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# PLAIN TRUTH

*a magazine of understanding*



## Europe's Uncertain Future



# PERSONAL FROM



## Understanding the Way to Peace

**L**et me give you a little UNDERSTANDING of war and PEACE.

Why can't the heads of government in the nations of the world realize that ONLY GOD has the ANSWERS? That the BIBLE is the most up-to-the-minute source of knowledge and UNDERSTANDING in today's world for the solution of all problems?

*The Plain Truth* is a world NEWS magazine, keeping you abreast of the KEY world happenings leading us directly into the PEACEFUL and HAPPY WORLD TOMORROW—but, too, it is MUCH MORE! It is a magazine of UNDERSTANDING—understanding *not only* of key happenings in world news, but UNDERSTANDING of life itself, of the PURPOSE and real meaning of life—of the CAUSES of problems and troubles, whether personal and individual, national or world problems—and of their SOLUTIONS, and of HOW, and WHEN, and by WHAT MEANS all these giant problems *are going to be solved!*

More, and most important of all, *The Plain Truth* brings you UNDERSTANDING of the very Word of God, the SOURCE OF TRUTH—and of the PROPHECIES of events soon to occur, in the next two, five or 10 years!

WHY do nations go to WAR? WHY does God *allow* wars, violence, human suffering? Many reason if God is LOVE, he surely would not *want* all this suffering! And if he is all-POWERFUL, he could prevent it. So WHY doesn't he?

Certainly God could stop it—and in fact, soon will!

But why not millennia ago?

For a supremely important reason! A PURPOSE is being worked out here below. Man was put here on earth for the development of right CHARACTER. That PURPOSE requires free moral agency in man. It is necessary that man be given both the prerogative and the ability to *make his own decision!* Otherwise he would be an automaton—no character.

There is A WAY that will produce peace—a way to happiness, abundant well-being—and with it, God will *give* eternal life!

What is that way? The Eternal Creator set in motion not only the laws of physics and chemistry—laws like gravity and inertia—but also a *spiritual* law that is THE WAY to all these wanted blessings. It's a simple matter of CAUSE and EFFECT! That law is *the way* of LOVE. And love is outgoing concern. It is giving, helping, serving, sharing—but human nature *pulls* humanity in the exact opposite direction—into being SELF-centered, selfish, greedy, the way of vanity—the way of getting, taking, accumulating—of competition, strife, envy, jealousy, resentment, hatred.

God's great spiritual LAW is simply, the CAUSE of peace, happiness, abundant well-being. The violation of that law, by yielding to the pulls of human nature is simply, the ABSENCE of peace, happiness and abundant well-being.

God laid before man the knowledge of his law—his WAY! He compels man to CHOOSE! Would man *want* God to FORCE him to go God's way, *contrary* to the desires of human nature? Never! He would cry out, "God is unfair!" Man *wants* the right of free choice.

So to fulfill his PURPOSE, the Creator marked out a duration of 7,000 years. The first six of those millennial "days" were set aside for man to CHOOSE whether to OBEY God's law—that is, voluntarily come under GOD'S GOVERNMENT—or work out his own ideas of HUMAN GOVERNMENT. Man chose to reject God, his government and his law. He elected to follow the desires of his carnal self-centered nature.

Yielding to HUMAN NATURE is the CAUSE of war.

Obedience to God's law of peace is the CAUSE of peace. □



# The Sure Way to End the Fear of Nuclear War NOW!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY civil wars and violence—with no hope in sight for peace? World leaders do not know! They do not know that they could have peace now, in 1984, in full security for the future. Read how in this eye-opening article.

**T**HERE IS A WAY—a *tried and proven way*—a SURE way—to end all fear of any all-out nuclear hot war between the United States and the Soviet Union.

What a pity that the governments and the peoples of this world remain blinded to THAT WAY! And it is so simple!

It's just as simple as this: There is a CAUSE for every EFFECT—yet our whole society and way of life today is based on treating the *effect*, IGNORING the CAUSE! Our people do it in treating sickness and disease. They do it in dealing with crime. They do it in WORKING FOR PEACE!

#### Working for Peace

Everybody *wants* PEACE—or at least, so we profess! We WORK for peace! The Pope pleads for PEACE! Prime ministers strive for PEACE! Yet *there is no peace!*

WHY?

The very NEWS of all this “working for peace” was reported millennia ago in biblical prophecy! But, it was also reported, “The

WAY OF PEACE *they know not*” (Isa. 59:8).

So, the nations and world leaders CRY for peace—*work* for peace, while they endorse, sanction and continue *the way of WAR!* They follow *the way* that is the CAUSE of WAR, trying to STOP war by dealing with the *effect*, ignoring the CAUSE!

The world today is a good deal like the dope addict, who finds he is “hooked,” and can’t “kick it” on the one hand—and, on the other, he is forced to keep gradually *increasing* the dosage to just hold his own. It becomes very costly, and most dope addicts resort to stealing, crime—*anything* to get their hands on enough money to keep up their growing, escalating, ever-more-costly habit.

Isn't it about time we come to UNDERSTAND?

#### Nations Never NEEDED Go to War

Yielding to HUMAN NATURE is the CAUSE of war.

Rebellion against God's law of peace is the CAUSE of war.

So now let's take a look at one of the 10 POINTS of God's basic spiritual law. I mean that point that has to do with WARS!

In respect to WAR, the basic point is the Sixth Commandment. It says, simply, “*Thou shalt not kill.*”

If all nations obeyed that commandment and followed the way of LOVE toward other humans, there would be no war.

But, one argues, that's a pretty platitude—but it's not practical—it won't work. WHY? Because, he argues, if *your* nation obeys that commandment and is disarmed with no military force, it would be attacked and beaten by some *other* nation that disobeyed God's law, and believed in WAR. Your nation would therefore be helpless.

