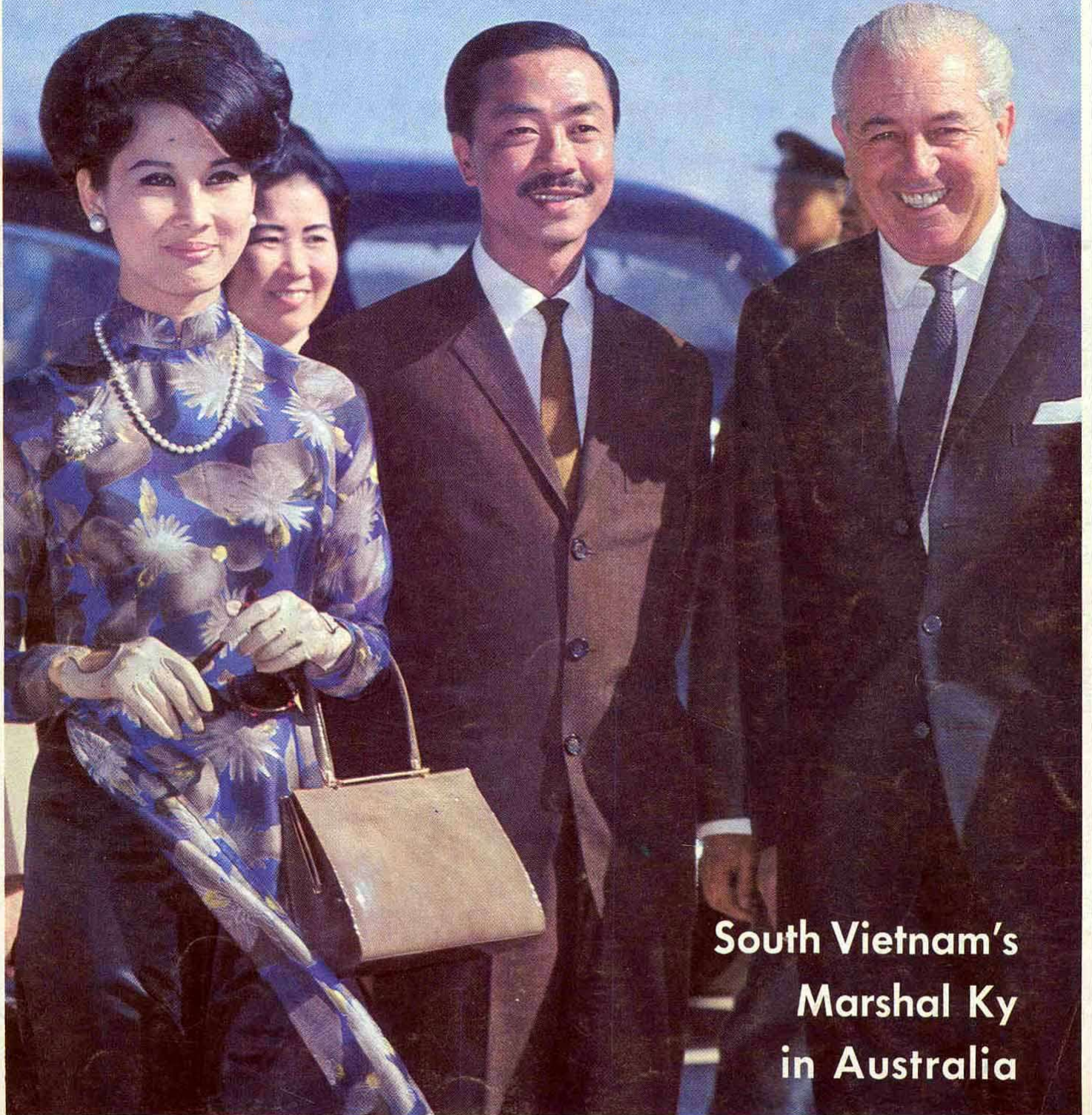


the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding



South Vietnam's
Marshal Ky
in Australia

What our READERS SAY

Real!

"I would like to know, are the letters you print in *The PLAIN TRUTH* from real people? They seem so real. Some people tell me that the people there make them up and print them. I say they are real but my best girl friend says they are not. Please let us know."

M. T., Chapmanville,
West Virginia

• *When the two of you read your own letter in print, you'll know!*

Mental Mastery

"The article in the November *PLAIN TRUTH*, 'Seven "Keys" to Mental Mastery' has given me more courage to face coming trials. Thanks for the letter you sent me."

Mrs. Charlotte M.,
San Diego, California

Atheist Speaks

"... I have always considered myself an atheist. It is easy to be one today and quite fashionable I might add... Most [others] wave the cross at you and offer Love and Peace or Hell and Brimstone. I still hold a great many doubts. But if you can present evidence that can prove the existence of God, I would be a fool not to read it. So anything you could spare to send me would be greatly appreciated."

Ralph D. C.,
Kingsley Field, Oregon

• *If you'll really PROVE all things you read, we know the outcome — in advance.*

The PLAIN TRUTH

"In recent weeks your periodical has come to my attention through the hands of a doctor who is one of my colleagues. At that time I was doing work on the living conditions of the American middle class family and I was greatly depressed by what I found. It was then that he handed me *The PLAIN TRUTH*. Now, he is not the type of person who would try to force his beliefs upon another. On the contrary, he is a very quiet and reserved gentleman. After I read part of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, I no

longer doubted his motives. I will never be able to repay him for this act."

Professor Ira K.,
Columbus, Ohio

• *Your statement concerning The PLAIN TRUTH, we're sure, is greatly appreciated by your colleague.*

"During the past few years, I have accumulated quite a bit of your literature which I considered quite valuable. I had it stored in a cardboard box in a bedroom corner. Well, early this fall, I went to look for a particular article and discovered that the termites had eaten through the floor, box and most of the prized literature! You can well imagine my extreme grief suffered because of the loss. I can joke about it now, thinking that our termites are quite knowledgeable concerning the truths of the Bible; that is, if they have it fully digested."

Mrs. Shirley D.,
Universal, Indiana

• *We admire their taste!*

"... You profess to expound truth in the decline of the British Empire, but have nothing to say about how the almighty U. S. A. sat back making huge profits while Britain was bled white in wealth and human sacrifice in two World Wars. The beatniks you depict are a small, but I admit shameful, minority, but you have similar problems in America."

Mr. B. D., Coventry,
United Kingdom

• *And we've never denied it! This magazine is not seeking to whitewash ANY peoples. Lethargy, laziness, lust for profits are not confined to any one nation — but are a HUMAN sin.*

Evolution

"Recently I listened to *The WORLD TOMORROW* over Radio Barbados, in which Garner Ted Armstrong spoke on the theory of evolution and the existence of God. In my opinion, the points put forward shattered the theory of the evolutionists and proved con-

(Continued on page 16)

the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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Personal from the Editor

IN THIS TALK WITH our readers I want to say something about the flood of letters now flowing in from those of you who have just read the exciting new booklet, *The WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW — What it Will Be Like*.

All but ONE so far — from approximately two hundred thousand booklets already mailed out (and another hundred thousand now being mailed) — have been enthusiastic, elated, inspired to know what a WONDERFUL world is soon to be ours.

Of course there had to be one who appeared angry — “Bosh and Rubbish!” he wrote. He sincerely thinks *we* are wrong — instead of himself. He reminds me of Mrs. O’Reilly’s son Dennis, a war veteran, marching down 5th Avenue in New York, in the Victory Parade at the close of World War II. Mrs. O’Reilly beamed with pride, saying, “An ’d’ya know, I was *so proud* of Dinney — they were all out o’ step but him!”

