

The Good News of
**TOMORROW'S
WORLD**

June 1971



The "JESUS TRIP"—One-Way Ticket to NOWHERE?

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Personal from



The Blessings of Abundant Living

MR. ALBERT PORTUNE, our Vice-President for Financial Affairs and Planning, and I, have a disagreement. He is a very appreciative man. He's always counting his blessings.

"I'm the most blessed man on earth," he insists.

I flatly disagree with him. I tell him *I* enjoy that status. Like the Apostle Paul, I feel that I have been the chief of sinners — yet God's marvelous grace has so richly abounded that it seems He has simply *lavished* on me every blessing that even the loving GOD can bestow!

Business associates, not quite comprehending the spiritual significance or real reasons, admit and marvel at the really happy and enjoyable life I have been granted. They *seek* the full joys of life. I did, too — once. And as long as I tried to GET and to TAKE them, I somehow never had them.

Back in my pre-conversion days in the magazine and newspaper world, I fought and strove energetically for that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow — the *money* that would buy happiness and all the "good things" of gracious living. I sought and struggled valiantly to attain the vanity-pleasing status of being considered "important" by important business men.

Yet, somehow, I never quite caught up with the end of that rainbow. For a few years — in my middle and late twenties — I enjoyed considerable financial success — for a young chap under thirty. I was making an income equivalent to perhaps \$35,000 a year in today's money-value. Even so, I never seemed to get out of debt. My heart was set on material things and on plain vanity — and they just never seemed to *satisfy*. Neither, incidentally, did the brand of cigarettes whose advertising claims "they satisfy."

You say you couldn't imagine me smoking cigarettes? Well, I couldn't either — NOW 44 years later.

I remember, now, with almost a pang of stomach-sickness, the many times I sat at a banquet table, smoking a fine cigar. Why? Vanity. I was a "sheep." Others did. I followed. But did I ENJOY it? Never! What an idiot I was! In my mouth the saliva flows freely on slightest provocation. A cigar in my mouth started the saliva glands flowing. I was forced to use the napkin for a cuspidor — and even then, it usually made me slightly sick at the stomach. Enjoy it? No!

Those were days of ambition and hustle and striving — but they also were days of frustrations, fears and worries, and an underlying sense of insecurity. Carnality and this world's ways simply *never paid off!*

Then two successive major business depressions, and circumstances beyond my control, brought three successive total business failures. It was then that a Bible-believing woman, neighbor of my parents in Salem, Oregon, convinced my wife that the Bible enforced observance of the seventh-day Sabbath in this New Testament time of grace! The facts of my outraged reaction at this "religious fanaticism" have been published many times.

I was unable to talk, reason, argue, cajole, or threaten her out of her new-found conviction. I was literally angered into my first STUDY of the Bible — to *prove* to her that "all these churches couldn't be wrong" — and that the Bible commanded and enforced the observance of Sunday, in this New Testament period.

I sought, wrote for, and obtained at the public library every book or booklet possible purporting to refute seventh-day Sabbath observance. I searched every nook and cranny of the New Testament to find the sanctification, making holy, or command to observe Sunday. It was like hunting for the needle in the haystack — the needle that isn't there! Like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, I never found it!

Instead, I found that Jesus Christ always kept this day "as His custom was," and the Apostle Paul kept it

“as his manner was.” I found where Jesus gave us an example that we should do as He did, and where we were commanded to walk in His steps — to walk as HE walked. Also that it is “Christ IN us” which gives hope of glory (by His Holy Spirit), and that He is a changeless Christ — the *same* today as when He walked the earth in human flesh. I found that the New Testament *commands* Sabbath observance.

By the way, we have a booklet explaining in detail what I found on this question in the Bible. It is entitled *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* I think you might find it interesting, as well as surprising and eye-opening. It is in addition to our other booklets on the Sabbath. This booklet is profusely illustrated in color. YOUR copy has already been paid for (you *can't* pay for your own) — and it *would* be a shame for your copy to keep on lying unused in our mailing room, wouldn't it? Remember, it's FREE, as Christ's Gospel is free, of course.