Oh, but it WOULDN'T! The Creator understands human nature better than we humans do. HE PROVIDED FOR THAT!

Let's open our eyes to down-to-earth practical TRUTH—to FACT!

You think the Almighty Creator-God is impractical—that he leaves those who OBEY him, who accept his GOVERNMENT over them, HELPLESS? One of the responsibilities of GOVERNMENT is to protect its own subjects! You think—do you?—that the GOVERNMENT OF GOD is so feeble and lacking in power that it is unable to protect



the individual or the nation it governs?

Open your eyes, now, to the FACTS! God did take a people to be his nation. He took a family of some two million helpless SLAVES—all descended from God's friend Abraham—and offered to set them up as a nation under his government.

Notice now, in your Bible, the specific application of the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," to military force and war.

Notice how GOD says to those under HIS GOVERNMENT, that HIS GOVERNMENT—an all-powerful supernatural and supernatural government—will PROTECT his people against any invading force.

God said to Israel: "But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries . . . and I will cut them off" (Ex. 23:22-23).

God promised supernaturally to fight any invading enemy to protect the nation and people under HIS government. I intend to give you ample case histories to verify this.

But is it just as wrong for GOD to fight an invading army, and if necessary, take human life, as for humans? ABSOLUTELY NOT! God is the GIVER of human life. Human lives *belong to him!* He, *alone*, has the RIGHT to *take* human lives. The Sixth Commandment forbids MAN, of his own volition and at his discretion—to take human life!

#### Why Ancient Israel Went to War

But did you notice—there were CONDITIONS to God's promise of divine protection. He said he would protect them "if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak."

During this first 6,000 years, in God's master plan, he does not *force* any nation, or individual, to come under his GOVERNMENT. That decision is left to man's free CHOICE.

When God, with his own thundering voice, delivered the 10 basic points of his inexorable spiritual law from Mt. Sinai, he was outlining for MANKIND *the way* to peace, happiness and abundant well-being. This applies to every individual and to every nation. Transgression of this basic law is SIN (I John 3:4).

This law—the very principle of RIGHT as distinguished from WRONG—had, of course, existed from the time of Adam.

You'll find the account of God's delivering of this law in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:4-22. But, beginning Exodus 20:18, you will read the account of God laying down basic laws and statutes of his national civil government delivered through Moses.

Then, once God had restated before this vast family of Israelites his basic spiritual law—the foundational PRINCIPLE for all the national civil statutes and judgments—and also basic civil statutes and ordinances, God put it to these people, through Moses, to CHOOSE whether they would accept HIS GOVERNMENT over them.

Notice the completing of the COVENANT—the AGREEMENT between God and this PEOPLE—to form them into a NATION under GOD'S GOVERNMENT.

"And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said,

Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words" (Ex. 24:6-8).

#### Government Protection Against War

NOTICE CAREFULLY! A *part* of God's PLATFORM OF GOVERNMENT that he laid before the people *before* they became HIS NATION was the promise that HIS GOVERNMENT would protect its citizens from need of going to WAR. That is the OPEN PROMISE OF GOD, which would apply to ANY nation. Later, God offered the SAME government, and its protection and blessings, to the first WORLD EMPIRE—the gentle Chaldean empire under King Nebuchadnezzar—as we shall see. God plays no favorites. He does not bless one nation and harm another by his arbitrary choice.

But human nature is human nature—and facts are facts. And humanity had rebelled against God from the beginning—before the biblical Flood, and after the Flood. From the time of the Tower of Babel, men had *organized themselves* into nations, with HUMAN ideas of government—CONTRARY TO God's laws, and God's government over them. They had chosen *other gods!* Their religions were empty superstitions. And they were WAR-making kingdoms! God had dealt in no unmistakable manner with mankind, ever since creation!

NO PEOPLE, except a downtrodden SLAVE people in bondage, would have made the CHOICE to say to God, "All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient."

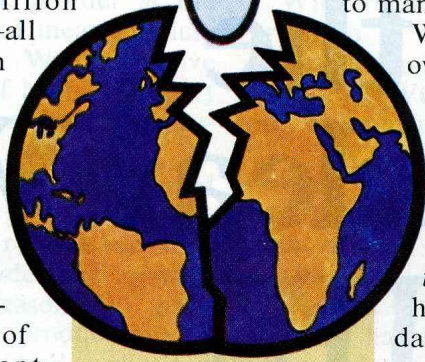
Not only had this enlarged family of Israelites been suffering under the lash of slavery, but God had DEMONSTRATED to them HIS POWER—and HIS LOVE in outgoing concern for them—by delivering them from slavery by SPECTACULAR MIRACLES!

By the miracles in PLAGUES upon the Egyptians, God had freed the Israelites.

#### Human Nature at Work

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

WHY do world leaders, scientists and educators even today reject



**Everybody wants peace—or at least, so we profess! The nations and world leaders cry for peace—work for peace, while they endorse, sanction and continue the way of war!**



God, and ply their trades, professions and interests *as if God did not exist?* God himself tells us—in HIS WORD to mankind: “Because the carnal mind [human nature] is enmity [hostile] against God: for it is not subject to the LAW of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7).

These Israelites, even while being blessed and delivered by God with MIRACLES, still were rebellious.

Even before they had reached Sinai a chain of significant incidents occurred. After the MIRACLES God had performed in FREEING them from slavery in Egypt, protecting them, blessing them, FIGHTING their military battle for them, leading them miraculously by a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, these people began to gripe, grumble, complain and DISOBEY God. Even in the face of such incredible MIRACLES, they began, even then, to LOSE FAITH.

These people—600,000 men, beside women and children—came to the Red Sea. There were no ships, no bridges. They could not swim such a distance. They could not walk on the water. They were STOPPED by this obstacle beyond their own power.

They looked, and within eyesight, Pharaoh’s army was coming after them.

