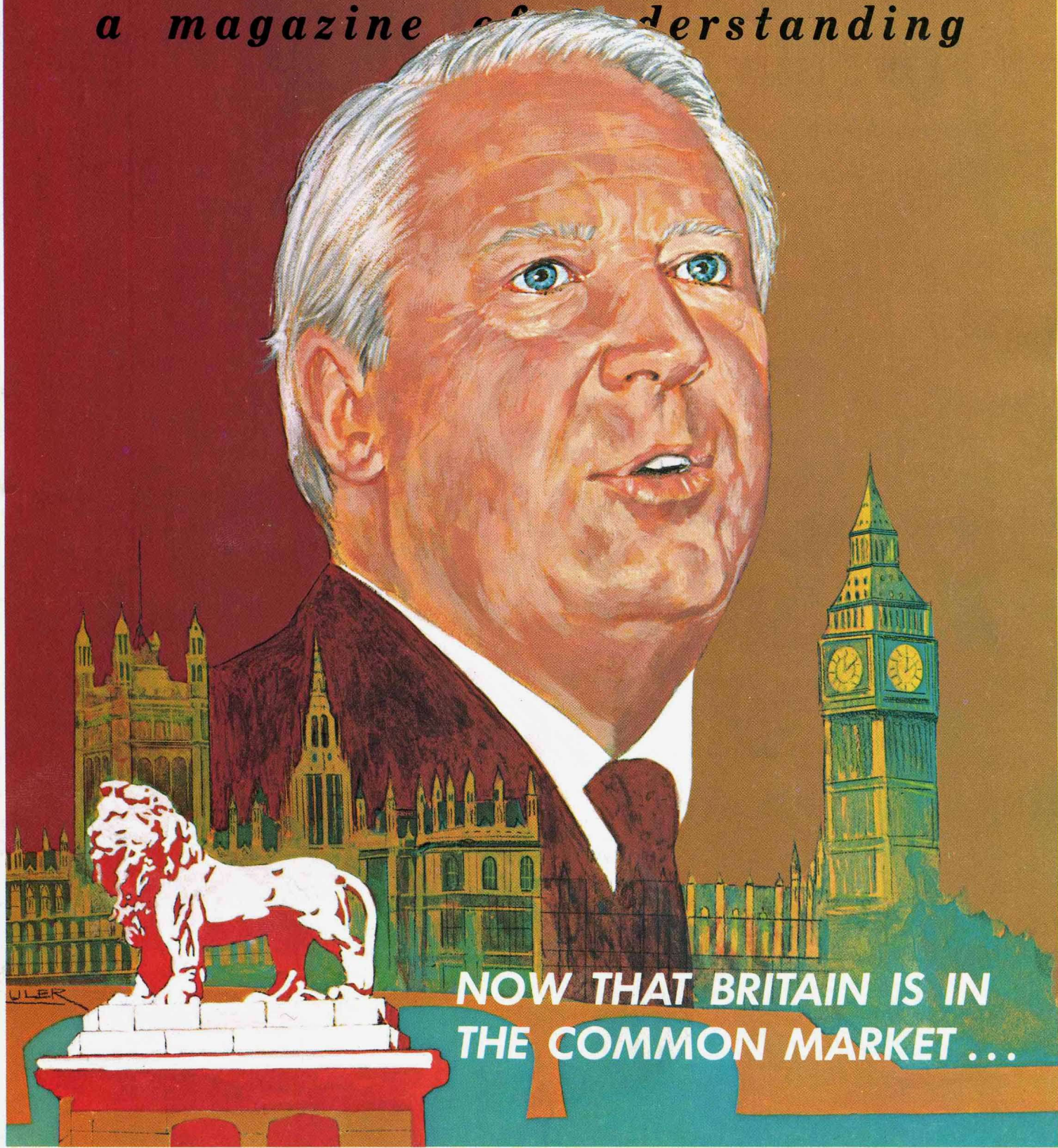


the
PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



**NOW THAT BRITAIN IS IN
THE COMMON MARKET ...**

Personal from

Robert A. Rosenberg

The HIDDEN Knowledge

I WAS driven by automobile, a few months ago, within ten miles of the Red Chinese border. I visited, at that point, a world-famous carpet and rug factory. I inspected samples and arranged for production of the special carpeting for the new auditorium now under construction on the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena.

