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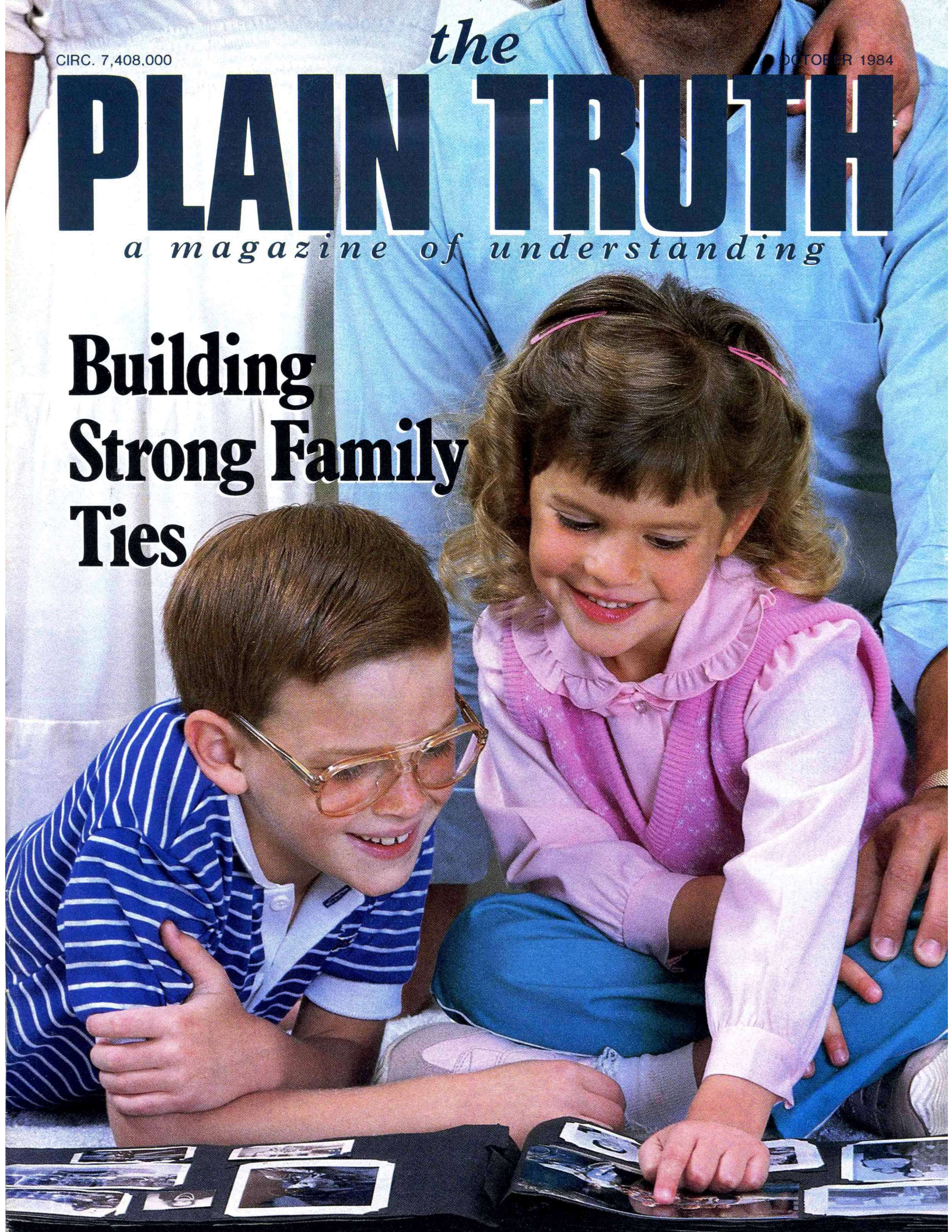
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OCTOBER 1984

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

Building Strong Family Ties



PERSONAL FROM



Universal Prosperity: Is It Possible?

CAN YOU imagine a world where all poverty is banished? Well, I have news for you. Yes, good news. You're going to see it, and in your lifetime, but not the way that men think.

Does a world of universal prosperity sound fantastic? Why should it? All material wealth comes out of the ground, and there's enough in this earth to provide plenty, even luxury for everyone. Stop and think a moment. Why is today's world filled with so much poverty, hunger and want? Why do the few live in comparative wealth and the many in dire need?

One idea in circulation today is that God Almighty created this world to be poor; that God hates the rich and loves the poor. We hear a lot about "God's poor." Does God hate the successful and the prosperous? Is prosperity a sin?

Listen to what God himself has said in his inspired revelation to mankind, the Holy Bible. Through John, God says, "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health. . . ."

In the first Psalm you read this: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly . . . but his delight is in the law of the Lord. . . . Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (verses 1-3). The man who walks God's way, who delights in God's law and is obedient in whatsoever he does, God says shall prosper. That's a promise from God Almighty.

Notice Genesis 39:2-3: "And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man. . . . The Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand." Joseph served God (verse 4).

Psalms 84 says: ". . . no good thing will [God] withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee" (verses 11-12). Blessings are promised. Do you know that God set before his people blessings on the one hand and cursings on the other? And he said to man, "Choose." Man has chosen curses and death, when God Almighty intended that man should choose happiness and blessings, prosperity and eternal life.

But God warns through David against setting our hearts even on the prosperity that he gives. That's what's wrong with this world.

The way to happiness and prosperity revolves around the true gospel of Jesus Christ. He preached the kingdom of God, which means the government of God—God's government over our lives and over society as a whole; over all of this earth.

The laws of God's government are the ways of love; of giving rather than of receiving; of serving, not getting the best of others. It is a matter of doing, not of inactive hearing. It's a matter of diligence—applying God's way, not the way of laziness. The Ten Commandments summarize that entire law. The Ten Commandments are the way into prosperity and financial success, if you understand the real meaning and spirit back of the Ten Commandments; their purpose according to the spirit of the law rather than just the letter.

The basic law of God's government is the only way to peace, to true happiness and to lasting prosperity. But this world doesn't believe it, and this world has not found prosperity. All the world's ills, all suffering, all inequality and injustice, yes, and even all poverty have come from transgressing the spiritual law—the Ten Commandments.

Sin is the transgression of that law (I John 3:4). The apostle Paul said that that law is spiritual, holy, just and good. Many people don't believe that today, and that's why there's so much poverty in this world.

To transgress the ways that lead to prosperity, to health, to peace, to happiness and joy—is sin, and the way of sin is not good for *(Continued on page 6)*

about it. It would be less willing to follow the American lead, more capable of working against American policies should it wish to do so, and more of a risk as an ally of the United States than one America is able to control."

Nevertheless, influential policy framers in the United States are actually encouraging such development of a militarily independent Western Europe.