Right here, *before* they reached Mt. Sinai—*before* they heard God’s own great voice thundering his Ten Commandments—God *demonstrated* the pattern he would follow in preserving his people from having to undergo military service or fighting in war or taking human life!

Here is God’s *living* EXAMPLE NUMBER ONE!

Yet even here, the people of Israel, in fright, grumbled, com-

plained, accused—lacked faith in God.

These Israelites had *started* out of Egypt “with an high hand” (Ex. 14:8). “But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, *and his* ARMY, and overtook them encamping by the sea. . . . And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord. And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness” (Ex. 14:9-12).

But God’s PURPOSE was not to be defeated. He PURPOSED to deliver them out of Egyptian slavery. He PURPOSED to *show them and all nations* and all humanity that HE would fight their battles for them. So, in spite of their faithless complaining in this initial EXAMPLE of God’s faithfulness, he was de-

termined to fight their battle and save them.

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which HE WILL SHEW TO YOU to day. . . . *The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace*” (verses 13-14).

The Israelites were not to fight—but STAND STILL! They were to *see* God save them from Pharaoh’s ARMY. God was going to SHOW THEM that he would fight their wars for them! They were to remain at PEACE!

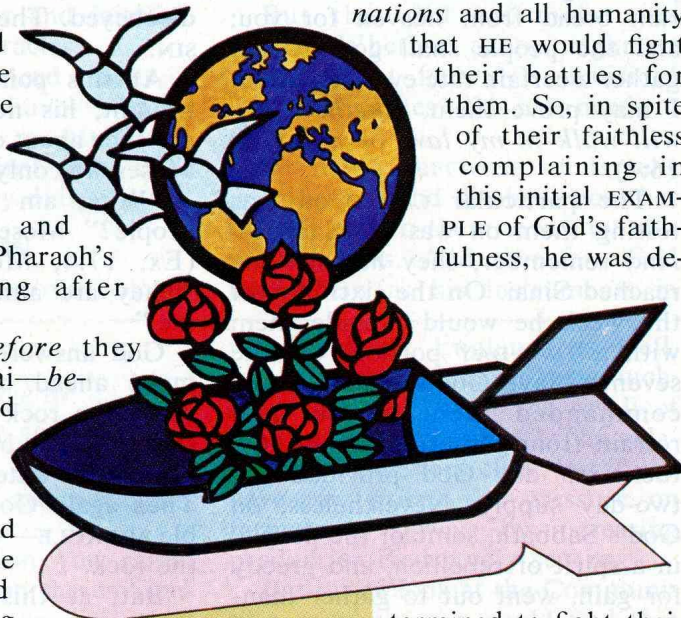
#### How GOD Fights for Us!

Then God’s angel moved behind the Israelites, and the great dark cloud moved between them and the Egyptian army. It held the Egyptian army from attacking Israel all night, but illuminated the way before Israel. Then God parted the waters of the sea, holding them back by divine MIRACLE, so that the waters formed a high wall on both sides, and the Israelites marched across on the dry floor of the sea.

Now notice the dramatic example of how God miraculously fought Israel’s battle for them, as recorded in the Moffatt translation:

“Moses stretched his hand out over the sea; the waters parted. Then the Eternal swept the sea along by a strong east wind, all night, till the bed of the sea was dry, and the Israelites marched through the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall to right and left. The Egyptians in pursuit of them went into the sea, all the Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and cavalry. And in the watch before the dawn the Eternal looked out from the column of fire and cloud on the Egyptian army and threw them into a panic; he clogged their chariot-wheels till they drove heavily.

“The Egyptians cried, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites! *The Eternal is fighting for them* against the Egyptians!’ Then said the Eternal to Moses, ‘Stretch your hand out over the sea, to make the waters flow back upon the chariots and cavalry of the Egyptians!’ Moses stretched his hand out over the sea. Then, as morning broke, the sea returned to its wonted flow, and while the Egyptians were fleeing against it, the Eternal overwhelmed the Egyptians in the middle of the sea; the waters did flow back over the chariots and cavalry, over the whole army of the Pharaoh which had followed them into the sea, till not a single



**Would it seem preposterous, to believe that even now, in 1984, God Almighty actually would fight our wars for us—that our nations, today, could actually have peace this very year?**



one of them was left. But the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall to right and left.

“Thus did the Eternal save Israel that day from the Egyptians, till Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the sea-shore; Israel saw the mighty action of the Eternal against the Egyptians, AND THE PEOPLE STOOD IN AWE OF THE ETERNAL, BELIEVING IN THE ETERNAL and in his servant Moses” (Ex. 14:21-31).

Yes, for a short while, the spell of AWE still over them, these people actually BELIEVED in God. Trusting God to DO what he has promised requires believing in MIRACLES, you say? OF COURSE! Salvation requires miracles! God is a miracle-working God!

After this miraculous delivery from disaster—from a WAR—a whole army of a then great nation destroyed—those Israelites expressed a little temporary FAITH. With Moses, they sang a song of praise and rejoicing: “I will sing unto the Lord. . . . The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation . . .” (Ex. 15:1-2).

But now UNDERSTAND the lesson here!

Ancient Egypt is a type of SIN. God was, figuratively in type, delivering these people out of SIN. They were starting out on GOD’S WAY of life.

But, UNDERSTAND!—God’s way of life requires FAITH. It is a life of OBEDIENCE TO GOD. Obedience requires FAITH. WE are SAVED by GRACE through FAITH “and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of GOD*” (Eph. 2:8). But not by a DEAD faith! It is a LIVING faith that makes obedience possible.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan. 3) obeyed God’s command against idol worship—but their stout refusal to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar’s idol was possible *only* by their RELIANCE ON GOD to protect and deliver them. They TRUSTED God (Dan. 3:28). They exercised FAITH—*living faith!* Empty, dead faith—just BELIEVING that God exists—is not the faith that saves. “The [demons] also believe, and tremble” (Jas. 2:19).

