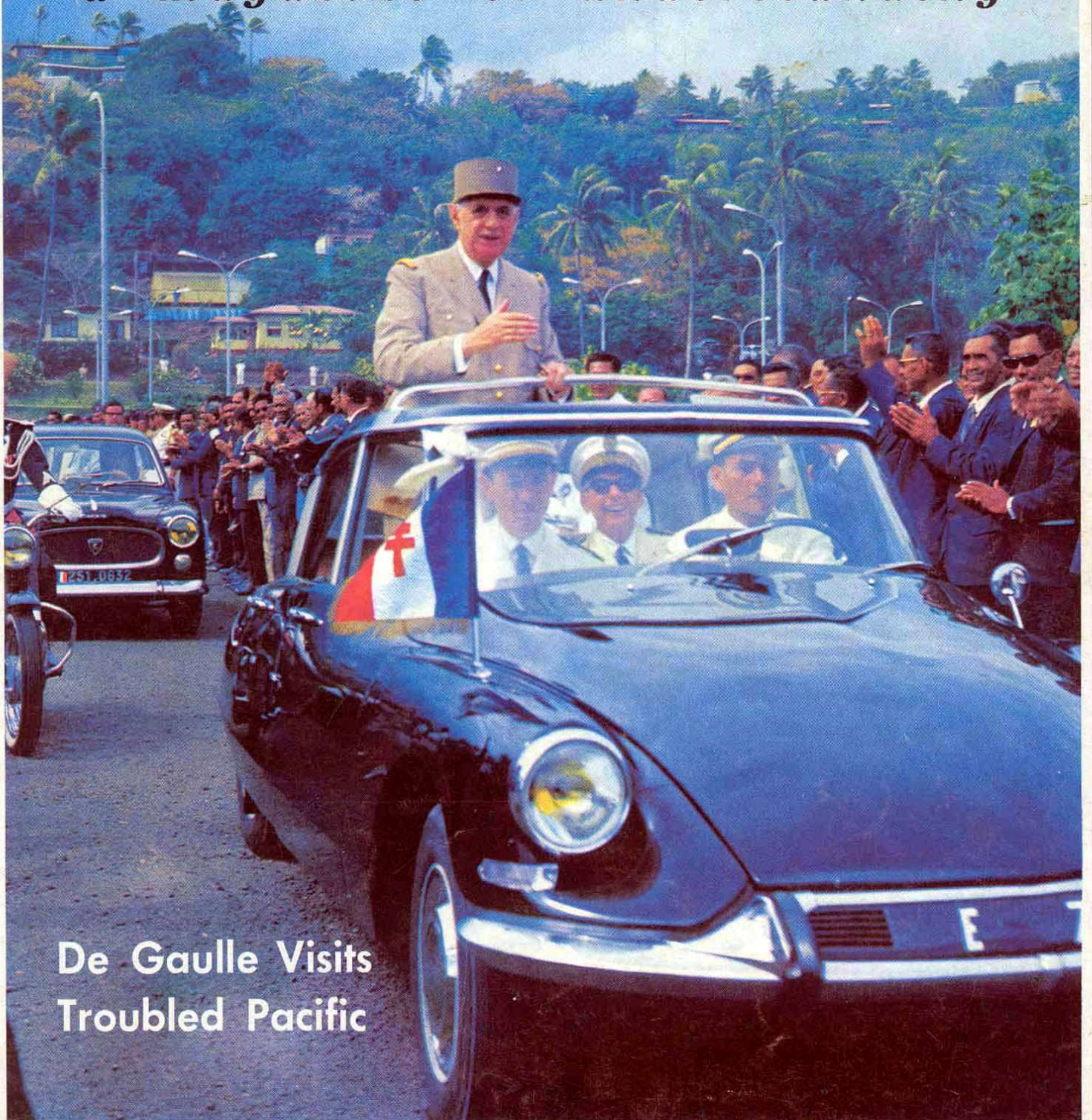


*the*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
*a magazine of understanding*



De Gaulle Visits  
Troubled Pacific

# What our READERS SAY

## Europe

"Your two articles in the November issue, 'Iron Curtain Gathers Rust' and 'The Crumbling Commonwealth' are a most excellent and balanced view of the two situations. I am sure articles of such calibre and quality will also greet us in your next issue."

Reader, Durham,  
United Kingdom

## Personal

"I just read the November issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, the 'Personal from the Editor.' I'm only 15½, but this writing moved me. Deep in my heart I know your 'Princess' will live again one day. I hope I live that day also. About one month ago I started getting 'sassy' to my father. He corrected me but to no avail. Then when I read this article it brought a change of mind on my part. I hope my father will forgive me of this. But if he doesn't, I couldn't very well blame him, as he wasn't sassing me, but it was I who was sassing him."

Donny J., Winston-Salem,  
North Carolina

## Evolution

"I just thought I'd mention an incident that happened to my cousin who is taking physiology in high school. My cousin started asking some questions about evolution, so after telling him jokingly that he might be kicked out of class if he used this material, I replayed one of Garner Ted Armstrong's tapes about evolution and the woodpecker and let him read 'The Questions Evolution Can't Answer' in *The PLAIN TRUTH*. Yep! You guessed it—he backed his physiology teacher into a corner in front of the whole class and the teacher told him to 'shut up' or he would not pass the course. He shut up!"