For example, Melvyn Krauss of the Hoover Institution in California recently urged that the United States "must reduce Europe's defense dependence on this country. . . . The Europeans must be made to realize that, given unilateralist and anti-Western sentiment in this country, U.S. troops will leave Western Europe one way or another."

"Moreover," Mr. Krauss added, "the Europeans must have their [own] nuclear umbrella to replace the American one."

It is largely the European dependence on the United States that has impeded the development of European defenses, contended Mr. Krauss. "When that guarantee is removed," he emphasized, "and Europe's military again becomes important, people of daring and imagination will be attracted to serve."

Few stop to reflect, it seems, on the military genius that the European nations have generated in the past—"people of daring and imagination" that, at times, have threatened the entire world.

The fact is, as pointed out by Josef Joffe at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, America's 39-year-long presence in Europe has been the key to

Europe's unprecedented peace and prosperity. America has been, Mr. Joffe explains, "Europe's pacifier"—protecting not only Western Europe from the East, but "the half-continent against itself."

"NATO's detractors ignore," claims Mr. Joffe, "the central role America has played in pacifying a state system that almost consumed itself in two world wars."

During this time of pacification, Europe's traditional adversaries, France and Germany, have learned to cooperate to an unprecedented degree. And while possessing sizable military establishments, they have not had to be concerned about their ultimate security, provided by the U.S. nuclear "umbrella" and the "trip wire" presence of U.S. forces in Europe.

Remove these forces and the nations of continental Europe will have little choice but to as quickly as possible develop their own replacement force. This time they will likely cooperate with each other, but not necessarily with the United States, nor with Great Britain, which is less than enthusiastic about the possible emergence of a "European pillar."

The British are known to be edgy about all this talk—on both sides of the Atlantic—of America packing up, departing Europe and leaving a united European defense behind in its wake.

Where would such a development leave Britain, a nation whose ties to the Continent are tenuous at best? This was perhaps best reflected in a public opinion poll in France in which Frenchmen were asked to name their *least* admired foreign heads of government. Brit-

ish Prime Minister Thatcher finished third—after the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran and Muammar Kadafi of Libya, and ahead of Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Role of Religion

Even the military and security factors will not suffice to cement a new Europe together. The greatest "glue" is religion.

Pope John Paul II has consistently urged the nations of Europe to "rediscover their roots," meaning their Christian, or Catholic, heritage. Peter Nichols, the Rome correspondent for the *Times* of London, wrote on April 6:

"John Paul . . . has repeatedly spoken of Europe as stretching to the Urals. He sees his election as a sign that Eastern Europe must be given its just place as an integral part of Christian Europe and not be treated simply as a painful diplomatic question. He insists on common Christian roots and, added to this vision, is a dream of reconciliation between Western Christianity and the Eastern Orthodox churches."

The activities of the Vatican in promoting European unity must not be overlooked.

Continue to read the pages of *The Plain Truth* and see where the inevitable trend toward European unity will lead—and how its development will gravely impact the fortunes of both the British and American peoples.

In the meantime, if you have not yet done so, write for our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It grippingly lays bare the true heritage and destiny of the Northwest European and North American peoples. □

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

us. It brings penalties, and one of the penalties that we are reaping in this world is poverty. God Almighty never intended it. Sin, then, is the cause of poverty, of suffering, of unhappiness and even of death.

If all men would put their lives under the government of God—if they would live by God's laws—all soon would be prosperous.

But this world has transgressed the laws of God. In the professing

Christian world people have been brought up to believe that "the law is done away"—that we mustn't obey that law today or we'll be under a curse. That's what many in the professing Christian world believe. Is it any wonder we have inequality, suffering and poverty? If only this world will turn to God Almighty and to God's ways and live God's ways. You'd just be dumbfounded at the result.

Jesus put the matter in its true relationship when he commanded us to seek first the kingdom of

God. That is, to submit our lives to the government of God (the kingdom of God is the government of God), to obey God's commandments, to live the life that God directs in his Word, to really seek after God and his ways, rather than setting our whole heart and mind on seeking after money. Jesus Christ promised that when we have done that first, material prosperity shall then be added.

But you'll need to find the spiritual riches first because they're the more valuable. □

Ending Your FINANCIAL WORRIES

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Today, Western nations are the wealthiest people in all history and yet we are plagued with financial troubles. Why?

WHY should the most universal bad news that strikes home to nearly everybody be the financial worries that seem to plague us all? It doesn't make sense.

When you stop to think about it, never in the history of this world were any nations so rich as the English-speaking, the Western European nations and Japan are today.

Yet nearly every one of us is engaged in a constant struggle to make ends meet. Financial worries seem constantly to bear us down—rob us of real happiness and joy. Why should this be?

A Cause for Every Effect

There is a reason. You can be free from financial worry. Let me explain to you something now that you probably didn't know about your income. If there is anything people are jealous of, it is the money that they earn. They usually work hard for it, and they want full freedom in deciding for themselves what they're going to do with it.

People say, "What I earn is

mine. I can do what I please with it." But is the money that you earn really your own? Don't be too sure.

Listen to facts about your income you probably didn't know. What you earn is not yours. The man is mistaken who says, "What I do with the money that I earn is nobody's business. I produce it; it belongs to me." What you earn by work performed, by services rendered, from investments made, is not yours—not any part of it—that is, not until—and I will have to explain that "until."

Your Maker who gives you the very air you breathe tells you that it all belongs to him, not to you. But didn't you earn it? Didn't you produce it? Not exactly. Everything produced—money and the things that money can buy—comes out of the earth. And you didn't produce the earth. God created that.

You merely applied certain energy in thinking and in physical action to that which God created and owned. And where did the energy that you expended come from? You didn't create or supply that. You merely utilized what God created and supplied. God created even your thinking processes.

God Almighty created not only

matter, but all force and energy. And God set them in motion in the laws of physics and chemistry. He created the human mind. He supplies even the energy that is used in thinking and acting. Yes, all has come from God. And it is God who sustains, who preserves in motion, guides and directs all the forces and energies.

And so God is not merely a Creator of the long ago. God is the sustaining, directing, living Ruler over all today. And so, it's a simple fact, after all, that it was God's labor of original thinking, planning and creating, and of continuous sustaining and directing, that really produces all. And, therefore, God's claim to ownership of all that you have thought that you produced or earned is valid. It is a prior claim to yours.

God Almighty says in Psalm 24:1-2: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods." And these inspired words are repeated in the New Testament in I Corinthians 10:26.

God Almighty owns this earth and everything that exists or lives upon it. "Whatsoever is under the

whole heaven is mine," claims God in Job 41:11.

Now, turn to Deuteronomy 10:14. "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, [and] all that therein is." And in Exodus 19:5 God says, "... all the earth is mine."