But faith and obedience must ENDURE! The newly freed Israelite slaves, still under the spell of AWE after experiencing such miracles, expressed faith and sang.

But they didn’t believe very deeply or for very long. When they came to the oasis of Marah, they found the water too bitter to drink. This one little problem in their path brought them again to complaining and DOUBTING (Ex. 15:24). Again, by a miracle, God made the waters sweet.

Moses led these people on to the wilderness of Sin—between Elim and Sinai. They had now been gone from Egypt one month. And again, “the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron . . . and . . . said . . . Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt . . . for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger” (Ex. 16:2-3).

So God *gave them a test of obedience*, along with miraculously providing food. God said: “I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, *whether they will walk in my law, or no*” (Ex. 16:4).

The particular LAW God was testing them on was his Sabbath. And remember, they had not yet reached Sinai. On the sixth day of the week he would provide them with a TWO-DAY portion. On the seventh day, God’s Sabbath, he commanded them to rest and refrain from gathering manna. On the sixth day God provided the two-day supply. Nevertheless, on God’s Sabbath, some of the people, in a spirit of rebellion, and greedy for gain, went out to gather manna.

“HOW LONG refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?” thundered God at them (Ex. 16:28). They were neither *trusting* nor *obeying* God.

The vast congregation journeyed on and pitched tents in Rephidim. Again, there was no water. Again they griped, murmured, accused, lost faith and “tempted the Lord” (Ex. 17:1-2).

Now we come to the CRUCIAL INCIDENT that explains WHY Israel went to war. Regularly they had been grumbling, complaining, accusing, disobeying, LOSING FAITH—in face of constant MIRACLES from God. Now, again, as God performed another miracle, causing water to gush forth out of a rock, the people DOUBTED that God was with them. “. . . They tempted the Lord, saying, Is the Lord among us, or not?” (Ex. 17:7).

Now consider what had happened. Repeatedly, God had given these people awe-inspiring and miraculous demonstrations of his intention *to fight their battles for them*. These were VISIBLE miracles, which the people witnessed with their own eyes. God had demonstrated his faithfulness, his POWER, his willingness, HIS WAY! Yet repeatedly, these people doubted, complained, found fault, grumbled. Repeatedly they LOST FAITH. After all of this OVERWHELMING PROOF, these people DOUBTED God’s faithfulness—DOUBTED his power—even DOUBTED his very existence. They disobeyed. They went *the way of SIN!*

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

“What am I to do with this people?” Moses appealed to God (Ex. 17:4, Moffatt translation). “They are almost ready to stone me.”

God answered Moses, had him move ahead of the people, and smite the rock at Horeb with the same stick he had used in the parting of the waters of the Red Sea. Then again God performed a visible MIRACLE—water gushed out of the rock.

But, at this juncture, Amalek came against the Israelites in great strength with an invading army. This time God ALLOWED the Israelites *to write the lesson of experience*. He allowed them to SIN. God does not forcibly prevent humans from sinning.

Moses, at the end of his patience trying to induce these stubborn, rebellious people to believe in and TRUST God, said to Joshua, “Choose us out men, and go out,



FIGHT with Amalek" (Ex. 17:9). Lacking the faith to trust God for their protection, Moses feared they would be slaughtered. Although Moses weakened and gave the order for WAR, it was THE PEOPLE themselves who actually had MADE THE DECISION for war, by their utter lack of reliance on God.

It was altogether unnecessary for these Israelites to arm themselves and wage WAR. It was WRONG! It was SIN. But God let the decision be theirs!

This incident was the *turning point*.

It occurred even before they reached Mt. Sinai. It was after this that God laid before them HIS PROPOSITION for them to become his nation, ruled by his government. It was after this that God promised, conditioned on obedience and faith, always to fight their battles for them—to protect them from war—to give them constant PEACE. It was after this that they accepted his government over them. But already they had shown lack of faith and trust, even during the days when God was DEMONSTRATING his power and faithfulness by so many miracles!

They had experienced a taste of war. They could have—*should have*—turned from it, afterward, and relied on God instead of their own power. But they didn't.

#### God's PURPOSE Stands!

Even though God ALLOWS humans

to make their own decisions—allows them to SIN—allows nations to go to WAR—nevertheless God's purpose must stand! HIS PURPOSE was to settle these descendants of Abraham in the land he had promised Abraham—"the PROMISED LAND."

God's promise to Abraham, 430 years before, had been made UNCONDITIONAL. Abraham had performed *his* part of that agreement. He had obeyed God, kept God's commandments and laws. Now God's faithfulness demanded that he plant these people in that land, regardless of their conduct!

These descendants of Abraham had *made their decision* to be a fighting, war-waging nation. That decision was theirs to make. And since they had made it, God used *them* to do the fighting in driving out the inhabitants illegally possessing the land God had allotted to Abraham's descendants. Consequently God gave orders for *them* to do what fighting—and killing—was necessary to accomplish God's PURPOSE of putting them in the land of promise!

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

So it was BECAUSE of Israel's faithlessness and disobedience that God ALLOWED them to SIN by taking up arms. And therefore God used them as his instruments in

driving out the nations illegally in the land. Even now the Israelites could have REPENTED, *changed* their decision and trusted God to fight their battles for them.

#### Nations CAN Choose Peace!

Would it seem preposterous to chiefs of state today, to believe that even NOW, in our day, God Almighty actually *would* fight our wars for us—that OUR nations, today, *could actually have* PEACE—and have it *this very year*?

Undoubtedly it would! World leaders today—in ALL nations—have gotten so far from God and God's ways, and God has become so UNREAL to them that it probably would seem ridiculous even to suggest such a thing. The scientists, the industrial and commercial leaders, the educators—yes, and even the CLERGY—have all departed so FAR from God and HIS WAYS, that such a thought would not even enter their minds.

