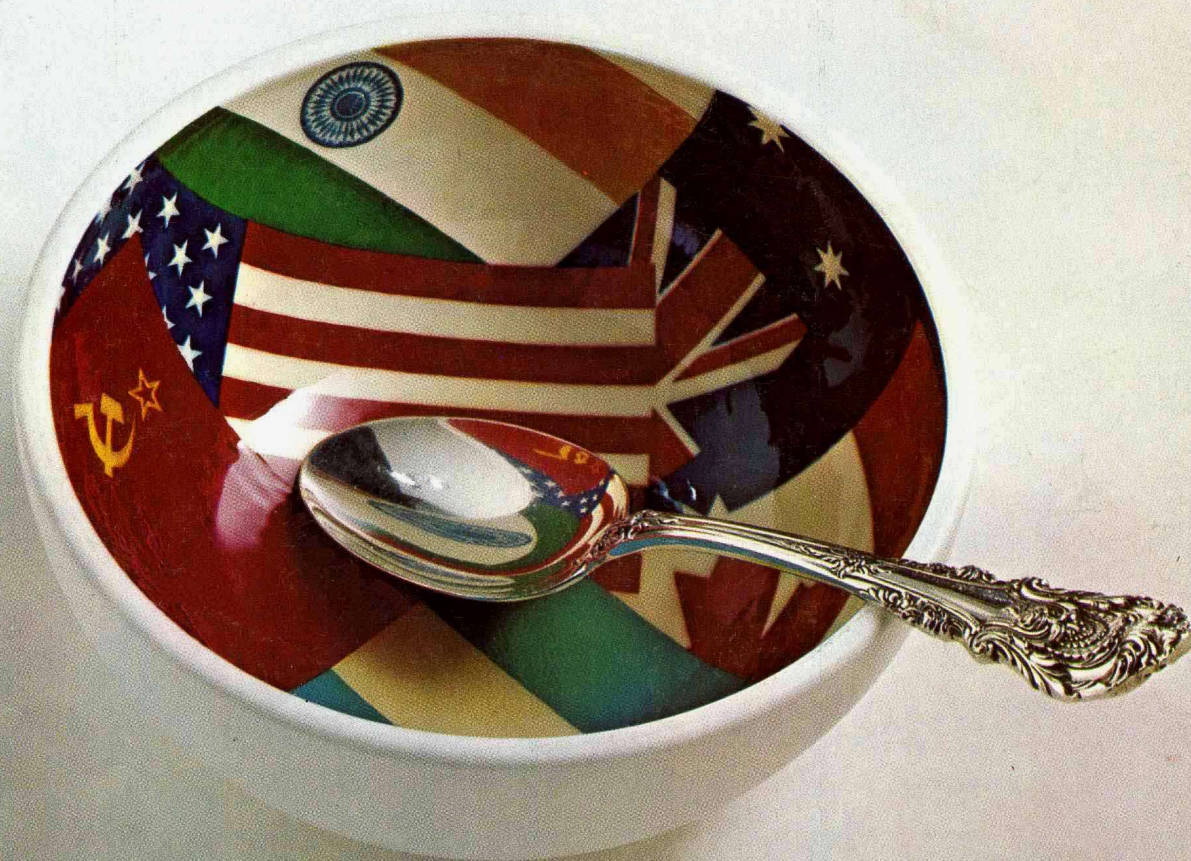


the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding



**FAMINES
ON OUR DOORSTEP**

MOST NATIONS on earth are in *real trouble* right now!

Recently, revolutionary trouble struck Ethiopia and almost overthrew the government. The attackers had all roads in Addis Ababa blockaded and were at Emperor Haile Selassie's palace. It was only when they realized they would have to kill the palace guards, and Emperor Haile Selassie too, that they gave up. Their emperor is held in much affection.

The British government was recently turned over — by an election — to the former Labour government of Harold Wilson. Britain has been in deep trouble.

You'll remember how I have mentioned that, a year ago at New Delhi, I was invited by the ambassador from Afghanistan to visit his king and his country. Before I could arrange to do so, the government was overthrown, and the king fled in exile.