Well, Satan may have “opened” the eyes of Adam and Eve to evil — and then BLINDED the eyes of all of us ever since — but in that study the true Creator GOD *opened* my eyes to His TRUTH! There it was, staring at me in the Maker's own INSTRUCTION BOOK!

I didn't like it — at first.

“What would my business associates say?” was the question that came automatically to mind.

That's the question that chains *most* people to the darkness, the curses and frustrations of this world. They seldom give a thought to “What would GOD say?” They *ought* to ask, “What is CHRIST GOING TO SAY, when I have to face Him in the Judgment?”

To me, God's Truth meant GIVING UP! It meant giving up associates and friends — at least, so I supposed. It meant giving up MY OWN WAY! It seemed like GIVING UP everything I had ever held dear or lived for. It was like GIVING UP my very life.

But then, with God's BIBLE before me, I came to realize that Christ had bought and paid for my life — and it wasn't mine, anyway. God had made the giving up easier by repeated defeats — by reduction to economic poverty. I was only a “burned-out hunk o' junk,” anyhow. Finally, I did make the surrender — UNCONDITIONALLY! I told God He could have my life, and if HE could make anything out of it, He could have it — I had made only a failure out of it! And I *did* mean that!

To me, it meant GIVING UP everything I had valued as worth living for. But, you know, we have

to die to LIVE — to LOSE our lives in order to FIND THEM! Perhaps, then, I never expected to really ENJOY LIFE anymore. I had sought hard to ENJOY LIFE — and failed. So now I gave it up!

But, actually, that was precisely when I really FOUND IT!

THAT was when truly ENJOYING LIFE first began!

I remember many a happy, blessed, really ENJOYABLE hour spent in the bare kitchens of financially poor people, studying the Bible with them. It seemed as if the angels were there with us — as, indeed, they were! It was as happy as if the bare, poverty-ridden kitchen had been a gilded king's palace. No — that's wrong, it was *not* just *as* happy — it was a thousand times more so!

I began to learn that happiness did not consist of material possessions. Happiness is in the MIND. And, somehow, I had found happiness — real, full, abundant, deep-down HAPPINESS! We didn't have money — but we had inherited the TRUE RICHES!

I was literally plunged into the very Work of God. I didn't seek it — God PUT me in, once I yielded wholly to be faithful to His Word. Having a part in God's own Work was the greatest joy I had known.

The *change* came early in 1927. Almost night-and-day Bible study continued. My wife was miraculously healed — even a dumbfounded doctor was forced to admit that. Then I was blessed with my first son. Years later, God tried me to see whether I would be willing to give *him* up. Struggling in prayer, I told God I was willing — not for a moment believing He would require it of me. But He did. But God had given me a second son — Garner Ted!

The first conversions through my preaching came in December 1930. NEVER had I experienced such joy. Talk about THRILLS! I had experienced thrills at football games, and worldly entertainments — but never *anything* like THIS!

Blessings piled up on blessings. God opened the powerful DOOR of radio — and the printing press — in the very smallest manner, at first. But the Work grew, and grew. More and more conversions followed — dozens, then scores, then hundreds, then THOUSANDS! I expect to have a lot of COMPANY in God's Kingdom, where we shall live FOREVER!

After 28 years of economic poverty—21 of which had been spent in the joys of God's true blessings —

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DID GOD CREATE A DEVIL?

The Bible pictures the whole world under the sway of an invisible devil. Where did he come from? Did God create a devil to tempt us and to try to lead us astray? Here are the answers from God's Word!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IS THERE a devil? Many people talk about the devil and Satan. Others scoff and say it's just superstition and imagination.

But *is there a devil?* According to most Christians the Bible is supposed to teach that the devil is "the god of this world."

Did God create a devil? What does the Bible actually teach?

To find out let's look back to the very beginning. Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning God . . ." God was before all.

