The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

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Prophesied to Happen to the UNITED STATES!

Our people would be dumbfounded!—if they knew! The American and British governments would make drastic changes immediately in their foreign policies, IF THEY KNEW!

With this 20th anniversary number, we begin the publication, serially, of Mr. Armstrong's forthcoming book—the most startling and eye-opening book, we believe, of this generation.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

HY HAVE our nations not been warned of this before?

It's time this great American nation, together with the British Commonwealth, knew the staggering turn of events prophesied for them in the next few years.

This has never, to my knowledge, been published before. Yet 90%, approximately, of all Biblical prophecy is concerned with it! And a third of the entire Bible is *prophecy*! WHY has it been ignored?

We of the United States and British Commonwealth nations are involved as the central powers in soon-to-occur world-shaking events that will dwarf the first two world wars to insignificance. Our immediate destiny is laid bare in these momentous prophecies. If we knew, we could change our course and avert the most colossal disaster of all history. If you know, you can have complete protection.

But our peoples do not know! Our statesmen and heads of government do not know—and will not believe!

If our peoples and their leaders have become too dull of hearing to comprehend, or too stiff-necked to heed, the Eternal our God has decreed that this warning must nevertheless be published as a witness, that they be left without excuse

Prophecies Grievously Misunderstood

The prophecies of the Bible have been grievously misunderstood.

And no wonder! For the vital KEY, without which prophetic doors cannot be opened to understanding, had become lost. That key is a definite knowledge of the true identity of the American and British peoples in prophecy.

And even the very few who, in our time, have at last come to recognize our prophetic identity, have somehow been totally blinded to what is prophesied for our immediate future!

WHERE do we find the United States and Britain, together with the democratic

nations of Northwestern Europe, mentioned in Biblical prophecies? Yes, WHERE?

Think this through! We are the wealthiest of nations. We have been the most powerful. We are of the same family of peoples. Together we possess more than two-thirds of all the wealth and developed resources of the world. All other nations, combined, have little more than a fourth distributed among them.

Amazing though it is, we have acquired nearly all of our national wealth and greatness since the year 1800! Never in history did anything like this occur. Never did any people or nation spread out and grow so rapidly and suddenly into such magnitude of wealth and power. Never was any people so rich.

Why?

Could Prophecy Ignore Us?

Consider, too, that our peoples constitute the HOME, and the last defense, of what true Christianity may survive. It is our peoples who have sent missionaries into every land. It is our nations who have printed and distributed Bibles by unbelievable millions of copies in the

languages of all peoples.

We know that Bible prophecies refer definitely to Ethiopia, Libya, Egypt, Greece—and, through other terms of identification to Russia, Turkey, Italy, and others. *Could* these prophecies of twentieth-century world disturbances, then, ignore world-dominant Christian-professing powers like the United States and the British Commonwealth nations? Is it reasonable?

Assuredly it is not. Nor are we ignored! The plain truth is, we are mentioned more often than any other race or nation! Yet our true identity has been hidden from the many, and only recently revealed to the very few.

The plain and simple Bible story of our ancestry, and our modern prophetic identity, is the most amazing—the most astounding—the most fascinating and interesting story you ever read. It is really the story-thread of the Bible itself. It's TRUE. Yet no story of fiction ever was so strange, so absorbing, so packed with suspense and interest, as this gripping story of the Bible.

Our Wealth Promised Abraham

Millenniums ago, this same national greatness, wealth and power was promised by the Almighty to Abraham. Yet few have ever noticed this astonishing fact in Scripture.

We must realize, if we would understand the Bible, its prophecies, or national identities, a peculiar fact. The Holy Bible is the particular Book of a definite nationality—the children of ISRAEL. It is undeniable! It's history, from Genesis to Revelation, is primarily the history of one nation or people—the Israelites. Other nations are mentioned only insofar as they come into contact with Israel.

All its prophecy, too, pertains primarily to this people of ISRAEL, and to other nations only insofar as they come into contact with Israel.

The Bible tells of these Israelites and their God. It was inspired by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, committed to writing through Israelites exclusively, and was preserved until after the New Testament was written by these Israelites.

In its sacred passages we read that all the promises and the covenants of God, all the sonship and the glory, belong solely to ISRAEL. (Romans 9:4).

The Bible is an Israelitish Book, preeminently of and for the Israelitish nationality, inspired by their God, through their prophets! Is it not, indeed, strange that we English-speaking peoples, together with those of the democratic nations of Northwestern Europe, are today the greatest believers in and exponents of this Book of the Hebrew people—that we are the chief worshippers of Israel's God and Israel's Messiah?

The more these facts are realized, the more apparent it becomes that a full knowledge of these Israelites is necessary to a right understanding of the Holy Bible, which is chiefly concerned with them as a people.

Let us remember, as we approach this fascinating story, that the Bible is concerned with the material, the fleshly, the literal, racial and NATIONAL, as well as with the spiritual. Let us not spiritualize away national things, nor nationalize spiritual things. Let us UNDERSTAND the sacred Word of God as it is!

Nation Began With One Man

Before the days of Moses, there was no nation on earth known as God's particular nation. Prior to Moses there was no written Word of God—no inspired Scriptures—no Holy Bible.

Think of it! For more than two thousand five hundred years—two and a half millenniums-mankind existed without any written revelation from God. The only historic record of God's dealing with mankind prior to Israel is the revealed history of the Bible. And of the entire Bible, only the first Book, Genesis is devoted to the history of that first 2500 years-almost balf of the existence of human life upon earth! And only the first eleven of the fifty chapters of Genesis are devoted to the entire history of the world prior to Abraham—the first approximately 2,000 years—more than one-third of its entire span!