L. W. C., Toledo,  
Ohio

• *What price a diploma?*

## No Time to Read?

"Thank you for the articles that you send but please don't send *The PLAIN*

TRUTH or anything else to us, as we do not have time to read. Besides, we do not care what goes on in this world, as we know it will be burned up in time. We also don't care what time, as our life is hid in Christ."

Mrs. E. G., East Palatka,  
Florida

• *Christ commands, "WATCH" (Luke 21:36), and was so CONCERNED about conditions during His time He WEPT over Jerusalem (Mat. 23:37).*

"I just started receiving your PLAIN TRUTH. I am an airline pilot and carry it with me on my flights and urge my crew to listen to your broadcasts and get your literature. Your programs are wonderful for agnostics, atheists (I was one until two years ago), and a blessing to Christians."

Man, Palos Verdes Estates,  
California

## Tomorrow's News Today

"I am trying to find copies of Bible prophecies that were written and sent out through a radio station on a program, *The WORLD TOMORROW*. This was over 20 years ago. The two pamphlets were *United States in Prophecy* and "Russia in Prophecy." As the years have passed, I have noticed that the unknown author has prophesied correctly, particularly, about the Holy Land and Russia. It's later than we would like to think. P.S. Are you the same Herbert W. Armstrong who helped publish *The PLAIN TRUTH* and did your address used to be P. O. Box 111, Eugene, Oregon?"

Mrs. G. A. E.,  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

• *Yes.*

## Get the Facts

"I was prepared to accept your magazine on its face value, but it seemed too good to be true and I wondered where the payoff came in. I might have known there was a catch, and it crops up in every issue, 'Russia,' the

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## the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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# Personal from the Editor

A WOMAN IN LONDON, England, a radio listener and PLAIN TRUTH subscriber, writes, "We do not agree with a lot of your teaching." Now there's nothing unusual about that.

I would estimate that about 99.99 percent of you who read this column did not agree with a lot of our teaching when you first heard *The WORLD TOMORROW* program, or first began reading *The PLAIN TRUTH*. THAT'S *the very reason* you should listen, and read! If we tell you only what you already know and believe, we've wasted your time—we have failed to give what will profit YOU!

No two people believe alike in all things. EVERYBODY does not agree with everybody else. Our purpose is to inform, to challenge, to stimulate THINKING, checking, PROVING what you believe. We always say, do not believe what we—or anyone else—says BECAUSE we say it. But listen without prejudice, check, verify, PROVE—and then believe what you find PROVED true.

But this lady wrote more.

"At the end of your second letter," she continued, "I noticed you said the Gospel message is an educational message. If this is so, it is not for us and for millions and millions of other people. And this statement is not Biblical.... The Bible was not written to inform man's mind, but to change man's heart. Please do not send us any more literature from your organization."

WHAT'S THAT?—this statement of mine is not Biblical? The Bible was not written to inform the MIND?!!!

Well now, I'm indeed sorry this woman doesn't want to read *The PLAIN TRUTH* anymore, because more than a MILLION of you are going to read my answer to her letter.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that our readers UNDERSTAND whether the Bible

was written to inform the MIND! And whether the only TRUE Gospel is an educational message. Entirely too many have been DECEIVED into the false idea that the GOSPEL is an irrational, sentimental, ethereal superstition. THAT IS THE REASON, more than any other, that modern education, and educated people today, have utterly REJECTED the Bible, the true Gospel, and belief in GOD!

And my statement is NOT BIBLICAL? I will now show you—if your mind is open, precisely how COMPLETELY Biblical it is!

This lady in London put her finger on the very CRUX of *all this* world's tragedies, its sorrows, pains and sufferings, its heartaches, its poverty, illiteracy, filth and squalor, its crime, broken marriages, violence and wars!

The CAUSE of all unhappiness and wretchedness is WRONG education, and LACK of education!

And WHY?

Simply because the world has thrown away the BASIC TEXTBOOK of true education—the Holy Bible! The world has gotten all mixed up. The world, like this lady in London, has not realized just WHAT the Bible IS! The Bible IS the FOUNDATION of ALL KNOWLEDGE—and the true APPROACH to the acquisition of all discoverable knowledge.

What is the very TRUNK of the tree of knowledge?

It is the PURPOSE for the very existence of human life here upon the earth! It is to know the MEANING of life. It is to discern the TRUE values from the false. It is to know THE WAY to peace, happiness, abundant well-being, and eternal life; THE WAY to what fundamentalists call "salvation." To know just what IS "salvation?" Is it a PLACE—a geographical location; is it a changed *condition*? Is it a change of *composition*—or WHAT? And HOW do we obtain it? Is that

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Ambassador College Photo

### OUR COVER

En route to FAA Airport in Tahiti, the South Pacific, is France's President, Charles de Gaulle. Clad in a general's uniform, De Gaulle radiates new confidence from his open-air Citroën. Polynesians and Europeans of French descent bid him final farewell along route as he departs for Mururoa to witness French Pacific nuclear blast.