"If I were hungry [says God in Psalm 50:12], I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof." And then in verse 10, "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills."

Yes, even the money, even the gold and the silver on this earth. In Haggai 2:8 we read, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."

Dare any man deny this claim of God? God's claim stands. Admit, then, your income belongs to God. It's his to do with as he wills, not as you please.

Your Reward for Your Labor

But God is a God of love. He knows your needs. God is concerned about you—about all of us. And, therefore, God has made a law respecting that portion of his wealth that your thinking—your labor—has extracted and worked upon.

Now, get this fixed thoroughly in your mind. Your wages, your salary, your profit, your income belong to God, not to you. Probably you never thought of it that way or realized this before. This may seem like a new idea to you. But it's not an idea at all. It's a fact. And so, God, the rightful owner of your income, has made a law respecting its disposal and its use.

God's law respecting what you earn is in fact a deal that he has made with you. He allows you to work on his earth, to use a part of the earth, what is in it or on it, its forces and energies, and to extract from it food, materials, supplies, metals, wood, oils, coal or whatever. Or to work with that which others have extracted from the earth, in manufacturing or distributing, or selling, buying, investing—whatever may be your occupation, job, or your profession. And so, whether you have realized it or not, you have been working in partnership with God.

The farmer or the gardener may plow, plant seed and expend his labor in raising food. But who supplied the soil? Who created the living processes that make the seed sprout and grow? Who sends the rain or produces water for irrigation? Who set the sun in the sky and causes it to shine and to warm the earth? Who causes the plant to drink out of the soil the minerals, the elements, and to grow into the vegetable, the grain or the fruit? Did you perform this part of the business of raising the food that you eat?

When you sit down and really think, you shall see that God supplies about nine parts of everything that man makes or produces. And man's thinking, planning and working supply only about one part. But God does not take nine tenths of the proceeds of the income. He doesn't take even eight tenths, or seven, or even three, or even two tenths. No, God is generous when we come to really understand. God has reserved for his use only one little tenth of what is produced out of his earth through his forces and his energies, and with your brain that he devised and he created, and with your hands and your labor. God takes only one tenth. And after you have been honest in paying God's tenth to God's chosen representative as God has directed, then—and not until then—God has decreed that the other nine tenths legally become yours.

That is God's law—not generally known today, is it?

When we get our thinking straight, when we get to understanding, when we stop to realize how much of what we have was provided by God, then we realize how generous, how solicitous for our welfare God really is.

But that's only part of the story. What does God want with that first tenth? And why does he want it anyway?

How Does God Use It?

God requires that small fraction of what is produced out of his earth that he created for the purpose of disseminating to the people of this world his message of the way of life that will free them from fears and from worries, that will give them

peace of mind and happiness, that will give them joy, success and life eternal.

Yes, even that tenth that God withholds for his own use is expended for human good, to make life worthwhile and to make people happy; for proclaiming his gospel of peace, of happiness and of joy and salvation; for letting people know that God will heal them when they're sick, that God will deliver them from every trial and trouble, supply their every need, guide them and direct them, give them wisdom, show them the way, give them eternal life.

This unhappy world is starving for that knowledge. This world is under a curse because it has robbed God of his money, of his wealth, and, thereby, has withheld from itself the knowledge of why this world is now in chaos, why it has had so many wars, why there is not real peace, why it finds life empty and fruitless, full of suffering and unhappiness, frustration and death.

God's laws are for man's good. Obedience to God's laws brings blessings. But when we violate God's laws, we bring curses upon ourselves.

Since whole nations are under a curse—because of lack of understanding, as well as for disobedience to the laws of God—it's certainly time that we opened our Bibles and began to study honestly, diligently, prayerfully, exactly what the Almighty has declared on this much-misunderstood subject.

What Do You Mean—Tithe?

But first, before looking in the New Testament teaching to see whether or not Christians must "tithe," let me make clear just what God does mean by this word *tithe*. It's an old English word, commonly used three or four hundred years ago. Today, it is seldom used, except in this scriptural connection. The word *tithe* means "tenth." A tithe of anything is a tenth part of it.

It is well known that the ancient nation Israel was required to tithe, that is, to pay in one tenth of income. But the matter of to whom each Israelite paid this tenth, which tenth was paid, why and for what

purpose, seems to confuse a great many today. And the New Testament teaching for Christians about tithing is understood by only a very few.

God said in essence to ancient Israel in Leviticus 26 and in Deuteronomy 28: "If you walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments . . . then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit."

God Almighty promised that obedience to his laws would mean prosperity. Do you know that if you could just believe him, you would be more prosperous, you'd have fewer troubles, you'd be happier, you'd find life more worthwhile? Millions of you believe in God, yet you still do not believe him. You don't believe because you don't put into practice the laws of God as taught in and through the Bible.

In the Bible, God reveals to man that he never has given to man the whole of what he produces and earns. The first tenth of all that you produce from the ground—of your wages, your salary, your profit, your income—that first tenth remains wholly to the Eternal. And that he has reserved for himself, for his holy and his spiritual use.

After man has paid to God that first tenth, which belongs only to God and which never belonged to the man, then the remaining nine tenths God gives to man. It's a good deal like Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and the first sin. The garden was beautiful beyond description—just one tree in all the garden, however, God reserved for himself. That remained God's. And that God never gave to Adam and Eve. That they had no right to touch or to use. All the rest God gave to them, but they were not satisfied with what was theirs—ample though it was. Filled with greed to possess all, they reached out and they took the fruit of that one forbidden tree that belonged to God and was not theirs. And that was stealing—the very first human sin.

And today, the same Satan who deceived Mother Eve has deceived this whole world into believing that all of each man's farm, or each man's business, or each man's mon-

ey or property, or whatever he may have belongs to him—that the whole of a man's income is his own. The divine and original truth of ownership has been hidden from the people through the deceptions of the god of this world.

What God Does with the Tithe

But why does God retain for himself the ownership of that first tenth—that tithe—of your income? Here, again, comes the truth that man would never know and could not find out except by God's revelation to man.

God has a great purpose he is working out here below, and he reveals it in his Word, his revelation, the Bible. For the carrying out of God's holy purpose, in placing mankind upon this earth, God has always had a priesthood—a ministry—representing him on this earth, serving him, carrying out his mission for mankind. In the dim antiquity of patriarchal times, God's high priest, his representative on earth, was Melchizedek.

During the national dispensation of Israel under the covenant made at Sinai, the tribe of Levi constituted the ministry of God, known as the Levitical priesthood. And then later, when Jesus Christ arose from the dead, he ascended to heaven as the living high priest. And today he calls into his true Church those he intends to use, as his true representatives in a darkened and a Satan-deceived world, to carry on his plan. Today, the Melchizedek priesthood is restored in Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 7).

