

the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

VOL. XXI, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1956



—Wide World Photo

The Beautiful Blue Danube flowing between the ancient cities of Buda, at left, and Pest, in riot-torn Hungary. Many of these buildings have been wrecked in the recent anti-communist rebellion.

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VOL. XXI

NO. 12

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Sent FREE to all who request it,
as the Lord provides. Address
all communications to the editor.

Copyright, December, 1956

By the Radio Church of God

NOTICE: Be sure to notify us immediately
of any change in your address. IMPORTANT!

Heart to Heart Talk with the Editor

LETTERS continue to ask, "Were you
ever a 'Jehovah Witness'? Mem-
bers of that sect have told me
you were."

Although I have stated positively and
definitely on the radio program a num-
ber of times and in articles in The PLAIN
TRUTH that I never belonged to the
sect known as "Jehovah Witnesses,"
or the Seventh Day Adventist denomi-
nation, it seems that many, especially of
the "Jehovah Witnesses" sect, continue
spreading the false claim that I once
belonged to them.

Let me once again make the truth
PLAIN.

I have never been a member of these
so-called "Jehovah Witnesses," nor of
the Seventh Day Adventists. I have never
in any manner, shape, nor form, had
any remote connection with them, or
associated with either sect or denomina-
tion. I have never had any fellowship
with them.

I have never attended a regular meet-
ing or church service of either, altho I
have attended a very few week-night
evangelistic campaign services conduct-
ed by Seventh Day Adventist evange-
lists. I have never, however, attended *any*
meeting of the "Jehovah Witnesses"
sect of any kind. I have never had any
kind of fellowship with any of their
leaders or members. I never knew, or

even saw, their late leader, Judge Ruth-
erford—tho strange tales reach me that
I spent some time with him in prison.
I have never been in prison or in jail.

I have never belonged to, attended
any meeting of, or had any remote sem-
blance of fellowship with the "Jehovah
Witnesses" predecessor, the "Pastor Rus-
sell" people.

I did not learn any of God's TRUTH
from the "Jehovah Witnesses" sect. I
have, of course, read some of their
writings and their books, and I have
been glad to find that they have certain
truths, as all sects and denominations
have (though mixed with dangerous
errors), but God had already revealed
these truths to me long before I read
of them in their literature. I LEARNED
NOTHING THAT I BELIEVE AND TEACH
FROM THIS SECT. If they boast of having
taught me anything, they misrepresent.

I learned God's TRUTH direct from
GOD—thru His WORD—the Holy Bible.
I did not learn it from *any* sect or
denomination.

But I say unto you, as the Apostle
Paul said:

"I certify you, brethren, that the GOS-
PEL which is preached of me is not
after man. For *I neither received it of
man, neither was I taught it, BUT BY
THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*
. . . . But when it pleased God, who
. . . . called me by His grace, to reveal
His Son in me that I might preach Him
to" THE WORLD; "immediately I con-
ferred not with flesh and blood"—neither
went I to any sect or denomination or
organized "church," but I went directly
to the WORD OF GOD, and on my knees
asked God thru His Spirit to open my
understanding—to correct me, reprove
and rebuke, and instruct in His Truth
and His righteousness; . . . then after

three years I went to some of the humble
of God's people in the Willamette
Valley of Oregon, and preached to them.
(Please compare with Galatians 1:11-
18.)

(Please continue on page 23)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes to-
day's news, with the prophecies of
The WORLD TOMORROW!

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

- WABC—New York—770 on dial—
11:30 P.M., Mon. thru Sat.,
10:30 A.M., Sun., Eastern
time.
- WLS — Chicago — 890 on dial —
11:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.,
8:30 Sunday night.
- WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170
on dial—Sundays, 11:15 P.M.
Eastern time. 10:00 P.M.,
Mon. thru Fri.
- WRVA—Richmond, Va.—1140 on
dial—Sundays, 11:05 P.M.
Eastern time.
- XELO—800 on dial, every night,
9:00 P.M. Central Standard
time. (8:00 P.M. Mountain
Standard time.)
- XEG—1050 on dial, every night, 8:30
P.M. Central Standard time.
- WCAE — Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on
dial—4:00 P.M. Sundays.
- WXYZ—Detroit, Mich.—1270 on
dial—1:30 P.M. Sundays.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST

- XERB—1090 on dial—7:00 P.M.
every night.
- KGER—Los Angeles—1390 k.c.—
12:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri., 12
noon Saturday, 2 P.M. Sun.
- KARM — Fresno—1430 k.c. — 8:30
P.M., Tues. thru Sun. 9 P.M.,
Monday.
- KBLA—Burbank—1490 k.c.—7:30
A.M. daily. 9:30 A.M. Sunday.
- KPDQ — Portland — 800 on dial —
8:30 A.M. daily.
- KUGN — Eugene — 590 k.c. — 7:00
P.M. every night.
- KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on
dial—10:30 P.M. every night.

TO ALL OF EUROPE

RADIO LUXEMBOURG

Mondays: 23:30 Greenwich time

TO ASIA & AFRICA

RADIO CEYLON

Tuesday: 10:15-10:45 P.M. India-
Pakistan Beam and Ceylon Beam.
Wednesday: 11:30-12:00 noon Af-
rican Beam. 5:15-5:45 P.M. S.E.
Asia Beam.

RADIO FORMOSA

Wednesday: 5:50-6:20 P.M.

RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES

Saturday: 10:00-10:30 P.M.,

The WORLD TOMORROW heard in Australia!

- 2CH—Sidney—Sat., 10:15 P.M.
2AY—Albury—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
2GF—Grafton—Sun., 9:30 P.M.
3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 P.M.
4TO—Townsville—Fri., 10:15 P.M.
4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
4WK—Warwick—Tues., 9:30 P.M.

MY ANSWER to an Atheist!

In response to hundreds of requests we are again publishing Mr. Armstrong's open letter which has been out of print for almost five years.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

FIVE years ago, I published a letter from an atheist. Regardless of the spirit in which it was written, it posed fair questions. If a Christian is unable to answer these questions rationally and with proof, he has no basis for faith.

Here is a condensation of his letter and the article which appeared in the October, 1951 number:

"Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong,
"Box 111,
"Pasadena, Calif.

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I judge by you being a preacher you have a God, and as we have history of many gods and the wonders they have brought to the world including its creation. May I ask, Which one of these many gods do you claim for your God? and, Will you please describe your God in a manner such as you would describe anything else to convey an idea? . . .

"But let me say, and history bears me out in this, of all the gods the Jew god or Jehovah, as he is sometimes called, has been the most fussy.

"Evidence contained in the English or King James translation of the Christian Bible makes the existence of the Jehovah god very questionable, but no less so than do the other translations. . . .

"It appears that all the gods are in a mighty rush on their way out as human intellect increases; superstition, ignorance and fear must give way to intelligence in order that a human civilization may be brought into being.

"I shall let this suffice for the present and hope to hear from you soon.

"Respectfully,
(signed) "....., a seeker for truth"

Fair Questions

I accept these as fair questions.

Yes, my friend, I have a God.

The gods of some nations have been carved by men's hands out of wood, stone, or other existing material. The gods of some religions and individuals have been carved out of human imagina-

tions and faulty human reasonings. Some have worshipped the sun, or other inanimate objects of nature. All these gods are merely the *created*—most of them formed and fashioned by *man*, therefore inferior to man.

But He who did the *creating*—He who brought everything that exists into existence, including all else falsely called God—He who created all matter, force and energy, who created all natural laws and set them in motion, who created LIFE and endowed some of it with intelligence—He is GOD! He is superior to all else that is called "God." He, alone, is GOD!

CREATION is the proof of God!

But during the past two centuries especially there has developed among God-rejecting men in the occidental world the mental disease of theophobia. Two hundred years ago it appeared under the popular catch-phrases "deism" and "rationalism." Then it masqueraded itself under the appealing name "higher criticism." This pseudo scholarship employed, as it progressed, such attractive titles as "progress," "development," and "evolution." It has appealed to the intellectual vanity of a world groping in spiritual darkness in an era of widespread diffusion of knowledge.

The theory of evolution was therefore invented to provide the atheist's explanation of a creation without a Creator.

But this misguided "rationalism" failed utterly to account for the *origins* of things and of life; and today the more candid among geologists and biologists confess that they do not know *how* the development from single-celled "amoeba" to man took place—Lamarck's theory of "use and disuse," Darwin's "natural selection," and other theories have now fallen by the wayside, and "mutations" cannot be explained or proved.