In August I was in Santiago, Chile, to see President Allende. Three weeks later, while I was having a meeting with President Suleiman Franjeh in Lebanon, Chile's government was overthrown and President Allende shot to death. Three weeks after that I was speaking at a dinner in my honor in Bangkok, and the Arab-Israeli war broke out.

Three weeks after that, a student riot in Bangkok caused the overthrow of the government in Thailand, and Prime Minister Kittikachorn had to leave the country. King Bhumibol appointed as prime minister the rector of the university, who was a guest at the banquet at which I was guest of honor.

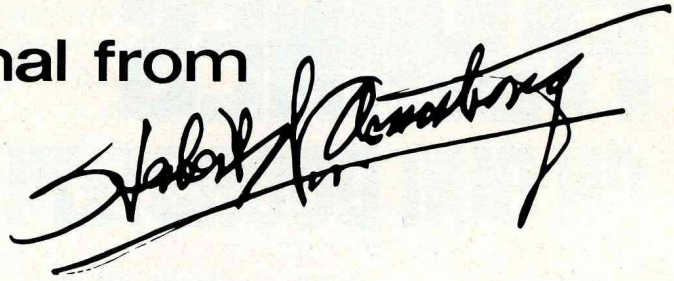
Then there was the overthrow of the premier of Greece.

The government of the United States has been literally **ROCKED** back on its heels with the Watergate syndrome.

The whole world, except perhaps the Arab world, has been suffering from the *energy crisis*.

And that's just hitting a few high spots. The troubles in this world

Personal from



THE REAL CAUSE OF ALL THE WORLD'S EVILS AND HOW PEACE IS SOON COMING!

have mounted up to high heaven! *Why?* Never in all recorded history has there been such worldwide trouble! I cannot look at this mountain of human woe, suffering and evils and just shrug it off as if it were not happening.

There is a prophecy in the Bible I do not feel like ignoring right now. If that prophecy is not now coming to pass, we are surely in the preliminary forerunner of it.

It is in the book of Matthew, chapter 24, verses 21-22: "for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved ["saved alive" — Moffatt translation]: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

"And at that time [of the end — Dan. 12:9-10] shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people [Israel]: and there shall be *a time of trouble, such as never was* since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered..." (Daniel 12:1).

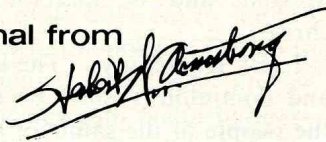
There is another prophecy that I cannot ignore right now, and which, also, either is happening **NOW** — or its preliminary forerunner is! That is in the book of Revelation. Few have

ever understood it. Like the book of Daniel, it is cloaked in symbol and has been almost totally misunderstood until now.

This book of Revelation is, chapter 1:1, "The Revelation [which means the revealing, not the hiding or concealing] of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to **SHOW** unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass." So, although it is written largely in symbols, the Bible explains its own symbols, and we are in the **END TIME** — and it **CAN** now be understood!

In the 12th chapter, it begins by picturing the nation Israel as a woman pregnant with the Christ child, at time of delivery. Satan the devil is pictured as a great red dragon, dragging after him a third of all the angels (who became demons). Verse 4 pictures Satan standing ready to destroy the Christ child as soon as he is born. This happened twice — first, when King Herod sought to kill the infant child physically, and second, by Satan alone, when Jesus was about thirty, when Satan sought to destroy Jesus spiritually. Then, verse 5, the Christ child was born, grew up, and later ascended into heaven (after his resurrection). Then the symbol the "woman" refers, since New Testa-

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(Continued from page 1)

ment times, to the Church, being persecuted and having "fled into the wilderness," where she was protected from persecution and martyrdom for 1,260 years. That carries the time sequence past the Middle Ages and into modern times.

Then, either referring to *now* or the very near future, "there was war in heaven" — speaking of *future* prophesied events in the *past* tense, as is often done in prophecy — "Michael [see Daniel 12:1] and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world, he was cast out into the earth, and his angels [now demons] were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come . . . the kingdom of our God . . . for the accuser of our brethren is cast down Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (verses 7-12).

