

THE PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



**BEHIND THE POPE'S HISTORIC
VISIT TO AMERICA**



Personal from...

Who Is Lord? Caesar or Christ?

Now politicians trying to take over and run the Worldwide Church of God are saying that I, as an apostle, have no voice or authority in how Church funds are expended, but only in what they term “ecclesiastical functions”—while on the other hand Mr. Stanley R. Rader, because he was not yet ordained, has no authority in the Church’s “ecclesiastical” affairs.

In other words, the politicians are trying to tell us on what basis the Church of God must be organized.

This Church was founded in 31 A.D. by Jesus Christ. The present era of that same Church was founded in the autumn of 1933, according to the biblical pattern as ordained by the Almighty God. The present era was started in Oregon, not in California. Yet California politicians are now trying to tell us how it should be administered.

First, although it is organized according to God’s pattern in the Bible, it is not a secular organization, but a spiritual organism.

In I Corinthians 12, the Word of God tells us that in addition to spiritual GIFTS, “there are DIFFERENCES OF ADMINISTRATIONS, but the same Lord. . . . But all these [spiritual gifts] worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he [God] will. . . . For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? . . . But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him [not politicians]. . . . And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles . . .” (verses 5, 11, 14-15, 18, 28).

In Ephesians 4 these ranks are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. They are for the Church’s WORK (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Very evidently these officers are listed as ranks in authority. For example, only four prophets are mentioned in the New Testament, and not one set any church doctrines or beliefs. Not one exercised any authority. There are no prophets in the Church today, and no record of any for 1900 years.

The word “apostle” means, literally, “one sent forth”

with the gospel message. However, Matthew 16:18 and 18:1-2, 18 show that an apostle carries top authority on the human level, under Christ. For example, he is in authority over finances for spreading the gospel though financial details may be delegated to one under him.

When the Church of God was founded in 31 A.D., it was founded, NOT on any form enforced by civil political government, but founded on the apostles (New Testament) and prophets (Old Testament), Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). The living Jesus Christ was the HEAD of the Church. It was a spiritual organism, not a secular organization. From the very beginning it was opposed by civil political government. Its original membership of 120 (Acts 1:15) started that day of Pentecost. That same inaugural day, God added about three thousand members to the church—all baptized that day.

For some two years the membership, under the leadership of the apostles, and of Christ from heaven, multiplied.

Jesus had commissioned His apostles to be sent forth proclaiming Christ’s gospel message of the Kingdom of God. In spite of *political secular government*, they started going into all the world with this Kingdom message. By what means? By the means then available to them—afoot, and by sailboat. They certainly did not consult the political governments regarding their manner of going forth into all the world with the gospel.

After two years, severe opposition set in. Much of it was by false apostles, but these soon sought political government persecution and opposition against proclaiming Christ’s gospel. Peter, John, Paul and others were thrown into jail overnight—but God by supernatural power released them. Though persecuted, even as the same Church is today, the Work of proclaiming the Kingdom of God went on.

In our day Jesus Christ prepared and raised up Herbert W. Armstrong as His chosen apostle to carry on the proclaiming of the gospel worldwide, and ministering to the membership in local congregations.

In our day we live in a totally (Continued on page 44)

WHAT IS THE TRUE GOSPEL?

Jesus brought big news—the most important news announcement ever reported to man. It is the advance news of how world peace will come.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Some may wonder, what possible connection could there be between the problems of governments and the message of Jesus Christ?

Neither religion nor government nor education has found the *cause* of the frightful evils in today's world, nor have they found the solutions to the tragic problems of suffering humanity. They fail utterly to point the way to or to produce peace! The evolutionary theory gives no explanation for the real vital problems of today's very sick world. It offers no solutions. But the gospel of Jesus Christ—if they only knew what it is—does give the rational and true explanation, and it outlines the solution that will be made!

But, one may ask in bewilderment, doesn't *everybody* know what is the gospel of Jesus Christ? Hasn't it been preached for more than 1900 years?

Incredible or not, the answer is an emphatic NO! Christ's gospel was not proclaimed to the world for over 18½ centuries!

That, I know, is a staggering statement. It may sound absurd.

People will ask, "But haven't they preached Christ to the world? Haven't they pleaded BELIEVE ON CHRIST and ACCEPT CHRIST? Haven't mil-

lions believed on Christ? Haven't millions accepted Christ—professed Christ? Do not millions call their religion after His name—the Christian religion? And isn't Christianity one of the largest religions on earth?" Quite true.

Christ Is Not the Gospel

But preaching Christ is not preaching Christ's gospel! Christ was the messenger who brought the gospel—the messenger God sent with a MESSAGE for all mankind—and that message is the gospel. The very word "gospel" means "good news."

Jesus Christ, the person, is the greatest, most important person ever to walk on this earth. But He, as a person, is not the gospel. The miracles He performed are not the gospel. The things Jesus did are not the gospel. What He preached—the tremendous good news He announced—is the GOSPEL.