Amazing New Knowledge of Science

Now suppose we confine ourselves to *facts!*

What, then, has Science actually determined?

The discovery of radioactivity in the past half-century has proved that *there has been no past eternity of matter!* Radio-activity is described as a process of disintegration. The atomic age is opening up new fields to explore. Until about 60 years ago, it was supposed that the smallest particle of matter was the hydrogen atom. But since the discovery of radio-activity about 1896, the facts brought to light reveal a much smaller unit than the hydrogen atom—one only about 1/1845 its mass—actually a small particle of negative electricity, called an *electron*. Soon after Mme. Curie discovered the element radium, in 1898, it was discovered that radium, and the other radio-active elements as we know now, are continually giving off radiations at an enormous rate.

Has Matter Always Existed?

Now notice carefully what this newly disclosed FACT of Science means:

Uranium is a radio-active element heavier than radium. It has an atomic weight of 238.5. In decomposing it gives off a helium atom, weight 4, repeated three times, and then the substance left is radium, atomic weight about 226.4. Radium, then, is simply the end-product of uranium after it has lost three helium atoms. Then the disintegration continues in radium. And the final product of this process of radio-active disintegration is the element lead! Now of course this process requires great periods of time. The calculated "half-life" of radium is 1590 years—uranium much longer.

I have seen it myself, in the darkroom of an X-ray laboratory. A tiny portion of radium was placed on a mirror at the far end of a hollow tube, and I looked into this tube thru a magnifying glass at the other end. Under this magnification what I saw appeared as a large, vast dark sky, with thousands of shooting stars falling toward me from all directions. Actually what I saw were the emanations of

tiny particles being emitted by the radium, greatly magnified.

We know, therefore, that *there has been no past eternity of matter!*

The radio-active elements in existence today have not yet been in existence long enough to have run their course, and disintegrated into lead. To have ALWAYS existed, without any definite time of *starting* in the past, this "life" period of radio-active elements long ago would have run its course. All radio-active elements would have long ago disintegrated into lead. Since these elements exist only for a definite span of years, and all the radium, thorium, helium, and other radio-active elements in the world today have not yet existed that many years, there was a time, prior to the duration of this span in the past, when these elements DID NOT EXIST!

Here we have definite scientific proof that MATTER HAS NOT ALWAYS EXISTED. Here we have definite specific elements which once, in the long ago, did not yet exist. Then there was a time, later, when these elements CAME INTO EXISTENCE.

Evolution postulates that all things have always come about GRADUALLY, through the slow-moving natural processes of the present. Try to imagine, if you can, *something* coming into existence out of *nothing* GRADUALLY! Can your mind entertain the idea?

I think not. No, I think if you are rational you will have to accept the fact of a special and necessarily instantaneous CREATION. And SOME POWER or SOME ONE had of necessity to do the creating. There is a cause for every effect. And in accepting that inevitable FACT, *proved* by the findings of Science, of the existence of that GREAT FIRST CAUSE, *you have accepted the FACT of the existence and pre-existence of the Creator—GOD!*

Where Did LIFE Come From?

But how about the presence of *life*?

How did life get here? Science has learned some things about that, too.

The wisest of the ancients did not know what Science makes available today. Thus it is demonstrated today that LIFE COMES ONLY FROM LIFE, and that each *kind* reproduces *only after its kind* (Gen. 1:25).

The works of Tyndall and Louis Pas-

teur, in the field of bacteria and protozoa, have finally demonstrated scientifically once and for all in these more minute fields what Redi first demonstrated with larger organisms.

All the advances of recent medical and surgical science in the treatment and prevention of germ diseases are based upon this great truth of the law of Biogenesis—that LIFE can come only from pre-existing LIFE.

No fact of science stands more conclusively proved today. Life CANNOT come from dead matter. THERE IS NOT ONE SHRED OF TRUTH FROM SCIENCE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE PRESENCE OF LIFE UPON THE EARTH BY ANY MEANS OTHER THAN A SPECIAL CREATION BY THE GREAT ORIGINAL FIRST CAUSE—GOD—WHO IS LIFE AND THE FOUNTAIN SOURCE OF ALL LIFE! It is now absolutely certain, according to all that can be KNOWN from Science—according to all that is rational—that it required A REAL CREATION to produce life from the not-living—organic from inorganic matter.

One cannot rationally deny the existence of *my* GOD, unless he can account for the origin of LIFE without a Creator who, Himself, *is* Life! The Creator, therefore, begins to be revealed, by Science and by reason, as a LIVING God—a God in whom is LIFE, and who alone has *imparted* life to all that have it!

I could go further, and show you that what Science has discovered about energy and its origin and the laws of conservation of energy, also proves conclusively that "the works were finished from the foundation of the world" (Heb. 4:3), that the material Creation is a *completed work, which is not now going on!*

Next, then, let's examine whether the Great FIRST CAUSE is a Being of *intelligence*, or merely some blind, dumb, unintelligent FORCE.

Is Anything Superior to Your Mind?

Look about you. You admit that the transmission of knowledge to your mind is limited to the channels of your five senses.

So now I ask you, do you know of anything that is superior to *your mind*?

Look at the planets coursing thru the sky. Behold, in all its splendor, the en-

tire cosmic universe, with its suns, its nebulae, and galaxies.

Yet they are inanimate. They have no mind, no intelligence. They cannot do what *you* can do—think, reason, plan, and carry out plans according to private volition and will.

The human mind can know, think, reason, plan, and carry its plans to execution. It can invent and produce instruments by which it may acquire knowledge of the vast universe, or of the minutest particle. Thru radar, man has now been able to send a signal to the moon and cause it to return. He can harness waterfalls and make them serve his needs, cause rivers to run backward, turn the forces of nature to serving human needs. And now he has learned how to break down the atom, and utilize a power so vast that man is able at last to annihilate all life from off the earth!

But there remains one thing no man ever has been or ever will be able to do. He cannot build, make, produce, or create anything that is superior to himself!

A man can take existing materials and out of them build a house. But it requires intelligence and power superior to the house to produce the house. An automobile is almost a living thing, but the intelligence and powers required to invent and produce it are superior to the thing produced.

The Supreme Intelligence

To suggest to *you*, my doubting friend, that anything you could invent, make, build, or bring into being could be superior in intelligence and ability to *your* and *your mind* would certainly insult your intelligence!

Now let me ask you candidly, *do you honestly believe that any power or force of less intelligence than your mind produced YOU?*

If you do not believe in my God, then you have only the alternative of believing that something *less* than your intelligence produced YOU—that dumb, purposeless UNINTELLIGENCE brought into being your intelligence! The only rational possibility is to acknowledge that the very presence of the human mind is PROOF that the Great First Cause is also the SUPREME INTELLIGENCE, infinitely superior to the abilities of mortal man!

Suppose YOU Were Creator?

Suppose that you could add to your powers of reasoning, planning, designing, the actual CREATIVE power, so that you could project your will anywhere to produce and bring into being whatever your mind should plan and desire. Then, suppose you undertake the designing, creating, fashioning, shaping, and setting in motion a limitless cosmic universe—with suns and nebulae and galaxies in all their splendor, each of these vast units being of such intricate and complex construction as the existing universe. On some of these planets you would plan and produce all the forms of life that exist on this planet—and I do mean *re-produce*, for there would be no present universe to copy. There would be worlds within a world, down to the minutest infinitesimal particles of matter and chemical action such as we know by the aid of microscopes have been produced in this earth.

Do you think your mind would be equal to the task?

Just stop and think.

Is it rational, then, to believe that any power or force lacking even human intelligence could have planned, designed, created, formed, fashioned, shaped, put together and set in motion the awesome universe we behold?

The Great First Cause who *created matter*, then, stands revealed as the SUPREME INTELLIGENCE and ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE!

The Miracle of Living Food

But again I say, look about you! Here are human beings on this earth, composed of 16 elements of matter—living, organic matter. These 16 living elements must be supplied and replenished thru food, water, and air.

No man with all his ingenuity and science and laboratory facilities CAN PRODUCE FOOD! That is, he cannot take plain organic matter and turn it into the *living* substance we call food. But some Power, Force, Intelligence, or Being did in some way, at some time, start the process going—a process far too wonderful for any man to devise or produce.

And so it is that out of the ground grows grass, and green leafy vegetables, and all other vegetables, and vines, and

trees yielding fruits—each with its seed in itself, each thru this seed reproducing *after its kind*—and it is very good!