The next word is "created." "God created." He created the heaven and the earth.

But the very next verse says this: "The earth was without form and void." The Hebrew words for "without form and void" are *tohu* and *bohü*. Translated into English they mean *chaotic, in confusion, waste, and empty*.

When God created the heaven and the earth, did He create this earth originally in a state of confusion? Did He create it all topsy-turvy and chaotic?

World NOT Created in Chaos

We read in I Corinthians 14:33 that "God is NOT the author of confusion."

God is the author of peace. God is the author of order and of law.

Notice Job 38:4-9. God says there that *the angels* shouted for joy when He created the earth. It must then have been a *perfect creation, not* a creation that was in chaos and confusion!

Why would He create it in disorder and then have to straighten it out? That doesn't make sense! One scholar points out that the Hebrew word for "created," *bara* used in Genesis 1:1, "implies that the creation was a perfect work." That very word "created" implies a perfect and a beautiful order and system, not chaos or confusion!

Then how did it *become* chaotic?

In Genesis 19:26, the same Hebrew word *hayab* is used which is translated "was" in Genesis 1:2. (See also Genesis 2:7 and 9:15.) And there it is translated into the English word "became." In the first three chapters of the Bible, and many other places where you find the Hebrew word *hayab*, in almost every case it denotes a condition that was *different* from a former condition. In other words, the earth "BECAME" chaotic. It had not always been that way.

The Earth BECAME Chaotic

Plainly the word "was" (*hayab*) here has the meaning of "became." The Rotherham translation of Genesis 1:2, out of the original Hebrew language, is this: "Now the earth HAD BECOME waste and empty." It hadn't always been that way.

In Jeremiah 4:23, in Isaiah 24:10, in Isaiah 34:11, and in other places in the Bible, you find the same words, *tohu* and *bohü*, meaning "chaotic" and "in confusion." In every case that condition is a *result of sin*.

No Chaos Originally

Notice Isaiah 45:18. "Thus saith the Eternal that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it *not* in vain." "In vain" is an incorrect translation. In your Bible, if you have the marginal references, you will find in the margin the proper translation, "waste."

The original Hebrew word there is *TOHU*. This Hebrew word is the identical word used in Genesis 1:2, meaning "confusion," or "emptiness," or "waste" — a result of disorder, a result of violation of law. In Isaiah 45:18 we have

the plain statement that God created the earth *NOT tohu*, that is, *not* in confusion, *not* in disorder. But in Genesis 1:2, the earth was, or *the earth* BECAME — as it ought to be translated — *chaotic and in confusion!*

Then it became that way after it was created. Now, what could have caused that confusion — that disorder? What sin could have wrecked the earth and brought it into the condition in which it was found in Genesis 1:2?

Life Before Adam?

Now, what was the sin then that caused this physical destruction to the earth? It was *not* a sin caused by humanity, because there had been no man on the earth until the sixth day of that re-creation or that remaking. So it was not a sin of man. Adam was the *first* man. We find over in I Corinthians 15:45 that Adam is called the *first* man on this earth. In Genesis, Eve is called the mother of all living human beings. There was no other race prior to Adam and Eve.

So the sin which brought chaos was not caused by man. And yet life must have populated the earth because a sin had occurred on the earth that brought it into a condition of chaos and confusion by breaking the laws of God.

What kind of life could it have been? It wasn't human life. What was it that populated this earth prior to the second verse of Genesis, the first chapter?

In Genesis 1:28, speaking to the man whom He had created, God said this: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and *replenish* the earth."

Immediately after the flood in Genesis 9:1, God spoke to Noah. He blessed Noah and his sons and said unto them: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and *replenish* the earth." Identically the same words that He spoke to Adam!

In Noah's case we know He meant *repopulate* the earth. Then didn't He mean the same thing when He used the identical words to Adam: "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth"? Certainly here is indication that the earth had been populated, and that it was to be populated *once again*. Then what kind of life had populated the earth prior to Adam, prior

to the week called "creation week"?