I want to answer his letter — for the enlightenment of ALL our readers.

But first, a comment or two inspired by all these other appreciative letters.

I wish ALL OF YOU could realize that this wonderful coming world IS REAL — *and most of you will be in it* — I hope as one of its changed IMMORTALS. It’s not only REAL — it is coming SOON. Possibly (I do not set dates) in less than ten years! Yes, *very possibly* that soon!

But what I am most concerned about is WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU — as an *individual!* Each of you! I wish all of our readers could think — as one wrote me — wondering what YOU will be doing, then!

I wish all our readers could be reminded, at this point, of that very *first* of the LAWS OF SUCCESS! There are seven *laws* that will produce success. The very first one is to have the

RIGHT GOAL — to be fired with ambition to achieve that goal — *to keep that goal constantly uppermost in your mind!*

Have a definite, inspiring PURPOSE in life. Realize, as Winston Churchill said, there is a PURPOSE being worked out here below! Mankind was placed on this earth FOR A PURPOSE. That means YOU, as an individual, were born and given the breath of life for a PURPOSE!

In this world’s colleges and universities they teach nothing about that purpose. They know nothing of the real MEANING of life. They leave students without a goal. They don’t know where they are going — or *whether* they are going anywhere.

But the all-intelligent, all-knowing Creator who *designed* the human mind and body, created the human race, and supplies the air, water and food to sustain it, had a PURPOSE! And, through the apostle Paul, He reveals to us that GOAL — in Paul’s words, that “I might attain unto the RESURRECTION . . .” and, further, “. . . this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the MARK for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:11, 13-14).

The MARK — the PRIZE — the GOAL toward which Paul pressed forward is THE RESURRECTION to IMMORTALITY, in the Kingdom of God!

In this newest booklet we tried to paint in simple words — as revealed in the Bible — the WONDERFUL world which this Kingdom of converted, changed IMMORTALS, under Christ, will produce.

But is BEING THERE, as a changed, immortal person YOUR goal? Is that one overriding LIFE’S OBJECTIVE constantly before your eyes — constantly dominating your thoughts?

Many have written to tell me how

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Hughes — Ambassador Photo

OUR COVER

Marshal Ky, South Vietnam’s Prime Minister, and Madam Ky are greeted by Prime Minister Holt of Australia. The Kys’ 10-day visit, beginning January 17, was precipitated by a continuing political crisis in strife-torn South Vietnam. Ky’s image at home and abroad was enhanced despite organized demonstrations by Australia’s Labour Party.

exciting — how interesting and inspiring — to see just WHAT such patriarchs and prophets and men of God as Abraham, Joseph, Job, Daniel, Moses and others will be doing — how they will be brought back to life, immortal, in glorified POWER — and the high executive positions in the new WORLD GOVERNMENT they will occupy.

Interesting? Exciting? WONDERFUL? Yes, I should say it is! But, as I said above, I wish all of YOU were *terribly concerned* by asking yourselves where YOU will be — what YOU will be doing then!

I don't mean that you may decide for yourselves what precise position may be assigned to YOU. Yet, in general, *I can tell you* what position will be assigned you! It will be the position *you are training for, qualifying for, RIGHT NOW* — in *this* life!

WHY will Abraham, David, the apostles Peter and Paul, be assigned the positions either directly named — or at least indicated — in the Bible? Simply because they prepared for, and qualified for those positions DURING THEIR MORTAL LIVES!

YOU — *if you have been called* to conversion *now* — are being JUDGED for your future position in God's Kingdom right now!

Few understand this — I know. But see if I can make it plain enough that at least *some* of our readers may UNDERSTAND. A number of "JUDGMENTS" are revealed in the Bible. Most people get all mixed up and confused by such theological terms as "judgments," "covenants," etc.

Understand, first, being "saved" — that is, being born into the Kingdom of God — given God's GIFT of eternal life — is altogether by GRACE, as God's free GIFT. *You can't earn it!* I have ALWAYS taught that! In spite of the false accusations of persecutors, who try to make you believe I teach "salvation by WORKS" (and they know better!!!) I have NEVER taught that — I do not believe that! — I have always taught that salvation — what religious people call "being saved" — inheriting Eternal life — being born into the Kingdom of God — just *getting there* — comes ONLY by GRACE (which means undeserved pardon) and as God's FREE

GIFT. You CAN'T *earn it!* All your OBEDIENCE — all your good WORKS — won't buy it!

BUT — and here is where the persecutors are in confusion — you shall be REWARDED with whatever OFFICE you shall be placed in according to your WORKS! Check for yourself. Don't believe me because I say it — check for yourself.

When the glorified Jesus Christ returns to earth, in all the supreme POWER and GLORY of God, as KING of kings to rule all nations, He will then assign the positions in His Government — the "reward" — to those who already — then — "ARE SAVED!" to those who have, through grace, received God's GIFT of eternal life — then already made IMMORTAL. These shall have been resurrected to immortality, and have risen to meet Him in the air, as He is returning.

Now notice: Jesus says, "And behold, I come quickly; and *my reward is with me*, to give every man *according as his work shall be*" (Rev. 22:12).

Notice the parable of the pounds: When Jesus returns, having been coronated KING of kings, He will call to Him those He had given "the money" — that is, His Spirit and salvation. The one who, in this mortal life, had gained "*ten pounds*" is made mayor over ten cities. The one who gained, in his Christian life in this time *five pounds* is made mayor ruling over five cities. He qualified for only *half* as much, during this mortal life, so his REWARD in the Kingdom — the POSITION to which he is assigned — is only half as much.

Notice this picture of Christ's Coming, and establishing of the Kingdom of God over the nations: "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven saying, 'The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever' . . . And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, *that they should be judged*, and that thou *shouldest give reward* unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints . . ." (Rev. 11:15-18).

One of the Judgments is the "Great

White Throne Judgment." Notice that REWARD — *rank* in God's Kingdom — is according to WORKS! Not *getting into* the Kingdom, but rank, or reward, or office, once there: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God [in a resurrection]; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead *were judged* out of those things which were written in the books, *according to their works*" (Rev. 20:12).

Peter taught that God JUDGES (*not "saves"*) according to WORKS: ". . . the Father, who without respect of persons *judgeth according to every man's work*" (I Pet. 1:17). Paul taught that God "will render to every man *according to his deeds*" (Rom. 2:6).

Jesus said, plainly, "no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father" (John 6:65). And again, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44). But, to you whom God has called at this time — to you who have repented, believed, received God's Holy Spirit and thus been converted, YOU ARE BEING JUDGED RIGHT NOW (I Peter 4:17). And if you say: "I'm already 'saved'; and there are 'no works' to salvation," and then you fail to go on *overcoming, and growing spiritually* (see II Pet. 3:18), you not only will BE JUDGED by your *lack* of spiritual works to qualify for a higher office in God's Kingdom — but, far worse, you may be in the position of the servant to whom (parable of the "pounds" — Luke 19, quoted above) — Jesus took away from him the very salvation he thought he had! It takes a LIVING faith to save!

So — I just wanted to say to those who have read this newest booklet — read it AGAIN, and let it be REAL to you. Recognize the *connection* with what you read there *to your own life, NOW!* STUDY God's Word daily! Realize you must learn to *live by* its every Word! So LIVE BY IT! And pray, earnestly, daily, and OFTEN! Put into practice in your life what God teaches you in His Word! *And get your heart in HIS WORK!* Pray for it!