There is no question but that we are *now very close to* (if not actually *in the beginning of*) this time of trouble.

Today it may sound a little ridiculous to speak of an actual, living Devil. But also today, no one seems to UNDERSTAND this time of trouble, worldwide.

But, when we blow the dust off the Bible, open it, take it *as it is*, with open minds, we find it makes sense — and no other explanation of the world's troubles does!

Jesus Christ spoke of the Devil, named Satan. The Bible speaks of Satan in 19 different places in the Old Testament and 34 in the New.

It uses the term Devil in 34 places in the New Testament (in 16 places it speaks of "devils" in the King James version, where it should be translated "demons").

Perhaps if we understood what this book does say, we might come to understand why we on earth cannot solve our problems.

In the book of Ephesians, it is written, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness [evils] of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). A better translation is, "against wicked SPIRITS in high places."

All our troubles on earth today are linked up with the mind of man. In 1972 *The PLAIN TRUTH* carried a series of articles for several months on the DIFFERENCE between animal brain and human mind.

Robert Kuhn, who earned his Ph.D. in the field of brain research, contributed a series of articles from the science viewpoint, and I contributed a series on the biblical revelations on the subject.

Dr. Kuhn's inevitable conclusion was simply that, of necessity, there has to be a nonphysical component in connection with the human brain that does not exist in the animal brain.

The physical brain of a dolphin, whale, or elephant is larger than the human brain, that of the chimp slightly smaller. Qualitatively the difference between them and the human brain is very little — not enough to even remotely account for the vastly superior intelligence and output of the human brain.

The Bible reveals the presence of this nonphysical component. In Job we find revealed that there is "a spirit" *in* man. It is not a spirit being! It is not an "immortal soul." It is something *IN* the man, that is not, itself, the man.

In I Corinthians 2 we find the explanation, grossly misunderstood by most. The chapter is explaining how, without having received into the mind the Holy Spirit from God,

one simply cannot UNDERSTAND the spiritual things of God.

How does knowledge enter the human mind? Mostly through the eye, or the ear, and beyond that *only* by the sense of taste, feel, or smell. You cannot SEE spirit or spiritual knowledge. Neither can you hear spirit, nor taste it, nor smell it, nor feel it.

And right there is the explanation of why man has the intellectual power to learn to fly to the moon and back, or to produce the computer, yet he cannot solve his problems on earth. His real problems are SPIRITUAL, and he simply does not UNDERSTAND spiritual problems. In producing the computer or in flying to the moon, he is dealing with PHYSICAL matters, which he CAN understand.

In the second chapter of I Corinthians, this is explained. Paul says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart [mind] of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (verse 9). God has purposed a transcendent destiny that is possible for man that cannot enter the human mind through the eye, the ear, or any natural sense.

"But" it continues, "God hath *revealed* them unto us [referring to those who have received the Spirit of God] by his Spirit" (verse 10).

The true answer comes in the next verse: "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?" That is, what man knows — has knowledge of the things of a man — natural human knowledge — knowledge above the animal brain — save by the spirit of *man*, not the Spirit of *God*, but the spirit of man, which is *IN* him.

Notice the second part of the verse: "even so" — that is, in like manner — "the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."

Just as the Spirit of God, having been given to and having entered the human mind, imparts to the mind the power of *spiritual* comprehension by revelation, so, in like manner, no human brain could

comprehend human-level knowledge, such as animals cannot comprehend, except by the presence of the spirit of man, which is IN him. This spirit that is in every human imparts to the human brain the power of physical intellect.

The spirit cannot see. The human brain sees, through the eye. The brain hears through the ear. The brain even does the thinking, the reasoning, by power imparted by the spirit that is in man.

When the Bible speaks of a man receiving the gift of God's Holy Spirit, it says, "The Spirit itself beareth witness *with our spirit*, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16). That is, the Spirit from God impregnates, imparts divine Spirit-life, in the same manner that a human sperm cell imparts human life to a female human egg cell (ovum).

