

# The PLAIN TRUTH

*A magazine of understanding*

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## Why Does God Allow WAR?

**Why, if God is a God of love, does He allow human suffering and anguish such as we witness today?**

**by Herbert W. Armstrong**

**Y**ES, IT HAS puzzled a great many people. Why, if there be a God, does God allow wars and all this hellish anguish that our generation has been living through? Why such terrifying world conditions as we have now?

I've been asked this question more often than any other. It is usually put to me this way: "If God is good, if God is love, if God is merciful, He wouldn't want people to suffer like they do on this earth, would He? And if God is all mighty, if He has all power, He *could* stop it. He could prevent it. Then why doesn't He?"

How does it come that God allows people to suffer? Think of the famine, the starvation over in China and India. Think of the fiendish, hellish tortures and all of the killing that have taken place during the recent wars.

I want to make plain to you things that you may never have heard or thought of before in your life. I want to answer this question very candidly and plainly.

### There IS a Reason!

It's about time that we begin to understand what's being worked out here below. It's the most wonderful good news that you ever heard.

In the first place, God is the Creator.

How do I *know* that the God I believe in is *greater* than any other God? some idol god? the sun that has been worshipped? or anything else?

The God that I believe in—the God that I know exists because I can prove it—**IS THE GOD WHO CREATED THOSE THINGS.** He created everything else that might be called God. He is the Creator!

Now God is the Creator, not only of static matter, not only of this solid earth as we see it, but also of force, of energy, of all the laws that exist—the laws of chemistry, the laws of physics, everything we know that is a force that is in action.

God not only created man, but He created spiritual laws as well as physical laws to regulate man's life and man's happiness. We're subject to these forces and these laws. We don't seem to realize that.

God created man in His image, and for a **PURPOSE** that almost no one seems to understand.

Did you ever stop to think and wonder why were you born? Do you think you just happened? You're not an accident; I'm not an accident. None of us is an accident. We have been put here for a purpose. God is working out a purpose here below.

Now let's look into the Bible, and see

if we can find it—because it's revealed. This book is the Word of God!

### What Is the Purpose of Life?

Why is it that almost nobody seems to understand it? Why are we not concerned about it? Why is it that in schools and colleges and universities, you are taught almost any other kind of knowledge except what you were put here for?

In the first chapter of Genesis, beginning with the 24th verse, God said: "Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind." This word "**CREATURE**" is translated from the Hebrew word **NEPHESH**, and it is the *same word exactly* that is translated **SOUL** where we read "man became a living soul."

You might say, then, that God said: "Let the earth bring forth the living *soul* after his kind, cattle, and the creeping thing, and the beast of the earth after his kind, and it was so." What does "after his kind," mean? The little calf is in the precise **IMAGE** of its bovine mother or father. When it grows up, it's a cow or bull, just like its parents.

"And God made the beast of the earth after his kind," that is, God made them to reproduce in the same form, the same shape, the same **IMAGE**—after his kind, "the cattle after their kind, everything

that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and God saw that it was so."

Nature never bridges the gap from one species to another, from one kind to another. Natural reproduction is after kind. It always has been, and always will be, as long as material physical reproduction goes on.

### God Reproduces Himself

And now, the next verse. "God said, *let us make man in our IMAGE*, after our likeness—" in other words, in our FORM, our SHAPE, our IMAGE. God is reproducing Himself! Why don't we realize it? Why don't you hear *that* preached? Nobody seems to know it. Yet it is right there in your Bible. It's all the way through your Old Testament. It's all the way through the New Testament. It's in the *whole* Bible. God is reproducing Himself!

Now God has endowed man with powers that no animal possesses. God has given us a few of the real *God powers*. I wonder if you ever realized it?

Do you know that an animal doesn't have a mind like we have? An animal has a small brain, and an animal has instinct, as if *someone had thought out everything that the animal is to do under given circumstances*. When certain knowledge is transmitted to the mind, let's say, of a dog, *it acts a certain way according to that knowledge that has come into its mind* or into its brain through the senses. As a matter of fact, it doesn't really have a mind as we do.

*But man alone has a mind*. An animal can't think, design, originate, plan, and execute what it has newly thought out. A bird builds a nest. Gophers dig holes. Beavers build dams. But did you ever realize that one beaver dam is just like another. Beavers have been building the same forms of dams from the beginning of the world. When a bird builds a nest, every bird of its kind builds the same kind of nest—the same kind of nest that its kind of birds always build! They never build a different kind. It's instinct. They can't think out a different kind. They can't plan it a different way, with a different design like man does when he builds a house.

We have been given a few of the powers of God. Thank God, He limited our powers; because look how we've misused them and what we would have done if we had more power.

### Merely the FIRST Creation!

The next point that I want you to realize is not commonly known at all. The first chapter of Genesis is telling us only of a *material*, a *physical* creation, NOT a *spiritual* creation. Man is the clay model. God merely made the clay model to begin fashioning something that God

has in mind. Now in the second chapter of Genesis, and the 7th verse, we learn what God made man out of. God is spirit, but He didn't make man out of spirit. The Eternal God "formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life"—and that word "breath" is the same Hebrew word used when speaking of the breath in the nostrils of animals—and "man became a living soul." It doesn't say "man *has* a soul," but "man *is* a soul." Animals are called "souls" a number of times here in the first chapter of Genesis.

Now in the third chapter of Genesis and the 19th verse. "In the sweat of thy face," said God to man, "shalt thou eat bread till thou *return unto the ground*." He didn't say just till *your body* returns; He said, "till *thou* return unto the ground, for out of it *thou* wast taken. Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt *thou* return."

Yes, we're just the clay model. But God is the great Potter. Notice Isaiah, the 64th chapter and the 8th verse: "But now, O Eternal, thou art our father; we are the clay, thou art our Potter; and we are all the work of thy hands."

Not so long ago I was in one of the greatest potteries in the world over in England where they make some of the very fine bone china that we see a great deal of in the United States. I noticed a man who was a potter over there making vases with his hands. It took him 30 years to learn how to do it. He was a master potter, but the clay had to be of just the right thickness. It had to be plastic; it had to give and move in his hands. If it was too stiff, he couldn't use it.

Now, God made us free moral agents. And God made us so we can resist, like the clay, or we can accept Him and we can yield. God made us so that we *must choose* on that point. God is not going to force us to do anything if we resist.

### Not Yet Completed

So then, actually what are we? *We are an UNFINISHED PIECE OF GOD'S WORKMANSHIP*.

