did or said that I did not know."

Vice President Mubarak often filled in for President Sadat at official functions and presided over Cabinet meetings. He was also dispatched by Mr. Sadat on wide-ranging and important missions abroad.

Foreign officials who have dealt with Mr. Mubarak as Vice President speak highly of his abilities. Adjectives often used to describe him include frank, self-assured, at ease, warm, dignified and cautious. Israelis who know him respect his political acumen and detailed grasp of the issues.

Narrow Escape

With the tragic assassination of Anwar Sadat last October, Mr. Mubarak swiftly assumed the position for which he had been so carefully groomed. A startled world, wondering what would become of Egypt, quickly discovered that the realistic and foresighted Anwar Sadat had made ample preparation for the succession.

The man sitting at President Sadat's right in the reviewing stand, the news media revealed, was, in fact, his long-prepared and personally chosen heir, Hosni Mubarak. He had narrowly escaped death, emerging from the melee with no more than a bandaged left hand.

President Mubarak moved quickly and decisively to deal with the crisis. Within hours he answered the question that governments around

the globe were so anxiously asking: "Will Sadat's policies be continued?" The peace process initiated by President Sadat would without question continue, the new President swiftly reassured the world's press.

That reassurance was repeated in Mr. Mubarak's eulogy of Anwar Sadat: "In the name of the great departed [President Sadat] and the name of the people, its constitutional institutions and its armed forces," he stated, "I declare that we will honor all international charters, treaties and commitments which Egypt has concluded. Our hands will not cease to push the wheel of peace in pursuance of the mission of the departed leader."

President Mubarak told one Israeli reporter, "Go tell your people, don't worry."

Personal Style

Those who have known President Mubarak—both in Egypt and abroad—harbor no doubts about his sincerity. He clearly wants peace as much as Anwar Sadat wanted it. But most observers agree that his personal style of leadership will differ from his predecessor's.

He is expected, for example, to be more outspoken than Mr. Sadat in his criticism of Israel's policy on settlements in occupied territories and of Israel's stance in the ongoing Palestinian autonomy negotiations.

For the moment, though, the primary need is to preserve continuity, avoiding sudden change or dramatic new initiatives. It is inconceivable, however, that a man of Mr. Mubarak's abilities would fail, in time, to leave his own personal imprint on Egyptian policy.

One area where change might eventually be seen is in Egypt's relations with the rest of the Arab world. President Mubarak's friendship with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd could, for example, lead to a breakthrough in Egyptian-Saudi relations. That could lead to improved relations with the more moderate Arab countries that broke with President Sadat over his peacemaking with Israel.

Improved relations with the Soviet Union is another long-range possibility. Following the murder

of Mr. Sadat, the Kremlin lost no time in offering to start negotiations with Cairo to repair damaged ties. President Mubarak's reply: "We are not against good relations with any country, but we'll never agree that any country could interfere with our internal affairs." In other words, better relations with Moscow would be welcomed—if the Russians keep out of Egypt's domestic affairs.

This is not to suggest a potential reversal of Egypt's pro-Western orientation. President Mubarak—avowedly anticommunist—is known to favor a strong American presence in the Middle East. But he is also pragmatic enough to take advantage of whatever opportunities that might arise to strengthen Egypt's strategic position—including negotiating with Moscow.

Family Man

President Mubarak is married and the father of two grown sons. His wife of 21 years, Susan, met her husband when he was a pilot in the air force. They married when she was 17.

Like Jihan Sadat, Susan Mubarak is of both British and Egyptian descent. Jihan Sadat's mother was English; Susan Mubarak's was Welsh. Also like Mrs. Sadat, Mrs. Mubarak plays an active role in promoting education, charity endeavors and women's causes. They have both been criticized by conservative Moslems who see their work as contrary to a traditional Islamic woman's role.

Susan Mubarak is studying for her master's degree in sociology at the American University in Cairo (AUC), where she received her bachelor's degree in 1977. The Mubaraks' sons, Gamal, 21, and Alaa, 19, also study at AUC.

The new First Lady is described by one friend as "a delightful lady" with "a ready smile and a sparkle" in her eyes. Another friend calls her "graceful, intelligent and witty."

Imposing Agenda

President Mubarak has inherited a host of problems not solved during the administration of Anwar Sadat. Few leaders in the modern history

(Continued on page 45)

WHAT DO CHURCHGOERS BELIEVE? AND WHY?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

A large segment of American life attends church on Sunday mornings.

WHY do they go? WHAT do these churchgoers BELIEVE, and WHY? The plain truth is a little shocking—and illuminating!

NOTHING is so astonishing as the truth! It is often stranger than fiction.

Most people who attend church regularly, or even occasionally, would be really surprised if they should probe into their own minds far enough to ask WHY they go, and just WHAT is their religious belief—and WHY?

Do You KNOW?

As a baby, I was taken to church. As a child, I was taken to Sunday school and church. It was a Quaker church. I attended church until I was 18. Then I began attending the theater, the athletic contests or dances. When we were married, my wife and I felt we ought to attend church. We looked over the churches in the general area of our home, selected one that was convenient, respectable, with a modern building, a friendly and personable pastor, and members we liked socially.

But WHY did we join? WHY did we attend church?

Well, we just felt we ought to—that's about all. Did we stop to analyze *why* we ought to attend church? Well, no. We supposed all people *should* attend church, should they not? We probably didn't think much about *why*! But hasn't everybody always *heard* that one should go to church? It seems we had.

Most people simply assume, take for granted and accept without question what they've always heard. Usually they don't know WHY.

What Did We Believe?

Did we have a definite religion? Reflecting back, my answer would have to be "No." How about you?

What did we believe? Well, we had no deep-rooted convictions. We believed, of course, those things we had most often *heard* in church. We supposed there is a heaven and hell—an ever-burning hell. We believed—or supposed we did—in the immortality of the soul. We believed in Sunday, and Christmas and New Year's and Easter, and from boyhood I had heard the pastor talk about a few weird things, or names, or something that had abso-

lutely no meaning to me—"Pentecost," "grace," "Antioch," "sanctification," "justification," "dead in trespasses and sins." Of course I knew all those things came out of the Bible—but then, I always said, "I just can't understand the Bible."

And, speaking of the Bible, what *does* the average churchgoer think about the Bible? I think that in those years I was typical of many. It was "the Good Book." I did, in a way, regard it with a certain superstitious awe. It was beyond my comprehension. Of course I assumed our church got its beliefs out of the Bible. The preacher could understand it. But then, too, I grew up looking on the minister as a person *different* from the rest of us. He was a sort of holy man, not tempted to sin or to enjoy the worldly pleasures like the rest of us. He was like a man from another world. But the Bible was the Book men laid their hands on when taking the oath of office. And it was the one Book I should have been too embarrassed to carry down the street.

Did I look on it as "the Word of God"? Well, yes, I suppose so. But then I never thought of it in *specific* terms as the message, the

instruction of God, to give man the explanation of what he is, and why he is here, and where he is going, and how he ought to live, and how he can be happy, and prosperous and enjoy life more.

Somehow "religion" was for Sunday morning—except that I had been taught that its prohibitions lasted all day Sunday. It was sin to go to the theater on Sunday, and it was a sin to dance, or smoke, or swear, or drink at any time—and even theatergoing was "worldly" and probably a sin at any time. Playing cards was sin too. Aside from a few such things, I had no idea what my church *believed*.

Except for a few such church teachings, "religion" was for Sunday morning and had no connection whatever with my life otherwise. Of course church membership often supplies a portion of one's social life, and many men attend to make valuable business contacts.

Religion? Well, vaguely I had heard that Adam was the first man, and that he sinned, and "fell"—whatever that meant. As a result I vaguely conceived that life was like a one-way trip on a train. Because of Adam, the switch in the track at the end of the line is thrown to shoot us all down to hell. So I supposed we needed to "get saved," although I had been taught that I had a "birthright membership" in the church, so I guessed I probably was already "saved"—at least I don't remember that I ever worried about it. When one is "saved," the switch in the track at the end of life's journey is then thrown so that, when he gets to the end of the line he will be shot instantly up to heaven, "to be with the Lord" in mansions above, "over the river," or "on the other shore," wherever

all that was. Anyway, it was "up yonder" and when they called the roll, I took it for granted I was going to be there.

And what was my idea of GOD—and of Christ—and of the devil? Well, God was One to fear and be appeased, in a way—and yet, if we pleased Him, He could make things break our way for us. If we faced a frightful tragedy and possible death, crying out to Him might save us. But generally, I think I rather took it for granted that God didn't want us to be happy or enjoy

had no relation to or connection with the rest of life as a whole—my school, fun, play, hobbies, and, as I grew older, business, philosophies and beliefs.

What a "Bible Christian" Is Like

But when I was 34 years of age, my religious nonchalance was rudely jolted. My wife and I were visiting my parents in Salem, Oregon. Mrs. Armstrong returned from a visit with one of my mother's friends—a neighbor. This woman seemed to be a sort of "Bible Christian." She had handed her Bible to my wife and asked her to read a certain passage aloud. Then, without any comment whatever, she asked my wife to turn to another passage and read it aloud—then another and another. All these passages seemed to connect in an orderly sequence.

"Why!" exclaimed my wife in astonishment, "this is not what I've always been taught! Have I always been led to believe *just the opposite* of what the Bible teaches?"

"Well, don't ask me," smiled my mother's neighbor. "I didn't teach you a word. You just read it yourself out of the



"I vaguely conceived that life was like a one-way trip on a train. Because of Adam, the switch in the track at the end of the line is thrown to shoot us all down to hell. So I supposed we needed to 'get saved' . . ."

life—He certainly frowned on all worldly pleasures. Christ, however, was more kind and loving—He was our Savior. Above all, neither God nor Christ were *REAL* to me—they were in reality "far off."

Now these were not definite, concrete beliefs or deep-rooted convictions. They were just ethereal, vague assumptions. I never gave them deep or specific thought. I just took them for granted, supposing everybody believed these things. My mind was focused on the material interests of the moment—things closer to hand. As I said, religion was for Sunday. It

Bible."

Mrs. Armstrong came running to tell me what she had discovered. Suddenly her religious belief had been changed. To me, she had become a religious fanatic. What she had read out of the Bible was diametrically contrary to the general teachings of the churches. I was angered, furious. Argument did no good. She had all the answers—and right out of the Bible. This was the incident that challenged and angered me into the first real study of the Bible of all my life.

I said: "You can't tell me that all these churches are wrong. I know

they get what they believe out of the Bible!" So I devoted six months to intensive, almost night and day, research and study to try to find, *in the Bible*, what I had been taught in church. I, too, was astounded to find just the opposite. I obtained the literature of churches supporting their beliefs. I searched the commentaries, the lexicons, the Bible encyclopedias. I searched out the arguments of higher criticism on these points. I tried my best to overthrow my wife's new Bible beliefs—but they definitely were in the Bible.

I entered an in-depth research of the theory of evolution. I studied Lamarck, Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley, Spencer, Vogt. I almost doubted the existence of God, researched science and philosophy, and PROVED irrefutably that the all-intelligent personal Creator God does exist. Then I put the Bible to test—and by several infallible proofs, PROVED it to be the very revelation of the living God to mankind, carrying final AUTHORITY.

Now I was no longer carelessly assuming or taking for granted without question what I had heard or what others accepted. I was *proving* what was true. And it was *not* what I *wanted* to accept. Rather, it wounded my pride. It was humiliating. It was traumatic. It brought me to the most difficult decision of my life—to admit not only that I had been wrong—but to see my own self, for the first time, as I really *was*—an abhorrent, rebellious, vain human who was evil by nature and unworthy of God's grace and mercy and love.

It was a bitter decision—I now felt my life was worthless, but I told God that if He could use such a worthless life, I would give it to Him in unconditional surrender.

At last, once I swallowed my pride, admitted defeat, was humbled, had repented, and accepted the Christ of the Bible—a different Christ than I had previously pictured—I had found the true SOURCE for belief.

What a difference there is between professed "Christians" who are churchgoers, and a true BIBLE Christian! I *know* that difference because I have been both!

Regardless of whether one has been *angered* into an honest study of the Bible, as I was, or whether

today's "enlightened" clergy, and its theological seminaries where young ministers are educated, spend more time trying to determine how much of the Bible they wish to classify as myth, and how little as truth—when only 1 percent of theological students in the U.S., by actual survey, believe in any Second Coming of Christ which is stated and affirmed repeatedly in the Bible—when theologians and the professional clergy interpret the Bible to mean the very opposite of what it plainly says, in order to pretend that it supports their teachings—then you may *know* what is wrong.

If you will read Jeremiah 23, Ezekiel 13, and 34, which are prophecies of conditions *now*, in our day, and of Christ's statement of Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24, of the false preachers that would deceive the MANY; and of the many statements in the Bible that the whole world would be deceived, you will begin to understand. It is, indeed, hard for one born, reared, and steeped in this world's education, religion, customs and ways, to realize that this is *not* God's world, but Satan's.

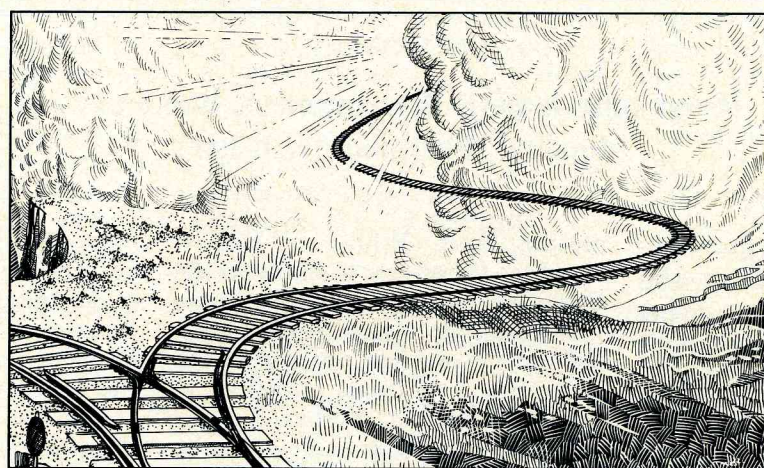
It comes as a jarring

shock! I know. I've experienced it!

The Bible interprets itself. It means what it says, and it says what it means. Taken as it *is*, it *makes sense*.

Don't be a spiritual coward. Look into it *for yourself*. It's full of surprises—it's full of TRUTH—it's full of the way to a positive peace of mind, to happiness, to prosperity, abundant living here and now and to salvation in joyous eternal life—FOREVER!

God's world is soon coming—the peaceful, happy WORLD TOMORROW! □



Illustrations by Monte Wolverton

"... When one is 'saved,' the switch in the track at the end of life's journey is then thrown so that, when he gets to the end of the line he will be shot instantly up to heaven, 'to be with the Lord.' "

he had never been to church or heard anything else in the first place, or WHY he looks into the Bible for himself, he will find the same thing there that I found—if he is honest and willing.

A person who is born and reared on a faraway uninhabited island in mid-ocean, having never heard *any* religious belief, if he had a Bible and was able to read, would be a total stranger to many of these things I was taught in church—he would see, in the Bible, just what everybody else does who looks into it *honestly*.

What's wrong, then? When

WHY THE WORLD WILL NOT DISARM

WHY THERE WILL BE PEACE ANYWAY

by Jeff Calkins

If our only hope is disarmament, humanity is doomed. Fortunately, it isn't.

DOES PEACE—your survival—depend on the outcome of negotiations between the United States and the U.S.S.R. in Geneva?

Does the fate of the world rest on what a few dozen arms experts from the United States and Soviet Union do around a conference table?

A whole school of “peace” experts would certainly say so.

One View

A considerable body of opinion says the *only* hope for human survival lies in disarmament. This school of thought is best represented by Frank Barnaby of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), when he says:

“If our civilization is to survive there really is *no feasible alternative* to nuclear disarmament.” (Emphasis added.)

The view is also represented by British opposition leader Michael Foot, when he tells a disarmament rally, “Only by disarmament can we properly protect our people.”

Now look at the facts as they are.

Neither Trust nor Good Intentions

Disarmament absolutely requires

mutual trust. While, of course, there are those—particularly in the European Peace Movement—who would not object if the Soviet Union had the only nuclear weapons on the continent, a political majority in most countries in Western Europe still favor having enough power to remain independent of the Soviet Union. Thus disarmament cannot be, as they say, unilateral. One side cannot do it alone.

In his speech on disarmament President Reagan said, “We cannot reduce arms unilaterally. Success can only come if the Soviet Union will share our commitment.” And during Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev’s trip to Bonn last November, his spokesman declared, “We have no weapon we do not wish to part with, if this were mutual.”

Yet each superpower clearly does not trust the other not to take advantage of weakness. Thus, in February, 1981, the Soviet Union’s defense minister Dmitry Ustinov charged that the United States had “plans” to launch a “preemptive nuclear” attack against the USSR and East bloc nations to gain global superiority.

On the American side, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger characterized Russian goals in Europe as menacing:

“The Soviets have no higher goal

than undoing the December 1979 decision [of the U.S. to deploy mid-range missiles in Europe], leaving themselves with an undeterred capability to wage or threaten nuclear war in Europe.”

Because of such mistrust, disarmament negotiations often become perverse games of numbers juggling.

A MAD Doctrine

What is it that prevents the Soviet Union from launching an attack on the United States?

Even to ask the question subverts the idea of disarmament. The question itself implies that the Soviets just might do it if they could *get away with it*. It assumes that there is a component to human nature that not many in the peace movement even care to acknowledge: the desire on the part of the Soviet leaders to bring all the world under their domination.

