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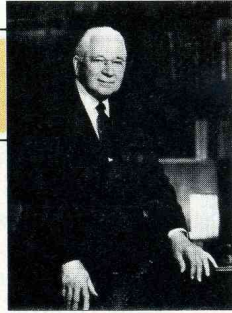
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PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

**Violence
In
Britain**

Never Before Understood
WHY HUMANITY CANNOT
SOLVE ITS EVILS



Personal from...

The Foundation of All Knowledge

NO TWO people believe alike in all things. Nobody agrees with EVERYBODY else. The purpose of *The Plain Truth* is to inform, to challenge, to stimulate THINKING, checking and PROVING what you believe.

We always say to new readers, do not believe what we say—or anyone else says—BECAUSE we say it. But listen without prejudice, check, verify, PROVE—and then believe what you find PROVED true. If you do, we think you'll come to believe what you read here.

A lady from London, England once wrote me: "I notice you say the Gospel message is an educational message. If this is so, it is not for us and for millions and millions of other people. This statement is not biblical. . . . The Bible was not written to inform man's mind, but to change man's heart."

WHAT'S THAT? This statement of mine is not biblical? The Bible was not written to inform the MIND?

It is VERY IMPORTANT that our readers UNDERSTAND whether the Bible was written to inform the MIND! And whether the only TRUE Gospel is an educational message. Entirely too many have been DECEIVED into the false idea that the GOSPEL is an irrational, sentimental, ethereal superstition. THAT IS THE REASON, more than any other, that modern education, and educated people today, have utterly REJECTED the Bible, the true Gospel, and belief in GOD!

And my statement is NOT BIBLICAL? I will now show you—if your mind is open—precisely how COMPLETELY biblical it is!

This lady in London put her finger on the very CRUX of *all this* world's tragedies, its sorrows, pains and sufferings, its heartaches, its poverty, illiteracy, filth and squalor, its crime, broken marriages, violence and wars!

The CAUSE of all unhappiness and wretchedness is WRONG education, and LACK of the knowledge

that can be received *only* from the revelation of the Creator—in His Word.

And WHY?

Simply because the world has thrown away the BASIC TEXTBOOK of true education—the Holy Bible! The world has gotten all mixed up. The world, like this lady in London, has not realized just WHAT the Bible IS! The Bible IS the FOUNDATION of ALL KNOWLEDGE—and the true APPROACH to the acquisition of all discoverable knowledge. It is our Maker's INSTRUCTION BOOK of needed knowledge acquirable from no other source.

What is the most basic knowledge?

It is the PURPOSE for the very existence of human life here upon the earth! It is to know the MEANING of life. It is to discern the TRUE values from the false. It is to know THE WAY to peace, happiness, abundant well-being, and eternal life; THE WAY to what fundamentalists call "salvation." To know just what IS "salvation." Is it a PLACE—a geographical location; is it a changed *condition*? Is it a change of *composition*—or WHAT? And HOW do we obtain it? Is that KNOWLEDGE important? Does the Bible teach it?

Is it rational? Does it make sense?

Nowhere but in the Bible can one obtain THIS BASIC NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE! Of course, there seems to be an almost endless amount of knowledge that MAN can learn, discover or acquire by himself. God gave man eyes that see, ears that hear, hands that feel. God gave man a MIND that can reason, feet to carry him about, hands that can design and make instruments. He can make telescopes and microscopes. He can build and equip laboratories, conduct experiments. He can travel and explore.

But he cannot discover, by himself, WHAT he himself IS, or WHY he is. Did he just *happen*, without intelligent design, by a purposeless process called "evolution"? Or was he CREATED, and put here FOR A PURPOSE? And *what* is that purpose?

Yet that letter from the lady in London says "the Bible was not written to inform man's mind,"

and it is "not biblical" to say that the Gospel is an EDUCATIONAL message!

THAT false supposition is a MAJOR CAUSE of all the world's unhappy ills!

WHY! How could that be?

Millions have SUPPOSED that the "Gospel" is a sentimental, nebulous, ethereal sort of EMOTION, irrational and UNRELATED to the MIND. They SUPPOSE that THIS false "gospel" came out of the Bible! Therefore they ASSUME that the Bible is an impractical book of maudlin sentimentality, utterly unrelated to rational KNOWLEDGE. Thus the Bible has come to be regarded as outmoded superstition—a book of fables—or, in the Old Testament, the writings of Jews ignorantly searching for a national concept of a god.

SO THINKERS, *without* thinking, and *without* checking to SEE what the Bible is, or what it says, have relegated it to the scrap heap of outworn superstition. The "EDUCATED" have thrown it out the window, without searching to PROVE their biased assumption.

And many religious people have SUPPOSED that "the Bible was not written to inform man's mind, but to change man's heart." They have accepted a sanctimonious sentimentalism, in which they get to "feel" that they are spiritual, and that they are "saved," largely shutting up their minds against the rational teaching of the Bible.

A very "religious" woman of this category once exclaimed, in surprised amazement, "Why, you surely don't read the Bible to try to UNDERSTAND it, do you?"

"Why, *of course!*" I replied emphatically. "Don't you ever read the Bible?"

"Oh yes! I read it every day," she said in a very sanctimonious tone.