The managing director of the rug company drove me out to the factory and back. Along the way, he pointed out a district of hillside residences. He said the people of this comparatively small district represented many different religions — Buddhism, Shintoism, Taoism, Hinduism, Roman Catholicism, Protestantism. “They’re very tolerant toward religions other than their own,” he said. “Even different members of one family living in the same house may belong to as many as three different religions.”

I couldn’t help asking myself, “Why so many different religions in the world?” No two agree. Yet I suppose most feel that theirs is the one and only RIGHT religion.

And then there are the millions, religious and nonreligious, who, through modern education, accept the theory of evolution. Evolution is a theory UNPROVED, and by its very nature UNPROVABLE. Therefore it is

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION winds its way through the streets of Hong Kong.

another FAITH OR BELIEF, even though most of its adherents may not think of it as a RELIGION.

Why do people believe whatever they do? How did they come to believe it? Do you know that most people never stop to ask themselves those questions? Of course most who accept a religion were simply brought up to believe the particular

religion of their parents, or of their part of the world. They never made an examination of it, or of other religions, to PROVE whether it is true. And that is true of most who accept the evolutionary theory of origins. That is, they were taught it in school — in college or the university — and they simply went along with the

(Continued on page 46)





EUROPEAN UNITY has taken a significant stride forward with the addition of England, Ireland, and Denmark to the original six members of the Common Market — West Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

Bill Schuler — Plain Truth Art

PROSPERITY OR CALAMITY?

Now That Britain Is in the Common Market

Before there is a final prosperity in utopian peace and well-being, grave things are prophesied for Britain and Europe.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

BRITAIN is going to look back on Monday, January 1, 1973, in all probability, as a most tragically historic date — a date fraught with ominous potentialities! For that date marked the United Kingdom's entry into the European Community.

But one could logically ask, how could that event portend anything unhappy for the United Kingdom? Probably a majority in Britain initially looked forward to Common Market entry with approval.

Humans seldom foresee unexpected happenings. But prophecy pinpoints the major events in the world's imminent future that will affect us all!

For 39 years now, I've been telling our radio audience and PLAIN TRUTH readers that a political union of ten nations in Europe would rise, resurrecting the Holy Roman Em-

pire of the Middle Ages. I was predicting this even before World War II. Of course, almost no one believed me, then.

Four years before Adolf Hitler plunged the world into World War II, an article appeared in the July 1935 PLAIN TRUTH. That article might have been summarized by this sentence in it: "Out of the present Italy is to emerge a reincarnation of the once great and powerful Roman Empire, by an alliance of ten nations within its territory."

To Start as an Economic Movement

Biblical prophecy revealed that this empire would start as an economic movement — that it would bring an era of unusual prosperity to Europe. It did start in March, 1957, when six European countries

— West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg signed the Treaty of Rome, creating the European Economic Community (EEC). It has been known, of course, as the Common Market. And it came into active being on January 1, 1958. Immediately, "the Six" began to enjoy a new wave of prosperity.

For years, European nations have wanted to *unite politically*, in a sort of "United States of Europe." But so far, political union has posed more problems than they have been able to solve. While President Charles de Gaulle of France lived, Germany would never have yielded to accept him as ruler over Germany. The French would not accept a German. Until some man emerged, one whom *all* could accept as a supreme authority, it seemed that they were totally stymied. Meanwhile,

long-range economic plans are already more than a year under way in a ten-year program for establishing a common currency for European nations. But if the greater problem of achieving political union could be hurdled, the common currency might be produced very quickly.

