

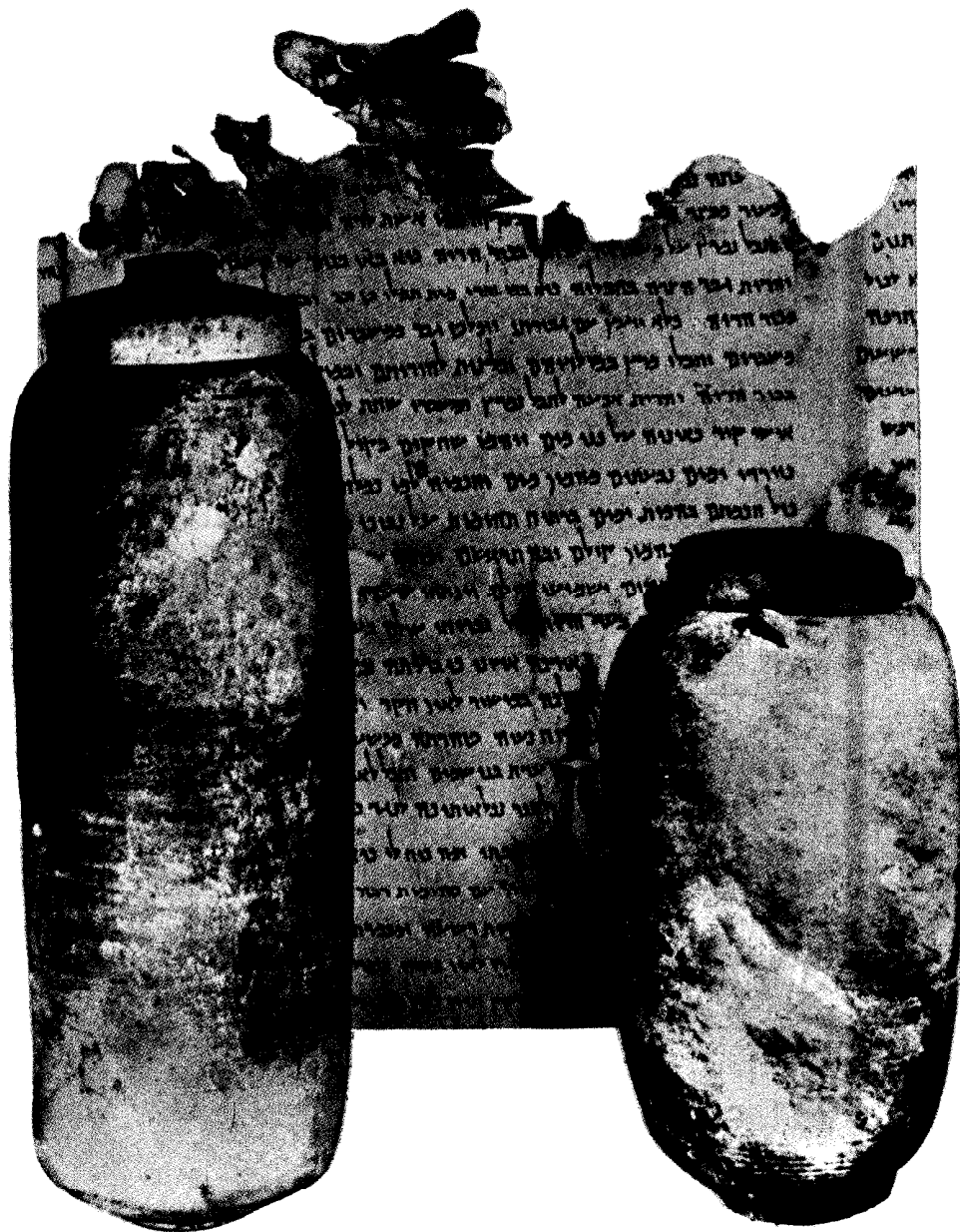
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PLAIN TRUTH

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—Wide World Photo  
A fragment of one of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and two clay containers which housed the documents for nearly 20 centuries are pictured here.

# WHY GOD IS NOT REAL to Most People

**Millions who claim to believe in God would be shocked if they knew the actual SOURCE of their belief and practice.**

by **Herbert W. Armstrong**

I WONDER if *you* are like the person who said to me: "I believe in God, but it seems like God is so *far off*—so UNREAL!"

WHY do most people feel this way?

Then again, I have often wondered how it can be that so many have heard me explain the Message GOD sent to mankind by Jesus Christ, just as it is plainly recorded that Christ taught it, and yet have said afterward: "I surely enjoyed that. I never heard anything like that before, but it certainly makes sense"—and yet, even tho they heard it, understood it, even expressed that it was the most logical and self-evident *true* explanation of life and its purpose and truth they have ever heard—in spite of this, *knowing* it is the TRUE Gospel of Jesus Christ, yet *they evidence not the slightest indication that this true Message from God is of any concern to them, personally—or that it has any connection with them, individually!*

WHY is this?

## What Is the SOURCE of Your Religion?

The answer is bound up in two factors: the unreality of God to the average person, and the actual SOURCE of one's religion.

Let's understand this mystery!

What *is* religion, anyway?

Religion is the obedience, service, or adoration rendered to the object of one's worship—a system of faith and devotion to a *superior Authority*—the profession, practice or observance of whatever belief and practice is required by that SUPERIOR AUTHORITY.

The very SOURCE of your religion, then, is that *superior authority*. Whatever that AUTHORITY that to you has appeared SUPERIOR—you received your

religion *from* it, and you profess whatever belief, and observe whatever practice it requires!

The question, then, now becomes: "*What IS* that SUPERIOR AUTHORITY?"

Is that SOURCE of *your* religious belief and practice, a Supreme, All-Powerful Personal GOD?—a GOD who *created* all matter, force and energy—who created *everything* that exists?

The incredible answer, in nearly all cases, believe it or not—is *NO!*

MANY of the world's organized and recognized religions do not *believe* in any One Supreme, Personal, All-Powerful GOD!

Most of the many sectarian divisions of the professing *Christian* religion *do* claim to believe that there is ONE Supreme, All-Powerful Personal GOD—but, in reality, is such a Personal GOD the real SOURCE of their religious belief and practice? The astonishing answer is *NO!*

Most intelligent people believe there had to be some original FIRST CAUSE—a FIRST CAUSE of all that we see and know about us—of the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, the *weather*—of animal life and plant life—of *human* life. But *is* that FIRST CAUSE an actual Personal BEING possessing *mind, intelligence, purpose*—and the powers to bring into existence the things that we see about us—and is there power to *guide, direct* and *control* the earth and the entire universe?