"Well then, do you mean you read it, but you don't let it SPEAK to you—you don't get any meaning from what you read?"

"But we're not *supposed* to understand the Bible," she persisted. Like the lady in London, she thought it was not written to inform man's MIND.

"Then WHY do you read it," I asked.

"Why, just for INSPIRATION," she replied.

Entirely too many people are DECEIVED by this false idea. NO WONDER the men of science and the educators of this world have ASSUMED that the Bible contains nothing RATIONAL—but only senseless, sentimental superstition, entirely irrational!

Well, let's *read* a few words of it! It won't poison your mind!

To the gentile-born Thessalonians, Paul wrote: "But I would not have you to be IGNORANT, brethren, concerning them which are asleep . . ." (I Thessalonians 4:13). Was *this* written to inform man's MIND—prevent IGNORANCE? But of course MOST people today, *because* they embrace a sanctimonious superstition INSTEAD OF the MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE, do not understand this! If the Bible was written to *change* man's heart (AND IT WAS INDEED!) HOW can it change man's HEART, if it is never understood by the MIND?

Just what does the Bible *mean* when it speaks of man's "heart"? The word *heart* is used, in this sense, to imply the ATTITUDE OF MIND! The BIBLE says: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked . . ." (Jeremiah 17:9).

It is not referring to the organ that pumps blood under man's chest. It is referring to man's NATURE—his attitude, or spirit, or tendency of MIND. It is referring to his natural CHARACTER!

But HOW does God go about *changing* this deceitful NATURE—this "heart"—this attitude of MIND?

Only the Holy Spirit of God can do this. So *how* does one receive God's Spirit?

Jesus began His Gospel ministry and teaching saying, ". . . The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the GOSPEL" (Mark 1:1, 14-15). Two conditions He said WE must perform: REPENT and BELIEVE!

Yes, TWO conditions. That, WE must do. Then GOD does the "sav-

ing"—the converting. God GIVES His Holy Spirit.

But now HOW does one REPENT? What does the word *repent* MEAN? The dictionary definition is, "To change one's MIND." "Godly sorrow worketh repentance . . ." (II Corinthians 7:10). This is done in and by the MIND!

Paul was concerned about the MIND. He said: "Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

How does one BELIEVE, in order to be "saved"? One must BELIEVE with the MIND.

The very last words of the apostle Peter's letter were: "But grow in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ . . ." (II Peter 3:18).

What is the FOUNDATION of knowledge—the *starting approach* to wisdom? "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good UNDERSTANDING have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever" (Psalm 111:10).

Speaking of the spiritual GIFTS—which God gives to His begotten children—to the heirs of salvation—we read this INSTRUCTION to the MIND:

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." Through Paul, GOD says He does not want us to be IGNORANT—but UNDERSTANDING and KNOWLEDGEABLE of MIND!

Continue: "Wherefore I give you to UNDERSTAND. . . Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. . . For to one is given by the Spirit the word of WISDOM; to another the word of KNOWLEDGE by the same Spirit; to another FAITH by the same Spirit . . ." (I Corinthians 12:1, 3, 4, 8-9). The MOST IMPORTANT of all the spiritual gifts which God gives His people are, first of all, WISDOM; second in importance, KNOWLEDGE; third, FAITH. These all are imparted to the MIND!

Jesus Christ said that we should actually LIVE BY "every word of God"—that is, every word in the Bible (Luke 4:4). How may we do that, unless we allow God's Word
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NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD

Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Today nuclear weapons threaten human extinction.
WHY? What happens now?

WHY DO we lack the know-how to solve world troubles—or even problems between individuals?

WHY?

Scientists have said, "Given sufficient knowledge, we will solve all problems, remove all human evils." In the decade of the sixties, Dr. Clark Kerr, president of the University of California, Berkeley, said the modern university is a factory—manufacturing knowledge. In that decade the world's fund of knowledge doubled—but world troubles doubled also! The newly produced knowledge did not cause the increased troubles, but neither did it cure them.

WHY?

Knowledge in modern science, technology, industry and government

This is one of the most important articles Mr. Armstrong has ever written. The reader is advised to carefully read every scripture quotation given.

The Bible is unlike any other book. Like a jigsaw puzzle, it is made up of thousands of pieces. When put together properly, each piece construed according to its intended meaning in its own context, it presents a perfect picture of God's overall purpose, and his Master Plan for its accomplishment through mortal man.

This article deeply concerns the personal life today of every reader.

has produced awesome achievements. A Lincoln, Emerson or Vanderbilt, suddenly coming back to life today would be astounded! But also he would be appalled to see the immorality, violence and evils that have multiplied human unhappiness and suffer-

ing. And he would be shocked into consternation to learn that nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction have been produced that now threaten to erase all humanity from the earth!

During the past century the theory of evolution has become the universally accepted concept through which knowledge has been produced. Evolution is the explanation of the natural mind for the existence of a creation without the preexistence of an intelligent and all-powerful Creator. But what has been its fruits?

Human knowledge production has led the way through discontent, unhappiness, violence, war, human suffering, to near-approaching extermination of humanity by humanity!