Creation was NOT COMPLETED at the time of the garden of Eden and the creation of Adam and Eve. It was only begun. That was the material, physical creation. God was then only *beginning* His REAL creation which is a *spiritual* creation—making something spiritual out of man. We are born, all of us, from Adam. Adam was not in the spiritual image of God. He wasn't made of the same substance of God. Adam was made of dust—the dust of the ground—he was only a physical image of God.

Have you ever noticed in I Corinthians, the 15th chapter and the 45th verse, what is revealed about man's

being in the image of God? This is the resurrection chapter. Look at verse 45. "And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul"—and that word "soul" merely means the physical life of animals. Animals *are* souls, believe it or not! "The last Adam," meaning Christ, "was made a quickening spirit." And that word "quicken" in the King James version means "energized," or "immortal," like God. So Christ, in His resurrection, was made a quickening spirit. In other words, He is God by a resurrection from the dead.

Now verse 47, "The first man is of the earth, carthy, but the second man (Christ) is the Lord from heaven"—and He is God.

Now again verse 49, "We have borne the image of the earthy"—made of the earth, of the dust of the ground; that's what we have borne. Listen! "We shall also bear the *image of the heavenly*." So far as composition is concerned, we have borne only the physical image, not the spiritual, but we are in the form and the shape of God.

God is reproducing himself. I wonder if you begin to see it? Man is flesh, and yet man is in the image, the form, the shape of God. God has a mind, supreme mind, perfect mind. But the mind in man is derived from matter.

But what is God? God is *perfect spiritual* CHARACTER. God HAS all power, but what God IS, is perfect spiritual character. And character is something that cannot be automatically created by fiat! Neither can character be inherited as a matter of heredity from a father to a child.

### What Is Perfect Character?

Character is the ability of a separate entity—and you're not a character unless you are a separate entity—the *ability* of a separate entity, first, *to come to the knowledge of the truth*, and of the right as opposed to the wrong; second, *to make the decision to choose the right*, instead of the wrong; and third, *to will by self-discipline to do the right* instead of the wrong. God is the perfect character. We were put here to build character until we become like God.

Animals have instinct, but *animals do NOT develop character*. Character involves such characteristics as love, patience, humility, tolerance, mercy, wisdom, initiative—right doing through free choice. So God of necessity made man a clay model. He made man a *free moral agent* so that man could make his own decision. There could be no character any other way. To do that, God had to allow man to do wrong, *to make WAR!*

There is one thing I wonder if you realize. WE LEARN BY SUFFERING. Character can only be built through *ex-*  
(Please continue on page 6)

# PALESTINE *Sputters all over* United Nations!

**The focal point of eruptions breaking out all over the world has suddenly become Palestine! This ancient holy land may hold the answer to world PEACE—or WORLD WAR III.**

**It all started from a jealousy of two women over one man. Here's what's back of the whole explosive situation—the plain truth, dripping with mystery, suspense.**

**by Herbert W. Armstrong**

**T**ODAY THE Middle-East is the very center of the chessboard of international POWER POLITICS.

There is *plenty* going on under cover of secret diplomacy among the world's big powers which would astound the public, *if it were revealed!*

The local border incidents between the new Jewish nation and its Moslem neighbors IS BUT THE SHADOW-BOXING of a *far greater struggle* that is shaping up in the Middle-East between Communism and the Western Democracies—with the added intrigue of a revived German commercial influence!

The trouble over the Promised Land is much more than its mere localized Jewish-Moslem strife. This ancient land forms the very *basis* of the growing antagonism between Russia and the West. The Holy Land spells D-O-O-M to one or the other as a great world power!

For generations the world has been thinking of this ancient land, with its royal tombs and buried cities, as DEAD!—as having no connection with the pulsating, thrilling PRESENT!

But right now this cradle of Christianity threatens to become also the cradle of the frightful, fantastic ATOMIC war which scientists warn *can* blast humanity from this earth!

## **WHY it's the World's Most Important Spot**

Look at this land—its location, size, peoples, resources—and I think you'll see how it threatens almost certainly to *prevent* the UN from preserving world-peace—why it's the focal-point of East-West friction.

Palestine itself is a very small land. It is located at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, about the same latitude as the Southern states of the United States, just a little larger than Massachusetts, less than one-seventh the size of the states of Missouri or Washington. Its climate is as varied as that of the U.S.A. It is mostly a mountainous country—

part of it having a cold climate in winter, part of it similar to Southern California.

Palestine itself forms only a small portion of the now-crucial Near-East. To the East of Palestine is the ancient Euphrates valley—the land of ancient Babylon, now called Iraq. Still farther east, adjoining Iraq, is the ancient land of Persia, today called Iran. North of Palestine is Syria, and north of Syria is Turkey, bordered on the north by the Black Sea, and on the southwest by the Mediterranean, sitting astride the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, only possible gate-way thru which RUSSIA may open up warm-water routes to the seas and world-commerce! South of Palestine, to the east, is the great Arabian peninsula, of Saudi Arabia, and to the west, Egypt and all North Africa.

This land is the vital CROSSROADS of world commerce, and therein lies its strategic significance as the spawning-ground of another world conflict. Palestine is the geographical center of the land surface of the earth. With airborne commerce the probability of the future, Jerusalem is certain to become the CAPITAL of the world. All the major powers know that!

Yet the Near-East as a whole is the largest *unclaimed land* on earth. That is to say, it is the largest land unclaimed, and unowned, by any of the world's great powers. It is inhabited by miserably poor and largely illiterate peoples, so backward that these states are more or less weak puppets whose rulers play off one empire against another for their own personal gain!

And this region is fabulously rich in OIL and other mineral deposits.

So there are geographical, economic, commercial, and political reasons why no nation can become, or remain, a number one world-empire *without gaining control* of this strategic world crossroads—or, at least, as in the case of the United States, knowing that control is

in friendly hands. Is it any wonder, then, that this backward ancient land, unowned by any great power, becomes now the focal-point of greedy eyes ambitious for world power?

## **Consider RUSSIA**

If Russia is to MAINTAIN her new and dominant world position, she must develop her internal resources, convert her great new war-industry into COMMERCIAL production, and suddenly, assume a comparable dominant position in WORLD TRADE!