Ten — But Not Same Ten

This January 1, 1973 date marked also the entry of the Irish Republic and Denmark into the European Community. For a while, it was scheduled to include ten nations. Norway had applied. But in a referendum, Norway voted to stay out. However, the anticipated ten would not, in all probability, have been the prophesied ten.

How did I know, as far back as 1927, that this coming United States of Europe would spring up — *in our time?* I knew because I saw it clearly revealed in Biblical prophecy. Of course it's true that almost no one understands Biblical prophecy. But no wonder! For almost no one understands what the gospel of Jesus Christ is, or *where* and *how* in prophecy the United States and British Commonwealth are identified.

There has, of course, been much preaching of a Gospel about Jesus Christ. In that sense, Christ has been much preached to the world. But not His Gospel! Not the Gospel He personally taught.

Very few have realized that Jesus came with *a news announcement!* The very word "Gospel" means "Good News." And it's made very plain in the New Testament. Jesus taught the good news of the Kingdom of God. Yet few have understood what the Kingdom of God really is. You should write for our free booklet, *Just What Do You Mean . . . Kingdom of God?* It contains vital knowledge, little understood.

Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is the government of God, which is going to rule all the nations of the earth to bring world peace

and salvation with eternal life as God's gift. He taught that the Kingdom of God is not only the coming world-ruling government, but also the ruling divine family into which we may be born. You should also request the free booklet, *Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?* Nothing has been more misunderstood! Nothing is so important! Yet it's very plain and clear in the Bible! Write for these booklets and get the surprise of your life when you see these clear truths *in your own Bible!*

Jesus gave descriptions of the Kingdom of God. He described it in many parables — yet for eighteen and a half centuries, this truth — this Gospel — was not preached to the whole world. It's been right there in the Bible all these years! It's plain and clear. But *don't ask me why it wasn't proclaimed to the world!*

There is a direct and most vital connection between this true Gospel, which Christ taught, and the uniting of ten nations in Europe. The Gospel Jesus brought from God — the good news He announced — was news of the future! For that Kingdom of world rule was not set up in His day, nor has it even yet been set up! So Christ's Gospel — this news announcement — was, in itself, *prophecy*. Did you ever wonder why approximately one third of the Bible is devoted to prophecy? Prophecy is directly connected with the true Gospel.

The prophecies of the book of Daniel are connected with the Kingdom of God — and therefore with the Gospel.

In the second chapter of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon ruled over the very first world-empire — the Chaldean Empire. This was 600 years before Christ. Nebuchadnezzar had a most unusual dream. God used the prophet Daniel to interpret the meaning of that dream. In it, this Chaldean king saw a frightfully large metallic image.

Describing and interpreting it, Daniel said: "This image's head was

of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest *till . . .*" — notice a time element is introduced — till certain events occur — ". . . till that a stone was cut out without hands [supernaturally] which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces" (Daniel 2:32-34).

Of course, these parts of the image were symbols. But Daniel interpreted the symbols:

"This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O King, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. . . . Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron. . . . and as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. . . . And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom . . . shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:36-44).

So here in this prophecy, we see a time sequence of *governments*, commencing with the first world empire, 600 years before Christ, continuing down through time to, and past, our time — even to the setting up of the Kingdom of God. So Christ's Gospel was concerned with a succession of governments, climaxing in the government of God.

The panorama of prophecy of these same kingdoms continues in the seventh chapter of Daniel.

In that chapter, Daniel had a prophetic dream. He saw four wild animals. The first was like a lion. The second was like a bear, and the third was like a leopard which had four heads. A fourth beast was unlike any of the others — stronger, more

terrible than the previous three, and with great iron teeth. Out of the head of this fourth beast grew ten horns.