Tune in your television set any Sunday morning, and you'll see the weekly religious diet and hear nearly all preachers telling you *about* Christ—urging you to believe on Christ—to accept Christ—telling you what a wonderful person He was. They will be called "gospel programs." They will talk about getting

out the gospel. But Christ the person is not the gospel! I know that sounds incredible—because they call what they are saying "the gospel."

Millions of viewers and listeners have ASSUMED they were hearing the gospel. People have heard all their lives the preaching about Jesus Christ the person which has been *called* "the gospel." People have simply taken it for granted that they were hearing the gospel. So they accept what they have heard *as* the gospel when, in actual fact, they have never *heard* the gospel of Jesus Christ—the message—the news announcement.

Believers Wanted to Kill Christ

What they have accepted without question *as* the gospel offers no solution to humanity's sufferings, frustrations and indescribable evils! The true gospel Jesus brought proclaims the solution to the world's troubles, but men rejected that gospel and crucified Jesus for preaching it!

There were those who BELIEVED ON Christ, just as millions do today—millions who have not heard His gospel!

Notice! Read it fully in the Bible. It's an eye-opener—for the Bible doesn't SAY what you've supposed.

Jesus was speaking in the Temple at Jerusalem: "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31).

Understand it! Jesus' word was His message—the gospel He was teaching. He was saying, in other words: "If you continue DOING what the gospel teaches, you will be my disciples."

But they refused to *believe* what He taught—His gospel—or to do what He taught. They believed on Him—they believed in His identity—they believed He was the Messiah—the Christ—but they did not BELIEVE HIM—what He said!

Continuing, "... but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father ..." (verses 37-38). These very people who BELIEVED ON HIM sought to kill Him because *they hated what He said*—His gospel—the very solution to mankind's troubles—the way that will usher in peace, prosperity, happiness and every good state.

These who believed on Him continued to argue. Then He said: "But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God ..." (verse 40). Jesus continued: "... I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me" (verse 42). Further: "And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not" (verse 45). Millions today believe on Christ, but do NOT believe His gospel in most cases because they have never heard it. They have heard of Him—of what He did—but not His message of the solution to all man's troubles and how to gain eternal life in joyful happiness, abundance and accomplishment.

A Messenger and His Message

You will have noticed, above, how Jesus stressed the fact that God, His Father, had sent Him. What He taught, He had received from God.

Notice now this prophecy in Malachi: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me ..." (Malachi 3:1). He is speaking here of John the Baptist (Mark 1:2), but primarily as a type

of another to prepare the way before His second coming (Malachi 4:5-6).

Continuing, "... and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in ..." (Malachi 3:1). Jesus came as a messenger—the messenger of the COVENANT. This is speaking of the New Covenant. Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant, an agreement between God and the people of Israel, which set them up as one of the kingdoms on earth named after their earthly father, Israel (Jacob).

This prophecy leads us directly to the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in Mark 1:1: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mark 1:1-4).

This shows John preparing the way before the *beginning* of Jesus' announcement of His gospel. The next nine verses describe John's baptizing and his announcing of the coming of the Messiah, the baptism of Jesus and Jesus' head-on confrontation with and conquering of Satan, by which He qualified to restore on earth the government of God.

Then, verses 14-15: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching ..." What? What gospel? "... preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled. ..." How fulfilled? Jesus had just qualified to restore and rule that government. It could not have been announced sooner—"the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Believe what? He said we must believe the gospel—the good news of the Kingdom of God.

But since late in the first century, that gospel has not been preached to the world! Almost nobody today knows *what* the Kingdom of God is! Millions think it is a church! Other millions think it is some ethereal nothing "set up in men's hearts." Some have even thought it was the British Empire. (For a full explanation, write for the free, eye-opening

booklet *Just What Do You Mean ... the Kingdom of God?*)

The word "gospel" means "good news." It was an advance NEWS announcement. It was tremendous, wonderful news—the biggest, most important news ever announced to mankind! Yet it has been suppressed! Your Bible says ALL NATIONS have been deceived.

The leaders in Judaea and Galilee in Jesus' day rejected that wonderful news. Many of those who BELIEVED ON CHRIST rejected it, sought to kill Him for teaching it, as shown above, and finally did have Him killed. The apostles who went out proclaiming that wonderful news were martyred for preaching it—with the possible exception of John. After 3½ years of Jesus' ministry and preaching to as many as five thousand men at a time, only 120 were still accepting the gospel and continuing in it by the time of His ascension to heaven—forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3, 14-15). Soon a great persecution set in during the time of the apostles' preaching (Acts 8:1). After the Romans took Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Roman persecution virtually snuffed out all true gospel preaching. For the next 18½ centuries, Christ was preached to the world, but NOT HIS GOSPEL!

What Is That Kingdom?

Just what is a kingdom? If I tell you that King Hussein is the king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, you understand what I mean. It is not some nonexistent, ethereal nothing in Hussein's heart.