KNOWLEDGE important? Does the Bible teach it?

Is it rational? Does it make sense?

Nowhere but in the Bible can one obtain THIS BASIC NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE! Of course, there seems to be an almost endless amount of knowledge that MAN can learn, discover, or acquire by himself. God gave man eyes that see, ears that hear, hands that feel. God gave man a MIND that can reason, feet to carry him about, hands that can design and make instruments. He can make telescopes and microscopes. He can build and equip laboratories, conduct experiments. He can travel and explore.

But he cannot discover, by himself WHAT he, himself IS, or WHY he is. Did he just *happen*, without intelligent design, by a purposeless process called "evolution"? Or was he CREATED, and put here FOR A PURPOSE? — and *what* is that purpose?

True education must teach us the art of peaceful, happy, successful living. Yet our schools DO NOT teach our oncoming generations HOW to live happily! None of the rulers, the scientists, the educators knows THE WAY TO PEACE — whether in the home, between neighbors, or between NATIONS! True education must teach how to become physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually MATURE. Yet NO school, college or university on earth — save the three Ambassador Colleges, so far as I know, offers young people this FULL and COMPLETE and BALANCED education.

But the letter from this lady in London says "the Bible was not written to inform man's mind," and it is "not Biblical" to say that the Gospel is an EDUCATIONAL message!

THAT false supposition is a MAJOR CAUSE of all the world's unhappy ills!

WHY? How could that be?

Simply because that has been the common conception — since the so-called "old-fashioned gospel" of the evangelical fundamentalist Protestant denominations was first introduced as the "new-fangled" religion some 250 to 350 years ago.

This so-called "old-fashioned gospel" is NOT the true Gospel brought to mankind by Jesus Christ! It is NOT

"the faith once delivered to the saints." Yet millions have SUPPOSED it is! They have SUPPOSED that the "Gospel" is a sentimental, nebulous, ethereal sort of EMOTION — irrational — UNrelated to the MIND.

They SUPPOSE that THIS false "gospel" came out of the Bible! Therefore they ASSUME that the Bible is an impractical book of maudlin sentimentality, utterly unrelated to rational KNOWLEDGE. Thus the Bible has come to be regarded as outmoded superstition — a book of fables — or, in the Old Testament, the writings of an ancient race of Jews ignorantly searching for a national concept of a god.

So THINKERS, *without* thinking, and *without* checking to SEE what the Bible is, or what it says, have relegated it to the scrap heap of outworn superstition. The "EDUCATED" have thrown it out the window, without searching to PROVE their biased assumption.

And, the followers of evangelic Protestantism — many of them, at least — have SUPPOSED that "the Bible was not written to inform man's mind, but to change man's heart." They have accepted a sanctimonious sentimentalism, in which they get to "feel" that they are spiritual, and that they are "saved," largely shutting up their minds against the rational teaching of the Bible.

A very "religious" woman of this category once exclaimed, in surprised amazement, "Why you surely don't read the Bible to try to UNDERSTAND it, do you?"

"Why *of course!*" I replied emphatically. "Don't you ever read the Bible?"

"Oh yes! I read it every day," she said in a sanctimonious tone.

"Well then, do you mean you read it, but you don't let it SPEAK to you — you don't get any meaning from what you read?"

"But we're not *supposed* to understand the Bible," she persisted. Like the lady in London, she thought it was not written to inform man's MIND.

"Then WHY do you read it," I asked.

"Why, just for INSPIRATION," she replied.

Entirely too many people are DECEIVED by this false idea. NO WONDER the men of Science, and the Educators

of this world have ASSUMED that the Bible contains nothing RATIONAL — but only senseless, sentimental superstition, entirely irrational!

Well, let's *read* a few words of it! It won't poison your mind!

Not SUPPOSED to UNDERSTAND what we read in the Bible? Jesus said, regarding the GOSPEL: "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, *let him* UNDERSTAND) . . ." (Mat. 24:14-15).

Jesus said YOU'D BETTER UNDERSTAND what is written in the Bible! But apparently a lot of mind-blinding sentimentalists do not BELIEVE Jesus!

The apostle Paul, writing to the Gentile Ephesians regarding the Gospel, said, "...How that by revelation He [Christ] *made known* [UNDERSTOOD] unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may UNDERSTAND my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)" (Eph. 3:3-4).

To the Gentile-born Thessalonians, Paul wrote: "But I would not have you to be IGNORANT, brethren, concerning them which are asleep . . ." (I Thes. 4:13). Was *this* written to inform man's MIND — prevent IGNORANCE? But of course MOST people today, *because* they embrace a sanctimonious superstition INSTEAD OF the MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE, do not understand this!

The woman in London says, "The Bible was not written to inform the mind, but to change man's heart." If the Bible was written to *change* man's heart (AND IT WAS, INDEED!) pray tell me HOW what is written there can change man's HEART, if it is never understood by the MIND?

