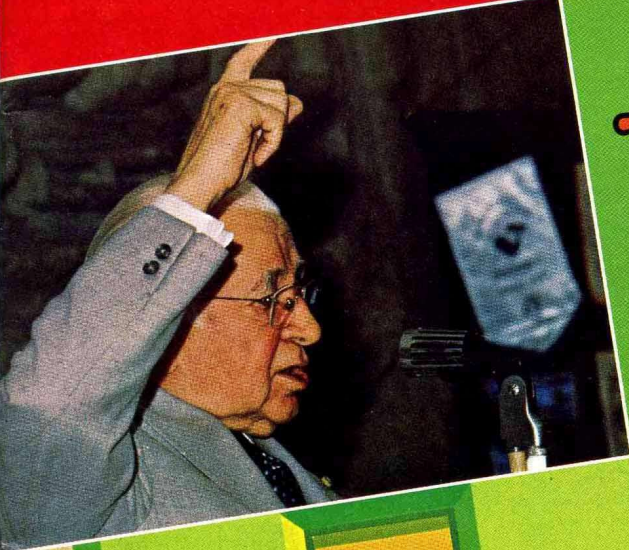


the  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
a magazine of understanding

JUNE 1977



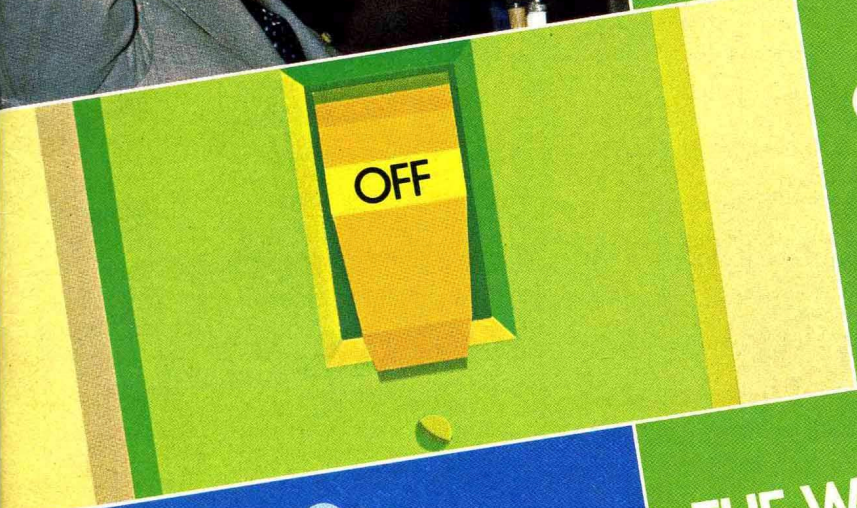
ENTERING THE AGE OF  
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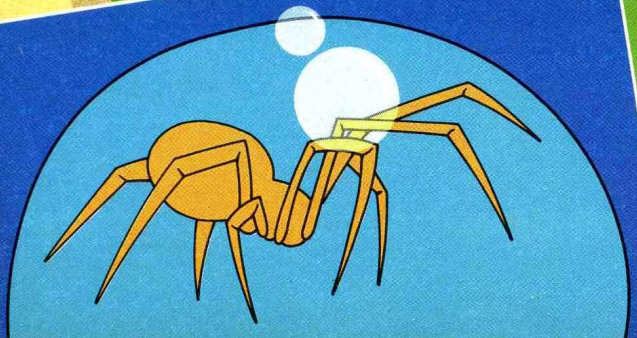
**UPDATE...**

MR. ARMSTRONG  
SPEAKS TO AFRICAN LEADERS

GTA Speaks Out!



OUR  
**ENERGY BINGE**  
IS OVER!