God began this world with just one man—Adam. Whatever God does through human agencies must start the smallest, and, like the grain of mustard seed, grow big. To this first man God communicated directly and personally. God revealed all essential knowledge otherwise inaccessible to the human mind.

The basic essentials of all knowledge—what is man?—WHY is he here?—what's the PURPOSE of life?—what is the WAY of life that will produce peace, health, prosperity, happiness and joy?—what is man's END—his destiny?—God revealed this basis of all knowledge to the first man.

God revealed HIMSELF to Adam—the Eternal Creator-Ruler of earth and all the universe. God revealed to Adam that he was only mortal—that he was here to learn and of his own volition choose to live THE WAY of God's Law, under God's rule, to achieve perfect happiness and righteous character. God revealed that under these conditions he could inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God, freely offered through the symbolic tree of LIFE in the Garden of Eden. But God also revealed that Adam was mortal flesh, of the dust of the ground, and that the

penalty for self-will in disobedience would be DEATH for eternity.

But Adam listened to Satan and leaned to his own human understanding. Making God out a liar he reasoned that he was already an immortal soul. He disobeyed God, and set out on the human course of greed and vanity. He was driven from the Garden of Eden, lest he now take of the tree of LIFE, and gain immortality in unhappiness and suffering.

As men began to multiply on earth, Adam's son's followed in his Satan-inspired human-nature course. Abel was called righteous; Enoch walked with God; and Noah was a preacher of righteousness, which is, simply, obedience to GOD's government (Ps. 119:172). Aside from these three and possibly Shem, there is no record that ANY man, prior to Abraham, yielded to the rule of the Eternal God.

After the flood, men surely should have learned their lesson. But human nature is enmity toward—hostile against—God (Rom. 8:7). And in only the third generation from Noah a man of great capacity and leadership rose up who set out to "emancipate" men from the rule of God. Nimrod made himself a ruler. He was the world's first despot (Gen. 10:8—Moffatt translation). He built the first cities this side of the flood—Nineveh, Babylon, and others.

As he was the world's first HUMAN king, his wife, Semiramis, was its first queen. As Nimrod "emancipated" mankind from the RULE of God, Semiramis "freed" the human race from the WORSHIP of God, and by use of secrecy, mysticism and deception set herself up as the object of worship. She became the idolatrous "Queen of Heaven," (Jer. 13:18). She was the originator of idol worship. From her sprang the world's religions, which have evolved into different forms in different nations.

As the earth rapidly repopulated and nations developed and grew, men lost all knowledge of the true Creator-Ruler and of His revelation of man's composition and nature, his purpose, the WAY of God to peace and happiness, and to life eternal. Man pursued his *own* ways and devices, walking contrary to the spiritual laws of God. Once again sin and violence filled the earth.

It was in such a world, strayed FAR from God and the glorious benefits of God's rule and the worship of the true God, that the Eternal selected one man who was honest and upright, submissive and teachable, strong and purposeful, and gave him a test-command of obedience.

To this man, Abram, God commanded, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:

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Does GOD Exist?

Can the existence of God be scientifically proved? Where did the first life come from? Can we know whether God possesses MIND power? Here is Mr. Armstrong's reply to the atheist, as broadcast over the ABC network, Coast to Coast, and to all Europe and Britain over the superpower Radio Luxembourg.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

AKE no mistake! . . . there's a CAUSE for the disturbances, the unhappiness, and all the suffering in the world today!

People everywhere long for PEACE prosperity, happiness. But our leaders are unable to point the way! We live in a world of perplexity—a world groping in the dark in a vain search for the knowledge of the WAY OUT of world chaos, and of individual empty and

unhappy lives.

I wonder if you ever stopped to reflect that the unhappy conditions of this twentieth century have followed in the wake of an educational trend? This trend has gripped human leaders in its clutch! It is a drift into materialism, in which spiritual and moral values have relaxed, and men have become increasingly more skeptical about the existence of GOD, until today most of mankind has FORGOTTEN GOD! The world today has become totally unmindful of the *PUR-POSE* BEING WORKED OUT HERE BELOW!

Is God a Myth?

Let's face this question! Is it rational to believe in God? Is God a myth—an invention of an ignorant, superstitious past? Many have asked me that question.

In today's upset and chaotic world, the question of religion is disturbing increasing numbers of people. Many want the TRUTH! They are through taking things for granted, blindly assuming what is popularly taught. They want to KNOW! They want PROOF!

You know, I think you ought to feel the same way about it!

The place to *start* an honest search for the TRUTH is GOD, Himself. It ought to be the very first question in every life to ask,—and to prove— WHETHER GOD EXISTS!

So, LOOK ABOUT YOU, today! How did this earth come to be here—and all life upon it? Where did force and energy come from—and all the continuous automatic action we term the laws of physics and of chemistry? The sun, the moon, the planets—the stars

and galaxies in the heavens—how did this all come to be? Did they all come by the processes postulated in the theory of evolution—or IS THERE A SUPREME CREATOR?

The FACTS of Science

There are those who reject any inspiration or AUTHORITY in the Bible. So let's look, first, to the facts of science. What has science actually determined?

Well, first, the discovery of radioactivity in the past half century has proved that there has been no past eternity of matter. There was a time when matter did not exist.

Listen to the thrilling disclosure brought to light by the discovery of radio-active elements! Radio activity is described as a process of disintegration. The atomic age is opening new fields to explore! Until about 50 years ago, it was supposed that the smallest particle of matter was the hydrogen atom. But the discovery of radio-activity, in 1898, revealed an infinitely smaller unit-so small, it requires 1,845 of these particles to equal the mass of one hydrogen ATOM-actually a small particle of negative electricity, called an electron. Soon it was discovered that radium and the other radio-active elements are continually throwing off radiations at an enormous rate.