Now I want you to understand the connection. The Bible reveals that Satan is an immortal spirit being. Originally he was the archangel cherub whose name meant light-bringer (Lucifer in Latin) (Isaiah 14:12), who was perfect from the time he was CREATED (Ezekiel 28:15) until he was found to be lawless, in iniquity. He sealed up the sum of wisdom, perfection and beauty from creation, until he rebelled against authority and decided to become a hating aggressor and rebel.

There is much, much more to this, but space does not allow the whole story here. Satan is revealed in the Bible as the god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4), who has deceived the whole world — all nations (Revelation 12:9).

He is revealed as "the *prince of the power of the air*, the spirit [being] that now worketh *in the children of disobedience*" (Ephesians 2:2).

It is highly important to understand that. Satan is the *god of this world*. Satan turned *from* God's way of LOVE — love to God in worship, trust, obedience, steadfast faith. And LOVE to fellow man in outgoing concern for the good and welfare of

others equal to self-concern — the way of helping, sharing, giving, cooperation.

Satan turned *to* the way of vanity, self-centeredness, greed, lust, competition, strife, jealousy, envy, hatred.

This world is Satan's world. It is geared to self-concern, competition, strife, taking, getting, criticizing, accusing, injuring.

And Satan, a super-powerful spirit being, is god of this world!

But HOW does Satan work *in* — inside of — the people of this world? How does he deceive them? This is important! Notice carefully!

Satan is the prince of the power of the air. He works in people by broadcasting! Satan goes ON THE AIR.

Let me explain. When God wanted to move King Cyrus of Persia to send Jews back to Jerusalem to build the second Temple, notice how he did it! He "stirred up the *spirit* of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom" (II Chronicles 36:22, 23; Ezra 1:1-2).

God did not talk directly to this Gentile king. He did not give him a vision. Cyrus did not hear any voice. God merely BROADCAST the impulse on a wavelength with which Cyrus' spirit was in tune. Cyrus did not hear a voice. But the impulse came into his mind. He did not know or even question how it got there. All of a sudden, he simply had an impulse — an urge — to do it, and he did.

The *spirit* that is in every human is in tune with Satan's wavelength. Satan does not broadcast in words or in any language. He does not broadcast in sounds. He broadcasts in attitudes, impulses, moods. He broadcasts in the attitude of rebellion, resentment against any authority, selfishness, criticism, envy, jealousy, competition, strife, unhappiness.

These, in the human mind, we have falsely called HUMAN NATURE. Babies are NOT born with such attitudes. They are born with a normal

self-love, which, of itself, is not necessarily evil. They are NOT born, on the other hand, with any real outgoing concern for the good of others. *That* must come from teaching and from the Spirit of God. But neither are they born with envy, jealousy or hate. Those attitudes are injected into them by Satan as they grow up.

Yes, Satan works IN the people of this world. By the time a young man becomes about age 16, with a body that has been growing more rapidly than his mind, he *can*, without proper teaching and self-control, become a very destructive individual. But babies? They are just as innocent and sweet as their parents have thought they were.

What, now, is the CAUSE of all the escalating troubles in this world?

Our first parents disbelieved the teaching of their Creator. They took to themselves the decision — the production of the knowledge — of what is right and what is wrong. Their offspring have been doing it ever since. Revelation — truth revealed from God — has been REJECTED. And Satan has been BROADCASTING his attitude. This has caused every wail of human woe that has beset unhappy mankind.

How is it all going to culminate? The Creator God has marked out a 6,000-year period to allow man to make his own decisions — go his own way, under influence of Satan's broadcasting — to PROVE once for all time that Satan's way is HARMFUL and NOT GOOD. Then God is going to intervene. He is going to send Jesus Christ, this time in all the supreme power and glory of the great God, to remove Satan and to RULE all nations with God's law of love, as defined above. He will restore to this earth the kingdom of God — which is the government of God. We shall have 1,000 years of world peace, happiness, universal prosperity, and universal well-being.

There is a CAUSE for every EFFECT. God's government will produce this bounteous harvest of joy and everything good. □