THE WORLD'S  
**First Skin Diver**  
HAD EIGHT LEGS

**W**e've heard so much bad news that some wonderfully GOOD NEWS soon to come ought to be welcome! And IT IS SURE!

Many do not realize it, but many prophecies in the Bible apply literally to the nations of the U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa today—and even to the nations of WESTERN EUROPE! To understand, you need to read our free booklet *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. It shows you exactly WHERE we are mentioned in the biblical prophecies!

These prophecies turn the searchlight on our countries TODAY. They pull no punches! They describe our EVILS and their causes. And then, in this same Bible, the Book of God, it tells us how we are to be FORGIVEN by an all-loving and merciful GOD—our ways changed—and tells of the wonders, the glories, the peace, happiness, joy, and abundant and universal well-being that are coming—and not *only* to our nations, but to *all nations!*

Men are not like God. Men do not often return good for evil. But you and I now live in the very generation when this good news is coming!

I was riding in a car in New Delhi, India, one day. It seemed a strange sight. Cows were walking leisurely all over the streets, and in the sidewalks beside the streets.

"Don't these cows all belong to somebody?" I asked my driver.

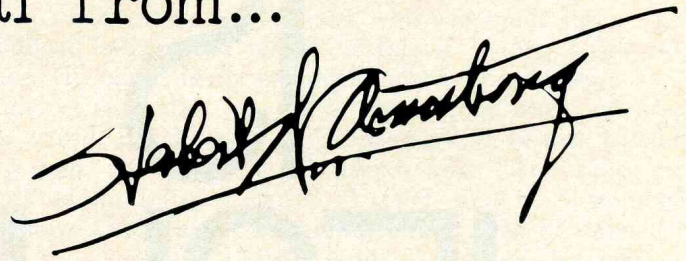
"Oh yes, they belong to many different owners," he answered.

"But how do the owners find their own cows and herd them into their own sheds at night?"

"Oh," he answered, "they don't. Many would not even know which cows are theirs. But each cow knows its owner and where it belongs at night."

Immediately I thought of a prophecy God gave about OUR PEOPLE: "HEAR, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the ETERNAL hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but... my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a

Personal from...



## The Good News Coming Soon!

people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the ETERNAL, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint" (Isa. 1:2-5).

Back in the days of Moses, God put a proposition—a proposal of marriage—to Israel. He offered them a COVENANT (known as the "Old Covenant") which was actually a MARRIAGE covenant, and at the same time set up those Israelites delivered out of Egyptian slavery as one of the world's nations. They became GOD's nation. Upon obedience to His government's laws, they were promised they would become the wealthiest, most powerful, most peaceful and happy nation on earth. He gave them NO spiritual promises of salvation or eternal life, but supreme NATIONAL promises—above all nations.

But what does God through Jeremiah say of His "wife's" conduct? "...Thou hast played the harlot with many lovers [military allies]; yet return again to me, saith the ETERNAL [implying forgiveness and receiving His "wife" back upon repentance]. Lift up thine eyes unto

the high places [places of idolatrous worship], and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them... and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness... thou refusedst to be ashamed. Will he [God] reserve his anger for ever? Will he keep it to the end?" (Jer. 3:1-3, 5.)

Let's stop right here and UNDERSTAND this.

We have a CREATION—this earth, our moon, the other planets of our solar system with our sun. Our solar system is a small part of a GALAXY. There are thousands of other galaxies far, far off in space—each with its suns, which appear as small stars to us because of their tremendous distance. The physical universe is ENDLESS—greater than our minds can grasp. A CREATION demands the preexistence of a CREATOR. There was PLANNING, design—PURPOSE. There is a REASON for what the Creator did.

This earth, as only a FEW know, originally was populated by angels. But there was PURPOSE! Great accomplishment was planned for them. This of course demanded law and order—harmony—all pulling together for their grand accomplishment. So the CREATOR set over them

(Continued on page 40)

# IS JESUS GOD ?

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**What is the real answer? Is Jesus God? Is He the same as Jehovah? Is there more than one God? Here is the truth as revealed in your Bible.**

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by Herbert W. Armstrong

**S**tartling as it may seem, there is great *confusion* today among religious leaders concerning the true nature and office of Jesus Christ—the Savior of the world. You need not be in doubt! The Bible was divinely inspired to impart TRUTH to those who seek it with *honest* hearts and minds. But even this all-important subject has become jumbled in today's troubled and chaotic world.