You can see this, yourself, in the dark-room of an X-ray laboratory. A tiny portion of radium is placed on a mirror at the far end of a hollow tube. You look into this tube through a magnifying glass at the end opposite the mirror. Under this magnification you will be startled to see what will appear as a large, vast dark sky, and out of that sky you will see thousands of shooting stars hurtling toward you from all directions! Actually what you will see are these emanations, or tiny particles being emitted by the radium, greatly magnified.

Astounding Evidence of Radio-Activity

Now listen carefully! Understand

what this newly-disclosed fact of science MEANS: Uranium is a radio-active element heavier than radium. It has an atomic weight of 238.5. It gives off a helium atom, weight 4, repeated three times, and the substance left is radium, atomic weight about 226.4. Radium is simply the end-product of uranium after it has lost three helium atoms. Then the radium continues to emit these infinitely minute light-particles, and the final product of this process of radio-active disintegration is the element lead. Of course this process requires great periods of time. The calculated "life" or, as it is technically termed, "half-life," of radium is 2,500 years-that of uranium much longer.

So what, then, is the significance of this great scientific discovery? Simply this: Within a definite space of time in the future, unless in the meantime there is a new special creation of these elements, there will be no radium, no thorium, no uranium! Why? They will have disintegrated by the radio-active process into lead!

These elements exist only for a definite span of years. There was a time, prior to the duration of this span in the past, when these elements DID NOT EXIST!

Here we have definite scientific proof that MATTER HAS NOT ALWAYS EXISTED. Here we have definite specific elements which once, in the long ago, did not yet exist. Then there was a time, later, when these elements CAME INTO EXISTENCE.

Try to imagine, if you can, something coming into existence out of nothing GRADUALLY! Can your mind entertain the idea?

I think not. No, I think if you are rational you will have to accept the fact of a special and necessarily instantaneous CREATION. And SOME POWER—SOME GOD—had of necessity to do the creating. There is a cause for every effect. And in accepting that inevitable FACT, proved by findings of Science, of the existence of that GREAT FIRST CAUSE, we have accepted the FACT of the existence, and pre-existence of the Creator—GOD. That's merely one scientific

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proof of GOD. Now let's look at even more conclusive proof.

Amusing Beliefs of "Science"

You'll be surprised,—and not a little amused,-at some of the past experiences, and present findings of scientific

And now, what about the presence of LIFE? Where did LIFE come from?

The wisest of the ancients did not know what Science makes available today. Aristotle believed and taught that lower forms of animal life, including fleas, worms, mice and frogs, just simply sprung up spontaneously from the moist earth. Let me quote to you what he said: "All dry bodies," declared Aristotle, "which become damp, and all damp bodies which are dried, engender animal life." The wise of the world once believed, according to Vergil, that bees were produced from the putrifying entrails of a young bull. And as late as the reign of Louis XIV, a celebrated alchemist, Van Helmont, wrote: "The smells which arise from the bottom of morasses produce frogs, slugs, leeches, frasses, and other things.

Would you like his recipe for producing a pot of mice? All that is necessary, according to this "authority," is to fill a vessel with corn and plug up the mouth of the vessel with an old dirty shirt. In about twenty-one days, the ferment arising from the dirty shirt reacting with the odor from the corn will transmute the corn into mice! Yes, believe it or not, this good doctor assured the world he had witnessed the phenomenom himself. "The mice are born full-grown, both male and female," he assured a gullible world.

Yes, strange as it may seem, such

nonsence was the "science" of this world not much more than two centuries ago! It was during the days of such beliefs that the theory of evolution began to emerge. They believed, then, in the old pagan doctrine of spontaneous genera-

The first important step toward refutation of this theory did not occur until the year 1668. In Italy, Redi happened to observe that decomposing meat was always surrounded by maggots. Of course the general belief was that this maggot life sprang by some kind of spontaneous generation out of the death of the decaying meat.

Only "After Its Kind"

Redi put the idea to a real test. He devised an experiment to keep the flies

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

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

TO ALL OF EUROPE: RADIO LUXEMBOURG-23:30 Sundays, Greenwich time.

ABC NETWORK, TRANSCONTI-NENTAL—Every Sunday. Consult local newspaper radio schedules for time and station, or keep on hand the log printed in this issue.

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XERF-1570 on dial (extreme top of dial) Sundays, 7:15 P.M. Central Standard time.

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A.M. daily. 9:30 A.M. Sunday.

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away from actual contact with the meat. He observed that the meat putrified as usual, but did not breed maggots, while the same kind of meat exposed to flies swarmed with them. Next he placed some meat in jars, covered only with fine wire gauze. The smell of the meat attracted the flies as usual, but they could not reach the meat. Thus it was seen that LIFE COMES ONLY FROM LIFE. and that each kind reproduced only after its kind (Gen. 1:25).

The works of Tyndall and Louis Pasteur, in the field of bacteria and protozoa, have finally demonstrated scientifically once and for all in these more minute fields what Redi demonstrated

with larger organisms.

All the advances of recent medical and surgical science in the treatment and prevention of germ diseases are based upon this great truth of the law of Biogenesis—that LIFE can come only

from pre-existing LIFE. No fact of Science stands more conclusively proved today. Life CANNOT come from dead matter. THERE IS NOT ONE SHRED OF TRUTH FROM SCIENCE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE PRESENCE OF LIFE UPON THE EARTH BY ANY MEANS OTHER THAN A SPECIAL CREATION BY THE GREAT ORIGINAL FIRST CAUSE-GOD-WHO IS LIFE AND THE FOUNTAIN SOURCE OF ALL LIFE! It is now absolutely certain, according to all that can be KNOWN from Science—according to all that is rational—that it required A REAL CREATION to produce life from the notliving—organic from inorganic matter.