## WHY God Is Unreal

If such a Supreme, Living, All-Intelligent, All-Powerful Personal Being does exist, then *WHY* is it that this GOD seems so UNREAL to people—so *far off* as to seem *non-existent*? *WHY?*

I think we can explain that!

The hour that you were born, you knew nothing about any One Supreme Personal GOD! You knew *nothing!* Whatever concept you have about God has come into your mind *since* the day of your birth. HOW did knowledge begin coming into your mind? There are only five channels thru which any knowledge can come, naturally, into the human mind—that which you *see, hear, taste, smell, or feel*,—the five physical senses.

There exist THREE dimensions. But the natural mind of a mortal human person is aware of only TWO! Babies grow into little children—and they grow toward adulthood with an awareness only of the *within*, and the *around*. You grew toward adulthood with no real knowledge of the ABOVE—for the above is *spiritual*—it cannot be *seen*,—you cannot hear, taste, smell, or feel spiritual things, beings, or TRUTHS!

And so, if there BE any One Supreme Spiritual BEING who is GOD, you couldn't *see* Him—you couldn't *hear* Him—you had no actual personal *contact* of any kind with Him—you could know absolutely *nothing* of God thru any of these natural channels by which you receive knowledge.

WELL, THEN! There are many *millions* of professing Christians who say they believe in such a GOD—and who profess to *know* more or less about Him. *How did this happen?*

The answer is that they know what they have read or *been told* by those AROUND them—what they have received from other *people!* What most people know about GOD—or *think* they know—has *not* come from the ABOVE—*not* from God Himself direct, in any personal contact—but from the AROUND—purely from what they have heard, read,

or been told by other people. And where did these other PEOPLE acquire their "knowledge?" Well they, too, received it from other people—and in the main, all these other PEOPLE constitute a *deceived world* that has NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF OR CONTACT WITH ANY ONE SUPREME SPIRIT BEING, WHO IS GOD!

Of course, altho *most* people neglect Bible reading, many have read about God in the Bible—but their concept of God has been so firmly implanted into their minds by other people during childhood before they started reading the Bible that they continue picturing Him in the same way.

Well, NO WONDER, then, that most people who profess to believe in such a God say that *God seems unreal to them!* They are like the old patriarch JOB. He thought He knew all about God. But after God actually revealed Himself, and spoke directly and in person to Job—after this personal contact had been established—Job said to God: "I have HEARD of You by the hearing of the ear: but NOW, my eye SEES YOU!" Yes, now, God had become REAL. Job's source of knowledge previously had been from the around—He had heard about God by the hearing of the ear—from other PEOPLE. God wasn't real to him! But once that direct personal contact was established, GOD BECAME REAL!

There is a way by which YOU can establish actual direct PERSONAL CONTACT with God, so that He will become absolutely REAL!

But what is the SOURCE of the religions of this world? Beliefs and religious practices have come from this SOURCE!

### TWO-Dimensional Minds

So now stop and THINK! The natural human mind is conscious actively of only TWO of the three dimensions—the WITHIN and the AROUND! Knowledge comes from WITHOUT—and, naturally, is confined to the AROUND, since knowledge of the ABOVE is not naturally transmitted thru any of the five senses. So knowledge comes from the AROUND—from people and things!

WITHIN is the process of reasoning, from that knowledge! And also within, guiding and influencing that

reasoning, is HUMAN NATURE!

### What Human Nature Is

Human nature is a mixture of good and evil. But its basic principle is VANITY, which expresses itself in many ways. It expresses itself in covetousness, greed, selfishness, jealousy, envy, resentment, hatred. But this human nature is suffering from a sense of inferiority, and it desires desperately to be relieved of this painful feeling.

This basic ingredient of human nature, VANITY, also expresses itself in a desire to belong to a group, a club, a society, a church, a faction, or a NATION. In order to avoid feeling inferior, the self instinctively desires to be accepted by other people. This ingredient in human nature produces a spirit of rivalry, party-spirit, and consequently loyalty to the party, the club, the faction, the church, the group, the nation to which it belongs! It would fear to be disloyal, lest the others in this factional group consider him as a traitor, and therefore as evil—and HE feel inferior, which is a painful feeling!

This element in human nature is often called the "sheep instinct." People just naturally follow—go along with—OTHER PEOPLE! Consequently they fear other people! That is, they FEAR to disagree—they fear to act or perform or believe contrary to the other people of whatever SOCIETY they feel affiliated with.

If you can get a fad or a style or a custom started in any society, or nation, or group to which people adhere, all the people attached to it will usually follow like blind, dumb SHEEP!

WHY do so many teen-agers—both boys and girls—smoke cigarettes today? There are just two motivating reasons—the vanity of feeling more adult—and the sheep instinct. That is, because others they associate with and wish to be accepted by do it, they are afraid they will not be well-thought-of if they don't! It is a practice they follow in order to conform to whatever code or belief is laid down by the society in which they travel.

### The Unrealized SOURCE

This SOCIETY, then, the pattern or system which is of HUMAN origin, is

the actual SOURCE of nearly all of the BELIEFS and the PRACTICES of nearly all the people on earth today!

—AND THAT INCLUDES RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES!

People BELIEVE what they do, usually, because the society with which they are connected believes that way. They practice whatever CUSTOMS they follow because the PEOPLE with whom they feel connected dictate these practices!

Most people the world over have accepted the religion of those people with whom they were most closely connected from infancy to adulthood—their parents. And by the time they grow up, they find themselves surrounded by a larger group than their immediate family—a religious group, or church or society or nation—all of which accept the same religious beliefs, and follow the same religious practices. And, if ever such a person is in any manner tempted to question these beliefs and practices, the FEAR of what all the others with whom he is attached might think and say dissuades him—USUALLY!

Yes, it is HUMAN to FEAR the society to which we have become attached in the way that we should fear the CREATOR GOD! But this immediate society around us is near—it is real—we see and hear these people—we want to be ACCEPTED by them—and God seems so far away—so UNREAL!

It ought to begin to dawn on our minds that the actual SOURCE of the religious beliefs and practices of nearly all individuals is—S O C I E T Y—other PEOPLE—and this society of other people is what the BIBLE calls THIS WORLD!