Daniel was given the interpretation of the dream. The lion was Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldean Empire (Babylon). The bear was the Persian Empire, and the leopard represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire with four divisions. The fourth beast was the Roman Empire. The horns were other governments which came out of the Roman Empire after its fall (A.D. 476). The first three horns were uprooted between A.D. 493 and A.D. 554 by a smaller horn, representing a religious kingdom. It persecuted "the saints" — people of God — until the establishment of the Kingdom of God, when "the saints" will possess the Kingdom and rule.

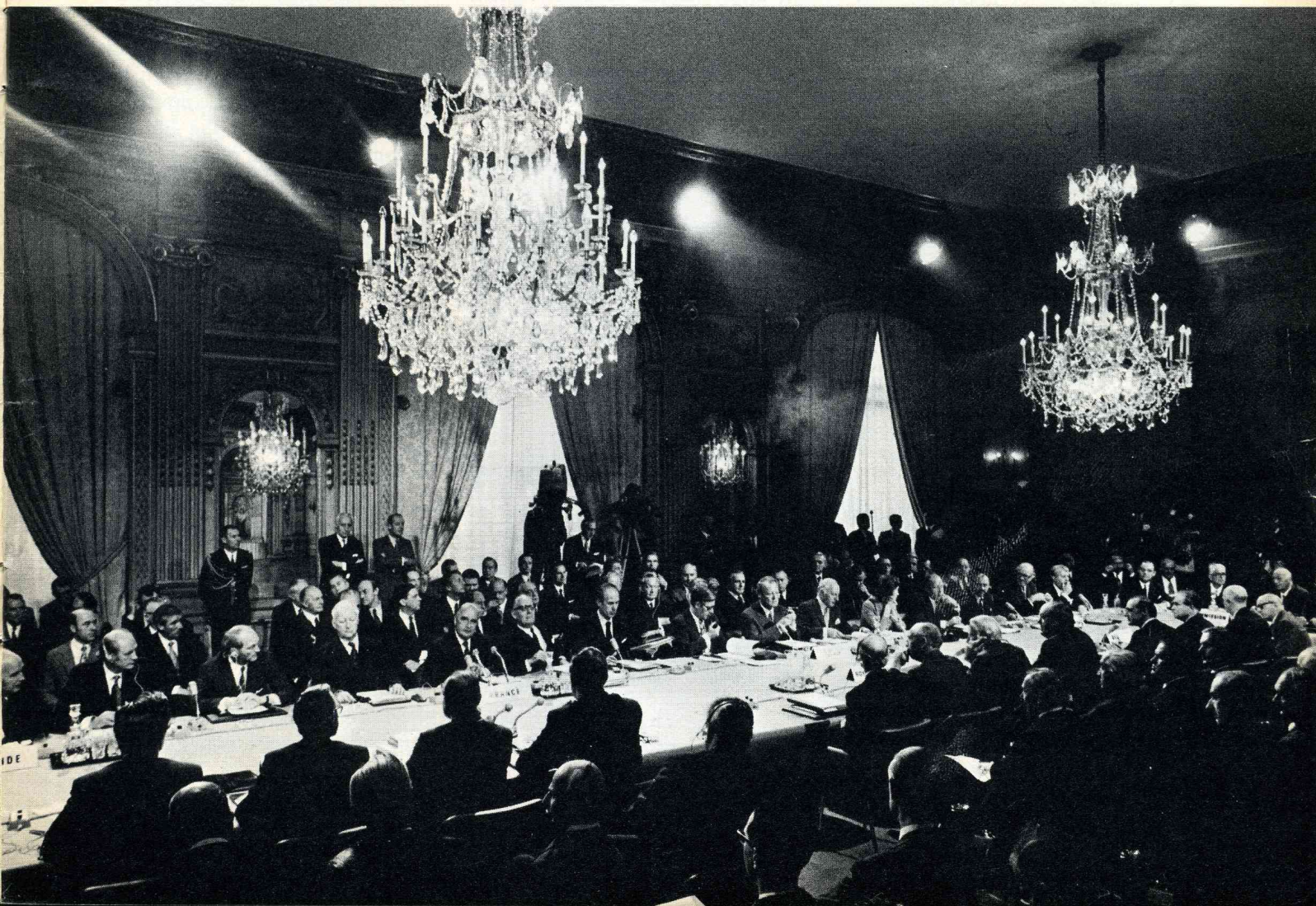
Next came a succession of five kingdoms — or governments — carried on in the 13th chapter of Revelation. John, the apostle who wrote the book of Revelation, saw in vision one wild animal — like a leopard, with the feet of a bear, the mouth of a lion, with seven heads and ten horns and crowns on the horns (not heads). A dragon, interpreted in the 12th chapter of Revelation to be the Devil, gave this beast his power, and his seat and great authority — a government. This one beast, the Roman Empire, is the one that had all the strengths of Daniel's four beasts which had a total of seven heads. But the crowns on its horns depict a time after the fall of the ancient Roman Empire — when the deadly wound was healed. Five of the horns continued for 1260 years.