A kingdom is a government. It is ruled by laws. The function of government is to administer and enforce those laws.

Did you ever hear of a nation or its government without laws? Of course not! The Kingdom of God once ruled this earth. It ruled with the laws of the Creator God. As long as it ruled, the whole earth was filled with peace, with HAPPINESS and JOY. Then that government was taken away, and I do not mean in the time of ancient Israel—but all that is another story.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is a NEWS announcement about GOVERNMENT
(Continued on page 42)

Were the TEN COMMANDMENTS in Force Before Moses?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The world is plagued with many times more troubles and evils today than when I was a boy. There was only a fraction of the crime. Divorces and broken homes were rare by comparison.

But today crime, revolt, riots, violence, wars—and the nuclear mass-destruction weapons—present the world with the supreme problem of human survival!

Why?

And what possible connection could that have with whether the Ten Commandments existed before Moses? Plenty!

There has to be a *cause* for every effect. Do we dare recognize the sobering fact that the world is bringing all these frightening conditions on itself?

The Very Basis of Life

There is a creation. Of necessity there has to be a Creator. And the Creator set in living motion invisible spiritual laws to *cause* human happiness, peace, and abundant well-being.

The cause of all human troubles, woes and evils? Man's rejection and transgression of those laws!

That overall invisible spiritual law

is the way of giving, helping, serving, cooperating—the way of outgoing concern for others. That *way* produces all good. And that way of life is simply the way of the Ten Commandments.

Most people ignore that law—and live diametrically contrary to it. Yet some will say, “But I’ve been taught that the Ten Commandments were done away, abolished by Christ, and we don’t have to obey God’s law any more.”

But when a law of God is actually in living motion like the invisible physical laws of gravity or inertia, it is something far more than a church ritual, to be observed during one period and abolished in another. To argue that this inexorable spiritual law is abolished is like setting a religious doctrine that the laws of gravity and inertia are abolished—and telling people that they may freely leap off a high precipice or a tall building. But if they do, the law will exact its penalty.

All the harm—all the suffering—all the evils that have beset this world for six thousand years are the result of violating God’s law!

Yet many have been erroneously taught that the Ten Commandments were merely a law devised by Moses, and given to the children of Israel—and *them only*—and that the Ten Commandments never existed until

Moses. And, further, that they existed only until Christ.

The Paramount Question of Your Life

This is no mere, irrelevant theological or religious question. This is the very essence of your life—your home life, your social life, your business life. It even has an important connection with inheriting eternal life—or eternal death!

It’s true that you cannot *earn* eternal life by obeying the commandments. But it’s just as true that you can earn—and get paid—eternal death for unrepented transgression.

It’s the very crux question behind world troubles today. Strange as it may seem, the Ten Commandments have been in full force and effect since human life has existed on this earth!

They constitute a spiritual law that is inexorable and eternal—a law that is love and the fulfilling of which is love—a law that was set in motion for our happiness to produce everything good which we have foolishly denied ourselves. These Ten Commandments are entirely different and separate from the ritualistic law of Moses, which was just a code of *physical* laws, not spiritual laws.

Proof That Commandments Were in Force at Beginning

The Ten Commandments were first made known to Adam in the Garden

of Eden. Why? Because that is the very law that he broke in the "original" sin. Every one of the Ten Commandments was then in full force and effect. It was sin to transgress any one of them between the time of Adam and Moses. You can read this in your own Bible.

When did this thing that we call "sin" start anyway? Did it start with Moses?

We read the answer in Romans 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and *death by sin*; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." And in verse fourteen, "Death reigned from Adam to Moses."

"Sin is not imputed when there is no law," you read in the 13th verse. Yet sin was imputed, because death did reign from Adam to Moses. There must then have been a law from Adam's time.

What Is Sin?

Is there a Bible definition? Is there any place in the Bible where it says, "Sin is . . ." and then follows the definition?

The answer is in I John 3:4: "Sin is the transgression of the law."

Sin is the transgression of the law! Do you realize that God Almighty is not only the Creator of matter—solid matter, liquid matter and gaseous matter, as we know it—but God also is the Creator of force and of energy and of every power and of every law—the laws of physics, the laws of chemistry, every law that is in motion and is energized? Do you realize that God Almighty also created a spiritual law? That spiritual law regulates your happiness.

Happiness Instead of Suffering

You want happiness. You want to be happy above all things. Everyone does. You want to lead a life that is comfortable, pleasing and pleasant. You would like to lead a life that is full and abundant and interesting—as a matter of fact, a little bit exciting all the way along—wouldn't you? And you want a life where everything is pleasant, where there are no pains or suffering.

You don't want a life of boredom. You don't want a life of sorrow, pain

or suffering. You want a happy life, and you would love to feel well, jolly and joyful—happy all the time.

You could have a life like that. Everyone could.

This entire world could be like that—if we only understood the way!