HOW the U.S. Can END the Vietnam WAR... NOW!

There is no end to the war in Vietnam in sight. Rather, the only visible prospect is accelerating escalation. Yet there is a SURE way the United States could end it IMMEDIATELY! This surprising article is the conclusion of the article, "1966 — THE YEAR OF VIOLENCE," in the January number.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THERE IS A WAY by which the United States could successfully END the war in Vietnam at once!

There is a way — a *tried and proven way* — a SURE way — to put an end to the harassment of the COLD WAR, and end all fear of any all-out nuclear hot war with either Russia or China.

What a pity that the Government and the PEOPLE of this nation remain blinded to THAT WAY! And it is SO SIMPLE!

Treating Effect — Ignoring CAUSE!

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!

Everybody *wants* PEACE — or at least, so we profess! We WORK for peace! President Johnson works for PEACE! The Pope pleads for PEACE! Prime Minister Wilson strives for PEACE! Yet *there is no peace!*

WHY?

The very NEWS of all this "working for peace" was reported millenniums 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!

WHY Must There Be WARS?

Many ask, "Well, if there *be* a God, WHY does God *allow* wars?"

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

The answer is, certainly God *could* stop it — and in very few years *will!* But, why in the future? Why did He *ever* allow it?

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

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

The ETERNAL offered mankind *that way* — and let mankind *choose!* The ETERNAL created and set in motion inexorable *laws* that *work* — not only laws of chemistry and physics — but also a basic SPIRITUAL LAW, which is *the way* to peace, happiness, abundant well-being! That LAW is the basic CAUSE of peace. Its violation is the CAUSE of war!

Yes, it's just that simple!

But a rebellious humanity — priding itself on its rational processes of "in-

tellect" — willingly blinds its mind to simple TRUTH, and embarks on a system of complicated and nonsensical ERROR!

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

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

Nations Never Needed Go to War!

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

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

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

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

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

Do you think the Almighty Creator is so impractical that He leaves those who OBEY HIM — who accept HIS GOVERNMENT over them — helpless? Understand this! God Almighty is SUPREME! He created the UNIVERSE —

and He RULES SUPREME over the entire vast UNIVERSE. He RULES over the earth — and whatever men do in their politics — their wars — their setting up of their own forms of government — is done ONLY BECAUSE GOD ALLOWS IT!

God is SUPREME in GOVERNMENT! A prime responsibility of GOVERNMENT is to PROTECT its own subjects!

So open your eyes, now, to the FACTS!

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

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

He said, "... if thou shalt indeed obey His voice, and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries... and I will cut them off" (Exodus 23:20-23).

God promised supernaturally to fight any invading enemy to protect the nation and people under His Government. God, ONLY, has *the right* to take human life! He *created* human life. All lives BELONG to Him.

But, did you notice — there were CONDITIONS to God's promise of divine and supernatural protection. During the first six thousand years of man's sojourn on earth, it is not in God's Master Plan to *force* any nation, or individual, to come under His GOVERNMENT. That is left to man's free CHOICE!

But these freed slaves — the Israelites — accepted God's offer, and became His Nation. They AGREED to obey Him and His laws — His Government — and He agreed to give them PEACE, *as long as they obeyed and trusted Him.*

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

Human Nature at Work

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

These Israelites, even while being

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

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

They looked, and within eyesight, Pharaoh's ARMY was coming after them.

Right here, God *demonstrated* He would preserve His people from having to undergo military service, or fighting in war, or taking human life!

In spite of their faithless complaining in this initial EXAMPLE of God's faithfulness, He was determined to fight *this* battle and save them.

"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Eternal, which HE WILL SHOW YOU today... *The Eternal shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace*" (Ex. 14:13-14).

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

How GOD Fights for Us!

"Moses stretched his hand out over the sea; Then the Eternal swept the sea along by a strong east wind, all night, till the waters parted; the bed of the sea was dry, and the Israelites marched through the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall to the right and left. Thus did the Eternal save Israel that day from the Egyptians. Israel saw the mighty action of the Eternal against the Egyptians.

After this miraculous delivery from disaster — from a WAR — a whole army of a then great nation destroyed — those Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron... and said "... 'Would to God we had died by the hand of the ETERNAL in the land of Egypt...'" (Ex. 16:2-3).

Again and again, "... they tempted the ETERNAL, saying, 'Is the ETERNAL among us, or not?'" (Ex. 17:7.)

Repeatedly, God had given these people awe-inspiring and miraculous demonstrations of His intention to *fight their battles for them.* After all of this OVERWHELMING PROOF, these people DOUBTED God's faithfulness — DOUBTED His Power — even DOUBTED His very existence. They disobeyed. They went *the way of SIN!*

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

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

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

Moses, at the end of his patience trying to induce these stubborn, rebellious people to believe in and TRUST God, said to Joshua, "Choose us out men, and go out, FIGHT with Amalek" (Ex. 17:9).

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

This incident was the *turning point.*

God's PURPOSE Stands!

Even though God ALLOWS humans to make their own decisions — nevertheless God's PURPOSE must stand! His PURPOSE was to settle these descendants of Abraham in the land He had promised Abraham — "the PROMISED LAND."

God's faithfulness demanded that He plant these people in that land, regardless of their conduct!

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

But that did not make war RIGHT.

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

God ALLOWED them to SIN by taking up arms.

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

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

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

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

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

Case History No. 2

The preceding article (January, 1967), gave the first actual case history showing, in detail, how the ETERNAL God, by supernatural miracles, did deliver the Israelites at the Red Sea from the army of the then greatest nation on earth, the Egyptians.

Notice, now, Case History No. 2.

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

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

Perhaps, had the Ethiopians come with a smaller army, Asa might have gone to war with them relying wholly

on his armed force, instead of on God. But, regardless, the FACT is that in this instance this King *did* rely on God for his defense!

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

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

In the 36th year the King of ISRAEL, Baasha, came with an armed force against the Jews. Incidentally, note carefully, the Kingdom of ISRAEL was here fighting against the JEWS of the Kingdom of JUDAH! They were two altogether *different nations!* The people of the Kingdom of ISRAEL *never* were called Jews!

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

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

If you wonder why OUR NATIONS are continually having WARS, *there is your answer!*

Case History No. 3

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

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

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

"And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the ETERNAL, before the new court, and said, 'O ETERNAL, God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and RULEST NOT THOU OVER ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE HEAVEN?' — that is, over all Gentile nations, as well as Israelitish?

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

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

Immediately God answered through one of His prophets:

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

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

Jerusalem fell before the ETERNAL, worshipping the ETERNAL . . .

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

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

But would not most Americans, and British, hoot and jeer in sarcasm, if one suggested that "The Great and powerful United States" TODAY humble itself — and trust in the INVISIBLE God — and WORSHIP Him, bowing our heads to the ground? Couldn't you just hear the snorts and raucous ridicule of stiffnecked proud "Great" Britons at the suggestion that they send before an armed enemy an army of SINGERS, saying, "PRAISE the ETERNAL!" — instead of relying on the nation's MILITARY strength?

Yes, WOULDN'T it seem RIDICULOUS to suggest that OUR proud nations do this — BELIEVE God's prophets (*not* the numerous *false* prophets who are NOT the clergy of the true *living* CHRIST), and march to war SINGING praises "to the beauty of holiness"?

Well perhaps so! But that kind of "foolishness" turned out to be *mighty* PRACTICAL for Jehoshaphat and those Jews!