Next, let's turn to II Peter 2:4: "For if God spared not the angels that sinned . . ." Here is the sin of angels mentioned.

Sin of Angels!

Now read the next verse, "And spared not the old world," between Adam and Noah, "but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." There it mentions the sins from Adam to Noah, and it mentions the *physical destruction* to the earth as a result of the flood, a chaotic, physical condition brought about on the earth by the sins of those men.

Was there a chaotic condition brought about on the earth *as a result of the sins of angels*? The sin of the angels is mentioned first, and *it occurred first!* There was a devil already there in existence by the time Adam was created. So the sin of the angels happened *before* the creation of man.

Now read II Peter 2:6. "Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes [God] condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly."

Universal sin was in those two Canaanite cities. Physical destruction came to the entire part of the surface of the earth which those people occupied as a result of that sin. Then didn't such a destruction come to the earth *as a result of the sins of the angels* which occurred before Adam?

Now quickly turn over to Jude. In the sixth verse, you read this: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation [they had a place where they lived, a habitation, an estate, and they left it], he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Notice! It is the *sinning angels* who are reserved in those chains under darkness, restrained from light, restrained from truth until the judgment of the great day.

Angels Possess the Earth!

How plain! They had an estate which they didn't keep. In Hebrews 2:5

we read this: "For unto the angels hath God not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak." In other words, the World Tomorrow, the Kingdom of God, will not be under subjection to angels. *The present one is under subjection of fallen angels.* The demons, and the devil who is their head, rule this present earth and sway its inhabitants. The Bible everywhere indicates and affirms that very fact.

How did they obtain their dominion? How did they acquire their power? How did they maintain their control? Where did the devil get the power to control and to lead and to rule this world?

The devil is the leader of fallen angels, as you will find in a number of places (John 12:31; John 14:30; John 16:11). In II Corinthians 4:4 the devil is called "the god of this world." He is the king or the prince of the evil world that we live in today. Let's see something about the origin of the devil.

Turn to Isaiah 14, beginning with verse 4, "Thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!"

Here is a king of Babylon.

This account continues to tell how he had disrupted the earth. He was an invader, a conqueror. He was a war-monger, trying to take away from others and trying to acquire all he could. He had just the opposite philosophy from that of God. In other words, he had the philosophy of the devil.

He represented the devil. The king of Babylon was the devil's instrument and tool.

Now we find in verse 12 that this lesser human type *lifts to the great antitype* — the devil — whom he represented and whose tool and instrument he was.

Rebellion of Lucifer

Things are said about the great former cherub, the devil, *that could not be said about a human being.* God says, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer." Lucifer means *shining one*, or *shining star of the dawn.* God names things or people or beings what they

are. Lucifer was originally a shining "star." Stars represent angels (Rev. 1:20). He was a great cherub whose duties were represented by the bright morning star. He was a *light bringer*. In other words, one who had great knowledge and truth and light, and who was to give it to those who were placed under him. He was placed in a certain rule and authority over angels.

Continuing in Isaiah 14:12-13: "How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven." Then he must have been BELOW heaven. He must have been ON THE EARTH.

He said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars [that is, the angels] of God." I want you to notice *he had a throne*, but he wasn't willing to be content with his jurisdiction. He was out to rule the universe.

Now notice what else Lucifer said: "I will ascend above the heights of the CLOUDS. I will be like the most High."

"I'm going to be god myself," he said.

Lucifer Becomes the Devil

So Lucifer became the devil. God changed his name when his character changed. He tried to make himself God. But we find HE WAS CAST DOWN TO THIS EARTH.

Now, quickly turn over to Ezekiel 28, verse 2: "Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus. . . ." The prince of Tyre, or Tyrus, was a very evil man. He was an aggressor, an invader, a conqueror.

He was a tool of the devil. Now, as we come to the twelfth verse, just as in Isaiah 14, the lesser type *lifts up to the great antitype*. We find the devil himself pictured. Now we find one that is *not* human at all. For a few verses, it is talking about the devil himself, and not about a human being.