So what does prevent such an attack? In a word—fear; fear that enough U.S. forces would survive to be used to devastate the attacker.

But what happens if the first attack *successfully* destroyed America’s *own* nuclear weapons—*before* they could ever be used?

The principle of attacking the other side’s weapons is not new. In 1914, before bombers came into widespread use in military arsenals,

Winston Churchill wrote: "The great defence against aerial menace is to attack the enemy's aircraft as near as possible to their point of departure." Today, the same principle would mean attacking the enemy's missiles while they were still in the ground, or the enemy's bombers before they could take off, or the enemy's submarines before they could launch their missiles.

It is this fear—that the other side could disarm your side before you could get your own forces off the ground—which fuels the nuclear "arms race."

That's why the big stumbling block in the SALT II agreement was verifiability. Bluntly, a majority of the American Senate was afraid that the Soviets would cheat on the agreement and *gain the ability to launch a nuclear attack without having to worry about the American response.*

To prevent such a surprise attack, American nuclear war "experts" developed the idea of "mutual assured destruction"—MAD for short.

The idea is that neither power would dare launch a nuclear attack against the other because if it did, it would suffer devastation from the other side's "second strike." Of course, the idea depended on the other side having enough forces left after the first attack to launch that second strike—something which America might not possess if Soviet weapons ever became accurate enough to destroy American weapons before those weapons even get off the ground!

For its part, the United States has been willing to give the Soviets a *guarantee* that it would never launch a surprise nuclear attack against the Soviet Union.

In the 1960s the United States deliberately dismantled its *air* defenses! It is a simple fact that Soviet bombers (or anyone else's for that matter) could attack major American cities *undetected* because of gaps in America's radar network and America's almost total lack of surface-to-air missiles with which to shoot those bombers down.

Thus, a U.S. attack on the Soviet Union could never work because if

even only a few Soviet bombers were to survive, they almost *certainly* would penetrate American airspace to destroy a number of American cities—something politically impossible for an American President to allow.

MAD explains why no nuclear weapons have been exploded since World War II. There was absolutely no chance a Soviet surprise attack could successfully disarm the United States: retaliation was sure. But MAD means a perpetual arms race; if the United States ever allows its forces to come to the point where the USSR could disarm those forces in a surprise attack, nuclear war would be possible. Thus each side must continually build "better" and more accurate weapons. MAD's critics wonder, "This is the way to peace?"

No Soviet Guarantees

Unlike the United States, the Soviet Union has not given any *tangible* guarantee that it would not launch a surprise attack. The Soviets have not so structured their nuclear forces that they would be vulnerable to a second strike from the country they attacked. Instead, the Soviet Union has only given *verbal* statements it would never attack anyone.

Thus Soviet President Brezhnev told interviewers for *Der Spiegel*: "I can declare that the Soviet Union will under no circumstances employ nuclear weapons against states that forego production and acquisition of such arms and don't have them stationed on their territory. We are ready to guarantee that to any country, without exception, by treaty."

Notice! "Guarantee . . . by treaty." Suppose the USSR broke the treaty? What would the attacked nation do? Shake a piece of paper at incoming bombers?

At another time, TASS news agency commentator Yuri Kornilov declared: "The Soviet Union needs no war, does not threaten anyone and is not going to attack anyone."

The problem, in a nutshell, is that the world has only their words. That's all. Just their *unenforceable* promise.

No wonder hard-headed military planners—men in whose care the very survival of nations is entrusted—find they must look at the other side's *ability*, not its stated intentions. If a nation builds its military forces *as if* it planned a surprise attack, yet all the while proclaims its peaceful intentions, it cannot be trusted.

At one point in a conversation with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, Brezhnev reportedly said: "We never wanted to be stronger than anyone else. And we do not have that aim now. We have no thought of attacking anyone." Yet over the past 15 years the USSR has engaged in the greatest military buildup in peace-time history. In almost every category of weaponry, numbers of long-range missiles, numbers of mid-range missiles, total power of warheads, numbers of tanks, infantry and planes, the Soviet Union long ago became stronger than anyone else.

While the U.S. still leads in number of aircraft carriers and total number of warheads, even its lead in warheads is expected to disappear by the mid to late 1980s. Unlike the United States, the Soviet Union never dismantled its air defense system as a guarantee it would never strike first. Combine this fact with the Soviet buildup of 308 super-accurate SS-18 missiles—capable of destroying hardened missile silos. And combine it with the Soviet pursuit of an aggressive civil defense plan. It suggests that the Kremlin wants at least the capability of being able to launch a nuclear attack on the United States and *still survive.*

A Pinch of SALT

There are those who have likened the arms race to two apes on a treadmill, each too stupid to realize the race is pointless and simply get off. The conclusion they draw is that at least the United States should stop building *any more* nuclear weapons—and then the Soviets, realizing the fruitlessness of their own buildup, would do the same thing.

The problem with such an approach is that it assumes a sur-

prise attack *couldn't possibly* disarm the United States. Yet military experts—even doves—now admit that by the mid-1980s (at the latest) the Soviets will be able to knock out America's 1054 ICBMs in a surprise attack—a move only

only thing standing between the world and nuclear war is America's missile submarine fleet.

But submarine missiles pack less power than regular ICBMs and are less accurate. While they could destroy "soft" targets like Soviet cit-

obsolete, liquid-fuel SS-4 and SS-5 midrange missiles.)

A Pinch of SALT II

In 1972, the USSR and the United States signed the first strategic arms limit agreement (SALT I—the initials stand for Strategic Arms Limitation Talks). SALT I was an arms control agreement widely hailed at the time of its signing (particularly by the Nixon administration) as a great step forward for world peace and detente (a word you don't hear anymore since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan).

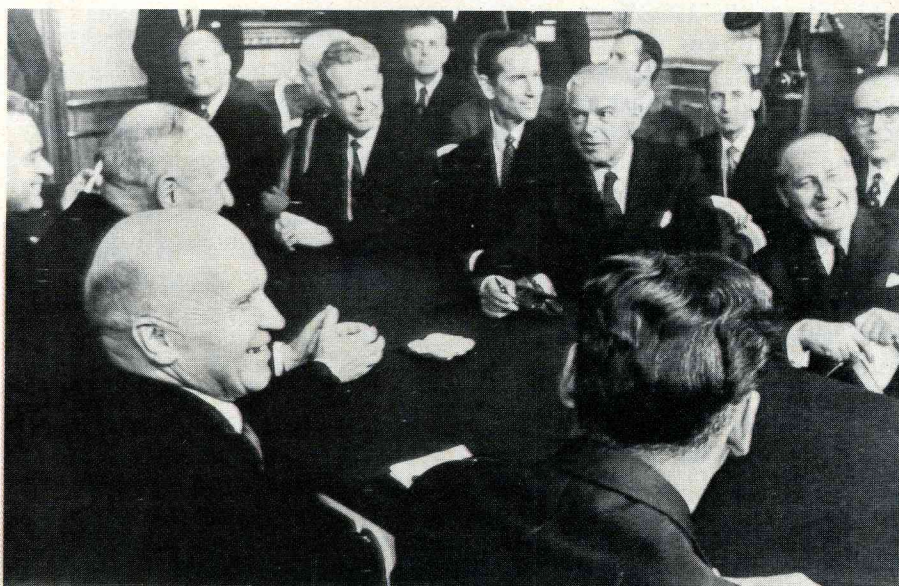
We now know that the Soviets cheated on SALT I during the 1970s (though detente-minded Ford and Carter state departments chose to, in the words of *Aviation Week*, "cover up" the violations). The Soviets tested a mobile anti-missile system, tested to upgrade an anti-aircraft system to an anti-missile system, concealed missile submarine sites from U.S. verification satellites, concealed the production of the mobile SS-16 and SS-20 missiles, and encrypted missile test data—all in violation of their promises in SALT I to limit their deployment of antimissile missiles and allow for satellite verification of strategic forces.

The ultimate irony is that during the time the SALT I disarmament treaty was in effect the world moved closer to nuclear war!

The Soviets used the time to build the monster SS-18 missile, capable of knocking out American land-based missiles because of its extreme accuracy—within a quarter of a mile of its target. The Soviets also used the time to build up anti-aircraft defenses to ward off any retaliatory strike from American bombers.

While the United States developed the Trident submarine and Trident missile, it held back for the most part on upgrading its forces in hopes of yet another SALT treaty, SALT II. When the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in early 1980 made passage of SALT II in the United States Senate impossible, the United States was left with the possibility that in a matter of years the Soviets theoretically were going to be able to

The ultimate irony is that during the time the SALT I disarmament treaty was in effect the world moved closer to nuclear war!



Wide World Photo

preventable by a U.S. "launch on warning."

Launch on warning is extremely dangerous, though, because the "warning" might be a false one and, in any case, an American President would probably want extra time to see if war could be stopped before any more missiles were fired. If he had to "push the button" after just a few minutes consideration, he might be condemning millions to death, which wouldn't be necessary if he could somehow limit the scope of the war to, say, mutual attacks on each other's missile bases.

Since America's 300 or so long-range bombers face about 12,000 Soviet surface-to-air missiles, it is doubtful that any which survived a surprise attack could get through to their targets. That would mean the

ies in a retaliatory attack, they might not be able to hit military targets. After a Soviet surprise attack, they might only be good against *cities*, leaving the American President faced with a terrible choice: if he ordered his submarines to attack, U.S. cities would face *certain* destruction because the Soviet Union would easily have the power, even after its first attack, to destroy them; or he could surrender.

While the United States *has* foregone adding to its nuclear forces, the Soviet Union has kept on building. Since 1967 the United States has scrapped its B-47, B-58, B-70 and B-1 bombers, the Jupiter and Thor missiles, the Skybolt missile, the Polaris missile and its single antimissile missile. The Soviets haven't scrapped anything. (Though they claim to be scrapping

pull off a disarming first strike—at least against U.S. land-based missiles—and ward off attacks from an aging U.S. bomber fleet.

"The Paper It's Written On"

While it may be true that, as Winston Churchill said, "to jaw, jaw is better than to war, war," treaties and negotiations cannot *of themselves* make the world safer.

Hans Morgenthau, in his classic text on international relations—*Politics Among Nations*—writes: "The modern philosophy of disarmament proceeds from the assumption that men fight because they have arms." Rather, "men do not fight because they have arms. They fight because they deem it necessary to fight."

We are face to face with an unpleasant fact about human nature. Human political leaders cannot be counted on not to take advantage of weakness. Human

nature will get away with what it can get away with—the only ultimate bound on it is force. Since Cain and Abel, human beings have tried to dominate each other and have in return tried to resist. This may seem like a rather dim view of human nature, but it accords with everything we know about man from history or from God's written word, the Bible.

"The [human] heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked . . ." (Jer. 17:9).

Note the words of one arms analyst, Bruce Douglas Clayton, writing in the generally dovish *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*:

"Given the history of human behavior with regard to weapons, nationalism, territoriality, militarism, disputes, armed confrontations, and war-making in general, is it reasonable to expect the nuclear powers to disarm themselves? Will total brotherhood be achieved with-

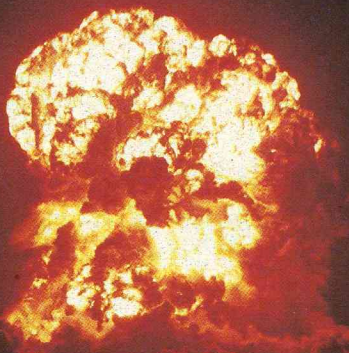
in the next few years? It has never been achieved before."

Mr. Morgenthau writes that "all politically active nations are by definition engaged in a competition for power of which armaments are an indispensable element."

The lust for power is as old as the devil's challenge to God (see Isaiah 14:12-15). And it is part of a certain spirit that has existed in human beings since Adam took from the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden: there is a certain hostility—and pride—which nations can be relied on to reflect. The desire to dominate others *for its own sake* was the key element of the devil's challenge to God and an attitude that human beings have always, as a matter of simple historical fact, exemplified.

"From whence come wars and fightings among you?" asked the apostle James (Jas. 4:1). "Come they not hence, even of your lusts

ON THE BRINK OF NUCLEAR WAR!



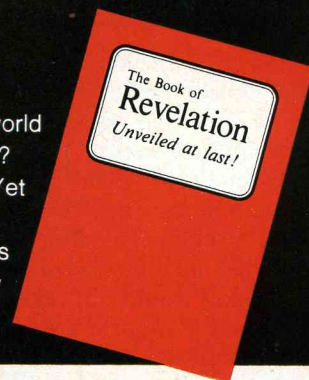
Few realize it, but this world is at the very brink of World War Three!

Despite disarmament talks, despite warnings from statesmen and scientists, the world situation continues to worsen. Where are world events taking us? How can you know?

The biblical book of Revelation graphically describes the course of today's events. Yet millions cannot understand this final book of the Bible.

Our free booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!* unlocks Revelation's prophecies about these last days and the future of mankind. Why not write immediately for your free copy of this important booklet.

Wide World Photo



that war in your members?"

It is a painful fact and not easily acknowledged.

There is a story of a nuclear strategist, the late Bernard Brodie, who once dismissed the idea of a surprise nuclear attack by the Soviet Union against the United States as not "worth spending much money on." Why? he was asked. His answer: "Human beings don't act that way."

Of course, human beings *do* act that way. Conquest has been one of history's constant themes.

"Remember the Hivites"

Lawrence W. Beilenson, author of *Treaty Trap*, points out that man's tendency to break treaties goes back a long, long time. Consider, he notes, the disarmament agreement made between the sons of the biblical patriarch Jacob and the Hivites in Genesis, chapter 34.

The young Hivite named Shechem, the son of Hamor, had seduced Dinah, Jacob's daughter. Afterwards, "Hamor the father of Shechem went out unto Jacob to commune with him" (verse 6). At this "conference" the Hivites offered intermarriage of the two peoples (verse 9) and the sharing of Hivite land (verse 10) in return for Jacob's allowing Dinah to wed Shechem. The sons of Jacob agreed—but wanted one more concession—all the male Hivites had to agree to be circumcised (verse 15), an operation which, of course, rendered them in no shape for combat for the next few days.

So, "on the third day, when they [the Hivites] were sore, . . . two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males" (verse 25).

In this case, the Hivites only had an *oral* agreement that the sons of Jacob would live peaceably with them (compare verses 10 and 21). And as the old joke about oral agreements goes: they're not worth the paper they're written on. The Hivites had no *guarantee* that the sons of Jacob would not take advantage of their temporary weakness.

A reader of the account in Gene-

sis 34 may notice that when the sons of Jacob accepted the "disarmament agreement," they did so "deceitfully" (verse 13). Unlike a contract a private citizen might make, international treaties are unenforceable—except through war. If a treaty is made deceitfully, the other side may lose everything—as the Hivites did.

Now consider the modern context of the disarmament movement in Europe. The London *Economist* summarizes what would happen if Western Europe just went ahead and renounced nuclear weapons without the Soviets doing likewise:

"If western Europe rejected nuclear weapons the Russian response would pretty certainly be a grateful, if puzzled, smile. The more honest of western Europe's nuclear disarmers have lately started to realize this. They therefore explain that 'if the Russians did not start to match our disarmament moves in the west, we should have to reconsider.' It would be too late to reconsider."

"Too late to reconsider"—like the foolish Hivites in Genesis 34—or Prime Minister Chamberlain in 1938 who came back from a conference with Hitler in Munich waving a piece of paper, proclaiming "peace in our time."

Mutual trust is absolutely necessary for disarmament, but it is absent among nations. The Soviet Union has never renounced its goal of communizing the world. The West can never be *sure* that any disarmament agreement negotiated with the Soviets isn't really a ploy to leave the West vulnerable to a surprise attack. Nor can the Soviet Union ever really renounce its goal, because the very ability of the Soviet leaders to stay in power depends on giving the Soviet people something *outside themselves and their domestic system* to sacrifice for.

Were the Soviets to become a status quo power, they would have to acknowledge, as Chinese communist leaders have done, their failure to provide high living standards for their citizens. That would in turn force them to change their system (as Chinese have begun to do)—and that is something Soviet

leaders will *not* do, because it would mean admitting that the goals to which they have devoted their lives—and the sacrifices they have imposed on their people—were in vain.

Thus as a practical matter there can be no disarmament that does not in some way promote the Soviet domination of the world. Therefore, as long as the United States and other nations care about freedom and independence, there can be no disarmament.

Why There Will Be Peace Anyway

"Disarmament," declared *The Plain Truth* 19 years ago, "is the *result* of peace, not the way to it." Peace will come when Christ returns to this earth and forcibly sets up his government over all nations. It will take Christ to *end* the international anarchy that insures that disarmament treaties can be cheated on or broken in today's world.

The Bible reveals that the returned Christ will "rule [the nations] with a rod of iron" (Rev. 19:15), and force the nations to "beat their swords into plowshares" (Isa. 2:4). While the Bible says man doesn't know the "way of peace" (Isa. 59:8), God does, and the Gospel itself is, among other things, a message about the peace (Eph. 6:15) which God will impose from on high.

In the meantime, hope of preventing war rests with whatever fear the American nuclear arsenal can inspire in Soviet leaders, an ever more slender reed as the world enters the mid-1980s. Disarmament negotiations can seem to lessen "international tensions," at least as they are publicized in the Western media, but they cannot reach the *underlying* causes of war—which don't derive from weapons but from the very nature of the human heart itself. Indeed, the Bible leaves us a stern warning about putting trust in negotiations to bring peace:

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (I Thess. 5:3). □

How to AVOID BODILY INJURY

by Roderick C. Meredith

Here is the SEVENTH LAW of radiant health. Breaking it can undo all the benefits attained through healthful living—often with frightening speed.