WHY the paradox of astonishing materialistic progress amid

ever-increasing human decadence?
Yes, *WHY?*

Mankind is comparable to the one who purchased a technically designed instrument, but was unable to operate it because he ignored the manufacturer's operation manual. The human mind and body is the most perfectly designed mechanism ever produced from earthly material substance. Our Maker sent along with his product his operation manual. But this world's bestseller has been the most ignored, distorted, falsely interpreted and least understood of all books.

A Cause for Every Effect

There has to be a CAUSE for every effect. What was the original CAUSE for all the world's seemingly insolvable troubles? This CAUSE has been utterly overlooked by modern science. It is unknown in modern higher education. It has been carelessly glossed over by even the traditional Christian religion, and is unknown to other religions.

The CAUSE of all troubles in your life and mine and in the world today originated in the incident of the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden! It all began with the beginning of MANKIND! And even the true Church of God in this 20th century has not fully understood it until now!

What if Adam had taken of the tree of LIFE? Ever wonder about that?

Ah!—that would have made all the difference! There would have been no national governments today. No military establishments consuming the time of millions of soldiers. No violence. No wars. An entirely different educational system. A different business and commercial world. No tobacco industry. No need for doctors, nurses, hospitals and their staffs to treat today's host of illnesses. No police forces, jails and prisons. Millions released for more productive, useful occupations. Yes, THINK OF IT! YOU AND I WOULD BE LIVING IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WORLD! There would be no universal discontent, unhappiness, frustrated lives. There would be peace everywhere—between nations, groups, families and

individuals. Abundance everywhere for joy-packed lives filled with interest, eager anticipation for a wonderful eternity ahead!

Sound impossible? Why should it? There was a CAUSE for existing conditions. There would have been a CAUSE for the happier state!

This matter of basic CAUSES has eluded the knowledge production of man. It has never been understood by modern science. It has not been recognized by education. Religion has remained in ignorance of this mystery of the ages! Yet it has been faithfully recorded and preserved for us who will to UNDERSTAND!

So now look closer at what did



This matter of basic causes has eluded the knowledge production of man... Yet it has been faithfully recorded and preserved for us who will to understand!



happen, what actually caused effects in your life and mine, and what the immediate future now holds for us all.

The turning point in *your* life began in that forbidden fruit incident! It's time you UNDERSTAND!

Source of Life

God is the source of all LIFE. But he did not give mankind LIFE—not yet! Everything began with GOD. And of all the religions on earth—including traditional Christianity—not one knows *who* and *what* God is! More, not one knows *what* and *why* man is! Yet the Designer and Maker of this most intricately designed mechanism we call MAN reveals himself in man's instruction manual he gave us!

In order of time sequence the first revelation of *who* and *what* is God is found in John 1:1, "In the

beginning was the Word." This "Word" was a personage, eternally self-existent. He was "without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life" (Hebrews 7:3). "The Word was with God" (John 1:1). God was another personal immortal Being. "And the Word was God." The Personage here named "the Word" was also God. "All things were made by him. In him was LIFE." In verse 14, same chapter, "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us"—in other words, fathered by God, became by human birth, Jesus Christ.

But of what was God composed? "God is Spirit" (John 4:24, RSV). God is composed of Spirit, not of mortal flesh from the ground of the earth. God has LIFE inherent. He is the source of all life.

Now see how he is described in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created..." Moses wrote these words originally in Hebrew. The Hebrew word translated "God" is *Elohim*, a uniplural noun like family, church or group. One family consisting of more than one person. God—*Elohim*—consisted from eternity of the "Word" and God—two Spirit-composed personages, forming one God, since the Word also was God.

In Genesis 1:26 God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Not "Let me, after my likeness." God had made animals after *their* kind—cattle after the cattle kind (verses 24-25), elephants after the elephant kind.

But he made man after the GOD kind! That is, as to form and shape—but not as to composition, because God "formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living [not immortal] soul" (Genesis 2:7). Like animals, man was made an air-breathing being. Like animals, his temporary physical existence came from air and circulation of blood, fueled by food and water from the ground.

But man is not an animal. There are two main differences: 1) man
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HUMANITY

(Continued from page 4)

was made in the form and shape of God. For example, notice the human hand. God has hands (II Chronicles 6:4). What animal with hooves, paws, claws, could make a fine handmade watch? Even if they had man's mind no animal could make what man can. How could any animal make a computer? And 2) man has mind, while animal has only brain with instinct.

Yet animal brain, in form and shape and even quality, is almost precisely like human brain. But the character and quantity of output is vastly different. Animal brain is equipped with instinct. Human brain with MIND power.

Ever see a calf born? In two or more minutes it is on its feet and walking. It knows where to go for its dinner. It knows how to suck milk. The stupid cow stands dull-eyed, waiting for the calf to suck its dinner.

Compare that to the birth of a human. The human baby is utterly helpless at birth. It will need about a year to be able to walk—and it will have to *learn!* It will need a human mother to care for it, do everything for it, teach it little by little. But the human baby has MIND power. At birth its mind is unfilled with knowledge or with instinct. The human must be guided by MIND, rather than instinct. But KNOWLEDGE must be fed or acquired by the mind.

Man's Need vs. the Animals'

Man was made to NEED knowledge in two areas, as contrasted from animal needs.

Animals were created with brain equipped with instinct. Man was not. Man was made with MIND, almost totally devoid of instinct. Man's *mind*, containing KNOWLEDGE, must think and direct whatever he does.

