

THE PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



AMERICA - A "PAPER TIGER"?
See Page 4



Personal from...

What is the most universal erroneous and false belief and teaching—that has caused the world's evils, troubles, sufferings and sorrows?

Fifty-three years ago I said to my wife, "All these churches can't be wrong!"

Well, could one single denomination of traditional Christianity—whether Protestant or Catholic—be wrong in its teaching on some one point? They do teach differently on many or most points of doctrine and belief, so some, if not most, must definitely be in error on some teachings here and there.

But if some, or most, are mistaken in some beliefs here and there, could it be possible that all of traditional Christianity today could be in error, misled, or deceived unintentionally on some major point of universal belief?

Now perhaps many people do not believe in the existence of a devil any more.

Yet your Bible says the whole world (including its religions) has been deceived by Satan the devil (Revelation 12:9). The inhabitants of the earth have been deceived by him through deceived religion (Revelation 17:2).

But your Bible also says the time is coming when God Almighty shall send an angel from heaven, "and [lay] hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and [bind] him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years [shall be] fulfilled" (Revelation 20:1-3).

Just who is this Satan? Where did he come from? Did God create a devil to deceive us? He is a former archangel, who was perfect in all his ways as God created him (Ezekiel 28:15). But he had a mind, and free moral agency with the right of free choice—forming his own decisions—just as God has given you and me and all humans that same free moral agency. Otherwise we could have no character.

This great archangel was named Lucifer, and God set him on the throne of the whole earth to administer the government of God over angels which inhabited the earth prior to the creation of man.

But this powerful Lucifer turned his angels into rebellion against God (II Peter 2:4-6).

But now could it be possible, in such a Satan-deceived world, that ALL denominations of traditional Christianity could be deceived—NOT KNOWING IT—into a WRONG BELIEF on a most important BASIC belief and teaching?

Sounds preposterous—IMPOSSIBLE?

Wait till you see the FACTS of what has happened, straight from the infallible WORD OF GOD HIMSELF! Consider what you never saw, heard of, or understood before! Open your mind to PROVED TRUTH—astonishing though it may be.

It might seem incredulous—yet it is TRUE!

That most widely accepted, universally believed error is the teaching that God is now trying desperately to GET THE WHOLE WORLD SPIRITUALLY "SAVED." That this, now, is the ONLY day of salvation. That Satan is trying to keep everybody "lost"—and that all who do not accept—receive Christ NOW in our time, will be "LOST"—condemned to an eternity in hellfire. And time is about up—soon it will be too late—soon probation will close.

The sole SOURCE of truth is GOD. He has given us His WORD. In it He tells us *whether* this, now, is the only day of salvation—or even the time of salvation for all who are willing. He *tells* us whether those who do not now accept Christ are "lost."

To understand we must go *back* to the beginning, and open our eyes to what GOD reveals from that time up until NOW, and even into the future. But our minds must be open or the shocking TRUTH cannot enter.

Jesus said: "No man CAN come to me, except the Father which sent me draw him." That says all are SHUT OFF—*unable* to come to Christ, except those whom the Father has predestined to be called NOW!

Is that UNFAIR on God's part? Are you sure you UNDERSTAND WHY Jesus said that—WHY God cut ALL HUMANITY off from Him and from access to Him, up to now—except the VERY few God has predestined to be called NOW? WHY God "hides Himself" from the world?

It all started with Adam in the Garden of Eden.

Now see if you can understand (*Continued on page 44*)

Part One:

A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion

Why the babylon of religious confusion in the world? Why so many differing religions? More than 250 denominations in Christianity, besides Judaism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Islam, Shintoism, Taoism, agnosticism, atheism and evolution.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Editor's note: We are printing, serially, a new book by Herbert W. Armstrong on the same title as this article. The book will appear in bookstores later this year.

How could the world have become so mixed up? Out of this spiritual wilderness, a voice cries out in clarity and power, decrying this world confusion, with the reassuring TRUTH of the world's only and SURE HOPE!

Chapter I—Why This Book?

What a travesty of truth!

Of all the religions on earth, save the persecuted *true* Church of God, founded A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ, NOT ONE knows *who* or *what* God is!

NOT ONE knows *what* or *why* man is!

NOT ONE knows the true WAY to happiness!

NOT ONE knows what happens in the hereafter!

NOT ONE knows WHY humans

were placed on earth—the real PURPOSE and MEANING of life!

NOT ONE knows what *is* the gospel of Jesus Christ! NOT ONE knows how to bring WORLD PEACE!

Incredible? Yes, but TRUE!

The world's number one concern today is the question of human survival! Science and technology have produced the weapons of mass destruction that could blast *all human life* off this earth!

So many nations now possess nuclear weapons that one madman could ignite the nuclear World War III that could erase all human life from this planet!

Yet the truth of God could have saved humanity from this threat and all its evils!

Stop a moment!

THINK on this!