I WAS driving home from Fresno, California, at night when it happened.

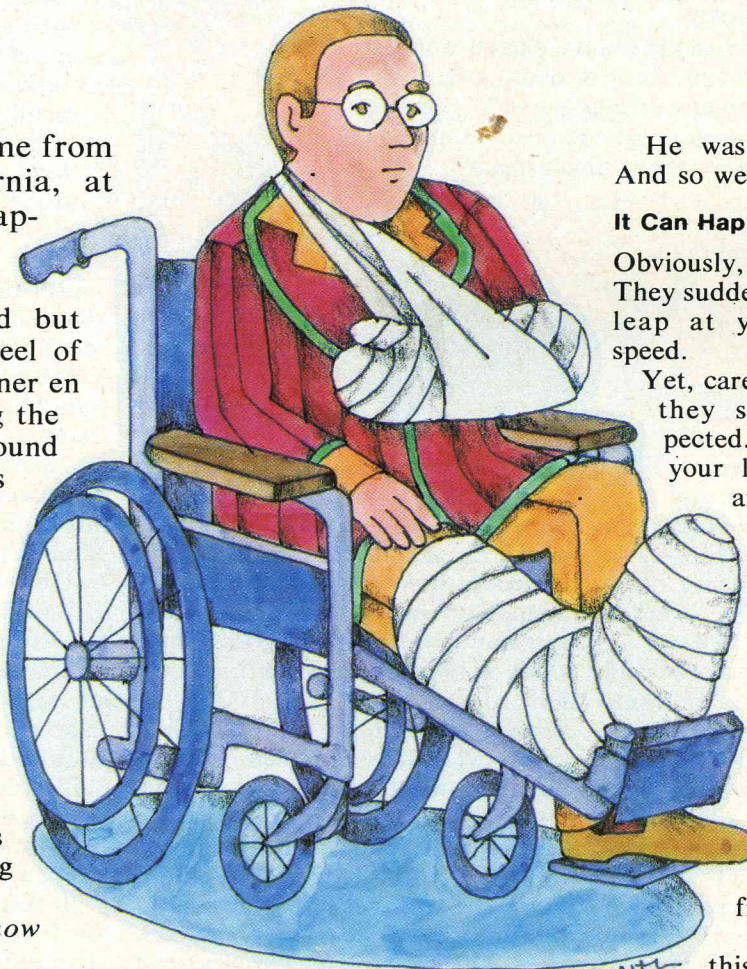
It had been a long day. I was tired but relaxed behind the wheel of the car after a good dinner en route. We were nearing the end of our 440-mile round trip from Los Angeles to Fresno and back.

As we drove through the tunnels on the Pasadena Freeway, a little dark-green sports car went out of control. It careened against the side of the tunnel and bounced back, blocking two lanes—and the fellow just ahead of me. He had to slam on his brakes but could not avoid hitting the sports car.

I couldn't believe how quickly it all happened!

I hit my brake quickly, but I had virtually no time to slow down—for I was probably following too closely. So my car skidded sideways—also blocking two lanes. Fortunately, there was no one following closely behind me or I might not be here to write this.

Even then, we skidded down the highway and bumped the car just ahead—causing considerable damage to both vehicles. My wife was not injured, but a young woman



accompanying us was thrown against the rear car-door handle and received a severe bruise on her hip, which gave her discomfort for several weeks.

In the original wreck, the careening sports-car driver was severely injured and had to be taken away by ambulance. He lived, but suffered severely, and was suddenly faced with huge medical bills. His car was completely wrecked.

He was fortunate to be alive. And so were we.

It Can Happen So Fast

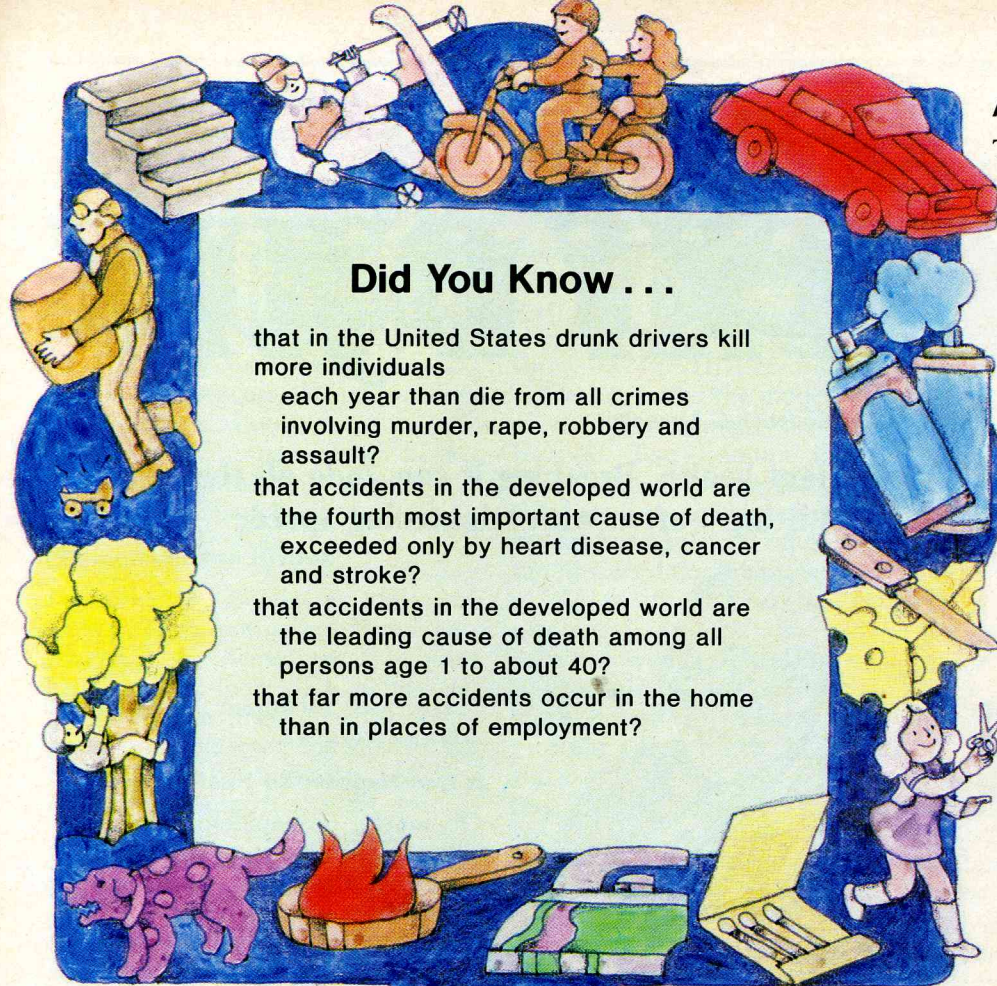
Obviously, no accident is planned. They suddenly hit you or seemingly leap at you with frightening speed.

Yet, careful analysis reveals that they should have been expected. Accidents may involve your lifestyle, your activities and perhaps equipment or vehicles.

All of us should realize, also, that things often go in cycles. You may have no accidents in your immediate family for a few years. Then all of a sudden you will have one, your child will have one and perhaps another close family member or friend as well.

Precisely because of this, and because accidents happen so quickly—with such sickening speed and harshness that we may not have experienced for years—it is imperative that we take thought and preventative measures *ahead of time*.

Accidents can instantly take from you the fruits of literally *years* of obeying the other six laws of health—summarized two months ago in *The Plain Truth*. You can eat a proper, balanced diet, get regular, vigorous exer-



Did You Know . . .

that in the United States drunk drivers kill more individuals

each year than die from all crimes involving murder, rape, robbery and assault?

that accidents in the developed world are the fourth most important cause of death, exceeded only by heart disease, cancer and stroke?

that accidents in the developed world are the leading cause of death among all persons age 1 to about 40?

that far more accidents occur in the home than in places of employment?

cise, sleep well and have a positive mental attitude and yet suddenly be "the sickest man in town" if you get hit by a truck!

Why Accidents?

Why the terrible waste of life and limb in so many varieties of tragic accidents? Why the massive amount of human suffering—the permanently scarred and crippled, the widows and orphans, the millions of lost work hours, the hundreds of millions of dollars, pounds or marks needlessly spent because of accidents?

The answer varies, of course, with each type of accident.

Not surprisingly, certain types of people are accident prone. And others are more prone to accidents in certain situations.

As a Royal Bank of Canada newsletter points out: "Being in a bad humour is a dangerous state. A person in a cheerful, kindly, happy mood is less likely to incur an accident than one in a mood of discontent, grief or despair. When we are irritated, feeling below par or frus-

trated, we have to be extra careful in everything we do, for these feelings make us sitting ducks for accidents."

People in bad moods are fundamentally *breaking* the second great spiritual law of our Creator: "*Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*"

As regular *Plain Truth* readers know, God has revealed in that book we call the Holy Bible a WAY of life. He has revealed LAWS of life that operate *automatically*—just like the law of gravity. When we break these laws, they break us—in the form of broken homes, broken friendships, broken careers and dreams—and often in the form of broken bodies and broken bones from accidents.

As we proceed to look at different types of accidents—their *causes* and their *cure*—*think on this principle*. For, in each case, spiritual LAWS are almost certainly also being broken. And this violation *must be repented of*. It *must stop* in order for the accidents themselves to stop occurring.

Auto Wrecks

The number-one *cause* of auto wrecks is drunk driving. Every 23 minutes, someone in the United States is killed in an accident involving a drunk driver.

On a typical Saturday, studies have found, one of every 10 drivers is drunk. But of every 2,000 drunk drivers, only one is arrested—and stiff punishment is meted out in only a fraction of these cases!

Authorities agree that drunk driving is the most socially acceptable violent crime in the United States. God calls it a capital sin! Some judges and jurors are far too tolerant of the drunken driver. Being regular drinkers themselves, they tend to say, "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

In some Scandinavian countries, a driver arrested with only *half* the amount of alcohol the United States permits is considered too drunk to drive. And he faces a *mandatory jail term up to 21 days!* In Switzerland, tough laws, stringent enforcement and an effective public information campaign against alcoholism really works. There are far fewer highway fatalities due to drunkenness.

Obviously the United States, Britain and many other countries need to follow suit. And we as individuals must learn the importance of sobriety and self-discipline—especially when behind the wheel of an automobile.

Beside being completely sober, totally alert and cautious, here are *seven basic rules* for highway safety.

1. Assume that at least some nearby drivers may be partly intoxicated, drugged or impaired by sight or hearing loss, pain or fatigue. Realize that *you* may need to take precautionary measures to avoid trouble. *You* have a responsibility.

2. Obey the speed laws. On most short trips, driving at excessive speeds will only save you a few minutes or seconds—if you get there safely.

3. Always allow two seconds between the front of your car and the rear of the car in front of you. Never tailgate. And if you must

slow down, do it gradually so that vehicles behind you can adjust.

4. When you start to pass, make sure another car isn't passing you. First, use your turn signal; then look in the rear and side-view mirrors. Finally, take a brief look over your shoulder before you pull out.

5. As you approach the crest of a hill, slow down a bit and be mentally prepared in case there is a barrier or hazard on the other side.

6. Whenever there is a car traveling toward you in the opposite lane on a single-lane highway, wait until later to tune the radio or scold a child. Even a momentary distraction could cause you to veer directly into a head-on crash or onto a soft shoulder where you could lose control.

7. Concentrate on obeying the "Golden Rule" when driving: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This one driving rule—if *universally practiced*—would save tens of thousands of lives annually throughout the Western world alone.

It is so easy, when driving, to become impatient and demanding and forget all of the normal civilized habits of caution and courtesy. The tremendous lethal power suddenly placed into the hands of a driver requires a great deal of maturity and responsibility.

We *must* learn to exercise sobriety, caution, courtesy and outgoing concern for the very lives of our fellow human beings when driving. Otherwise, the expensive vehicle that could have been a great pleasure and convenience may instead become a death trap or a killer.

Home Accidents

The record keepers say that about four million Americans are injured each year in home accidents. A surprising survey by two research groups disclosed that three quarters of the 48,727 people answering the questionnaires thought the accidents were preventable.

"This is a startling change in peoples' attitudes toward accident prevention," said Howard Pyle, Safety Council President. "For

years, most people believed that an accident was not preventable, [but] an act of God or fate. This apparent shift... is gratifying to all those concerned with safety and accident prevention."

Most home accidents reported involve tripping over, falling off or out of things, striking, bumping, slipping, dropping or falling. Again, the under-20 age group experienced the highest rate of personal injury, while the lowest injury rate was in the 35 to 44 age brackets.

Obviously, greater patience and care needs to be taken by the young, and by parents of very young children who need to more closely supervise their activities around knives and sharp objects, fire, stoves, fans and other appliances. But the elderly, too, need to be more cautious in reaching, lifting, pulling and especially when using stairways.

Lack of CHARACTER Involved in Accidents

The exercise of right character—or the lack of it—is very much

involved in whether accidents occur. The development of right character is one of the chief reasons for which humans have been given life and breath by our Creator.

We *will be held accountable* for how we use the mechanical vehicles and contrivances that God has given us the ability to invent and produce. Most auto crashes are not strictly accidents. They are *caused*. They are usually caused by someone who is regularly and knowingly driving *too fast*; by someone who is regularly and knowingly *drinking too much*. They are often caused when someone is constantly selfish, vain, thinking of himself rather than others, arrogant, impatient, carelessly following other drivers too closely, weaving in and out of traffic, literally bullying his way down the highway *asking for trouble*.

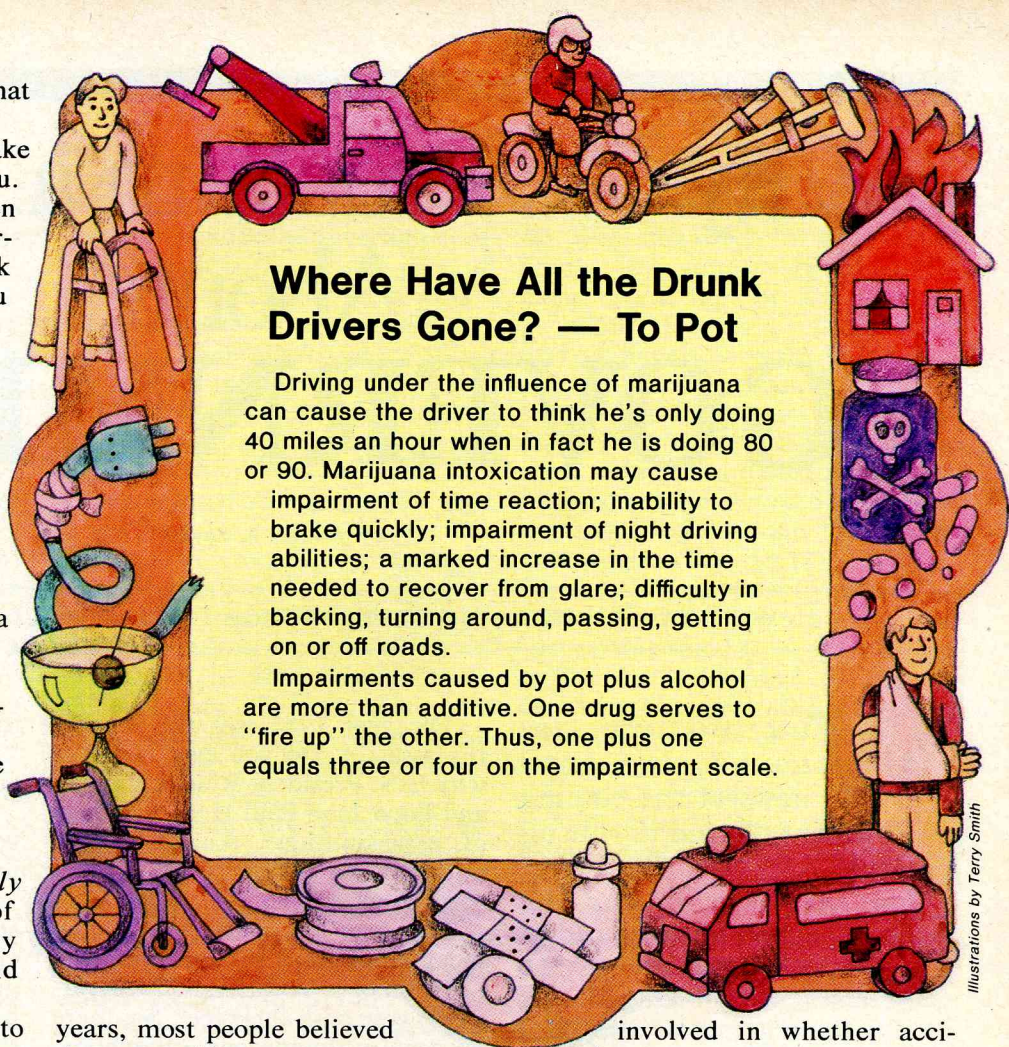
Drivers, having learned how to speedily annihilate space, put themselves in constant danger of *annihilating one another*. It is easy to let the speed needle climb without noticing it. But as a decent human

(Continued on page 29)

Where Have All the Drunk Drivers Gone? — To Pot

Driving under the influence of marijuana can cause the driver to think he's only doing 40 miles an hour when in fact he is doing 80 or 90. Marijuana intoxication may cause impairment of time reaction; inability to brake quickly; impairment of night driving abilities; a marked increase in the time needed to recover from glare; difficulty in backing, turning around, passing, getting on or off roads.