But when a marvelous little grain of wheat is planted in the ground, a plant develops and sprouts above the ground, and in some manner too wonderful for any human mind to understand or imitate, the elements drunk in thru the roots from the ground are utilized by the life germ in the seed of wheat, and new grains of wheat appear.

During this process, the inorganic iron and other elements dissolved in the ground, drunk into the roots and carried up into the new grain of wheat, have been actually converted into organic matter which can be assimilated as food.

And this same marvelous process takes place in the growth out of the ground of all grains, vegetables, fruits and foods. When we eat animal meat we are merely consuming, second-hand, the vegetation which the animal ate.

MAN, with all his vaunted science, his technical laboratory facilities, with all his inventive genius, lacks the intelligence and the powers to produce a grain of wheat, or to convert inorganic matter into food. Then is it rational to say that forces or powers exist, of NO intelligence, which have been able to produce *this living miracle of food*? Did not a far GREATER Intelligence than man design, create, and supply man with all of this?

Man's Intelligence versus God's

But now let's COMPARE the wisdom and intelligence of man with that of the God who brought these marvels into being, and keeps them functioning.

The grain of wheat GOD causes to grow out of the ground is a perfect food. But, like other perfect gifts from God, man fails to value the priceless perfection of the all-wise God, and, undertaking to improve on God's handiwork, perverts, pollutes, and defiles it! Every bit of God's perfection man's hand has ever touched, it would seem, he has bismirched, fouled up and polluted!

And the poor, defenseless grain of wheat is no exception! Into flour mills of human devising go the millions of bushels of precious wheat. And there the supposedly intelligent human takes it apart, removes the 12 alkaline-reacting

mineral elements, and, at huge profits to greedy millers, turn out for human consumption sacks of white flour composed of the four acid-reacting carbohydrate elements with poison bleach added!

Out of this the human population makes white bread, biscuits, doughnuts, pastries, puddings, macaroni, spaghetti, gravies, etc., etc., mixing the flour often with white "refined" sugar and greases or fats—a combination guaranteed to wreck any stomach in time! Yes, the sugar refiners do the same thing to sugar, and nearly all foods on the market for human consumption today have gone thru man's factories, suffered from man's processes, until they have been devitalized, depleted of their health-giving requirements, and turned from foods into slow-acting poisons! And these foodless foods with which man has tampered in lust for profits have produced in human bodies a whole series of diseases our forefathers of a few generations ago never heard of!

Result: today every eighth person drops dead before his time with heart failure, another eighth with cancer; every year 400,000 innocent little children dig their own graves with their little spoons thru being fed polluted foods; the population suffers rheumatisms, arthritis, diabetes, kidney diseases, anemia, colds, fevers, pneumonia, and thousands of other diseases. We respond to the toothbrush and tooth-paste ads and frantically brush our teeth, but our teeth keep decaying and we lose them beginning at an early age because of lack of calcium and fluorine in our diet.

Today Americans are undernourished overeaters. We cram down too much bulk, yet starve our bodies of essential minerals and vitamins. It would seem man is not very intelligent, after all!

Then, too, the God who created this earth and all vegetation told us to let our land lie idle every seventh year. But man is too greedy to do that. And so our land is worn out and depleted, and such natural and good foods as carrots, beets, and turnips are lacking in the necessary mineral elements and vitamins! And other companies get rich selling vitamin pills thru drugstores!

WHOSE INTELLIGENCE IS THE HIGHER—that of the GOD who provided every perfect need for every living thing—

or that of greedy, gullible, God-rejecting humans who in the interests of bigger profits and more luxuries for themselves have **ROBBED** the very foods God created and gave us of their health and body building values?

"There Was No Watchmaker"

I needed an accurate watch with a very plain dial for timing broadcasts. The only kind that filled the need was a railroad watch. I have one—the very finest railroad watch made, a 23-jewel watch.

But it does not keep perfect time. Once or twice a week I have to adjust it a second or two. If I want to be sure it is accurate to the second, I set it by the master clock of my city, or any city, which is always found at the Western Union. But even this clock does not keep perfect time. Once or twice a week it must be adjusted a second or two by the master clock of the nation, by telegraph, from Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C. There at the Naval Observatory is the Master Clock of the U.S.A. But this great master clock of the nation is not perfect, either. It, too, must be adjusted and corrected occasionally.

Yes, it is corrected by the **MASTER CLOCK OF THE UNIVERSE**—up in the skies—by astronomers! Up there in the heavens is the great Master Clock that **NEVER** makes a mistake—is *always* **ON TIME**—never off a fraction of a second—the heavenly bodies coursing thru the skies!

Now you, sir—my doubting friend! If I show you my fine Hamilton-built, Ball-factory precisioned 23-jewel railroad watch and tell you that it was not made in these factories after all—in fact, it was not designed, planned, put together, by any watchmakers at all—that it just sort of **HAPPENED**—that the iron ores just brought themselves up out of the ground, refined themselves, formed and shaped themselves into the delicate little cogs and wheels and other pieces; the silicon just came of its own accord out of the earth and turned itself into the glass crystal; the gold case just *refined itself, shaped itself*; the cogs and wheels and scores of little parts just assembled themselves together in that case, wound themselves up, and started themselves to running and keeping al-

Does CHRISTMAS Celebrate Christ's Birthday?

WAS Christ really born on December 25th? Did Paul and the other apostles—and the early New Testament Church—celebrate Christmas? **WHY** is Christmas not so much as **MENTIONED** anywhere in the New Testament?

What is the origin of the Christmas tree—of "Santa Claus"—of the mistletoe and the holly-wreath?

We grew up practising these customs, taking them for granted, but *never questioning WHY?* It is time we learned the **FACTS!**

4000 Years of Christmas

Christmas was celebrated by pagans 2000 years *before* Christ was born. Yet it was *not* celebrated *in Jerusalem*—where Christ founded the inspired New Testament Church—*until 385 A.D.*, over three centuries after the true Church fled from Jerusalem!

Why?

Did you know that the pagan Romans long *before* the birth of Christ called December 25 the *Brumalia*, or birthday of the *new-sun* after the winter solstice? Christmas was originally celebrated in honor of pagan gods. It was **IDOLATRY!**

most perfect time—well, if I should try to tell you anything like that, you'd tell me I'm crazy or a fool, would you not?

Certainly! You *know* that the presence of that watch is **RATIONAL AND POSITIVE PROOF** of the existence of a watchmaker, or watchmakers, who thought it all out, planned it, formed it, shaped it, put it together, and started it running.

But then you, Mr. Skeptic—you look up into the great vast sky at that **MASTER** Clock of the universe, which never misses a second—the perfect watch by which we must constantly set all our imperfect man-made watches—and you tell me, "That all just **HAPPENED!** There was no Great Watchmaker! No Master **MIND** thought out and *planned* that vast universe, brought it into being, set each star and planet in its own exact place, and started the myriad heavenly bodies coursing thru space, each in its

Every one of these **FACTS** you can find in the leading Encyclopaedias, in your own public libraries!

Though the Bible is silent about telling us to observe Christmas, or recording any such observance by the apostles or the early true Church, it *does* have something to say about the **CHRISTMAS TREE!** Yes, it's time you learned the **TRUTH** about Christmas!

You can have the astonishing **FACTS** about the origin and history of Christmas—how it crept into the churches—how the custom of trading gifts with one another commenced, instead of giving gifts to Christ—all these **FACTS** and many others are now available for you in our **FREE 16-page** booklet, "*The PLAIN TRUTH about CHRISTMAS!*" No other booklet makes the truth about Christmas so simple, so plain, so intriguingly interesting.

WRITE immediately for your *free* copy of "*The PLAIN TRUTH about CHRISTMAS!*"

Address your urgent request to the editor: Herbert W. Armstrong, P.O. Box 111, Pasadena, California. Don't delay. Write your letter for this amazing booklet *before you read another article!*

prescribed orbit, in its orderly precision. No, it just fashioned itself, put itself together, wound itself up, and started itself running. There was no Intelligence—no planning—**NO CREATION—NO GOD!**"

Do you say that to me?

If you can, I answer that I do not respect your intelligence. And the God I acknowledge replies to you, "None but the **FOOL** hath said in his heart, 'There is no God!'"

If you can look about you, and observe how intelligently **PLANNED** and executed is everything in nature, and in plant and animal life—everything we see except the bungling, botching, polluting of God's beautiful handiwork by the clumsy hand of God-ignoring and rejecting **MAN**—and then say you doubt the existence of an all-wise, all-know-

(Please continue on page 22)

Mrs. Armstrong's Diary

In this third installment Mrs. Armstrong takes you to Jerusalem and "Calvary"—and to the very tomb from which Jesus rose from the dead! You'll also read about Megiddo and Rome.