Just what does the Bible *mean* when it speaks of man's "heart"? The word "heart" is used, in this sense, to imply the ATTITUDE of MIND! The BIBLE says: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked . . ." (Jer. 17:9). It is not referring to the organ that pumps blood under man's

(Continued on page 46)

# 1966—THE YEAR OF VIOLENCE!

*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 pull out of the war right now — and have PEACE in full security for the future. Read THE ANSWER in this eye-opening article.*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT IS "New Year's Day" as I write. Most of this huge edition of *The PLAIN TRUTH* has already rolled off the giant full-color web-fed press. The Composing Room, the platemakers and the pressmen are waiting for this article to come off my typewriter, before they slap the last section of this January number on the press.

And as I write, a tremendous black banner headline screams across the first page of the *Los Angeles Times*: "YEAR-END MAYHEM."

## Gathering World News

Writing for *The PLAIN TRUTH* these days has come to be almost like writing for a daily newspaper. I began *that* experience many years ago. All my life — since age 18 — I have had to drive myself to meet publishing deadlines, on both newspapers and magazines.

In *The PLAIN TRUTH* Editorial offices today, *both* the *Associated Press* and the *United Press International* (UPI) teletypes continue clicking off the latest up-to-the-minute news from all parts of the world around the clock — day and night — 24 hours a day. We receive the FULL, complete news service of the world, just the same as all metropolitan daily newspapers, the big news magazines, and the radio and television networks and key stations.

## We Scooped News Magazines

And, in actual fact, a few times this past year, *The PLAIN TRUTH* has actually SCOOPED the big national news

magazines on important full-color pictures of outstanding news events of world importance. I wonder if our readers have noticed!

When Secretary of State Rusk went to Australia for a conference of world importance, our own *PLAIN TRUTH* writers and cameramen were there! You received a close-up full-color picture on the front cover of the November number. When President Johnson went to Canberra, the Australian capital, for talks of world importance, our *PLAIN TRUTH* correspondents and photographers were there — giving you only a few DAYS later large full-color pictures, shot close-up to the President and other world leaders. When the Manila Conference met, with President Johnson present, *PLAIN TRUTH* staff writers and photographers were right there — and we RUSHED not only the FACTS of the Conference, but the outstanding close-up pictures to our subscribers all over the world!

When the Commonwealth Conference convened in London, we reported to you the full story — and its real SIGNIFICANCE which no other publication gave — together with large full-color pictures of those heads-of-state taken at close range.

And so it goes. *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, and ten years!

*The PLAIN TRUTH* is absolutely UNIQUE. No other magazine ever published on earth is or has been like it. That is not a boast — just a plain statement of fact.

## NOW! What of "The Year That Was"?

But what of the year just past — and of the year we are entering today?

A year ago, like this year's much publicized Christmas "Truce" at Vietnam, and over New Year's, there was supposed to be a "truce." President Johnson had tried to turn it into a "Peace Effort." But he had to report its failure. Instead of peace, there was resumption of the war with ESCALATION through the year. People in the United States — and also in many other countries — are CONFUSED about the Vietnam war. They are confused about the purposes and objectives — IF ANY — of this war.

The United States is not winning. Yet the war has been stepped up

enormously during 1966. People see no results. People compare the size and power of the United States to that of North Vietnam—a little country hardly the size of one of our states, such as Florida. They can't understand why the United States—the MOST POWERFUL MILITARY NATION in the world—can't whip little North Vietnam.

Some are beginning to realize that in this battle against Communism, a battle for the MINDS of people, the United States is not winning the HEARTS of even the people of South Vietnam by military FORCE!

### WHY War Continues On

Now there *is* a reason why the Administration at Washington does not apply the kind of FORCE (which America *could* do) to win a military victory. But apparently, for some reason, the heads of state at Washington do not feel they can explain this to the people. I see no reason to hide it. IF the United States either pulled out of South Vietnam *without* a military victory—or applied enough force to bring about military victory and *then* pulled out, the government in that country does not have the strength or stability to retain its independence. The Communist hordes from the north would then roll right over South Vietnam, and many other countries, planting the Communist boot solidly on *all* southeast Asia—and then on down to AUSTRALIA. And from there—on around the world, until the United States would be fighting the Communist powers *right here at home* in North America!

The Administration feels—I feel sure—that they DON'T DARE end the Vietnam war. There would be no point in winning that "little" war, and then fighting a full-scale, all-out, NUCLEAR WAR OF SURVIVAL right here in our own country. So-o-o, the policy seems to be to just keep the war continuing on—with just enough force to prevent defeat. And that has come to mean a constantly *increasing* force.

It's 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."

So, during 1966, Communist propagandists in our midst have stirred up gullible people into demonstrations against the war—and into draft-card burnings, campus riots, and any trouble they could instigate.

Meanwhile, reports are going out over the news wires, reported in newspapers, and being broadcast in newscasts, that the United States is now suffering a Credibility Gap. The United States is being discredited at home and abroad.