Yet the ETERNAL has not left us without absolute ASSURANCE! He has recorded, in his Word, not only his promises and assurances, but three additional concrete *case histories*—in addition to those recounted in this article—proving that he ACTUALLY DID DO THE FIGHTING for a nation being invaded, when that nation and its rulers TRUSTED HIM.

We will continue this exciting story in the next number. □

## Collapse?

(Continued from page 8)

ly it's the region of 30 or 40 percent, which is high enough. But I do think one should avoid exaggerations in this area.

The other question you raised concerns the effect on the environment, particularly the ecological consequences of the Community's agricultural policy. I would put it slightly differently. Modern intensive agriculture obviously contains a threat to the environment; for example, the extensive use of pesticides and fertilizers and the plowing up of marginal land. It is these that comprise the main threat to the environment. And I should add the destruction of hedgerows and

woodlands in England, as well, something that I regret very much. How much of this is the result of high guaranteed prices? The relationship is not very clear, but if you have low prices the pressure on farmers to survive by increasing production is also very severe.

But if you look at the Community as a whole you would find that the agricultural policy had a very important role to play in preserving the environment. If you fly around most of Europe, you will notice the pattern of settlement is very different from what you find in North America or Australia. You have little villages only a few miles from each other and then the small towns.

There is a network of human

settlement that has existed for centuries and that is integrally related to the structure of agricultural production. If you were to apply a completely free market philosophy to agriculture you would in a very few years depopulate vast areas of Western Europe, leading to the disappearance of many villages, possibly even of small towns.

The European countryside is a man-made phenomenon and the maintenance of a family-based agriculture is essential to the maintenance of the European countryside. So the argument cuts both ways.

There is a case for putting limits on certain types of agricultural development. This is one of the



# WHERE Is the True Church?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Here is the concluding installment of this eye-opening series!

**N**OW once again, let's UNDERSTAND the dual relationship concerning the first man Adam, and Jesus Christ the SECOND Adam.

## Duality in Scripture

The first human, Adam, was mortal. And the tree of LIFE, freely offered him, symbolized yielding to allow divine GOD-LIFE to enter within him.

If Adam had taken the fruit of the tree of life, he would have received the divine LIFE of and from God. He would have received the MIND of God by GOD's Spirit entering him and uniting with his human spirit. He would have had this close father-and-son relationship with God. But Adam chose to "go it alone." Instead of receiving sonship with God, accepting God's offer to come into his life, injecting into him life and mind of God, he took to himself the self-production of the knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of LIFE would have brought Adam into close father-and-son relationship with GOD. Jesus, the second Adam, had that close relationship with God. He

came to call sinners OUT of this evil world and UNITE them with GOD, as the first Adam and his family could have been. Jesus came to reconcile the called-out ones to GOD.

Jesus taught the gospel of the kingdom of GOD—the ruling, governing family of God. Not to repair the faulty and rotten superstructure of the building that was the expanded FAMILY of the first Adam. But to call his Church, the expanded FAMILY of God, out from the building that is this world, and unite them with GOD.

## The God of this World

But this world is SATAN's world. He is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:3-4).

Satan tried to kill the infant Jesus. Then, when Jesus was about 30 years of age he tried to destroy Jesus through the great temptation. He caused the martyrdom of most of the apostles. He tried to destroy God's Church at its very foundation. But it was built upon the foundation of a Rock, "and that Rock was Christ" (I Cor. 10:4). The Church got off to a good start in spite of Satan's efforts to thwart it. Jesus had said the gates of the grave would never prevail against the Church. The rains might come,

the floods, and the winds blow in hurricane strength, but the Church would endure.

Satan wanted to destroy it. WHY? Because this world is Satan's world. He sits on the throne of this world (Isa. 14:13). And the Church of God will fill the earth after Satan is deposed and his world destroyed. Christ, the Head of the Church, will take over Satan's throne as world ruler.

So, when Satan failed to prevent the Church from being founded and getting off to a glorious start, what did he do next? He deceived certain humans into seeking to destroy the Church from within. There's a saying, "If you can't defeat them, join them." He caused some within the Church to turn to a false and counterfeit gospel.

In Galatians 1:6-7, we read that the churches in Galatia had turned to "another gospel." They had believed those who began to proclaim "another Jesus" (II Cor. 11:4). These false ministers professing to be ministers of Christ were in fact ministers of Satan (verses 13-15).

Thus, through false brethren within the Church, Satan succeeded at that time in deceiving even the vast majority in the



Church. He succeeded in turning this majority into a growing false and counterfeit church.

During the first few months of the true Church of God, the opposition in Judea was Jewish. Most Jews refused to believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah—God in human flesh. But the 12 apostles were eyewitnesses to Jesus' messiahship. They had been with him three and a half years before his crucifixion, and 40 days after his resurrection. Many, though only a minority of the Jews, believed and were baptized by God's Spirit into the Church. The Church, during its first few years, was mostly Jewish.

Then God sent Peter (Acts 10-11) to the gentile Cornelius to open salvation to gentiles. God raised up the apostle Paul to head a great gentile ministry. Some Jewish converts then tried to bring the rituals of the law of Moses, and circumcision, upon gentile converts. They wanted "more LAW." Paul and the apostles opposed this and cleared the issue through the Holy Spirit (Acts 15). Then gentile false members brought in the issue of "NO LAW." They claimed the law of God was done away—Christ had nailed it to the cross. They taught a false Jesus whom they represented to have done away with his Father's commandments.

So it was, that before A.D. 50 (the Church had been founded in A.D. 31) a fierce controversy arose as to whether the gospel to be proclaimed was the gospel *OF* Christ, or a gospel *ABOUT* Christ.

Soon the curtain was rung down on historic records of the Church. It attested the fact that a vigorous cooperative and systematic effort was made to destroy historic records of church happenings of the next hundred years. It was the "LOST CENTURY" in church history.