Impairments caused by pot plus alcohol are more than additive. One drug serves to "fire up" the other. Thus, one plus one equals three or four on the impairment scale.



Illustrations by Terry Smith

Why We Proclaim a Message About GOVERNMENT

by Michael A. Snyder

Few know the awesome changes soon to take place in human affairs.

WHY DO WE announce the good news of the coming government of God to rule all nations?

For that matter, why did Jesus announce to the world of His day, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for *I was sent for this purpose*"? (Luke 4:43, Revised Standard Version.)

You live today in a world of warring political ideologies. Pick any continent and you'll find monarchies, theocracies, aristocracies, dictatorships, democracies, socialist and communist societies and more.

Why?

Why Change Is Coming

Look at the condition of our society. Violent crime and riots are commonplace worldwide. Economic recession, high interest and continuing inflation beset businesses. Speculators undermine national currencies. And, difficult as it is to comprehend, the nations arm themselves for a nuclear doom.

Has the world taken leave of its senses?

These questions we need to answer! Where are we heading? What is going to happen to save humanity from nuclear extinction?

The year 1981 was the year of the assassin. Do you ever consider why U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II were targets of assassination? And why the untimely murder of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat?

We need to wake up to the meaning of what is happening!

Lenin once said that political refugees vote with their feet. So, there is now a thunderous cacophony, worldwide, of nearly nine million political refugee "votes" sounding forth the basic inability of man to govern himself!

While you hold this magazine in your hands, millions of men, women, and especially children just like you are homeless, disease-ridden, starving. It's not a pleasant thought or sight. Most people shrug it off. It's too much effort to think about it.

Yes, it's a harsh, ugly, sick world we live in.

But why? What is the hope of the future? In the face of vast areas of starvation and squalor, other people enjoy almost incomprehensible lifestyles because of technological advances. Awesome computer banks link the earth; electronic communication transmits knowledge at the speed of light; man hurls sophisticated probes at distant planets—he maps the earth from orbiting photographic platforms.

Amid this supreme paradox of technology and human suffering,

the voice of the prophet cries out: "The way of peace they know not" (Isa. 59:8).

The root cause of the trouble and confusion of this world is centered in the issue of government.

Governments ultimately are responsible for whatever good or evil characterizes society. What human government is great enough to bring peace, prosperity and joy to the human heart? Certainly the governments of the world's two superpowers have not achieved this goal of government!

Former U.S. President Richard Nixon asserts in his book *The Real War*: "The next two decades represent a time of maximum crisis . . . during which the fate of the world for generations to come may well be determined."

Other economic, political and military experts are equally pessimistic about man's ability to solve his problems. We can now begin to see *why* Jesus Christ brought a message of *government*—the government of God!

Why can't humans properly govern themselves?

American philosopher Henry Thoreau, in his essay on civil disobedience, summarized it well: "The government itself, which is only the mode which the people have chosen to execute their will, is equally liable to be abused and perverted before the people can act through it."

Man himself sooner or later must come to realize that any form of government he puts together is flawed. It will eventually fail—his only hope is that it won't be in his lifetime.

The cause lies in human nature, as we see it today. "None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity" (Isa. 59:4). This is what the ancient prophet Isaiah saw as the climax of human society in our day.

Man's solution to bad government in many areas of the world is to revolt! The pages of human history are drenched with blood spilled in "wars of liberation."

As Isaiah continues, "Our offenses are ever with us... [including] rebellion and treachery... fomenting oppression and revolt... so justice is driven back... truth is nowhere to be found" (Isa. 59:12-15, New International Version).

Peace—if any really existed—is but a brief interlude between devastating conflict. Nations also turn to armed aggression as a supposed solution to political, economic, social and religious conflicts.

How did the world get into this condition? There must be a cause for every effect! And the cause has its origin with one man nearly 6,000 years ago.

The Answer Is Spiritual

Man, it seems, has never realized that the cause of his social, economic and political problems is *spiritual* in nature. But philosophers, politicians and social scientists do not understand spiritual matters—they understand only the intellectual and the material. And, even this world's religions have failed to grasp these spiritual principles.

When God created the first human being, He set before him two separate, irreconcilable ways of life.

That first man could choose to follow God and His rule and government, or to reject Him and invent his own ways. There were two symbolic trees in the garden where the first man was placed. The first, the tree of *life*, represented God's Holy Spirit.

Through the Holy Spirit the first man Adam and his progeny would have been instructed in God's way of living. The human family would have come under the government of God—which is the way of give, of putting down self-will. Man would eventually have come to inherit eternal life—immortality!

The other tree in the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, represented human-acquired knowledge that leads to *death*.

God wanted Adam and his wife to prosper—to enjoy life in the Kingdom of God. So He lovingly warned them: "Of every tree [including the tree of life] of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, *thou shalt not eat* of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt *surely die*" (Genesis 2:16-17).

Both Adam and Eve rejected God by disobeying and eating from that forbidden tree (I Tim. 2:14).

In effect, Adam decided to make his *own* rules—he willingly cut himself off from God's Spirit, from God's help and from God's revealed way of life. He grasped the way of get—everything for self. *You* suffer directly from this act, because it set up a pattern of life we call human civilization.

But our story doesn't really begin with this first human error. It began much earlier, in the realm of spirit.

Originally there were only two Personages. There was no universe, no matter, no humanity.

"In the beginning [long before the account of the material universe in Genesis] was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

These two Personages were the Word, who later became Jesus Christ, and God, who became His Father. They developed an incredible plan. They created powerful angelic spirit beings of different ranks and then, later, an awesome, physical universe (Job 38:4, 7).

Certain angels were put on earth to develop it. But expert organization was required for this development. The government of God was installed over the angels, with the

supreme authority always emanating from God, then to the Word and on down. Under the Word a superpowerful angel called a cherub was installed to administer God's government. His Hebrew name meant Lightbringer, Lucifer in Latin. He was given authority over all angels on earth.

This Lucifer decided he knew better than God how to rule the earth. Further, he decided he didn't have enough authority. So he rebelled and finally led one third of the angels *against* the two divine Personages (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:15-19). God instantly acted.

The result? "Now the earth was [better translated from the Hebrew as "became"] formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" (Gen. 1:2, New International Version).

A devastated earth now needed God's attention. God, through the Word, began to *recreate* the earth's surface (Psa. 104:30), preparing it for man. And on the sixth day, He created man out of the soil, and began to educate him in God's way.

When Lucifer (now called Satan) rebelled, the government installed through him over the earth needed a replacement. God now offered Adam the chance to qualify to replace Satan on that earthly throne.

A 6,000-year Plan

Now—grasp this—if Adam had qualified to replace Satan, this world would have been drastically different. Wars, crime and violence would have been unknown. God's government, operating directly from God (today in the Personage of the Father), and through Christ on down, would have led to happy prosperous lives.

A view of what this world could have been like is explained in our free booklet *Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*. Write for your copy today. (See inside cover for addresses.)

But Adam rejected God's government. And Adam and the whole human family came under the government of Satan since Adam had

failed to replace Satan. God set into action a plan for mankind that would last 6,000 years. Man, beginning with Adam, would be allowed to work out his own governments and social structures *apart* from God's. God left Satan on the earth's throne with the ability to influence humanity.

But God did not step completely out of the picture! God not only remains in complete control of the Universe, but he also determines just how far Satan can go in ruling over humanity. In the days of the prophet Daniel God chose to reveal to the king of Babylon—Nebuchadnezzar—that “the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it [authority in human government] to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men” (Dan. 4:17).

Throughout this 6,000-year period, man has been allowed to experiment with all sorts of governments. Today, human governments are often voted in—expressing (in theory) the will “of the people.”

But, again, discerning men realize the limitations of the will of the people. Thoreau points out: “All voting is a sort of gaming, like checkers or backgammon, with a slight moral tinge to it, a playing with right and wrong, with moral questions. . . . Even voting for the right is . . . only expressing to men feebly your desire that it should prevail.”

But how does man determine what is right without an absolute standard? God's Word reveals that human beings are innately selfish and self-centered to one degree or another—regardless of political ideology!

The Real Answer

Jesus Christ came to this earth with the announcement that a solution to human problems is coming.

When Adam failed to qualify for Satan's earthly throne, God allowed Satan to continue occupying it (II Cor. 4:4). But now God sent the Word, who became the human Jesus, to meet Satan in spiritual combat and to qualify to replace Satan. Christ could not, in fact, announce the solu-

tion until he had first qualified to replace Satan. He *did* qualify when he resisted Satan and chose to obey God and operate under his government (Matt. 4:1-11).

Once he had qualified by overcoming Satan, Christ began his ministry. What was it concerned with? What was his announcement?

“Now after that John was put into prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel [good news—for “gospel” means good news] of the *kingdom of God*, and saying, The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and *believe the gospel*” (Mark 1:14-15).

Christ was delivering the *good news* announcement that God is going to restore His government on earth. And that the ruler of the government of God on earth will be Jesus Christ himself! When asked if he was a king, Christ answered, “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world . . .” (John 18:37).

The World Tomorrow

What will the world be like under the government of God? How will human nature be changed?

First, Satan will be replaced. He will be restrained from deceiving the world for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-4). Then we read, “. . . After those days, saith the Lord, I will put *my law* in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts: and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall *all* know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jer. 31:33-34).

Yes, God's *law* will serve as the basis for His restored government. Any kingdom must have four things to qualify as a kingdom: 1) a king or ruler, 2) laws, 3) territory, 4) subjects.

Christ will be King, God's law (summarized in Exodus 20 and kept according to the spiritual intent) will be the basic legal code, imbued in

man by the Holy Spirit of God. The whole earth will be the *territory* of the Kingdom of God. And God's *saints* will assist as rulers in the literal Kingdom of God (Matt. 25:34; Rev. 5:10), and the mortal human family will become heirs to that Kingdom if they voluntarily come under that government and let God's laws rule their lives. (Write for our free booklet *What Is the Reward of the Saved?* for a complete understanding.)

Christ, as the head of a perfect government that combines church and state, will come at or near the close of this 6,000 years of man's government. He will intervene, at the last moment, when man finally threatens to erase himself off the face of the earth (Matt. 24:22, Joel 2:2). He will bring with Him the *solution* to man's problems—He will replace Satan's government and man's governments with *God's government!*

Man will be taught how to properly worship God (Deut. 10:12). His carnal, hostile nature toward God (Rom. 8:7), will be replaced by *God's* nature through His Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5).

One thousand years of joyous prosperity and development will follow man's 6,000 years of suffering (Rev. 20:4-6). You can be part of that Kingdom Christ preached.

If you'd like to know more about this coming world government, write for our *free* full-length book *The Incredible Human Potential*. It will reveal to you what you can become—and it's *far* beyond what you could ever conceive!

God has in store for you things virtually beyond human comprehension. As the apostle Paul stated: “This is my prayer. That God, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ and the all-glorious Father, will give you spiritual wisdom and the insight to know more of him: that you may receive that inner illumination of the spirit which will make you realise *how great* is the hope to which he is calling you—the magnificence and splendour of the inheritance promised to Christians—and how tremendous is the power available to us who believe in God” (Eph. 1:17-19, J. B. Phillips translation). □

DID JESUS OBSERVE LENT?

by Herman L. Hoeh

Where and when did the custom of observing Lent originate? Here are amazing FACTS about this 40-day period of penitence that will surprise you!

BELIEVE it or not, Lent was observed 2,000 years before Jesus was born!

It was still being observed during the lifetime of Jesus—and in the days of the apostles. Yet Christ did not institute it and he never observed it! The 12 apostles never observed it! The Church Jesus built never observed it.

How, then, did Lent—a 40-day period of fasting and penitence—enter the Christianity of our Western world?

Isn't it time we pause to ask ourselves *why* we observe the customs we do? We may have *supposed* Lent was taught in the Bible. But have we ever looked into the Bible to see what the Bible really says?

Why Churches Observe Lent

The Lenten season is a period of 40 days' abstinence, beginning on Ash Wednesday. Do you know what the meaning of "Lent" is?

The word *Lent* comes from the Old English word *Lencten* meaning the "spring" of the year. The Lenten celebration was originally associated with the *spring* of the year. But today it begins in the winter! Why?

Where did the springtime celebration of Lent actually originate? Here is the surprising answer!

Let us first turn back the pages of time till we reach the close of the

second century. This was 100 years after the death of the last of the 12 apostles. In a letter to the bishop of Rome about Lent, written at this time, we read:

"For the controversy is not only concerning the day"—there was a controversy over the time to celebrate the day called Easter—"but also concerning the very manner of the fast"—the fast of the Lenten season. "For some think that they should fast one day, others two, yet others more, and some forty." This letter was written by Irenaeus, a bishop from Gaul (the old name of France in the days of the Roman Empire).

How did all this confusion over a Lenten fast originate?

God is not the author of confusion! Then who originated this confusion over Lent?

"And this variety in its observance," continued Irenaeus, "has not originated in our time, but long before in that of our ancestors. It is likely they did not hold to strict accuracy, and thus *formed a custom* for their posterity according to *private fancy*"—not apostolic authority or Christ's command! (From Eusebius' *Church History*, book 5, chapter 24.)

Lent came into the church through CUSTOM—through PRIVATE FANCY. The churches observed Lent, not because the Bible commands it, but because professing Christians adopted the custom from their gentile neighbors.

"As long as the perfection of the primitive church [the inspired New

Testament Church] remained inviolable," wrote Cassian, a Catholic prelate of the fifth century, "*there was no observance of Lent*, but when men began to decline from the apostolical fervour of devotion . . . then *the priests in general agreed* to recall them from secular cares by a canonical indiction of fasting . . ." (*Antiquities of the Christian Church*, book 21, chapter 1).

Fasting, or abstinence from certain foods, was imposed *after* the days of the apostles—by the authority of the priests!

Lent is not of apostolic origin. It did not originate with Christ. It entered the Christianity of the Roman World in the second century. It entered at the same time that Easter did! Lent is always associated with Easter! But when did the custom of celebrating Easter originate?

What About Easter?

Here is what Socrates Scholasticus wrote in his *Ecclesiastical History*, not long after Emperor Constantine, in the fourth century after Christ:

"Neither the apostles, therefore, nor the Gospels, have anywhere imposed . . . Easter . . . Wherefore inasmuch as men love festivals, because they afford them cessation from labor: each individual in every place, according to his own pleasure, has by a prevalent custom celebrated [Easter] . . . The Saviour and his apostles have enjoined us by

(Continued on page 29)



WATCH FRANCE!



Not since the days of Napoleon have such far-reaching changes been set in motion in France.

by Clayton Steep

Paris

FRANCE, in 1981, broke with the past. A spectacular series of prophetic events involving all Europe is being set in motion.

The Socialist slogan in last year's election promised the French they would be "Living otherwise." And that's precisely what the citizens of France will be doing—at work, at play, in school and in the military if the new Socialist government can fulfill its goals.

In many respects it amounts to the restructuring of a whole society. The sweeping social and economic transformation is spear-headed by the most extensive program of nationalization ever undertaken by a Western democracy.

Overseeing this massive effort, Socialist President Francois Mitterrand has declared, "I am doing through nationalization what de Gaulle did in the field of nuclear strategy: I am giving France her economic *force de frappe*."

Other Nations Watch

Measures immediately discussed by the newly elected government included a 10 percent raise in the minimum wage. A 25 percent increase in allowance for the handicapped, poor and elderly. More vacation time for all workers on salary. A shortening of the basic work week from 40 to 35 hours and the creation of thousands of new government jobs.

Particularly important are steps to deal directly with unemployment. It was one of the greatest concerns among the French electorate. By itself, the number of young people entering the job market each year requires the creation of 250,000 jobs just to keep the employment rate

steady. And this is in addition to the number of people already in the job market who are unemployed. A poll taken here revealed that in choosing Mr. Mitterrand over former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, 44 percent of the voters said theirs was a protest vote against unemployment. They hope the Socialists will be able to cure the problem.

Mr. Mitterrand believes that with all of the machinery and robot technology available, humans ought to be able to produce more and better goods and services and at the same time have more opportunities and time to enrich themselves culturally and educationally—to enjoy a better quality of life.

This was apparently alluded to during the election campaign by very effective posters. They showed Mr. Mitterrand against a background, not of belching factory smokestacks, but of a restful pastoral setting. His slogan was “La force tranquille” or, “Peaceful strength.”

For many Frenchmen, the promises are attractive. Not everybody is cheering though. Businesses and individuals with large personal incomes fear new taxes and restrictions that will come with a socialized economy. And other nations watch.

Not Since the Days of Napoleon

The program of the French Socialists goes beyond addressing a troubled economy.

The most far-reaching and ambitious reform under the new administration is going to be the decentralization of government. Since the days of Napoleon, the central government in Paris has had rigid control of decision-making in all of the 95 departments (counties) into which France is divided. Throughout France, everything from parking laws to management of municipal services to the allocation of tax revenues has been regulated through Paris. Now, in a process that will take at least two years, much of the responsibility for local government will be given to town and regional councils.

Fitting right in with the move toward decentralization is an astounding new railroad system



FRENCH PRESIDENT François Mitterrand in a pensive moment. The rose he holds is the symbol of the Socialist Party.

that allows for speedy and affordable access to all parts of continental France, thus promoting freer exchange between Paris and the provinces.

Other examples demonstrate the wide scale on which French society is being reshaped. These include bills, proposed or already passed, to give students a greater voice in running the universities, to abolish capital punishment (in contrast to biblical civil law), to eliminate first-class coaches on the Paris subway system and to reduce military service from a year to six months.