God a LIVING Creator!

One cannot rationally deny the existence of GOD, unless he can account for the origin of LIFE without a Creator who, Himself, is Life! The Creator, therefore, begins to be revealed, by Science and by reason, as a LIVING God—a God in whom is LIFE, and who alone has imparted life to all that have it!

I could go further, and show you that what Science has discovered about energy and its origin and the laws of conservation of energy, also proves conclusively that "the works were finished from the foundation of the world" (Heb. 4:3), that material Created is a completed work, which is not now going on!

Is God INTELLIGENT?

Next, then, let's rationally examine whether the Great FIRST CAUSE is a Being or Person of intelligence, or merely some blind, dumb, unintelligent FORCE. The answer to this, too, provides the proof that God exists.

Does God possess intelligence? Well, just look around you. The transmission of knowledge to your mind is limited to

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scribed on the scroll under the seals, is found in Matthew 24. The description of the fifth seal is in Matthew 24:9-28. It is symbolic of the *tribulation!*

Notice that the souls John saw were slain for the Word of God and for their testimony, an exact description of the tribulation! In Revelation 12:17, the word of God and the testimony are defined as the keeping of the commandments and belief in the gospel of the Kingdom, which is the message that Jesus testified. The souls which John saw were not immortal entities. The Bible definition for soul is a living, physical creature whether animal or man (Genesis 2:7). The apostle saw in vision the souls or bodies of the martyred saints who were in vision crying out to God, just as Abel's blood cried out to God although he was dead (Genesis 4:10).

The tribulation came on the saints once, during the Middle Ages, and it will come again. The souls that were slain were told to "rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." These two martyrdoms are also mentioned in Revelation 12, verses 6 and 14.

Those who died in the Middle Ages were symbolically given white robes to show that they possessed the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19:8). And righteousness is described in Psalm 119:172 as keeping the commandments—the exact thing for which the devil persecutes the church.

But why were the souls seen in vision under the altar in heaven, though they were actually buried on the earth? This altar, mentioned also in Revelation 8:3, is the heavenly counterpart of the altar of incense which was in the holy of holies (Hebrews 9:4). The altar of incense was an altar for prayer, of which incense was a symbol. The saints are pictured under the altar as a symbol of their prayers to God, which they offered when they yet lived, that He might judge the earth in righteousness and avenge them. The entire description is picturing the coming final tribulation.

Does God Exist?

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the five channels of your five senses.

So now I ask you, do you know of anything that is superior to your mind? Anything you can see, hear, feel, taste or smell? Anything on this earth? Anything of which you can consciously know away from the earth?

Look at the planets coursing through the sky. By the aid of man-invented telescopes we know there are stars thousands of times larger than this earth. Behold, in all its splendor, the entire cosmic universe, with its suns, its nebulae, and galaxies. They are of such immensity, such vastness in number, that our minds cannot fully comprehend them.

Yet they are inanimate. They have no mind, no intelligence. They cannot do what you can do—think, reason, plan, and carry out plans according to private volition and will.

Quantity, not matter how vast, certainly does not of itself reflect intelligence. The human mind can know, think, reason, plan, and carry its plans to execution. It can invent and produce instruments by which it may acquire knowledge of the vast universe, or of the minutest particle. Through radar, man has now been able to send a signal to the moon and cause it to return. Men can devise vehicles that speed him over the ground swifter than the fastest animals; airplanes by which he can fly higher, farther, faster, than the swiftest bird. He can produce implements and machines by which he can move mountains. He can harness waterfalls and make them serve his needs, cause rivers to run backward, turn the forces of nature to serving human needs. He can force every other kind of visible life to do his bidding and serve him. He is learning how to conquer time and space. And now he has learned how to break down the atom, and utilize a power so vast that man may be able at last to annihilate all life from off the earth!

But there remains one thing no man ever will be able to do. He cannot build, make, produce, or create anything that is superior to himself!

A man can cut down trees, manufacture lumber; he can mine ores and make nails; he can take existing materials and out of them build a house. But it requires intelligence and power superior to the house to produce the house. An automobile is almost a living thing, but the intelligence and powers required to invent and produce it are superior to the thing produced.

To suggest to you, my friend, that anything you could invent, make, build, or bring into being could be superior in intelligence and ability to you and your mind would certainly insult your intelligence!

Now let me ask you candidly, do you honestly believe that any power or force of less intelligence than your mind produced YOU?

If you do not believe in God, then you have only the alternative of believing that something *less* than your intelligence produced YOU—that dumb, purposcless UNINTELLIGENCE brought into being your intelligence! The only rational pos-

sibility is to acknowledge that the very presence of the human mind is PROOF that the Great First Cause is also the SUPREME INTELLIGENCE, infinitely superior to the abilities of mortal man!

Could YOUR Mind Do It?

Suppose that you could add to your powers of reasoning, planning, designing, the actual CREATIVE power, so that you could project your will anywhere, to produce and bring into being whatever your mind should plan and desire. Then, having the POWER to do so, suppose you undertake to apply your intelligence, your reasoning and planning faculties to the task of designing, creating, fashioning, shaping, and setting in motion a limitless cosmic universe—with suns and nebulae and galaxies in all their splendor, each of these vast units being of such intricate and complex construction as the existing universe. On some of these planets you would plan and produce all the forms of life that exist on this planet—and I do not mean re-produce, for there would be no present universe to copy. There would be worlds within a world, down to the minutest infinitesimal particles of matter and chemical action such as we know by the aid of microscopes have been produced in this earth.