Someday — and in not more than six to nine more years at that — America and Britain will be forced to WAKE UP to the sobering REALIZA-

TION of *which* way is *truly* the "foolish" way! And God's true Minister is *telling you*, as you read this, that *you'd* better make the right choice NOW, before it's too late! For indeed it is later than you think!

Case History No. 4

Several years later, "Sennacherib, King of Assyria, came and invaded Judah . . . And when Hezekiah [King of Judah] saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, he . . . gathered [the people] together to him in the square at the gate of the city, and spoke encouragingly to them saying, 'Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the King of Assyria and all the horde that is with him; for there is One greater with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the ETERNAL our God, to help us and to *fight our battles.*' And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah King of Judah" (II Chron. 32:1-8 RSV).

Supposing President Johnson, and Prime Minister Wilson — IF the Kremlin warned that Russia and the Red Army hordes were going to attack our countries in 24 hours — first by HYDROGEN BOMBS hurled by guided missiles on New York, London, Birmingham, Manchester, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, and all our major cities — supposing these two leaders of ours broadcast words like those to all the people of America and Britain — saying we would not counterattack — we would not attack with nuclear force *first*, before the 24-hour ultimatum was up — but we would RELY ON THE ETERNAL OUR GOD to fight this battle FOR US!

Have our EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS so deceived and drugged the minds of our people with "German rationalism" — with agnosticism, atheism, and the entire evolutionary philosophy — that the people would ridicule our leaders as cowardly molycoddles, and would crowds surge into the White House, and Number 10 Downing Street, to assassinate our leaders, and would our WAR Departments instantly give the signal to unleash the full all-out NU-

CLEAR destruction of our vast arsenals RAINING DOWN NUCLEAR DEVASTATION on Moscow, Russian cities and military centers *before* the 24-hour ultimatum could expire?

Of course, the Kremlin — IF they were minded to attack — would give no such ultimatum! This is just a hypothetical question. But YOU answer it! — and I think you'll realize that OUR PEOPLES have gone SO FAR away from the ETERNAL our God that, in most minds today, He seems nonexistent! Yet He is *just as REAL* — and as POWERFUL — as in Hezekiah's day!

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

"Then Hezekiah the King, and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven. AND THE ETERNAL SENT AN ANGEL, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So *he returned with shame of face* to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword. So THE ETERNAL SAVED HEZEKIAH AND THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM from the hand of Sennacherib King of Assyria and from the hand OF ALL HIS ENEMIES; and HE GAVE THEM REST [PEACE] ON EVERY SIDE" (II Chron. 32:9-22 RSV).

War is *so needless!*

War is WRONG!

Yes, the United States *could* put an END to the Vietnam war IMMEDIATELY — IF not only our leaders at Wash-

(Continued on page 47)

WHAT DO YOU MEAN . . .

"Rewarded According to Works"?

Few — even professing "Christians" — understand some of this Biblical terminology. Few understand the difference between being "saved by GRACE," and "rewarded according to WORKS." Here is a surprising sequel to the article, "What Do You Mean . . . Salvation?" in the December (1966) issue — an eye-opening article.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

SOME RELIGIONISTS, who talk much about "salvation" and "grace" accuse me of proclaiming "a salvation by works." The accusation is FALSE!

The ANSWER to these false accusations is something FEW people comprehend — *including the world's religious leaders!*

So LET'S UNDERSTAND! For this is VITAL TO YOUR LIFE!

There's a Vast Difference!

There is a great difference between being "saved by GRACE," and "rewarded according to WORKS." To UNDERSTAND, you need to know *what* "salvation" is, and what "reward" means.

The Bible tells us what are "the spiritual consequences of sin." But "salvation" means, also, "preservation." In this case, preservation of LIFE. One verse in the Bible explains BOTH: "For the wages of sin is DEATH; but the gift of God is ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

The "wages" you EARN by the "works" of SIN is eternal DEATH. It is ETERNAL PUNISHMENT — and since the punishment is DEATH, and *not life*, it is eternal DEATH. You *now* have only a chemical, temporary, physical existence, sustained by breathing, eating, drinking, and your physical heart continuing to beat and circulate your blood. Stop breathing, stop your heart beating, you die — you cease to live —

almost instantly. Stop eating and drinking, and you'll die in 45 or 50 days.

So, to PRESERVE LIFE means the GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE — spirit life — self-sustaining, INHERENT life.

Salvation, then, means to PRESERVE you FROM eternal death, the "wages" or consequences of sin, and to GIVE you inherent ETERNAL LIFE.

So, then, ETERNAL LIFE is something YOU DO NOT NOW HAVE. It is something you have no power to supply, or give to yourself. You can't earn it by "WORKS." It comes as God's free GIFT. Neither can you erase the PENALTY of sin — that is, PREVENT eternal DEATH. For "ALL have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). That includes YOU! You have brought on yourself the eternal DEATH SENTENCE, as a penalty!

The Bible teaches NOTHING about an "immortal soul." On the contrary, it teaches, twice, that "the soul that sinneth, it shall DIE" (Ezek. 18:4, 20). Jesus said the "soul" can be DESTROYED in gehenna fire (Mat. 10:28).

What your own "works" have earned for you is the "wages" of ETERNAL DEATH. You see, everyone has "WORKS" — either good, or bad! And your bad works have earned the wages of eternal DEATH. Good works can earn something, too — which I will explain later — but it is NOT "Salvation" or eternal life!

GOD ONLY has immortality. He has it INHERENT. He has it TO GIVE. You do NOT have it! You must go to GOD to get it!

But, your sins have CUT YOU OFF from God! (Isa. 59:1-2.) You are so CUT OFF that you cannot reach Him! There is an impassable BARRIER between you and Him, brought on by your SINS!

How, then, can you gain ACCESS to Almighty God (the Father), to receive from Him eternal life and salvation — AS HIS GIFT? Well, Isaiah says, "let the wicked forsake his way" (Isa. 55:6-8) — the way of SIN. And, further, "God SO LOVED THE WORLD [of sinners], that He GAVE His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should NOT perish, but have everlasting LIFE" (John 3:16).

Yes, but HOW?

The answer is in Romans 5:8-10: "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more, then, being justified NOW by His blood . . ." GET THIS! "Being NOW justified" — HOW? — by "works"? No, by Christ's DEATH — by His blood. He shed His blood and DIED.

So — IF you repent of sinning — that is, turn around to go the OTHER WAY — forsake YOUR way — the way contrary to God's Law, and turn to GOD'S WAY — the way of His Law — if you have thus REPENTED of sinning, and have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour — accepted His DEATH as PAYMENT IN FULL for YOUR sins — accepted Him as personal Saviour not only from the PENALTY of

past sins, but as *living* Saviour to save you from SINNING (now and in the future) then you are NOW forgiven past guilt—you are now JUSTIFIED of your guilty past.

But "justified" refers to the guilty past, not to the FUTURE!

So, CONTINUE this Scripture: "... Much more, then, being *now justified* by His blood, we SHALL BE saved by Him..." Notice, being "SAVED" is yet in the future. We are now "justified," by God's grace—by Jesus' DEATH—and SHALL BE (future) "saved." But, continue, verse 10 of Romans 5: "... For if, when we were enemies, we were RECONCILED to God by the death of His Son..." here, you see, being JUSTIFIED by Christ's death is ALSO being RECONCILED to GOD by His death. In other words, *we have at last, through Christ's death established CONTACT with God.*

Now continue, same sentence: "... much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved BY HIS LIFE."