When the curtain of history is raised about A.D. 150, it reveals a church calling itself "Christian," but one totally different from the Church Jesus founded through his apostles in A.D. 31.

#### **The Kingdom Is Not the Church**

Jesus' gospel was the "gospel of the kingdom of God"—the government

of God in the hands of the born FAMILY OF GOD. The Church Jesus founded brought God the Father into the very lives of believers.

The disciples, during Jesus' ministry, were WITH him who literally WAS God in human flesh. After Pentecost, when the Church was founded, those baptized into the Church BY the Holy Spirit were also in close personal contact and communion with God and with Christ (see I John 1:3). God, and Christ, through the Holy Spirit, were IN the very lives of converts.

But, as the vast majority of professing Christians apostatized, they held only to a gospel *ABOUT* Christ. They turned grace into license to disobey God as Adam had done. They taught being GOOD—but it was only carnal, human good. Their human spirit was not united with God's Holy Spirit—their minds not united with God's. They came to worship Christ. But Jesus had said in Mark 7:7-8 they worshiped him in vain, rejecting the commandments of God, holding to their human traditions. Indeed, by today, this religion has come to call itself "traditional Christianity."

They began to build buildings they called "churches"—with a steeple atop, and a cross on their facades.

A cardinal point of distinction of the one true Church from the many professing sects and denominations is this: The deceived churches of this world put the focus on Christ. God becomes unreal—a mystic unreality. They are not taught that Jesus came to reveal the Father—that Jesus came to reconcile us to the Father—that it is the Father from whom our sins have cut us off—that Christ's shed blood does not of itself "save us"—give us salvation and eternal life. Rather (see Romans 5:10) the death of Christ reconciles us to God and we are saved (given eternal life) by Jesus' resurrection, making possible the gift of eternal life from God the Father through a resurrection from the dead. Jesus' resurrection made possible our resurrection, for he was "the firstborn [by a resurrection] among many brethren" (Rom. 8:29).

The true Church has Christ in

the right perspective—as mediator between us and God the Father—as personal Savior—as our present High Priest at the right hand of God the Father in heaven—as Head of the Church—as coming King and ruler UNDER God the Father.

Jesus, as the second Adam, came to call those drawn by God "out from among them" of this world and even its counterfeit "traditional Christianity," and to start a whole NEW WORLD—a NEW CIVILIZATION.

So, Satan succeeded in counterfeiting the Church of God, which Christ, the second Adam, founded. But the gates of the grave HAVE NOT prevailed against it.

True, on this building founded on a Rock, the winds blew, the floods came, the opposition beat heavily against it. Even the true Church, in the struggle to stay alive through the centuries of persecution and opposition, lost considerable original TRUTH. But it held fast to the true name of God the Father, whose Church it is. It held fast to God's spiritual law, the Ten Commandments. It held fast to the things HOLY TO GOD—his holy Sabbath, paying God's tithe. For this it was persecuted. But it has weathered the storm.

#### **I Began to Find the Answer**

I have described my own background and conversion. In that original six months' in-depth study and research regarding God's law, I came among a group of brethren of that Church. They were mostly vegetable farmers in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, in the northwestern United States. They were humble, God-fearing people willing to make any sacrifice to obey their great God.

But, I wondered, could they possibly be the one true Church of God founded by Jesus Christ? They were small, of no advanced formal higher education. Yet they were the ONLY church I could find who held to the Word of God and his commandments. They held faithfully to the things that are HOLY TO GOD—his Sabbath and paying his tithe. They held to the true biblical NAME, "the Church of GOD." No other church on earth



held to these three pivotal basic beliefs and practices. They were humble and sincere and would have sacrificed their lives for these basic truths.

But WHY did God bring me into contact with these people? I little realized the reason at the time.

At this point I must backtrack and relate additional facts that occurred in my own life.

I had been for 26 years in the commercial field of magazines and newspapers. I did not know it then, but subsequent events have evidenced that God was preparing me through this experience for the real calling that was to come later.

I was married at age 25. A week or two after marriage, my wife experienced a vision, or a most unusually impressive dream, which at the time embarrassed me. I had not been "religious." My whole mind and heart was in my business. I was living at the time in Chicago, Illinois. In her dream-vision my wife had seen an angel come from the sky, at a busy Chicago intersection, attracting hundreds of people. The angel had come directly to my wife and me as we stood in this busy intersection. He put his arms around us both, saying the Second Coming of Christ was not far off, and God had work for us to do. When my wife told me the dream-vision I was somewhat shaken, for it had seemed so real to her—yet I was embarrassed and my only thought was to get it off my mind. If it really was a call from God, like Jonah I wanted to run away from it.

"Why," I said, "don't you tell it to the minister of the church on the corner, and if it means anything, perhaps he can tell you?" I thought no more about it, but subsequently God took away my business, and then a later business established in the Pacific Northwest, followed by this challenge that led to the intensive Bible study.

The religious fanaticism (to me) that engrossed my wife concerned the seventh-day Sabbath. To me that was fanaticism. But I had to "eat crow." In the most intensive study of my life, I failed to prove my wife to be in error. This intense in-depth study and research proved to me the infallible existence of God, and the absolute AUTHORITY

of the Holy Bible as the directly inspired Word of God. Decades of continued in-depth study and research since have opened a vast labyrinth of biblical knowledge and understanding that HAD BEEN LOST. By the shattering agony of having two successful businesses swept out from under my feet, and this biblical challenge, God had softened me to the place of utter submission where I was willing to admit being wrong—willing to submit wholly to him, and willing to believe what he plainly said in his Word, regardless of the unpopularity of such belief.

#### Restoring the Truth

Thus the living God began RESTORING through me much true biblical knowledge and UNDERSTANDING that had been lost through the centuries.