You live in a world seemingly far advanced in science, technology, higher education and diffusion of knowledge. We think it's a world of GREAT PROGRESS. We send men to cavort about on the moon, and return

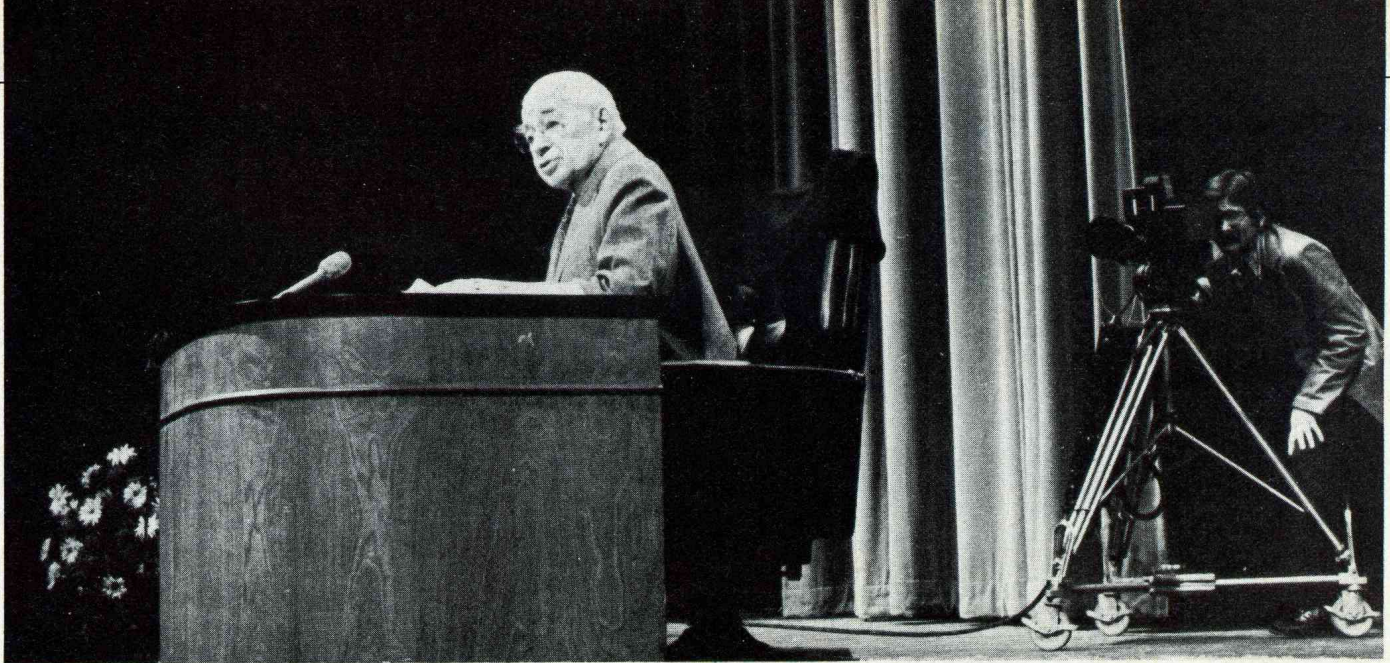
them safely back to earth! Unmanned spacecraft land on Mars, and send back to earth close-up photographs of the Martian surface! Other unmanned spacecraft fly close to Jupiter and send back astonishing pictures of Jupiter! Surgeons transplant human hearts!

It's a magic, entrancing push-button world where work is done largely by machines. It's the glamour dreamworld of the three "L's"—leisure, luxury, and license.

But paradoxically, it's also a world of IGNORANCE! Even the educated *know not* how to solve their problems and the world's evils! It *knows not* the way of PEACE or the TRUE VALUES of life!

More than half of the world's population is still illiterate, in the grip of abject poverty, living in filth and squalor! The grim reapers of starvation and disease take human lives by the millions!

It's an unhappy, restless world in frustration, staring a hopeless future in the face. It's a world ridden with



Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong proclaims true causes of world evils before TV cameras in Phoenix, Arizona.

escalating crime and violence, immorality, injustice (even in its courts of law), dishonesty, corruption in government and business, and continual wars, pointing now to the *final* nuclear World War III.

WHY this paradox of "PROGRESS" amid DEGENERATION?

God's Truth Would Have Solved!

True religion—God's truth—would have pointed the way, and led to happiness, abundance, and eternal salvation.

When you see what's wrong with the world's religions, you'll have pinpointed the *cause* of all world evils!

What *is* religion? It is defined as the worship of, and service to, God or the supernatural. It is man's relation to his Creator. Some religions have perverted that definition. They worship not the God who created them, but gods which *they* have created. Religion involves one's conduct, his principles, his way of life, and his concept of the hereafter.

The real CAUSES of all this world's religious confusion—and all its evils—are revealed in SEVEN BASIC TRUTHS that decry this babylon of religious confusion and the resulting world chaos!

But now God's time has come! He now sends a voice to cry out with amplified world-covering power to reveal the *way out* of this senseless madness, into the world of PEACE and

righteousness that soon *shall* grip the earth!

In the book of Isaiah is a "NOW" prophecy: "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord. . . . lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid, and say. . . . Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him" (Isaiah 40:3, 9-10).

That voice now cries out!

The prophet Malachi confirmed this: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 3:1).

Both of these prophecies have a dual application. First, they refer to John the Baptist, who prepared the way before Jesus' human ministry more than 1900 years ago. BUT, as a type, or forerunner, they foretell one to prepare the way before Christ's SECOND COMING as the King of kings and Lord of lords to RULE over ALL NATIONS!

Malachi's prophecy, like Isaiah's, if you will read on past the first verse, refers primarily to a human messenger preparing the way before Christ's now imminent SECOND COMING, this time in supreme POWER AND GLORY as Ruler over all nations!

Understand the duality principle here. These prophecies refer to a "type" or forerunner.