Now remember, there were, in the book of Daniel, seven heads, but only four wild animals. But Daniel's leopard had four heads. This leopard was a symbol for the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great. After Alexander conquered the Persian Empire, he died from illness ten days after a prolonged banquet and drinking bout. About ten years later, his vast empire was split up into four major divisions by his four top generals. The Roman Empire absorbed all four. So the animal John saw in the 13th chapter of Revelation was the Roman Empire, which dated from 31 B.C. to A.D. 476.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, three smaller governments ruled the West — the Vandals, the Heruli and the Ostrogoths. But they were totally uprooted. Not a vestige

AN HISTORIC FIRST — Chiefs of State of the nine member nations of the newly expanded Common Market make history in their first Summit Conference, held in Paris in October 1972.

Bundesbildstelle Photo



of them remained. That left seven more governments to come, symbolized by the last seven of the ten horns out of this seventh head — that is, continuing after the fall of the Roman Empire through the Middle Ages and again in our time. The reestablishment of the empire occurred in A.D. 554. Remember, the prophecy in the 13th chapter of Revelation said it would continue 1260 years.

The last seven eras of government symbolized by the last seven of the ten horns of the Roman Empire formed, as it were, an eighth kingdom, which was like a continuing part of Daniel's preceding seven government heads. This is pictured as the beast or animal, described in the 17th chapter of Revelation. Through the High Middle Ages, it was called the Holy Roman Empire. It began in A.D. 554, under Justinian. The second head of government, represented by this 17th chapter beast — or animal — was Charlemagne, A.D. 800 — the

Frankish head of state. He was followed by the third head of state, Otto the Great, of the German dynasty. The fourth head of state was the Hapsburg dynasty, culminating in the reign of Charles the Great. The fifth head of state was Napoleon. Napoleon's dynasty ended in 1814. These five heads of states were symbolized by the first five heads of the 17th chapter beast (of Revelation). Throughout these periods of rise and fall, religion was the most significant institution to provide continuity to the Holy Roman Empire. It provided continuity when the political power failed.

Now the prophetic time in which the apostle John appears to have seen the next sequence of events in his vision was approximately 1934-1937. John wrote, "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the founda-

tion of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is" (Revelation 17:8).

Now continuing, "And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" (Rev. 17:9-14).

So you see the time described — as if looking forward from about 1935 to the second coming of Christ. The ten horns on the seventh head are yet to come, but are now beginning to rise through the European Community. These picture the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. It was, through the Middle Ages, and of necessity will be, a *united church and state empire*. There is no other kind of union that can provide the unity Europe has been seeking.

I said at the beginning, Britain's entry into the European Community portends a tragic situation. Britain will be faced with a dilemma. Will she abandon Protestantism? She will be forced to do this if she is to have a permanent role with the other nine that will form this United Europe! Today's violence in Northern Ireland is the tragic beginning of a generally unforeseen religious struggle that will be intensified throughout the Western world when the European Community becomes a united political union. □

ON JANUARY 1, after signing the treaty at Brussels, Britain formally entered the Common Market. This epochal event will have tremendous impact on the future of European union.