One issue which doubtless will cause a stir is the future of private (mostly Roman Catholic) schools. Mr. Mitterrand is a firm supporter of public schools and public school-teachers, a fact that causes many Catholics to fear for the continued existence of parochial education. It is interesting to note that of the newly elected Socialist members of Parliament, 43 percent are teachers. Of the new Communist members, the figure is 28 percent.

In line for change are school vacation schedules to avoid the traditional disorder of the month of August when most of France takes off on vacation.

All these and more internal changes are an effort to create a more equitable and smoother functioning society as the Socialists conceive of it.

New Foreign Policy

One thing that Mr. Mitterrand has shown no desire to change is France's relationship with NATO. There has been no shortage of statements pledging continued faithfulness to traditional NATO allies, the United States in particular. But, as has been the case since 1966, France will continue to maintain independent command over its own military forces.

The clamor for pacifism, ban-the-bomb and even anti-Americanism being heard in many parts of Europe is hardly noticeable here in France. Unlike French leaders de Gaulle and Giscard, President Mitterrand rejects the policy of a special relationship between Russia and France. To put it bluntly, Mr. Mitterrand does not trust Moscow. As a counterbalance to the threat of Soviet militarization, he favors deployment of U.S. missiles in West Germany and other NATO countries, as well as production by the United States of the neutron bomb. In fact, he has confirmed that France will study the development of its own neutron bomb. As President Mitterrand has declared: “I want to be sure that in 1985 the Soviet Union and its allies do not gain the strength to dominate the world.”

Some suggest, however, that the French relationship with the United States, the Soviets and NATO could eventually change depending upon the success or failure of domestic programs.

If France now agrees with the Reagan administration on the necessity of maintaining a strong European defense, there is sharp disagreement on relations with the Third World. Mr. Mitterrand, for example, does not feel the United States should try to prop up shaky military dictatorships in Central America. He believes the trouble in that region to be the result of gen-

Fastest Trains On Earth

Lyons

Modern technology is now setting the stage for the prophesied union of Western Europe.

Even before the sleek machine pulls out of the station for its run to Paris, its streamlined appearance suggests motion. It is one of a new breed of French trains named the TGV, short for *trains à grande vitesse*—("very fast trains").

Test runs have shown them easily capable of reaching 235 miles per hour, making them the fastest on earth. Temporarily, however, they are "reined in" at a maximum of 162 mph even when they are on their own newly laid track. When they must travel on the older tracks, they are limited to a snail's pace of 100 mph.

All this is expected to change, though, as more specially constructed track is laid. The new tracks have concrete ties instead of wood. Individual rails are welded together into one continuous, seamless rail, and there are no grade crossings—all human or

animal cross-traffic passes underneath the fenced-off right of way.

As more cities are linked to Paris and to each other by the new rail system, the eventual goal is to have these trains darting from station to station at 238 mph. And not only in France! The trains already go into Geneva. It is expected to be only a matter of time before they go to Brussels, London (whenever the tunnel is finally built under the English Channel) and other European cities.

Quiet and smooth are the best words to describe the ride. Passengers lounge in reclining seats. For refreshment there is a snack bar in second class. In first class cars, hostesses serve several-course meals from airline-style carts. Each train has a sloping-nosed engine at both ends and is composed of eight coaches. The coaches are not meant to be separated, since they share one group of wheels (a bogey) wherever two coaches join. All eight cars form one single

aerodynamically designed unit. With only half the number of wheels of a conventional eight-coach train, there is correspondingly less weight and friction. Adding to its streamlining, the TGV rides about two feet lower than ordinary trains.

Looking out the large tinted windows at the beautiful French countryside rolling by, we catch a glimpse from time to time of small groups of villagers or farmers as they pause to watch this orange, brown and white blur streak through the pastoral setting. Are these country folk merely shaking their heads over the necessity for human beings to be in such a rush? Or is it a sense of pride they are feeling since this fastest train in the world bears the label "Made in France"?

Any American railroad buff can draw a sad comparison with the rail passenger service in the United States. At the same time the TGV was breaking records, some fanfare was being sounded about the

inauguration of a new train running between Los Angeles and Sacramento, California—a distance of about 400 miles. To make the trip, American commuters can plan on an overnight jaunt of 13½-hours.

What is more, the energy expenditure for a full TGV on such a trip would be the equivalent of less than two gallons of gasoline a passenger.

The French all-electric TGV, originally conceived of more than a decade ago, in the era of cheap gasoline, has turned out to be a case of *extraordinary foresight*. Not only is the TGV energy-efficient, but, at a time of worrisome unemployment, construction and operation of this new system is providing jobs in a wide range of fields. By making travel throughout France easier, the new trains are also helping to overcome the dominant role Paris has played in day-to-day French affairs for nearly 200 years. While the Socialist government cannot claim credit for the TGV, the inauguration of service fits in conveniently with the programs of the new government.

— Clayton Steep

uine popular revolts against tyranny, rather than purely the result of communist expansionism. His view is that what is taking place is largely inevitable social reform which must not be stifled.

A "New Wind" Blows

The example of the Socialist victory in France could have wide-ranging effects in the rest of Europe and therefore the world. If Mr. Mitterrand succeeds in his programs, he could prove to the left-leaning nations of Western Europe as well as nations of Eastern Europe that there is an alternative to communism Soviet-style or capitalism *à l'Américaine*.

To judge from the election in Greece, the French fever may already be spreading. "A new wind is blowing on the Mediterranean," headlined a French newspaper after the landslide victory of the Greek Socialists. "Yesterday France, today Greece, tomorrow Spain," triumphantly boasted newly elected Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

Two hundred years ago, the French Revolution served as an example for revolutions in other nations. Some are saying that what is happening in France is nothing short of a revolution. If that is so, and if it succeeds as the Socialists expect it will, to what extent will it

also serve as an example to an emerging New Left in many nations of Europe and elsewhere?

Referring to the reforms now taking place in France, Jean-François Revel, former editor of *L'Express* magazine, wrote in *The Wall Street Journal*: "If this experiment is carried to its logical conclusion, if it spreads to other European countries, it will change international relations much more profoundly than will the current discussions and differences of opinion on the future of the Atlantic Alliance."

The Plain Truth staff, armed with an understanding of Bible prophecy, says to its readers: Watch France! □

the PLAIN TRUTH

A Look Into the Future

by Keith W. Stump

How has this magazine—and no other—
been able to forecast many of
the major developments of our time—years in advance?

A SCIENCE FICTION story written many years ago put forward an intriguing and thought-provoking idea.

The story told of an ingenious inventor who employed Einstein's theories of space and time to develop a printing press that published *tomorrow's* newspaper!

The newspaper that came off his press reported the news that would happen in the *next* 24 hours, rather than what had occurred during the *past* 24 hours. The headlines told of dramatic events—international confrontations, accidents, disasters, deaths—that invariably came to pass exactly as prereported by his unique paper.

Each day, the concerned inventor would frantically attempt to warn those involved in tomorrow's news of impending calamities—but to no avail. All simply dismissed him as an eccentric. He finally gave up and destroyed the press to preserve his peace of mind.

An impossible scenario?

Well consider this.

Pictures of Things to Come

No such device, of course, has ever

been invented. But this does not mean we are left without a source for peering into the future.

That source?

Bible prophecy!

About one third of the Bible is prophecy. Our word *prophecy* comes from the Greek language and literally means "to speak beforehand."

The ancient prophets of the Bible wrote of trends and events that, in the main, never came to pass in their own days. Rather, their prophecies were often sealed from human understanding until our day—these last days of present human civilization!

Actually, some *90 percent* of all Bible prophecy is for *our day*, the latter 20th century. The messages of these prophecies are vivid pictures of things to come, events *just ahead!*

Yet this world—largely illiterate biblically—remains in ignorance of the important messages of the prophets.

That is where *The Plain Truth* magazine comes in.

Our Commission

For 48 years this month, *The Plain Truth* has been alerting its readers to major trends and events in advance—based on the sure word

of Bible prophecy. Its job has been not only to report what is happening, but to show the significance of current events in the light of Bible prophecy—and to show *where they are all headed!*

One of the commissions of this magazine is to help readers *watch* world events (Luke 21:36) and to *explain* developments in the light of these revealed prophecies. Our role is one of a *watchman*, warning of potential perils ahead (Ezek. 33).

Since 1934, the year of its inception, *The Plain Truth*, under the editorship of Herbert W. Armstrong, has announced in advance many of the major developments of our time—years in advance of their actual fulfillment. Our guide has been the pages of Bible prophecy.

This accounts for *The Plain Truth's* unique perspective. There is no other magazine like it anywhere in the world!

The large, mass-circulation magazines and newspapers of this world are unaware of the great *purpose* being worked out here below. They do not understand the revealed forecasts of Bible prophecy. They must rely solely on the observations of their correspondents, based on perceived trends that are at times misleading. They report the news



day-by-day or week-by-week, seldom giving a long-range perspective.

The staff of *The Plain Truth* has a tremendous advantage. *Plain Truth* writers know where world events are leading. They understand the broad outlines of prophecy, of events to come. They can thus more readily spot important developments—and alert their readers to their ultimate implications and outcome.

Take a brief look at a few of the many developments that *The Plain Truth*, guided by prophecy, has spotted ahead of time.

And then we'll see what yet lies ahead!

Major Trends

- During the collapse of Hitler's Third Reich, *The Plain Truth*, and "The World Tomorrow" radio broadcast, told its audience that the German nation would emerge, phoenix-like, from the ashes of defeat to become a major economic—and ultimately *military*—power in the Western world. Many didn't believe it. Some observers declared that it would be "a thousand years" before Germany could ever again hope to become a major

power. Post-war history has shown who was right!

- Even before World War II, *The Plain Truth* predicted the eventual formation of a "United Europe," ultimately to consist of 10 nations or groups of nations. Even while the nations and peoples of Europe battled each other as bitter enemies in World War II, this magazine continued to forecast that the Continent would yet coalesce into a single unified power. This has only begun to be realized since 1958, with the formation of the European Economic Community or Common Market. It has happened more slowly than most anticipated.

How did we know? "The 17th chapter of Revelation tells us the ancient Roman Empire will once more be revived, this time by a federation of ten nations" (*Plain Truth*, June-July, 1934).

- *The Plain Truth* also foretold the decline of Britain, the demise of the Empire and gradual disintegration of the Commonwealth. The remarkable ongoing fulfillment has been witnessed in major news headlines for more than three decades!

For an in-depth look at how we knew this—and what yet lies ahead for Britain—you need to read a

free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

- *Plain Truth* editors—even while the United States stood at the pinnacle of world power—warned of America's impending domestic crises and international setbacks in Korea and Vietnam. We've reported—in advance—on growing crime and moral decay, racial problems, urban blight and environmental pollution. Forecasts of the decline of the dollar, the siphoning away of the once-massive U.S. gold horde, worsening economic difficulties and international trade problems have for years been seen throughout the pages of *The Plain Truth*.

These advance reports have been a result of an understanding of the identity of the United States in Bible prophecy, one of the major keys overlooked by most students of prophecy. *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* holds that key.

- *The Plain Truth* has, virtually from its inception, alerted its readers to the growing importance of the Middle East, the focal point of Bible prophecy. Long before the energy crisis of the last decade

grabbed the full attention of motorists, this magazine spotlighted the critical factor of oil—which is yet to play a vital role in the unfolding of prophetic events.

• Long before the major news media began addressing the problem, *The Plain Truth* warned that there would eventually come a time of increasing upset weather patterns, droughts of unprecedented magnitude, floods, earthquakes and famines. World food and weather authorities are now warning of dire and even cataclysmic prospects looming on the horizon in the next two decades.

Advance News

In addition to these larger-scale developments, *The Plain Truth* has often spoken out on more specific issues, providing clear and unmistakable projections. Among these:

• During the public uncertainty over the Berlin Crisis of 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, *The Plain Truth* declared categorically that the United States need not fear the Soviet Union. "The Russians would back down, or give in on almost any point that has arisen, rather than go to war with America," *The Plain Truth* declared in October, 1962. How did we know? "No such war is foretold in biblical prophecies," the article declared.

• In November, 1965—12 years before the signing of the new Panama Canal treaty providing that the waterway be turned over to Panama by the end of this century—*The Plain Truth* stated, "We said before, and we repeat: America will not keep the Canal!" Many scoffed. But prophecy is *sure!* The Panama Canal and other important world "sea gates" long held by the United States and Britain are all prophesied to fall eventually into the hands of others.

• In May, 1968—seven years before the unconditional surrender of South Vietnam to Communism—we stated, "Bible prophecy reveals that not even America, with all of her nuclear muscle, can prevent Southeast Asia from eventually being overrun by Communism."

• Even before the United Nations Charter was approved by delegates of 50 nations at an international conference in San Francisco in June, 1945, this magazine declared, "The PLAIN TRUTH is that the United Nations never will be able to give the world any permanent world peace..." (*The Plain Truth*, January-February, 1945). The sorry record of that divided and strife-torn organization, representing man's best endeavors, has amply borne out that prediction. The Bible reveals that world peace will ultimately be achieved in only *one way*—through the *intervention of God* in world affairs, not by the United Nations!

• On August 12, 1978, two former bitter enemies—China and Japan—signed a treaty of peace and friendship that for years many observers considered unthinkable. Yet as early as February, 1963, *The Plain Truth* had stated: "There is an utter *inevitability* of the ultimate tie-up between Japan and Red China... The mutual attraction between the emerging giant of Japan and the sprawling vastness of China's raw material is

simply too obvious to be ignored!"

What Lies Ahead

The examples cited above are just a few of the many accurate forecasts that *The Plain Truth* has brought its readers in years past. Longtime readers of this magazine can attest to the effectiveness of *The Plain Truth* as a guide to understanding the seemingly complex panorama of fast-moving world events.

But much yet lies ahead! Climactic events and developments will bring our civilization to the very brink of destruction! The stage is now being set for a crucial sequence of prophetic events to which this world remains largely oblivious.

You cannot afford to ignore the clear warnings of Bible prophecy. The pages of *The Plain Truth* will continue to bring you vitally important articles to keep you informed of the really BIG NEWS of prophetic significance—and how it will affect *you!*

Among these broad prophetic trends and events that *The Plain Truth* will continue to follow in coming issues are:

Have You Enrolled In Our Free Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course?

This is a totally new, different kind of study course, designed to lead you, by the study of your own Bible, to understand the whole meaning of today's world chaos, of the purpose being worked out here below, of prophecy, of salvation.

The most vital, most important questions of your life are thoroughly gone into, and you are directed to the clear, plain, simple answers in your Bible! You will learn how to study the Bible—why so few understand it. You will prove whether the Bible really is the inspired Word of God!

Just address your letter requesting the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course to the *Plain Truth* office nearest you.

- The ultimate emergence of a militarized *United Europe* as a major third power in the world, almost certainly to include some countries presently in the Soviet orbit.

- The growing importance of the volatile Middle East, with continuing instability and upheaval leading ultimately to a momentous confrontation with oil-thirsty Europe.

- The increasingly influential role of organized religion in some European countries—both East and West—including dramatic steps toward church unity.

- The continuing decline of the economic, military and political fortunes of the United States, Britain and other English-speaking areas of the world—and an eventual crisis confrontation with a United Europe.

- A precedent-shattering agreement between Europe and the Soviet Union—possibly in the form of a nonaggression pact, secret or otherwise—accompanied most probably by the disintegration of NATO and the elimination of U.S. influence on the European continent.

- Continuing Communist successes in South Asia, ultimately bringing that entire region into the Soviet orbit..

- An upswing in lawlessness around the world, including increasing incidents of terrorism and assassination and a general rise in crime and violence.

- A dramatic increase in the number and severity of famines, earthquakes and disease epidemics around the world.

Then, Good News!

But just beyond the perilous times that lie ahead is unbelievably *good news!* And *that* is the biggest news of all!

That good news no major news magazine is announcing—or can announce. They simply do not believe it! That good news involves the gospel of the Kingdom of God. (The word *gospel* means “good news.”) The worldwide Work of which this magazine is a part is actively fulfilling a commission given to us by Jesus Christ more than 1,900 years ago: “And the gospel of

the kingdom [must first be published—Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end [of this present age] come” (Matt. 24:14).

We announce that the crisis at the close of this age will usher in a new and better age, when all peoples everywhere will begin to enjoy peace and prosperity under the direction of God’s divine rulership.

Meanwhile, continue reading each issue of *The Plain Truth*. God’s word is *truth*. And we make it *plain*. That’s why its name is *The Plain Truth!* □

AVOID BODILY INJURY

(Continued from page 17)

being you *must* notice it! For the Lord and Giver of life commands us all, “*Thou shalt not kill.*”

We are responsible for *our* lives as well as others. So we must take care *how* we ride our bicycle, our motorcycle, *how* we use the power saw or the knife sharpener. We must zealously teach and train our children to take *care* of the precious lives and limbs they have been given. And we adults must be sure that little children are not endangered by sharp objects or toxic substances left within their reach, open fires or dangerous stairwells.

Older people must overcome false pride and *quit driving* when they have lost their reflexes or adequate hearing or eyesight. They must think of the danger to *others* as well as themselves. They must be *much more careful* in using stairways, in lighting fires, in reaching for high objects.

Young and old, rich and poor, we *all* have a responsibility to our Maker to protect and cherish the bodies He has given us. “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (II Cor. 5:10).

Each of us must learn to be a builder and protector of life and happiness.

This is *our* responsibility. This is the seventh law of health. □

LENT?