## Is Jesus God?

Jesus Christ came to pay the penalty for sin in our stead. He gave of

*Himself*, that we might be reconciled to God. *How was this made possible?*

First, if Jesus had been *only* human, His death could have paid the penalty for but *one* other human who had incurred that penalty by transgression of God's spiritual law (Romans 6:23). Since God the Father created all things *by* Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9), and since *all* things, including man, were made *by* Jesus Christ, He is our Maker and therefore God, and His life which He gave was of *greater value*

than the sum total of all human beings. For we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the *Word was God*. The same was in the beginning with God. *All things were made by him*; and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:1-3). "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father" (verse 14, RSV). Also, "He was in the world, and the world was *made through him*, yet the world knew him not" (verse 10, RSV). Compare these scriptures with I Corinthians 8:6 and Colossians 1:12-19.

Life alone can *beget* life. This is the absolute law of biogenesis. Since eternal life is the GIFT of God (John 3:16), only a GOD *possessing* immortality could give it. If Jesus were only human, *we could not receive eternal life through Him* and He could not be our Savior. Man *does not* have eternal life inherent in himself. But, as God "the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself." And, "God *hath given* to us eternal life, and this life is *in his Son*. He that hath the Son hath life; and *he that hath not the Son of God hath not life*" (John 5:26; I John 5:11-12).

## He Was Also Human

On the other hand, Jesus was also human. Since it is *human* life which has transgressed God's law, the law claims *human* life as its penalty. Contrary to popular present-day teaching, the Word of God states that the wages—the penalty—of sin is DEATH—not eternal life in a so-called "hellfire" (Romans 6:23). When we sin, we break God's perfect spiritual law, "for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). The penalty for this sin is *death*. The penalty *must be paid*. God the Father will not compromise. It must be paid *by man*. Therefore, Jesus, who is and was God, who has always existed (John 1:1, 2), was actually *made flesh* (verse 14). He, who was God, actually *became* human flesh. I John 4:2, 3 (RSV) states: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ

has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God." He was conceived in and born of the human virgin, Mary. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 1:18, RSV). He was made not only flesh, but *human* flesh and blood. Notice Hebrews 2:14: "Since then the children are sharers in *blood and flesh*, himself also in like manner partook of the same" (Ivan Panin translation).

Jesus called Himself the Son of MAN repeatedly, and also the Son of God. Matthew wrote: "Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do men say that the Son of man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven'" (Matt. 16:13-17, RSV).

Jesus, in nature, is equal with God—"Jesus: who, existing in God's form, counted not that *being on an equality with God* ought to be grasped at, but emptied himself... being made in likeness of men" (Phil. 2:6, Panin translation).

He is *called* God in Titus 2:10, 13. Therefore He *is* God. The Bible contains so much on these points that the above is a mere fragment of the evidence.

Yes, Jesus is also "Jehovah," although this word is a *mistranslation* used in the American Standard Version. The original name, in the Hebrew, contained the consonants "YHVH." The precise pronunciation of the name is not definitely known since it ceased being pronounced long before the time of Christ. The *meaning*, in English, is "THE ETERNAL," or "THE EVER-LIVING," or the "SELF-EXISTENT." It is commonly supposed that YHVH, or, as commonly called, "Jehovah," or, as in the Authorized Version,

"the LORD," of the Old Testament was God the FATHER of Jesus Christ. *This is a flagrant error!*

YHVH was the God of Israel, the only One of the Godhead known to ancient Israel. When He came in human flesh they did not recognize Him. "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not" (John 1:10). Neither did they know God the

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**Since God the Father created all things by Jesus Christ, and since all things, including man, were made by Jesus Christ, He is our Maker and therefore God, and His life which He gave was of greater value than the sum total of all human beings.**

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Father (Matt. 11:27 and Luke 10:22).