God Almighty in His great love for humanity set a law in motion. That law was designed to produce just that kind of life for you.

But you're not living that way. You're breaking that law and that law has been breaking *you* a long time, because that's precisely what happens.

That law is merely love, and love is an outgoing concern, not an in-coming lust. It's the way of love. It's the



All the evils that have beset this world for six thousand years are the result of violating God's law!



way that love should be expressed—love toward God and love toward neighbor.

The apostle Paul tells us what sin is in Romans 7:7: "What shall we say then? Is the law sin?" People think that the law is all wrong; that it's sin. Paul continues, "God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law." In other words, by the law is the *knowledge* of sin, as Paul had said previously in Romans 3:20.

The law gives you the knowledge of what sin is. It directs you and guides you as to what you ought to do.

What Is the Law?

You don't know what is right and what is wrong except as God reveals. Paul would not have known what sin was if the law had not told him. Human nature will not teach you. Human nature is evil. As Paul says, in

Romans 7:7, "I had not known lust," that is, he wouldn't have known that lust was evil or wrong; he didn't have such instinctive knowledge, "except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." The law that said, "Thou shalt not covet," taught the apostle Paul that coveting is wrong—harmful—sin. And that is the tenth commandment. So the law that taught that principle is the Ten Commandments!

In Romans 7:12, Paul says that "the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." That isn't what you have been taught today, is it? Many people have been reared in the belief that the law is unholy, that it is altogether wrong, and that Christ had to do away with it.

In verse 14 of Romans 7, the apostle Paul says, "For we know that the law is spiritual." The law is *spiritual*.

Paul said he was *carnal*. He was fleshly and material. So are you. So am I. But the law is a spiritual principle, and it regulates your happiness—a spiritual matter.

The Original Sin

Every one of the Ten Commandments was in existence during the time of Adam. It was sin to break any one of them prior to the time of the law of Moses. The law of Moses, we know, didn't come until the time of Moses—430 years after the time of Abraham. But the spiritual law has been in existence from Adam!

The original human sin is recorded in Genesis, beginning with chapter 2, verse 15: "And the Eternal took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it. And the Eternal God *commanded* the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat."

God gave him permission. God is Supreme Ruler. He is Lord—Master. God is giving the orders. He is teaching. The man didn't know. The man had to be told. He had to be taught and instructed. Here is the instruction—the command, and a sentence. Notice: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou

shalt surely die.” That is, to take to yourself the authority to produce the *knowledge* of what is good and what is evil — to decide what *you* think is right and what is wrong, will result in death.

“The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). God was preaching the gospel to the man. There it is! The very fact that God said, “In the day that thou eatest thereof . . .” shows that the man was *allowed* to do it, that the man was a free moral agent, that the man himself had to make the choice. God designed that you and I *choose* whether we will obey His law or not. Animals don’t make a choice. Animals have instinct.

God ordained that you and I must make a choice. And if we choose the right way to live, according to that law which God set in motion to produce happiness and contentment and a full, thrilling, enjoyable life, we can have it. But if we’re going to choose to live the other way, if we are going to take to ourselves to decide what is right, if we are going to do what is right in our own eyes—there is no other way that is right but God’s law—and we shall automatically choose to transgress God’s law—we’re going to have suffering, sorrows and curses. That’s what mankind has always done.

The First Lie

To continue: “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Eternal God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, *lest ye die*. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall *not surely die*” (Genesis 3:1-4).

“You shall not surely die”—there was the first lie that we have any historic record of. It was not told by a man, but by the devil. “You will not surely die.” “You’re an immortal soul.” Or, “You have an immortal soul that won’t die.” That’s what the devil said.

Continuing: “For God doth know that in the day that ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and *ye shall be as gods*, knowing good and evil.”

In other words, it is the prerogative of God to determine what is right—and what is wrong. Why? Because God created and put in living motion the spiritual law that is the way that is good—that produces good—and the transgression of which automatically produces evil results. To create and put into living action can only be done by the Creator. But for any but God to decide—to assume the knowledge of what is good and what is evil—is to assume and arrogate to himself the prerogative of God—to elevate himself to be as God! Satan tempted the first humans to intellectual vanity—to produce the *knowledge* of what is good or evil by their own minds.

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food”—she used her own judgment and didn’t obey the law of God—she used her own human reason—“. . . the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise; she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat”—the first human sin!

The Commandments Broken

Analyze exactly what happened. God is the One we obey. Do you realize that’s one of the definitions of God? Whoever you obey is your god. Whatever you *serve* is your god. It might be your automobile. Maybe it’s an idol. Whatever it is, that’s your god.

Adam and Eve had another god in place of the true God—they obeyed Satan—they broke the first commandment. They dishonored their only parent. How? In Luke 3:38 Adam is called the “son of God,” because God created him. Adam was the son of God by a direct creation. Adam was not God’s son by begetting or birth.

Adam not only dishonored his only parent, but he also broke the tenth commandment. There was *lust* when the woman saw that it was good for

food and desired to make one wise; vanity, egotism and pride entered into her heart.