(Continued from page 21)

no law to keep this feast . . . just as many other customs have been established in individual localities according to usage, so also the feast of Easter CAME TO BE OBSERVED IN EACH PLACE ACCORDING TO THE INDIVIDUAL PECULIARITIES OF THE PEOPLES inasmuch as none of the apostles legislated on the matter. And that the observance originated not by legislation, BUT AS A CUSTOM the facts themselves indicate” (chapter 22).

Did you notice that? Easter originated as a custom of the people! And so did Lent. Lent is merely the introduction to Easter. Easter is the climax to Lent.

If you have not already read the TRUTH about Easter, you need to read our free booklet entitled *The Plain Truth About Easter*. It will give you many astounding facts about the origin of Easter—and it will reveal what the New Testament Church observed *instead of Easter*.

But from what city did the celebration of Lent really begin to spread throughout the professing Christianity of the Roman World?

Here is what the *Catholic Encyclopedia* records:

“In any case it is certain from the ‘Festival Letters’ of St. Athanasius that in 331 [he] enjoined upon his flock a period of FORTY DAYS of fasting preliminary to . . . Holy Week, and second that in 339 *after having travelled to Rome* and over the greater part of Europe, [he] wrote in the strongest terms to urge this observance”—of Lent—upon the people under his jurisdiction.

Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria in Egypt, was influenced by Roman custom. It was *at Rome* that not only Easter, but also Lent, entered the Christian church. Irenaeus confirmed this when he wrote in his famous letter that Lent and Easter were introduced during the time of bishop Xystus of Rome. This bishop “did not permit those after him” to observe the New Testa-

ment practice of commemorating the death of Jesus on the 14th day of the first month of the Hebrew calendar. Instead he introduced the custom of Easter and Lent.

But from where did the bishops of Rome obtain the custom of Lent?

The Origin of Lent

In the early church, Lent was always called *tessarakoste*, in Greek, or *quadragesima*, in Latin. These two words mean "count 40." Lent—though sometimes celebrated for only one or two days, or for several weeks—WAS ALWAYS CALLED THE CELEBRATION OF 40 DAYS!

Why?

Why should a period of abstinence have gone by this name even though it was not until the beginning of the eighth century after Christ that the final number of 40 days was fastened on the whole church from Ireland to Asia Minor?

The answer is obvious—abstinence among the pagans was called by the name "count 40" because that is the length of time they celebrated their spring festival! Remember, Lent means "spring."

The historian Wilkinson, in his book *Egyptian Antiquities*, chapter III, p. 181, wrote that the pagans kept "fasts, many of which lasted from seven to forty-two days, and sometimes even a longer period."

But the original length of the fast, traced back to ancient Babylon 4,000 years ago, was a "forty days" fast in the spring of the year (Layard's *Nineveh and Babylon*, chapter 4, page 93). That is why it bore its *name* of "40 days"!

Each nation gradually changed the length of celebration, but they all retained the *name*. The professing Christians of the second century merely adopted the customs found in their respective countries—that is why they were divided as to its length from the beginning. Remember, it took the churches of the Western world nearly eight centuries to reimpose a total period of 40 days abstinence as had been the original custom at Babylon.

Christianity today has turned to

pagan customs instead of the commands of God in the Bible!

Where Mentioned in the Bible

Lent is nowhere commanded or mentioned in the New Testament. But it is mentioned in the Old Testament!

Lent, remember, was an indispensable preliminary to the great annual festival in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammuz—the pagan Babylonian counterfeit of the Messiah. The Babylonian lunar month of June/July was named in honor of this false Babylonian messiah. Forty days preceding the feast of Tammuz (usually celebrated in June) the pagans held their Lenten sea-

“

Fasting, or abstinence from certain foods, was imposed after the days of the apostles—by the authority of the priests.

”

son! Ezekiel describes it vividly in Ezekiel 8:13-14:

"He [the Lord] said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater *abominations*." Notice that God calls what Ezekiel is about to see an ABOMINATION. What does the prophet see?

"And, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz."

They wept for Tammuz, the false messiah of the pagans! That weeping preceded the pagan festival in honor of a supposed resurrection of Tammuz. Fasting was joined with weeping FOR A PERIOD OF 40 DAYS before the festival in honor of Tammuz. The period of weeping and semifasting fell during springtime. That is why the word Lent means "spring"! Lent is a continuation of the pagan springtime custom of abstaining from certain foods just prior to celebrating a supposed resurrection of a pagan Babylonian deity.

That is why Christ and the true New Testament Church never observed it! Paul forbade Christians to observe these pagan "times" or "seasons" (Gal. 4:9-10).

Does It Make a Difference to God?

But what if Easter and Lent *are* ancient pagan festivals? Isn't it *still* all right, if we use them to honor CHRIST? That's the way people reason. Let GOD answer that question:

Hear what he said to his people through Moses: "Take heed . . . that thou enquire not after their gods, saying: How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods" (Deut. 12:30-31).

Here is what *God says*. It doesn't matter what we think—but it DOES MATTER what God thinks. He calls these pagan Easter and Lenten customs *abominations* because they commemorate false ideas. The penitence of Lent is a form of worldly sorrow over the things that smite one's conscience. But conscience is no sufficient guide to right or wrong. The penitence of Lent is a counterfeit of genuine repentance of sin. What is the Bible definition of sin?—"sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4)—God's law! God's law defines right from wrong. And the customs of Easter? They commemorate a supposed Sunday morning resurrection of Jesus—though in fact Jesus was resurrected, according to the Bible, on Saturday evening after he had been in the tomb three days and three nights (Matt. 12:40). No wonder the apostles did not teach the early spirit-filled New Testament Church of God to observe these traditions of men!

Is it any wonder that Jeremiah was *inspired* to write: "Learn not the way of the heathen . . . for the customs of the people are in vain"? (Jer. 10:2-3).

Jesus left us an example of what we ought to do—and that example is not Easter or Lent! □

What Was It Like to Be the BROTHER OF JESUS ?

by George Geis

Suppose you had been a neighbor of Jesus' family. What would you have thought of Jesus, his brothers and sisters?

PURE SPECULATION? No! There is a biblical account of a man who actually *was* Christ's brother.

James—the author of the book of James in the New Testament—is very distinctly called “the Lord’s brother” (Gal. 1:19). His mother was Mary. His story tells what it was like to be the brother of Jesus.

Jesus' Family

When the brothers of Jesus are listed, James' name appears first, which would indicate that he was the eldest of Jesus' younger brothers (Matt. 13:55). For proof that these were indeed Jesus' physical brothers and sisters, turn to Psalm 69, especially verses 8 and 9. Jesus quoted verse 9 of this Psalm of David as a prophetic reference by David to Jesus himself as the Messiah (see John 2:17). But verse 8 is also a prophetic reference—to the family of Jesus. It reveals that Jesus was to “become a stranger unto my brethren and an alien unto my mother's children.”

Notice, Jesus' brothers and sisters were *his mother's children*

(and therefore his half-brothers and half-sisters).

After Jesus was born, both his mother Mary and his stepfather Joseph knew that God would be well pleased for them to have children of their own. Soon the expansion of their family was under way. In time James was born.

James grew up with Jesus in the town of Nazareth until Jesus was 30 years of age. He saw Jesus in every conceivable situation. James was able to observe from childhood the way of life his older brother lived.

Perhaps when Jesus and James were young children, they wandered together in the countryside and explored the rocky ledges in the cliffs around Nazareth. On occasions they would walk together along the shores of the Lake of Gennesaret to watch the fishermen haul their nets to shore. They sat at a common table for family meals and rehashed the day's events in dinner conversation.

As they grew older, perhaps they talked over the problems, aspirations, frustrations and desires of youth as they went to sleep. They sat next to each other in the synagogue on Sabbath and traveled together along the road with their parents to Jerusalem to keep the annual festivals of God. After a

hard day's work in their father's construction business, they perhaps “talked shop” as they scrubbed off the grime and sweat.

James probably had many discussions with his older brother, who displayed unusual wisdom at a very early age (Luke 2:40). Although James could not have realized it at the time, he was having set for him the perfect example of obedience to God, *living* faith—honoring one's parents, being an example (Luke 2:51).

James found Jesus easy to get along with—even when Jesus was going through his teenage years and then his early 20s. They must have shared many enjoyable moments (Luke 2:52).

Familiarity

Yet, of course, James must have sometimes gotten quite angry with his brother, and thought Jesus was dead wrong. Even though Jesus was living perfectly according to God's law, James didn't realize it. At times he must have thought that his brother's actions didn't make sense. He was to learn differently later.

Jesus was an important example in another way. Indications are that Jesus became the head of the family certainly by his early 30s. We don't read of his stepfather

Joseph after the final reference to him when Jesus was 30 years old (Matt. 13:55). If so, Jesus set an important example for James as the family leader. And he also set the example of hard work and right management of the heavy and technically proficient construction business the family was noted for. (The Greek word *tekton*, translated “carpenter,” can read in the broad sense as “builder of houses”—that is, both woodworker and stoneworker.)

Yet there was the element of familiarity that is always present when two people spend a great deal of time together. A prophet is without honor in his own country—or his own family. James respected and deeply admired his brother in many areas, but for a long time Jesus was always simply “Jesus” to James. Which, of course, was quite natural.

After Jesus became 30 (Luke 3:23), family events took a new turn. James became concerned when his older brother and leader of the family went wandering off in the wilderness away from home—for a 40-day fast (Luke 4:1-2) preparatory to starting his ministry. Jesus surely left someone in charge of the family—perhaps James himself. But however Jesus prepared for and explained his departure, it must have seemed a little odd to James at the time.

Strange Brother?

Then Jesus reappeared at a wedding in Cana with some friends (disciples) whom James probably also knew (John 2:1-11). James was relieved to see his brother again—and was filled with many questions. What happened when Christ turned the water into the finest quality wine? Perhaps it did not even register in James’ mind. He may have heard about or even seen what happened, but after all, how could Jesus—his own brother—do something like that?

After the wedding, James went to Capernaum with Jesus and his new disciples. Mary herself also went on the trip (John 2:12). This gave James the opportunity to talk with the men who would now be his older brother’s constant companions—and who believed on Jesus

enough to follow him in his work (John 2:11).

Jesus would not be spending many more days at home. Because from here on, he was to devote himself full time to proclaiming the message of the Kingdom of God (Matt. 4:17). He was making many statements that must have troubled James. Some teachings like “the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath” and other public announcements eventually caused a group of Jesus’ former friends to attempt to cart him off out of the public eye—as they thought he had gone berserk (Mark 3:21). Perhaps even James was among this group.

As late as the autumn preceding Christ’s death, James still did not believe that his brother was the One of whom the prophets wrote. John 7:2-9 gives the account in which James and the rest of Jesus’ brothers somewhat skeptically asked Jesus: “If you want to convince people of your power, why don’t you go down to Jerusalem at Feast time, where there’ll be hundreds of thousands of people to see you? If you are really doing these miracles, let the whole world see!”

Jesus answered his brothers eyeball-to-eyeball in no uncertain terms. In modern terms he might have said, “I’m headed on a collision course with this world, but the time for me to be put to death is not here yet.” That reply must have really set James thinking.

James’ attitude of unbelief was not going to last much longer. After Christ’s death, James experienced something that he would never forget—something that would act as a driving force for the remainder of his life.

Convinced at Last

James must have had his brother’s murder constantly dominating his thoughts and must have been considering the strange stories about the circumstances of Jesus’ death. So it was quite a moving experience for James to see his dead brother suddenly appear and then say words to this effect: “James, remember all those things that I told you about myself, about the fact that I am the Christ? James,

my brother, they were all true, and now you’re seeing firsthand evidence of them” (I Cor. 15:7).

James was absolutely convinced! His brother was alive again! He now searched out Jesus’ disciples, the very men over whom he had previously shaken his head (Acts 1:13-14). From this point on, James was in on the grass roots foundation of the Church of God, very likely receiving the outpouring of God’s Spirit on Pentecost in A.D. 31.

Now the constant contact that James had had with Jesus could be valuably used by God. True, he hadn’t spent a great deal of time with Jesus during his 3½-year ministry, but think of all the *years—the tens of thousands of hours*—he had spent with Jesus when he was so young and so impressionable. Even Peter and John and the other apostles, though many had been childhood friends, hadn’t had so much contact with Jesus at such an early age and for such a long time.

Many times in one’s life when there is a decision to be made, who has not asked himself, “Let’s see, how would Christ do it?” In many cases in James’ life—after his conversion—all he had to do was to think back and say: “Let’s see, how did my *brother* do it?”

James now grew in spiritual stature under the direction of God’s Spirit. And a very few years later he is shown as an apostle in the Church of God (Gal. 1:19). Paul, here, refers to James as an apostle.

James’ powerful writing style is preserved for all time in the epistle of James. The heavy influence of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount is obvious in this epistle—no epistle of straw as Martin Luther called it, but an epistle of **LIVING FAITH!** It was probably written shortly before James’ death, James dying in martyrdom in A.D. 62, according to Josephus.

So James, the man who wanted nothing to do with his brother’s message in the beginning, died for that same message at the end—and will forever, from the time of his resurrection, remain as a *real* brother of Christ, in the fullest sense of that word, in God’s Family. □

FALSE CONVERSION!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

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!

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?

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 ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition” (Mark 7:7-9).

Back to the Faith Once Delivered

But what does GOD tell you in his Word?

Through 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 our 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*—though 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 and 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; 4:3, 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 Savior 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 Savior 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 SAVIOR 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 SAVIOR 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” (I 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 10 points of the Ten Commandments, we BREAK THE LAW, and are sinners (Jas. 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 Savior, 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 behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third

True repentance means you give yourself 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 actions.

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 24:46-48). 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. 7:7). 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 10 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 fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well” (Jas. 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 (Jas. 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 10 POINTS—the Ten Commandments. These are merely the 10 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 that 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 honourable" (Isaiah 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 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 (Ps. 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 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.

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

God says: "There is a way that

forsake HIS WAY, and the unrighteous man HIS THOUGHTS: and let him return unto the Lord, 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 Lord" (Isa. 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 success, achievement, doing good, of prosperity—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

But neither your repentance, followed by 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!

seemeth *right* unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of DEATH"! (Prov. 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 6,000 years. But this WAY has brought only unhappiness, emptiness, discontent, poverty, 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

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” (Luke 13:3, 5). And again, “He that SAITH, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a LIAR, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:4). Yes, MILLIONS ARE DECEIVED!

But if millions are deceived about the prior CONDITION of repentance, just as many millions are deceived today as to the KIND OF FAITH that really 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 to 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 by BELIEVING in him as Savior—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 Savior. 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, followed by your obedience, NOR YOUR faith earns any salvation! They are merely prior CONDITIONS. But when you supply these two ingre-

dients, 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

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, through 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 Savior from sin and from sinning, then by and through 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 imparts the *gift of the FAITH that saves*—and is also the Spirit of UNDERSTANDING, of *knowledge*, of

the love that FULFILLS the law and imparts GOD's *righteousness*.

Millions have been *deceived* and *falsely* believe that they *have* a salvation that 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 private 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."

WHEN you have *really* repented—repented of what you *are* as well as what you have *done*—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 Savior—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 through Jesus Christ to FORGIVE YOU all your past sins and transgressions against him.

The apostle Paul reveals how. He confessed: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth *no good thing*: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Rom. 7:18-19).

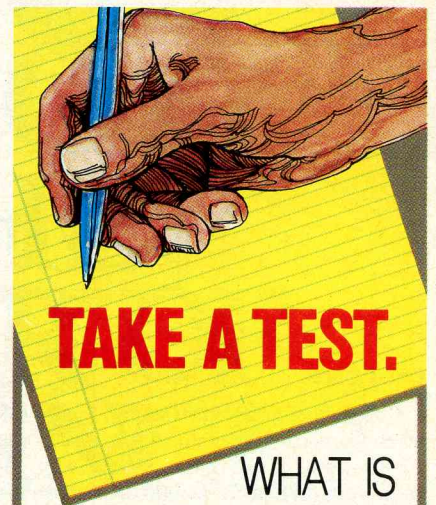
He saw human nature in its gruesome reality. He struggled with it—fought against it—only to find that it was more powerful than he!

What could he do?

Paul cried out, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Read the answer to the problem in the Moffatt translation: "Miserable wretch that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? *GOD WILL!* Thanks be to him through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (verses 24-25).

It is not, perhaps, of great consequence *where* you do it! But the IMPORTANT thing is to DO IT! The longer you put repentance 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 human 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? This is *just the start* of the real Christian life. Don't look for a certain feeling, but repent and believe. □



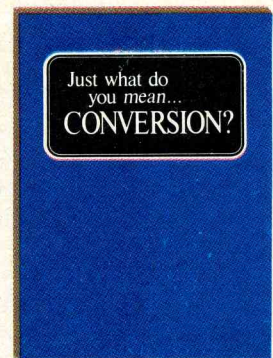
- 1) an intense emotion
- 2) joining a church or organization
- 3) suddenly becoming "saved"
- 4) an intellectual commitment
- 5) living a perfect life

ANSWER:

None of the above. Conversion begins when a person receives God's Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9). It then involves, for the Christian, a lifelong process of development and growth.

Conversion is a much misunderstood subject — even among professing Christians. We offer a brief booklet that makes plain, through a survey of the Scriptures, the God-ordained purpose and process of conversion. Repentance, baptism, sin, death and the hereafter are all covered.

Why not request immediately your free copy of *Just What do You Mean . . . Conversion?* There's absolutely no charge or obligation.



Request immediately your free copy of *Just What do You Mean . . . Conversion?* Just use the reply coupon or write to *The Plain Truth* at the office nearest you. There's absolutely no charge or obligation.