John the Baptist was a voice crying out in the *physical* wilderness of the Jordan River area, preparing for the human *physical* Jesus' first coming to a *material* temple at Jerusalem, to a *physical* Judah. But that was a type, or forerunner of a voice "lifted up" (greatly amplified by modern printing, radio and TV), crying out in the midst of today's *spiritual* wilderness of religious confusion, announcing the imminency of Christ's SECOND coming as the spiritually GLORIFIED Christ, to His spiritual temple (the Church resurrected to spirit immortality).

He came, over 1900 years ago, to announce the FUTURE Kingdom of God. He's coming this time to ESTABLISH that Kingdom. That end-time last warning message is now going out worldwide in amplified power.

It's going before kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers of nations—and to their peoples, on all continents of the earth!

In this series of articles we give you SEVEN MAJOR TRUTHS which belie this modern confusion of tongues, and concurrently provide seven basic PROOFS that identify the one original true Church of God founded by, and today headed by, the living Jesus Christ. □

(To Be Continued)

Prepare to Greatly Reduce Your Standard of Living!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

It's time you knew the real meaning of the present inflationary spiral, rising interest rates, and fears of entering a severe depression.

There is far more to all this economic concern than appears on the surface. Its roots even penetrate back into ancient history and biblical prophecy. Where are the United States and British nations mentioned in Bible prophecy? What is prophesied about these very conditions?

What does it all really mean? What does it portend for the relatively immediate future?

We in the United States have enjoyed the most prosperous living standard of any nation in all the history of mankind. There is a reason for this unmatched prosperity that came to us. There also is a reason for the devaluation of the dollar in foreign markets, for our present abnormal inflation, and the fear in financial and government circles that we may well be in the beginning of the most severe economic depression in history.

A number of times I have published an economic analysis of the real causes of the inflation spiral and other economic distresses in the United States.

But now the stranglehold of inflation and other economic disturbances are tightening around our necks. This

trend is going to reach out and greatly reduce *your* standard of living, in the next two years or more.

More Than Mere Economic Factors

Actually, what is happening to us now is much more than purely economic causes and effects. Yet of course these have contributed their part.

I have written more than once about an incident in my personal experience which took place in early January 1914. This was before most of our readers were born. But I was covering a significant event. I was then an editorial representative of America's largest trade journal. I was traveling, by train of course in those days, eastward in New York state from Buffalo. At Utica I received a telegram from our editors instructing me to catch the first train back to Detroit to interview Henry Ford.

Henry Ford was on banner front-page headlines in that morning's newspapers. The Ford Motor Company had just come out with a sensational new \$5-a-day wage scale!

Don't laugh. Five dollars was a lot of money in 1914. My editors wanted me to cover this story and get all the facts in person.

In a sense, that was the beginning of the highest living standard ever enjoyed in any nation, although the American standard was already per-

haps the world's highest. But with Henry Ford's sensational new wage scale, our living standard was to escalate to an all-time world peak.

I saw Mr. Ford, but learned that the whole new plan had been devised and was administered by John R. Lee, head of the Sociological Department.

"I understand you are now paying by far the highest wage scale in the automobile industry," I said to Mr. Lee.

He smiled. "On the contrary," he said, "we are paying the *lowest!*"

I was taken aback. "But isn't the union scale \$3.75 per ten-hour day?"

"Correct," he confirmed.

"And are you not now paying \$5 per day for only a nine-hour day?"

"Right again, but we don't figure what we *really* pay on that basis. We compute it on the basis of what we get for each dollar spent. You see, our sales volume is now great enough to enable us to install a new conveyor belt or assembly-line system of production. We take full advantage of the fact that fewer men can produce much *more* by machines than a greater number of workmen by hand. We start each car at one end on a conveyor belt system. Each workman has to do his part as it passes him. This way we regulate the speed of production. Actually, we now are

getting twice the man-per-day production for \$5 that our rivals get per man per day working one hour longer than our employees.

"That means," Mr. Lee continued, "that other manufacturers in our industry pay for two days \$7.50 for the same production we get in one 9-hour day for \$5. So we pay \$2.50 less per day for the same results as others pay in two 10-hour days!"

It was not long, however, until all motor car manufacturers went on the assembly-line, mass-machine-production system. Not only them, but all large manufacturers in the U.S.

America offered her manufacturers a mass market for machine production. Other nations at that time—Britain, Europe, Russia, Japan did not have mass markets.

Two world wars have changed all that!

But in the meantime, beginning World War I, U.S. manufacturers, by this new mass machine production, began producing much more per dollar cost. This abnormally skyrocketed manufacturers' profits.

But labor union leaders were determined not to allow capital and management to keep all the vastly increased profits. The labor union movement surged, even violently, in the U.S. Strikes everywhere sought to transfer the huge escalating profits into the hands of labor.

Industrial labor attracted a rapidly increasing flow of the rural population of a previously rural majority into the cities. This converted industrial labor into America's primary consumer class.

Result? The American standard of living rose to a height never known by any nation in world history.

The labor union movement did not materially improve consumer living standards in the other industrial countries until quite recently.

Britain's Former Dominance

Prior to World War I the British Empire had risen to become the greatest in material wealth, and even in power, in all earth's history.

The world economic and power dominance began in both Britain and the U.S. in 1800-1804. In those years the U.S. leaped, largely through the Louisiana Purchase, from its original 13-colony status to a major nation.

But Britain leaped into material greatness first. By 1804 London was the financial capital of the whole world. The British had gobbled up large parts of Africa and Asia, including India. They boasted that the sun never set on their Empire.

