

*the*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**

*a magazine of understanding*

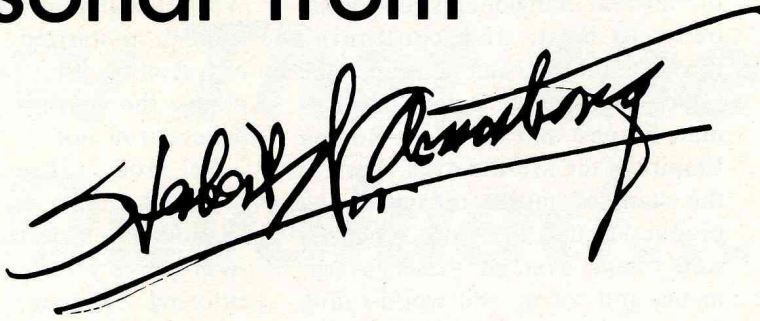


**BEYOND  
VIETNAM**

*... Now That Prisoners  
of War Return Home*



# Personal from



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## Beyond Vietnam

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**O**NCE AGAIN let's take a quick look at what lies beyond the Vietnam war.

I have explained many times before that the Communists are dedicated to a struggle for *world domination*. That struggle has gone on since 1917 — more than 55 years. They have not relaxed in their struggle to achieve their goal after 55 years — and they won't. Communists are committed to the goal of world domination, even if it requires another generation or ten more generations. From early childhood, a sense of sacrifice and dedication to go on to accomplish that goal is instilled within them. It is their life.

But in the United States and in Britain, there is no national purpose — no goal instilled into our youth from babyhood, toward which to strive. That's one reason it seems we just can't understand Communism. When the United States was coming into serious involvement in Vietnam, the Communists were making big inroads in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia in the days of President Sukarno. But then Prime Minister Lee of Singapore outwitted them, and General Suharto drove them out of Indonesia, setting up his new military government over Indonesia, with himself as President. But the Communists didn't quit. They continued fighting in Vietnam. And although a cease-fire has been signed, it is merely a recess — a tem-

porary time-out for North Vietnam to regroup its forces. In their own due time, they will attack again in South Vietnam. Don't think that a cease-fire means a permanent peace.

In my meeting with President Suharto in Djakarta a few months ago, he went to some length to tell me of the battle he still has on his hands to avoid being taken over by the Communists. He said he thought it might take five years before Red China would be in a position to try to attack Indonesia with a heavy military force — but he fears far *more* the Communist activity *WITHIN* his country. He emphasized the danger of having 1½ million citizens of Chinese descent — another 1½ million of Chinese descent who are *STATELESS* but living in Indonesia — and a quarter million who identify themselves mostly with Communist China. Suharto told me what a task he faces in preventing subversion and checking Communist propaganda in his country — which, incidentally, is the third largest country in population in the *free* world. Only India and the United States have a larger population. And in India, Mrs. Gandhi has virtually placed herself in the Russian orbit by going to the Kremlin for aid and accepting it.

The United States forces fighting in Vietnam did not have the goal of *WINNING* the war — but only of holding the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces back. U. S. with-

drawal from South Vietnam does not in any sense mean real *PEACE* in Vietnam. It only means that U. S. forces will not be there to *STOP* the next Communist attack — whenever the North Vietnamese decide to attack again — as they *will!*

The Communists occasionally suffer setbacks. When President Sadat of Egypt expelled the Russian military advisers, the Soviets suffered a setback — a certain loss of face. But they never *QUIT!*

### What's Soon to Happen

Now here is something that may surprise you. If you want to know what's *going* to happen, *after* Vietnam, all you have to do is look into the prophecies of the Bible. Approximately a third of all the Bible is devoted to prophecy! And *almost no one has understood* that entire third of the Bible!

These prophecies, mostly, reveal future events — that is, future from the time they were written — events concerning nations, governments, wars — events of national and international concern. For example, Biblical prophecy tells us about Russia and what the Soviet bloc is going to do in the very near future. And when you understand it, the prophecies also foretold the rise to economic and national greatness and power of the United States and of the British Commonwealth. They describe graphically what is sure to



happen soon to the United States and the British Commonwealth.

Many smaller nations are mentioned in Biblical prophecy — Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Syria, Israel.

Again, WHY these prophecies? Why should the Bible be concerned about international events involving the United States, Britain, Germany, Russia, Turkey, the Arab nations, Israel?

Incredible though it may sound, if the religions that profess to get their beliefs from the Bible knew what is the *gospel* that Jesus brought from God, the gospel that He taught His disciples, the gospel that the apostle Paul preached to the Gentiles, they would KNOW why the prophecies are concerned with the world's nations — and why a third of the Bible is devoted to prophecy!

No book ever written is as RELEVANT to the traumatic WORLD EVENTS of this latter half of the 20th century as is the Bible.