Alfred Hennig — Plain Truth Photo



Personal from



(Continued from page 1)

others who were being taught it, and simply ASSUMED it to be truth.

But something must be lacking in them all! For none has really made this a better world. None has shown us the WAY to a lasting world PEACE. None has the answer to all the poverty, the destitution, the illiteracy, the filth and squalor of the hundreds of millions in Asia, Africa, South America — or to the moral degeneracy, the tragedy of broken marriages and split-up families, the crime, the violence, the discontent throughout our supposedly educated and affluent Western world.

Not one of these religions — nor the evolutionists — nor modern science — has been able to explain *why* man is *as he is* — with the almost AWESOME human mind that can send men to the moon and back, but can't solve his problems here on earth.

Do you know that there *is* a source that *does* explain all this? There is a source that can be PROVED to be true — and the *only* source that can give us the answers. It is the source the Christian religion is supposed to follow, but *doesn't*! It is a source not followed by the Eastern religions — a source rejected by modern science. This very REJECTION is the REASON that modern science offers NO SOLUTION for humanity's greater problems — the way to lasting world PEACE — the way to universal happiness, prosperity, and abundant well-being.

You can PROVE the existence of God, the Creator of all, the Ruler of all, and the Great Educator, whose revelation of BASIC KNOWLEDGE is the FOUNDATION of ALL knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

You can prove the authenticity

and the AUTHORITY of the revelation of that Supreme God — which revelation we call the Bible. Why not write for the free booklet titled *Does God Exist?*, and another booklet as well, also gratis, *Seven Proofs God Exists*.

Why is there so much MISSING knowledge? Or, why is the most VITAL and important knowledge MISSING? And on the other hand, WHY is there so much MIS-knowledge — so many fallacies, fables, untruths being taught in the guise of fact or of truth?

Let me tell you, when you really let the true answer to those questions come into your mind, you'll be on the way to understanding this whole riddle of life — and the REASON for the really terrible and sickening conditions that exist on this earth today.

Let me tell you some of the vital factors of knowledge that have been HIDDEN from this world — yes, hidden from the world's leading educators, hidden from modern science, hidden from all religions, hidden from statesmen, heads of state, and the world's rulers, hidden from the public — yes, and hidden from YOU!

One vital factor of knowledge hidden from the world is knowledge of the CAUSE of a lasting world PEACE — and, conversely, knowledge of the CAUSE of the lack of it!

Another vital factor of knowledge hidden from the world is the true MEANING of life — the PURPOSE for which humanity was put here on the earth. Another is the REASON why man can invent such marvelous machines, can fly to the moon, yet *can't* solve his own problems here on earth.

The Bible is our Maker's Instruction Manual — His basic revelation of necessary knowledge. And this book claims that ALL mankind, as a whole, is *deceived*! All nations are deceived. Listen! Let me show it to you. "The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which *deceiveth the whole world*" (Revelation 12:9).

Notice Jesus' warning: "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

"All these are the beginning of sorrows

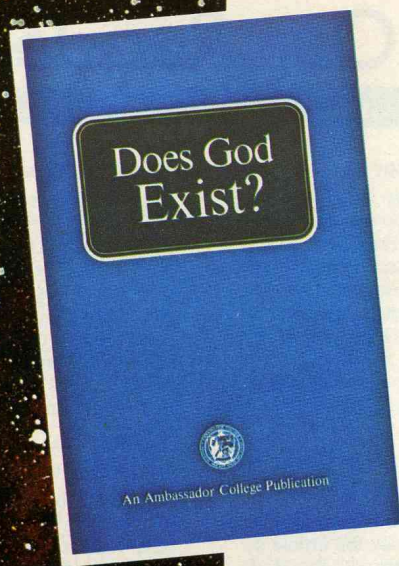
"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:5-8, 11, 24).