But the top landed barons kept largely their vastly increasing wealth to themselves. Their wealth was not diffused among the lower classes. Until after World War I, a youth desiring a college education could not gain admission unless his father was university educated. The class system in England kept the lower classes low.

The upper class built great mansions, from about twenty rooms up to the Great Houses, like kings' palaces. In 1959 I purchased one of the smaller of such estates, with a mansion of some

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*There is a reason
for the devaluation of the
dollar in foreign
markets, for our present
abnormal inflation.*

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25 rooms, besides many horse and cow stables, and some beautiful gardens (we cleaned out the hip-high weeds and restored their original beauty). This became the start of the Ambassador College campus in England. Additional buildings were added as we went along.

Today England has lost her Empire, is no longer a major power like the United States and Russia. British labor has made some gains and the economy is more diffused. But Britain has been on the way down, in national wealth and power, since World War I.

And now the United States is STARTING TO FOLLOW on the downward path!

Our Rise and Fall Has Ancient Roots

There is a far more important CAUSE behind the Anglo-American rise and

fall than mass machine production and labor union action producing a greater diffusion of wealth.

There is a far greater CAUSE that is now starting in rapid descent to BRING DOWN YOUR PRESENT STANDARD OF LIVING.

It is true that even though Britain as a former world empire has *lost* her national greatness, yet today there is a moderately larger diffusion of what prosperity they have left. British labor has come to receive probably slightly more than half of America's present labor income. But Swiss, German, Swedish and other European living standards have risen markedly.

The real CAUSE, however, for the rise and fall of Britain and the U.S. dates back to centuries before Christ.

Our Ancient Roots

There is a far more significant reason—both for American ascendancy to the highest living standard ever enjoyed by any nation in earth's history, and our sudden PLUNGE we are now entering.

Few indeed realize that hundreds of years before Christ, God had made certain unbreakable and irrevocable PROMISES to the descendants of the patriarch Abraham. This has never been realized or proclaimed by "traditional Christianity."

Abraham, in the New Testament, is designated as the "FATHER of the faithful," since all of God's promises of salvation and eternal life through Christ were made to Abraham—and Jesus Christ was directly descended from Abraham.

But what not even theologians understand is that God made DUAL promises to Abraham. He made the promise of GRACE, to come through Abraham's descendant Jesus Christ—but also He made unbreakable promises of RACE—overlooked entirely by "traditional Christianity" and theological "scholars."

The promise God made to Abraham of GRACE was spiritual and individual (Galatians 3:16). But the promise of RACE was purely national and material. It is vital to the understanding of biblical prophecy to realize that God made also to Abraham promises of RACE—entirely separate from the spiritual prom-

ises of salvation and eternal life.

God said: "And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make NATIONS [plural] of thee, and kings [more than one] shall come out of thee" (Genesis 17:6). Notice, these nations and kings shall come *out of* Abraham—physical generation, not spiritual regeneration.

"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee . . . in *their generations*" [plural] for an everlasting covenant . . ." (verse 7).

Cannot Apply to Jews

This cannot apply *alone* to the Jews. The Jews have never been more than *one* nation.

God put Abraham to the test. And Abraham, *through* FAITH, passed the test of obedience, even to being willing to sacrifice his only son. Then God made the covenant with Abraham UNCONDITIONAL.

A covenant is a contract—usually, as in this case, between two parties. One binds himself by contract to pay certain rewards IF the other performs certain conditions. But God made His covenant with Abraham UNCONDITIONAL—after Abraham had performed his part—fulfilling the CONDITION of obedience.

"By myself have I sworn, saith the Eternal, for because thou hast done this thing . . . that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed [descendants] as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore" (Genesis 22:16-17). These promises passed down through Isaac and Jacob.

Later the prophet Israel (Jacob) laid his hands on the two sons of Joseph, saying: "Let my name [Israel] be named on them"—that is, on their descendants. God gave the promise that the descendants of Manasseh, Joseph's elder son, would become a very GREAT nation, but the descendants of Ephraim his brother would become a "company of nations"—that is, a commonwealth of nations.

The spiritual promise God made to Abraham of the Messiah, and of eternal salvation through Him, is well known by the most superficial Bible student. But God made also to Abraham national and material promises of RACE.

The spiritual promises of eternal salvation are called the Sceptre, and the national promises of RACE the Birthright—that which is inherited by right of birth.

Respecting the promises of RACE, God said to Abraham: "And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations [plural] of thee, and kings [more than one] shall come out of thee" (Genesis 17:6).

The Messianic promises of GRACE pertained to the tribe of Judah, who were nicknamed the Jews. But "the Birthright [promise of RACE] was JOSEPH'S." The national, material promise of the birthright—RIGHT of birth—was handed down to the two tribes springing from Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim (I Chronicles 5:1-2).

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*Once fulfilled, in the
British and Americans,
retention of the
Birthright by us became
conditional on our
performance.*

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The twelve tribes of Israel split up into TWO nations after the death of Solomon. The nation ISRAEL rejected Solomon's son Rehoboam as king, because he threatened to make their taxes even steeper than Solomon had. They established a new capital city in northern Israel, Samaria, and chose Jeroboam as king.

Then the tribe of Judah (the Jews) seceded from the nation Israel in order to keep their king Rehoboam and their capital city Jerusalem, calling their nation the Kingdom of Judah.