Lust is what usually causes a person to have an inordinate desire to have something that is not legal. Lust causes you to steal, and Adam and Eve broke the eighth commandment by stealing what was not theirs.

Four of the Ten Commandments were broken in the original sin.

And in other ways *every one* of the Ten Commandments was actually broken in that very first sin.

How Did Cain Sin?

Consider their first son. Genesis 4, beginning with verse 6: “And the Eternal said unto Cain [their elder son], Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well,” God said, “shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, SIN lieth at the door.”

Notice what sin was in those days—in the days of Cain! “Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and *slew him*.”

And the Eternal said unto Cain, “Where is Abel thy brother?” And he replied, “I know not.” He lied and broke another one of the commandments. That was sin, too.

He was a murderer. Sin did lie at the door.

Cain broke the sixth and the ninth commandments. Every one of these commandments was known from creation, because God had revealed them to Adam. He thus revealed them to mankind at that time. But humanity has rejected them.

Idolatry Committed Before Abraham

Notice Joshua 24:2, “And Joshua said unto the people, Thus saith the Eternal God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and *they served other gods*.” Idolatry was a sin in the days *before* Abraham, and that was 430 years before the law of Moses!

Now turn to Genesis 35:1-4:
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PROPHECY

(Continued from page 13)

reveal that the revived Roman Empire will invade the United States and Great Britain as well!)

Enter Russia

But all will not go well for Europe. Daniel 11:44 notes that eventually "tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him [the king of the north or the beast]." Threatening news from the Soviet Union—long covetous of the strategic oil-rich Middle East—and the Orient will distress the European dictator. He will launch a blitzkrieg war against the Communist East: "He shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." (The European offensive is also described in Revelation 9:1-12.)

The Communist hordes of Eurasia will then counterattack against Europe—with an army of 200,000,000 men! (Revelation 9:16.) Full-scale world war will erupt—a final, climactic global conflict!

The two great power blocs—Europe and the Soviet Communist combine—will become engaged in a desperate struggle for world domination. As the conflict escalates, all nations of the earth will become involved. The beast will marshal his armies at a place called Armageddon—the Valley of Jezreel around Megiddo, 55 miles north of Jerusalem. They will then converge on Jerusalem for the final battle, where the revived Roman Empire will make its stand against the oncoming Eurasian hordes.

Mankind will stand on the very threshold of total annihilation!

Christ Returns

But God will suddenly intervene mightily in world affairs! Jesus Christ will return from heaven with a vast army to put an end once and for all to international warfare. Instead of fighting against each other, the world's armies will turn their attack against *Him*, culminating in the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:12-16; Joel 3:1-2, 9-17).

Christ will destroy the beast and the false prophet, and with them the world's armies gathered at Jerusalem: "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him [Christ] that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him. . . . These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:19-20).

As Daniel concluded, the king of the north "shall come to his end, and none shall help him" (11:45).

With the second coming of Christ, the "times of the Gentiles" will at last come to an end. Christ will deliver Jerusalem from the Gentile forces. All Israel will be gathered from captivity and be brought back to the promised land. Christ—the conquering Messiah, the *true* Mahdi—will then establish His government on the earth—with Jerusalem as world headquarters. Universal peace and prosperity will at last be on the way.

Recalcitrant elements—including a remnant of Soviet forces and their allies (Ezekiel 38 and 39)—will make one last assault against newly repatriated Israel, but they too will be put down by divine intervention.

Finally, all nations will at last dwell together in peace and harmony.

Watch the Middle East!

For over 40 years, *The Plain Truth* magazine has urged its readers to watch the Middle East—the world's most dangerous hot spot. In the December 1938 issue—fully a decade prior to the creation of the State of Israel—Editor Herbert W. Armstrong warned that "in due time, all nations of the world will be fighting over possession of Palestine and the city of Jerusalem. . . ."

Despite current hopes for a negotiated settlement of the Mideast dispute, Bible prophecy paints a bleak picture of events to come in the months and years just ahead. So keep your eyes on the Arab world, and on Jerusalem. Events soon to occur there will have far-reaching ramifications. They will change the course of your life, and the history of the world! □

COMMANDMENTS

(Continued from page 24)

"And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the *strange gods* that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: and let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. And they gave unto Jacob *all the strange gods which were in their hand.*"

They could hold these gods in their hands. Notice: "And all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem." It was a sin to worship idols, and they had idol gods in their own hands.

The Third Commandment

Notice the third commandment in Leviticus 18:3, 21, 27. "After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do." Here's the instruction of God to the Israelites in the time of Moses, but it was sin to break that third commandment before Moses!

"And after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, *shall ye not do*: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. . . . And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, *neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God*: I am the Eternal."

There's profanity, or profaning the name of God. Now the 27th verse: "For *all these abominations* have the men of the land *done*, which were *before you*"—before this generation during which the law of Moses came.