To do this Russia must have access to WORLD-MARKETS. And *this* in turn means *warm-water outlets* to the Seas! And this means *Russia must cut thru this pivotal world's CROSS-ROADS, thru the Black Sea, the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, into and on out from the Mediterranean!*

**RUSSIA MUST DO THIS, OR LOSE HER POSITION OF WORLD POWER WON THRU THE WAR!**

And yet, *the very instant* the Soviet Union sits astride THESE waters, *she occupies an impregnable military position*, dominating the "HEART-LAND" of the geopolitical WORLD ISLAND, outflanking the rest of Europe, *in position to CONQUER AND RULE THE WHOLE WORLD!*

The very instant Russia's boot is set down upon the Near-East and the Eastern Mediterranean, Britain's LIFE-LINE of Empire is severed. She is CUT IN TWO—**GREAT BRITAIN'S DOOM IS SEALED—AND WITH IT THAT OF THE UNITED STATES AS A DOMINANT WORLD POWER!**

*That's* the real underlying cause of East-West friction!

## **Can't UN Solve It?**

But, some will wonder, can't this conflict over trade-routes to the high seas thru the Eastern Mediterranean be settled peacefully by the UN? Perhaps, in the altruistic thinking of the idealist,

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but the hard, cold facts of REALISM are that IT WON'T BE! And there are reasons.

WHY is America great? How did Britain become the greatest Empire of history? Such world power and economic prosperity as we have enjoyed comes by world trade. World trade is carried on over the world's sea lanes. There are seven strategic GATES thru which these sea-highways pass. Whoever controls these GATES controls world-commerce. Other nations can have access to the highways of the seas only if, and when, the power who controls these GATES permits. All other nations, then, are at the mercy of the one who controls the GATES!—It is the WEST which controls them!

Now understand WHY the present world set-up is as it is.

## The Eternal Triangle

The whole trouble started with jealousy and hatred between two women over a man.

It was back in the days of Abraham. Sarai, Abram's wife, was without children and barren. To remove her reproach, she induced Abram to have a child by her Egyptian maid, Hagar (Genesis 16:1-3). But "when Hagar saw that she conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes . . . And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled." (verses 4-6).

But the angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to thy mistress . . . and thou shalt bear a son and call his name Ishmael . . . and he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of (margin, to the east of) all his brethren." (Verses 7-16).

Abraham loved Ishmael. When God had promised Abraham the great bless-

ings of the birthright and of the scepter, "Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with HIM, and with his seed after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac." (Gen. 17:18-21).

The descendants of Ishmael, then, were to become a GREAT NATION—but a nation of WILD MEN, their hand against every man, every man's hand against them, and they were to plague their brethren, the descendants of Isaac. Bear that in mind.

## Arabs Descendants of Ishmael

By tracing the names of Ishmael's twelve sons in the Scriptures, we find they settled in the land of ARABIA, and are traced to the ARABS of today.

Isaac had twin sons, Jacob and Esau. Esau, the elder, despised his birthright, and it went to Jacob. Esau's descendants are the TURKS today. After selling his birthright—his title deed to the land of Palestine—Esau regretted it bitterly, and sought to get it back. And later, his descendants, the *Turks*, did get possession of that land during the Times of

Israel's national punishment, and they held it from 1517 until 1917.

Jacob's name was changed to ISRAEL, meaning "Overcomer," or "Prevailer with God." He had twelve sons, each of whom became the father of one of the twelve Tribes of Israel.

To really understand the march of prophesied events today—to grasp the true but hidden significance of the present crisis in Palestine—we must identify ALL the races and peoples involved.

For, make no mistake about it, GOD GAVE ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS

## RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

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

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AN ABSOLUTELY BINDING LEGAL TITLE-DEED TO THAT LAND.

The Arabs, descendants of Ishmael, son of Abraham, claim it is theirs.

The Turks claim it because they, too, are descendants of Abraham thru Esau.

And the Jews claim it as descendants of Abraham thru Jacob, or Israel. Who is right? NONE OF THEM! The truth is stranger than fiction! God's promises to Abraham were two-fold—of race and of grace—material and spiritual. That part of the promises which included material, racial, national blessings are called the BIRTHRIGHT. The other part of the promises, including kings, and spiritual blessings thru Christ, final King of the line, are called the SCEPTRE.

Now the Scriptures plainly and distinctly affirm something very few people realize: namely that the SCEPTRE shall not depart from JUDAH. (Gen. 49:10), but "The BIRTHRIGHT was Joseph's." (I Chron. 5:2).

The account of the passing on of the BIRTHRIGHT, showing that it, and not the SCEPTRE, included title-deed to the promised land, is recorded in the 48th chapter of Genesis. There it is plainly shown that LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF PALESTINE BELONGS TO THE DESCENDANTS OF EPHRAIM, SON OF JOSEPH!

The promises of national greatness, wealth and power, involved in the BIRTHRIGHT went jointly to Ephraim, whose descendants today are none other than THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS, and Manasseh, his brother, whose descendants are THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA! The Sceptre, including promise of kings, of Christ, and of salvation thru Him, went to JUDAH, of whom the JEWS are descended. But, few realize it today, the Jews are of only ONE TRIBE of Israel—Judah.

### The Jews Are NOT ISRAEL!

Most people today do not seem to know that the Jews are *not* Israel but only a part of "Judah." The first place in the Bible where the word "Jews" occurs, the Jews are at war against ISRAEL (II Kings 16:6).

Four whole Books of the Bible are devoted to showing the historic difference between the two nations, Israel and Judah. There were twelve tribes of Israel, originally. But after Solomon died, the nation ISRAEL rejected her king, Rehoboam, son of Solomon, and made Jeroboam, of the tribe of Ephraim, king. Then the one tribe of Judah *split off from the nation Israel*, and formed a NEW NATION of their own (just as they have done again today), in order to retain Rehoboam as king. This new nation was called the Kingdom of JUDAH. The tribe of Benjamin, and a large portion of Levi, then joined Judah,

leaving the TEN TRIBES in the nation ISRAEL.

Palestine belongs, by divine grant, to Abraham and his descendants. But God rejected Ishmael, the father of the Arabs, from the promise. It passed on, instead, through ISAAC. God also rejected Isaac's eldest son ESAU, after he had undervalued the birthright, and sold it to Jacob for a bowl of red soup. The TURKS are the children of Esau, and so they, too, have always felt Palestine belonged to them. But it was given to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

But *then* how was it passed on down? The dying Jacob passed the birthright and possession of Palestine on through the tribes of EPHRAIM and MANASSEH, sons of Joseph (Gen. 48:4-5, 15-16). He named HIS NAME (Israel) ON THEM—Ephraim and Manasseh. It is *their* descendants today, the American and British people, therefore, who are truly the nation ISRAEL. The Jews come from Judah, and belonged to the nation JUDAH, not the nation ISRAEL!