Scientists of world fame today say that the only hope for human survival on earth now is a single WORLD GOVERNMENT with ONE supreme military force over all nations. But in the same breath, they tell us how impossible it is — so far as THEY can see.

#### **Jesus' Message Was About Government**

Yet that very thing was the heart and core of Jesus' Gospel. He announced the Kingdom of God — a worldwide government that He, the living Christ, is going to set up here on earth. He said he would be crucified. He said he would be resurrected from the dead. He said He would then go to the very throne of God in heaven — the throne of the universe — but that if He went, He would COME AGAIN, in all the supreme, supernatural POWER and GLORY of the Creator God! (Write for our free booklet titled *Just What Do You Mean . . . Kingdom of God?*)

The prophet Daniel gave a panorama of the great empires of this

world, starting with the empire of the ancient Babylonians, 600 years before Christ, and continuing through the Persian Empire, the Greco-Macedonian Empire, the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages, down to the state of things today. Daniel prophesied that the God of heaven would take over all these governments and set up the world-ruling Kingdom of God, which shall bring in PEACE and last forever!

A whole third of the Bible is prophecy because the true Gospel is prophecy. Men have not understood the prophecies because they haven't known what the true Gospel is. Men and churches have preached Christ — they have preached about His PERSON — they have said they were His ministers — they have pleaded with people to ACCEPT Christ as a person — they have pleaded with people to believe *on* Him — but they have not taught people to *believe Him* — to believe what He taught — to believe the message God sent to mankind by and through Him. So, of course, they could not understand Bible prophecy!

#### **How Communism Will Be Stopped**

But back to the question: What lies on beyond the Vietnam war?

The Communists will keep trying. For a while they may resort to guerrilla warfare, but sooner or later, they'll start another real war. I'm not saying they are ultimately going to achieve their goal, because they are not. The Bible shows that they will not. But they'll keep trying until they are stopped by a superior power. And that's the only thing — the only language — that Communists understand. You've got to talk to them from a position of strength. You've got to talk to them with power equal to or greater than theirs.

They don't want a war right now with the United States, that is, a hydrogen bomb war, because the United States has the power to deal

from a superior position. World War III will come, but it will be a coming, militarized, united Europe, not Russia, that will ultimately plunge the world into nuclear war, believe it or not!

Yet, God, in His mercy, will intervene and cut this war short — before all humanity is destroyed. Then *universal peace* will be established and enforced by divine world government — with the living Jesus Christ at the head!

Notice Luke 1:30-33 in your Bible. An angel is quoted, saying to Mary, the Mary who was to become the mother of Jesus, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David [that was the David of ancient Israel, who ruled in Jerusalem]: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom [government] there shall be no end."

That's why Jesus was born. That's why Jesus was resurrected from the dead after the crucifixion — to receive a kingdom! Now turn to John's gospel, the 18th chapter and verse 37. Jesus was on trial for His life before Pilate. "Pilate therefore said unto him [Jesus], "Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest I am a king. To this end was I born [He was born to be a king], and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." But in the verse just prior to that, verse 36, Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world."

Here the word "world" is translated from the Greek word *kosmos* meaning "this present order or society." His kingdom is not of this present society, not of this time. He wasn't going to take over the government then. He wasn't going to

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# The Man Who Couldn't Afford to Tithe

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT WAS late in 1933 — the very depth of the great depression. Ed Smith was a well-driller by profession, but nobody seemed able to afford to have wells drilled.

Ed and his wife, Emma, attended services I was then holding in a one-room country schoolhouse twelve miles west of Eugene, Oregon. Ed made no profession of Christianity until later. But he attended services and went up and down the countryside discussing Bible doctrines with his professing Christian neighbors.

"You've got to pay tithes and obey God," he insisted. "The Bible says so. It's PLAIN!"

One of his neighbors became irritated.

"Look here, Ed," the neighbor exploded, "why do you come around here trying to talk me into these things, when you don't obey the Bible or pay tithes yourself?"

"Because," came Ed's quick and ready answer, "I don't profess to be a Christian, and you do. Besides," he added, "I can't afford to tithe, anyway."

## Thousands Like Him

There are thousands who, like Ed Smith, reason in their own minds that they can't afford to tithe, even though, like Ed Smith, they realize the Bible commands it.

I heard about the above conversation and preached a sermon on the

question of whether the unconverted should obey the Ten Commandments and pay tithes, or whether, as Ed had reasoned, these things were only for Christians. I pointed out that God's Law was put in motion for man's *good*. It is the way of life that brings peace, happiness, prosperity; the full, abundant, interesting life; success, joy here and now, as well as eternal life through Christ for the saved.