. . . from the diary kept during their tour

by Loma D. Armstrong

THE FIRST two installments of Mrs. Armstrong's diary took us from England, across the historic Mediterranean Sea to Egypt, the land of the Pharaohs.

From Cairo, Egypt, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and their son Dick journeyed to ancient Thebes and to the great pyramids. From there they flew to Bagdad in Iraq, near the site of ancient Babylon, now totally desolate.

Then they journeyed to Damascus, where the apostle Paul was converted. The trip continued from there to Petra, the mysterious city of Rock—one of the marvels of the ancient world.

Now comes the third and final installment with its many surprises!

Part III

From Petra to Amman. May 7, 1956.

We arrived in Amman, Jordan, in the evening tired and dusty. We then picked up our bags we had left at the hotel and, after looking in vain for mail from home, continued on toward Jerusalem.

From Amman to Jerusalem.

This trip was so very interesting. The country is more beautiful and every bit of the way filled with the history of the Israelites—with their wars, not only with the pagan nations around them, but among themselves.

We saw the place where Absalom was killed. It is no longer a wooded area, but today a bleak land denuded of trees. There are no oak trees. Remember how Absalom tried to escape the armies of David by riding on a mule through the thickly wooded land of Ephraim; how his long hair was caught in the thick boughs of a great oak before he was slain by Joab?

We were through Jericho where God caused the walls to fall as the Israelites marched around the city.

We saw the mountain from which

Moses viewed the Promised Land before he died.

Every mile of the way was breathtaking. We were seeing in our imaginations, again, the tribes of Israel before and after they reached the Holy Land, then a land of rich vegetation, a land flowing with milk and honey; but now, because of their sins and their idolatry, it is a land under a curse. The only trees are those recently set out. Most of the land in Arab hands is uncared for.

We went through Bethphage and Bethany. Bethany is where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived and where He raised Lazarus from the dead. When Jesus went into the city of Jerusalem, He often went to Bethany or out to the Mt. of Olives to spend the night.

Nearing Jerusalem

We passed the Garden of Gethsemane on our way to the hotel in Jerusalem which was situated outside the walls of the city. We looked forward to a good bath and a good bed after the long day's ride from Petra. We were quite disappointed however. After viewing the bathroom in connection with our rooms, we felt it would be cleaner to go to bed without a bath. So, after washing ourselves in sponge bathes we tried to rest in very uncomfortable beds.

We arose early, anxious to see all there is to see in ancient Jerusalem. The old Jerusalem of Jesus' time is *not* there now, except a few places where excavations have been made some thirty feet below the present surface. Many Catholic shrines exist over deep holes or caves. To get to them one has to go down a steep stairway through dank, dark passageways; then there is a cave or hole where candles are burning and where people are kneeling, kissing rocks or cave walls. They believe these shrines

to be the places where this or that happened in the life of Christ.

One such place, called the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, was crowded with people all over-awed and all worshipping a stone. Some were rubbing their hands over it and then over their bodies. Another had an airplane bag (the Pan-American bag that is given with purchase of a ticket) that he was rubbing over the stone. Another man lifted himself up and scooted around on the rock, rubbing his hip over it. Perhaps he expected healing from this procedure. Everyone backed out of the place crossing himself. We were waiting at the low-entrance incline and watching all this idolatry. We were disgusted and yet so sorry for their ignorance.

The Site of the Crucifixion

Afterward, we saw the real place where Christ was crucified and the tomb in which He lay. It is not in Catholic hands and is not within the walls of Jerusalem, but rather at "The Place of the Skull" which is located at Golgotha. The "skull" in the hillside is plainly visible. The tomb below has been recently excavated. The Scripture says in Matt. 27:33, that Jesus was crucified at "The Place of the Skull."

The route taken to Golgotha or "The Place of the Skull" is not the "Via Dolorosa" as claimed by the Catholics today. Along this narrow, dirty street, visitors are taken and it is claimed that miracles have happened.

The original level of the ancient city of Jesus' time was twenty to thirty feet below the present level. Two walls have been built in different places since the original wall around Jerusalem and only a small part of the old wall has been excavated. The base of the old Damascus Gate has recently been excavated under twenty feet of debris.



The rock above is called "Golgotha" in the Hebrew. It means "The Place of the Skull." Jesus was crucified atop this rock. Notice the natural caves forming the eyes and mouth.

From this place can be seen "The Place of the Skull." No one can fail to see the resemblance. There is a low eroded forehead, two deep hollows that make the eyes, a nose, and near the ground level, twisted lips.

We viewed this skull from a spot near the tomb in the garden; then walked past an ancient wine press to enter the tomb.

It was impossible fully to realize where we were—what we were seeing! To actually visit, to really *see*, and to walk into the sepulchre from which Jesus rose immortal from the dead—the actual spot where the angels sat, at the right of the entrance—was an experience we couldn't fully comprehend until later.

It is an unfinished sepulchre; only one tomb was completed. Two others were partially finished. We saw the stone where the angel sat and also where the linen cloths lay that Peter and John saw as they stooped down and looked into the tomb.

We walked in the garden where Mary met the resurrected Christ. We saw the place where the stone had been moved in the groove to cover the opening of the Sepulchre. Near all this are evidences of rocks split by earthquakes. All of this, at the foot of Golgotha, was excavated in the year 1893. This is the place where Joseph of Arimathaea hurried to bury the body of Jesus before the High-Day Sabbath drew on.

The Sepulchre

This tomb is at the foot of "The

Place of the Skull." It is, or rather was, a new sepulchre with only one of its tombs completed. There is a garden surrounding the tomb. It all is as the Bible describes, while the place in the city called the Holy Sepulchre is under a Catholic church, down a steep stairway, through dark rat runs to a hole in the ground where there is a rock.

We visited many places in the old city where churches and shrines were built over spots purported to be where Christ did this or that. All have their boxes out for money. They probably are fakes.

The ancient city of Jerusalem was destroyed. The Arab city now in existence on the site is filthy and crowded. Their Mosque or "Dome of the Rock" now occupies the site of the temple Solomon built.

Inside this "Dome of the Rock," which is built on Mt. Moriah, is a huge boulder surrounded by the dome. This boulder is covered and protected by glass on the circular hall around it. There is an entrance to a cave below this rock to an ancient threshing floor. There we found Muslim women bowing, kneeling, and touching their heads to the floor in their worship. On top of the rock, they claim, is the place Abraham led Isaac to sacrifice and near the place where the ram was caught in the bushes.

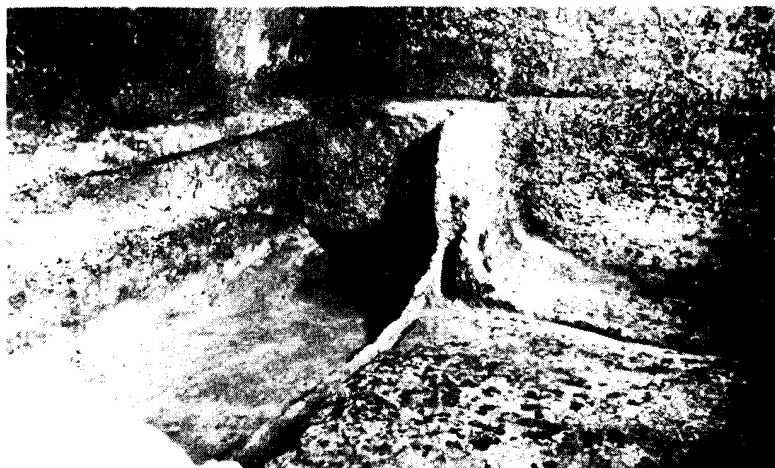
Near the "Dome of the Rock" is the "Gate called Beautiful" where the lame beggar was healed by Peter and John.

We were driven out to see the Valley of Hinnom (Gehenna) or Hell as the King James Version of the Bible has it.

We drove to Bethlehem to the church built over the place claimed to be the stable where Christ was born. This also is a deep hole under the church, down steep stairs, through dank, dark rat runs to a cave—not a stable or anything resembling a stable or manger where Christ was born as given by Scripture. Here was an idol in a cradle. There were also numerous candles and odd lamps burning; and people were also kissing walls and floors and crossing themselves.