At our home in Tucson, Arizona, we have a few animals. We have three dogs, two ferrets and a dwarf kid. My wife has a pair of horses.

When we take a ferret out of its cage, it automatically will seek

some tiny enclosure it can crawl into. On ground it will seek to climb into and up my trouser leg, or any small enclosure into which it can squeeze its tiny head. That's its instinct. If a car or someone on foot approaches outside, the dogs begin to bark. They don't know WHY! They do not think and reason and consider, "Shall I bark?" It's automatic instinct. The young kid will butt our small dachshund, "Sir Hans Armstrong," if she is displeased with him. Hans looks bewildered. He can't understand this. He doesn't have that same instinct. Neither does Gretchen understand why Hans barks.

But MAN was made to need KNOWLEDGE for relationships in two directions:

1) to work with matter and things;

2) for close relationship with God, and also with fellowman.

Man was by creation equipped with materialistic MIND to work with matter and things. In that area man has achieved wonders. But his relationship with God, and with other humans, is a SPIRITUAL relationship. This, man has never understood! Adam did not understand it! The most highly educated today do not understand it.

Man was made with one spirit within him from birth (in essence form), which empowers his brain with materialistic intellect. But he needed another Spirit—that of his Maker—the Holy Spirit. Without it his mind is only half complete. As an infant baby is helpless by itself, and needs parental care, so even the human adult is helpless before his fellows and his God by himself—and he needs spiritual guidance, knowledge and help from his God. Without this, man is as helpless before his problems and troubles as a newborn infant in its mother's arms! But man has never realized this. He has felt smugly self-confident—self-reliant. He has chosen to "go it alone" without God. And he has gotten himself into a world of trouble!

But now, first, consider the differences between human and animal brain.

How does human MIND differ

from animal brain? Man's physical brain is not superior, except in slight degree. But (Job 32:8) there is a spirit in man and no such spirit in animals. Man is not spirit. He is matter from the ground. The spirit essence in man enters with his first breath. This spirit is not the man—it is something *in* the man. If he swallowed a very small marble, the marble would be *in* him, but not the man or part of him. The spirit cannot see or hear or think. The physical brain sees through the eye, hears through the ear. Knowledge therefore can enter human brain only through the five senses. Man can know naturally ONLY physical or materialistic knowledge.

But man was created to need another Spirit—the Spirit of God! This was freely offered to Adam if he would choose the tree of LIFE. The Holy Spirit from God would have given man contact with God—would have opened his mind to comprehension of spiritual as well as physical and materialistic knowledge. Without the Spirit of God added to his human spirit, man was *limited* to materialistic knowledge—his mind was *only half there!* He can know only what is seen, felt, heard, smelled or tasted.

Again, WHAT *IF* Adam had taken of the tree of LIFE? Adam was made from the ground—with a physiochemical temporary existence. He did not have LIFE. Like a wound-up clock running down, he was in process of dying with each breath he took. At any time he was only one breath away from death—cessation of existence. This is true of YOU, even as it was of Adam.

It was the Creator GOD who offered him freely the gift of LIFE. But HOW does God impart that gift of life to man?

By His Spirit

God would not have bestowed life on Adam in a manner different than he offers it to those he calls today—for God is the SAME, yesterday, today and for ever (Hebrews 13:8).

God gives LIFE through the Holy Spirit. But when one receives the Holy Spirit he is only begotten—

impregnated—an heir, not yet an inheritor of eternal LIFE. God's Spirit "beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; and if children, then . . . heirs of God" (Romans 8:16-17).

God's Spirit in humans opens the MIND to comprehend spiritual knowledge. Until then, "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard; neither have entered into the mind of man," spiritual knowledge and comprehension (I Corinthians 2:9). "But God hath revealed [spiritual knowledge] by his Spirit" (verse 10). For (verse 11), no human knows human materialistic knowledge, save by the spirit of man that is in him. This human spirit (essence) empowers the human brain with intellect—MIND! That is how human brain differs from animal brain.

But man is still only HALF THERE mentally, until he receives the second Spirit—that of GOD. He is LIMITED in knowledge to the physical and the material. That is the state in which Adam was created! *That is the state in which YOU were born!*

God's Spirit in man reveals spiritual knowledge—the spiritual Law of God—the WAY OF LIFE TO CAUSE peace, happiness, every good result. There are, broadly speaking, the TWO ways of living—exemplified by the two trees in Eden. The one, outflowing LOVE (which is the spiritual Law of God). I term this for brevity and simplicity, the way of "GIVE." The other, the way of "GET." They are the two divergent ways of life, leading in opposite directions, producing opposite effects!

Now LOVE is the fulfilling of God's Law (Romans 13:10) and it can be fulfilled only by the divine "love of God . . . shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy [Spirit]" (Romans 5:5). The Spirit of God imparts the faith of Christ (Galatians 2:16) so we may rely on God for help, guidance, deliverance from troubles—for MANY are the afflictions, even of the righteous, "but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19, RSV). God knew that MAN—Adam and his family, the world—would need

this divine help in times of trouble.