### How Religions Originated

A few times, in the history of this world, in one nation or another, a man of higher-than-average intellect has DARED to THINK FOR HIMSELF—to think and to reason within himself independent of, and contrary to the society around him. He has allowed the BEST in human nature—and remember that human nature is a MIXTURE of good and evil—to guide his philosophical thinking. And, as he has meditated upon some of the deeper things of life, he has dared to come to conclusions different from those of the accepted re-

ligion of HIS PEOPLE. Such a man has been *confined*, in this reasoning, to whatever *factual* knowledge he has gained from WITHOUT—and he has been confined to the AROUND—to this material WORLD of people, plant and animal life, and THINGS. He has been unable to SEE, or to HEAR, or in any way to KNOW about SPIRITUAL things.

And since the real PRINCIPLES of life—the very PURPOSE of life, the WAY to peace, to happiness, to joy; the MEANING of life, of death, or whether there is life AFTER death, and of its nature—since all these fundamental PRINCIPLES OF LIFE are not to be SEEN, or heard, or knowledge of them transmitted thru the five senses; and since this BASIC knowledge can come only from ABOVE, from the CREATOR HIMSELF; and since these religious leaders were utterly CUT OFF from this true SOURCE of knowledge about LIFE, then their reasonings and philosophic and religious conclusions *have been of necessity in error!*

Yet they have seemed PLAUSIBLE! In nearly every case these men who have founded some new religion have found very few sympathizers at first, or even during their lifetimes. Only a FEW have ever been willing to BREAK AWAY from the established ideas and customs of their immediate SOCIETY. All others have avoided them or persecuted them! But in some cases their few followers themselves became leaders, and gradually, very slowly at first, new converts were added, until in time these new ideas became an established religion with many followers—often numbering many millions.

THAT is WHY there are different religions in different countries—that is HOW it all came about!

### The SOURCE of This World's "Christianity"

BUT—marvel of marvels—the actual SOURCE of what is commonly accepted as "Christianity" today is altogether different from what professing Christians call the heathen religions! Yet almost no one knows what it is!

It is A NEW THING in the earth; and it originated, not from the philosophies of a human mind *apart from* the truth of God and of Christ, but in actually

seizing onto the true religion of Christ and *counterfeiting* it in order to exalt and deify a human man!

The prophet Daniel foretold it. In the longest prophecy in the Bible—Dan. 10, 11, and 12, it is recorded: "And the king shall do according to *his* will [*not God's*]; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things *against* the God of gods [the true GOD]: . . . Neither shall he regard the gods of his fathers [heathen gods], . . . and a god whom his fathers [pagans] knew not shall he honor."

Differing totally from all previous pagan religions, the true Christianity was *counterfeited*, with a former pagan belief or practice substituted for almost everything vital in the *true* belief and practice which came from GOD, and yet seizing on the NAME of Christ, and the NAME of God, and labeling this religion "Christianity." Vehemently it *professed* to abolish idolatry, by substituting the NAMES of God and of Christ for pagan gods, while substituting pagan beliefs and practices for those of Jesus Christ!

And all the world is DECEIVED!

### DOES God EXIST?

But—if there BE a true FIRST CAUSE—a Supreme Personal BEING who had wisdom and power to actually CREATE this earth and life upon it—I say that IF there be such an intelligent Supreme Personal GOD, it is NOT REASONABLE that He should have failed to MAKE HIMSELF *known* to mankind—and to COMMUNICATE to mankind the knowledge of the TRUTH, the knowledge of the PURPOSE of life, the spiritual LAWS that GOVERN life and all relationships—and of the HEREAFTER!

Is there such a GOD? *Does* that God EXIST?

DID He ever communicate such a revelation of essential knowledge to mankind?—and IF SO, I ask you, *WHY* IS THE WORLD TODAY GROPING SO HELPLESSLY IN THE DARKNESS OF *CONFUSION*—with actually HUNDREDS of different and conflicting religious teachings?

Thirty years ago I was led BY this very GOD to *ask* these same questions—

and to seek their rational and absolute PROOF, one way or the other.

### The PROOF

Since I could not *see* this Supreme God, I turned to what *could* be seen, or heard—measured and examined and absolutely PROVED—the laws and the facts of SCIENCE! And I found that what is observed and *known* about radioactivity *proves* there has been *no past eternity of matter*.

Matter itself, then, is not the great FIRST CAUSE, as some seem to think—for there was a time, in the long, long ago, when matter *came* into existence. SOMETHING could not bring itself into existence out of NOTHING. There was, then, a CREATING POWER that is apart from, and independent of MATTER. Next, was this FIRST CAUSE—the Creating Power that *created* matter—INTELLIGENT? I found accurate and absolute PROOF, unanswerable, that this CREATOR was a SUPREME Intelligence—an intelligence *infinitely* higher than that in MAN.

But what was this CREATOR *like*? Ah, I could not prove *that* by the laws of Science. I could prove only that there IS a Creator, who is INTELLIGENT.

But, regardless of whether the Creator be a PERSONAL God, or what, IF He is intelligent, it would be an insult to intelligence if He had not REVEALED HIMSELF and His PURPOSE in creating humanity on this earth—and all the FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE about life that mankind seems to lack.

I began to look into the religious WRITINGS—the sacred SCRIPTURES—of the *religions* of the world. Being an American, reared in what I was told was CHRISTIANITY—but now DOUBTING it, and demanding PROOF, I first set out to PROVE whether or not the HOLY BIBLE could be such an inspired revelation.

### The PROOF of Inspiration

In this Book I found One actually quoted, saying He was GOD ALMIGHTY—a Personal BEING who had *created* everything that exists. This God is quoted directly as speaking, and as delivering DECREES and SENTENCES on the greatest of the ancient city-states,



on the greatest of ancient NATIONS and EMPIRES—and FORE-TELLING what HE was going to CAUSE to HAPPEN to those cities, nations, and empires a very FEW years later or a thousand years later or several thousand years later—and throughout eternity!

Now NO MORTAL MAN could put such colossal pronouncements in writing, and bring them to pass! No MAN could *cause* such results. No MAN could KNOW the future!

The *only ONE* that could inspire such writing—IF events actually *happened* as written in advance—is the MOST High Creator who actually CONTROLS all the forces and powers that exist, who is also SUPREME RULER over the entire UNIVERSE!

I found such prophecies respecting not merely one, not merely two, not merely four, but concerning MOST ALL of the existing great cities of the world at the time the words were written.

Ancient TYRE was to be utterly destroyed, in a certain specific manner—and NEVER rebuilt. That happened, in the EXACT MANNER written down centuries BEFORE THE EVENT—and in nearly 2,500 years IT HAS NEVER BEEN REBUILT!