It costs money to carry on the work of God. And so in order to provide for the financing of God's ministry, God has, from the very beginning, retained for himself the first tenth of the income of every human being on earth. The ownership of that first tenth of income is God's.

How then can you pay that tenth to God? Since you can't see God, you can't go to God's throne up in heaven, God instructs you in his revealed Word to pay it to his Church as his representative, just as a collector of some business firm to whom you pay a debt represents the company to whom you owe that particular amount of money.

Once paid, so far as you are concerned you have paid God's tithe to God. The question now is, What does God do with it? Why does he want it? God uses it for his ministry, for carrying on his work. The nature of God's ministry on earth has changed with changing circumstances.

Not much is revealed as to how God's ministry was carried on in patriarchal times. We know Melchizedek was then the high priest. All we know of those days of the dim, distant antiquity is that the tithes were paid to Melchizedek—a divine being—for the service of God's ministry for that time.

But beginning with Moses, God formed ancient Israel as a civil nation and also as a church, as you read in Acts 7:38. Between Moses and Jesus Christ, under the Sinaitic covenant, God's ministry was purely national. It was for ancient Israel alone. There was no gospel being preached to the world. It was purely material, not spiritual.

As a church or a congregation, Israel was given a constant round of physical ceremonies and rituals—animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, carnal ordinances (see Hebrews 9:10)—that were of a material and not of a spiritual nature. Consequently, the ministry in ancient Israel was one of ministering to the Israelites only. There was no spreading of the gospel. The ministry, rather, was largely a matter of physical labor, pertaining to animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, administering the different washings, physical ordinances and rituals.

For this service, God himself selected his ministers. The people had no choice as to who their ministers were to be. For this service, God took one whole tribe of the 12 tribes of Israel—the tribe of Levi. And during these years, from Moses to Jesus Christ, God himself paid his Levitical priests by turning over to them all of his tithes.

The Work of God Today

Now, today, we are in the age of the New Testament Church—the New Testament gospel dispensation—and today the Levitical priesthood is gone, and Jesus Christ is head of the Church, and

high priest. Today, all true ministers of Jesus Christ are called by a special spiritual call from God, through his Holy Spirit through and into his Church—not by flesh birth, not by self-desire to become a minister, not by selection or by appointment or by vote of the people. Jesus Christ came as God’s messenger bearing a spiritual message from God to man—that message of his gospel, the good news of the coming kingdom of God, the world tomorrow, a kingdom of immortals that human flesh and blood can never enter. One must be born into the kingdom of God.

And today Christ’s commission to all of his true ministers is this: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel [the good news of the kingdom of God] . . .” (Mark 16:15). “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . .” (Matt. 28:19). And for our day now: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end [of this age, this world] come” (Matt. 24:14).

Today the ministry is a spiritual ministry—a ministry of prophecy, a ministry of salvation, a ministry of warning. Today it is not physical and national; it is spiritual and individual. It is not for a single nation, but it is a witness to all nations.

Today, in these critical, chaotic days approaching the end of an age, that carrying on of God’s true message is a worldwide effort that must reach millions of people, and quickly, for “the night cometh, when no man can work.” Today, Jesus Christ’s true ministry is a huge undertaking. It requires not the mere financing of personal needs of a few ministers, but the employing of tremendous facilities for proclaiming the world-shaking warning, for preaching the gospel of the kingdom into all the world for a witness to all nations. Today, God has provided for the financing of his powerful ministry by the same system that he has used through all ages and dispensations—his tithing system. That is God’s way as it always has been.

In I Corinthians 9 the apostle Paul is inspired of God to instruct us that God has ordained that the New Testament gospel ministry of

Christ shall be similarly financed as the Levitical priesthood of the Sinaitic covenant was, by the tithes and the freewill offerings of the people.

Speaking of the Levitical priesthood, which was supported by the tithes of the people, it is written: “Even so [by the tithes] hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel” (I Cor. 9:14). This makes the tithing system binding in the New Testament, carried over from the Old Testament Levitical priesthood.

Tithing is further made a New Testament financing system for the Church in the priesthood book of the New Testament. In Hebrews 7 the first four verses show how Abraham paid tithes to the Melchizedek priesthood.

Verses 5 to 11 explain how the tithes were paid in ancient Israel to the Levitical priesthood, according to the tithing law.

Verse 12 says plainly, “For the priesthood being changed [from the Old Testament Levitical priesthood to the New Testament Church], there is made of necessity a change also of the law [including tithing].” So that tithes today are paid into the Church of which Jesus Christ is head and high priest.

God’s own financing system is making possible this very work of God, proclaiming to the world the gospel that Christ preached, on the worldwide program *The World Tomorrow*. Hundreds are writing in and asking, “How can you send out this powerful broadcast to the world without ever asking for money?” I hope you have noticed that we never do. And they ask, “How can you publish a magazine of worldwide circulation without subscription price?”

And the plain, simple, straightforward answer is, This is the work of God supported by God’s tithe.

Will You Rob God?

Now notice the blessings for obedience and for honesty in money matters with God, and the curses for neglect and for disobedience. God says to us through Malachi: “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me. But you say,

Wherein have we robbed thee? [and God answers] In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation” (Mal. 3:8-9).

Continuing in Malachi 3, verse 10: “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

That is God’s promise. Why don’t you put God to that test? Why don’t you prove him as he challenges you to do, and to see if he doesn’t increase your income so that your own nine tenths that God gives you will be larger than your whole ten tenths of income now, that your financial worries will finally be ended? “But I can’t afford to tithe,” complains one man. God’s answer is, Can you afford to steal from God?

Pay God his tenth. Watch God increase both his tenth and your nine tenths. That’s the way to have your bills paid, to get out of debt, to be free from financial worries. Tithing is a financial law. And yet, notwithstanding, the biggest blessing of all is the spiritual blessing.

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” And that too is a law. If your treasure is in this world’s amusements and its pleasures, if your money—pardon me, I mean God’s money—is being spent on yourself and your selfish desires, even including your needs, then your whole heart and your interest is in this world, this material world, and not in the kingdom of God.

Jesus also said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these [material needs] shall be added unto you.” Seek God, and you’ll prosper. The way to grow spiritually and to enjoy the glorious happiness of God’s grace is to put God’s tithe and your offerings, your treasure, into God’s work. Seek with all your heart the kingdom of God, and financial troubles will vanish, your life will become happy, full and abundant with assurance of life eternal through Jesus Christ our Lord. □

SPECIAL SERIES

The Plain Truth About Child Rearing



This is the most misunderstood issue facing parents today. How should you train up your children?

This series explains to parents HOW.

We begin, in this issue, with an introduction to child rearing by the editor in chief, followed by the first of seven installments created by the Plain Truth editorial staff.