Beginning at verse 12: "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the *king* of Tyrus." Here is the REAL king that ruled in and through the prince of Tyrus. "And say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty."

Here was one who sealed up the sum total of perfection, of wisdom, and beauty.

Could that be said about a man? Does God speak like that of any mortal man? Never! He is speaking of some being far greater than man. Notice, "Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God." On the earth!

Then he said, ". . . The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee *in the day that thou wast CREATED.*" This was not a human being who was *born*.

The prophet continues to say, "Thou art the anointed CHERUB that covereth." If you will refer to Exodus 25, verses 16-22, you will find the type of the throne of God described. Included in the earthly type — the tabernacle in the days of Moses — was the mercy seat which was a picture of the very throne of God. On it two cherubim were placed. They were made of metals, of course, but their wings stretched out and covered the very throne of God. They symbolized the two great cherubs whose wings cover the very throne of God.

Through Ezekiel, God says: "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth." In other words, one of the great cherubs ruling over millions of other angels!

He was a created being. He sealed up the sum total of perfection, of wisdom, and of beauty. Then in verse 14, we read this: "I have set thee so," God said. God had set him in office. "Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God" — Palestine or Eden!

"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that *thou wast created.*" Here was a being that was *created perfect UNTIL INIQUITY WAS FOUND IN HIM.*

That iniquity was described in Isaiah 14. He said, "I'm not satisfied with what I have. I'm going to become an invader. I'm going to take God's place and be the God of the universe." That was the devil's *sin* — INSUBORDINATION.

How the Earth Became Chaotic

A third of the angels united with Satan in the rebellion. *That is what caused the chaos of this earth.* The sin of angels reached into the heavens and brought chaos on earth. What the geol-

ogists and astronomers see is not an evolving universe, but the wreckage of a titanic battle waged by spirits throughout space — a battle fought before man's creation.

The earth was created perfect and complete. Then it BECAME chaotic as a result of rebellion. And in six days, God *remade* the earth, *reshaped, refashioned* it, and created human beings upon it.

He gave Adam a chance to take the place of Satan the devil. Remember, Lucifer had been placed *in rulership*.

God placed the great cherub, Lucifer, to carry out His government on the earth, but Lucifer refused to carry out God's will, God's commands, God's government. He wanted to substitute his own. *So he disqualified himself.*

Adam had the chance to supplant him. In the contest to see if Adam would conquer, if he would obey God, he failed. He obeyed the devil instead, and man *became the property of the devil*, and the whole human race has been sold down the river to the devil ever since.

Jesus Christ came 4000 years later and He entered the great contest — the contest of the temptation on the Mount. *He REFUSED to obey the devil.* He quoted scripture correctly. *He obeyed God.*

Finally, He turned to the devil, and *He gave Satan a command.* He said, "Get away from me," and the devil obeyed!

From that time on, the successor of Satan has been qualified to take over the rule of the earth. But Jesus went to heaven for 1900 years. He is soon coming again, and when He does, *the devil will be DISPLACED.* Christ will rule the earth, God's Laws will be restored. Order and peace will come at last!

So God did NOT create a devil. He created a cherub, Lucifer — perfect in his ways, but with the power of free choice — and Lucifer transformed himself into a devil by rebellion against the Government of God!

Today, YOU face the question: Will YOU obey the ways of Satan, or the LAWS of GOD? □

Personal

(Continued from page 2)

God allowed even a measure of material blessings!

I have very little money in my own name in the bank — yet God enables me to enjoy all the material blessings today that are good for me. This, however, came only after I had learned NOT to set my heart on economic prosperity.

Best of all, we in this great Work have the matchless knowledge that we are HEIRS of GOD — and joint-heirs with CHRIST — to be BORN INTO GOD'S OWN FAMILY and share His honor and GLORY forever!