What Our Readers Say

Child Care

I always find great satisfaction when I read articles in *Plain Truth* about child care. You seem to make such a difficult subject, and a very present important subject, so easy and straight-forward. As can be seen in the national press two Scottish mothers have approached the Common Market over the use of the Scottish tawse for various misdemeanours occurring during school hours. When I was at school the tawse was used almost every day on some hapless youth for various lapses; lateness, bad work, impertinence, rudeness. But we all expected it, and were none the worse for it after all. It is just part of living in Scotland and Scottish educational ideals.

Bruce Lawson
Montrose, Angus

Environment

The article "The Modern Sewer System" makes one think it incredible that human beings who are intelligent enough for space travel solve their problems of personal hygiene by putting their body wastes into the public drinking water and then spend billions in futile efforts to restore the water to its original condition. No economy drive there apparently. Sounds a bit like banging one's head on a wall to get rid of a headache.

Mrs. M. Pitts
Oxford

It is pertinent for me at this point in time to express in an overwhelming tone my appreciation for your highly illuminating and fascinating magazine, *The Plain Truth*. There is no gainsaying the fact that *The*

Plain Truth magazine is a living magazine. It broadens and enlightens the minds of men who are very anxious to know why they are here and where they are going from here.

O. Franklin
Nigeria

Family

Congratulations to Roderick C. Meredith on his fine and very balanced article about marriage, "How Husbands Should Lead the Family." It inspired me so much that I read it to our school Scripture Union and some of students.

J. W. Ahwireng,
Ghana

Suicide

You write that 1,000 people commit suicide every day worldwide. Or in a legalistic sense, self-murder. I am a train driver and it is a fact that we do from time to time have the problem to deal with. A short time past a lady sat on my running line and waited for me to pass over her with my 720 tons express train.

G. Caulfield
East Sussex

About The Plain Truth

I find your magazine presents articles with incredible insight to today's problems, situations, and trends. A thoroughly enjoyable magazine.

A. O'Sullivan
Peregian Beach
Australia

One year of reading of *The Plain Truth* seems to have done a whole lot of good. Life is more meaningful. I am beginning to understand the motto of "give" and not to GET. I would definitely like to renew my sub-

scription.

P. Sinha
India

I find *The Plain Truth* very constructive and encouraging. Whenever a copy arrives here, I read it right through and it always spurs me on to study the Bible more. Your magazine has contributed much to my understanding of the reason why man is on the earth.

T. Klein Boonschate
Wodonga, Australia

New Readers

Today I received the introductory issue of your magazine. I found it to be not only well written but also informative. Every issue can also be saved for future reference so I am preparing a space amongst my books to place *The Plain Truth*.

Marcia Yakes
Detroit, Michigan

I have just finished reading my first *Plain Truth* magazine, the August, 1981, publication. I want to express my appreciation and gratitude for a magazine of this caliber. Each article was well written, interesting and full of facts. My heart is warmed and I want to continue to receive *The Plain Truth* and other literature from you as well.

Johna M. Hodges
Pinedale, Wyoming

Please send me another copy of *The Plain Truth*. I friend of mine was reading my issue and would like one for herself if that is possible. This particular issue is the best that I have ever read out of any magazine in my life!

Marcia J. Opalinski
Grand Island, New York

The Family

I am a housewife. I had never thought there was any other woman in the world who loved being a housewife as much as I do until I read about one in your magazine. With all the "unfulfilled" women cluttering up our good earth I feel good! Of course *The Plain Truth* has helped to make me a happy person and all your interesting letters inspire me to do more.

Mrs. Frank Del Grande
Queens Village, New York

Garbage

I would like to comment on a statement about returnable bottles in the article, "What Your Garbage Reveals About You!" Here in Connecticut the state legislation has started to take steps on this problem. A few years ago the so-called "Bottle Bill" was passed (amid much controversy). Now there are deposits on almost all beverage containers, and people take advantage of the returnables. There is also a wonderful side effect to this law—our streets and parks are now much cleaner because people pick up the bottles and cans!

Laws such as Connecticut's have also been passed in Vermont and Maine, and I think that other states are beginning to realize the good sense that recycling makes.

Bill Ohmann
Connecticut

AN OVERSIGHT

On page 27 of the January issue we overlooked to include with the drawing by Dana Fradon the copyright notice: "Reprinted with permission of the New Yorker."

THERE IS A WAY—a *tried and proven way*—a **SURE way**—to end all fear of any all-out nuclear hot war between the United States and Russia.

What a pity that the governments and the PEOPLES of this world remain blinded to **THAT WAY!** And it is so simple!

It's just as simple as this: There is a **CAUSE** for every **EFFECT**—yet our whole society and way of life today is based on treating the *effect*, **IGNORING** the **CAUSE!** Our people do it in treating sickness and disease. They do it in dealing with crime. They do it in **WORKING FOR PEACE!**

Working for Peace

Everybody *wants* **PEACE**—or at least, so we profess! We **WORK** for peace! The pope pleads for **PEACE!** Prime ministers strive for **PEACE!** Yet *there is no peace!*

WHY?

The very **NEWS** of all this “working for peace” was reported milleniums ago in biblical prophecy! But, it was also reported, “*The WAY OF PEACE they know not . . .*” (Isa. 59:8).

So, the nations and world leaders **CRY** for “peace”—*work* for “peace,” while they endorse, sanction and continue *the way of WAR!* They follow *the way* that is the **CAUSE** of **WAR**, trying to **STOP** war by dealing with the *effect*, ignoring the **CAUSE!**

The world today is a good deal like the dope addict, who finds he is “hooked,” and can’t “kick it” off on the one hand—and, on the other, he is forced to keep gradually *increasing* the dosage to just hold his own. It becomes very costly, and most dope addicts resort to stealing, crime—*anything* to get their hands on enough money to keep up their growing, escalating, ever more-costly habit.

Isn’t it about time we come to **UNDERSTAND?**

The Plain Truth is a magazine of **UNDERSTANDING**. All right, let me give you a little **UNDERSTANDING** of war and **PEACE**.

Why can’t the heads of government in the nations of the world

1982 THE YEAR OF VIOLENCE?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY do wars, riots, violence escalate—with no hope in sight for peace? World leaders do not know! They do not know that they could have peace now, in 1982, in full security for the future. Read the answer in this eye-opening article.

realize that **ONLY GOD** has the **ANSWERS!** That the **BIBLE** is the most up-to-the-minute source of knowledge and **UNDERSTANDING** in today’s world for the solution of all problems. **LISTEN** to a little **SENSE!**

WHY The Plain Truth

The Plain Truth is a world **NEWS** magazine, keeping you abreast of the **KEY** world happenings leading us directly into the **PEACEFUL** and **HAPPY WORLD TOMORROW**—but, too, it is **MUCH MORE!** It is a magazine of **UNDERSTANDING**—understanding *not only* of key happenings in world news, but **UNDERSTANDING** of life itself, of the **PURPOSE** and real meaning of life—of the **CAUSES** of problems and troubles, whether personal and individual, national or world-problems—and of their **SOLUTIONS**, and of **HOW**, and **WHEN**, and by **WHAT MEANS** all these giant problems *are going to be solved!*

More, and most important of all, *The Plain Truth* brings you **UNDERSTANDING** of the very **Word** of **God**, the **SOURCE** of **TRUTH**—and of the **PROPHECIES** of events soon to occur, in the next two, five, or 10 years!

WHY do nations go to **WAR?** **WHY** does **God** *allow* wars, violence, human suffering? Many reason if **God** is **LOVE**, he surely would not *want* all this suffering! And if he is all-**POWERFUL**, he could prevent it. So **WHY** doesn’t he?

Certainly **God** could stop it—and in fact, soon will!

But why not millenniums ago?

For a supremely important reason! A **PURPOSE** is being worked out here below. Man was put here on earth for the development of right **CHARACTER**. That **PURPOSE** requires free moral agency in man. It is necessary that man be given both the prerogative and the ability to *make his own decision!* Otherwise he would be an automaton—no character.

There is **A WAY** that will produce peace—a way to happiness, abundant well-being—and with it, **God** will *give* eternal life!

What is that way? The **Eternal Creator** set in motion not only the laws of physics and chemistry—laws like gravity and inertia—but also a *spiritual* Law that is **THE WAY** to all these wanted blessings. It’s a simple matter of **CAUSE** and **EFFECT!** That Law is *the way* of **LOVE**. And love is

outgoing concern. It is giving, helping, serving, sharing—but human nature *pulls* humanity in the exact opposite direction—into being SELF-centered, selfish, greedy, the way of vanity—the way of getting, taking, accumulating—of competition, strife, envy, jealousy, resentment, hatred.

God's great spiritual LAW is simply, the CAUSE of peace, happiness, abundant well-being. The violation of that Law, by yielding to the pulls of human nature is, simply the ABSENCE of peace, happiness and abundant well-being.

God laid before man the knowledge of his Law—his WAY! He compels man to CHOOSE! Would man *want* God to FORCE him to go God's way, *contrary* to the desires of human nature? Never! He would cry out "God is unfair!" Man *wants* the right of free choice.

To fulfill His PURPOSE, the Creator marked out a duration of 7,000 years. The first six of those millennial "days" was set aside for man to CHOOSE whether to OBEY God's Law—that is, voluntarily come under GOD'S GOVERNMENT—OR work out his own ideas of HUMAN government. Man chose to reject God, his government and his Law. He elected to follow the desires of his carnal self-centered nature.

Yielding to HUMAN NATURE is the CAUSE of war.

Rebellion against God's Law of peace is the CAUSE of war.

Nations Never NEEDED Go to War

So now let's take a look at one of the 10 POINTS of God's basic spiritual LAW. I mean that point that has to do with WARS!

In respect to WAR, the basic point is the Sixth Commandment. It says, simply, "*Thou shalt not kill.*"

If all nations obeyed that commandment and followed the way of LOVE toward other humans, there would be no war.

But, one argues, that's a pretty platitude—but it's not practical—it won't work. WHY? Because, he argues, if *your* nation obeys that commandment and is disarmed with no military force, it would be attacked and beaten by some *other* nation that disobeyed God's Law, and believed in WAR. Your nation

would therefore be helpless.

Oh, but it WOULDN'T! The Creator understands human nature better than we humans do. HE PROVIDED FOR THAT!

Let's open our eyes to down-to-earth practical TRUTH—to FACT!

You think the Almighty Creator-God is impractical—that he leaves those who OBEY him, who accept his GOVERNMENT over them, HELPLESS? One of the responsibilities of GOVERNMENT is to protect its own subjects! You think—do you?—that the GOVERNMENT of GOD is so feeble and lacking in power that it is unable to protect the individual or the nation it governs?

Open your eyes, now, to the FACTS! God did take a people to be his nation. He took a family of some two million helpless SLAVES—all descended from God's friend Abraham—and offered to set them up as a nation under his government.

Notice now, in your Bible, the specific application of the commandment, "*Thou shalt not kill,*" to military force and war.

Notice how GOD says to those under HIS GOVERNMENT, that HIS GOVERNMENT—an all-powerful supernatural and supernatural government—will PROTECT His people against any invading force.

God said to Israel: "... if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries ... and I will cut them off" (Ex. 23:22-23).

God promised supernaturally to fight any invading enemy to protect the nation and people under HIS government. I intend to give you ample case histories to verify this.

But is it just as wrong for GOD to fight an invading army, and if necessary, take human life, as for humans? ABSOLUTELY NOT! God is the GIVER of human life. Human lives *belong to him!* He, *alone*, has the RIGHT to *take* human lives. The Sixth Commandment forbids MAN, of his own volition and at his discretion—to take human life!

Why Ancient Israel Went to War

But did you notice—there were CONDITIONS to God's promise of divine protection. He said he would protect them "... if thou shalt

indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak."

During this first 6,000 years, in God's Master Plan, He does not *force* any nation, or individual, to come under his GOVERNMENT. That decision is left to man's free CHOICE.

When God, with his own thundering voice, delivered the 10 basic points of his inexorable spiritual Law from Mt. Sinai, he was outlining for MANKIND *the way* to peace, happiness and abundant well-being. This applies to every individual and to every nation. Transgression of this basic Law is SIN (I John 3:4). This Law—the very principle of RIGHT as distinguished from WRONG—had, of course, existed from the time of Adam.

You'll find the account of God's delivering of this Law in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:4-22. But, beginning Exodus 20:18, you will read the account of God laying down basic laws and statutes of his national civil government delivered through Moses.

Then, once God had restated before this vast family of Israelites his basic spiritual Law—the foundational PRINCIPLE for all the national civil statutes, judgments and ordinances—and also basic civil statutes and ordinances, God put it to these people, through Moses, to CHOOSE whether they would accept HIS GOVERNMENT over them.

Notice the completing of the COVENANT—the AGREEMENT between God and this PEOPLE—to form them into a NATION under GOD'S GOVERNMENT.

"And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words" (Ex. 24:6-8).

Government Protection Against War

NOTICE CAREFULLY! A *part* of God's PLATFORM OF GOVERNMENT that he laid before the people

before they became HIS NATION was the promise that HIS GOVERNMENT would protect its citizens from need of going to WAR. That is the OPEN PROMISE OF GOD, which would apply to ANY nation. Later, God offered the SAME government, and its protection and blessings, to the first WORLD EMPIRE—the gentle Chaldean empire under King Nebuchadnezzar—as we shall see. God plays no favorites. He does not bless one nation and harm another by his arbitrary choice.

But human nature is human nature—and facts are facts. And humanity had rebelled against God from the beginning—before the Flood, and after the Flood. From the time of the Tower of Babel, men had *organized themselves* into nations, with HUMAN ideas of government—CONTRARY TO God's laws, and God's government over them. They had chosen *other gods!* Their religions were empty superstitions. And they were WAR-making kingdoms! God had dealt in no unmistakable manner with mankind, ever since creation!

NO PEOPLE, except a downtrodden SLAVE people in bondage, would have made the CHOICE to say to God, "All that the Lord hath said, will we do and be obedient."

Not only had this enlarged family of Israelites been suffering under the lash of slavery, but God had DEMONSTRATED to them HIS POWER—and HIS LOVE in outgoing concern for them, by delivering them from slavery by SPECTACULAR MIRACLES!

By the miracles in PLAGUES upon the Egyptians, God had freed them.

Human Nature at Work

And HUMAN NATURE? Yes, these Israelites were full of it!

WHY do world leaders, scientists and educators even today reject God, and ply their trades, professions and interests *as if God did not exist?* God himself tells us—in HIS WORD to mankind: "Because the carnal mind [human nature] is enmity [hostile] against God: for it is not subject to the LAW of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

These Israelites, even while

being blessed and delivered by God with MIRACLES, still were rebellious.

Even before they had reached Sinai a chain of significant incidents occurred. After the MIRACLES God had performed in FREEING them from slavery in Egypt, protecting them, blessing them, FIGHTING their military battle for them, leading them miraculously by a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, these people began to gripe, grumble, complain and DISOBEY God. Even in the face of such incredible MIRACLES, they began, even then, to LOSE FAITH.

These people—600,000 men, beside women and children—came

“

There is a cause
for every
effect—yet our
whole society
and way of life
today is based on
treating the
effect, ignoring
the cause!

”

to the Red Sea. There were no ships, no bridges. They could not swim such a distance. They could not walk on the water. They were STOPPED by this obstacle beyond their own power.

They looked, and within eyesight, Pharaoh's ARMY was coming after them.

Right here, *before* they reached Mt. Sinai—*before* they heard God's own great voice thundering his Ten Commandments—God demonstrated the pattern he would follow in preserving his people from having to undergo military service or fighting in war or taking human life!

Here is God's *living* EXAMPLE NUMBER ONE!

Yet even here, the people of Israel, in fright, grumbled, com-

plained, accused—lacked faith in God.

These Israelites had *started* out of Egypt "with a high hand" (Ex. 14:8). "But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his ARMY, and overtook them encamping by the sea. . . . And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord. And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness" (Ex. 14:9-12).

But God's PURPOSE was not to be defeated. He PURPOSED to deliver them out of Egyptian slavery. He PURPOSED to *show them* and *all nations* and all humanity that HE would fight their battles for them. So, in spite of their faithless complaining in this initial EXAMPLE of God's faithfulness, he was determined to fight their battle and save them.

"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which HE WILL SHEW TO YOU today. . . . *The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace*" (verses 13-14).

The Israelites were not to fight—but STAND STILL! They were to *see* God save them from Pharaoh's ARMY. God was going to SHOW THEM that he would fight their wars for them! They were to remain at PEACE!

How GOD Fights for Us!

Then God's angel moved behind the Israelites, and the great dark cloud moved between them and the Egyptian army. It held the Egyptian army from attacking Israel all night, but illuminated the way before Israel. Then God parted the waters of the sea, holding them back by divine MIRACLE,

so that the waters formed a high wall on both sides, and the Israelites marched across on the dry floor of the sea.

Now notice the dramatic example of how God miraculously fought Israel's battle for them, as recorded in the Moffatt translation:

"Moses stretched his hand out over the sea; the waters parted. Then the Eternal swept the sea along by a strong east wind, all night, till the bed of the sea was dry, and the Israelites marched through the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall to the right and left. The Egyptians in pursuit of them went into the sea, all the Pharaoh's horses and chariots and cavalry. And in the watch before the dawn the Eternal looked out from the column of fire and cloud on the Egyptian army and threw them into a panic; He clogged their chariot wheels till they drove heavily.