INTRODUCTION

There is an old proverb that says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6, Jewish Publication Society translation).

Yet many have believed they followed that advice, only to discover when the child became an adult that he (or she) had departed from it completely. They think that Solomon meant training as

not a "soul." The breathing physical man was the soul (Gen. 2:7). The spirit in him did not impart life to him. His breathing imparted the breath of life to his circulatory system. So says God.

Adam was made to need knowledge that no animal can know. He was made to need three kinds of knowledge: 1) knowledge for contact and relationship with God, 2) knowledge to have relationship with other people, and 3) knowledge to deal with things—matter.

Adam was created with a human spirit by which of himself he could acquire knowledge. Man has acquired by himself knowledge to build houses, make and operate automobiles, airplanes, computers. He has developed a sense of good and evil, right and wrong. Yet in nearly 6,000 years man has never learned how to get along with fellowman.

Husband and wife clash and divorce. Parents can't understand and properly train children. Children too often

resent parents. Family can't live happily with next-door neighbor. Management and labor clash, races and ethnic groups clash, nations war against one another.

And man has not learned—and doesn't seem to want to know—how to have a close association with his Maker.

Why? Because man was made with a human spirit, unlike animals, but he was made to need another Spirit—the Holy Spirit of God.

The Creator freely offered his Spirit, which also begets eternal life, to Adam. The Holy Spirit would have imparted to him knowledge for contact and relationship with God—how to get along with his fellowman—how to treat his mate and rear his children. But Adam rejected the Spirit of God (tree of life) and took to himself the knowledge of good and evil. He decided to acquire and produce by himself his own knowledge. But God had not created in him the tools (his Holy Spirit) by which he could decide the right knowledge. Without the addition of God's Spirit, man with his own mind could only produce selfish, self-centered knowl-

edge. Adam's mind, as a result, was only half complete. He was not mentally "all there"!

But, even though limited to only the human spirit, he still had a mind that could think, reason, calculate, make decisions. What an animal does is by instinct. What a human does is by thought—by reason—by decision!

Now see where this leads us. You train a growing child as you would train a dog or an elephant to do certain things a certain way. In some cases, because it has become habit, he may not change it.

But he has a mind that can think, reason, decide what to do and direct his actions differently from parental teaching—especially if an attitude of resistance, hostility, resentment of authority or prejudice—or if conformity to custom of his peers—causes a change of mind. In later life because of disagreement he may entirely depart from childhood training. Where, then, does this lead us?

In earliest childhood, Satan—the invisible spirit ruler of this world—begins to work on the child's mind. He broadcasts not in words, sounds or pictures, but in attitudes of selfishness, hostility, disagreement, resentment and self-will. Many parents neglect teaching their children's minds. They wait until teachers at school can teach them.

But Satan does not neglect your child's mind! Satan begins broadcasting into it, when only a few months old, attitudes of selfishness and self-centeredness.

How, then, should you train up a child in the way he should go? Not only by habit to do certain things a certain way, as you would train a dog, but by teaching the child to think for himself or herself!

Train a child to think and decide according to the spirit and attitude of God's law—love toward others, consideration for the good and welfare of others—and teach that Satan's way of selfishness and jealousy, envy, antagonism toward others, is wrong. Teach a child to honor his parents. Teach the principle and attitude of God's law of love to God and love to other people.

The psychologists who reject the revealed Word of God cannot rightly teach you how to rear children. They do not know what the human mind is. Unless they have the Holy Spirit—and I know of no such psychologists—they are incompetent to teach authoritatively on child rearing.

What Psychologists Don't Know About Child Rearing

by Herbert W. Armstrong

one would a dog, by teaching a child to do certain things, enforced by a system of rewards for performance and punishment for disobedience.

But what almost no one understands is the difference between a dog's brain and a child's mind.

The human brain is accompanied by a spirit in connection with it. This human spirit enables a human to think—to reason—to calculate—to make decisions.

Animals, by contrast, are equipped with instinct.

Now understand the difference!

The child's mind can think and reason. It can acquire knowledge a dog or an elephant cannot know. It is stated in I Corinthians 2:11, the Authorized Version, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save [by] the spirit of man which is in him?" A dog or an elephant cannot know what a man knows.

Man's knowing, and power of self-decision, is imparted to the brain by the spirit that is in man.

Adam, the first created human, was created with a spirit in him. The spirit was

Building Strong Family Ties in the '80s

TODAY the reality of a *generation gap* stares society in the face.

Many parents frankly confess that they do not know their own children. They are like strangers. And this gap seems to have happened overnight.

Parents may appear to be close to their children when they are small. But with the advent of teenage something tragic happens. Communication breaks down. Alienation begins. Thus a generation of children has commonly become at odds with its own parents!

Why?

Examine your own situation. When does *your* whole family—every member—get together and talk—really have a good conversation and family communication? Chances are—seldom, if ever.

Many parents today really do try to provide the best for their children. They want to give them happiness and security. They consequently spend their time and energy in the acquisition of material possessions. Little time or energy, however, is spent to provide for the family's spiritual and emotional needs.

Do you know why children are so inclined to learn from television, whether for good or for bad? Because a television set is never too busy to talk to children. It never brushes them aside while it does household chores or becomes

involved in other pursuits. Television programming goes to considerable lengths to attract and hold the attention of youngsters. And it succeeds!

Meanwhile many fathers and mothers spend a minimum amount of time and effort maintaining direct contact with their children. And then they wonder why their children do not turn out as they would like them to.

Where were you when your son's class at school had its open house? Or when your daughter's dance team won the trophy?

Were you just too busy to be there? Was the extra money earned by working overtime that important? Did you really have to clean the oven? A few less dollars and a few specks of dirt at home, is a small price to pay toward an investment in one of your greatest treasures—your children.

If you've been negligent in involving yourself with your children, changing that relationship may not be accomplished overnight, but with diligence and patience it can be done. It *must* be done. You would be surprised how many young people today are

deeply yearning for a closer relationship with their parents.

Controlling Youthful Energy

"The glory of young men," says the Bible, "is their strength" (Prov. 20:29). One of the greatest problems in any society is the harnessing of the energy and vitality of its youth. It is also one of the greatest difficulties of parenthood!

"Johnny! Please *sit still!* Stop jerking and jiggling!" shouts the



exasperated mother of a 10-year-old. "What's the matter?" she fumes. "Can't you *ever* be still and quiet?"

Parents have been saying things like that for centuries.

Virtually all "normal" children

are bundles of pent-up, explosive energy. And that energy must be released! When it is bottled up, suppressed and thwarted, it builds up *incredible* pressures in children. The longer energy is suppressed the more frustrated the child becomes.