So now the birthright promise made to Abraham was in one nation, the Kingdom of Israel, and the spiritual Messianic promise was in another nation, now called the Kingdom of JUDAH. The tribe of Benjamin remained with Judah. Jeroboam, new king of ISRAEL, threw out the tribe of

Levi from the priesthood in ISRAEL, and the tribe of Levi also went in with Judah—the JEWS.

Those of the nation ISRAEL were NOT Jews—never called Jews. The first place in the Bible where the name "Jews" is mentioned is II Kings 16:6, where the Jews were at war against ISRAEL.

We pick up the most critical prophecy as to the future of the nation Israel in Leviticus 26.

Now the Prophecies

In the 26th chapter of Leviticus we find God's promises and prophecies to Israel beginning in Moses' day.

God through Moses specially put emphasis on avoiding idolatry and keeping God's Sabbath.

Then He said that IF they would keep His commandments and His national statutes they should receive and enjoy the national and material promises of the Birthright *in their time*. He gave them NO PROMISE of inheriting, in the days of ancient national Israel, the spiritual promises (the Sceptre).

Even though the promises were made UNCONDITIONAL to Abraham for his future descendants, God now promised ancient Israel ONLY the material promises of the Birthright—and even that was CONDITIONAL.

Otherwise that Birthright phase of the promises would be withheld 2520 years and then in that far, far future, confer the Birthright national and material promises to the descendants of Israel through Ephraim and Manasseh.

God promised them, through Moses, ON CONDITION of obedience, adequate rain, abundant crops the year round, peace, and such military power that a hundred of them could put ten thousand enemy invaders to flight.

But Israel under Moses DID NOT OBEY OR KEEP THEIR PART OF THE OLD COVENANT!

They did so only at intervals during the days of the Judges. In the day when God ruled them through the prophet Samuel, they rejected God as their Ruler and King, and demanded a human king like the Gentile pagan nations of the world.

(Continued on page 42)

of an enemy. . . . because your guilt is great, because your sins are flagrant" (Jeremiah 30:12-15).

U.S. Decline: "Catalyst for Prophecy"

George Kennan, former American ambassador to both the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, wrote on one occasion: "I think this country is destined to succumb to failures which cannot be other than tragic and enormous in their scope. All this, of course, is not an easy thing to live with."

The very near future, for those whose eyes are open, is truly alarming. Even the *New Yorker* magazine, on June 6, 1977, said that America's decline involves "frightening knowledge, hardly utterable, opening to us a strange future."

But it should not be strange to readers of *The Plain Truth*.

America's loss of direction will change world-power relationships as never before. Her allies—Western Europe and Japan primarily—will soon be forced to make their own arrangements to guarantee their own survival.

During the ill-fated Cuban crisis, West Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* said, for example, that "Mr. Carter has to do something, otherwise America stands before the world as a paper tiger. The Europeans await deeds from their strongest ally, for their destiny and that of the Americans cannot be separated."

They are still waiting. Europeans may be forced to come to their own terms with the Soviet Union, even if only temporarily. In the long run, America's decline will help generate the prophesied ten-nation European union.

America's own destiny?

Professor Donald M. Dozer, quoted earlier, adds that, unless there are radical changes, "in front of us rises the appalling prospect of our own decline into powerlessness and oblivion."

And eventually—as the editors of this magazine have repeatedly warned from the pages of the Bible—national captivity. "She that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the cities has become a vassal" (Lamentations 1:1). □

Standard of Living

(Continued from page 14)

I have already covered how in the days of King Rehoboam, after Solomon's death, they split into TWO DIFFERENT NATIONS.

At that time, the Birthright promise remained with the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh in the kingdom of ISRAEL, while the Sceptre promise, to be realized through Christ, remained in the nation JUDAH.

In the years 721-718 B.C., King Shalmanezzar of Assyria invaded, conquered and removed the northern nation ISRAEL from their land of Samaria, carrying them off as slaves to Assyria.

In the years 604-585 B.C., King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invaded and moved the nation JUDAH as slaves into the land of Chaldea.

Meanwhile the Assyrians, with the ten tribes of ISRAEL, had migrated northwest. The Assyrians settled in the land known today as GERMANY. The Ten Tribes, now known as the "LOST Ten Tribes," moved on into western Europe and Britain—Ephraim and Manasseh largely settling in Britain.

But they had LOST their identifying Sabbath, their Hebrew language, and their identity. They supposed, and the world supposed, they were Gentiles.

About 515 B.C., a contingent of Jews of the former Kingdom of Judah were sent by King Cyrus of Persia back to form a colony in Jerusalem, under Zerubbabel as governor, to build the second temple on the site of Solomon's temple. It had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 585 B.C.

But NONE of the ten-tribed "lost" ISRAEL were among those of this colony. Their tribal names are recorded in the book of Ezra, and NONE of the ten-tribed ISRAEL is mentioned.

Other Jews, outside of this colony, were scattered into various nations through the centuries.

Where the U.S. Is Mentioned in Biblical Prophecy

Prophecy mentions that Britain (Ephraim) would lose her first colony. The colony that grew into

the United States was that colony.

Now the 2520 years the Birthright was to be withheld from ISRAEL because of their continued disobedience, breaking their part of the Old Covenant, expired in the years 1800-1803.

The big colony Ephraim was to lose was the United States—descended from co-Birthright holder Manasseh. The United States became the ONE promised GREAT nation. Britain became the great COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS.