Her sister city, SIDON, was to be reduced to a very small city, continually attacked, with continual bloodshed in her streets—yet continuing to be rebuilt, and to exist. THAT has happened, *precisely* as written 2,500 years ago, down to this very day!

Ashdod was to continue to exist as a small city, until all surrounding territory was to be occupied by the JEWISH race in this 20th century A.D.—AND THAT HAPPENED! But her sister city of the ancient Philistines, ASHKELON, was to be destroyed and NEVER re-built—and THAT happened!

Ancient proud *Babylon* was to be totally DESTROYED, and NEVER AGAIN was any MAN to be allowed to LIVE THERE. I visited all these sites recently—and it has HAPPENED as prophesied. No man has lived at the site of ancient Babylon for many centuries—none lives there today!

Egypt was then, when this prophecy was written, one of the greatest NATIONS on earth. It was to be conquered by the

Chaldeans, reduced to a minor nation—always to exist, but never again as a MAJOR nation—and NEVER again ruled by a NATIVE PRINCE. And THAT happened, exactly as the One quoted say-

ing "I AM THE ETERNAL GOD!" said it would!

When these prophecies were written the Chaldean Empire was rising to become the world's first *world-ruling* empire. This GOD of the Bible, 2,500 years ago, inspired the prophets to write that it was to be conquered by the Persian Empire. It, in turn, by a great general from Greece—who turned out to be Alexander the Great; and HE was to be cut off from life at an early age, and his kingdom divided into FOUR divisions—and they, in turn, were to be absorbed by a rising Empire from the WEST, to be the most *powerful* of *all* empires. This same GOD inspired the writing, 2,500 years ago, that *this* great Empire, which was the Roman Empire, was to be overthrown, but to be resurrected *ten times!* NINE of those resurrections have already come and gone, and that same GOD wrote in those same *prophecies*, 2,500 years ago [some of them 1,900 years ago] that yet IN OUR TIME, there would be *another* resurrection of that EMPIRE by a UNITING of TEN DIFFERENT POWERS in the European-Mediterranean region of the ancient Roman Empire! And the stage is set for even THAT astounding prophecy to be fulfilled BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES WITHIN THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS!

And these are only a FEW of the scores and scores of PROPHECIES in this *remarkable* Book—MANY of them already startlingly fulfilled—all the others right NOW in almost IMMEDIATE IMMINENCE of being fulfilled in OUR TIME! Yes, I found that PROPHECY has absolutely PROVED that the Scriptures called the HOLY BIBLE were directly INSPIRED by the very CREATOR GOD!

### God Answers Prayers

Then I found other proof! I found that this same GOD, in this same BIBLE, had hundreds of PROMISES written down for YOU and for ME, saying that under certain terms and conditions He would actually cause certain things to HAPPEN for us—IF WE WOULD ASK HIM IN BELIEVING PRAYER! I found promises to deliver us from trouble when we get into it, to supply our every NEED when we really NEED it, (Please continue on page 17)

## RADIO LOG

### "The WORLD TOMORROW"

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

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## How Important Are the DEAD SEA Scrolls?

(Continued from page 8)

the Herodians, and the Zealots—but never of the Essenes!

In order to sell their books, some few authors speculate that the sect which buried the scrolls constituted the followers of John the Baptist—or even the disciples of Jesus Christ Himself! But *proof* of such ideas they have none. They have speculations to *sell*—and people *are* interested in human speculation!

One writer contends that this heretical sect—perhaps they were the Essenes mentioned by the Jewish historian Josephus—held doctrines which “were the rich, spiritual subsoil that nourished early Christianity!” If this were true,

WHY IS THE BOOK OF ACTS SILENT ABOUT THIS SECT?

The facts are that the teachings of John the Baptist, of Jesus Christ and the apostles—yes, of the entire New Testament—are *totally at variance* with the semi-paganized monastic life led by the Essenes!

Perhaps the *clearest* summary of the scrolls was given by a professor Roland Murphy, at the Catholic University: “No Christian need fear the scrolls. They will shed light on two important points—the accuracy of the Hebrew text of the Bible and the history of the Jewish movements in the time of Christ.”

The Dead Sea Scrolls do throw light on these two points—but a *very faint light!* And most writers totally obliterate what little light the scrolls do reflect of the history of the Jews in Christ's time.

No, the Dead Sea Scrolls are *not* im-

portant—and books about them are even less valuable! Let's not be drawn into a new sales whirlpool and become lost in a maze of unproved, often contradictory speculations about the Bible.

## WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: “How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?” The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. “Freely ye have received,” Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, “Freely GIVE.” Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a PRICE upon the PLAIN TRUTH.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need. God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!

## WHY GOD IS NOT REAL

(Continued from page 6)

to fight our personal BATTLES for us, to heal us when we are sick—yes, even to PROSPER us financially. These were promises of *outside supernatural help* I saw that every person often NEEDS! Time after time came when I actually *needed* some of these things—and by this time I had come to BELIEVE what God had written and promised—so, I followed His instructions: I prayed. I ASKED for what He had promised, I set myself to YIELD TO, and to OBEY this God of the Bible—to BELIEVE what He said in the Bible. And, believe it or not, THE ANSWERS CAME—yes, MIRACLES were performed! I learned that there was really SOMEONE THERE when I prayed to this God—there was Someone who actually HEARD, and who actually ANSWERED!

One time I was in immediate and desperate need of a very small amount of money—the need was so urgent I had to ask this invisible God whom I could not SEE, to SEND this small piece of money to my home IMMEDIATELY. The need was so immediate I had no

time for a long prayer—only some 20 or 30 seconds. But as I rose from that prayer, a man was even then *in front* of my house, on the way in with that EXACT AMOUNT of money! It was brought to me in less than one minute's time!

I have had such petitions to that Great Invisible GOD answered HUNDREDS UPON HUNDREDS OF TIMES! And SO CAN YOU—if you can ever get to really KNOW this Great Universe-Ruling CREATOR—if you will unconditionally OBEY HIM as He commands IN THIS VERY BIBLE—and IF you will implicitly and unswervingly BELIEVE what He has promised there!

And I found other PROOFS! I KNEW, then, that the BIBLE is that very revelation of vital knowledge without which this world lives in darkness and in religious CONFUSION—and in unhappiness, wretchedness, and suffering! I *had found the one and ONLY TRUE SOURCE* of TRUTH—of the only TRUE belief and practice—the only TRUE WAY OF LIFE!