Now it has been clearly revealed to me how a false Christianity arose during the first three centuries of the Christian dispensation. Satan led human religious leaders to proclaim a gospel of their own ABOUT Christ, substituted for the gospel OF Christ—Jesus' gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD. This false Christianity is revealed in Revelation 17 and elsewhere in the Bible as "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Jesus' whole mission was to reconcile those called, to GOD THE FATHER. There is ONE lawgiver—God the Father. Sin is transgression against GOD. Repentance is toward GOD, and faith is toward Christ. Jesus came to reconcile us to the FATHER—not to replace him.

It is significant that, after God had beaten me down and softened me, ripe for submissiveness to him, he caused me to be so crucially challenged on the cardinal point of HIS LAW—his government—his preeminence above all else, his lordship over our lives. Of all the points of God's law, the Sabbath is the one test commandment. Professing, sincere Christians will freely admit we should have no other gods before the one supreme and true God. They will acknowledge we should not bow down to idols, or take God's name in vain. They accept the commandment about

honoring our fathers and mothers, the prohibition against murder, adultery, stealing, lying or coveting. They will even claim all these nine commandments are carried over into the New Testament.

The one commandment they reject and refuse to obey is honoring God by keeping his Sabbath day HOLY. God made that particular day holy, and told us to keep it holy.

A woman once told me she had heard that Saturday was my day, and she hoped this was not true. I replied, "No, Saturday is NOT my day. Sunday is my day."

"Oh, I'm so glad to hear that," she exclaimed.

"But you don't quite understand," I continued. "Sunday is MY day, and so is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. But Saturday is NOT my day—it is GOD's day."

In my intensive, in-depth, exhaustive study and research to prove Sunday is the Christian Sabbath, I left no stone unturned. I carefully examined every book, article or writing I could obtain that argued against the Sabbath and attempted to establish Sunday. I examined the religious encyclopedias, checked carefully the original Hebrew and Greek words in the relevant Bible texts; I read the Bible commentaries and the lexicons. I checked history.

#### The Test Commandment

But all arguments against God's Sabbath and favoring Sunday observance proved just that—arguments that couldn't hold water—arguments clearly in error and too often dishonest.

I found in historic records that there had been heated and violent controversies over this very question directly and indirectly during the first three centuries of the Church.

There also had been the historic Quartodeciman controversy between students of the apostle John and their opponents over the Passover-Easter question. The whole question was finally settled in this false church, called "Babylon the great," by the Nicene Council, called by Roman Emperor Constantine in A.D. 325. He was the



emperor, not a churchman. Then, in the Synod of Laodicea, A.D. 365, there was decreed one of the church's most famous canons: "Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather, honoring the Lord's day. But if any shall be found to be judaizing, let them be anathema from Christ." This was tantamount to a death sentence.

Space does not allow me, in this present writing, to give a thorough and complete explanation of the biblical teaching on the vital importance of keeping God's Sabbath. Our free booklet *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* will present a far more complete explanation.

Briefly, however, here are some significant and high-point scriptural teachings:

At the end of what is called "creation week," the following event is revealed: "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made" (Gen. 2:2-3). God was not tired or weary. But he set mankind an example, and put his own presence in that day. This he has never done in regard to Sunday or any other day.

Adam rejected God's tree of LIFE, God's law and God's rule over him. There is no evidence that Adam's family in general kept the Sabbath holy for nearly the first 2,500 years. But when God called the children of Israel out of Egypt—a type of calling the Church out of the world—God revealed to the Israelites his Sabbath.

In Exodus 16, the children of Israel complained they were about to starve. God said he would send food from heaven, in the form of manna, to "prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no." This concerned obedience or SIN. On the sixth day of the week God sent a double portion of manna, but God sent NONE on the seventh day. And Moses said on the sixth day, "To morrow is the rest of the HOLY SABBATH unto the Lord." Then on the Sabbath Moses instructed them: "To day is a sabbath unto the Lord:

to day ye shall not find it [manna] in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none" (verses 23-26).

On the seventh day some went out to try to gather manna. And God said, "How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?"

Thus it was that God by a miracle from heaven showed his people which was the true Sabbath day. And history as well as Jewish tradition show that the days of the week have never been mixed up from that day till NOW.

In Exodus 31:12-18 we read God made the Sabbath an eternal COVENANT between him and his people. It was an identifying SIGN by which God would know they were his people, because in keeping the Sabbath they obeyed him in a manner no others did. It identified them as his people. For no other people but the people of God had ever kept God's Sabbath. It identified God, for creation is the proof of God. In six days he created life on earth, and on the seventh day he rested and made that day HOLY TIME—holy to GOD!

In the 56th chapter of Isaiah is a prophecy for our present time, respecting the Sabbath: "Also the sons of the stranger [gentiles], that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer" (Isa. 56:6-7).

In Mark 2:28 Jesus declared, "Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." So the Sabbath is truly THE LORD'S DAY—not Sunday.

The Sabbath, as stated above, is the one test commandment—the one even professing so-called Christians refuse to obey. In I John 2:4 we read: "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

Sin is the transgression of God's LAW (I John 3:4).

The original Church of God, under the apostles, kept the Sab-

bath. The apostle Paul preached to gentiles on the Sabbath days for a year and six months, after he had turned to the gentiles in Corinth (Acts 18:4-11).

As the Sabbath is the identifying sign of the people of God (Jew, gentile or any race), so Sunday is the mark that identifies the AUTHORITY of false Christianity—"BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS"—because Sunday carries no other authority. The substitution of the pagan Sunday to counterfeit God's Sabbath is a primary stratagem of Satan in deceiving all nations, and counterfeiting God's TRUTH as well as God's Church.

One of the excuses used by "traditional Christianity" for Sunday observance is the false belief that Jesus' resurrection from the dead occurred on Sunday. But in actual fact the resurrection did not occur on a Sunday morning but late on a Sabbath afternoon. For proof that this tradition is false, read our free booklet *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday*. Then read this truth in your own Bible.