So what was the meaning of the tree of LIFE? It meant God's GIFT of self-contained immortal Spirit-composed LIFE precisely as possessed by God himself (the Word and God). But that life would have been given to Adam, precisely as offered to those called of God today, by his Holy Spirit. And God does not impart immortal Spirit-contained life instantaneously. One is first merely begotten—impregnated—an heir.

Notice it! This has never been understood! Just as a mortal human must be first begotten, then after a period of gestation, born, so may we be born of God.

God Reproducing Himself

UNDERSTAND THIS! God is reproducing himself through man. God made human reproduction the very type, in analogy, of his divine reproduction.

How were you born? This does concern YOU! First there was a tiny ovum, released from your mother's ovary into a fallopian tube en route to her womb or uterus. Each ovum has a temporary physical existence of less than 28 days. Had the ovum not received a sperm cell from the very body of your father in less than that 28 days, there would have been no you. But you—then only the size of a pin point—did have *physical* life imparted through your human father, just as to be born again, you now must have *Spirit* life imparted to you by God the spiritual Father.

You are in fact a spiritual ovum. But, just as, in your mother's womb, you became a newly begotten embryo, so are those in a spiritual sense when begotten of God. You had to grow, physically, fed by and through your mother, protected from physical harm by her. The spiritually begotten must grow spiritually, in grace and the KNOWLEDGE of Christ (II Peter 3:18). After four months you began to take on physical human form and were called a fetus. You still had five more months to grow and develop physically to be born.

Now compare this physical

reproduction to God's divine reproduction. The Church, "Jerusalem above," is the "mother of us all" (Galatians 4:26) that are in the Church. The Church must feed God's children on the spiritual Word of God and protect them from spiritual harm. Those begotten are already the "children of God"—begotten, not yet born—heirs, not yet inheritors (see Romans 8:16-17).

Through the Holy Spirit we receive from God spiritual KNOWLEDGE, the LOVE of God, the faith of Christ, and the power of God. And if we grow spiritually (II Peter 3:18) and keep growing until the end of this physical existence, we shall be born of God by a resurrection (Romans 8:11, I Corinthians 15).

Adam would have received spiritual KNOWLEDGE from God, had he taken of the tree of LIFE, instead of the forbidden fruit—knowledge to solve his problems, and FAITH to receive help and deliverance from trouble.

Now consider what Adam needed!

He needed two kinds of KNOWLEDGE first of all. He needed ability to absorb materialistic knowledge, to make things out of matter—to deal with material THINGS. This God endowed him with ability to acquire, with his created materialistic MIND.

But he also needed to have contact with God and with people—and to learn how to deal with other humans. This required SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE! Adam was not created with this knowledge. YOU were not born with it. This knowledge could be imparted only through the Spirit of God.

How the Forbidden Fruit Is Affecting You!

But now what of the other tree in the garden of Eden? It is even today tremendously affecting YOUR life!

This tree also represented KNOWLEDGE! But where the tree of LIFE represented the kind of knowledge that would have led to eternal LIFE instead of a temporary existence, the forbidden tree repre-

sented KNOWLEDGE leading to DEATH—to cessation of even the temporary physical existence!

When Adam took the forbidden fruit, he *took to himself* the knowledge—the production of the knowledge of good and evil. He appropriated the prerogative of deciding *what* is good and evil—what is right and wrong—what is righteousness and what is sin. Also he took to himself the KNOWLEDGE of the *way of living* that would *cause* good or evil.

In so doing he rejected *revealed* spiritual knowledge from God. AND HE DISOBEYED GOD! He rejected the GOVERNMENT OF GOD! Had Adam taken of the tree of LIFE, he could have restored the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, nullified by the former Lucifer, now Satan.

How Satan Enters the Picture

At this point Satan enters the picture of mankind on earth. He appeared in the form of a serpent (Revelation 12:9) to Eve. He got to Adam through his wife! Where did Satan come from? Did God deliberately create an evil devil? Most certainly not.

Originally Satan was a created great archangel, the cherub Lucifer. He was perfect in all his ways from the day he was created (Ezekiel 28:15). He was placed on the throne of the earth as earth-ruler (Isaiah 14:12-14). He ruled over angels who then inhabited the earth. He led his angels into rebellion against the government of God (II Peter 2:4). Angels are immortal beings, composed of spirit. Lucifer's rebellion ended administration of the government of God, yet left Satan ON EARTH'S THRONE!

So what actually happened in the garden of Eden, later to overwhelmingly affect *your life*? God had talked (preached) to Adam and Eve. This was on what today would be called Friday evening and through the Sabbath. But on a Sunday morning Satan got to Adam through his wife.

God had said plainly, taking of the forbidden fruit would result in the DEATH PENALTY! God had said, for disobedience "You shall surely DIE!" Satan said, "You shall NOT

surely die"—in other words, you are an immortal soul. Eve was deceived into taking the forbidden fruit. ADAM WAS NOT DECEIVED (I Timothy 2:14).

Adam DID NOT BELIEVE GOD! He believed Satan. Mankind has been disbelieving GOD ever since—and believing Satan! When Christ came in human flesh He preached the Kingdom of God to many thousands. He—VERY GOD in human flesh! Yet only 120 actually believed him (Acts 1:15).

What had happened?