In previous generations prior to the law of Moses, "All these abominations have the men of the land *done*, which were before you, and the land is defiled." It was sin. One of the sins was to profane the name of God. Therefore, profanity—taking the

name of God in vain—was a sin before Moses.

The Fourth Commandment Observed

Coming to the fourth commandment in Exodus 16:4, “Then the Eternal said unto Moses”—this was two weeks before they came to Mount Sinai and before the law of Moses was given or before they ever knew there would be a law of Moses—“Behold, 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.*”

Here is God’s law. He was going to see whether the people would obey it *before* the law of Moses was given—*weeks before* they even came to Mount Sinai, where the law of Moses was added.

Verse 5: “And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.”

Now notice verse 22: “And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much.”

Verse 23: Moses said to the people, “This is that which the Eternal hath said, Tomorrow is *the rest of the holy sabbath* unto the Eternal.”

Then on the following day, verses 25-27, Moses said: “Eat that today; for *today is a sabbath* unto the Eternal, today ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but *on the seventh day, which is the sabbath*, in it there shall be none. And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the sabbath for to gather, and they found none!”

God was showing them by miracles from heaven which day was the seventh day. Time had not been lost.

Some of them thought it didn’t make any difference. They would wait to go out on the following day—on the Sabbath—but there was none! Did that make any difference? “And the Eternal said unto Moses, *How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?* See, for that the Eternal hath given you the sabbath, therefore, he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye

every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. *So the people rested on the seventh day*” (verses 28-30).

That was weeks before they came to Mount Sinai—before the law of Moses! It was the law of God at that time.

The Other Commandments

Now turn to Genesis 9:21. “And he [Noah] drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father’s nakedness.”

Continuing: “Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his [Ham’s] younger son [Canaan] had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the Eternal God of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant” (Genesis 9:21-26).

Dishonoring a parent was a sin, and a curse was pronounced in those days.

And now notice the seventh commandment against adultery. Genesis 39:7-9: “And it came to pass after these things, that his [Joseph’s] master’s wife cast her eyes upon Joseph.” This occurred when Joseph was in Egypt, long, long before the law of Moses. “And she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master’s wife, Behold, my master knoweth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; there is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, *and sin against God?*”

Adultery was sin—hundreds of years before the physical law of Moses.

Now we come to the eighth commandment, against stealing. In Genesis 30, verse 33: “Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep,

that shall be counted *stolen with me.*” This is Jacob and his experience with Laban. Stealing was a sin.

We come to the ninth commandment about lying: Genesis 20, the first nine verses: “And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah.” He was going to take her as his wife. He would have committed adultery with her, but God sent an angel to him in a dream to warn him. “Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart.” The king, remember, heard Abraham say of Sarah, “She’s my sister.” “And also I”—God says—“*withheld thee from sinning against me:* therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.”

Abraham was lying. It would also have been a sin to commit adultery. Of course, Sarah was Abraham’s half sister; but, nevertheless, the *intent* was all wrong. It was a lie.

What about coveting? Notice Genesis 6:1-3, 5-6: “And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. . . . God saw that the wickedness”—sin—“of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Eternal that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.” Coveting was a sin even in those days!

There it is. Every one of the Ten Commandments was in existence from creation. It was sin to break any of them between the time of Adam and Moses. What are *you* going to do about it? □

ADDITIONAL READING

For a thorough study of how each of God’s Ten Commandments applies to us today, write for our free, fully illustrated booklet entitled *The Ten Commandments*. (See worldwide addresses on the inside front cover.)

TRUE GOSPEL?

(Continued from page 3)

MENT! The heavens have received Christ until the time of RESTORATION of that government (Acts 3:19-21).

Who Is to Be King?

A kingdom consists of 1) a king, or chief ruler with all his officers who rule over 2) people within 3) certain boundaries in which the ruler has jurisdiction, with 4) a system of laws and government.

First, then, notice WHO is to be the king of the Kingdom of God. Look at the prophecy in Isaiah 9:6-7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever."

Next, in the New Testament, just prior to Jesus' birth, an angel spoke to Mary, who was to become Jesus' mother: "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for . . . thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:30-33).

When Jesus was on trial for His life, Pilate asked: "Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world . . ." (John 18:37). But in the preceding verse Jesus had explained, "My kingdom is *not* of this world. . . ."

A World-Ruling Government

The prophet Daniel foretold the Kingdom of God. In the second chapter, speaking of the kings over governments in this, *our* generation, he prophesied: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a

kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

In the seventh chapter is a prophecy of the succession of world empires, beginning with King Nebuchadnezzar's Chaldean Empire, called Babylon, through the Persian Empire, the Greco-Macedonian Empire and its four divisions, followed by the Roman Empire, the Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages, and its final revival in Europe now forming "United States of Europe"—a revived "Holy Roman Empire": "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:27).