Adjoining this is a Greek Orthodox Church over another hole *they* claim is the birthplace of Christ. Here there was another idol in another cradle and other candles and other people kissing stones, floors, and walls. Our guide told us that

Below is the interior of the rock-hewn sepulchre in which Jesus was buried and from which He arose to be the Living Savior of all mankind. The tomb at the left is the place Jesus lay.





Here is a picture of "HELL." The valley of Hinnom, or "gehenna," translated "hell" in many versions, is viewed from outside the walls of Jerusalem. Into this valley criminals and garbage were dumped to be consumed by the fires that burned in the bottom. Worms consumed waste that fell on the ledges. The fires of this valley are again to be ignited and the wicked are to be cast into it and perish forever.

the two churches, or the Priests of the two, get into real fights some times. Each church has out its money boxes and each watches the other in jealousy.

We drove by Rachel's tomb on the way to and from Bethlehem and stopped there for a few moments. She died here at the birth of Benjamin.

When Not to Eat "Lamb"!

When we returned to our hotel, we were tired and hungry. I tried to eat. Muslims do not eat unclean meats but the "lamb" they served had been a lamb many years ago. Although I lost a lot of weight, I don't believe I'll be able to eat "lamb" again for months or maybe years. From Egypt on, everything has been "lamb." Strong, smelly, tough lamb! Everyone and every place smells of sheep, goats, and camels. I wonder if I will ever be able to get the sheepy, goaty, camelly smell out of my memory!
May 9th

The next day we went to the top of the Mt. of Olives. This was a real in-

spiration. This is the place where Christ spent much of His time, and the mountain from which He ascended into Heaven and on which His feet will again stand when He returns to this earth a Glorified Christ and King of Kings. We who overcome and are faithful unto the end, will be there with Him. I may never again see the Mt. of Olives in my mortal life but I expect to see it again then with Him.

We walked down into the beautiful Garden of Gethsemane among the ancient olive trees—some over two-thousand years old. We walked in the place where Christ prayed and sweated great drops of blood in His agony before He was betrayed by Judas. It is impossible to express the thoughts, the sensations, and the inspirations that one experiences here. It is so cold on paper, but to be there and experience it makes it all very real. To me the Bible is a new book now—so *alive* and *real*!

Our time in the old city of Jerusalem, under Arab control, was up. We were

driven to the Mandlebaum Gate where we were to pass out of Jordan into "Israel"—the Jewish section. Yassar took us to the gate and through it to a small shed which is the Arab border customs house. Just outside are cement tank traps, tangled barbed wires, and many bombed out buildings.

From here on for 100 yards was "no man's land."

Entering Israel

No Arab was allowed to help us across to the "Israel" side; so Yassar stood on a cement tank trap waving to us as we started out on foot across this precarious ground. Mr. Armstrong and Dick were loaded down with bags. I had the two cameras, Dick's blue airplane bag, my hat-box, and hand-bag. Watched behind by the Arabs and in front by the Jews, we caught the feeling of animosity that exists between the two enemies. Soon we were faced by a sand-bagged shack on the Jewish side. We were watched thru a small window



The gorgeous altar of a Palestinian Catholic Church. The Church is dedicated to Mary, who is mistakenly called "Queen of Heaven."

used as a place to shoot any intruder.

A Jew met us when we had finally made it across "no man's land" and helped us into the Jewish Customs. We had to call the American Express from here and found out that our guide for this land of "Israel" had gone to Tel Aviv. We then called a taxi and went to our hotel—the "King David."

What a change! It was like suddenly entering a new world.

All was different here. The streets are clean and wide. The children playing on the lawns are clean and healthy looking. It was such a relief to be out of the Arab country.

The hotel is beautiful and clean. The luxury of baths in clean bathrooms and eating in a clean dining room was such a wonderful feeling. The lack of good food and the little I took of it in the Arab countries caught up with me here and I spent one day sick abed.

Our tour over all "Israel" was so different from the Arab countries. There were no more Arab robes, nor diseased, crippled, and deformed people. These were more like the people of our country, yet they are not from America but from the countries of Europe, Asia and Africa.

We spent a couple of days seeing the Jewish side of Jerusalem. It is a comparatively new city, and very modern.

It probably was open field in Jesus' day. None of the old historic Jerusalem is in Jewish hands.

After a visit to the tombs of the Sanhedrin and to the town where John the Baptist was born, we drove to Tel Aviv, over the ancient territories of Judah, Benjamin and Dan. Tel Aviv, of course, is on the Mediterranean sea-coast. From here, stopping only to check for mail, we proceeded north along the coast thru the ancient lands of Dan, Ephraim, and into Manasseh, then north-east over

into the Valley of Jezreel and to Megiddo. This place is the "Armageddon" of the Bible prophecy, where the future battle of the "Great Day of God Almighty" is to be fought. In this valley more battles have been fought than any other place in the world. Once again "the blood will flow to the horses' bridles" at this place. In the distance, across the valley, we could see Mt. Tabor.

Approaching Nazareth—the Town Where Jesus Lived as a Boy

We continued along the highway north-east to the town of Nazareth, where Jesus lived as a boy. Nazareth is located on a rather steep hill. The ancient city of Jesus' boyhood is gone—buried underneath today's city. The present city is now and has been for hundred of years occupied by Arabs. The Arabs have built their city with adobe and stone.

Again we were taken to a dirty black cave over which is a Catholic church. They claim it to be the boyhood home of Jesus. There was another they called the home of Mary's girlhood. But Jesus was a carpenter; Mary's husband was a carpenter; and they did not live in dirt caves. Here again were fakes for money getting.

Our guide here, though an Arab, was a Catholic. He was very antagonistic after we refused to believe that Jesus

Viewing the Mount of Olives from near the tomb of Herzl, the founder of Zionism. Part of Jerusalem is in the foreground.





Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong in the Valley of Esdraelon, with Megiddo nearby. Megiddo is militarized. It is called Armageddon in Scripture, meaning "armed Megiddo."

lived in a cave.

We were taken to a synagogue, however, that had been excavated. This was—and this time we could believe it—the very synagogue where Jesus did attend and where "He stood up to read." (Luke 4:16). It's a small place. It was a moving experience to be in the same room where Christ used to attend and speak on the Sabbath.

After another Arab lunch in Nazareth, we drove past Cana of Galilee where Jesus performed His first miracle.

As we neared the Sea of Galilee, we stopped and viewed it first, from a high hill. The Sea is approximately 800 feet below sea level.

As we drove over all this country between Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, and the Sea of Galilee, it brought again to life the New Testament. Jesus walked over these hills along this way. He too viewed the blue Sea of Galilee from this high point, for it is on the way to Capernaum.

We drove along the seashore where even today the fishermen launch their

boats and mend their nets. This is where Jesus called Peter and Andrew, and where they left their nets and followed Him.

We went over the hills where He fed the five-thousand, and we could view the place, across the lake, where He cast the demons out of the two demoniacs, and the swine ran down the steep embankment into the sea.

We passed through Magdala, the home of Mary the Magdalene, and then on to Capernaum. The town is gone but the synagogue has been excavated. It is in ruins now. It is a much larger place than the one in Nazareth. Here again, though, the Roman Catholics have a high iron fence around the place and expect money to be given for looking at it.

Jesus devoted a large part of His ministry in this region around the lake of Galilee, especially around the northwest portion of the lake where we were, and it was a very impressive experience to be there on the very spot.

It was growing late in the afternoon,

so we drove on across the valley of Jezreel again, forking northward, arriving in Haifa in the early evening. Haifa is a very busy seaport city, located on a bay overlooked by the north tip of Mt. Carmel. We registered at our hotel and went for a walk around the city. A United States Cruiser was in port, and we saw a number of American sailors.

A Jewish Wedding

When we returned to the modern hotel for dinner, we found that hotel guests were not being admitted to the main dining room, located on the lower level below the street-level lobby. A Jewish wedding feast was in progress and the wedding guests completely filled the large main dining room. Hotel guests were being served in a smaller room on the same floor. It was filled, and we had to wait in this lower-level lobby some thirty minutes for a table. This gave us opportunity to observe a little of the Jewish wedding feast. This was most interesting, after having twice

passed by Cana of Galilee that day, where Jesus attended a Jewish wedding more than 1900 years ago, and turned the water into wine. We learned that Jewish weddings are elaborate affairs. The bride and groom came out in the lobby to have their pictures taken while we were there.