The Ten Tribes of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL, headed by Ephraim—Manasseh, became LOST, and have been called "the Lost Ten Tribes." Their identity as the British and American people today is thoroughly proved in our special booklet "The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy." You may have a copy of this free, if you will just send your name and address, requesting it.

And so *Great Britain* is in *real fact* the BIRTHRIGHT holder, descended from Ephraim the son of Joseph the son of Israel, the *rightful legal OWNER* of all *Palestine*, as deeded by Almighty God in His unbreakable covenant with Abraham.

### U. S.-Britain are Israel!

The JEWS are descendants of Judah, of which tribe Christ came. *The Jews did, and should now occupy, that portion of the promised land called JUDEA, surrounding Jerusalem.*

The Turks are descendants of ESAU (also called "Edom" in the prophecies), and the Arabs are the nation of wild men descended from ISHMAEL. Both the Turks and the Arabs are descended from Abraham, and therefore both races consider the promised land should be theirs. But God gave it to Abraham only thru Isaac and Jacob, and God said, "In ISAAC shall thy seed be called."

Because of sin and rebellion, the House of Israel, headed by Ephraim, was driven out of their own promised land until the *end* of the 2520 years of Judah's national captivity which came to an end December 9th, 1917. On that very day the Gentile Turk surrendered the land to EPHRAIM-GREAT BRITAIN, to whom it belongs by divine grant.

But WHAT A MIXUP has been caused—all because men do not understand the BIBLE! The Scriptures show that the ten-tribed House of Israel was to LOSE its national identity, and be thought of as a Gentile nation until these very last days and so Ephraim-Great Britain, supposing herself to be Gentile, supposing the JEWS to be Israel (instead of the "House of JUDAH," as they are always called in the Bible), made the famous Balfour declaration trying to give Palestine to the Jews! And the Jews, thinking they are birthright Israel, have been emigrating back there. This was necessary to fulfill the prophecies saying Judah would be in Jerusalem and the land of Judah during this era of world wars. (See Joel 3:1-13; Zech. 12:2, 4, 6-7; and 14:14.)

### God Gave It to Britain!

But now once again let us come back to the jealousy aroused between Sarah and Hagar, mothers respectively of Isaac (Great Britain) and Ishmael (Arabs).

Abraham wanted Ishmael to inherit the birthright, which included possession of the land. So did Hagar.

But Sarah demanded this blessing for her son. "And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac . . . And God said unto Abraham . . . hearken unto her voice for IN ISAAC shall thy seed be called." (Gen. 21:9-12.)

Naturally Hagar resented having her son rejected from this great BIRTHRIGHT. And so, just as the Turks, children of Esau, have fought to gain and to hold this promised land, so have the ARABS, descendants of Ishmael. Although God denied this inheritance of Ishmael, the Arabs today consider that Palestine belongs to them.

To them it is HOLY LAND, the same as to the Jews. They are perfectly willing to FIGHT for it.

The Jews think they are birthright Israel, and believe this land belongs by God's birthright to them. And "silly dove" Ephraim (Hos. 7:11), not realizing that SHE is really the birthright tribe of the House of Israel—the nation that GOD had decreed should obtain Palestine December 9, 1917—blindly tried to build a national home for the Jews in this land, and at the same time blundered into a contradictory pledge to establish it as a home for the Arabs!

### All Topsy-Turvy

Look at the paradox of contradictions!

The Jewish nation, "ISRAEL," a *fact* in Palestine today! *And yet it isn't a fact* (Please continue on page 7)

# Why Does God Allow WAR?

(Continued from page 2)

perience. Experience requires *time*, and so God has allotted 6000 years for man to go *his own way*, if he chooses. Man has, of course, chosen that way. That's to be followed by 1000 years when God is going to *enforce His government* and His way of life on humanity, and then we are going to be able to compare the two ways and to see the difference.

God made man a free moral agent. Note the 30th chapter of Deuteronomy and the 19th verse where God says He sets before us life and blessings on the one hand, but death and cursings on the other hand. He said to man, "CHOOSE." Although *He commanded us to choose life*, we have chosen death. Adam chose the curse, and death. So God drove him out from the garden of Eden and set angels with flaming swords pointing in every direction—you read that in Genesis 3, verses 22 to 24—lest he go back and take of the tree of life, and eat of it, and live forever.

The tree of life is a symbol of the spirit of God, of eternal life.

Adam rejected that tree of life. And that's why salvation could not come until Jesus Christ came and qualified, and made it possible to send the spirit of God after His ascension to heaven.

## Man to Be BORN of God

Man really is an egg. That's what we are. The spirit of God is the impregnating germ of life of God Almighty that can come into us and beget us as a child of God.

You know Jesus Christ is a son of God. He was an *only* begotten son of God in the sense that He was a human that had no human father. He had a human mother. But He is now a born son of God in the sense that He is spirit. He is divine. He is God by a resurrection from the dead. He is the *firstborn of many brethren*, ONE OF WHICH CAN BE YOU!

Remember, character must be developed by *experience*. It can't be created. Experience requires time. God has set aside 7000 years to carry out His purpose. The first 6000 years are to be compared to the six days of material creation. They are for man's material way of going contrary to God. We have *chosen* the material way. Then there is going to be a 1000-year day of spiritual rest when Jesus Christ is coming to rule this earth God's way.

Now God made man so man *has* to

choose. *The very purpose of God in reproducing Himself, necessitates allowing the WRONG CHOICE*, and that is what man has taken!

## The CAUSE of War

God's law is love. God's way is the way of love, and love is *away* from self, never *towards* self, never lust or anything of that sort, but love directed away from self. Jesus said that it is more blessed to GIVE than it is to receive. It doesn't mean, actually, that we are not to love ourselves, either; but the great law is, we are to love our neighbors *as* ourselves. You don't need to worry about loving yourself. You are going to do that. You can't do anything else. But you must LEARN to love your neighbor.

The opposite way, then, is lust and greed and vanity *toward* self. It leads to the system in this world, competition and strife, yes, the *getting* way of accumulating, taking. We have taking ways in this world!

And THAT IS THE CAUSE OF WAR.

That's why we have war! Everything is competition in this world. Competition leads to war. Everything is on the selfish, *getting* basis—greed and vanity.

Now *in order to prevent wars today*, God Almighty would have to—in the vernacular of modern language—He would have to "cram" His religion down your throat! Because it's OUR WAY, in violation of the law of God, the law of love, that is CAUSING WAR.

The *only* way God could stop war would be to stop the *cause*. He would have, in effect, to cram His religion down our throats, down the throats of all humanity. There wouldn't be any free moral agency then. There wouldn't be any character, and God's purpose could never be carried out! THAT'S WHY GOD ALLOWS WAR and excruciating suffering. To prevent it, would be to prevent the very purpose that God is working out here below.