But meanwhile, our minds are free from fears and worries. There are never any frustrations! We have been given abiding FAITH, which never fails — and never will! We have ABSOLUTE SECURITY! We are allowed high position and authority in GOD'S Work, directed personally by the *living* Jesus Christ. I am privileged to work directly UNDER HIM!

We are kept BUSY. We are privileged to enjoy the physical BEAUTY of (we believe) the three most beautiful college campuses in the world! We are privileged to ENJOY seeing the almost incredible transformation and character-development spiritually, mentally, morally, emotionally, and physically, in hundreds of purposeful college students. We are privileged to lead them, counsel with them in their problems, serve them in many ways.

I am PRIVILEGED to have my son, Garner Ted, second in authority, in these colleges, and all God's Great Work — a son IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED!

I am privileged to write this GOOD NEWS for perhaps more than two million of you to read.

Say! Just what do you mean, Mr. Portune — *you* are “the most blessed man on earth”? Well, after all — that's the kind of “competition” where I can say I'm rejoicing in the knowledge we SHARE the rich blessings of the benevolent GOD!

I wish men of position, and growing

success in the world, could realize the REAL SOURCE of true happiness — of real, enjoyable, interesting, happy and abundant LIVING!

Yes, I wish ALL PEOPLE, *everywhere*, could really *enjoy* life as much as we do.

I'm *glad* Albert Portune is privileged to enjoy life so abundantly. I'm *glad* — and supremely grateful — that my son Garner Ted is so blessed, with a dear and lovely wife, three fine and properly trained sons, a beautiful home — every material blessing, beside all the lavish spiritual blessings. I rejoice that Dr. Roderick Meredith, Dr. Herman Hoeh, and many others and their families are equally blessed. I'm grateful beyond words that scores, hundreds, and *thousands*, are now sharing in these same blessings, and will really *know* what I'm talking about!

And I rejoice in the sure knowledge that, in the very imminent future, Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth in all the supreme POWER and GLORY of the Great GOD, and literally *force* this whole world to see the TRUE VALUES, and learn the way to all we enjoy now — and MORE!

SURE I'm happy — just brimful and running over with it. I've tried to share a little of it with our readers.

Speaking of BLESSINGS which God showers on those who obey and trust Him, all this reminds me of the first chapter of Ephesians — Moffatt translation. I will have this ended by reproducing some of that for you — and I sincerely hope it applies to YOU, as it surely does to me.

Here it is:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who in Christ has blessed us with every spiritual blessing within the heavenly sphere! He chose us in him ere the world was founded, to be consecrated and unblemished in his sight, destining us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ. . . . So richly has God lavished upon us his grace, granting us complete insight and understanding of the open secret of his will. . . . May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, grant you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation

for the knowledge of himself, illuminating the eyes of your heart so that you can understand the hope to which He calls us, the wealth of his glorious heritage in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of his power over us believers — a power which operates with the strength of the might which he exerted in raising Christ from the dead and *seating him at his right hand* in the heavenly sphere, above all the angelic Rulers, Authorities, Powers, and Lords, above every Name that is to be named not only in this age but in the age to come — *he has put everything under his feet* and set him as head over everything for the church, the church which is his Body, filled by Him who fills the universe entirely.” □

THE GOD FAMILY

(Continued from page 40)

and reasoning. They could conduct their own “scientific” experiments. They could determine for themselves what was right and what was wrong. They could start producing knowledge by themselves. They could aggrandize themselves with all of God's prerogatives. They had allowed their minds to think that since they already possessed such great intellectual powers, they would therefore assume for themselves anything that God had reserved for Himself.

Adam and Eve could become God immediately — without any strain. Or so they were told. All that was required was one quick bite of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Or so Satan said. Adam and Eve wanted to become God — just as God Himself had promised. Only they wanted to become God the “easy way” — Satan's way.

What better proof than Genesis 3:5 that God Himself taught Adam and Eve — our progenitors — that the very purpose of human life was literally to become born again into God's Family!

What better proof than the entire Bible that *your* personal destiny is in the God Family! □