"The Egyptians cried, 'Let us flee from the Israelites! *The Eternal is fighting for them* against the Egyptians!' Then said the Eternal to Moses, 'Stretch your hand out over the sea, to make the waters flow back upon the chariots and cavalry of the Egyptians!' Moses stretched his hand out over the sea. Then, as morning broke, the sea returned to its wonted flow, and while the Egyptians were fleeing against it, the Eternal overwhelmed the Egyptians in the middle of the sea; the waters did flow back over the chariots and cavalry, over the whole army of the Pharaoh, which had followed them into the sea, till not a single one of them was left. But the Israelites had walked through the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall to right and left.

"Thus did the Eternal save Israel that day from the Egyptians, till Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the sea-shore; Israel saw the mighty act of the Eternal against the Egyptians, AND THE PEOPLE STOOD IN AWE OF THE ETERNAL, BELIEVING IN THE ETERNAL and in His servant Moses" (Ex. 14:21-31).

Yes, for a short while, the spell of AWE still over them, these people actually BELIEVED in God. Trusting

God to DO what he has promised requires believing in MIRACLES, you say? OF COURSE! Salvation requires miracles! God is a miracle-working God!

After this miraculous delivery from disaster—from a WAR—a whole army of a then great nation destroyed—those Israelites expressed a little temporary FAITH. With Moses, they sang a song of praise and rejoicing: "I will sing unto the Lord. . . The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation. . ." (Ex. 15:1-2).

But now UNDERSTAND the lesson here!

Ancient Egypt is a type of SIN.

“

Everybody wants
peace—or at least,
so we profess! We
work for peace! The
pope pleads for
peace! Prime
ministers strive for
peace! Yet there is
no peace!

”

God was, figuratively in type, delivering these people out of SIN. They were starting out on GOD'S WAY of life.

But, UNDERSTAND!—God's way of life requires FAITH. It is a life of OBEDIENCE to GOD. Obedience requires FAITH. WE are SAVED by GRACE through FAITH "and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of GOD*" (Eph. 2:8). But not by a DEAD faith! It is a LIVING faith that makes obedience possible.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan. 3) obeyed God's command against idol worship—but their stout refusal to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's idol was possible *only* by their RELIANCE ON GOD to protect and deliver them. They TRUSTED God (Dan. 3:28). They exercised FAITH—*living faith*!

Empty, dead faith—just BELIEVING that God exists—is not the faith that saves. "The [demons] also believe, and tremble" (Jas. 2:19).

But faith and obedience must ENDURE! The newly freed Israelite slaves, still under the spell of AWE after experiencing such miracles, expressed faith and sang.

But they didn't believe very deeply or for very long. When they came to Marah, they found the water too bitter to drink. This one little problem in their path brought them again to complaining and DOUBTING (Ex. 15:24). Again, by a miracle, God made the waters sweet.

Moses led these people on to the wilderness of Sin—between Elim and Sinai. They had now been gone from Egypt one month. And again, "the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron. . . and. . . said. . . Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt. . . for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (Ex. 16:2-3).

So God gave them a test of obedience, along with miraculously providing food. God said, "I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, *whether they will walk in my law or no*" (Ex. 16:4).

The particular LAW God was testing them on was his Sabbath. And remember, they had not yet reached Sinai. On the sixth day of the week he would provide them with a TWO-DAY portion. On the seventh day, God's Sabbath, he commanded them to rest and refrain from gathering manna. On the sixth day God provided the two-day supply. Nevertheless, on God's Sabbath, some of the people, in a spirit of rebellion, and greedy for gain, went out to gather manna.

"HOW LONG refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?" thundered God at them (Ex. 16:28). They were neither *trusting* nor *obeying* God.

The vast congregation journeyed on and pitched tents in Rephidim. Again, there was no water. Again

The PLAIN TRUTH

they griped, murmured, accused, lost faith, and "tempted the Lord" (Ex. 17:1-2).

Now we come to the **CRUCIAL INCIDENT** that explains **WHY** Israel went to war. Regularly they had been grumbling, complaining, accusing, disobeying, **LOSING FAITH**—in face of constant **MIRACLES** from God. Now, again, as God performed another miracle, causing water to gush forth out of a rock, the people **DOUBTED** that God was with them. "... they tempted the Lord, saying, Is the Lord among us or not?" (Ex. 17:7.)

Now consider what had happened. Repeatedly, God had given these people awe-inspiring and miraculous demonstrations of his intention *to fight their battles for them*. These were **VISIBLE** miracles, which the people witnessed with their own eyes. God had demonstrated his faithfulness, his **POWER**, his willingness, **HIS WAY**! Yet repeatedly, these people doubted, complained, found fault, grumbled. Repeatedly they **LOST FAITH**. After all of this **OVERWHELMING PROOF**, these people **DOUBTED** God's faithfulness—**DOUBTED** his power—even **DOUBTED** his very existence. They disobeyed. They went *the way of SIN*!

In effect, they had their own "God is dead" movement!

At this point, Moses was distraught, his nerves shattered, his patience about exhausted. After all, Moses was only human!

"What am I to do with this people?" Moses appealed to God (Ex. 17:4). "They are almost ready to stone me."

God answered Moses, had him move ahead of the people, and smite the rock at Horeb with the same stick he had used in the parting of the waters of the Red Sea. Then again God performed a **visible MIRACLE**—water gushed out of the rock.

But, at this juncture, Amalek came against the Israelites in great strength with an invading army. This time God **ALLOWED** the Israelites *to write the lesson of experience*. He allowed them to **SIN**. God does not forcibly prevent humans from sinning.

Moses, at the end of his patience trying to induce these stubborn,

rebellious people to believe in and **TRUST** God, said to Joshua, "Choose us out men, and go out, **FIGHT** with Amalek" (Ex. 17:9). Lacking the faith to trust God for their protection, Moses feared they would be slaughtered. Although Moses weakened and gave the order for **WAR**, it was **THE PEOPLE** themselves who actually had **MADE THE DECISION** for war, by their utter lack of reliance on God.

It was altogether unnecessary for these Israelites to arm themselves and wage **WAR**. It was **WRONG**! It was **SIN**. But God let the decision be theirs!

This incident was the *turning point*.

It occurred even before they reached Mt. Sinai. It was after this that God laid before them **HIS PROPOSITION** for them to become his nation, ruled by his government. It was after this that God promised, conditioned on obedience and faith, always to fight their battles for them—to protect them from war—to give them constant **PEACE**. It was after this that they accepted his government over them. But already they had shown lack of faith and trust, even during the days when God was **DEMONSTRATING** his power and faithfulness by so many miracles!

They had experienced a taste of war. They could have—*should have*—turned from it, afterward, and relied on God instead of their own power. But they didn't.

God's PURPOSE Stands!

Even though God **ALLOWS** humans to make their own decisions—allows them to **SIN**—allows nations to go to **WAR**—nevertheless God's purpose must stand! **HIS PURPOSE** was to settle these descendants of Abraham in the land he had promised Abraham—"the **PROMISED LAND**."

God's promise to Abraham, 430 years before, had been made **UNCONDITIONAL**. Abraham had performed *his* part of that agreement. He had obeyed God, kept God's Commandments and laws. Now God's faithfulness demanded that he plant these people in that land, regardless of their conduct!

These descendants of Abraham had *made their decision* to be a

fighting, war-waging nation. That decision was theirs to make. And since they had made it, God used *them* to do the fighting in driving out the inhabitants illegally possessing the land God had allotted to Abraham's descendants. Consequently God gave orders for *them* to do what fighting—and killing—was necessary to accomplish God's **PURPOSE** of putting them in the land of promise!

But that did not make war **RIGHT**. Whether to **DO** right or wrong—that is **MAN'S** decision! These Israelites did not need to fight.

So it was **BECAUSE** of Israel's faithlessness and disobedience that God **ALLOWED** them to **SIN** by taking up arms. And therefore God used them as his instruments in driving out the nations illegally in the land. Even now the Israelites could have **REPENTED**, *changed* their decision and trusted God to fight their battles for them.

Nations CAN Choose Peace!

Would it seem preposterous to chiefs of state today, to believe that even **NOW**, in this new year of 1982, God Almighty actually *would* fight our wars for us—that **OUR** nations, today, *could actually have PEACE*—and have it *this very year*?

Undoubtedly it would! World leaders today—in **ALL** nations—have gotten so far from God and God's ways, and God has become so **UNREAL** to them that it probably would seem ridiculous even to suggest such a thing. The scientists, the industrial and commercial leaders, the educators—yes, and even the **CLERGY**—have all departed so **FAR** from God and **HIS WAYS**, that such a thought would not even enter their minds.

Yet the **ETERNAL** has not left us without absolute **ASSURANCE**! He has recorded, in his Word, not only his promises and assurances, but three additional concrete *case histories*—in addition to those recounted in this article—proving that he **ACTUALLY DID DO THE FIGHTING** for a nation being invaded, when that nation and its rulers **TRUSTED HIM**.

We will continue this exciting story in the next number. □

MIDDLE EAST

(Continued from page 4)

ernment that is going to come. . . ."

"God Almighty is going to send him [Jesus] again in all the power and the glory of the Great God. And he is going to rule over all nations. And I have come here to tell you that it is going to happen in our generation.

"Peace is going to come. And it's going to come because . . . all nations are going to be taught and are going to have to live in the way of give and the way of love and not in the way of lust for power, not in the way of selfishness and greed, in vanity exalting the self above others . . . All of our troubles come because we have lived the wrong way. We've brought these troubles on ourselves."

End to Power Struggles

This world is composed of an endless array of *struggles for power* among nations. It should be obvious by now that until these struggles are brought to an end, mankind will not experience peace. But they will be brought to an end—*suddenly!*

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great 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).

Mankind won't appreciate this divine intervention at first.

"And the nations were angry and thy wrath is come, and the time of the [nations] that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth" (verse 18, from the original Greek).

Only after Christ returns will the nations, each without fear of his neighbor, be able to "beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Isa. 2:4, Micah 4:3).

Men always want to put the cart before the horse. Nations deliberate the need for disarmament. Yet

disarmament can never *precede* peace. Peace must come first, which means the coming of the Kingdom of God to put an end to the world's power struggles—and to the unseen influence of Satan.

And in this Kingdom, the King—Jesus Christ—will judge the world with righteousness (Psa. 96:13, 98:9, Acts 17:31, Rev. 19:11). A nation with grievances or disputations against a neighbor state, legitimate or imagined, will receive a hearing, and the judgment imposed will be fair and honest, backed up with all the power of the Universe, not a toothless world court.

Peace: An Attribute of God

True peace, believe it or not, is not a trait of human nature, but is an attribute of God, reflecting God's mind.

Peace results from going the right way: God's way. It is listed as one of the major fruits (meaning products or results) of living according to the influence of the Spirit—the mind and attitude—of God (Gal. 5:22).

The opposite of peace—"the works of the flesh"—is "hatred . . . wrath, strife, seditions . . ." (verse 20). This sounds like a litany of the horrors we witness not only in the Middle East, but worldwide.

Peace is far more than merely the absence of war. Peace can be defined as a "state of tranquility and quiet." It signifies harmony, unity and likemindedness.

When all men and nations everywhere are in harmony with God and his spiritual law *we will have peace*. Simple as that!

We find in I Corinthians 14:33 that God is the *author*—the creator—of peace. "Great peace," we are told in Psalms 119:165, "have they which love thy law."

When the knowledge of God's way fills the earth as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9), there will indeed be "great peace." And great prosperity also, as nations will no longer devote time and money to armaments production and the planning for war ("neither shall they learn war any more"—Isaiah 2:4).

We are told that the whole earth,

after Jesus Christ returns, will be "at rest" and "quiet"—living in a condition of peace (Isa. 14:7).

The law of God is the *cause* that will produce the right *effect*—world peace. Significantly, the promulgation of God's law will emanate from the Middle East, the source of so much heartache and bloodshed today.

"For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from *Jerusalem*" (Isa. 2:3, last part). Jerusalem will be the capital of the coming World Tomorrow. It will no longer be the chief bone of contention between major nations and religions.

Not long ago Jordan's King Hussein remarked: "The Almighty in his wisdom, did not make Jerusalem that important and touchy a point in the hearts and souls of all of us—Jews or Christians or Moslems—except to offer us a challenge to learn how to respect each other and live together. Jerusalem must be the essence of peace, a symbol of peace."

Not many years from now Jerusalem will be more than a mere essence or an aspiration for peace. It will be the very fountainhead of peace, for the benefit of nations around the world.

"Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her. . . . For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend *peace* to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream . . ." (Isaiah 66:10 and 12).

There will be an end to war *but no end to peace*, as we read:

"For unto us a child [Christ's first coming] is born, unto us a son is given: and the *government* shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, *The Prince of Peace*.

"Of the increase of his government *and peace* there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isa. 9:6-7). □

The author accompanied Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong on his recent trip to the Middle East.

Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

happiness, prosperity and eternal life.

I repeat again and again, there is of necessity a cause for every effect. The effect is appalling troubles, evils and sufferings worldwide, paradoxically simultaneous with awesome human progress and achievement in material and mechanical progress.

The insolvable problems, troubles and sufferings are caused by a wrong way of life. But humanity has never learned the only way of life that can CAUSE happiness, peace and the rich blessings that are spiritual in nature. That way of life is GOD'S WAY OF LIFE.

Humanity has never come to the KNOWLEDGE of that way of life. It is the spiritual way of life, and knowledge of that way is undiscoverable by man on his own. It must be revealed. It can be revealed only through the Holy Spirit of God. And there are two major conditions to receiving God's Spirit and the begetting of eternal LIFE. Those two conditions seem to be the most difficult for a human to perform.

The first is admit you are WRONG. That seems to be the most difficult for any person to do. It means submit to confessing you are wrong—not only in what you have believed, what you have done, but in what you ARE! It means submission. The biblical term for it is "repent," but few—even theologians—know what it really means. It means the kind of change of mind and heart that almost no one is willing to make. And second, almost as rare, is to BELIEVE GOD.

Many still will say they believe in God—that is, such a Being exists. But they do not believe HIM—they do not believe what he says. The first created human, Adam, did not believe him, even though God spoke to him in person, face to face. God came in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus proclaimed his Message to multiple thousands of people for three and a half years. Yet only 120 believed what he said.

So the world does not know, or

live, God's way of life. What is God's way of life? It's the way God lives.

God has lived eternally. You read of the beginnings of all things in the Bible in John 1:1-4, 14. God was eternally DUAL—two spirit Personages forming one God. One was "the Word" or Spokesman, the other was God; yet "the Word" also was God. And the Word was born as a human, Jesus Christ, God With Us, in human flesh. In him was LIFE. He lived. God, who became the Father of Jesus, also lived—had LIFE inherent. But HOW did they live?

Ah—that, the way they lived and do live, is GOD'S WAY OF LIFE. They lived the way of mutual LOVE, cooperation, teamwork, concern

“

The peace negotiations
are not going to bring
peace—only the
intervention of God
Almighty himself can.

”

each for the other, loyalty. Two cannot walk together except they be agreed. They have never changed, but have remained the same yesterday, today and forever. So Jesus reflected their attitude toward each other. He was the Word, yet he said he had spoken only what the Father had commanded him. So God was Head. But there was mutual loyalty, agreement and LOVE. God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," when Jesus was about 30 years old.

Love is always outflowing. It is giving, not getting. Cooperating, not competing. Helping, not hindering.

God made that way of life his divine eternal spiritual Law. Sin is the transgression of that Law. And all humans have sinned. The penalty of sin is DEATH—the second death—eternal death. But Jesus loved us all enough to pay that supreme penalty for us in our stead. He had not sinned or come under its penalty—yet he paid the penal-

ty—for YOU and for ME—IF we repent and believe, and live GOD'S WAY OF LIFE.

No, as I said to President Mubarak in Cairo, we humans cannot bring peace by our own efforts. But God *will* intervene, send Christ in all the supreme POWER and GLORY of the Creator GOD, to set up the KINGDOM OF GOD, the super divine nation to rule all nations with GOD'S WAY OF LIFE. And that will CAUSE world peace, contentment, happiness, joy, and bring us ETERNAL LIFE! □

HOSNI MUBARAK

(Continued from page 6)

history of the Middle East have had to confront a more imposing agenda upon taking office.

Among the challenges he faces at home are reforming a deteriorating economy and stemming the rise of Islamic extremism that has already threatened national unity.

Abroad, President Mubarak will have to deal with the knotty negotiations on Palestinian autonomy, continuing tensions with Arab neighbors and the threat of Soviet inroads into the region.

To date, Egypt's new President has successfully weathered a crucial transitional period. He has won the respect and confidence of the Egyptian population at large, and commands the loyalty of his colleagues in government and the military.

President Mubarak will have to continue to muster all the strengths he has brought to the Egyptian presidency if he is to successfully come to grips with the immense challenges facing Egypt.

And even then, the onrush of events in the volatile Middle East could prove overwhelming. □

For the Record

In "Comparative Expenditures" chart accompanying the December (January in some areas) edition's article "The World Is an Armed Camp," GNP figures for the United States should have been 1,696,119 million dollars. Also military expenditures for Iraq should read 1,659 million dollars. India's education expenses 2,326 million dollars.



Success: Accident or Effort?

You've heard of people who inherited fortunes. Or who became famous just because they were in the right place at the right time. But is success simply a matter of luck? For most of us, succeeding at anything is a matter of purpose, persistence and hard work. What about you? Do you consider yourself a success? Most people pursue this elusive quality known as success, but few seem to find it. What is real success, anyway? How do you attain it? We offer, free, an attractive booklet that defines *true* success. It presents a seven-step program to achieving this important goal. Every person in every walk of life can apply these seven laws and reap the benefits—it's information you can use! After all, success is no accident. Why not request your copy of *The Seven Laws of Success* today?

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