Adam, choosing for all his family, the world, disbelieved God—disobeyed God—rejected revealed knowledge and eternal life through the tree of LIFE—took to himself all knowledge production, with a carnal mind LIMITED to knowledge of the physical and material! He was ONLY HALF THERE mentally! He had made the choice that limited him to knowledge of the physical and material. He had rejected the spiritual knowledge for happy relationship with God and with fellowman. He had rejected eternal LIFE!

Adam had SINNED! He had disobeyed the explicit command of his Maker! He had rejected God's LOVE, God's GOVERNMENT!

So now what did GOD do?

"And the Lord God said . . . and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the Lord God . . . drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life" (Genesis 3:22-24).

God *shut up* the tree of LIFE! He barred access to his Holy Spirit, until the coming of the second Adam—Jesus Christ!

AND WHY? WHY did God refuse man access to his Holy Spirit, until the time of Christ? THIS HAS NEVER BEEN UNDERSTOOD!

First, it has never been understood that God did shut off his Holy Spirit from mankind.

UNDERSTAND THIS! God refused human access to the Holy Spirit—UNTIL CHRIST, THE SECOND ADAM, should come and pay the death

penalty for humans in our stead!

UNDERSTAND THIS! The Holy Spirit and gift of eternal life was not available to Adam's children. It was not available, even to God's called and chosen people ancient Israel, except their prophets (who were part of the foundation of the New Testament Church, born out of due time—I Corinthians 15:8; Ephesians 2:20).

Therefore all humanity was born with minds that were carnal—limited to MATERIALISTIC KNOWLEDGE! And the carnal mind is HOSTILE (enmity) against God, and not subject to the Law of God—the way of outflowing LOVE (Romans 8:7).

People do not realize this, but their natural minds are HOSTILE against God! They do not want to hear about God! The things of God are foolishness to them. Those inoculated with higher education (MAN'S KNOWLEDGE) in their smug vanity feel superior, and look with disdain on the things or knowledge of GOD!

But WHY? Yes, WHY did God cut mankind off SO LONG? WHY wait some 4,000 years for Christ the second Adam to come? And WHY, even then, to call only the predestinated FEW?

What God Is Creating!

Now we come to another important truth never understood in our time until now.

Few know WHAT God is creating! Creating is God's occupation. But what is he CREATING? He is creating righteous, perfect spiritual CHARACTER in his created beings!

This character cannot be created instantly by fiat—even God can't do that! WHY? This perfect godly character requires the decision, the assent, the enforced self-will of the created entity, and often against self-desire or self-will. It is a process that requires time!

We judge and evaluate things by comparison. God intended that man experience the fruits of the way he has chosen for 6,000 years, then compare those agonizing results with the healthy joys and inspiring lives of the next millennium—with Satan gone, with

Christ and immortal saints ruling—the earth then full of God's knowledge, as the ocean beds are full of water!

With God, a thousand years are only as a day, and a day as a thousand years (II Peter 3:8). The six days of the first chapter of Genesis were a type of the six millennial days of man, swayed by Satan. The coming millennial day was typified by the seventh day Sabbath.

God, in forming his Master Plan for working out his purpose here below—that of reproducing himself through man—is accomplishing through us the most stupendous feat even the Great God can bring about! And through you and me!

Life by the Second Adam

Physical temporary existence came by Adam. But eternal inherent self-existent LIFE came by Jesus Christ, the second Adam!

Once Adam had sinned, the “wages of sin” was death, “but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Is it mere coincidence that, as the sun brought the light of day from the darkness of night on the fourth day of “creation week,” Christ brought the light of truth out of the darkness of evil after 4,000 years? In him was light. Yet most still loved darkness!

Jesus said, “I will build my church, and the gates of [the grave] shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). The Church is only the firstfruits of God's salvation!

Jesus said plainly, “NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which sent me draw him” (John 6:44). But those are the predestined FEW drawn during the Church age (Ephesians 1:11-12).

The prophet Joel had prophesied, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh . . .” (Joel 2:28). The apostle Peter quoted this as being in a preliminary typical manner fulfilled on the day the Church was founded (Acts 2:16-17).

Notice this pivotal scripture. Peter had quoted the prophecy of Joel. The preliminary type of that

prophetic fulfillment was occurring that day of Pentecost—the foundation of the Church. Those whom God had called there asked Peter, “What shall we do?” after his speech. Peter answered: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy [Spirit]. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, . . . even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:38-39). Only those God *calls*, and *draws* to him may come to Christ during this Church age!

That is a BASIC TRUTH in God's Master Plan for redeeming humanity—for REPRODUCING HIMSELF—understood by almost no one!

When Adam sinned, he cut himself off from God. And God cut him and his children off from the Holy Spirit.

SO WHAT THEN?

God appointed a Master Plan for yet redeeming sinning mankind! Sin entered the world by Adam, and all have sinned.

The JUDGMENT Brings Salvation

So God appointed a time of JUDGMENT, during which humans shall NOT ONLY be called to account for their sins, BUT ALSO OFFERED REMISSION OF SINS, RECONCILIATION WITH GOD AND THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE, upon repentance and belief!

Read that above paragraph again. AND AGAIN!