### They Cry for PEACE!

Another very significant item in the news of a few days ago: Cardinal Spellman, of New York, was quoted in the news as saying that anything less than victory for the United States in the Vietnam war is inconceivable. An immediate protest was issued from the Vatican. The Papacy said the Cardinal's statement was contrary to the Pope's plea for PEACE!

So—the Pope pleads for PEACE! President Johnson works for PEACE! Prime Minister Wilson pleads for PEACE! President de Gaulle works for PEACE!

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 this war-and-PEACE situation.

WHY can't the heads of Government in the nations of the world 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!

This NEWS about the Pope, and the heads of nations talking PEACE—pleading for PEACE—working for PEACE—this CURRENT up-to-the-minute TODAY'S world news, was reported far ahead of time in Biblical PROPHECY!

Jeremiah prophesied the national and religious leaders would be crying, "PEACE! peace! when there is no peace" (Jer. 6:14; 8:11; 14:13-14). "... they shall seek peace, and there shall be none" (Ezekiel 7:25). WHY no peace? Because, "The WAY OF PEACE they know not..." (Isaiah 59:8).

The leaders cry for PEACE—work for PEACE—while they endorse, sanction, continue *the way* of WAR. They GO *the way* of WAR—saying, "We are striving for PEACE!"

### The CAUSE of War

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 which 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 seven thousand 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 TEN POINTS of God's basic spiritual LAW. I mean that point which 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 which disobeyed God's Law, and believed in WAR. It 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



Wide World Photo

North Vietnamese girls train for hand-to-hand combat using bamboo slivers for knives as part of a program of intense military preparation. This photo is one of a series just made available by Japanese sources.

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 to four 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 super-national 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" (Exodus 23:20-23).

God promised supernaturally to fight any invading enemy to protect the na-

tion 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 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 six thousand 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 ten 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 na-

(Continued on page 41)

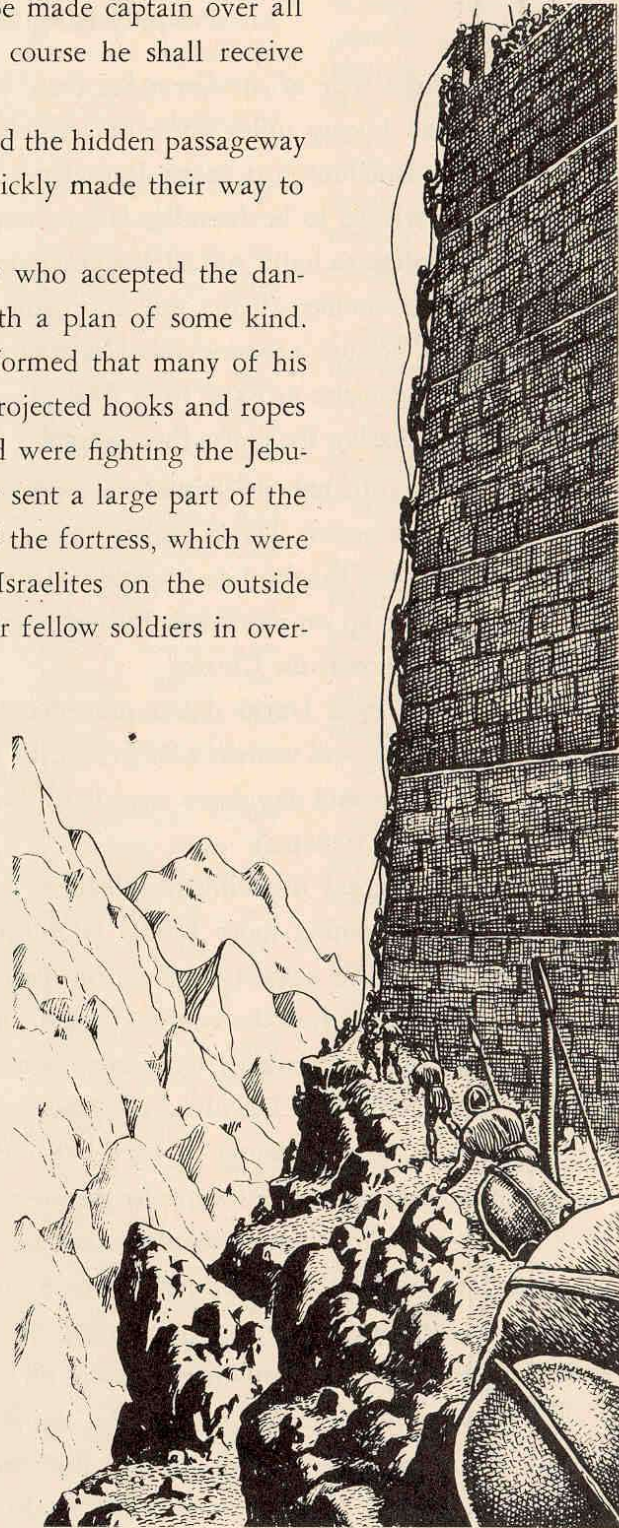
my army against the Jebusites will be made captain over all my troops," David announced. "Of course he shall receive extra pay."