We spent the night in Haifa. Next morning we were driven all over the city, and stopped to go through a Jewish industrial fair being held there at the time. Here we saw displayed exhibits of the various products now being manufactured in the new nation "Israel." It was an eye-opening revelation. It seemed to us that the Jews who have returned to Palestine are now manufacturing there almost every commodity and gadget that they need to be self-supporting. We saw literally thousands of different items of modern Jewish manufacture, for home, farm, office or factory.

Then we were driven up on Mt. Carmel which overlooks the city.

We ate lunch on Mt. Carmel where Elijah lived. We drove past the place where Jezebel and King Ahab lived when she was thrown out of the window and the dogs ate her. We also saw the place of their summer palace, and the place where Elijah dared the prophets of Baal to call down fire to burn up the sacrifice, and where God, at Elijah's prayer, sent down the fire that not only burned the sacrifice but the altar, the stones, and the dust. We were over the hills and dales where the prophets of Baal were slain.

From there we proceeded south and visited one of the Hadassa farms where Jewish children, from all countries, many of them orphans, are entered at the age of ten and schooled and trained until they are eighteen. It was a fruitful and beautiful place.

The children do all the work—care for the buildings, the chickens, the stock, and the farm. The supervisors train them to do each job well. They are so happy there that even though they sometimes leave for a visit to their homes they are always in a hurry to return.

We took pictures of this place. The overseer turned on a beautiful fountain for us and showed us the flowers. We

took pictures of them in color.

Some of the boys took Mr. Armstrong and Dick to show them the stock. They are all very proud of their place and their work.

As we drove through the fertile fields, I stopped and picked some of the lovely lavender hollyhocks that grow wild everywhere along the roads.

Much of our journey from Haifa to Tel Aviv was along the Mediterranean Sea. It was such a beautiful trip.

We visited a communal farm between Haifa and Tel Aviv where families live and have everything in common. These are very productive farms, and because the land of Palestine has had its rest, it is very fertile.

These people live in large buildings and have a common dining hall, kitchen, and living room. The barns and dairy are near by, while the fields go for miles in all directions.

They drive out in the morning to cultivate the land. Each group has its certain work to do.

That American Tourist Again!

When we reached Tel Aviv we found a modern city. It was Friday afternoon when we arrived. Our hotel was a beautiful modern building on the seashore. When we entered the dining room here again was the woman whom we had seen and heard at Baalbek, Amman, and again at the King David in Jerusalem. It seemed wherever we went she was there. We did not want to start a conversation with her or rather have her try to start one with us, so we veered off to another corner of the dining room.

Our rooms here were very nice. On leaving us after taking up our bags, the boy said "Shalom." Each time anyone greeted us this was the word they used.

We had a new experience the next day. Everything all over the city was closed. It was the Sabbath—no buses, no street-cars, not even any mail delivery to the hotel. Yet this Sabbath is *not* observed as a sacred day. The only synagogue we saw was a small one. All streets within two or three blocks of it each way were closed to traffic. However, the other streets were full of people out walking or on the beach swimming,

surfboard riding, and playing games. It is a day used for their pleasure.

The land now called Israel is being rebuilt by Jews who are leaving God entirely out of their plans. The biggest building in all "Israel" is at Haifa and is named after the idol god Dagon. It is the tallest building in all the city and the great letters "Dagon" extend across the top of the building.

I sat on the beach at the rear of the hotel and a Jewess from New York was there with a Hadassah group. She talked to me of the wonderful things they were doing for the children and of the general upbuilding of the land. But, when I tried to talk of the part their religion had in the building of the country there was no answer. She just was not interested. God is not in the picture at all.

We had driven out to the ruins of Ashdod, a totally ruined and deserted Arab town since 1948. Thence we went to desolate Ashkelon where some of the ruins of the ancient city have been excavated and where part of the ancient wall still stands. God said that this city would be completely destroyed and it was.

We drove to Ekron where we took pictures of a group of Yemmenite Jewish children. They are very dark.

After another night in Tel Aviv, we flew to Istanbul, Turkey. We had to fly over the Mediterranean Sea, the island of Cyprus—one of the world trouble-spots, Asian Turkey, over the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus before arriving in Istanbul, which is located in European Turkey.

We stayed at the "Hilton Hotel" in Istanbul that was built by the American hotel man, Conrad Hilton.

Viewing the Black Sea Near Russia

Our first trip here was a boat ride up the Bosphorus to the entrance of the Black Sea—Russian waters. We saw the submarine nets near the entrance to the Black Sea, put there by the Turks to prevent Russian submarines from coming through.

The trip was tiring because the boat was packed and we could hardly find even standing room. This was because we were there during the time of the

completion of the Ramadan—a thirty-day Muslim fast, which is ended with three days of feasting and holiday. Although the Turks are Muslims in religion, they do not wear the Arab dress or the Fez, the robes, the veils for women, etc. These were all outlawed by Ataturk a former ruler.

Our guide this time was a woman. She was a very nice looking Turkish woman who in summer works for American Express and in winter teaches in a girl's school.

At the end of our boat trip up the Bosphorus, we landed at a large village and took a car back through the country to Istanbul.

Many of the buildings in Istanbul are modern, but many also are very, very old frame houses so ancient they look as if they are ready to cave in; yet people live even up in the third and fourth stories of these old fire traps.

Our guide took us through the old Mosque and also the Palace of the King, now a museum where we saw the largest collection of china on earth. There was room after room filled with it from all parts of the world.

Our stay in Istanbul was short. We left there May 17th and flew over the Golden Horn, the Sea of Mamre, the Aegean Sea, the Ionian Sea to Athens, Greece.

Greece and Its Idols

The German president and his retinue had taken over the hotel where we had reservations; so we had to find another. The beds were just thin pads on wooden slats with no springs and not enough cover. The bathroom was dirty, so we only spent a few hours in our rooms and the rest of the time looking over the city where the apostle Paul spent so much time.

There is always a silver lining to every cloud. Even though we had to stay in a very uncomfortable place, we were not in the same hotel with the lady of Baalbek who did get in the hotel where the Germans were.

We had to avoid her. She caused trouble wherever she went. At the King David in Jerusalem, she had several waiters trying to soothe her ruffled

(Please continue on page 18)

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

HERE are the *Bible* answers to questions which can be answered briefly in a short space. *Send in your questions.* While we cannot promise that all questions will find space for answer in this department, we shall try to answer all that are vital and in the general interest of our readers.

Is Money the Root of Evil?

This question has been asked frequently since many heard Mr. Armstrong say that "*money* is not THE root of all evil."

Some have very quickly turned to I Timothy 6:10 and, by careless reading, assumed something this text does not say at all. If you will turn to this Scripture in your Bible and carefully study it, you will see where the error is made.

To start with, notice that the text reads "For the *love* of money is the root of all evil . . ." It says the "LOVE of money," not merely money, but the "*love* of money," is the root of all evil. From this you can see that a person with *no* money could still commit this evil.

The poor and the rich alike can LOVE money. Money by itself is not sin. It is the misuse of money that is sin. Money can be used for *good* as well as evil.

The second point which is not generally known or understood is the expression rendered in the King James translation "the root." If an interlinear Greek-English text is consulted, or some of the more accurate translations, you will find the expression to be "a root." So "*love* of money" is merely "*a* root" of all evil. This gives added meaning to the thought. It is *a* root, *not the only* root of evil. There are other roots of evil beside the *love* of money. The correct rendering of this passage is: "For the *love* of money is *a* root of all evils . . ." (Panin Trans.).

Now it should be plain that *money*

is not *the* root of evil, but "the LOVE of money is *a* root of evil."

Should You Pay Your Debts Before You Start Tithing?

Some people say: "I know that it is right to tithe, and I plan to start tithing as soon as I can, but I think that I should pay my debts first." What is wrong with this question?

In the first place, *to whom do you owe the GREATEST DEBT?* Why to God! If you have not been paying your tithe, you owe God ten percent of all that you have ever earned. However, God is quite lenient. If you start to pay your debt to God *first* by tithing, He will prosper you so you can pay off your *secondary* debts to your fellow man.

Many are in debt now merely because they do not pay God his tithe. They are under a curse. Notice Malachi 3:9. God says:

"Ye are cursed with a curse: for you have *robbed* me, even this whole nation." How have we robbed Him? Read verse 8: ". . . Wherein have we *robbed* Thee? In tithes and offerings." That is why so many in this nation are cursed with large debts.