Jesus said: "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men. . . . Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:7-9).

This is one of the keys that unlock the door to the identity of the one true original Church of God, established by Jesus Christ, as it has continued to withstand the onslaughts of Satan through the years and centuries. But it is not the only identifying sign.

#### The True Name

Jesus prayed for his Church: ". . . Holy Father, keep through *thine own name* those whom thou hast given me, that they may be ONE, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them *in thy name*. . . . And now come I to thee. . . . I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because *they are not OF the world*, even as I am not OF the world. I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from



the evil. *They are not OF the world*, even as I am not OF the world. Sanctify them through THY TRUTH: THY WORD *is* TRUTH" (John 17:11-17).

Jesus said his true Church was to be KEPT *in the name* of the Father—GOD. *Twelve times* in the New Testament, the NAME of this one *true* Church is the CHURCH OF GOD! It is GOD'S Church, and Jesus Christ is its guiding, sustaining, directing HEAD!

In five passages where the true NAME of the Church appears, the entire Body of Christ—the Church as a whole—is indicated. Thus when speaking of the entire Church, including all its individual members on earth, the name is "the CHURCH OF GOD." Here are these five passages:

1) Acts 20:28: The admonition to the elders is to "feed THE CHURCH OF GOD."

2) I Corinthians 10:32: "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to THE CHURCH OF GOD."

3) I Corinthians 11:22: "Despise ye THE CHURCH OF GOD, and shame them that have not?"

4) I Corinthians 15:9: Paul wrote: "I persecuted THE CHURCH OF GOD."

5) Galatians 1:13: This verse repeats the one last given—"I persecuted THE CHURCH OF GOD."

Where one specific local congregation is mentioned, the true Church is called "the Church of God," often in connection with the *place* or location. Here are four more passages:

6) I Corinthians 1:2: "THE CHURCH OF GOD which is at Corinth."

7) II Corinthians 1:1: "THE CHURCH OF GOD which is at Corinth."

8) I Timothy 3:5: In speaking of a local elder in a local congregation, Paul wrote Timothy, "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of THE CHURCH OF GOD?"

9) I Timothy 3:15: "Behave thyself in the house of God, which is THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD." Here it is the Church of the *Living* God.

In speaking of the local congregation collectively, not as one gen-

eral Body, but as the total of all local congregations, the Bible name is "the CHURCHES OF GOD." Here are the final three verses of the 12 that name the Church:

10) I Corinthians 11:16: "We have no such custom, neither THE CHURCHES OF GOD."

11) I Thessalonians 2:14: "For ye, brethren, became followers of THE CHURCHES OF GOD which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus."

12) II Thessalonians 1:4: "We ourselves glory in you in THE CHURCHES OF GOD."

In some New Testament instances, a descriptive term is added to the name, as the Church of God at Corinth, or the Churches of God in Judaea. And today, it is the Worldwide Church of God.

In this world, churches are named after MEN, or after the SYSTEM men have devised, or the kind of church government MEN have thought out, CONTRARY to God's Word, or after a significant doctrine they emphasize, or what men hope to make it—all-encompassing, universal or catholic. But wherever that ONE *true* Church is, it will be named the CHURCH OF GOD.

But that is not all. Many have appropriated God's name, but are not proclaiming the KINGDOM OF GOD, as the GOVERNMENT of God, which we must OBEY—teaching obedience to God's law (Ten Commandments)—teaching REPENTANCE of rebellion and transgressing God's holy law—teaching that we may be now BEGOTTEN into the KINGDOM (family) of God, and may, by the resurrection, be BORN into the GOD FAMILY! That true Church is preaching the imminency of the coming of CHRIST as KING of kings and LORD of lords, to RULE all nations for a thousand years on earth. Not up in heaven, but ON THIS EARTH (Rev. 5:10).

There is only ONE such Church! It is doing THE WORK OF GOD. It is, as Jesus said it would be, a "little flock," persecuted, despised by the world.

#### Personal Counsel

God's Church does have dedicated, consecrated, converted, fully instructed and trained, ordained MINISTERS in all parts of the world—available to call on you, visit you in

your home, answer your questions, explain the Bible to you—*IF YOU REQUEST IT!* But none of them will *EVER* call on you, unless YOU of your own free will request it! Regarding the general public, Jesus said, "GO NOT from house to house" (Luke 10:7). Paul had visited the elders (ministers) at Ephesus from house to house.

Neither Jesus, nor Peter, nor Paul, nor any of the original true apostles ever approached people and personally URGED conversion on them. God has made every human a FREE MORAL AGENT. God compels each to MAKE HIS OWN DECISION, *and the true* GOD will never force you to be converted.

But if you, of your own volition, want to know MORE about the *very* Church that Jesus Christ founded and heads today—if you'd like to ask questions about it, why not write your request for a personal visit? We will have one of God's own ministers call on you. And let me suggest that you JOT DOWN on paper the QUESTIONS you are going to want to ask. I've learned, personally, by more than 60 years' experience, that you'll forget them unless you do.

Hundreds and hundreds—yes, thousands upon thousands—are being *converted*—their lives CHANGED—by this WORK OF GOD, through the *World Tomorrow* broadcast worldwide, through the ministry of the Worldwide Church of God, through the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course and other vital free literature we send upon request. Some, not realizing one of God's own called, consecrated ministers could call and explain, and answer questions, have JOINED one of the churches of this world. You cannot JOIN the true Church of God—the Almighty God *puts you in*. But if you have questions about fellowship, doctrines or practice—or ANY questions about the Church or the Bible, or the Christian LIFE—write me. I cannot call and visit with you personally anymore, as I used to do and wish I still could, but God has now given me many truly called and chosen men who CAN.

Weigh carefully the FACTS, according to your own BIBLE. *Then* make your decision and take what steps GOD shows you. □