Joab and a picked company found the hidden passageway and made their way inside. They quickly made their way to the wall.

David expected that any officer who accepted the dangerous offer would come to him with a plan of some kind. Only a short while later he was informed that many of his men, using an ingenious system of projected hooks and ropes had successfully scaled the walls and were fighting the Jebusites inside Jerusalem. David quickly sent a large part of the rest of his men to the heavy gates of the fortress, which were opened by his troops inside. The Israelites on the outside rushed through the gates to join their fellow soldiers in overcoming the Jebusites.

When David learned who had directed the successful plan, he wished that it could have been someone else. Joab was the man on whom David had pronounced terrible curses because of Joab's murdering Abner. Because this officer was an able military leader, he had been allowed to continue in David's army, though Israel's leader had little respect for him otherwise. Whatever his feelings toward Joab, David kept his promise and put him in command of all the troops that had come against Jerusalem.

The stubborn Jebusites who tried to hold the fortress, built 2,500 feet above sea level, were either killed or they surrendered. (II Samuel 5:6-10.)



Under Joab's clever leadership, a part of the Israelite army scaled Jerusalem's towering fortress wall and got inside the city.



### Friendly King Hiram

At the eastern edge of the Great Sea there was an ancient city known as Tyre, about a hundred twenty miles north of Jerusalem. When Hiram, the king of Tyre, heard that the Israelites had taken Jerusalem, he was pleased. As a gift to David, with whom he wished to be friendly, Hiram sent a group of expert carpenters and masons to Jerusalem to build special living quarters for the king of Israel. He also sent a supply of cedar lumber all the way from the coast. (II Samuel 5:11-12.) David appreciated this gesture of goodwill. His citizens weren't as capable of doing fine construction as were the artisans from Tyre. Israel's many years of trouble had prevented their developing the crafts they needed.

Comfortably situated in Jerusalem, and with his nation constantly becoming stronger and more united, David realized even more fully that God had given him the kingship. He was thankful and humble. He put great emphasis on obeying God's laws. He didn't let up on reminding the carnal-minded nation of the importance and necessity of obedience to the Creator.

Nevertheless, even David didn't immediately overcome a desire to increase the number of his wives, and women who lived with him only as the objects of his carnal affection. Many sons and daughters were born to David by his several wives and concubines. (II Samuel 5:13-16.)

During this period the Philistine leaders were receiving worrisome reports of how Israel was becoming more solidly established under David's leadership. They hadn't been very active against Israel in the past few years because they had hoped that civil strife would cause the twelve tribes to fall apart. At last they realized that if they expected to prevent Israel from becoming a strong nation again, they would have to attack Jerusalem before David's army grew too large.

Reports then began coming to David that the Philistines intended to do away with him even if they had to destroy Jerusalem and the whole army of Israel. David didn't ignore these threatening rumors. Instead, he moved a great part of his army to a rugged region just south of Jerusalem. A few days later he was informed that thousands of Philistine troops were moving through Judah and pouring into the Rephaim valley, a plain extending southwest of the city.

David knew that a battle couldn't be avoided, but he couldn't decide whether to attack the Philistines or wait for the Philistines to attack. He wisely asked God what to do, and inquired if the Israelites could look forward to be the winners in battle.

*(To be continued next issue)*

# 1966—THE YEAR OF VIOLENCE!

(Continued from page 5)

tion. 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 (write for free article, "Were the Ten Commandments in force before Moses?").

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 ETERNAL 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 ETERNAL hath made with you concerning all these words'" (Exodus 24:6-8).

## Government Protection Against War

NOTICE CAREFULLY! A *part* of God's PLATFORM OF GOVERNMENT which 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 Gentile 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 ETERNAL 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 face of such incredible MIRACLES, they began, even then, to LOSE FAITH.

These people—600,000 men, beside women and children; perhaps two to three or more MILLION of them—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 eye-sight, 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, complained, 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 to the Eternal. 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 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 Eternal, which HE WILL SHOW YOU today. . . . *The Eternal 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; Then the Eternal swept the sea along by a strong east wind, all night, till the waters parted; 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 Egyp-

tians!' 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 seashore; Israel saw the mighty action of the Eternal against the Egyptians, AND THE PEOPLE STOOD IN AWE OF THE ETERNAL, BELIEVING IN THE ETERNAL and in His servant Moses" (Exodus 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 Eternal . . . The Eternal is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation" (Exodus 15:1-2).

But now UNDERSTAND the lesson here!

Egypt is a type of SIN. 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 Abed-nego (Daniel 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" (James 2:19).

But faith and obedience must EN-DURE! 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 ETERNAL 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 they griped, murmured, accused, lost faith, and "tempted the ETERNAL" (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 ETERNAL, saying, 'Is the ETERNAL 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 (Exodus 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, a Gentile King, 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 their 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 1967, 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 could 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 February number.

graveyards in their disastrous, feeble, futile efforts to fly!

And if true—the fossil record would ABOUND with such evidence.