How, then, can people get out from under this curse? Notice God's instruction in the following verses of Malachi. He invites you to put Him to the test by paying your tithes. See if He won't "pour you out a blessing that you cannot hold." Take God at His word. Begin to pay Him what rightfully belongs to Him. He will cause you to have more than enough to pay all your debts, and

prosper you with more than you had in the past.

Does the Bible Teach "Eternal Security?"

Can a person repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit, and still, in the end fall away and be lost?

Christ said, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that *doeth the will* of my Father which is in heaven." (Mat. 7:21). Again we read, "And because *iniquity* (LAWLESSNESS) shall abound, the love of *many* shall wax COLD. But he that shall ENDURE UNTO THE END, *the same* SHALL be saved" (Mat. 24:12-13).

The Bible plainly teaches in many places that there is no "eternal security" for those who fall into apostasy. "For as to those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift, and became partakers of the Holy Spirit, and tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come, AND FELL AWAY, it is *impossible to renew them* again unto repentance" (Heb. 6:4-7, Panin Trans.).

Some do fall away. For them there is no eternal security, but a "CERTAIN fearful expectation of judgment, and a

fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:27). The fate of the wicked is eternal destruction in the lake of fire—the second *death!*

The parables clearly show that some—after hearing, understanding and accepting the Word of God—let the cares of this life and the lust of riches enter in and choke the Word after which they soon fall away. They no longer strive forward in Christian growth.

We also read in the first few chapters of Revelation that it is *only the OVERCOMERS* who shall be given eternal life and who shall inherit all things. Even the apostle Paul once said, "I keep under my body, and bring it unto SUBJECTION; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, *I myself should be a CASTAWAY*" (I Cor. 9:27).

Yes, even the apostle Paul, the chief of the apostles, feared lest he should be a "castaway"—lest he should fall short of the mark of our high calling and not be granted eternal life in the end.

There is *no* eternal security for us who are yet *mortal* and subject to sin, BUT there *is* eternal security for those who overcome and are granted *eternal life*. After we are made *immortal*, we shall be permanently saved from sin, (Please continue on page 24)

gave her a good explanation of what life is all about. She heard the Gospel for the first time in her life.

We went to the Market Place where Paul disputed with the Athenians. We also saw Mars Hill where Paul told the Greek "wise" men at the Court of Areopagus that they were too superstitious and declared to them the true God. We went up to the famous Acropolis and spent some time there.

Our stay was not long in Athens, but we were able to see all the Bible places connected with Paul's ministry.

On to Rome

As we flew over the Mediterranean, across the boot of Italy, along the coast of Italy, the Bay of Naples and then to Rome, we were contemplating staying no longer than two days; we were now one week ahead of schedule. However, when we arrived May 18th, we called the hotel in London by telephone to try to advance our reservations there five days, but found they were crowded and no space was available until Friday, May 25th; so we stayed the full week in Rome.

The city is so very interesting. We spent every day in historic places. On Thursday, May 19th, we drove to Naples along the Appian Way where Paul entered Rome after landing near or in the Bay of Naples. It was a very beautiful drive to Naples with many interesting places to see.

Mrs. Armstrong's Diary

(Continued from page 17)

feathers and finally before we left the head waiter was called to try to calm her. We scurried out of sight of her in this hotel.

It's complaining or boasting Americans that cause people of these countries to hate us.

Our guide was a woman—a Greek Orthodox, and our driver was a man. We drove to the museums, then past the Palace and back to the hotel for lunch.

During our visit in the museums our guide was disgusted with us and frustrated at our lack of enthusiasm over the icons and Greek Orthodox religious trappings and pictures. She would exclaim, "Isn't this beautiful" over some idolatrous picture and receive no re-

sponse from us. Finally, when it became so tiresome, as we went through the pagan temples, Mr. Armstrong told her what he thought of paganism and

Here is a view of Pompeii, the city buried beneath nearly 40 feet of ash and dust in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A. D. The entire area has recently been excavated.





The world-famous St. Peter's Cathedral in the Vatican. Part of the Pope's Palace may be seen in the upper right corner. Note the immense statues atop the walls—compared with the visitors below.

After seeing Naples, we drove to the ruined city of Pompeii. This was the most startling place we have seen. In the year 79 A.D., Pompeii was completely covered with ashes from Mt. Vesuvius. It was a city of twenty-thousand people. While thousands escaped from the city to the sea, hundreds perished in their homes and in the streets.

In the year 1860, excavations began. We walked down the narrow cobblestone streets worn by chariot wheels and saw public buildings still standing. Only the walls remained. The roofs were gone—fallen in from the weight of the ashes and cinders.

We entered the doors of many homes and saw, in some, their household gods. These were near the entrance to the homes.

We saw the bodies of the victims that have been found preserved in the ash. These were in the museum. Even the expression on their faces are preserved. One dog still with the chain around his neck was twisted with his head under his body, showing the agony it suffered before it died.

There are two loaves of bread preserved and hardened. Here was bread two thousand years old.

There was also the body of a woman with her arm over her face to protect

it. An expression of stark fear and agony was on her face. Some of the bones of the hand and leg were showing through the encrusted body.

We walked past their pagan temples and through the city center. One has to visit the place to really understand. It was overwhelming. One feels shocked beyond expression and has a great pity for these people, even though they have been dead over eighteen hundred years. It is impossible to realize that it happened so long ago when you are there and viewing their bodies.

The Cult of Mary

We drove back to Rome. On the way we passed a funeral in one of the villages. The hearse was a highly decorated, immense, horse-drawn affair; and the whole funeral procession was more like a parade.

When we entered the suburbs of Rome, we got into a traffic jam that seemed hours before we moved. When finally we began to inch along, we found what had held up traffic. It was a life-sized idol called Mary that was on a brightly lighted truck used in a political campaign. An election was coming up and the Catholics were urging everyone to vote to defeat the Communists.

It seemed that wherever an idol called Mary was seen in Rome, many worshipers would stop and stare in worshipful awe. They will even stop city traffic.

Jupiter Transformed into Peter!

We went through St. Peter's Cathedral again, once more watching people as they pass the statue of Jupiter Olympus seated in the cathedral, and kissing its big toe. One after another they kissed the big toe, even lifting up little children. Whether diseased, dirty, or clean, all were crossing themselves and kissing the toe that was now worn to a nub from years of this procedure.

A halo has been placed over the head—or perhaps it's called a crown, and huge keys made and fastened in the hand of Jupiter. It is now called "St. Peter" with the keys to the Kingdom of God.

We went through the treasury in the church and saw millions of dollars worth of jeweled religious robes, crowns, and all sorts of things that we did not know the names of. Among them was the triple crown of the Pope. In some jeweled objects were bones, small bones, or piece of bone from some Pope or "Saint."

We went through the Vatican Museum.
(Please continue on page 23)

how many men really do their work with *zeal*, with *wisdom*, with *diligence*, and with *all their MIGHT*?

The Eternal God in His Word instructs us to do our work in this manner. If we yield to Him and develop these qualities within ourselves, He promises us *material blessings* here and now—and spiritual, everlasting blessings as well.

As the apostle John wrote: "I wish above all things that thou mayest PROSPER and be in health." God has shown us the *way* to achieve that prosperity.

Why Desire Material Gain?

But many will ask, "Why should Christians want material wealth? As long as we have food, shelter, and clothing, we should desire nothing more except the spiritual gifts of God, shouldn't we?"

The answer to this question is *both* "yes" and "no." Certainly Paul was inspired to write Timothy: "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be *rich* fall into *temptation* and a *snare*" (1 Tim. 6:8-9). Then he continued: "For the *love* of money is a root of all evils" (verse 10, as correctly translated by Panin and others). The excessive *love* of money is often the cause of nearly every conceivable evil—of war, murder, robbery, kidnapping, adultery, lying and so on.

But Paul also wrote: "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be *full* and to be hungry, both to *abound* and to suffer need. I can do *all things* through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philip. 4:12-13).

In other words, there are times when a true child of God may have to give up his job, or flee persecution, or for some reason have to forsake his worldly possessions and rely on God for His promise of food and raiment—and perhaps not have much else for a time.

But there are many other times—under more normal circumstances—when a real Christian may best serve God by having a *modest amount* of material wealth, and by using it to be a good neighbor, to help those in need,

and to give generously to the work of God.

Money is power. It can be a power for *good*—or for *evil*. In the hands of God—or in His work—it is a tremendous power for *good*, resulting in thousands of people being really converted as begotten children of God. But when used for a selfish or greedy purpose, it can be a great power for *evil*—often resulting in the spiritual wreckage of its owner.