And I found as the SOURCE of this world's religious belief—a SOURCE that I was dumbfounded to learn is at *total variance* with what is commonly believed and taught and practised to-

day in the western world under the name of CHRISTIANITY! Astounding *tho* it was, I found that the Christianity of this world is NOT the teaching, *or* the practice, OF THE HOLY BIBLE!

THAT discovery sent my head to spinning! THAT discovery was the most shocking truth of my life!

## “Christianity” Not Founded on the Bible

I found that there is absolutely NO organized religion on the face of the earth that has AS ITS SOURCE of faith and practice, the HOLY BIBLE.

I found that EVERY one has as its SOURCE, the PRECEPTS OF HUMAN MEN, derived from error-filled human reason based on limited knowledge from the AROUND, and reasoned out WITHIN, as directed by the VANITY of HUMAN NATURE!

But HOW could such a preposterous state of affairs come about? The BIBLE ITSELF plainly reveals the answer! Its HISTORY tells how the very first man, Adam, REJECTED the knowledge of GOD, and was influenced solely by the WITHIN and the AROUND!

It tells how, after the flood with only eight souls left alive on earth—and those eight possessing a true knowledge of the

true God, the great grandson of Noah, NIMROD, and his wife SEMIRAMIS, rebelled against the revelation, the knowledge, and the RULE of God and began organizing HUMAN cities and governments, and a HUMAN-devised RELIGION which was the actual PARENT of ALL the religions of the world today!

It tells how, even in the nation God chose as His own, THE PEOPLE rejected His knowledge and His rule. THEY stoned the prophets thru whom He offered them the TRUE knowledge that man *needs* and *lacks*!

It tells how God sent HIS OWN SON, born as a mortal HUMAN, with HIS MESSAGE FOR MANKIND—and how men CRUCIFIED the very SON of God, Jesus Christ. Then, later, REJECTING His Message from God and His WAY of life and His RULE over them, men appropriated JESUS' NAME, and called their own religion "CHRISTIANITY!" The PROPHECIES of this same Bible foretold that this WHOLE WORLD would be DECEIVED—that they would turn AWAY their ears from the real TRUTH, and accept FABLES, and the TRADITIONS OF MEN!

### The SOURCE of Religious Confusion

MANY religions today teach NOTHING about the One Supreme PERSONAL Creating God. Most professing Christian denominations use the NAMES of God and of Christ. They teach ABOUT God and ABOUT Christ, but they have embraced a

MIXTURE of a PART of the truth of the Message of Christ and the revelation of the Bible *with ancient PAGAN superstitions and false philosophies*, and their own comparatively recent ideas of MEN.

The real SOURCE of their practice and their belief is NOT the ABOVE—it is the AROUND, it is SOCIETY, *it is THIS WORLD!* Even as THE BIBLE says—"ALL nations are DECEIVED."

They PROFESS to accept the Bible. They PROFESS God and the name of Christ as Saviour! But most of their BELIEFS are at TOTAL VARIANCE from those of GOD as revealed in the HOLY BIBLE. Their practices and CUSTOMS come mostly from the traditions of MEN and the ancient PAGAN traditions and are those which are denounced as FILTHY ABOMINATIONS in the sight of GOD!

MOST professing Christians today do not look into the BIBLE to learn what to do in life, in business, in society, in government. No, GOD IS UNREAL—FAR OFF to them. They have heard ABOUT Christ. They THINK they follow the Bible, because the actual SOURCE of their religion—SOCIETY—has caused them to believe that its teachings and practices CAME from the Bible! They merely read the Bible superficially FOR INSPIRATION! It is NOT their one infallible AUTHORITY—their constant daily GUIDE in belief and in practice!

And this very SAME Bible inspired by the LIVING GOD foretells precisely what

GOD is going to DO about it all—yes, and in *OUR TIME!*

It reveals that GOD made man a free moral agent—that God DECREED from the beginning that MAN MUST CHOOSE whether to believe and obey God, or to reject God and set up on earth his *own* systems of religion, government, and society; and that God set apart a duration of 6,000 years for man to *cut himself off* from the very real GOD, and to learn his lesson by writing it in cruel *human experience*.

God reveals His great PURPOSE IN ALL THIS—and He reveals that, IN OUR TIME, God Almighty is going to INTERVENE in human affairs before organized powers of humanity finally blast human life from off this planet by the engines of destruction finally invented by misguided human brains!

Yes, *in the next few years* God Almighty is going to intervene with all the POWER and FURY of the Supreme CREATOR AND RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, and STOP this hellish trend of organized mass destruction of MAN BY MAN! He is going to send the very SAME JESUS CHRIST, once *again* to this earth—this time in all the colossal POWER and GLORY of the Great ETERNAL GOD—to set up on earth the RULE of GOD ALMIGHTY over ALL NATIONS!

The religions of MEN will be abolished!

Then, finally, God will reveal Himself to all nations!

## Listen to The WORLD TOMORROW

(Continued from page 2)

and timer it may be necessary in some cases to have other minor connections made by a serviceman. These recorders can be secured from most radio stores, radio mail order houses, or large mail order stores. Prices usually start at about \$90 and continue up, depending on the quality desired.

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# Are People Lost BECAUSE OF ADAM'S SIN?

**Millions who profess the Christian religion believe that everyone today needs SALVATION only because of what ADAM did! But IS THAT TRUE?**

**by Herbert W. Armstrong**

“WHY IS IT,” some people will ask, “that this WHOLE WORLD has to suffer so much now, *because of ADAM'S SIN?*”

There's a common belief that as a result of the original so-called “FALL OF MAN”—meaning the transgression of ADAM—that all people are BORN LOST—consigned straight to an ever-burning torment of HELL FIRE!

But is *THAT* true?

Let's LOOK AT this ancient event that is called the “FALL OF MAN!” We take a lot of things for granted—we unquestioningly accept and assume a lot of things we hear or read—or that have been generally accepted and believed. And when we take out some of these things and take a good LOOK at them, we receive some shocking surprises!

## Was Adam Created Spiritually Perfect?

The common idea in the CHRISTIAN-PROFESSING world is that God originally created Adam, the FIRST MAN, an immortal, PERFECT, spiritual character. The Bible expression: “God created man in His own image” has been interpreted to mean that God made man immortal and spiritually PERFECT—and created of the SAME COMPOSITION AS God—that is, out of SPIRIT. The BODY is interpreted to be merely the material GARMENT the spiritual man wears—or the physical HOUSE which an immortal soul inhabits. And thus, it is commonly believed, God has COMPLETED HIS CREATION. The man was *perfected, completed, immortal, PERFECT* in character!