Do you think your mind would be equal to the task?

Just stop and think. Let your mind—the greatest thing you know—dwell on that problem a moment or two. Without anything from which to copy, how far do you think your intelligence and all your mental powers could go in planning, designing, putting together, and setting in motion all the intricacies that make up the fathomless universe, in all the harmony, symmetry, and order we see about us in what bas been brought into being? I know my mind would not get far in such an undertaking, and I don't believe yours would, either.

Is it rational, then, to believe that any power or force lacking even human intelligence could have planned, designed, created, formed, fashioned, shaped, put together and set in motion the awesome universe we behold?

Supreme Living RULER!

The Great First Cause who created matter, force and energy and all physical and SPIRITUAL LAWS, then, stands revealed as the SUPREME INTELLIGENCE AND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE. And by the same token, HE IS THE SUPREME RULER, who REIGNS over the realm of men, even though THIS WORLD SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD—and who, though unrealized by the world today, is WORKING OUT HIS PURPOSE here below! WHAT IS that PURPOSE? WHY does God allow suffering—wars? WHY must

even the converted Christian SUFFER in this world, after conversion? THESE are some of the vital questions-the most vital questions of this hour—which now present themselves. The answer will be made PLAIN in future articles.

Science Promises . . . "You may live forever"

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co-rulers and co-creators with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

Are you going to accept God's CHAL-LENGE and surrender your ways and your self-will to Him in order that He might develop His character in you through the power of His Holy Spirit?

Without the very life of God-the Holy Spirit—dwelling in you, you cannot obtain a resurrection to eternal life no matter what scientists may proudly promise. It is God alone who "shall make alive (immortal) also your mortal bodies through his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Romans 8:11).

How did RELIGION Begin?

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suggestion sounds good to mankind. God had said they would die if they

disobeyed his command and are of this

tree (Genesis 2:17).

They did not know God yet-they did not fear Him: "The fear of the Eternal is the beginning of wisdom." (Psa. 111:10.) They did not know they must obey Him above all beings or suffer dire consequences—so they are of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. THEY USURPED GOD'S PREROGATIVE-THEY DECIDED WHAT WAS GOOD AND WHAT WAS EVIL! They made their own law by deciding that to eat of the forbidden tree was right and not a sin. They followed their law and broke God's. They became "as gods" to make their own law; but after they had sinned they were afraid (Genesis 3:10). They realized their folly, for God then said, "Man is become as one of us, to know good and evil." (Genesis 3:22.)

They had learned by experience. They realized they needed a different kind of clothing than their carnal minds gave (Rom. 8:7). Paul says mankind has been made to desire vain things (Rom. 8:20)

"I put on righteousness and it clothed me." (Job 29:14.) They tried to clothe themselves with their righteousness, "They sewed fig leaves together and made girdles." (Genesis 3:7)—a symbol of their kind of righteousness, but

Isaiah, inspired by God, says, "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." The Bible says of God's commandments, "All thy commandments are righteousness." (Psa. 119:172.) If we obey God's commandments as revealed then by God's spoken Word, but now by the Bible, we clothe ourselves with God's kind of righteousness and are acceptable to God. We cannot make our own laws here on this earth! God said Adam and Eve must for their sin be separated from the tree of life at that time. They must die. They needed a Redeemer who could pay the penalty of death in their stead if they were to have eternal life. This was promised very soon afterward (Genesis 3:15).

Now we can see how the Devil rules this world today! Are we doing today as Adam and Eve did in the garden of

Are We "As Gods" Today?

It can now be easily seen that if we, today, are following the same deceptive suggestion that our human forebears did in Eden—making their own laws—then we are "as gods." If Satan has thus deceived us, then our punishment will be the same as that given to Adam and Eve-denial of access to eternal life. Remember, "To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are . . . whether of sin unto death. or of obedience unto righteousness.' (Romans 6:16.) The Devil, then, rules over us by suggestive deception!

Do the nations or individuals today consult what the Bible says about divorce, for example, before they make their decisions and their laws?

They do not! They have become "as gods" to make their own laws! The world, then, is Babylon. We are told to come out of her (Rev. 18:4). This we can do by giving God's laws precedent in our lives-being ruled by Him! The proper form of government is Theocracy—being ruled over by God and by his laws. This form will soon be set up on this earth.

Like Adam and Eve, when they became "as gods" and made their own laws, the people today, in these end times, are having their eyes opened (Genesis 3:5), because of the results of following their laws.

World Deifies Self

The tendency of mankind to elevate himself is constant. After the Devil had tried to ascend and be like God (Isa. 14:14), Adam and Eve tried it (Genesis 3:5) and were denied eternal life at that time. In Genesis 6:4-5, we see that mankind had deified itself in the same way as we have shown Semiramis deified herself and Nimrod. These people became "Sons of gods." Wickedness

increases. Verse 11 says the earth was corrupt and filled with violence—the inevitable result when mankind make their own laws! Today we see this. What happened? God drowned all on the earth except Noah and seven others!

After the flood, Nimrod and Semiramis set the pace for self-deification as we have seen. Israel was guilty of the same thing. In Ezekiel 20 there is a summary of why God said he was going to punish the Israelites. He repeats six times his reason: "That they may know that I am the Eternal." Judges 21:25, a summary of Israel's actions, says, "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Like Adam and Eve, they decided what was right and wrong—they were "as gods.'