Have you ever experienced this? You are driving along the freeway or the motorway. It's an extended trip of several hours. There are few stops except for gasoline or "rest" stops. The faces of the children in the backseat may be seen in the rearview mirror as they sit, squirm, struggle, wrestle, tussle, tug and pull away at each other.

The longer they have to sit there, the worse their attitudes will become. Sometimes they will fall asleep in sheer frustration. They may keep saying, "When are we going to get there, Daddy?" "How much longer?" "I have to go to the bathroom." (He just went 15 minutes earlier!)

The longer this agitation continues, the more irritable the parents become. After all, they would like a nice quiet, relaxing trip!

Before long an explosion takes place.

"Will you kids shut up!! Just sit still and be quiet! We'll get there when we get there and I don't want to hear any more about it!"

Sulk. Pout. Fume. Resent.

The atmosphere in the car has degenerated considerably since the trip began.

Why?

Simply because the parents did not understand, nor know how to cope with the factor of their children's *energy*! It's a law of nature—*energy must be released*. It must be burned up, utilized.

Yet children often lack the wisdom to know how to rightly utilize their own vast energy reserves. We are told that "a child *left to himself* brings shame to his mother" (Prov. 29:15, Revised Authorized Ver-



PT PHOTO

Family outings, hikes, camp-outs, building projects, hobbies, wrestling matches with Dad, exercising together are all invaluable and constructive outlets that can be shared by all of the family.

sion). Children, left to their own devices, often use their energy in a *destructive* manner.

This is one of the principal reasons why children cooped up and left alone in a big-city environment often resort to acts of violence and vandalism. Children cut loose from the warm and creative environment of a close and loving family unit frequently become youthful vagrants prowling the streets and alleys of cities looking for destructive outlets for those pent-up energies. Such neglect on the part of parents is one of the key factors involved in the formation of adolescent street gangs.

A child should never be cut totally adrift from his family unit. He should be able to find expression *within* it. He should never be left *exclusively* to his or her own devices during those formative years. (This is not to say a child should not be taught independence, self-reliance and responsibility.) Parents must strive to understand their child's need for constant activity and provide ways for the release of that energy.

Family outings, sports activities, hikes, camp-outs, musical endeavors, building projects, hobbies, wrestling matches with Dad, walks and runs, jogging as a family, exercising together are all invaluable and constructive outlets that can be shared by all of the family.

Children should be taught and encouraged to "think family." Ideally, the family environment should be the *most* enjoyable place for a child to be. It should be the most interesting, the most satisfying.

A child who cannot find satisfaction and activity within his family unit will seek it elsewhere. Responsible, perceptive parents will recognize this need and seriously strive to provide the right kind of exciting, interest-filled environment for their children. Granted, it takes time and planning. But it pays off.

Being a Family

The Creator God does not take the responsibilities of maintaining strong family ties lightly. After all, he created this oldest of social institutions—the FAMILY. But pressures from the world are tearing this institution apart. Seldom do families get together anymore.

In this hectic society it seems there is little time for simple yet meaningful occasions like dinner with the grandparents or a family reunion. And because we haven't taken the time for such things, the glue that holds families together doesn't hold firm.

It's time to revive some old-fashioned values and build more permanent family ties. It might just save your family.

Let's take for example the old custom of gathering the whole family together on a weekend afternoon for a big meal. If you ever had such wonderful dinners in your family, you can almost taste the delicious meals still. And who could ever forget the fun of playing outside with your cousins and neighborhood children while your parents sat and talked for hours?

If that has been a part of your life you cannot forget it. But why is it gone today? Doesn't anyone care anymore? And why can't you start or reinstate such family get-together customs now?

Well, you can.

Of course, if the grandparents live hundreds or thousands of miles away, you can't have dinner together frequently. But if they are nearby, you can certainly make it a fairly regular practice. Even if they are a great distance away, all is not lost.

Another great old-fashioned tradition used to be getting the extended family—the entire family: the brothers and sisters and all the cousins—together once a year or every other year. There is nothing like it.

We in the Western world live in very mobile societies where people move often. Sometimes these moves are hundreds or sometimes thousands of miles. When such moves happen, the children grow up without any sense of stability.

This separating of families has created a whole generation who don't know "who they are." When you grow up under the influence of your parents and your grandparents, there is little doubt of who you are. If you have a quick temper as your grandfather did,

you will know for sure where you got your voice.

The knowledge of one's family heritage seems to be missing in so many families today. Grandpa may have been forced into early retirement while he still had years of productivity left in him. Perhaps he died prematurely from the lack of purpose and inactivity. Like as not Grandma was put into a rest home to rock away her final years of life in boredom. What a tragedy! And all the time they could have helped so much.

Don't let the opportunity for your children to know and love their grandparents go by. Plan a family reunion as soon as it is practical. If the grandparents are not living, make it a practice to visit the cemetery where they are buried. Tell the children stories about their grandparents and the "good old days." You'll be surprised at the greater sense of identity it gives them.

Instead of positive traditions, do you know what families in today's society have? Nontraditions. What

sat around the table. Mom prepared a hearty meal of cooked cereal, toast from homemade bread, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs and a hamburger patty. Dad outlined the day's chores. That was a tradition.

A nontradition is quite the opposite. Today, Dad probably grouches his way through the morning preparing to fight the traffic jams. He may or may not bolt down a cup of coffee and a piece of toast.

Where's Mom? She may have a job of her own and hurries through the blow dryer and hair curlers to be ready for her ride to work.

And the children? Left to themselves, they take the easy way out and gobble down a bowl of pre-sweetened cold cereal. That's breakfast. That's hardly conducive to the kind of bonds that build strong family ties.

And lunch these days is no memorable occasion either. It is usually eaten by each member of the family separately. Dad eats lunch on the job. The children eat lunch at school. And Mom perhaps at home with the babies or at work.

That's what we mean by a *non-tradition*. Nothing of lasting value comes out of this life-style. There is nothing here to pass on to the next generation. No positive family relationships are built.

Dinner Together

Today everyone seems to be so busy. All the members of the family are involved in so many activities. With school, work, play and television—is it any wonder members of a family can seldom be together at the same time?

Usually there is only one occasion during the day when the entire family is in one place at one time. This is the *evening meal*. And this mealtime *at least* ought to be family time. But what do we see? A trend toward the no-cook-eat-in-front-of-the-television idea. City boulevards are ablaze with signs beckoning the customer to stop in and carry out a quick, already prepared meal. Society seems geared to the eat-on-the-run syndrome. Snack shops, sandwich stands, drive-in restaurants have greatly proliferated.

People in today's fast-moving
(Continued on page 43)



HAL FINCH—PT

In many countries it is considered *essential* that all the family be seated at the dinner table together. Here a meal represents far more than just food and nutrition. It is a time for family fellowship, conversation and enjoyment.

you'll know it if you saw him yell at the cow when she kicked over the pail. If you have a fine voice for singing, you well may have inherited it from your grandmother. If you heard her singing lulla-

are nontraditions? Let me give you an example.