What Our Goal Should Be

As real Christians—with the true *understanding* of God's great purpose in our lives—our objective in this matter should be two-fold. *First*, we should develop and *exercise* the qualities of *diligence*, *dependability*, and *wisdom* in our work because this is in itself a part of our Christian growth and character development—because these qualities will make us more *like God*, and more *worthy* of a position of great responsibility in His kingdom.

Second, we should apply these qualities in our jobs because we want to *rightly employ* the material wealth which they will bring us in compensation. We should *want to serve* and *help* others, and realizing the tremendous mission of God's church is to preach His true message as a *witness* to every nation under heaven—we should earnestly desire the opportunity and ability to pay God larger amounts in tithes, and to give more generously in free-will offerings.

Jesus said: "Lay up for yourselves *treasures in heaven* . . . For where your *treasure* is, there will your *heart* be also" (Mat. 6:20-21).

In II Cor. 9:7-8, the apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthians to *give bountifully*. He wrote: "For God *loveth* a *CHEERFUL* giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you: that *ye, always having all sufficiency* in all things, *may abound to every good work*." In other words, if your motive in getting material wealth is to GIVE, then God will cause you to ABOUND so that you might better serve in this manner. Of course, you have *your part* in this by *working hard*, and by asking God for *wisdom* and *guidance*.

Remember, most of you who read this have NOT been blessed with even an *average amount* of material wealth. This is because God is—as a whole—calling those of more humble circumstances at this present time.

But once we have come to God in *repentance* and *humility*, realizing our own weakness—then we should with a *right motive* begin to develop those traits of character that automatically make us more of a *leader*, more *zealous*, more *dependable*.

Asking God for *guidance*, serving Him in *all things* with our MIGHT, we shall then be blessed in *material* as well as *spiritual things*—and thus be able to play an even bigger part in His work through paying tithes and giving generous offerings.

Even our faithfulness in obeying God's tithing law brings a promise of further *blessings* and *prosperity*! For God has said: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and *prove me now* herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and *pour you out a BLESSING*, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10).

Let us learn to *grow*, to *work*, to GIVE—that we may be *worthy* of the immeasurable blessings our gracious God and Father wishes to bestow upon us.

Never forget, however, that even a justly earned prosperity may be stripped away from us if this prosperity causes us to *forsake* God, or if in His perfect wisdom He chooses to punish us in this way for *any* reason. So whether in times of prosperity, or in times of persecution and want through which all righteous Christians must go, remember Jesus' command: "Seek ye *first* the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things [our material *needs*] shall be added unto you" (Mat. 6:33).

My Answer to an Atheist

(Continued from page 10)

ing, all-powerful Creator GOD, then I do not have much faith either in your rational processes or your sincerity as a seeker of the TRUTH!

Here are two striking views of ancient Pompeii. For nearly two thousand years the street below and the public baths to the right have been preserved beneath volcanic ash. You see here a glimpse of the past grandeur of the Roman Empire.



Mrs. Armstrong's Diary

(Continued from page 19)

um on two different days. It was our third visit to these places.

Home Again!

We were glad when we were able to leave Rome and once again fly (even though I dislike flying) to England. We flew over the Mediterranean, and then over the Alps. We flew very near Mt. Blanc and that was awe-inspiring and beautiful. It is the highest mountain in the Alps. All the flight across those snow capped mountains was so beautiful that I almost relaxed.

It was beginning to get dark as we flew over France and the English Channel.

When we arrived in London, George Meeker and Frank Longuskie, from our London office, were there to meet us. It was almost like arriving home.

Our long, long trip over Egypt, Iraq,

Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Turkey, Greece, and Italy was over. The English seemed like home folks. London looked so good.

Here we finally had letters from home, and at last good clean food and comfortable beds, and, of course, George Meeker and Frank Longuskie.

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?"

The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "Freely GIVE." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a PRICE upon the PLAIN TRUTH.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!

Heart to Heart Talk with the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

My ambition and zeal was *not* persecuting God's true Church, as was Paul's, but climbing the ladder of business success and making money. God struck me down three times successively, by taking out from under my feet the businesses I had started, wiping me out, financially. Then God brought me to the study of His Word by causing me to try to refute the eternal validity, and good of God's spiritual Law, which He had revealed to my wife, and which I at first bitterly opposed.

During that six-months' study of more than fourteen hours per day, I read very little literature favorable to the Law, but I read everything I could find which opposed it—but mostly I studied—just the BIBLE! After six months' intensive study I was forced, in honesty before my God, to swallow the most bitter pill of my life. It literally "killed" me—and I died—surrendered wholly to God, gave my life henceforth to Him to use "if He could."

I had been brought up from birth in the Friends Church (Quakers), though I had never been converted or begotten as a child of God, and at age 18 I strayed almost wholly away from all church interest or attendance, and devoted my whole energies to business. I

had just passed age 30 when God forced me into this study of His Word, and total surrender to Him and His rule over my life.

From then on, I studied the Bible ON MY KNEES. Time after time it corrected me. Repeatedly I had to suffer reproof, and acknowledge I had been wrong in my beliefs and desires. God chastened and corrected me repeatedly, not only thru revealing His Truth in this way, but by continual circumstances.

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I had been conceited, proud. But now by bitter experience, by suffering, by circumstance, and by God's Word, I was brought low and humbled. But also I began to experience the unmatched joy of learning truth NEW to me, as God little by little, yet more and more, revealed TRUTHS so wonderful they produced spiritual ecstasy. For the first time in my life I found what HAPPINESS really is!

God launched me in His work, and after my first evangelistic effort in a church in Harrisburg, Oregon, I experienced the greatest thrill of my life so far, upon realizing a few precious lives had been brought to repentance, to surrender to God, to FAITH in Jesus Christ—CONVERTED—CHANGED! *Truly* it is more blessed to give than to receive!

That process of being corrected, of GROWING in grace and the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, has continued, now, to these 30 years—more than a quarter century. *And it is still continuing!* God grant it shall forever!

No, MEN did not teach me what I preach to you. I was not taught of men, but of GOD! I do not speak to you by authority of men, or any politically organized church of men—but in the name, and by the AUTHORITY of JESUS CHRIST, the living HEAD of the true CHURCH OF GOD!

These words of Christ, which He received from the Father—the very words and Gospel of CHRIST which I speak and write to you—they are SPIRIT, and they are LIFE!

Short Questions

(Continued from page 18)

saved from death—*secure* for all eternity. At that time—after the resurrection—we can correctly say, "once saved always saved."

Should Christians Swear By an Oath?

The teaching of Jesus and of the early inspired true New Testament Church was *not to swear* under any circumstances. The Scriptures are very plain on this point: "But above all things, by brethren, SWEAR NOT . . . but let your yes be yes; and your no be no; lest ye

fall into condemnation" (James 5:12).

Jesus Himself personally instructed: "I say unto you, 'Swear not at all; neither by the heaven, for it is God's Throne; neither by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet; nor toward Jerusalem, for it is the great King's city. Neither shalt thou swear by thy hear, for thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your word be, "Yes, yes; No, No:" and whatsoever is more than these is of the evil one"—or of sin.'" (Mat. 5:33-37).

Here Jesus warns against swearing because we cannot perform the oath and we would be taking the name of God in vain!

Not only is it wrong to lie under oath, but we as mortal human beings are so prone to mistaken judgment or lack of knowledge that any error we would make under oath would be *to take the name of God in vain*. It is sin!

We are merely to say, "Yes," or "No," to the best of our understanding. Then we are not guilty of using God's name in vain. It is the law of the United States to permit *affirmation*—that is, say *yes* or *no*—without raising the hand to swear.

If men are not to swear by an oath, how are we to account for the fact that God swears by Himself? (Hebrews 6:13-17; Psalm 110:4; Luke 1:73.) In Isaiah 45:23, God has sworn that every knee shall yet bow to Him.

The answer is simple. The right to take an oath belongs to God. God alone has infallible judgment. When we are made immortal members of the God family, prophecy proves that we shall swear by God because *we shall be God*—members of the God family. Then we shall have the power to perform our oaths. This we cannot do now.

Jesus, while in the flesh, did not swear, setting us an example. Men in Old Testament times did swear, but it was not revealed to them that God alone can rightly exercise such a duty. It remained for Christ to make the law honorable and magnify it (Isaiah 42:21). People are held accountable according to the knowledge possessed. We now know from the very words of Jesus that it is wrong for mortal men to swear by an oath at any time. Taking an oath is a divine prerogative.