Neither Britain nor America *deserved* the unprecedented wealth, greatness, and national power of Abraham's BIRTHRIGHT. But God had promised it UNCONDITIONALLY to Abraham. It was CONDITIONAL to ancient Israel.

Though our two great peoples did not deserve it, God was bound, and kept His PROMISE! Yet, once God had FULFILLED His promise to Abraham by giving us that national wealth, power and greatness, it became CONDITIONAL on us *whether we should retain it!*

As ancient Israel did not keep God's statutes, commandments, sabbaths, NEITHER HAVE WE!

At this point let me bring in another bit of historic background.

Go back, for a moment, to the first man, Adam. Prior even to Adam's creation, the earth had been populated by angels. The angels had SINNED (II Peter 2:4). God had set over them His GOVERNMENT, administered by the mighty archangel Lucifer (Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28). This Lucifer, the most powerful spirit being God had created, was placed on the throne of the earth. But he rebelled against and rejected the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. He led his angels in the opposite direction—rebellion against the law of God—vanity, lust and greed, envy and jealousy, competition with strife and violence, darkness of error instead of light of truth, destruction instead of creative construction. This Lucifer had become Satan the devil. His angels had become demons—evil spirit beings.

Until a successor qualifies and is set on that throne of the earth administering the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, Satan remains, though now disqual-

ified—and the GOVERNMENT OF GOD not being administered over the earth, earthwide.

When God created the first human, Adam, He thoroughly instructed this man and Eve, his wife. He instructed them in the law and government of God, in the rebellion and sin of the angels. In the Garden of Eden were two symbolic trees. One, the tree of life, symbolized the Holy Spirit of God—the way of life of God and His law—the gift of eternal life. Adam and Eve were created with only mortal, temporary physical life. The other tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, symbolized the taking to themselves—IF they disobeyed God in so doing—the knowledge of what is good and what is evil, rejecting the gift of eternal life.

When Adam and Eve chose the forbidden fruit, rejecting God and His government, God drove them out of the garden, and barred the way of entrance, lest humans rejecting God's sovereignty over them go back, take of the tree of life, and receive eternal life IN SIN. This would have brought on all such an eternal life in the indescribable misery and torment of unhappiness, despair in resentment and bitterness, and pain of mental frustration.

God is a God of LOVE—outgoing concern for the GOOD OF MANKIND, created in His image, with the potential of being BORN into the very GOD FAMILY!

God could not allow any such indescribable eternity of anguish and mental torment to come to the humanity He had created.

Therefore He BARRED entrance to the tree of LIFE—to an immortality in the supreme torment of eternal anguish and frustration. That is, God put an impassible WALL between Himself and all humanity—EXCEPT those infinitesimally few He would specially call to Him—for 6,000 years! Afterward—after Satan is conquered by Christ and those called to be His, and Satan is imprisoned forever, every human who ever lived will be called, mostly in a special postmillennial resurrection, and offered repentance, forgiveness of sin, and the gift of ETERNAL LIFE!

HOW WONDERFUL are the ways of Almighty God!

So God had said to Adam, in effect: "YOU have made the decision for yourself and the whole world that shall spring from you. Therefore, go, and devise your own ideas of government, your own religions, form your own gods, produce your own store of knowledge and its dissemination, during the next 6,000 years."

Mankind was CUT off from God, except those predestined to be specially called by God.

Jesus said plainly: "No man CAN come to me, except the Father which sent me draw him" (John 6:44). Others who *think* they are "saved in Christ," accept Him IN VAIN—in a FALSE RELIGION promulgated by Satan! Jesus also said plainly: "... IN VAIN do they WORSHIP me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the

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We have rebelled against the authority of God over us, worshiping the false gods of science, evolution, and greed.

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commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men" (Mark 7:7-8).

Now Prophesied for the U.S.A.

The United States and the British peoples did inherit the NATIONAL and MATERIAL promises of the Birthright promised unconditionally to Abraham. Therefore God has FULFILLED His unconditional promise of the Birthright to Abraham.

Once fulfilled, in the British and Americans, retention of it by us became CONDITIONAL on our performance.

And WHAT HAVE WE DONE with all this vast wealth, economic prosperity, and world power?

We have made physical SCIENCE the new Messiah—our false God—which boasted we no longer needed to wear the swaddling clothes of superstition, or lean on the crutch of religion. SCIENCE promised to deliver

us from all our troubles! But it failed utterly, and only produced the weapons of mass destruction that can now erase all humanity from the earth.

Our educational systems worshiped at the shrine of the false god of EVOLUTION, making it the foundational approach and basic CONCEPT upon which all KNOWLEDGE is based! Evolution is the atheist's attempted explanation for the presence of a CREATION, without a CREATOR!

Our governments have been corrupt. Our business, industrial, economic and commercial systems have been shot through with deception, dishonesty, selfishness.

We have adopted the WAY OF LIFE of Satan—utter selfishness, lust and greed, envy and jealousy, competition in every walk of life—business, politics, sports, society—leading to violence and destruction! We have rebelled against the authority of GOD over us, worshiping the false gods of science, evolution, and greed. We have gone the WAY of SATAN! And Satan is the god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4).

And now, FOR OUR OWN GOOD, an all-wise and all-loving God is about to PUNISH our nations, in order finally to bring us to HIM!

I will use just one prophecy here. In Leviticus 26:19, God said of OUR PEOPLE, TODAY: "And I will break the pride of your power."