Do you know that man learns by suffering? Did you ever hear of anyone learning that the stove was hot by sticking his finger on it? You know, my wife did that one time. I remember years ago when we had a wood cookstove, my wife thought I hadn't started the fire one morning. She told me I hadn't, and I said, "Well, I have, that stove is hot." She didn't believe me. She put her finger on the stove—then she yelled, "Ouch!" She learned by experience.

We DO learn by experience. Jesus Christ learned by experience. I wonder if you realize that. Turn over quickly to Hebrews 5:8 and 9. "But though he were a son, yet *learned He* (that's Christ) *obedience by the things that He suffered*, and being MADE perfect"—did you know that Jesus Christ was made perfect?—"He became the author of

eternal salvation unto all of them that OBEY Him." OBEDIENCE is necessary for salvation.

You will notice this same thing in the 2nd chapter and the 10th verse of Hebrews that Christ learned obedience by the things that He suffered. Experience develops character, either good or bad. If we are going to have good character, it comes through exercising self-discipline under hard, grueling experience. If we develop the bad character—and man has—God provided for that, too! God so loved this world that He gave His only begotten son that if we repent and come to Him and have all of the evil and all of the sin forgiven, we can have a new and a clean start.

Job understood all of this. Turn back to Job for just a moment.

## The Lesson of Experience

Job said in the 14th chapter and the 14th verse—you can remember that, Job 14:14—"If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time shall I wait till my change come." He was speaking of a *resurrection* when he is going to be *changed*. "Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee." You know Jesus said the hour is coming when all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and come forth; "they that have done good unto the resurrection of life." Now Job said, "Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee." Now here is what I want you to notice:

"*Thou wilt have a desire to the WORK of thine hands.*" In calling him from the grave in a resurrection, God will have a desire to the WORK of His hands. Job knew that he was an *unfinished piece of God's workmanship*. Yes, MAN IS THE WORK OF GOD'S HANDS.

Now notice quickly Ephesians 2:10: "For we are His workmanship"—and we, of course, means Christians in New Testament language—"we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus (being created spiritually, in Christ Jesus) unto good works." Not very many people believe that today—that we were created "*unto GOOD WORKS* which God before hath ordained that *we should walk in them*"—that we should walk in good works.

Yes, the physical creation took place in six days, and the spiritual creation *begun* then is still going on today! That's the purpose of your life. It's to learn that very lesson, to repent of your sins, to believe that Christ is your Saviour, and to start on the way that is the *way of character*—the way of good, righteous, holy spiritual character—the way of God so that you can become one of the very born children of God.

So it is as you read over here in II Peter 3:18, that we are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and

Saviour Jesus Christ. And as Jesus Christ said, we must overcome. He promised that the *overcomers* are to reign and to rule with Him. Only those that overcome and grow in this life after we repent and after we are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ will live forever in peace. "He that overcometh," said Jesus, "and keepeth my works unto the end, to Him will I give power over the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron." And again in Revelation 3:21: "To him that overcometh," Jesus said, "will I grant to sit with me in my throne." He is going to rule the world, and we are going to rule with him. We are going to be kings and priests with him enforcing PEACE for 1000 years.

#### Man's DESTINY

Jesus was the firstborn of many brethren. YOU can be one of those brethren. *Jesus was glorified.* YOU can be glorified together with Him. Did you ever read that in your Bible? We are to be changed in the moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet, at the second coming of Christ, if we are alive. The dead are to rise first and to meet Him in the air, changed to immortality, to be *like Him*. As the Scripture says, "made like unto his glorious body"—made like *Him*, and He is very God.

I don't think your mind fully grasps that. It's something for you to think over! It's something that should make you study your Bible in a new and a different way, from a new concept altogether.

The 6000 years that God allotted for man to go his own way is almost over. We are coming to the place where man would destroy human life from off this planet. God is soon going to intervene. He is going to send Jesus Christ to this earth to bring us peace!

Now read the 4th chapter of Micah the first few verses. "In the last days it shall come to pass"—after Christ comes back to earth—"that the mountain of the house of the Eternal"—that means the nation, or the kingdom of God—"shall be established in the top of the mountains"—that is, in the top of the nations—"and it shall be exalted above the hills"—or the smaller nations—"and people will flow into it, and many nations shall say, come and let us go up to the mountain of the house of the Eternal"—that is, the kingdom of God—"the house of the God of Jacob, and *He will teach us His ways.*"

For 6,000 years we have been going contrary to God's ways. *That's why we have wars*, and that's why God allows them.

"And we will walk in His paths, for the *law*"—the law of God—"shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Eternal from Jerusalem, and He" —

Jesus Christ—"shall judge among many people and rebuke strong nations afar off till they beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, NATION SHALL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANYMORE!"

That's a glad happy time that's coming!

## PALESTINE Sputters all over United Nations

(Continued from page 5)

at all—but a colossal illusion!

On May 15th, 1948, the British relinquished authority and moved out of Palestine, the nation "ISRAEL" moved into power. And yet, this didn't happen at all—but what *did* happen is that ISRAEL moved out and another nation set up rule!

This is not the prophesied great coming exodus of Israel back to Palestine, but man-made blundering and CONFUSION!

This is not the restoration of Israel and the PEACE of the Holy Land, but strife, misunderstanding, bloodshed in open battle!

Thus while Jews in America prayed for the PEACE of Palestine, the proclamation of "the Jewish nation ISRAEL" was the signal for WAR between that nation and surrounding Arab nations. There was no ushering in of PEACE!

And the Almighty says, prophetically: "all nations that burden themselves with Jerusalem"—in the day when "they shall be in siege against Jerusalem"—"SHALL BE CUT TO PIECES (Zechariah 12:3).

The British have been burdening themselves with it for almost 40 years. The United States has been meddling, interfering, burdening itself with it. So has Soviet Russia and nearly every nation on earth. The "United Nations" has been burdening itself with it. God says, "They shall be cut to pieces!"—This includes US!

In the 14th Chapter of Zechariah, the first four verses, it is prophesied that finally ALL NATIONS shall be gathered against Jerusalem to battle. Half of the city shall be captured. And finally, JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN TO THIS EARTH, "And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives!" (verse 4). And the Jews will then be at Jerusalem (verse 14).