There is an outstanding example of man deifying himself today. "Joseph Stalin has long been eulogized by the Soviets . . . as the world's great . . master. No words have been considered too extravagant . . . East German children were asked to pray, not to God but to Stalin . . . his plans always come true." (Los Angeles Times, March 5, 1953, under heading "Stalin Cult Makes God of Dictator.") Only God is worthy of the things this cult ascribes to Stalin!

God knows the world will not voluntarily stop doing this. Soon Christ is coming to chain that deceiver, the Devil (Rev. 20:2), and Christ will rule with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27). Then those on the earth will have to decide whether they will stop deifying self or follow the real deity-God.

Why Do We Want To Be "As Gods"?

Yes, why? You and I today wish that this war within ourselves would ceasethis inner desire which makes us, against our will, do things that we know the Bible says not to do. It makes us not want to do the things the Bible commands us to do. This is the internal battle that even Paul described as raging in himself. "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me but how to perform that which is good I find not . . . I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin." (Rom. 7:18, 23.)

Yes, why do we make ourselves "as gods" and make our own laws and shun God's? Basically, we simply do not seem to like God's laws-going against them (sinning) seems more attractive! Why?

The answer to this provides the explanation that reveals why the Devil can rule this earth by Deceptive Suggestion! Never once does the Bible show that the Devil has used physical force to rule mankind.

God has made mankind so we will desire (lust) to go contrary to His laws!

Unbelievable, but true! "The law is spiritual but I am carnal." (Rom. 7:14.) Carnal flesh does all sorts of evil things (Gal. 5:19-21). "The carnal mind is enmity against God." (Rom. 8:7.) The carnal mind today is making carnal laws to take the place of the higher spiritual laws which God has set in motion to govern us. Mankind's laws seem right in our own eyes. The flesh we are born with desires to lust, "Ye shall not ful-fill the lust of the flesh." (Gal. 5:16. See also II Pet. 2:18; I Pet. 4:2.) "The creature (mankind—the thing created by God) was made subject to vanity." (Rom. 8:20.) Mankind was made to desire things of no value—corruptible and sinful things, by God himself!

God has made mankind with the inherent capacity to be upright but has given them a carnal mind! (Ecc. 7:29.) We seem to be free agents to make our own laws to provide our own plan whereby we think (wrongly) that we will obtain happiness. (The United Nations Assembly today is the big example of this.)

Mankind firmly believes that the capacity to do this lies within himself. We evidently believe God gave this capacity to us, or else how do we think we received it? This is the very condition which makes it easy for the Devil to deceive us.

Proving Selves Wrong Today

Today, God is letting the world prove that He has not bestowed on human minds the capacity of working out laws of happiness for themselves! He is letting them prove that happiness is beyond their reach as they are now constituted. It is no wonder then that God is perfectly willing that the Devil deceive the world now by encouraging the people in it to be "as gods." He turned even Job, the most perfect man on earth (Job 1:8), over to Satan to be strengthened (Job 1:12; 2:6, and 23:10).

God declared the end result from the beginning (Isa. 46:9-10). He planned it this way! After we learn the folly of our ways God says "the creature shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption" (Rom. 8:21) and be "created in Christ Jesus unto good works." (Eph. 2:10.) God says he will then (and only then) go a step further in creating us. He will change our fleshly bodies into Spiritual bodies fashioned to do good works.

God has promised to do just this! We must desire this new eternal body; we must repent (Acts 2:38)—show by actions that we realize that our usurping of our Creator's authority was wrong. Then he will beget us as his children and afterward give our bodies this new form. Lucifer, a spirit being, who be-

came the Devil, never did learn his *God given* capacity—he fought against his Creator (Isa. 14:14).

How Satan Rules

How does Satan rule? Paul said, "I fear lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtility, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (2 Cor. 11:3, 13, 14.) Satan may suggest evil courses of action to us through evil people over whom he has sway. The ministers of the false churches are here referred to. Notice that Satan is behind such people. Paul says these are "false apostles, deceitful workers transforming themselves into apostles of Christ." They corrupt our minds! Sometimes demons enter people and rule them by taking complete possession of their bodies. Luke tells of devils coming out of many people in Christ's time. (Lu. 4:41.)

Satan lays traps for us. He brings about circumstances which tempt us to do evil things. Paul warns us lest we fall into the "snare of the devil." (I Tim. 3:7) Does our acting on Satan's evil suggestions bring us under Satan's rule? Yes. The Bible says so. "HIS SERVANTS YE ARE TO WHOM YE OBEY; WHETHER OF SIN UNTO DEATH, OR OBEDIENCE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Rom. 6:16.) We are urged to recover ourselves "out of the snare of the devil" if we are taken captive by him. (2 Tim. 2:26.) Satan is called the prince of this world (Jn. 14:30). He rules it.

The evil spirit helpers of Satan can directly influence the human mind. A spirit in old testament times told how he would persuade an ancient king's prophets to lie to this king. He said, "I will persuade him (the king)—I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." (1 Kings 22:21-22.)

Satan "deceiveth the whole world." (Rev. 12:9.) Notice that Satan deceives people everywhere. As a deceiver he makes things seem what they are not. A man because of his own lusts can deceive his own heart and this makes Satan's work easier (James 1:26).

Paul says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against rulers of the darkness of this world." (Eph. 6:12.) We wrestle against spiritual powers-Satan and his helpers. But how does Satan rule over the large groups of people on this earth? Let us see. Revelation 12:3 tells of a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns and Revelation 13:1 describes this same beast again. This is a CIVIL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM of four succeeding empires which are to rule this earth until Christ comes. One beast had 4 heads and each of the other three had one head which makes a total of seven heads. Daniel 7:6, 17, 18 describes this in greater detail. Notice that

the dragon, identified as SATAN (Rev. 12:9), IS HEAD OF THIS SYSTEM. THROUGH IT HE RULES THIS EARTH!