God has given the U.S. more national POWER than any nation ever had! But since Korea we have been afraid to use it! Small nations like North Korea, Cuba and Panama thumb their noses at us, and we run. A gang of students in Iran break into the U.S. Embassy, hold our U.S. staff as hostages, and we DO NOTHING but protest.

I won't take more space here. This whole story is given in great detail in my forthcoming book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It will be available in bookstores in March.

But already the noose is around our necks, and is almost daily tightening! Skyrocketing inflation, devaluation of the dollar in all foreign markets, other economic ills are starting GREATLY to reduce our standard of living! I warn you, PREPARE greatly to reduce your standard of living! Even GREATER punishments are to follow! □

Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

something perhaps you have never really understood before. What has been overlooked is that in the CHOICE Adam had to make, God required that he choose which tree to REJECT, *as well as which to TAKE.*

Satan was just around the corner, so to speak, waiting for a chance to tempt Adam into REJECTING God, even as he himself had rejected God, God's LAW and His WAY—God's GOVERNMENT—when he was the archangel Lucifer.

If Adam REJECTED God as Creator, and Ruler over the GOVERNMENT OF GOD—as he did—what did God do?

Actually, the tree of LIFE was symbolic of God's Holy Spirit, but also of God as LORD over the government of God, as source of religion, as revealer of basic knowledge.

Satan tempted Adam through his wife Eve. Adam took of the forbidden tree.

In so doing, he TOOK TO HIMSELF THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT IS EVIL! In so doing he REJECTED God as revealer of that and all basic knowledge, as well as Lord and Ruler in government. He rejected God as Giver of ETERNAL LIFE!

In taking of the forbidden tree, he REJECTED the tree symbolic of the HOLY SPIRIT and sovereignty of God. He REJECTED GOD, God's government, God's WAY of life.

Then what did God do? God drove him out of the garden and BARRED access to the tree of life lest he take, in sin, and receive eternal life. God cut Adam, and the world which would spring from him, OFF from God and the gift of the Holy Spirit—EXCEPT the infinitesimal few God predestined to be specially called in preparation for the future KINGDOM of God.

WAS GOD UNFAIR?

Suppose God had NOT cut mankind off from access to His Holy Spirit. Consider what would have happened!

Satan was still on earth's throne, though disqualified as earthwise ruler. Man would have TAKEN God's Holy Spirit, the gift of eternal life,

without repentance—while being led by Satan, living in sin that would have resulted in an ETERNAL LIFE in total UNHAPPINESS, mental torment, wretchedness, utter hopelessness!

Can you see how it would have been supremely UNFAIR had God allowed man to bring such a fate on himself?

That is WHY God cut mankind off for 6,000 years—until CHRIST could come, REJECT and OVERCOME Satan, take *on Himself* the penalty of human sins, qualify to RULE in GOD's LOVE on that throne of the earth, replacing Satan, and putting Satan AWAY from mankind!

God put mankind—all but the few CALLED—in a state *cut off* from God, but NOT YET JUDGED OR CONDEMNED!

Meanwhile He has called those He chose because they were the ones God felt might REJECT, as Christ had, Satan and His evil ways, ACCEPT the GOVERNMENT OF GOD through faith in Christ, and, as Jesus did, overcome Satan, even though specially tempted by him.

Those of us called now, IF we repent, overcome Satan, this world, and ourselves, shall inherit the KINGDOM OF GOD, and SIT WITH GOD ON HIS THRONE, when we shall then—*with Satan gone*—undertake to SAVE THE WORLD!

Those from Adam to now who died, not yet being judged, will be resurrected to mortal life in the GREAT WHITE THRONE judgment, and be then, after the millennium, called to repentance and the gift of IMMORTAL LIFE—with no Satan to tempt and oppose them!

Above all, the Creator GOD is creating RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY CHARACTER! That comes from REJECTING the evil WAY, and turning voluntarily to the way of God's LOVE.

Satan poses as an angel of LIGHT! He deceives the world into accepting HIM as GOD! He deceives into thinking evil is righteousness, and God's law is evil. He deceives the Christian world into believing that they can gain ETERNAL LIFE *through Christ* WITHOUT repentance of transgressing God's law!

Satan deceives the traditional Christian world into believing they can have free access to the "tree of

life"—eternal life—salvation—while still in their sins.

Jesus warned *first* that "many shall come in my *name*, saying I am Christ, and shall deceive MANY" (Matthew 24:5). He said, through Paul, of these deceived ministers: "For such are FALSE APOSTLES, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles [those sent with the gospel] of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of LIGHT. Therefore it is no great thing if *his ministers* also be transformed [misrepresent themselves] as the ministers of righteousness..." (II Corinthians 11:13-15).

Actually, the false gospel of the professing Christian world represents that God did NOT bar entrance to the "tree of life"—or eternal salvation. But that humanity may freely go right back into that "tree of LIFE" and gain eternal salvation WHILE CONTINUING IN THEIR SINS—while rejecting and transgressing GOD'S LAW—rejecting GOD'S GOVERNMENT which is based on His law (His way of life).

They do *not* preach that sin is "the transgression of the law"—God's SPIRITUAL LAW as summed up in the TEN COMMANDMENTS. Rather they teach falsely that "the law is done away."

About 38 years ago, while the Church was still headquartered in Eugene, Oregon, an evangelistic team from southern California was conducting a tent crusade in the neighboring town of Springfield. There was the principal evangelist, and eight or ten young men of college age. These young men cruised about the town during the day, each carrying a Bible, accosting people on the streets, inviting them to the big tent meetings.