I showed that it *PAYS* and is the only sensible way of life, entirely apart from the matter of salvation — and that he who sins little shall be punished with *few* stripes, but he who sins much, with *many* stripes (Luke 12:47-48). I pointed out God's promises to prosper the tithpayer, and that this is a definite law God has set in motion, which operates inexorably and automatically, on the just and the unjust alike.

Ed began to obey the Bible. At the very next service (we were holding services at this little schoolhouse three times a week, and three other nights a week in a hall in downtown Eugene at the time), Mrs. Smith smilingly handed me a one dollar bill.

"That's Ed's first tithe," she said triumphantly. "We are now down to \$10, and Ed decided to start tithing with what we have on hand."

The very next service she came to me with another happy smile.

"Here's a five-dollar bill," she said. "The very next day after Ed gave God's Work a tenth of all he had, a customer who had owed him \$50 for a year came and paid up. So here's the tithe of that \$50. After paying the total \$6 tithe, we now have \$54 on hand instead of the \$10 we had the other day."

It was beginning to *pay* — but only *beginning*. By the next service, as I remember it, Ed had received his first order in one or two years to drill a new well, for which he received cash payment. Before he finished that job, another one was contracted. Soon he had three or four jobs coming in at once and was forced to begin employing men to work for him.

Ed Smith was only one of *many* I have known who learned *by experience* that one cannot afford *not* to pay God the tithe that belongs to Him! I remember Ed Smith did encounter some troubles of a different nature later when his wife and son were sent to the state tuberculosis hospital, and he finally broke down in real repentance, accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. He came to me, according to the command of James 5:14, and both his wife and son were completely healed and returned home.

This is a true story, and the name is not fictitious. Ed Smith died several years ago, but I'm happy to re-



member these incidents in his life in the hope that they may start many others on the right and profitable, as well as on the Christian, way of life.

Why did God ordain tithing? Was it to place increased burden and taxation upon us? Let us not misunderstand God's love and wisdom!

It isn't that God really needs your first tenth. He could have established some different system for carrying on His Work. But to have done so would have robbed us of the blessing that flows back to us if we are faithful in tithes and offerings!

The tither is invariably a prosperous man. I do not mean necessarily wealthy — but one whose actual needs are always supplied. Tithers, if faithful and obedient to the Eternal, are not often found in want. "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to *your* account" (Philippians 4:17).

God promises that His children will always have something to give (Deuteronomy 16:16, 17). It is only when they withhold and misappropriate tithes and offerings that

He fails to prosper them. For through John He tells us, "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health" (III John 2).

"Honour the Lord [Eternal] with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10). Try it! "Prove me now herewith," challenges the Eternal to us, in a prophecy for our day (Malachi 3:10), "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it" — financial blessings! Are you behind financially? In debt? Your unfaithfulness in tithing and offerings may be the reason!

#### Tithing While in Debt

Yet so many say: "I don't think it would be right for me to tithe while I'm in debt." Yes, it is right, and the other way is WRONG. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). God's Word tells us what is right, and God tells us to pay to His Work the firstfruits of all our income (Proverbs 3:9-10). Regarding our material and financial needs, even debts, God says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

The tithe is the debt that you *owe* God. This debt is first in time and principle. Pay your debts to God, make Him your partner in your finances, and receive His blessing in temporal affairs. This will enable you to pay your debts, or to get a job, or to have your needs supplied more quickly than if you evade His debt.

Remember your ALL belongs to Him, not to you (Deuteronomy 10:14). You are in the position of a steward handling that which belongs to another. He is your silent

partner, and the first tenth, in addition to offerings, is His share. The rest he gives freely to you. But if you appropriate for yourself His share, you are stealing, and robbing God (Malachi 3:8). Would you pay your debts with money another man had left in your trust? If a man working in a bank does that, we call it embezzlement!

The only sure way to know you have God as a partner and that He is taking care of your interests is to obey Him in tithing.

When God receives His portion of all your income, God becomes your partner, sharing in your profits. He causes His partners to prosper, so if you are in debt, take God into partnership first, and watch Him prosper you until finally you are out of debt! Remember the debt you owe God comes FIRST.

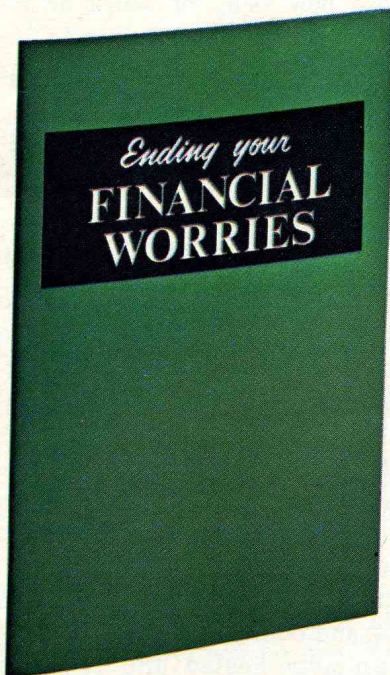
#### Your Glorious Opportunity

Some will say, "I never tithed, and I know God never frowned on me, for I have the feeling in my heart that I am His child without having to tithe."