You would see fossil lizards with just a TINY HINT of a feather, growing from one elbow. You'd see dozens of other strange creatures, with feathers growing from their tails, their knees, and their heads. There would be broken, sprained, bedraggled, water-soaked feathers ALL THROUGH the fossil record—since evolution would have you believe the development from scales to feathers took MILLIONS and MILLIONS of years!

But why not look at it in REVERSE? What if, as the first "feathers" made their appearance on lizards, they were UNWELCOME?

How would YOU feel about a stupid feather growing from your tailbone?

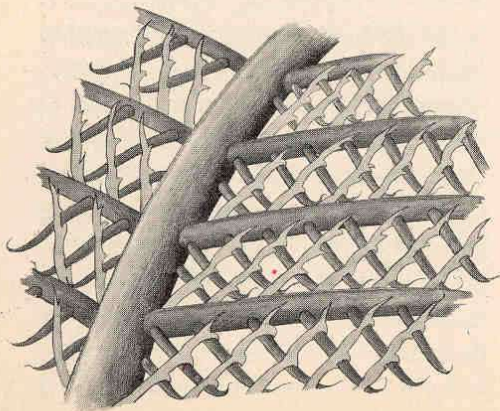
Probably—a little weird! Probably, you'd PLUCK IT OUT! (After all, people shave and shave and shave—and still the hair grows back—and people burn, and electrocute, and shave, and pluck, and even remove whole patches of skin, just to get rid of unsightly body hair.)

How would *any* self-respecting, slithery lizard feel when he suddenly found FEATHERS on his forearms? Think of what kind of feathers they'd be, with him dragging them in and out of holes in the rocks, over logs, into lakes and rivers, up thorn bushes, and across sandy deserts!

He'd probably tear the things out with his teeth in sheer frustration!

A greatly magnified artist's view of a feather! Each tiny member firmly interlocks with the other, making the feather one of the most powerfully built, yet lightest structures!

© Ambassador College



Then the evolutionary process (which has not been proved) would have been halted at this ridiculous "stage," and to this day, you would observe dejected lizards, pulling at broken "feathers," or trying to rub them off against brush and rocks.

No—evolutionary thought just DOES NOT HAVE THE ANSWER for the true origin of flight!

The fantastically complex, beautiful, inspiring species of birds around us, with their breathtaking ability, their almost incredible migratory powers, and their SPECIALLY built bodies just CANNOT BE EXPLAINED by millions of tons of MISSING EVIDENCE!

### Vast DIFFERENCE Between Birds and Reptiles!

Certainly, many creatures lay eggs. Crocodiles do. Birds do. But so do duck-billed platypuses, and so do insects.

But here, the similarities stop!

The huge, powerfully built, scaled and armor-plated reptiles, with their gigantic jaws, their meaty, bony, powerful tails, and their weathered, wrinkled, thick leather-like hides are about as FAR from being the "closest living relatives" to our birds as they can be!

Think of it!

Birds have tiny, fragile, porous AIR-FRAME skeletal structures. They have air sacs through their bodies, which act as "extra lungs." They have a *rapid* heartbeat, with *rapid* metabolism. They have a myriad of *different kinds* of beaks, claws, wings, and heads—each for a SET, SPECIFIC and very SPECIAL PURPOSE!

Man will stop at nothing—no matter HOW preposterous it seems—in his attempt to explain the marvelous CREATION without a great and Wonderful CREATOR!

One of the GREAT PROOFS OF GOD is DESIGN! It is FAR more logical to point to egg-laying, bony frames, and various similarities in characteristics in ALL creatures, as proof of ONE GREAT DESIGNER, who utilized ONE GREAT MASTER PLAN in His Creation, than to say one "evolved" from the other!

When you view a row of similar buildings, you observe they were de-

signed by the SAME ARCHITECT—you don't reason the little ones "evolved" from the big ones.

And when you see the similarities in "nature" you are seeing the SAME SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH! One GREAT ARCHITECT designed ALL LIFE—CREATED IT—PUT IT ON THIS EARTH FOR A GREAT PURPOSE!

What a truly breathtaking study it would be if, throughout ornithology, the wondrous, warm, loving, and often-times HUMOROUS wisdom of GOD were taught to our children, in place of the empty suppositions of the no-God theories of today!

Next month, we'll see some of the positive MARVELS in the bird world—and you'll be *inspired* by them!

## Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

chest. It is referring to man's NATURE—his attitude, or spirit, or tendency of MIND. It is referring to his natural CHARACTER!

But HOW does God go about *changing* this deceitful, wicked NATURE—this "heart"—this attitude of MIND?

WHAT is the Gospel Message for doing that—for giving "salvation"?

Jesus began His Gospel Ministry and teaching, saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the Gospel" (Mark 1:1, 14-15). Two conditions He said WE must perform, REPENT, and BELIEVE!

On the great day of Pentecost when Peter had received God's Holy Spirit, he explained the WAY of salvation: "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).

Again, same teaching: Two conditions—REPENT, and BELIEVE. To "be baptized" is the outward ceremony of the inward BELIEVING. Example: The eunuch said to Philip, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, if thou

BELIEVEST with all thine heart, thou mayest" (Acts 8:36-37).