And notice the apostle Paul's warning to the Gentile Corinthians: "... the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them . . . for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (II Corinthians 4:4; 11:14-15).

These passages represent Satan the devil as the arch-deceiver of mankind. Probably most people today are deceived into thinking there is no devil. The very arch-deceiver has deceived the world into thinking he doesn't exist and untold millions into thinking that God doesn't even exist.

Another important fact the knowledge of which has been hidden from the world is that there was once peace on this earth — peace worldwide — happiness, joy! Originally this world was populated with angels — not humans. And that's another bit of knowledge hidden from most people today. So let us



Saritka Solomon — Art

YOU NEED TO KNOW!

THE QUESTION of God's existence has been debated by theologians, scholars, and scientists for centuries. But never was this question more relevant than today. Atheists deny God's existence. Most religious people ASSUME that He exists. It's time you read the evidence for yourself in this intriguing booklet — *Does God Exist?*

See inside front cover for address of PLAIN TRUTH office nearest you.

now notice the very first verse in all the Bible: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

The Hebrew words in which Moses originally wrote that sentence imply a perfect creation — not one in chaos and confusion, as described in the second verse. Many scriptures in other parts of the Bible reveal great world-shaking events that occurred between the time of the first and second verses of Genesis one.

In the book of Job the original creation is described as so perfect and so beautiful that the angels shouted for joy. God the Creator is described as asking Job: "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy" (Job 38:4, 7).

There was worldwide peace on earth for some time after the earth was first created, because the government of God was being administered here then. For how long a duration is not revealed. It could have been millions of years. In any event it lasted until about 6,000 years ago.

When this earth was first created, God the Creator-Ruler of the uni-

verse set one of two highest-ranking archangels — a cherub — who was thoroughly experienced in the administration of God's government as King to administer the government of God over the earth.

And all that, too, is knowledge hidden from the world today. And that involves also another important bit of hidden knowledge — the very ORIGIN of this Satan, the devil. Where did he come from? Did God deliberately create a devil?

Notice Ezekiel's description of the origin of Satan: "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering . . . the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast *created*. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast *created*, till iniquity was found in thee . . . thou hast sinned. Therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain

of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee" (Ezekiel 28:12-17).

The real ruler of the ancient city of Tyre, the economic giant of those days, was Satan.

Notice what Isaiah reveals about this Lucifer or Satan. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit" (Isaiah 14:12-15).

This super archangel who became Satan led one third of all the angels — the whole earth's population — in his war of aggression. And he is deceiving the whole earth today!

As a result of this colossal earth-wide mutiny and rebellion against the government of God, a physical

destruction put this whole earth into chaos and darkness, and that's what we find described in Genesis 1:2: "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Then in six days God RENEWED the face of the earth: "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth" (Psalm 104:30).

So now, notice the first thing God did in *renewing* the face of the earth: "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light" (Genesis 1:3).

It was on the sixth day of renewing the face of the earth that God created the first HUMANS — when MAN was first put here on this earth — and for a tremendous purpose which also has been WITHHELD from public knowledge. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:26).

Satan DECEIVED the first woman and got to Adam through his wife. Adam rejected God's revealed knowledge — just as humanity has been doing ever since — disobeyed the government of God, allowed the SAME ATTITUDE that Satan had to enter his heart — the self-centered attitude of vanity, lust and greed, of selfishness, of resentment against authority — especially the authority of God — of total unconcern for the good or welfare of others, of jealousy, envy, and hatred.

And all humanity, under the sway of this active Satan, is traveling that way of life still. And that is the very CAUSE of all humanity's ills and evils in this sick, sick world today.

Happily, the time is coming, SOON, when this whole world is going to be jolted into waking up to this vital knowledge, so long HIDDEN from a sleeping and sick world! □

What Our Readers Say

Personal from the Editor

I received my first copy of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and especially enjoyed the article about General Suharto, President of Indonesia. Also the article concerning "What is a real Christian." It was very revealing and helpful. I am sincerely grateful to everyone that made this study of God's Word, the Bible, possible.