The 11th chapter of Daniel shows half of the city of Jerusalem will finally be captured by a revival of the power of fascism in Europe—not by a communist

invasion of Palestine! It will be a fascist revival of a church and state union—a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE—that will attempt to establish the palace and capital there, after having taken Egypt, wresting the Suez Canal from British influence (Dan. 11:41-42). The horrible END of this system is told in the last verses of Daniel 11.

#### NOT Prophesied Regathering of Israel

In God's own due time the Jews are to be released from their persecutions, their harrowing trials, and re-established within Palestine IN PEACE!

But what has taken place is not that prophesied re-gathering of Israel!

This is merely a blundering human effort to do for themselves, before the time, what they will have to wait for God to do for them.

And this present movement, setting up a nation of Jews and calling it "ISRAEL," can only lead to more bloodshed and more troubles!

In the first place, the new nation that has declared itself in Palestine is *not* Israel at all—it is only a *part* of JUDAH!

When the great prophesied Exodus occurs, it will be Israel and Judah together. And they will not do it in their own defiant, embittered power and strength—they will be taken back, by Christ after His coming, from a condition of slavery and from the land of their enemies. (See Ezek. 39:25-27.) At that time they will take captive their captors, and rule over those who had been ruling over them (Isa. 14:1-3—see especially Moffatt translation; Jer. 30:16; 31:11). It will be a greater Exodus than the typical one under Moses—this one will be under CHRIST at His return! (Jer. 23:7-8). They will go back to Palestine weeping, confessing their sins, loathing themselves for having ignored and transgressed against God, seeking the MESSIAH whom they have rejected (Jer. 50:4-5; Ezek. 20:34-43). They will then be converted, changed from sinners into Spirit-filled people living by God's laws (Jer. 50:19-20; Ezek. 36:24-28).

The Jews in Palestine, and this new nation, fulfill NONE of those prophecies!

What a strange dilemma!

What a muddle! The Arabs believe Palestine should be theirs because they are descended from Ishmael. The Turks want it because they come from ESAU. The Jews want it because they come from Jacob, but through JUDAH.

Yet it belongs to none of them by divine right! It belongs to Great Britain and America, into whose hands God placed it, but who have been so valiantly trying to maintain it for Jew and Arab. What a hot firebrand it is! It may yet set the whole world on fire!

# What Is ARMAGEDDON?

**Just what is "Armageddon"? Will it be World War III? Will the armies of the United States and Great Britain be defending Palestine against Russia in that battle? Read in this article the amazing answer. You will probably be astonished!**

**by Herbert W. Armstrong**

**W**E HEAR a great deal, nowadays, about "Armageddon." Yet few *know* what it is!

Like most other topics of Biblical prophecy, what is popularly taught on this subject has been accepted *without question* by nearly everyone. And, as in most other questions, the people have been turned away from the truth and have unthinkingly embraced fables.

When World War I first broke out, many began excitedly to proclaim: "This is the Armageddon war!" Again, many confidently proclaimed that World War II was the war that would end at Armageddon.

A popular conception now is that "Armageddon" is the prophesized last battle of a coming war between the democratic Western World and Communist Russia. It will supposedly be a battle between atheistic Communist Russia on the one side, *attacking* Jerusalem; with the British and American armies on the other side, *defending* it. And at the precise instant of this final colossal battle, the second coming of Christ is to occur.

But is this common conception true?

## What IS "Armageddon"?

The word "Armageddon," strange as it may seem, occurs only *once* in all the Bible. It is found in Revelation 16:16. Let's look at it. Begin with the 13th verse of this chapter:

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of demons, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to *gather* them to the *battle of the great day of God Almighty*. (Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.) And *he* [another translation is "they"] gathered them together, into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, ARMAGEDDON [marginal reading: "Har Magedon"]."

*First*, notice that "Armageddon" is a Hebrew word, not an English word. Actually, the Hebrew word is "Har

Magedon" or "Har Megiddo." In the Hebrew, the H's are usually not pronounced, and so are often omitted in the spelling in English. Megiddo is in the Valley of Jezreel, some 70 miles northwest of Jerusalem, just in from the port of Haifa.

The Hebrew prefix "Har" means "fortified," or "fortified hill." Between World War I and World War II the British fortified Haifa at a cost of many millions of dollars. Consequently, Megiddo (or Magedon) *has now become*, in fact, ARMAGEDDON!

*Secondly*, notice the *battle* in question is actually stirred up, *not* by men or nations *alone*, but by *spirits*—three spirits—and they are unclean spirits or *demon* spirits. (The word "devils" in the King James Version ought to be rendered *demons*.) These spirits INFLUENCE the leaders of the nations—deceiving them—stirring them to this battle.

These unclean spirits come out of the *mouhths* of the DRAGON, the BEAST, and the FALSE PROPHET. What is the Bible definition of these three powers?

## The Three Unclean Spirits

The DRAGON is interpreted by the Bible as the devil or Satan (Rev. 12:9). The BEAST according to the Bible is the *political leader* of the Babylonish system, pictured in Daniel 7, Revelation 13 and 17. The BEAST is yet to appear in Europe for a final revival of fascism to head the last rebirth of the Roman Empire—a United States of Europe that will startle this world!

The FALSE PROPHET is the *religious* or *ecclesiastical leader* who shall, in the near future, be associated in a mutual working agreement with this final restoration of the Roman Empire.

The three unclean spirits come out of the mouths of these three—the devil, the "beast" and the "false prophet." In I Kings 22:21-23 we find unclean spirits, lying spirits, in the mouths of the false prophets in ancient Israel. Those spirits so completely deceived the ministers of that day that the demons or lying spirits actually talked through the mouths of the prophets. So the three unclean spirits mentioned in Revelation

will possess the beast and the false prophet and *use their mouths* to utter lies to deceive the nations.

## "Battle of Armageddon"?

And now, *thirdly*, notice the NAME of the battle to which the spirits cause the armies of the nations to be gathered. This is most important! The text does not speak of any "BATTLE of Armageddon" at all! It is the "BATTLE OF THE GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY."

"ARMAGEDDON" is the *place* where the armies *gather*. But the BATTLE is *not* called "Armageddon." It is the "BATTLE of the GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY."

The "Great Day of God Almighty" is, of course, the great "DAY of the LORD" as it is spoken of in so many prophecies in both Old and New Testament Scriptures. And what is the "Day of the Eternal"?

"The great day of the Eternal is near . . . that day is a day of WRATH, a day of trouble and distress, a day of *wasteness* and *desolation*, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness" (Zephaniah 1:14-15). "The day of the Eternal's anger" we read in Zeph. 2:2.

Notice that the battle of the Great Day of God Almighty comes as a climax to a time when the whole earth has been rendered waste and desolate by the wholesale destruction of war.