UNDERSTAND it! The PENALTY of sin, for man, is the *second* death! “. . . it is appointed unto men once to die, but *after this* the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Again, “As in Adam all die” (the first death), “even so in Christ shall all be made alive”—the same “all” who die in Adam!—“but every man in his own order. Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then . . .” (I Cor. 15:22-24). Yes, then, a thousand years afterward (Revelation 20:11-12), the judgment.

But a comparative FEW were predestined to be called to judgment and salvation during the Church

age (Ephesians 1:11-12). They are the “first fruits” of God's salvation.

But WHY? Why call a few, a thousand to three thousand years before the judgment of the MANY? To prepare and spiritually train a people for the Kingdom of God—the divine FAMILY of God, to rule with Christ during the Millennium and after, in redeeming the vast billions of people since Adam during the time of *their* judgment and salvation!

There is this DIFFERENCE! Those specially called, begotten and spiritually developed through the Church must OVERCOME SATAN! Satan is still on earth's throne! But when Christ comes—and the resurrected saints rule with him in the Kingdom (FAMILY) of God, Satan shall have been removed. Those called then, and in the post-millennial general judgment shall not have to overcome Satan and Satan's deceived world!

So notice! Judgment and opportunity for salvation have begun with Christ! To the Church, Peter wrote, “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God” (I Peter 4:17).

God is calling the FEW now, into his Church. Others CANNOT come to Christ NOW (John 6:44). Jesus in no manner came on a “soul-saving crusade.” At no time did he plead with any one to “give him one's heart.” He pleaded with none to accept him and be saved. At Jacob's well in Samaria, the gentile Samaritan woman asked him for the Holy Spirit—which he had pictured to her as living water. Jesus then told her of her sins, but offered her no salvation—though God had drawn some in Samaria who did believe on Christ (John 4:15-18).

Of those whom God the Father has drawn to be reconciled to him through Christ, during this Church age, notice what Christ has said:

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne [at Jerusalem]” (Revelation 3:21). And, “he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the

nations: and he shall rule them . . .” (Revelation 2:26-27).

Those words apply to those of the Church *only*—of the time prior to God’s Kingdom! But those called now have Satan and Satan’s world to overcome. Those called during the Millennium and in the judgment afterward will not—Satan shall then be removed. The world then will not be deceived. But it shall be as full of the KNOWLEDGE of God as the ocean beds are full of water (Isaiah 11:9).

Some will ask, What of one who really wants salvation—wants to believe in Christ—willing to repent and come out of this world and be led by God’s Spirit in a true Christian life? Answer: Such a one has been drawn by God, otherwise he or she would have had no such desire. However, most who believe they are in that category have followed a false gospel, false teaching, and are deceived. MILLIONS profess Christianity who have been so deceived. Of them Jesus said, “In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men . . . laying aside the commandment of God” (Mark 7:7-8).

All this TRUTH is pictured by God’s annual festivals. They were given for the Church when the Church was first founded—but that was the Church (or Congregation) of Israel, under the Old Testament. Ancient Israel did not understand the meaning of these festivals. But they were ordained FOREVER! Christ observed them. The Church, as founded A.D. 31, observed them. God’s Church observes them today.

They outline God’s Master Plan, for the redemption of man. The Plan starts with Christ. The first festival is the Passover, reminding God’s Church annually of the sacrifice and shed blood of Christ for the remission of sins of the flesh-born children of Adam.

The second festival is that of Unleavened Bread—seven days, of which the first and last are annual Sabbaths or holy days. As seven is God’s number of completeness, they picture the complete putting away of sin, or the overcoming life.

The third is the Feast of First-

fruits, called in the New Testament “Pentecost,” because it came fifty days after the cutting of the wave sheaf during the Days of Unleavened Bread. The Church was founded on that day. On that day the Holy Spirit was given to those God had drawn FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE GOD BARRED HUMANITY FROM HIS SPIRIT (Genesis 3:22-24). The Church is the FIRSTFRUITS of God’s salvation, and therefore the festival given that name.

The fourth festival is the Feast of Trumpets, the first day of the seventh month of God’s sacred calendar, late summer or early autumn. It pictures the second coming of Christ.

The fifth festival is the Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the seventh month. It pictures the putting away of Satan, since Christ who had qualified to restore (Acts 3:19-21) the government of God shall be inducted on the throne at Jerusalem. This day pictures the making of man’s AT-ONE-MENT with God through Christ.

The sixth is the Feast of Tabernacles—a seven-day festival, picturing the seventh thousand year reign of Christ and the resurrected saints. During this millennium the TREE OF LIFE will be opened to ALL who repent and believe.

The seventh is the Last Great Day, following the seven days, picturing the Great White Throne Judgment. At that time, all from Adam on, who were not called, will be resurrected to judgment. The Book of LIFE will be opened (Revelation 20:12).

Afterward there will be a resurrection of those who had been called, but had wilfully rebelled and rejected God’s call. The earth then will become a molten lake of fire. All others by then shall be immortal spirit beings—children of God. The fire will not in any way affect them. The condemned will become ashes under the soles of their feet (Malachi 4:3). They shall be as though they had never been (Obadiah 16). Does this show harshness with God? Is God unfair? NEVER! God is LOVE! This is the kindest and most merciful end for those who have been freely

offered LIFE and in self-centered rebellion rejected it. It is my belief that only a comparative few will finally rebel, uninfluenced by Satan.