Not already "saved." But "*shall be saved.*" And HOW? Saved by the "blood of Christ"?—by His DEATH? NO!!! By His LIFE! We are justified of past guilt, which had cut us off from access to God, by Christ's DEATH—but SHALL BE, in the future, SAVED by His LIFE. He ROSE from the dead. He is a *living* Christ!

HOW Eternal Life Comes

So, with the sentence of eternal DEATH paid for us—our past sins which put a barrier between us and God JUSTIFIED—we are now RECONCILED to God—given access. And HE has ETERNAL LIFE inherent—self-containing life—to GIVE.

HOW, then, do we receive it from Him?

Notice a couple of pivotal Scriptures: "For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself" (John 5:26). God has imparted INHERENT eternal life to the living Jesus Christ. Now, further: "And this is the record, that GOD hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life [eternal]; and he

that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (I John 5:11, 12).

Yes, we are to be SAVED by the *living* Christ—saved BY HIS LIFE! That is, GIVEN eternal life as a GIFT, through His life—not through His death!

But, specifically, HOW? Let the apostle Peter explain: "REPENT, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall RECEIVE the GIFT of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). On real REPENTANCE of sinning—a turning around to go the other way—to QUIT sinning—and on faith in Jesus expressed by water baptism (Acts 8:35-37) God has promised WE SHALL RECEIVE HIS HOLY SPIRIT AS A GIFT. Not by our "works"—but by GRACE!

But how does THIS give us eternal life—salvation?

"If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall ALSO [by a resurrection] quicken your mortal bodies *by His Spirit that dwelleth in you*" (Rom. 8:11).

Well is, then, the receiving of the Holy Spirit SALVATION? Is one already "saved" when he receives this Spirit?

GOD'S WORD SAYS NO! It is the presence of eternal life *conditionally—provisionally.* The Scripture above quoted spoke of God's Spirit DWELLING in you. IF this Spirit is dwelling in you until death (the first), or AT THE TIME of the RESURRECTION—at Christ's coming—THEN you shall be either resurrected IMMORTAL, or, if still alive CHANGED from mortal to immortal instantaneously (I Cor. 15:50 and I Thes. 4:13-17).

The receiving of the Holy Spirit, NOW, is the TOKEN PAYMENT—or the EARNEST payment from God on the gift of eternal life. Notice: "... Christ ... in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the *earnest of our INHERITANCE, until the redemption of the purchased possession...*" (Eph. 1:12-14). The *Moffatt* translation renders it in more understandable English, "... the long-promised Holy Spirit, which is the pledge and installment of our common heritage, that we *may [in future] obtain our divine possession...*"

Those who have received God's Holy Spirit are NOW *not yet* inheritors or possessors of this eternal life—of this salvation. They are NOW *HEIRS* of God—co-heirs with Christ (Gal. 3:29). They are now still mortal, not immortal. They are now BEGOTTEN sons of God—not yet BORN of God. They are now in the CHURCH of God—not yet in the KINGDOM of God.

May We Go on Sinning?

But now what of that Scripture that says: "... ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14).

Now that you are UNDER GRACE—does this mean you are given license to *disobey* God's Law?

Listen to GOD'S answer: "What shall we say, then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? GOD FORBID! How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Rom. 6:1-2.) Later, verse 12: "Let not sin [transgressing God's Law] therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

Once again, verse 14: "For sin [transgressing the Law] shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the Law, but under grace." The very next words show PLAINLY this does not mean you are free to BREAK God's Law—to DISOBEY God. "What then? Shall we SIN [break the Law], because we are not under the Law, but under grace? GOD FORBID! Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness."

GRACE does not mean license to SIN. And the BIBLE definition of SIN is: "Sin is the transgression of the LAW" (I John 3:4).

You *were* UNDER THE LAW, when the law stood over you, claiming its penalty. When Christ paid the penalty, and satisfied the claims of the law, you were no longer under the law, but under GRACE.

It is the FALSE PROPHETS of our day who try to deceive you into believing "GRACE" means permission to BREAK GOD'S LAW! We are being saved FROM SINNING (now and in the future) as well as from PAST sins.

Christ came to save us FROM sinning — not to save us IN sin.

WHY the Holy Spirit?

I have been showing you, step by step, the way of "salvation." Where are you, now? You have been reconciled to God — your past forgiven — and you have received God's Holy Spirit. But WHY?

God's Spirit, first of all, is His very own LIFE injected into you — the begettal of ETERNAL life. You are now an HEIR of God — a joint-heir — a co-heir with CHRIST. Not yet an inheritor. The Holy Spirit injects into you also the characteristics of God. First of these is LOVE — not carnal or human love, but DIVINE love — GOD'S love.

And WHY? In order to KEEP GOD'S LAW — *that's why!* How is God's Law fulfilled? "LOVE is the fulfilling of the Law" (Rom. 13:8). But carnal human love cannot fulfill it. WHY? Because the Law of God is a SPIRITUAL Law (Rom. 7:14). It can be fulfilled only by a SPIRITUAL love, which is THE GIFT of God. It is "the love of GOD shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5). And, again, God gives His Holy Spirit only to "them that OBEY Him" (Acts 5:32).

Also it requires FAITH to keep God's Commandments. And *your* faith is not strong enough. It requires CHRIST'S faith — the same faith He exercised and lived by during His human lifetime. God also GIVES you this very same FAITH, *by the Holy Spirit*. God's Spirit also imparts to you, spiritual comprehension — power to UNDERSTAND spiritual truth; and wisdom, and patience, and spiritual POWER! All these are imparted to you from God, by the Holy Spirit — as His GIFT! But these are given to you to LIVE BY — to USE, in order to GROW spiritually in knowledge and grace, and to overcome.

MUST There Be "WORKS"?

I have tried to make it PLAIN that we cannot EARN salvation by "works."

Yet EVERYONE does produce "works" — either good or bad. Your evil "works" — disobedience of the Commandments — will EARN you the penalty of DEATH. But what about GOOD

works? Do *they* earn you anything?

INDEED THEY DO!

Are good "WORKS" required?

INDEED THEY ARE!

But WHAT, then, do they EARN?

They do NOT earn "salvation." They do NOT earn eternal life. They will NOT get you into the Kingdom of God!

Well, then! What DO they earn?

Ah — that is the point of this article!

You are not JUSTIFIED by "works," nor "saved" by "works," but you are to be JUDGED by your "works," and "rewarded" according to your "works."

This thing called "WORKS" — meaning deeds, good or bad — cannot put you INTO God's Kingdom of immortals. You get IN by GRACE! But, once *in*, your "works" during this present life — during your Christian life after being "converted" and receiving God's Holy Spirit — DO determine WHAT OFFICE, or POSITION, or RANK, or degree of GLORY, you shall have!

This is what ALMOST NO ONE seems to have understood!

First notice what Jesus said — AFTER His resurrection — inspired after the year 90 A.D.: "To him that OVERCOMETH will I grant to sit with me in my THRONE . . ." (Rev. 3:21). Further: "And he that OVERCOMETH, and *keepeth my works unto the end*, to him will I give POWER OVER THE NATIONS: AND HE SHALL RULE THEM . . ." (Rev. 2:26-27).

Notice again, "... hast made us unto our God KINGS AND PRIESTS; and WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH" (Rev. 5:10).

Notice what is said of those in the first RESURRECTION, at Christ's coming: "... and they lived AND REIGNED with Christ a thousand years. . . . Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, AND SHALL REIGN with Him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4, 6).