"Alas for the day! for the day of the Eternal is at hand, and as a *destruction* from the Almighty shall it come." The Almighty sends it! It is the Great Day of God Almighty! It is a day of DESTRUCTION—and God sends the destruction!

"Behold, the day of the Eternal cometh . . . For I will gather all nations *against Jerusalem* to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. THEN SHALL THE ETERNAL GO FORTH, AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE NATIONS, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusa-



lem on the east . . ." (Zechariah 14:1-4). This is the climactic BATTLE of the Great Day of God Almighty!

#### Is It the TRIBULATION?

Is this Great Day of the Eternal, then, the prophesied "Great Tribulation"?

No! It follows the Great Tribulation. Notice Joel 2:31: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, *before* the great and terrible DAY OF THE ETERNAL come." The DAY OF THE ETERNAL is the time of the *plagues* sent from God. It is the time of His WRATH, the time of His supernatural intervening in this wholesale slaughter and destruction by man. But God will not send this PUNISHMENT upon a sinning world until He has WARNED THEM. First, He will send terrific supernatural SIGNS in the sun, the moon and the stars. There shall be great tidal waves, earthquakes, convulsions of nature that shall throw men—who know not God and these prophecies—into frantic terror, thinking the "WORLD IS COMING TO AN END" (Rev. 6:12-17; Luke 21:25-26).

All this follows the Great Tribulation. You will find the final Great Tribulation described in Matthew 24. (Remember, the tribulation during the Dark Ages was merely a forerunner of this AGE-END GREAT TRIBULATION.) Notice verse 29, of Matthew 24: "IMMEDIATELY AFTER the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

First comes the Tribulation; *then* supernatural signs; *then* the Day of the Lord. Notice this same sequence described in Revelation 6:12-17. In this scripture the Day of the Eternal is the Day of God's WRATH.

#### "PEACE!" to be Proclaimed

Now notice an amazing fact, revealed by a New Testament prophecy—a fact very few have grasped! It is found in I Thes. 5:1-3.

"But of the times and the seasons, *brethren*"—notice that Paul is writing to the "brethren"—"ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that THE DAY OF THE LORD so cometh as a thief in the night."

Paul is *not* speaking of the second coming of Christ, but of the "day of the Lord"—the time of the DESTRUCTION God will send upon sinners to separate them from their sins. Now continue the prophecy:

"For when they"—the word "they" refers to the leaders and rulers of the world. Paul is writing to the brethren about the affairs of this present world—"when *they* shall say PEACE and safety; then sudden DESTRUCTION cometh upon

them, as travail upon a woman with child; and *they* shall not escape."

Notice. It shall come *suddenly*, unexpectedly. It is the time prophesied by Isaiah: "Howl ye: for the DAY OF THE ETERNAL is at hand; it shall come *as a destruction* from the Almighty . . . Behold the DAY OF THE ETERNAL cometh, cruel both with WRATH and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it . . . and I will punish the world for their evil" (Isaiah 13:6-11).

First, "THEY"—the world rulers—shall proclaim PEACE! and safety!

Just *before* the terrible DAY OF THE LORD "Peace!" is to be proclaimed. There shall *be* no real peace, but world rulers shall proclaim it! And then what?

And then, as soon as PEACE is proclaimed, then the sudden DESTRUCTION of the plagues of the DAY OF THE ETERNAL shall fall upon them. That is the time of GOD'S wrath.

#### Great Tribulation Comes First

The "Great Tribulation" must come PRIOR to the DAY OF THE LORD. Immediately *after* the Tribulation, said Jesus, the terrible supernatural signs shall occur—in the sun, the moon, the stars—earthquakes, tidal waves, convulsions of nature. These catastrophic occurrences in nature are to occur *before* the DAY OF THE ETERNAL (Joel 2:31).

But what is the "Great Tribulation"?

Most people have taken it for granted that the Tribulation is the time of God's wrath—the DAY OF THE ETERNAL. But it is *not*. It *precedes* the Day of the Eternal.

Jesus' Olivet prophecy explains it. This prophecy reveals the succession of events up to now. The disciples had asked Jesus what would be the sign of His coming, and of the end of the age (Mat. 24:3). And He had replied that first would come false preachers proclaiming a false gospel, yet coming in the name of Christ; then wars culminating in the present series of World Wars and the Cold War—kingdom and nation against one another; third, famines; fourth, pestilences. These are just beginning to stalk the world.

"All these," said Jesus, "are the *beginning* of sorrows." Then what *next*?

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you," Jesus foretold. "And ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake" (Mat. 24:9).

Notice, Jesus used two pronouns—"THEY," and "YOU." "Then THEY shall deliver YOU up to be afflicted, and shall KILL you." Remember this: In New Testament language the pronoun "YOU," unless otherwise clearly defined, refers either to truly converted CHRISTIANS, or to NATIONAL Israel or Judah, or to both Christians and Judah or Israel. If it is

speaking spiritually and individually, the pronoun "YOU" refers to those who are truly begotten children of God. If the context is speaking nationally, it refers to Israel, or Judah, or both.

In this particular case, comparison with the account in Mark 13 and Luke 21 makes it evident that Jesus used this pronoun in a DUAL sense, including *both* Spirit-begotten CHRISTIANS and flesh-born Israelites as *nations*!

The *limited* national trouble which befell Judah in 70 A.D. was merely the early type and forerunner of the great NATIONAL invasion and captivity YET to occur.

This is described more plainly in modern English in the Moffatt translation of Luke's account of this same prophecy: "For sore anguish will come upon the land and wrath upon this people; they will fall by the edge of the sword, they will be carried prisoners to all nations, and Jerusalem will be under the heel of the Gentiles TILL the Times of the Gentiles expire" (Luke 21:23-24).

This is speaking of WAR—of *national* invasion and captivity. The CLIMACTIC MAJOR fulfillment of this prophecy is YET to occur, just shortly *before* the Day of the Eternal's WRATH.

This is speaking of the final GREAT Tribulation. It will be a time of WAR and national INVASION and CAPTIVITY of God's nation ISRAEL. *Not Judah alone!* These prophecies refer not only to Christians, but to the so-called LOST TEN TRIBES OF ISRAEL—the *American and British peoples, the democracies of Northwest Europe!* If you don't know where the United States and Great Britain are mentioned in prophecy, write *immediately* for my FREE booklet "THE UNITED STATES and the BRITISH COMMONWEALTH in Prophecy."

The Great Tribulation is *not*, as so many erroneously assume, the time of God's wrath. It is the time of Satan's wrath. The Great Tribulation is Satan's last persecution and martyrdom against the true begotten sons of GOD.