The Incredible Human Potential

What an astoundingly incredible human potential! The world little realizes what a glorious and stupendous PURPOSE God is working out in mortal human lives made from earthly ground!

God is REPRODUCING HIMSELF through us! He is taking matter out of the ground, making it into mortal, temporarily existing humans. For those willing, God is infusing into them his Holy Spirit—imparting to them GOD-life eternal! Through his Spirit, with our assent and effort at spiritual growth and overcoming, he infuses into us HIS RIGHTEOUS SPIRITUAL CHARACTER. By a resurrection, we become BORN God personages—personages just as are God the Father and Christ the Son! We shall have the entire UNIVERSE put under our feet (Hebrews 2:8).

In Adam all have sinned. In Christ shall all be made alive! God has called, first, HIS CHURCH! The Church is HIS BODY! The Church, resurrected at Christ’s coming, shall be MARRIED to Christ the Son. We become the children of God. After our marriage to Christ—a spiritual marriage of spiritually immortal Persons—we shall beget children into this DIVINE FAMILY!

There is but the ONE CHURCH—ONE BODY (I Corinthians 12:13, 20) to become ONE DIVINE FAMILY. The Church is “fitly framed together” (Ephesians 2:21), joined together and compacted (welded) together (Ephesians 4:16), all speaking the SAME THINGS as CHRIST speaks (I Corinthians 1:10). God has called the Church specially out of Satan’s world to overcome Satan and his world, to be prepared and trained to become God beings in and after the Millennium, to rule with Christ as we bring to eternal LIFE all others beginning with Adam, who then shall be willing!

WHAT A WONDERFUL PURPOSE AND MASTER PLAN! □

Personal from...

(Continued from page 2)

to speak to, and instruct our MINDS?

What does STUDY mean? Do we "STUDY" with our MINDS—or our hearts? We find this INSTRUCTION and TEACHING: "STUDY to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). That is a COMMAND! One can STUDY, and *rightly* divide the Word of God *only with* his MIND!

God teaches—yes, COMMANDS!—that the Scriptures are to be STUDIED—with the MIND. Otherwise, how could we know God's WILL for us? So we find *this* command: "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but UNDERSTANDING what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17).

What a tragedy that so much of this world is DECEIVED.

MILLIONS have been deceived into a FALSE "salvation," inoculated with the spiritual poison that "salvation" and the "Gospel" are concerned only with a sanctimonious mental anesthetic, shutting up the MIND to God's real TRUTH, accepting the counterfeit of a sentimental "feeling" of piety.

And other MILLIONS have been conversely deceived into supposing that this ethereal, impractical, irrational superstition of these professing but deceived "Christians" constitutes the teaching of the Bible. So *these* millions, in vanity wanting to be considered rational, and educated—regarding themselves as *thinkers*—throw away the Bible without so much as an examination of its contents.

BOTH these "pious" sentimentalists and these "intellectuals" are DECEIVED! Going off in opposite directions, to the opposite extremes from the TRUTH, they are both headed for the same ultimate destination, unless there can be a mind-opening!

The Bible is the very SOURCE of TRUE RATIONALISM, of basic TRUTH. Also it is the very SOURCE of the only TRUE Gospel and genuine SALVATION. Surely it

is the Book almost NOBODY knows!

What, then, *IS* the Holy BIBLE?

It is the FOUNDATION of *all* knowledge—knowledge which is otherwise utterly inaccessible to the mind of man—the knowledge of WHAT man is; of WHY man is; of the true values; of THE WAY to peace, happiness, abundant well-being, success; and of ETERNAL life.

It is the FOUNDATION of *all* knowledge—scientific, physical and spiritual. *Not* the sum-total of knowledge — far, far from it! It is the *starting point*—the BASIS, providing the proper *approach* toward the acquisition of knowledge that *is* discoverable by man.

It contains history, prophecy, wisdom, spiritual knowledge, TRUTH.

No one can be properly EDUCATED except by and through it. No one can know the way to eternal life, except by what it contains.

Yes, I REPEAT!—"the Gospel message *IS* an educational message!" It is RATIONAL! It MAKES SENSE! And it is REAL! □

PHYSICAL LIFE

(Continued from page 21)

highly improbable molecules. Therefore, the odds against any organism coming into existence by pure chance are unbelievably fantastic! Fact two means that natural selection cannot make an organism more probable, since natural selection requires the preexistence of an organism. And fact three leads to the conclusion that mutations cannot account for the arrival of new kinds of organisms.

Are the myriad forms that exist today the result of the unfathomably improbable, blind chance occurrence of highly complex molecules, followed by even more blind chance combinations of the molecules. No. Does natural selection provide the answer? No. Do mutations explain how evolution occurs? No.

The conclusion is inescapable. This temporary chemical existence we call life was planned. Physical life was designed. Physical life was created! □

God
is alive.
You
can prove
it, too.

SKEPTICS DOUBT God's existence. Many scientific minds say it cannot be proven. And, among the different religions, there are as many concepts of God as there are sects. Yet no question remains more fundamental than "Does God exist?"

Here, at last, are seven specific *proofs* of God's existence.

Discover, *who* God is, *how* life originated and *why* the evolutionary theory is in serious error.

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Does God
Exist?