And then, this theory continues, along came Satan. The Devil succeeded in WRECKING this perfect creation—this *man* that God had perfected, causing him deliberately to SIN! And this SIN of Adam is supposed to have somehow

affected a CHANGE in the man's NATURE. He was now a FALLEN man—he now had a DIFFERENT and a FALLEN NATURE than he had had previously. He and all his descendents were now automatically consigned, upon the experience that we call DEATH, to be plunged into the eternal torment of HELL FIRE.

Here had stood, in the man ADAM, the SUPREME MASTERPIECE of all God's creation. But Satan succeeded in WRECKING what God had created—THWARTING God's purpose—UPSETTING God's Plan!

And so, as this prevailing idea pictures it, God had to start all over again, and think out some NEW Plan for REPAIRING THE DAMAGE!

It is looked upon something like an automobile manufacturer who had manufactured one very far-advanced, perfectly precisioned automobile — His SUPREME MASTERPIECE—only to find that, on its first drive out of the factory, an enemy had come along and WRECKED that car. The idea is that the manufacturer would have it towed back in, and would set out to REPAIR THE DAMAGE.

## Is Salvation Merely to Repair the Damage?

And so the commonly accepted idea of CHRISTIANITY seems to be that Christian REDEMPTION is an effort on the part of God to repair the damage which Satan inflicted in that original SIN,

### POUR NOS LECTEURS FRANÇAIS!

Nous sommes heureux d'informer nos lecteurs que, petit à petit, les articles de Monsieur Herbert W. Armstrong sont traduits dans la langue française. Présentement, nous tenons à la disposition de ceux qui nous en font la demande une copie de l'article français, intitulé “Pourquoi Etes-Vous Né?”

that is, to make us as GOOD AS Adam was, before the so-called “fall.”

But is a badly-wrecked automobile really as good, after it is repaired, as it was before the wreck? Of course not!

This common idea of a professing Christianity IS NOT TRUE AT ALL! It is NOT the teaching of the HOLY BIBLE. It is NOT the Christianity of CHRIST, nor the twelve APOSTLES, nor of the apostle PAUL!

The general false conception is that ever since the so-called FALL OF ADAM, God has been doing His very BEST to get the WHOLE world SAVED—that is, to restore men to a condition AS GOOD AS Adam was before the so-called FALL! And, further, that there is a great COMPETITION going on between God and Satan. Satan is very cunningly RESISTING God, RESTRAINING and OUT-SMARTING HIM so that only a small fraction of the WHOLE world's population is actually being saved. Now this entire erroneous teaching pictures Satan as *more powerful* than God—he's getting the best of the competition. It represents Satan as being able to thwart God's purpose, to step in to upset God's plan and then to use his cunning and his deception and his wiles to *out-wit* God and to *prevent* God from repairing the damage in the case of more than a very small fraction of the human race.

## What the Bible Really Teaches

Now let's go back into the book of Genesis and see just what the Bible itself says about all this.

In Genesis 1:27, it certainly DOES say that God CREATED man IN HIS OWN IMAGE. But it does not say that man's COMPOSITION was the same as God's—that God made man of IMMORTAL SPIRIT!

Notice what it says about what God

made man OUT OF—Genesis 2:7: “And the ETERNAL God formed man”—not the HOUSE that man was to enter, not the GARMENT or CLOAK he would wear, but “formed MAN of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man BECAME a living soul.”

Not that man HAS an immortal soul, but man BECAME a LIVING SOUL. That is, man *is* a living soul.

The word “soul” as it was originally inspired and written by Moses in the Hebrew language was “NEPHESH,” and “nephesh” means the life of animals—of animals who receive their life from the BREATH OF AIR. It is the very antithesis of ANYTHING immortal. It means material life sustained by blood and the breathing of air—that’s what the very word “nephesh” translated here “soul” means. A number of times in the first chapter of Genesis the various animals were called “nephesh” in the original inspired Hebrew—only the translators in our English version of the Bible translated it “creature” there, and “soul” when it came to man.

The word “breath”—the “breath of life” here—simply means “air” or “wind.” Isn’t this exactly what every man breathes in and out of his nostrils? Why certainly! It was this *same* “BREATH OF LIFE” that God caused to be breathed in and out of the nostrils of animals.

Notice the time of the flood in Genesis 7:21-22. It is recorded that “ALL flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of EVERY creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, AND EVERY MAN: ALL in whose nostrils was the BREATH OF LIFE.” That includes all of the animals, as well as man, in whose nostrils was the breath of life—“of all that was in the dry land, died.” There we see the same *identical* Hebrew word *used* that is used for MAN—and God breathed INTO MAN’S NOSTRILS the BREATH OF LIFE—the same Hebrew word precisely, that is used for breathing in and out of the nostrils of animals.

### The New Testament Teaching

We read in I Corinthians 15:53, “. . . this MORTAL must PUT ON im-

mortality.” The Bible says that man is DUST—that man is MORTAL, but that man can RECEIVE immortality and that he must PUT ON *immortality* at the resurrection of the just. Now turn to Ezekiel 18:4, “. . . the soul that sinneth, it SHALL DIE.” It isn’t immortal! And that’s repeated again in the Bible—it’s given twice. Sinful man shall not LIVE forever, but DIE!

And, what did God say to Adam in the garden of Eden? This was BEFORE the so-called “fall.”

Beginning with verse 15 of Genesis 2: “And the Eternal God TOOK the man, and put him into the garden of Eden, to dress it and to keep it. And the Eternal God COMMANDED the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou SHALT NOT eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely DIE!” (Gen. 2:15-17).

How could that be IF Adam were ALREADY immortal? IF the man were PERFECT in character—if HERE were PERFECTION, the MASTERPIECE OF *all* God’s creation, and God had completed the creation and was THROUGH with it—would He have said, “In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely DIE?” It wouldn’t have been POSSIBLE if the man were perfect—the man couldn’t have fallen if he had been perfect, could he? He said, “In the day that thou eatest thereof thou SHALT SURELY DIE!”—not LIVE forever. He didn’t say, “You’ll live forever in some other place or condition—in hell.” No, the penalty for sin is DEATH!