Yes, TWO conditions. That, WE must do. Then GOD does the "saving" — the converting. God GIVES His Holy Spirit.

But now HOW does one REPENT? What does the word "repent" MEAN? The dictionary definition is, "To change one's MIND." "Godly sorrow worketh repentance" (II Cor. 7:10). This is done in and by the MIND!

Paul was concerned about the MIND. He said: "Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

How does one BELIEVE, in order to be "saved"? One must BELIEVE with the MIND.

The very last words of the apostle Peter's letters were: "But grow in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18).

What is the FOUNDATION of knowledge — the *starting approach* to wisdom? "The fear of the ETERNAL is the beginning of wisdom: a good UNDERSTANDING have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth forever" (Psalm 111:10).

Speaking of the Spiritual GIFTS — which God gives to His begotten children — to the heirs of salvation — we read this INSTRUCTION to the MIND:

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, Brethren, I would not have you ignorant." Through Paul, GOD says He does not want us to be IGNORANT — but UNDERSTANDING and KNOWLEDGABLE of MIND! Continue: "...Wherefore I give you to UNDERSTAND, ... Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ... For to one is given by the Spirit the word of WISDOM; to another the word of KNOWLEDGE by the same Spirit; to another FAITH by the same Spirit..." (I Cor. 12:1, 3, 4, 8-9). The MOST IMPORTANT of all the spiritual gifts which God gives His people are, first of all, WISDOM; second in importance, KNOWLEDGE; third, FAITH. These all are imparted to the MIND!

Jesus Christ said that we should actually LIVE BY "every Word of God" — that is, every word in the Bible (Luke 4:4). How may we do that, unless we allow God's Word to speak to, and instruct our MINDS?

What does STUDY mean? Do we "STUDY" with our MINDS — or our hearts? We find this INSTRUCTION and TEACHING: "STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (II Tim. 2:15). That is a COMMAND! One can STUDY, and *rightly* divide the Word of God *only with* his MIND!

God teaches — yes, COMMANDS! — that the Scriptures are to be STUDIED — with the MIND. Otherwise, how could we know God's WILL for us? So we find *this* command: "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but UNDERSTANDING what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17).

What a tragedy that so much of this world is DECEIVED.

MILLIONS have been deceived into a FALSE "salvation," inoculated with the spiritual poison that "salvation" and the "Gospel" are concerned only with a sanctimonious mental anesthetic, shutting up the MIND to God's real TRUTH, accepting the counterfeit of a sentimental "feeling" of piety.

And other MILLIONS have been conversely deceived into supposing that this ethereal impractical, irrational superstition of these professing but deceived "Christians" constitutes the teaching of the Bible. So *these* millions, in vanity wanting to be considered rational, and educated — regarding themselves as *thinkers* — throw away the Bible without so much as an examination of its contents.

BOTH, these "pious" sentimentalists, and these "intellectuals," are DECEIVED! Going off in opposite directions — to the opposite extremes from the TRUTH, they are both headed for the same ultimate destination, unless there can be a mind-opening!

The Bible is the very SOURCE of RATIONALISM, of basic TRUTH. Also it is the very SOURCE of the only TRUE Gospel and genuine SALVATION. Surely it is the Book almost NOBODY knows!

What, then, IS the Holy BIBLE?

It is the revelation of that BASIC all-important knowledge which is otherwise utterly inaccessible to the mind of man — the knowledge of WHAT man is; of WHY man is; of the true values; of THE WAY to peace,

happiness, abundant well-being, success, and of ETERNAL life.

It is the FOUNDATION of *all* knowledge — scientific, physical, and spiritual. *Not* the sum-total of knowledge — far, far from it! It is the *starting point* — the BASIS, providing the proper *approach* toward the acquisition of knowledge that *is* discoverable by man.

It contains history, prophecy, wisdom, spiritual knowledge, TRUTH.

No one can be properly EDUCATED except by and through it. No one can know the way to eternal life, except by what it contains.

Yes, I REPEAT! — "the Gospel Message IS an educational Message!" It is RATIONAL! It MAKES SENSE! And it is REAL!

## What our READERS SAY

(Continued from inside front cover)

old bogeyman... it inclines me to the belief that there must be a government subsidy for printing this kind of anti-Soviet propaganda."

Man, Coventry,  
United Kingdom

• For years, *The PLAIN TRUTH* has warned of a THIRD power bloc in the world which will supersede Russia as the greatest threat to peace! As a sleuth, you receive an "F."

## GERMANY

(Continued from page 22)

ing power and urgency today. When are we going to WAKE UP?

If we should fail to warn you of the meaning of world events, your blood would be on our heads!

But you *are* being warned through the pages of the magazine you now hold in your hands!

God requires *you* to decide whether to seek Him and His protection — or go the way of the world around you. God has provided a way of escape from the coming catastrophe. Will you heed?

Before you do another thing, sit down and write for the free article: "There is a Way of Escape!" It will open your eyes to the truth!