Notice, in these Scriptures, the "saved" are to REIGN with Christ in the coming WORLD GOVERNMENT, the Kingdom of God. And notice the requirement of OVERCOMING, and keeping Christ's WORKS and also of EN-

DURING TO THE END! NOTICE! Jesus said "he that . . . keepeth my works *unto the end.*"

Now notice further: "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall REWARD every man ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS" (Mat. 16:27). Nowhere does the Bible teach being "SAVED" by our "works," but it does teach the degree of *reward* according to "works."

Alexander the coppersmith did great evil to the apostle Paul, and Paul says: "... the Lord reward him according to his works" (II Tim. 4:14). Notice this distinction! This man did EVIL works. He won't get salvation at Christ's coming. He will be REWARDED — that is, PAID WAGES according to his WORKS — and the WAGES of SIN is DEATH — eternal PUNISHMENT. "WORKS" means the wages you earn — or the REWARD to be given — *either* good or bad. Evil works (sin) can EARN eternal punishment, but GOOD WORKS can EARN a better position or office in God's Kingdom *IF* you get there — but it *cannot* earn salvation!

Now notice Romans 4:4: "Now to him that WORKETH is the *reward* NOT reckoned of GRACE, but of DEBT." Salvation is not paid as a DEBT, but is GIVEN by GRACE — undeserved GIFT. But "WORKS" earn wages, paid as a debt. So what we WANT is not GRACE or WORKS, but GRACE *and* WORKS. The "GRACE" will get us into God's Kingdom — give us IMMORTALITY as God's GIFT. The "WORKS" will EARN us — that is, QUALIFY us for a better office — an opportunity for bigger SERVICE — for doing MORE GOOD, once we are born into God's Kingdom.

Degree of Reward

Notice, now, Jesus' parable of the "pounds."

Jesus' disciples wrongly supposed the Kingdom of God was to appear *in their lifetime*. To CORRECT this error, Jesus spoke this parable.

"... *because* they thought the Kingdom of God should immediately appear He said therefore, 'A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for Himself a Kingdom, and to return'" (Luke 19:11-12). That is, Jesus Himself was going to heaven to receive for

Himself the Kingdom of God, and to return to earth. Now continue:

"And He called His ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, 'Occupy till I come.' But His citizens hated Him, and sent a message after Him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us'" (verses 13-14). Jesus had come "to His own," the Jews—the remnant of the Kingdom of JUDAH—and "they received Him not" (John 1:11), so Jesus turned to "the lost sheep of the House of Israel," (Mat. 15:24), and sent His twelve Apostles to them (Mat. 10:6). That is, to the so-called "lost Ten Tribes" of Israel. They were then, most of them, in northwestern Europe and the British Isles (see free booklet, *The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy*).

But continue Jesus' parable:

"And it came to pass, that when He was returned,"—now speaking of what SHALL happen at Christ's return—"having received the Kingdom, then He commanded these servants to be called unto Him, to whom He had given the money, that He might know how much every man had gained by trading" (Luke 19:15).

This is speaking of every converted true Christian, to whom God has GIVEN of His Holy Spirit, and spiritual gifts. Every one, now entering God's Kingdom as an INHERITOR—as a POSSESSOR, no longer just an HEIR—actually NOW "SAVED"—will be called to an accounting—JUDGED, to determine WHAT POSITION in God's Kingdom he has qualified for. And NOTICE that this "REWARD" will be according to his "WORKS" in this present mortal life. Continue, verses 16-19:

"Then came the first, saying, 'Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.' And He said unto him, 'Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.' And the second came, saying, 'Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.' And He said likewise to him, 'Be thou also over five cities.'"

NOTICE CAREFULLY! They got *into* God's Kingdom by GRACE (as numerous other Scriptures make plain). But they are *rewarded*—that is, given au-

thority, or rule, or position, according to their "WORKS"—according to how well they did with what they had to do with WHILE CHRIST WAS IN HEAVEN—that is, during their Christian lives.

Continue now:

Beginning verse 20—read it in your Bible—the one who GAINED NOTHING in this present mortal life—the one who had no good "works"—not only was not given ANY position—but even had TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM even the spiritual gift he had been given! In this parable, the English pound, the main English unit of money—worth approximately \$2.80 United States money—is used as a symbol of spiritual value.

This parable teaches what has been shown by other Scriptures in this article—that the Christian must OVERCOME; he must GROW spiritually—grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ (II Pet. 3:18). We are being SAVED to SERVE—and if we do not qualify to serve, we may have taken away even the salvation we thought we had!

The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) shows the same thing, showing that each is judged by what he has to do with. But the one who makes no SPIRITUAL PROGRESS after his initial "conversion" is cast as an "unprofitable servant into outer darkness" (Mat. 25:30).

Life Is a Race

Finally, SEE WHERE ALL THIS LEADS US. Man is MORTAL, without inherent life, possessing in himself only a transitory physical, chemical EXISTENCE. ETERNAL life comes as GOD'S GIFT. It comes through the gift of God's Holy Spirit, GIVEN after the prior *conditions* of real REPENTANCE, and FAITH in Christ.

But, once receiving the GIFT of the Holy Spirit, entering upon the Christian life, *this Christian life* is pictured as A RACE in a stadium, or in a contest. We must TURN FROM SIN (and the Bible definition of SIN is: transgression of God's Law—I John 3:4). Notice: "Wherefore... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us *run with patience the race* that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

FURTHER: Paul wrote: "And this I do for the Gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. Know ye not that *they which run in a race* run all, but ONE receiveth the prize? So RUN, that ye may obtain. And every man *that striveth* for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now *they* [those unconverted] do it to obtain a corruptible *crown*; but we [Christians] an incorruptible. I, therefore, *so run*, not as uncertainly; SO FIGHT I... lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be REJECTED" (I Cor. 9:23-27).

We must STRIVE to overcome. We must *fight* temptation and sin. The Christian life was pictured by Jesus as the hard, ruddy, difficult way—NOT the easy way that leads to destruction.

So, SALVATION—being BORN INTO God's Kingdom—depends not only on once *receiving* the Holy Spirit, but BEING LED BY God's Spirit *through life* (Rom. 8:14), and God's Spirit DWELLING IN us, *at the end of life's race!* That is, at the time of death, or of Christ's coming, whichever comes first.

God's impregnating Holy Spirit is received by GRACE, as God's GIFT, not as a debt or compensation earned; not by "works." But, once we receive the Holy Spirit, it does not remain bottled up; it does not stagnate; it is not static—it FLOWS in outgoing concern (LOVE) to fellowman, and in worship, reverence, obedience to GOD. It flows into us from God. We can love God only because He first loved us—our love toward God is only a return of His love, which He gives to us.

This spiritual LOVE—the HOLY SPIRIT—must be kept on that RETURN CIRCUIT—fulfilling God's LAW—flowing back to GOD by fulfilling the first four Commandments, and out to neighbor fulfilling the last six.

The parable of the sower and the seed illustrates this. There were four classes. The first heard the Gospel Message, but it never conceived—they never were converted. They may STILL have a chance—later. A second class was converted, with great joy, but simply had no spiritual depth of character, and endured only for a while,

but yielded to temptations UNTIL they fell away—that is, CONTINUALLY, till they QUIT TRYING. A third was converted, received God's Spirit, but let the cares of this material life—earning a living—or former unconverted associates—keeping one foot in the world—seeking the PLEASURES of this world's materialism—and they "brought forth NO FRUIT to perfection." So THEY lost out! You MUST BRING FORTH FRUIT—make spiritual PROGRESS—develop spiritual CHARACTER! Too many, today, are preaching a FALSE salvation of "NO WORKS."