Next, consider the people who will constitute the Kingdom of God. I have shown you Jesus said it was a future Kingdom—not of this present world or age. Daniel's prophecy shows the government will be given over to "the saints," yet Christ is to be the King.

The Future Rulers

There will be *two classes* of people when the Kingdom of God is set up. One, those whom Daniel called saints, resurrected to immortality, organized into the executive branch of the government, who shall rule under Christ. The other, those mortal humans left alive on earth. Both are referred to in many scriptures.

But Jesus explained to the Pharisee Nicodemus about those who shall bear rule in the government. It's in the third chapter of John. Yet it is misinterpreted by almost every denomination in the Christian religion, in spite of the fact it NEEDS NO INTERPRETATION. It is clear and plain in the Bible—especially when considered along with many other passages on the same subject.

Jesus said: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:3, 6). A mortal human cannot enter into or

see the Kingdom of God. Only those born of the Spirit (which is God), and who are no longer material human flesh from the ground, but who *are spirit*—composed of spirit, not of matter—can enter that kingdom.

Yet, because Christ's gospel is not preached (except on our programs and in our publications), this birth is commonly either rejected or represented as an "experience" when one "accepts" or "receives" Christ. Space does not permit a thorough explanation with all the pertinent scriptures here, but the reader is invited to request our free booklet *Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?* and also the free booklet *Why Were You Born?* They cover thoroughly, intriguingly, the most important thing in your life—the PURPOSE for which you were put here on earth, why you are, where you are going and the way. It's the missing dimension in knowledge!

But let me cite just two more brief verses of Scripture that show who will be ruling, under Christ, in the government of God over this earth. In Revelation 3:21, Christ is speaking. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

And it is Christ speaking also in Revelation 2:26-27: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give *power over the nations*: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."

The Gospel Relation to Government

This has been a very condensed summary of precisely WHAT Christ's gospel is. Christ came with a tremendous ANNOUNCEMENT—wonderful news of a world-ruling GOVERNMENT to come and solve all of humanity's seemingly unsolvable problems.

It is the message of how we may qualify, now, to be a king or priest (Revelation 5:10), then made immortal and composed of spirit, in God's Kingdom. It is the message that God *is* the divine, creating, universe-ruling family into which we may be born by repenting of the way of sin that has CAUSED all the terrible EVILS

and unsolvable problems in this world, and, through a *living faith in Christ*, turning to the way of God's law—the way that will CAUSE the peace and joy of the happy world tomorrow. It points out the true and *only* way to eternal life.

Christ's gospel is a message about government. Christ's gospel is concerned with the evils confronting the world's peoples which the governments of the nations are trying to cope with.

The gospel is concerned with the CAUSE of all these problems and troubles. The gospel Christ brought is concerned with humans turning NOW *from* the way that is CAUSING all their troubles *to* the WAY that will CAUSE peace, happiness and plenty.

The gospel is concerned with 1) how we may solve our troubles NOW, and 2) how God IS GOING to solve them for US—and IN SPITE OF US if we refuse to change our way now.

World Leaders Frightened

The time for kidding ourselves is past. This world is in a very critically serious condition. Even after some thirty years of the world-effort to develop the poor nations of the world, they are poorer today than ever before. Millions upon millions face starvation, live in ignorance, utter poverty, filth and squalor, wracked with disease and ill health. In the affluent nations, crime is rampant (even in residential neighborhoods), morals have sunk to the gutter, divorces are breaking up a third of the homes, youths are taking to drugs and alcohol, staring a hopeless future in the face.

The weapons now exist to erase all humanity from the face of the earth in very short order. The world is sick, and the sickness is rapidly nearing the acute stage.

World-famous scientists and heads of state are saying the world's ONLY HOPE is a single WORLD GOVERNMENT in control of all arms and military force, to insure WORLD PEACE. Man can't bring it about. But Christ's gospel—the most tremendous ANNOUNCEMENT of the most wonderful GOOD NEWS ever given to the world, announces to humanity just that—a supreme world government with TOTAL POWER OVER ALL

nations, ushering in world peace, prosperity for ALL, good health for all—a world filled with happiness and joy!

Jesus' gospel taught the way of life that will produce this utopia—a way true Christians must live NOW—a way that would solve all of today's problems and evils.

That is the light that Jesus Christ brought to the world, but men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil (John 3:19). The world REJECTED that wonderful good news and crucified their very Maker for bringing it. And while they were sinning so abominably, Christ died for them, to pay the penalty they have incurred in their stead—if and when they repent and turn to the way that brings them happiness!

Anyway, the restoration of the Kingdom of God does not depend on mankind believing it. It is going to happen—as surely as the rising of tomorrow's sun!

Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God to many thousands. All but 120 individuals rejected it. The so-called "Sermon on the Mount" outlined the way of God's government. His many parables described the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God was His gospel! (If you have not already done so, be sure to request our free booklets *What Is the True Gospel?* and *Coming—A New Age!*)

Peter, John and the other original apostles proclaimed the Kingdom of God. It was the gospel the apostle Paul preached to the Gentiles. But men rejected it.