Two of them accosted me.

"Does your preacher teach salvation from SIN?" I asked.

"Oh yes, of course," they answered.

"Well, does he tell them what sin is? What they need to quit doing?"

"Christ died for our sins," they answered.

"Yes, I know. But what is sin? What have we done that is sin? Can you show me in your Bible there, a plain Bible definition, saying 'sin

is . . . and then giving the Bible definition of what sin is?"

"Christ died for our sins," they replied, now becoming defensive.

"But if I come to your meetings, I want to know if your preacher can show me what the BIBLE defines as sin—what is sin. Would one of you run and bring your preacher, so I may ask him direct?"

By this time quite a little group of curiosity seekers had gathered around us. They urged: "Yes, go bring your preacher—let's see if he can answer."

The "great" evangelist came. I asked him the same question.

"Jesus died for our sins," he replied, just as he had instructed his young men.

He refused to answer, or open his Bible and show us the biblical definition of sin. He and his young men slunk away.

The crowd which had gathered laughed. "When someone knows how to ask the right questions, they can't answer from the Bible," one said.

"He could have, but he didn't dare, because he knew if he read the true Bible definition of sin, it would destroy his whole teaching," I said. "Would YOU people like to see that Bible definition?"

They would. I was carrying a briefcase from which I took out my Bible. Turning to I John 3:4, I read, "Sin is the transgression of the law." Then from Romans 7:14, I showed them WHAT law it is sin to transgress—"For we know that the law is spiritual"—that is, a SPIRITUAL law. Romans 7:7: "Is the law sin? [Satan represents that God's spiritual law—His way of life—is evil, but that its transgression is RIGHT.] God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin [what sin is], but by the law." WHAT LAW? ". . . for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." What law said, "Thou shalt not covet"? THE TEN COMMANDMENTS!

This incident illustrates what I mean. A world-famous evangelist tells his vast audiences that death is uncertain—it may strike you when least expected. Someone somewhere may unexpectedly drop dead before tomorrow morning. What would happen to you if that someone should be YOU? If you don't come forward and

accept Christ tonight, you have no insurance for tomorrow—tomorrow may be too late. So, to the mournful tones of the choir singing "Just as I am"—in my sins—"I come, I come," the hundreds and even thousands begin the trek down to the "altar."

The whole teaching of traditional Christianity is that we do not have to REJECT Satan's way of sin—the self-centered way of this world—that we may crash right back through that impassible BARRIER God put to guard the "tree of life"—that we may TAKE immortal life IN OUR SINS!

Jesus came to save us FROM our sins, not IN them. Repentance is toward GOD, and faith is toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We come to God *through* Christ, but Jesus said plainly: "No man CAN COME to me, except the Father which sent me draw him" (John 6:44). YOU or I cannot take the initiative. GOD must first call and draw us to Him. We must first REPENT—square ourselves with GOD the FATHER! There is one Lawgiver—GOD THE FATHER. We must first repent—and repentance is GRANTED by God, and TOWARD GOD (Acts 11:18; 20:21).

On the day of Pentecost, at the very founding of the Church, the inspired Peter said: "REPENT, and be baptised [into Christ] . . . and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Jesus said: "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

We who were predestined to be called by God the Father NOW, were called for our PART—if only by our heartrending prayers for the Work, our tithes, our encouragement, and whatever is delegated to us to do—were called to this DEFINITE GREAT COMMISSION behind Christ's apostle whom He uses as His instrument.

But WE have to overcome SATAN even as Jesus did—as well as Satan's world and the human nature Satan has instilled within us. Those called in the millennium, or in the Great White Throne Judgment, will not have Satan to overcome. On the other hand, WE, if we overcome, shall sit with Christ in His throne at Jerusalem, and be given power to RULE THE NATIONS!

God unfair? NEVER! God is the God of justice to ALL—but to each in HIS TIME and in HIS WAY! □

Ireland

(Continued from page 11)

Ulster oppose violence, but most have been afraid to speak out for fear of retaliation. This silent majority must come to realize that "whosoever will save his life shall lose it" (Mark 8:35). He who allows himself to be intimidated into compromising with men of violence may well lose his life amid the continuing bloodshed they perpetuate. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God," Christ declares (Matthew 5:9).

The people of Northern Ireland must call a halt to violence once and for all. Once the bloodshed ends, it will be far easier for ordinary, decent Irish men and women to put aside their antagonisms and get along with one another.

In the final analysis, peace will come only when the people of Ulster get together and live in Northern Ireland not primarily as Catholics or Protestants but as *Ulstermen*, with a fair political and economic role for all, free of prejudice and bigotry.

Otherwise, the strife in Ulster will continue as before—and probably escalate—further brutalizing the national spirit and holding up as a laughingstock before the world the spectacle of a "religion of peace" destroying a people who profess it.

The good news is that there *will* be peace in Northern Ireland, whether or not Ulstermen choose to have it *now*. If they will not solve the problem themselves, it will ultimately be solved *for them*—by the returning Christ in His soon-to-be established millennial rule over this earth. At that time—for Ireland and for the world at large—the Bible predicts that "violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders" (Isaiah 60:18).

Will the slaughter continue in Ulster in the days ahead? Will there be more tragedies yet to come? The answer is up to the men and women of Ulster. "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you," God declares, "that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore *choose life*, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19). □