Your "WORKS" won't get you converted—won't earn you God's Spirit—as I have made PLAIN in this article. BUT THE LACK OF GOOD WORKS CAN GET YOU LOST, if persisted in!

The fourth class of the parable are they, "which in an HONEST and GOOD HEART, having heard the Word, KEEP it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15). In Matthew's account of this same parable, those finally SAVED, enduring to the END of life's race, brought forth fruit—some thirty-fold, some sixty, some a hundred. ALL of these were SAVED! ALL of these go into God's Kingdom.

BUT those who bring forth a hundred-fold, during their Christian lives, will receive a higher REWARD, or position in the Kingdom, than those who produce only thirty-fold!

SALVATION comes as God's free GIFT, by GRACE.

But the DEGREE of office, once in the Kingdom—once made IMMORTAL—the rank, the position, the degree of glory—this is NOT by grace—this is NOT God's gift—this is what you must QUALIFY FOR, by the fruits you bear in THIS LIFE.

THAT is the teaching of GOD!

We Must Produce "Fruit"

SALVATION, I repeat again and again, is GOD'S FREE GIFT—not something you can earn. BUT, once you have received God's Holy Spirit—BY GRACE—that Spirit, in you, *must produce FRUIT!*

The Bible explains this *this* way: Jesus says He is the Vine—we are the branches. (John 15:1, 5.) Here we are likened to a grapevine and its

branches. The BRANCHES did not get themselves joined on to the main Vine by their own efforts. We did not become joined to Christ—receiving His Holy Spirit by our "works," but it was HIS doing—His GIFT—it came by GRACE.

BUT—once joined on, with the SAP flowing from the Vine into the branch (a picture of God's Holy Spirit flowing from Him into us), we *must produce fruit*. If we don't—*then what?*

Notice this whole picture, in John 15. God the Father is the Husbandman—the Vine-dresser—the chief Gardener, who PRUNES the branches. Now notice verse 2: "Every branch in me that beareth NOT fruit *He taketh away.*" If, once having received the Holy Spirit, we do not produce spiritual fruit, we shall be cut off from Christ—and, (verse 6) shall be cast into the fire and BURNED UP—referring to the final Gehenna or hellfire!

The Holy Spirit is GIVEN to us—we didn't deserve or earn it—but given to PRODUCE FRUIT. HOW? Jesus pictured the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39) as *rivers* of "living water"—FLOWING from Him into us, and on out of us. HOW will it flow on out of us? A "river" flows down a riverbed. The spiritual riverbed down which God's Spirit FLOWS is GOD'S LAW. This "living water" of God's Spirit is the LOVE that fulfills the Law. The FRUITS, then, are simply *the WAY of righteousness*—keeping God's Law.

Oh, one will vehemently object, THAT'S "WORKS." No—it's *righteousness*. But IT IS NOT OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS! God's Spirit GIVES us the FAITH that makes obedience possible. This is the FAITH that SAVES! It is God's GIFT. And the LOVE that fulfills God's Law is HIS love, flowing into and out of us—NOT OUR LOVE! It is not SELF-righteousness—it is GOD'S righteousness, GIVEN to us.

What KIND of Works?

One further passage of Scripture should COMPLETE the picture.

It is in the third chapter of I Corinthians. Notice carefully:

Some of these Gentile converts at Corinth wanted to be followers of Paul, others of Peter, others of Apollos. Paul

was pointing them to CHRIST, and showing what human "nothingness" was he and Apollos.

"What then is Apollos?" he asked (verse 5). "What is Paul?" And he answered, "Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, *but GOD gave the GROWTH.*" Paul was showing them that he and Apollos, mere humans, were as NOTHING compared to GOD. The spiritual GROWTH—the FRUIT BORNE—came through God's Holy Spirit. The Apostle continued:

"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." Notice—GOD GIVES the spiritual growth—the fruits borne. It is GOD'S righteousness. "He who plants and he who waters are equal, and each shall *receive his wages* according to his labor" (verse 8). Once again, our WORKS do EARN wages—either good or bad. Evil works earn eternal DEATH. Good works earn a better position or reward in God's Kingdom—IF you get there by GRACE. Now continue:

"For *we* are fellow workmen for God, YOU are God's field, God's building" (verse 9). Apply that to this very Work of GOD *today*. Today God is using me, Garner Ted Armstrong, our active staff of several hundred, and our growing family of Co-Workers—all FELLOW-WORKMEN for God. Our WORK in carrying out Christ's Great commission—proclaiming His Gospel around the world by radio and printing press—our ministers counseling with and baptizing those being converted—the PRAYERS and financial support of other FELLOW-WORKMEN—will EARN a better position—a higher glory—IF we make it into God's Kingdom. But we shall be SAVED only by GRACE, undeserved—as God's GIFT. Yet our WORK, as instruments in GOD'S HANDS, which HE uses in HIS WORK, is the most important Work or activity on earth today! And it contributes greatly to our individual and personal SPIRITUAL GROWTH!

But continue:

Paul says further, "According to the commission of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon

it" (verse 10). He now pictures THE CHURCH as a BUILDING being built. Continue: "Let each man take care how he builds upon it." Now referring to each individual member as well as the Body of Christ—the Church, as a whole.

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is JESUS CHRIST" (verse 11).

Continue: "Now if anyone builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble—each man's WORK will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the WORK which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward" (verses 12-14).

Christ Does the Works "in Us"

The FOUNDATION did not come by OUR WORKS! That was GOD'S doing. He GAVE us the FOUNDATION to build upon. That foundation is CHRIST—and it is "Christ IN us" (II Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:27), *by the Holy Spirit!* God's Spirit—Christ IN you—was GIVEN by GRACE, not produced by your WORKS. BUT you must continue to BUILD upon that "Foundation." We must OVERCOME. We must GROW spiritually (II Pet. 3:18).

Now notice the MATERIALS mentioned in building the superstructure of the building. The most valuable is mentioned first—GOLD. Second in value and QUALITY of building materials is mentioned next, SILVER. Next, precious stones; next, wood—far less valuable. But now we come down to CHEAPNESS, and INFERIOR QUALITY—HAY! Hay might be used in covering a tropical-zone hut—but it is very inferior building material. Yet, a horse could eat it—it has *some* little value. But, lastly, we come to STUBBLE! You couldn't even build a hut with stubble. A horse wouldn't eat it. Its value is about NIL. It's fit only to be BURNED!

Must Build Character

In this Scriptural passage, we are primarily concerned with BUILDING CHARACTER.

But now Paul speaks of TESTING the

quality of a man's building by FIRE. Let's *understand* it! Continue: "If any man's *work* is BURNED UP, *he* will suffer loss, though *he himself will be saved*, but only as through fire" (verse 15). WHAT is that "fire"?

To understand this, we need to turn to the 3rd chapter of Malachi. It speaks of Christ as the Messenger of the (new) Covenant, suddenly coming to His Temple. This, like so many prophecies, is dual in application. It refers only typically to Christ's first coming—primarily to His Second Coming!

"... and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant, ... But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's FIRE, and like fullers' soap; and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of *silver*: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and *purge* them as *gold* and *silver*, that they may offer unto the ETERNAL an offering in RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Malachi 3:1-3).