The typical Western breakfast.

Years ago when societies were mainly agrarian, breakfast was quite an affair. The entire family

How the West Can End the Fear of Nuclear War NOW!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

There is no end in sight to wars. The only visible prospect is escalation. Yet there is a sure way the West could end the fear of nuclear war immediately! This is the concluding installment of a two-part article.

MANY ASK, "If there be a God, WHY does God *allow* wars?"

They argue: "If God is LOVE, he surely wouldn't *want* all this suffering. And if God is ALL-POWERFUL, he could *prevent* wars! So why doesn't he?"

The answer is, certainly God *could* stop it—and in very few years *will*!

But, why in the future? Why did he *ever* allow it?

Because a PURPOSE is being worked out here below! Man was put here on earth to develop righteous CHARACTER! That purpose *necessitates* free moral agency in man. It is absolutely *necessary* that man be given both the prerogative and the ability to *make his own choice*, and exercise *his own will*! Otherwise,—NO CHARACTER!

WHY Must There Be WARS?

There *is* a way that will prevent WAR and produce PEACE—a way to happiness and abundant well-being for everybody!

The ETERNAL God offered mankind *that way*—and let mankind *choose*! The ETERNAL created and set in motion inexorable laws that

work—not only laws of chemistry and physics—but also a basic SPIRITUAL LAW, which is *the way* to peace, happiness, abundant well-being! That LAW is the basic CAUSE of peace. Its violation is the CAUSE of war!

Yes, it's just that simple!

But a rebellious humanity—priding itself on its rational processes of "intellect"—willingly blinds its minds to simple TRUTH, and embarks on a system of complicated and nonsensical ERROR—MUCH OF IT IN THE NAME OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Human nature is basically rebellious against God and the inexorable laws of God (Rom. 8:7).

The Creator laid before man the KNOWLEDGE of his law—the knowledge of HOW TO AVOID WARS! But yielding to human nature—vanity, greed, *self-centeredness*—rebellion against God's law of PEACE—that *is* the CAUSE of WARS!

Nations Never Needed Go to War!

In respect to war, the basic point of God's spiritual law is the Sixth Commandment. It says, simply, "*Thou shalt not kill.*"

If all nations OBEYED that command of God and followed *the way* of LOVE and PEACE there would be no war!

But, an objector argues: "That's a pretty platitude—but it's not practical. It would never work! Any nation that would follow that command would be attacked and beaten by some other nation that was more practical!"

Oh, but that way WOULD WORK! That way is practical!

The Creator understands human nature better than we humans do! He provided for that!

Do you think the Almighty Creator is so impractical that he leaves those who OBEY HIM—who accept HIS GOVERNMENT over them—helpless? Understand this! God Almighty is SUPREME! He created the UNIVERSE—and he RULES SUPREME over the entire vast UNIVERSE. He RULES over the earth, and whatever men do in their politics—their wars—their setting up of their own forms of government—is done ONLY BECAUSE GOD ALLOWS IT!

God is SUPREME in GOVERNMENT! A prime responsibility of GOVERNMENT is to PROTECT its own subjects! So, open your eyes, now, to the FACTS!

God did take a people—a family of some two million SLAVES, children of God's friend Abraham—and offered to set them up as a special nation UNDER HIS GOVERNMENT!

To any people—whether an individual, a nation or even all nations—who will voluntarily subject themselves under God's GOVERNMENT, God says the SAME THING—he is no respecter of persons! What he said to these Israelites, he says to ALL:

“But if thou shalt indeed obey [my] 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. God, ONLY, has *the right* to take human life! He *created* human life. All lives BELONG to him.

But, did you notice? There were CONDITIONS to God's promise of divine and supernatural protection. During the first 6,000 years of man's sojourn on earth, it is not in God's master plan to *force* any nation, or individual, to come under his GOVERNMENT. That is left to man's free CHOICE!

Man must choose which way he will go—the way of give and of submission to God's law and government, or the way of get, of self, of rebellion against the law and government of God.

But these freed slaves—the Israelites—accepted God's offer, and became his nation. They AGREED to obey him and his laws—his government—and he agreed to give them PEACE, *as long as they obeyed and trusted him*.

But human nature is human nature—and facts are facts.

Human Nature at Work

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

These Israelites, even while being blessed and delivered by God with MIRACLES, still were rebellious. After the MIRACLES God had performed in FREEING them from slavery in Egypt, these people began to gripe, grumble, complain and DISOBEY God.

These people—600,000 men, besides women and children—came 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, God *demonstrated* he would preserve his people from having to undergo military service, or fighting war, or taking human life!

In spite of their faithless complaining in this initial EXAMPLE of God's faithfulness, he was determined to fight *this* 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 to day. . . . *The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace*” (Ex. 14:13-14).

The Israelites were not to fight—but STAND STILL! God would fight their wars for them! They were to remain at PEACE!

How GOD Fights for Us!

“Moses stretched his hand out over the sea . . . 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 right and left. . . . Thus did the Eternal save Israel that day from the Egyptians. . . . Israel saw the mighty action of the Eternal against the Egyptians. . . .” (Ex. 14:21-22, 30-31, Moffatt translation).

After this miraculous delivery from disaster—from a WAR—a whole army of a then great nation destroyed—those Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron and said, “Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt . . .” (Ex. 16:3).

Again and again, “they tempted the Lord, saying, Is the Lord among us, or not?” (Ex. 17:7).

Repeatedly, God had given these people awe-inspiring and miraculous demonstrations of his intention to *fight their battles for them*.

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!*

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

“What shall I do unto this people?” Moses appealed to God, “they be almost ready to stone me” (Ex. 17:4).

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).

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*.

God's PURPOSE Stands!

Even though God ALLOWS humans to make their own decisions—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 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
(Continued on page 29)

Nuclear War

(Continued from page 21)

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

God ALLOWED them to SIN by taking up arms.

Now you know WHY the nation Israel went to war—WHY God himself even *commanded* them to go to war, driving out the pagan nations from the Promised Land.

Many people have wondered WHY, if God's teaching is that WAR IS WRONG, he actually commanded his own nation to fight in war.

The answer is that God made man with FREE MORAL AGENCY—God not only *allows* humans to have a CHOICE—he compels us to choose!

God alone determines WHAT is sin. God *does not allow* MAN to decide WHAT is sin, or WHAT is righteousness. But he does allow man—he actually *compels* man—to decide WHETHER to sin.