But now a second system through which Satan sways the millions: "I beheld another beast—and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon (Satan) and HE CAUSETH THE EARTH AND THEM THAT DWELL THEREIN TO WORSHIP THE FIRST BEAST." (Rev. 13:11-12.) This is a great RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT or CHURCH through which Satan deceives the earth as to the true way of becoming actual sons of God! Revelation 17:3 gives more of a description of this system.

Yes, through these two agencies Satan truly rules over all!—for a time. But Satan knows his time is short! (Rev. 12:13.)

We have seen how the Devil, through Semiramis, perpetuated the Sun-Serpent worship after her husband Nimrod's death, and why God allows this deception to go on. How did Satan pattern these deceptions so they would be usable to smother out and replace the teachings of Christ when he came? We shall see in the next issue of the *Plain Truth*.

Prophesied to Happen to UNITED STATES

(Continued from page 2)

and I will make of thee a great nation." (Gen. 12:1-2).

Here was a command, which was the condition, and a PROMISE, provided the condition of obedience was met.

And so now, as God had started the WHOLE WORLD with one man, He started HIS OWN PECULIAR NATION in the world from one single man—Abraham.

As the WORLD, which has strayed far from God and the blessings of God's worship and rule, was started with one man who rebelled against God and rejected his rule, so God's own flesh-born nation, from which is to be re-born the Kingdom of God, was started with one man who OBEYED GOD without question, and accepted His divine rule!

Did Abram stop to argue and reason? Did he say—"Let's reason this our a bit first; here I am in Babylon, in the very center of all this world's commerce, society and gayety. WHY can't you just as well give me this promise right here, where everything is pleasant and alluring? Why must I leave all this and go over to that uncivilized land?"

By your life, he did not!

The inspired scriptural account states, simply, "So Abram departed."

There was no arguing with God. There was no human reasoning that God was all wrong. There were no fool questions: "WHY must I leave here?" "Can't I do as I please?" There was no stopping to say, "Well, here's the way I look at it."

"ABRAM DEPARTED." Just plain, un-

questioned OBEDIENCE!

And God established this man, whose name He later changed to Abraham, as the FATHER of His nation, ISRAEL! To Abraham, and His seed, were all the promises of God made. And we must become *like* Abraham, and through Christ one of his children, if we are to inherit the promise of eternal life in God's Kingdom!

Of His peculiar flesh-born nation, Israel, the Eternal said: "This people have I formed for myself; they shall show

forth my praise." (Isa. 43:21).

"Ye are my witnesses," God also said of them, "that I am God." (Isa. 43:12). Again, "I will sanctify my great name... and the heathen shall know that I am the ETERNAL, saith the Lord Eternal, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes." (Ezek. 36:23).

Dual Promises to Abraham

Few have realized it, but a *duality* runs all the way through the plan of God in working out His PURPOSE here below!

There was the first Adam, material and carnal; and there is Christ the second Adam, spiritual and divine. There was the Old Covenant, purely material and temporal; and there is the New Covenant, spiritual and eternal. God made man mortal, physical, of the dust of the ground and of the animal kingdom; but through Christ he may be begotten of God to become immortal, spiritual, and of the Kingdom of God.

And in like manner there were two phases to the promises God made to Abraham—the one purely material and national; the other spiritual and indi-

vidual.

The spiritual promise of the Messiah, and of salvation through Him, is well known by the most superficial Bible student. But God made also another, entirely different, most amazing national and material promise to Abraham which has been almost entirely overlooked.

Notice, now, again, how God first called Abram, and the two-fold nature

of His promises:

"Now the Eternal said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: and I will make of thee A GREAT NATION . . . and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." (Gen. 12:1-3).

Notice the two-fold promiscs:

1) "I will make of thee A GREAT NA-TION"—the national, material promise that his flesh-born children should become a great nation—a promise of RACE;

2) "... and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed,"—the

spiritual promise of GRACE. This same promise is repeated in Genesis 22:18: "in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." This particular "one seed" refers to Christ as plainly affirmed in Galatians 3:8, 16.

But the plain fact that the "great nation" promise refers alone to race—not the "one seed," of Galations 3:16, who was Jesus Christ the Son of Abraham and the Son of God, but to the plural, multiple seed of natural fleshly birth—is made certain by God's repetition of His promise in greater detail later.

"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Eternal appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect, and I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly . . . thou shalt be a father of MANY NATIONS. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of MANY NATIONS have I made thee." (Gen. 17:1-5.)

Notice, the promise is now CONDITIONAL upon Abraham's obedience and perfect living. Notice, the "great nation" now becomes MANY NATIONS—more than one nation. This cannot refer to the "one seed," Christ. The following verses prove that.

"And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make NATIONS of thee, and KINGS" (more than one) "shall come out of thee." (Verse 6). Notice, these nations and kings shall come out of Abraham—physical generation—multiple seed, not just one descendant thru whom scattered individuals may become Abraham's children, by spiritual begettal through Christ (Gal. 3:29). The scattered, individual Christians do not form NATIONS. This is speaking of RACE, not grace.

"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in THEIR generations." (Verse 7). The "seed" is PLURAL—"in their generations."

"And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan (Palestine) for an everlasting possession: and I will be THEIR God." (Verse 8.)

Notice, the LAND—material possession—is promised to the PLURAL seed, of whom He is THEIR, not his, God. The plural pronoun "their" is used again in the 9th verse—"and thy seed after thee in their generations."

Not Fulfilled in Jews

Again, notice carefully—the JEWS have never been more than one nation. They are not, and never have been, MANY nations.