Plainly, this is speaking of Christ's second coming as KING of kings, to set up WORLD GOVERNMENT over ALL NATIONS. Then we who have received God's GRACE—in whom is the Holy Spirit, then made immortal—shall stand before Him for judgment as to what reward, or position, we have qualified for. Christ Himself is that refiner's FIRE, that will burn up the dross. But the pure gold, silver, or precious stones we have BUILT on the foundation of CHRIST will then be MANIFEST—it will come through the test. But the wood, hay and straw will be burned up.

Again, of those who, BY GRACE, do receive SALVATION, and are born IMMORTAL into God's Kingdom at Christ's appearing, Christ says He will bring them "through the FIRE, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, 'It is MY PEOPLE:' and they shall say, 'The ETERNAL is my God'" (Zech. 13:9).

Now back to I Corinthians 3:13-15. It ought to be plain, now!

This is speaking of begotten chil-

dren of God, who have received God's Holy Spirit—that is, CHRIST *in* them, in Spirit—as the FOUNDATION. Some people, once converted and receiving God's Spirit, do begin to *live by* every word of the Bible, as Jesus said we must (Luke 4:4). They have had their hearts in GOD'S WORK for our time. They have sought, and found, the TRUE VALUES of life. They have striven to overcome. They have studied to know God's WAY—to show themselves approved unto GOD. They have kept close to God, by daily Bible study and prayer. They have BUILT RIGHTEOUS, SPIRITUAL, STERLING CHARACTER! In other words, they have built on the FOUNDATION with gold, silver, and precious stones. These have survived the TEST. They came through the fire. These are the ones who "brought forth fruit"—whose "pound" gained "ten pounds"—who will be given authority over MUCH.

But there are MANY—and I personally know of many such—who with JOY have received God's Holy Spirit—their conversion as Christians—and have remained in a GOOD ATTITUDE, but whose "WORKS" have been of inferior quality, pictured by the wood, hay, and stubble. Most of their "WORKS" of their Christian lives will be burned up, when the final examination comes. Their reward—status in the Kingdom—position qualified for—is very small, yet THEY, themselves, will be SAVED by God's grace! They suffer the LOSS of higher position—greater authority for service and doing good—but they themselves will be SAVED.

We are SAVED by GRACE, through Christ's FAITH—given as God's GIFT. But whatever "REWARD"—status, rank, position, degree of GLORY—is conferred, once we are changed to immortality IN God's Kingdom, will be *according to our "works"* in this present mortal life—and according to *the character and quality* of those works.

WHY the Christian Life?

WHY do most of those who claim to be the very CLERGY of Jesus Christ say there are "NO WORKS WHATEVER" in the Christian life?

Because of their false pagan and un-

scriptural doctrine about "going to heaven" when you die. Their conception of "heaven" seems to be an eternity of idleness and ease—with nothing to do. The development of the very CHARACTER of the living GOD—preparing for RULERSHIP—qualifying for SERVICE—have no place in their false pagan theology.

Many times I have asked, over the air, and in *The PLAIN TRUTH*, "WHY, if 'heaven' is the reward of the saved, and if there are 'no works' to the Christian life, is not one taken *immediately*, upon first accepting Christ, to his 'reward'? WHY must the converted Christian—if he is '*already saved*'—if he has been already 'born again'—go on suffering IN THIS LIFE? WHY does the Bible say, '*Many are the afflictions of the righteous,*' and '*All who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution?*' WHY not avoid all this suffering? WHY doesn't God take new converts *immediately* to 'glory' in 'heaven'?"

The answer is that God put humans on this earth for a PURPOSE! That PURPOSE is stated in Genesis 1:26—God is actually *reproducing Himself!* God is the Supreme Spiritual CHARACTER—holy, righteous, perfect. We, to be actually BORN of Him—BORN into His FAMILY as His divine children—must be *changed*, not only from mortal to immortal—not only from human to divine—but from our human nature and sinning character, into His DIVINE NATURE (II Pet. 1:4) and into His HOLINESS and PERFECTION of character (I Pet. 1:16; Mat. 5:48). And that *must be developed*, through the Christian life! It means *overcoming*, *growing* in knowledge and character!

We are to become a NEW CREATION (Gal. 6:15, margin). God's SPIRITUAL CREATION is still going on, *in us!* We are now mere CLAY—made of the dust of the ground. God is the Potter—we are the clay (Isa. 64:8). We must, *on our own decision*, with our own complete *submission*, and even with *our own effort* accompanying, yield so that the Master Potter may completely remake, re-fashion, re-shape our vile characters into the holy, righteous, spiritual and perfect character of GOD.

Your Part in GOD'S WORK

In my forty years' intensive, rich, active experience, since God changed MY direction into HIS WAY, I have observed that the *very first* need of every Christian, who is to GROW and develop this spiritual character, is to have his heart completely in THE WORK OF GOD, which the *living* Christ has called His servants to do, as His instruments!

Those who are self-centered, caring nothing for the WORK OF GOD, having not enough *outgoing concern* to want to help GET CHRIST'S MESSAGE out to this blinded, deceived, dying world, fall away. Those who center their whole "Christian" life and activity on developing *their own selves* spiritually, whose hearts are not in or concerned about this great OUTGOING worldwide WORK OF GOD, actually directed by the *living* CHRIST, develop only INWARDLY, until they shrivel up spiritually and fall by the wayside! Those whose hearts, their active, constant, earnest, fervent PRAYERS, and their tithes and offerings are in GOD'S WORK continue to EXPAND spiritually—they become HAPPIER—they become greatly BLESSED—their lives become richer and fuller—and their faces beam in smiles. They RADIATE! They PROSPER!

The New Testament is literally *filled* with instruction on *Christian living*—leading a new, different, sparkling, joyous life—or, perhaps more correctly, allowing Jesus Christ to live such a life—GOD'S WAY—in them!

How WONDERFUL is *God's Way!* SALVATION comes—if we are willing—as God's FREE GIFT—by GRACE!

But we *must be changed*. There is DOING, not hearing only (Rom. 2:13). There is development of a new righteous CHARACTER. Yet, even that is CHRIST IN YOU actually DOING it! Actually, even the "works" are primarily done by HIM! But how WONDERFUL that there *are* righteous "WORKS" in the true Christian life—opportunity for *more* than salvation, priceless though that be—opportunity for higher position, rank, opportunity to SERVE, higher GLORY!

END VIETNAM WAR NOW!

(Continued from page 6)

ington, but ALSO OUR PEOPLE AS A WHOLE, could recognize REALITY—could understand that God is REAL—and would *humble themselves* before Him, BELIEVE Him—RELY ON Him!

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

The God who is REAL says of OUR PEOPLES: "Prophesy against the prophets of Israel... O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the House of Israel TO STAND in the BATTLE in the DAY OF THE ETERNAL" (Ezek. 13:1-5).

That is NOT a message to ancient Israel—but to OUR NATIONS of TODAY. The "DAY OF THE ETERNAL"—a time foretold in more than thirty prophecies—is going to strike between 5 and 10 years from now! You will *know*, then, how REAL it is. You will wish, then, you had heeded. I am not writing foolishly, but very soberly, ON AUTHORITY of the *living* CHRIST!

Continue this WARNING to OUR nations TODAY: "They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, 'The ETERNAL saith': and the ETERNAL *bath not sent them*: ... Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and *there is no peace!*" (Verses 6, 10.)

Perhaps you need to read the free booklet, *The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy*, and then read this whole chapter seriously! It is a last WARNING from the ETERNAL GOD!

God says to US, TODAY: "Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and *make you a new heart and a new spirit*; for WHY WILL YE DIE, O House of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord ETERNAL; wherefore, TURN YOURSELVES, and LIVE YE!" (Ezek. 18:31-32.)