### What Actually Happened

Satan came along to deceive this human, mortal man, that had been made from the dust of the ground. First, Satan called God a liar when God said that the man was mortal, subject to death if he committed sin. God said, “In the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”—in other words, the man is mortal—subject to death. But, you read in Genesis 3:4, that the serpent said, “Ye shall not surely die.” He questioned the veracity of God’s Word! Satan argued that the man was ALREADY immortal—an immortal soul that would

not die—that he would live forever anyway. But God had said, just as you read in Romans 6:23, that the “wages of sin is DEATH and the GIFT of God is Eternal Life.”

Satan argued that if we disobeyed God—if we commit sin—that we will be *as* God—like God. We’ll be like gods ourselves—that is, immortal spirit. And so, somehow, ever since, most people have just assumed and gotten into their minds the idea that when Adam was created “in the IMAGE of God” he was created and made of the same COMPOSITION as God—that is, composed of immortal spirit and of PERFECT character, and that he was created in the same character and the same nature of God originally, but that his nature *changed* and he fell.

In John 4:24 in the New Testament, you read that “God is a Spirit.” But nowhere does the Bible say that MAN IS a SPIRIT, or that man is SPIRIT. Rather, the Bible says that man is *dust*—“unto dust shalt thou return,” saith God. In I Corinthians 15 of the New Testament, it says that “man is OF the earth, earthy.”

### What Is the IMAGE of God?

How was Adam made in the IMAGE of God? How could he have been in the image of God if he was of different composition? Just the other day I saw a statue or image of Abraham Lincoln. Now if I would tell you that that statue was composed of flesh and blood, you would tell me I was crazy, I’m quite sure. No, it was composed of iron. I have seen images composed of wood, bronze or stone. Abraham Lincoln was made of flesh and blood, but the statue, *made in his image*, was made of iron. Almighty God is made of SPIRIT, but the man who was made IN HIS IMAGE was made of the dust of the ground—he was made flesh and blood. God Almighty is NOT flesh and blood, God Almighty is SPIRIT. Jesus Christ said, “That which is *born* of the flesh is flesh”—plain flesh and blood of the dust of the ground—“that which is born of the Spirit,” He said, “IS SPIRIT.” He said also that man can be *born* of the Spirit he SHALL BECOME Spirit and then he will be Spirit, but he is *not* Spirit now.



Jesus was explaining to Nicodemus, in John the 3rd chapter, how man is mortal—man is flesh—but that he may be born again, and he **MUST** be born of God *before* he can become immortal. Eternal Life is the **GIFT** of God.

How can man be in the **IMAGE** of God and still not be of God's composition? Turn back to I Corinthians 15: 45, "So, it is written, The first man Adam was made a **LIVING** soul"—that's a living "nephesh" which means *material*, **MORTAL** life—"the last Adam"—which was Christ—"was made a **QUICKENING** spirit"—that's an energizing, or an immortal spirit. Verse 47, "The first man is **OF** the earth, **EARTHY**:"—that's the first Adam, made of the earth. It's the *man*, not the **GARMENT** he wore, not the **HOUSE** he was in, not the body he was inside of. The "*man* was **OF** the earth, earthy: but the second man"—Christ—"is the Lord from heaven." Now in verse 49:

"And as we **HAVE** borne the image of the earthy we **SHALL** also bear the image of the heavenly." Here it's talking about **COMPOSITION**—here it's talking about one man being made of the **DUST** of the ground, another being of **SPIRIT**. And, we have only borne the image of the dust of the ground, but we **SHALL** bear the image of the heavenly. We are only in the form and shape of God now, but **NOT** of the radiant composition, **NOT** of the same character. We're merely the clay model and God Almighty is the Master Potter. He made us of *matter* so that He, the Master Potter, could reform and shape us into the final image that it was His purpose originally to make us.

### Is God Competing with Satan?

There wasn't any competition between God and Satan. The "fall" of man wasn't what you have been supposing. God put the very nature in man that **CAUSED** the man to fall. God **KNEW** that redemption would be necessary and it was planned long before that very first man had been created. God has a **GREAT** purpose, and the world has lost sight of that purpose. It couldn't have been brought about in **ANY OTHER WAY** than the way that God is doing. Satan was **NEVER** more powerful than God—he

never frustrated God's purpose, and he never will.

Now the Bible reveals that the heart of man is above all things deceitful and **DESPERATELY** wicked, and that's absolutely true.

What is wickedness or sin? The Bible definition is, "Sin is the **TRANSGRESSION** of the Law" (I John 3:4). That's the **LAW** of God, and it's a law that God *created*—it's a law God set in motion—it's a **LIVING** Law—it's an inexorable Law—it's the Law of **LOVE**. It's a **WAY** of life. It's the Way of **PERFECT** character. It's the Way of **SPIRITUAL** character. **LOVE** is the fulfilling of that Law, but it takes the **SPIRITUAL LOVE** of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit to fulfill that Law, and to establish that character in us.

How do we transgress that Law? By lust of the flesh, by pride and vanity, by our tempers of resentment, hatred, envy, malice, jealousy. The most common sins which transgress God's Holy, Spiritual Law, are those of yielding to the desires and the appetites of the **FLESH**, and these tempers of ours.

### Why Man Sins

There are five senses, the sense of seeing, of hearing, tasting, smelling and feeling. When God created Adam, he put **IN** Adam the same five senses that are in you! And mark this now, the **SAME SENSUAL NATURE** that **CAUSES** you to sin! Adam sinned, didn't he? Let's examine that sin and see what **CAUSED** him to sin—or, let's take Eve, because the account of her sin is described in detail rather than Adam's.

After the devil had tempted the woman, "when the woman saw that the tree was **GOOD** for food, and that it was **PLEASANT** to the eyes"—here are her five senses at work—"and a tree desired to make one wise"—there is vanity—"she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat"—that was stealing—"and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat" (Genesis 3:6). There is the first sin.

Do you comprehend?

The woman could see, she had the sense of sight—she *saw* that the forbidden tree was pleasant to the eyes. Now, she had the sense of taste. She

realized that the tree tasted **GOOD**—but God had forbid it. God said it is **NOT** good for her, it may look good, it might even taste good, but it is poison in her stomach, and there's a bad principle involved—but the woman saw otherwise. She thought otherwise in her carnal mind—her appetite was aroused—she craved the taste of it. Then, vanity was aroused in her—it was, so she believed, *desired* to make her *wise*.

And all of these lusts which break the tenth commandment caused her to break the commandment against stealing, and to take the fruit that did not belong to her and that had been forbidden to her and her husband. In so doing, she obeyed Satan—she had **ANOTHER** god **BEFORE** the true God, and she dishonored her **ONLY** parent, so she broke the first and the fifth commandments.