So here is an amazing prophecy—a solemn promise from Almighty God, that could not be fulfilled in Christ, in Christians, nor in the Jews. We must look for a number of NATIONS apart from either the Christians or the Jews. Amazing as it is, we must do it or deny God's promise!

God put Abraham to the test, and Abraham, through faith, OBEYED—even to being willing to sacrifice his only son, if need be. And after that the covenant no longer was conditional. Now it became UNCONDITIONAL.

"By myself have I sworn, saith the Eternal, for BECAUSE thou hast done this thing, and has not withheld thy son, thine only son, that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies" (so far the material national promises of RACE); "and in thy seed" (Christ) "shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (this promise spiritual, of GRACE); "BECAUSE thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen. 22: 16-18).

The promise now is UN-conditional. God has SWORN to make it good. God does not promise these things IF Abraham or his children do certain things. He promises them to Abraham BECAUSE he already has performed his part of the agreement. If these promises could be broken or annulled, then no promise in the Bible is sure!

These promises cannot be broken or annulled. Not if it be true that "Heaven and earth shall pass, but my word shall NOT pass away." Now God MUST perform His part without fail.

Notice an additional detail of the promise—the nations who are Abraham's racial descendants are to "possess the gate of his enemies." A gate is a narrow passage of entrance or exit. When speaking nationally a "gate" would be such a pass as the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal, the Strait of Gibraltar. This promise is repeated in Gen. 24:60 to Abraham's daughter-in-law: "Be thou the mother of thousands of millions and let thy seed possess the gate of those that hate them."

Notice, Abraham's descendants would possess vital geographic passageways of their enemies—those that hate them. This has never been fulfilled in the Jews; nor could it be fulfilled after Jesus Christ returns to rule the nations and establish world peace. This promise could only be fulfilled in the present world or else we must deny the Bible as God's revealed Word. We must look for a people either now or in history who possess the sea ports of the world, or we must deny the Word of God. It is a test of the inspira-

(Please continue on page 16)

PACIFIC COAST (Cont'd)					Klamath Falls, Ore.	1450 kcs.	9:00- 9:30 AM
KPMC	Bakersfield, Cal.	1560 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM	KWRC	Pendleton, Ore.	1240 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KGER	Long Beach, Cal.	1390 kcs.	2:00- 2:30 PM	KJUN	Redmond, Ore.	1240 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KBLA	Burbank, Cal.	1490 kcs.	9:30-10:00 AM	KGA	Spokane, Wash.	1510 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KMOD	Modesto, Cal.	1360 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM	KPKW	Pasco, Wash.	1340 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KTMS	Santa Barbara, Cal.	1250 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM	KVI	Seattle-Tacoma, Wash.	570 kcs.	10:30-11:00 PM
KITO KREO	San Bernardino, Cal. Indio, Cal.	1290 kcs. 1400 kcs.	5:00- 5:30 PM 11:00-11:30 AM		ALASKA		
KROP	Brawley, Cal. Portland, Ore. Portland, Ore. Eugene, Ore.	1300 kcs.	10:00-10:30 AM	KENI	Anchorage	550 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KPDQ		800 kcs.	8:30- 9:00 AM	KFAR	Fairbanks	660 kcs.	9:30-10:00 AM
KXL		750 kcs.	2:30- 3:00 PM	KJNO	Juneau	630 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KASH		1600 kcs.	5:30- 6:00 PM	KABI	Ketchikan	580 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM

Prophesied to Happen to UNITED STATES

(Continued from page 14)

tion of the Bible and of God's power to rule this world!

A Nation and a Company of Nations

These tremendous promises were repromised to Isaac and to Jacob. Ishmael, and Abraham's other sons were rejected from this birthright. Esau, Isaac's son and Jacob's twin brother, sold it and was rejected. The promise, as confirmed to Isaac, is recorded in Gen. 26:1-5. "I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; and I will make thy seed to MULTIPLY as the stars of heaven; and I will give unto thy seed all these countries . . ." To Jacob it is repeated in Gen. 27:26-29, where MATERI-AL blessing of wealth in the things of the ground is added, with the prophecy that heathen nations shall be ruled by the birthright nations of Israel. And again in Gen. 28:13-14, where the added detail that these nations of Israel shall

eventually spread around the world is recorded.

Still later, God appeared unto Jacob, whose name was changed to ISRAEL, still further defining the make-up of these "many nations" thus: "And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; A NATION and a COMPANY OF NATIONS shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins." (Gen. 35:9-12).

So the "many nations" are eventually to take shape as A NATION—one great, wealthy, powerful nation; and another COMPANY OF NATIONS—a group, or commonwealth of nations.

This promise never has been fulfilled in the Jews. It cannot be "spiritualized" away by interpreting it as being inherited only through Christ. It could not per-

NOTICE

There was no December issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*.

tain to the Church, for there is but ONE true Church acknowledged in the Bible, and it is not a nation, or a group of nations, but a collection of called-out individuals scattered through ALL nations. Yet this amazing promise MUST stand fulfilled, unless we are to deny the Bible and God's sacred Word!

Here is the enigma of the ages! Is this a divine promise unkept? Thomas Paine and Robert Ingersoll lost faith in God and rejected the Bible because they believed these tremendous national promises were never fulfilled.

The very fate of the Bible as the revealed Word of God—the evidence of the existence of God—hangs on the answer to this momentous question. The Jewish people did not fulfill these promises. They do not refer to the Church. The world with its great church leaders does not know of any such fulfillment. Did God fail? Or has He made good this colossal promise unknown to the world?

The true answer is the most astonishing revelation of Bible truth, of prophecy, and of unrecognized history!

The second installment will appear in the February number.

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