#### Jerusalem Surrounded with Armies

Notice that the tribulation, the next prophesied major occurrence, is to come *when* "ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place" (Mat. 24:15). This is described in Luke's account of this same prophecy as "*Jerusalem compassed with armies*" which is a sign that the city's desolation is near (Luke 21:20). It is described in Daniel 11 as the armies of the coming fascist revival of the Roman Empire invading Palestine!

So, together with the martyrdom of Christians and the invasion of America, the British Isles and the democratic na-

tions of Northwest Europe, there will be an invasion of Palestine and the Near East. This will be the first round of WORLD WAR III!

When our people—who are called *war-mongers* by the Gentiles—have been defeated and taken into slavery, then the Gentiles will be proclaiming "PEACE!" But there will be no real peace! Notice what happens after the three and one-half years of tribulation—when the Gentiles will be deluded into thinking "peace" and "safety":

For Satan's fiendish persecution and martyrdom of God's saints, GOD shall take vengeance. God will step in and supernaturally intervene.

First, as a WARNING, shall come the terrible SIGNS!—signs in the sun, the moon, the stars—the convulsions of the earth and the heavens (Mat. 24:29). And *then* shall follow the DAY OF THE LORD!

The DAY OF THE ETERNAL will quickly come—the time of God's wrath—the time of the PLAGUES.

The "trumpet" plagues and the "seven last plagues" are God's judgment upon the great ecclesiastical empire ruled by the false prophet. This false system is the power which *caused* the martyrdom of saints in ages past; this is the power that will line up with the revival of the Roman Empire in Europe and will *cause* the coming martyrdom!

#### TEN Nations to Unite in Europe

This great ecclesiastical system is pictured as a fallen woman astride the "beast." This woman is called "BABYLON" (Rev. 17:5). She is "*drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus*" (verse 6). She CAUSES them to be killed by pronouncing sentence (Rev. 13:15).

The "beast" which the woman rides is the Roman Empire. All students of prophecy recognize that. Even the Roman Catholic Douay Version gives this in a footnote. The empire was, and is not (verse 6), but shall be brought back into being once again. It shall be accomplished by a UNION of TEN DICTATORS who will be given authority as *kings* for a very short time. This is explained in verses 12 and 13. These fascist dictators, with their armies, will be under the direction of a great Church-State coalition now being plotted in Europe! Now let's continue.

The fascist armies, remember, will have poured into Palestine. When tidings of an impending Russian invasion of Europe *frighten* the coming United States of Europe, the "beast"—the future fascist dictator in Europe—and the "false prophet"—his religious consort—will rush plans to set up the tabernacle and the palace in Palestine (Dan. 11:41,

45). Their *headquarters* will be moved there.

During their reign, the true Word of God will not be permitted to be preached (Amos 8:11). After the tribulation only God's "two witnesses," inspired with supernatural powers shall be permitted to warn the world of what is then coming. And after three and one-half years, even *they* shall be killed and their bodies lie unburied three and a half days in the streets of Jerusalem (Rev. 11:3-10).

And now notice!

"These"—these newly crowned kings forming the revived Roman Empire—"shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is the Lord of lords, and King of kings" (Rev. 17:14).

Christ is the "Lamb." But He does not appear as "Lord of lords, and King of kings" *until* His SECOND COMING!

#### Then Comes God's Wrath

Jesus shall come at the outpouring of the seven *last* plagues of the DAY OF THE LORD—the very climax of the great and terrible "day." He shall come at the time when God's final judgments are being poured out upon this fornicating ecclesiastical system.

At that time Jesus Christ shall return to RULE! "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ; and HE SHALL REIGN FOREVER!" (Rev. 11:15). Christ is the STONE, then smiting the entire rotten Gentile political-ecclesiastical system on the "TOES" of the "image" (of Daniel 2), and the KINGDOM OF GOD shall rule this earth and finally bring REAL PEACE, and happiness and JOY to a sin-sick, war-weary earth!

But the "beast" and the "false prophet" shall FIGHT against Christ! They shall fight desperately to retain their foul system.

And the BATTLE that ensues in this struggle to see whether MAN or GOD shall rule the earth for the next THOUSAND YEARS is the BATTLE OF THE GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY—often misnamed "Armageddon." The armies which *gather* at "Armageddon" proceed to battle and fight Christ in the environs of Jerusalem.

Who shall fight whom? Will Russia and China and their communist allies fight against the British and American armies in this battle? NO! Nowhere is one word said in prophecy to give such an idea.

Note it!

"And I saw the beast [the coming fascist dictator in Europe] and the kings of the earth [his allies], and their armies, gathered together to make war against"—AGAINST WHOM? Not Britain and America! NOT Israel!—for they have

*already been conquered* by this revival of a fascist Roman Empire. But against "HIM THAT SAT ON THE HORSE [Christ] and His army" (Rev. 19:19).

And *who* composes His army? Note verse 14: "And the armies *which were in HEAVEN* followed Him upon white horses." Shall the British and American armies go up to heaven? No! Our people, young and old, are in slavery and await the return of Christ to DELIVER them.

Then who compose these armies? Just one Scripture tells: "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and *all the holy angels with Him . . .*" (Mat. 25:31). The HOLY ANGELS from heaven are Christ's army! A SPIRITUAL host is coming to take over! It is CHRIST and the ANGELS that fight the willful rebellion of mortal men.

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet . . . These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev. 19:20).

THAT is the "BATTLE of the Great Day of God Almighty!" That is the battle popularly misnamed "*Armageddon*!"

It shall mark the turning point in history—the beginning of PEACE—*real* PEACE on earth, and good will toward men!

## What do you mean . . . "Be Born Again"?

(Continued from page 12)

against the wiles of the Devil operating in the world and through his own human nature.

Much of the confusion about being born again has resulted from misinterpreting the original Greek. In English we use three distinct words: *begetting*, *conception* and *birth*. But in the Greek which Paul and the apostles used, there is *one root word* having three meanings. It is therefore very necessary to determine the meaning of Scripture before translating a word either "begotten" or "born."

#### God Is Reproducing After His Kind

The Eternal God has created innumerable universes, galaxies and worlds. The full extent of His entire finished creation is completely beyond the grasp of the human mind—completely beyond the telescope, the microscope or the test tube.

But wonder of wonders!—He is *still creating* before us now, His highest and noblest work—that of *begetting sons* in His own family. You and I have a wonderful opportunity in becoming a son in the Family or Kingdom of God.

By a process completely hidden to