For 18½ centuries it was not proclaimed to the world—only to a very few—and that generally under cover, lest those preaching it be put to death!

Jesus Said It Would Happen

Jesus said plainly that although He, as a person, as the Messiah, would be preached to the world, His gospel would be withheld and the people would be deceived.

When His disciples asked *when* He would come again to earth to set up God's Kingdom and of the END of this present world, Jesus said: "Take heed that no man deceive you. For MANY shall come in my name"—many would profess to be His minis-

ters, representing Him—"saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:4-5). Untold thousands, ordained ministers in the Christian religion, have PREACHED CHRIST! They have *said* Jesus of Nazareth was Christ. But Christ's gospel has been withheld. The many have been deceived.

Remember, a deceived person does not *know* he is deceived. Otherwise he would not be deceived. Millions have been *deceived* into accepting a FALSE gospel—a false salvation.

But, in Jesus' answer to their question as to His return to earth and the END of this present world or age, the only sign He gave was: "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" (Matthew 24:14).

Stop and think! *If* Christ's gospel had been preached to all the world during those 18½ centuries, it could not be the sign today of the soon-coming end of this present world, and of Christ's imminent return as King of kings and Lord of lords, to restore the Kingdom of God and the peaceful and happy world tomorrow! That one statement is absolute advance PROOF from Christ's own lips that His gospel would be withheld.

It has been!

But beginning January 1934, Christ's very gospel began going out. By the end of 1952 it was being thundered to the United States and Canada coast to coast via radio. January 1953 it began going to Europe and Britain—and soon, worldwide. Also, as in Jesus' prophecy of Matthew 24, the world is fast approaching the supreme time of world trouble—the very CLIMAX of civilization called "the GREAT TRIBULATION" (verses 21-22).

This is a frightening and terrifying hour—unless one hides his eyes and ears from the state of the world and its trends!

In such a sobering time, you have just read the truth that ought to arouse you out of the sleep of complacency and indifference! It is, I know, a shocking, staggering FACT to realize that this work—the work going out from the Worldwide Church of God—is the ONLY WORK ON EARTH proclaiming the very gospel of Jesus Christ to the world in great power! □

Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

different world, especially in means of transportation and communication. The living Christ started me on radio in January 1934, and through the printed message beginning February 1934. Comparatively rapid mail delivery was by then available, and rail travel, beside the telephone. We first went on television in July 1955. Finally came air travel—first prop planes, then jet.

The Work of God started from Eugene, Oregon. No state government gave us instructions as to how

era of the Church of God, that the Church of God suffered persecution by the Attorney-General's office of the state of California.

For the first time, to my knowledge, a state civil political government within the United States claimed that it owned all Church property, and was empowered to fire the apostle of the living Christ, and reorganize and OPERATE the Church of the living GOD! Although God commands us, in the Bible, to be subject *in our personal and individual lives*, to the political government of man which has jurisdiction over us in ordinary processes of law and order, yet when authorities of human civil government commanded

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”

the Church and its work should be organized or conducted. In 1947, headquarters were moved to Pasadena, California. The Work was growing 30 percent a year. To conduct the growing operations of Christ's Great Commission, Ambassador College was founded in 1947. It was the ONLY college on earth ACCREDITED by GOD!

It had become necessary to incorporate, and the Work has been conducted strictly according to the legally stated PURPOSES of the Church in our incorporation and our legally required constitution and bylaws. In all such matters, we complied fully with state corporation laws and requirements.

It was not until January 3, 1979, 46 years after the raising up of this

the apostle Peter to cease proclaiming the gospel, Christ's apostle replied we MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN. He did not “cave in.” Neither did we!

This Church was founded by Jesus Christ. It is formed and organized on His pattern.

Even if our lives are at stake—even at threat of imprisonment, we shall give our very lives, if necessary, to carry on the Worldwide Church of God, according to GOD's direction in His Word.

Now we are in a battle with one of the largest states in the Union to determine WHO IS LORD—CAESAR OR CHRIST? We are willing even to sacrifice our LIVES, if necessary—but, like the apostle Peter, we shall obey GOD rather than man! □

THE KINGDOM OF GOD-

What does it mean to you?

King•dom *n.* A politically organized community or major territorial unit having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen.

The phrase “kingdom of God,” which appears frequently in the Bible, is often heard in religious circles. It is generally assumed to be a reference to heaven or to a condition of mind held by believers. Almost no one would apply the standard dictionary definition of “kingdom”—a type of government over a specific territory. Yet that is precisely how the term is most often used in the Bible. The real meaning of the term “kingdom of God” is far more interesting and exciting than the traditional vague concepts. The booklet *Just What Do You Mean . . . Kingdom of God?* clearly explains what the Kingdom of God is and why it's important to you. For a free copy write to *The Plain Truth* at the address nearest you. (See inside front cover for addresses worldwide.)