God made it PLAIN to ancient Israel that they need never go to war. He guaranteed complete protection from outside enemies. He guaranteed PEACE—if they would trust him and obey the laws of his government! He demonstrated his ability—and his POWER! But the Israelites chose WAR. Just as ALL nations have chosen WAR! Just as *our* nations do—needlessly—today!

Case History No. 2

The article last month gave the first actual case history showing, in detail, how the ETERNAL God, by supernatural miracles, did deliver the Israelites at the Red Sea from the army of the then greatest nation on earth, the Egyptians.

Notice case history No. 2.

This concerns King Asa of the kingdom of Judah. The king of Ethiopia came against the Jews with 300 chariots and an army of ONE MILLION soldiers. They had major size armies in those days, strange as that may seem.

In those days the Jews also had a sizable army—but not nearly large enough to withstand an invasion of a force of a million troops.

Perhaps, had the Ethiopians

come with a smaller army, Asa might have gone to war with them relying wholly on his armed force, instead of on God. But, regardless, the FACT is that in this instance this king *did* rely on God for his defense!

“And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have NO POWER: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against THEE. So THE LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; *and the Ethiopians fled*” (II Chron. 14:11-12).

But there is an unhappy sequel to this tremendous event—where reliance on GOD put A MILLION ARMED MEN TO FLIGHT!

The king of ISRAEL, Baasha, came with an armed force against the Jews. Incidentally, note carefully, the kingdom of ISRAEL was here fighting against the JEWS of the kingdom of JUDAH! They were two altogether *different nations*! The people of the northern kingdom of ISRAEL *never* were called Jews!

This time Asa neglected to rely on God to fight off the attacking military force! This time he did PRECISELY WHAT THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN ARE DOING TODAY! He *hired* an ALLY—the kingdom of Syria (II Chron. 16:1-3).

“And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and *not* relied on the Lord thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the Lord, he delivered them into thine hand. For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself STRONG in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly:”—JUST LIKE THE UNITED STATES AND ALL NATIONS TODAY!—“therefore from henceforth THOU SHALT HAVE WARS” (II Chron. 16:7-9).

If you wonder why OUR NATIONS

are continually having WARS, *there is your answer!*

Case History No. 3

The next case history involves Asa's son, Jehoshaphat, the next king of Judah.

Three allied armies came against Judah, with a mighty military force.

“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord. . . .

“And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, and said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and RULEST NOT THOU OVER ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE HEATHEN?”—that is, over all gentile nations, as well as Israelitish.

Continue: “and in thine hand is there not POWER and MIGHT, so that none is able to withstand thee? Art not thou our GOD, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel . . . ? And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade. . . . Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. O our GOD, wilt thou not judge them? for WE HAVE NO MIGHT AGAINST THIS GREAT COMPANY that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: BUT OUR EYES ARE UPON THEE” (II Chron. 20:3-7, 10-12).

Could God *be* GOD, and fail to heed a heartrending prayer like that—coming from helpless people who were obeying and TRUSTING him?

Immediately God answered through one of his prophets:

“Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; *for the battle is NOT YOURS, BUT GOD'S*. . . .

“Ye shall *not need to fight* in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord. . . . And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the

inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.

“... Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah. . . *Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.* And . . . he appointed SINGERS unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever.

“And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. For the children [soldiers] of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped” (II Chron. 20:15, 17-18, 20-24).

But would not most hoot and jeer in sarcasm, if one suggested that the West TODAY humble itself—and trust in the INVISIBLE God—and WORSHIP him, bowing our heads to the ground? Couldn't you just hear the snorts and raucous ridicule at the suggestion that the West send before an armed enemy an army of SINGERS, saying, “PRAISE THE ETERNAL!”—instead of relying on the nations' MILITARY strength?

Yes, WOULDN'T it seem RIDICULOUS to suggest that OUR proud nations do this—and march to war SINGING praises to “the beauty of holiness”?

Someday—and in the next few years—the West will be forced to WAKE UP to the sobering REALIZATION of which way is truly the “foolish” way! You'd better make the right choice NOW, before it's too late! For indeed it is later than you think!

Case History No. 4

Several years later, “Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. . . . And when Hezekiah [king of Judah] saw that Sennach-

erib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem . . . he . . . gathered [the people] together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, ‘Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him; for there is one greater with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to *fight our battles.*’ And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah” (II Chron. 32:1-2, 6-8, Revised Standard Version).

Supposing, in the event of a threat of nuclear war, Western leaders broadcast words like those to all the people—saying we would RELY ON THE ETERNAL OUR GOD to fight this battle FOR US!

This is just a hypothetical question. But YOU answer it!—and I think you'll realize that OUR PEOPLES have gone SO FAR away from the ETERNAL our God that, in most minds today, he seems nonexistent! Yet he is *just as REAL*—and as POWERFUL—as in Hezekiah's day!

Continue: “After this Sennacherib king of Assyria . . . sent his servants to Jerusalem to Hezekiah king of Judah and to all the people of Judah that were in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, “On what are you relying, that you stand siege in Jerusalem? Is not Hezekiah misleading you, that he may give you over to die by famine and by thirst, when he tells you, ‘The Lord our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria’? . . . Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands at all able to deliver their lands out of my hand? . . . How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand!’”

“Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven. AND THE LORD SENT AN ANGEL, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So *he returned with*

shame of face to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword. So THE LORD SAVED HEZEKIAH AND THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of ALL HIS ENEMIES; and HE GAVE THEM REST [PEACE] ON EVERY SIDE” (II Chron. 32:9-11, 13, 15, 20-22, RSV).

War is *so needless!*

War is WRONG!

Yes, the West *could* put an END to the threat of nuclear war IMMEDIATELY—*IF* not only leaders, but ALSO the PEOPLE AS A WHOLE, could recognize REALITY—could understand that God is REAL—and would *humble themselves* before him, BELIEVE him—RELY ON him!

But, if our people WILL NOT, then *it is decreed* we shall, in fewer years than you will believe, see OUR CITIES DESTROYED, along with a full third of our populations by a foreign invasion!

The God who is REAL says of OUR PEOPLES: “Prophesy against the prophets of Israel. . . . O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to STAND in the BATTLE IN THE DAY OF THE LORD” (Ezek. 13:2, 4-5).

That is NOT a message to ancient Israel—but to our world TODAY. The “DAY OF THE LORD”—a time foretold in more than 30 prophecies—is going to strike sooner than you may think! You will *know*, then, how REAL it is. You will wish, then, you had heeded. I am not writing foolishly, but very soberly, ON AUTHORITY of the *living CHRIST!*

Continue this WARNING to OUR nations TODAY: “They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The Lord saith: and the Lord *hath not sent them.* . . . Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; *and there was no peace . . .*” (verses 6, 10).

Perhaps you need to read the free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, and then read this whole article seriously! It is a last WARNING from the ETERNAL GOD! □