Yes, sin is the transgression of the Law—and God's Law was **BROKEN** in **FOUR** distinctive places in that first original sin in the garden of Eden. **FOUR** of the **TEN COMMANDMENTS**. Adam and Eve were **ORIGINALLY** created with the **SAME** nature, the **SAME** five senses, with the **SAME** pride and vanity, the **SAME** desires, appetites, nature and vanity *that you and I have today*.

Now when the first man and woman yielded to those appetites and desires—to the very nature which God had originally **CREATED** in them—and transgressed God's Law, committing the **FIRST** sin, then what happened? Did their nature change? Did they then fall from immortality and become **MORTAL** all of a sudden? That is ridiculous!

### Man Was Created Mortal

Let's notice Genesis 3:7. "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they **KNEW** that they were naked: and they sowed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

Notice, there wasn't any change in their nature—there wasn't any fall in their nature—it was the very nature that had been originally created in them, and their willing **YIELDING** to it was what caused the sin. What happened was that their eyes were opened as a result of it—now the **KNOWLEDGE** of evil had come. "They **KNEW**," it says.

Yes, KNOWLEDGE came—they KNEW!

I always wondered what was meant by the KNOWLEDGE of good and evil before I was converted. Then I found out. To have the knowledge of evil is to know evil—to *participate in it*—and that means to rebel against God and to break His Commandments. They came to the wrong knowledge. Man's knowledge is mostly a mixture of good and evil. Human nature is a MIXTURE of good and evil. There's good in all people, and there's also evil in every one of us that we need to recognize.

Animals do not sin. Animals don't *know* enough—they don't have the KNOWLEDGE to commit sin. Animals live and go and proceed by instinct—they do exactly as God intended. But MAN came into the KNOWLEDGE of evil. Man has a mind. Man must make his OWN decisions, and MAN is the only flesh creature that knows how to commit sin.

Did God *change the nature of man*, or did He pronounce some curse upon him?

Genesis 3:16-17: "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow, and thy conception . . . and unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the GROUND for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou *eat* of it all the days of thy life"—there was a curse on the GROUND, but *not any change* in the nature of the man.

Notice, "And the Eternal God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us"—like God—"to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of LIFE, and eat and LIVE for ever"—lest he gain Eternal Life, an immortal life which was offered as God's gift in the garden of Eden—"therefore the Eternal God sent him forth FROM the garden of Eden to TILL the ground from whence he was taken. So He 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"—lest he go back and BECOME immortal.

No, the man was *not* immortal. He

had the opportunity of becoming immortal but he spurned it—he turned it down.

#### A Resurrection for All!

Notice I Corinthians 15:22: "For as IN Adam ALL die, even so IN Christ shall ALL be made alive"—the same "ALL" that die in Adam. Why? Simply because Adam was originally MADE mortal—made of the dust, composed of flesh and blood—of matter, not of spirit. Does this say that because Adam fell all die? No, most certainly not. But, as in Adam all die—that's speaking of this first death, so after that, the resurrection. The wages of sin is not just this first death that people die, the wages of sin is an ETERNAL DEATH. "In Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive"—that's the good, bad, and indifferent—all people—sinners and saved alike. That is not the ultimate penalty of sin! The final penalty of sin is the SECOND DEATH, from which there will NEVER be a resurrection—it is ETERNAL PUNISHMENT. DEATH is that punishment, forever—eternally.

We were born from our parents, and so on back to Adam who was created MORTAL—formed of the dust—composed of FLESH and BLOOD. IN Adam—as long as we are his children—born of him—we all die this FIRST death. But IN Christ, ALL who are *not* in the first resurrection will be made alive by *another resurrection to mortal life* (Rev. 20:5,12 and I Cor. 15:40).

IN Christ we can be BORN AGAIN and have IMMORTAL life so that we never can die. That comes through the first resurrection.

Notice Romans 5:12—"Wherefore, as by ONE MAN sin entered into the world, and death BY sin; and so death passed upon ALL men, for that ALL have sinned"—the real *death penalty—the second death—passes on you*, because YOU have sinned—because ALL have sinned, and *NOT BECAUSE of Adam's sin*.

Notice, sin entered this world by ONE man—sin is the transgression of God's Spiritual Law. Adam was a mortal—flesh and blood—human. He had the NATURE of sin in him, otherwise, he WOULD NOT have sinned. If he had been perfect, he would NOT have sinned.

He had the sensual nature—the sense of sight, of hearing, tasting, smelling, and feeling, and GOD had put that nature in him—God talked to him—preached a sermon to him—TOLD him that the wages of sin would be DEATH. But if he resisted that nature, if he partook, instead, of the TREE OF LIFE symbolizing the HOLY SPIRIT of God, fulfilled God's Law, THEN he could have had the GIFT of Eternal Life.

But Adam rejected that. Adam sinned. He never RECEIVED the precious gift of Eternal Life. He was driven out of the garden of Eden *lest* he RECEIVED it, and so DEATH passed upon ALL men.

Here's where the death penalty came—NOT because of Adam's sin—that's what most people have thought, but look at it in YOUR BIBLE—death is passed up ALL MEN BECAUSE that ALL HAVE SINNED—because WE have sinned, not merely because of Adam's sin.

#### We Bring the Penalty on Ourselves

No, it says in PLAIN language that DEATH has passed upon ALL men BECAUSE that ALL HAVE SINNED. The DEATH penalty is passed upon YOU—it is passed upon EVERYONE of us, BECAUSE WE have sinned—because WE have lived the wrong way and have not turned to God. The Scripture does NOT say that the penalty of Adam's sin is ETERNAL death for you and for me—but the PENALTY for YOUR sin, of MY sin, of OUR sins, is DEATH! But God so loved this world that he GAVE his only begotten son, Jesus Christ, that whosoever believeth on HIM should NOT perish, but should have the GIFT of Everlasting LIFE (John 3:16).

The way is TO REPENT—to REPENT OF SIN—and ACKNOWLEDGE Jesus Christ as PERSONAL SAVIOUR. Then the promise is, we SHALL receive the GIFT of the Holy Spirit. And then, if we grow in grace and in knowledge—IF WE OVERCOME, overcome the world, overcome ourselves and our own natures, if we endure until the end—then we shall be made immortal—we shall be BORN into the very FAMILY OF GOD at last.

Oh, what a great WONDERFUL and ALL WISE purpose God had in making man as He did. How we will PRAISE Him for it when finally we understand!