God has blessed you according to how you have yielded to Him, according to the light He has revealed to you from His Word! While you have the light, WALK in it, lest darkness come upon you! (John 12:35-36.) "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord" (II Peter 3:18). See also Romans 11:22.

If every professing Christian would accept this plain instruction from God, honoring Him instead of themselves with their substance, the Work of the Eternal would go forth with such mighty power that the world would be shaken to its foundations!

Seek ye first the Kingdom, and your material needs shall be added. Try it! Take God at His Word! PROVE HIM! (Malachi 3:10.) See how you begin to prosper! Be a faithful steward; make God your PARTNER! Receive His blessing! God's Work is waiting on you! □



**THIS BOOKLET** reveals a little understood principle that can end your financial worries. See inside front cover for address.





(Continued from page 2)

overthrow Caesar, as they thought. "My kingdom," he said, "is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence," that is, not from "here," or from "this time."

Read what the prophet Isaiah wrote about the birth and purpose of the Messiah: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." That's talking of Christ. "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7). That was a prophecy recorded in the Old Testament.

Now, notice Revelation 11:15: "And the seventh angel sounded [blew a trumpet]; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world [all the governments of this world — Russia, China, the United States, Japan, Indonesia, the governments of Europe, etc.] are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." This great event climaxes the *end of an age* — the end of man's rule, and the beginning of divine rule on this earth by Jesus Christ!

Christ's actual return is pictured in symbol in Revelation 19:11. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat

### Plain Truth Circulation Increases

Having received the fourth copy of this excellent publication, I am not surprised to note a circulation increase of nearly 80,000 in such a short span. *The PLAIN TRUTH* arouses an awareness to the vital importance of the true purpose in life, thereby imparting meaning to the existence of mankind. If this means of global communication had been available centuries ago, we must surely have achieved a different world today.

R. W. B.,  
London

### A Human Experience Magazine

After the Civil War in my country of Nigeria, and having suffered all sorts of losses — including most members of my family and my property — I became depressed and almost lost all reason for existence.

But by constantly reading *The PLAIN TRUTH* and some of your booklets, I can now say that life means a lot to me!

L. C. Agbakoba,  
Ministry of Information  
& Home Affairs,  
Onitsha, Nigeria

Your publication *The PLAIN TRUTH* is really inspiring reading. The title itself tells all. I was surprised at the straight-forward way the writers dealt with each subject and the real understanding they have of the problems of our world — without leaving out such important things as morals and God, as is so often the case today.

E. E.,  
Gosport, Hants.

### Condescending?

I think it is a fair comment to say that if your articles were somewhat less condescending towards young people the tone and quality of your magazine would be improved.

D. Z.,  
Newcastle, Staffs.

### World Government

I no longer wish to be sent *The PLAIN TRUTH* monthly. Thank you very much for sending me what is a very well-produced

upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." Continue with verse 15, "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron."

The sharp sword is the Word of God which cuts us because it cor-

magazine. Whilst I have found myself very much in sympathy with your articles on many important moral and social issues, your views on issues of vital political importance and your acceptance of the heinous implications of World Government, I find totally unacceptable.

M. J. S.,  
Hereford

• "Heinous" only if imposed on men by men. Humanity has historically proved incapable of equitable and just government. The coming world government will be a divine — not a human — administration. Please read the "Personal from the Editor," page 1 of this issue.

### Why No Peace?

I have just read through my first copy of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. I congratulate you on every article in it, but I have to ask some questions on the article "Why No Peace on Earth." You said we will never achieve peace internationally, nationally, ecologically, collectively or personally, until we first establish peace with God. . . . And on His terms, not ours. But what about us Communists who do not believe in God and do not accept the Bible?

Samuel J. U.,  
U.S.S.R.

• Would you believe in God if His existence could be demonstrated? Write for our booklet *Does God Exist?*

Your article titled "Why No Peace on Earth?" in the December, 1972, issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* is the essence of human integrity. As a graduate of Boston University, 1954, it is truly the best article I have ever read in my life.

Since World War Two, I have seen my own family and relatives torn by separation, divorce, suicide, and countless episodes of internal and external strife in our precocious degenerating society.

I wish everyone in the world could read and understand your article. Then the masses of people would slowly, but eventually, head in one direction — World Peace! Please send me your free booklet, *Does God Exist?*

Edward W.,  
Coventry, Rhode Island

rects and shows us the mistakes all humanity has been making, and gives us the truth. It's not a sword of steel. He's not coming to hurt or injure people. He's coming with this sword out of his mouth to rule all nations and to point the way to universal happiness and peace, and to give us eternal life and abundance forever and ever. □