Earl S.,
Coal City, West Virginia

Blood Money — The High Costs of War

I just received my second issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. And I must say the article by Gary Alexander, "Blood Money, the High Costs of War" was not only the plain truth, but the plain shock!

Jeanne E.,
Weatherby, Pennsylvania

Human Machines

That was a very fine article in the November issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, "Turning Workers into Human Machines." This article has touched on a subject that is going to be brought into much sharper focus in the very near future.

I have worked in one of the local G.M. plants as a tool and die maker for the past fourteen years and have been watching this problem of job dissatisfaction or job boredom growing worse year by year. Over the past years, as this problem has been growing, I feel that it was hoped higher wages and increased benefits might offset it, but the problem cannot be cured that way. A job that has become so boring and meaningless that an individual can't stand to go to work will never be cured by this means.

Raymond S.,
Saginaw, Michigan

Disenchantment With Science?

No wonder everyone is becoming so disenchanted with science today. Science has promised us a glamor world, but our world of today is in such a chaotic mess — suffering from an overdose of science. D. S. Winnail described it very well in his article, "Why the Growing Disenchantment With Science?" I applaud D. S. Winnail and his article in daring to "tell it like it is."

Virgil H.,
Chattanooga, Tennessee

I agree with your article "Why the Growing Disenchantment With Science." This change was easily foreseen. When we (with our advanced technology) can spend \$200,000 to kill one human being in Vietnam and can't even walk the streets at night for fear of being mugged, you know that something is wrong.

Kevin M.,
Stacyville, Iowa

What Is a Real Christian?

I just finished reading "What Is a Real Christian?" for the second time. I have never really known what a real Christian was until I read this article. I do wish I could be a real Christian. Some people tell me I don't have to work at being a Christian. I say you do. Others tell me just have faith. That isn't easy either. I am so confused. Seems the older a person gets, the less we understand.

Myrtle S.,
Eugene, Oregon

A copy of your magazine, *The PLAIN TRUTH*, has been given me by a friend. I have read it from front to back and love it, especially "What Is a Real Christian?" I find I have been believing the wrong way. I would like very much to enroll in your *Ambassador College Correspondence Course*. I will welcome any literature pertaining to the word of God. Being a Sunday school teacher, I must teach the truth.

Ernest A.,
Norris City, Illinois

Is Heaven Our Reward?

I have one question regarding Garner Ted Armstrong's article "What is a Real Christian?" He stated: "Nowhere in all the Bible is heaven promised as the reward of the saved." Here is a quote from *The Living Bible*, paraphrased, John 14:2-3: "There are many homes *up there* where my Father lives, and I am going to prepare them for your coming. When everything is ready, then I will come and get you, so that you can always be with me where I am."

Doesn't this imply that sometime in the future God's chosen will be *up there* (heaven) in the home prepared by Christ? I would appreciate clarification of this point in my mind.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill B.,
Dallas, Texas

● *The quotation from The Living Bible, as you yourself noted, is "paraphrased." The paraphrase is simply incorrect. Other modern translations, such as the Moffatt, Goodspeed or Revised Standard Version, have this verse correctly translated into modern English. Jesus was not talking about "homes," but rather, rooms or offices — positions of responsibility in the Kingdom of God. Christ is now preparing the offices, jobs and responsibilities which He will bestow upon true Christians when He returns. Our reward is now, presently, being "kept in heaven" for us (I Peter 1:4). Jesus is going to bring our rewards with Him when He returns to earth. Moffatt puts it this way: "Lo, I am coming very soon, with my reward, to requite everyone for what he has done" (Revelation 22:12). Write for our free article, "What Is the Place That Jesus Is Preparing?" for a more detailed explanation of this much misunderstood subject.*