In Genesis 1, the Hebrew name translated "God" is *Elohim*. This is a uniplural word (a collective noun) such as "church," or "family." A church or a family consists of more than one person, yet is *one* church, or *one* family. In this same sense *Elohim*—the God Kingdom—includes both God the Father and YHVH (who was the *Logos* or the WORD of God), and also their Spirit emanating from them, the Holy Spirit, the LIFE, CHARACTER, and POWER of God. Jesus, in praying for the welfare of the Church, prayed that its many members might "be ONE, as we are one" (John 17:11, 21, Moffatt). The Church is ONE body, yet composed of many members (I Cor. 12:12). A husband and wife are ONE FLESH, yet two persons.

The word "God" has two meanings—the God Kingdom or the Family of God, AND the *persons* composing that Kingdom or Family. Christ and the Father are ONE God, *not two* Gods—one *Elohim*. That is why *Elohim* said: "Let us make man in OUR image" (Gen. 1:26).

YHVH was the "WORD" or Spokesman of the Godhead—its second member. As soon as God began to SPEAK to man, it was always YHVH who spoke (translated "LORD" in the Authorized, and "Jehovah" in the American Standard

Version—see Genesis 2:16, 18 and Exodus 20:2). Almost always it is YHVH in the original Hebrew—the "WORD" who was made flesh. The proof of this is a long study involving hundreds of passages.

As a fragment of the evidence, compare Isaiah 8:13-14 with I Peter 2:7-8. Isaiah said, "The LORD of hosts"—YHVH—shall be "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence." Peter said, in *quoting* this text in reference to *Christ*, He is "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence." Jesus is the LORD—the Eternal of the Old Testament.

Now compare Isaiah 40:3 with Matthew 3:3 and Mark 1:3. John prepared the way before YHVH (Isaiah 40:3) who was CHRIST (Mark 1:14-15).

In Revelation 1:17 we read: "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand upon me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last.'" And in verse 8: "'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Again Revelation 22:13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Study also Revelation 22:16 for proof it was *Jesus* speaking. Jesus Christ calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Now compare these texts with Isaiah 44:6: "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no God.'"

#### Who Is Our Redeemer?

Now turn to Isaiah 48:11-12. "For my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another. 'Hearken to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am He, I am the first, and I am the last.'" Verses 17-18 show it was YHVH speaking. And also in Isaiah 41:4: "Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am He." All of these scriptures show that YHVH is the First and Last. Christ is the YHVH of the Old Testament.

(Continued on page 38)

# THE TRUE FACTS OF MY OWN CONVERSION

**Part 2 covered the main events leading up to my own conversion, including the part my wife played in it, up to my complete unconditional surrender to God. It covered my change from the attitude of "get" to that of "give." But I was not yet actually converted—not even to that initial experience most professing Christians believe to be the total of conversion. We are still far from answering in this series that overall question: "Conversion—sudden experience, or lifelong process?"**

by Herbert W. Armstrong

It had been the bitterest pill I had ever had to swallow: to admit my wife was right in turning to what I had called "religious fanaticism." It was hard to admit that having had AMBITION aroused early in me—generating SELF-CONFIDENCE—was all SELF-CENTEREDNESS and therefore wrong. It was not easy to *give up everything* my heart and whole life had been set on.

## Prepared in Advance

God prepared in advance the apostle Paul by an education under perhaps the greatest teacher and educator of his time—the learned Gamaliel. Paul (his name had been changed from Saul) started out with an almost superhuman fanaticism to destroy the new religion, Christianity. He was as eager to stamp out Christianity as the most fanatical members of the PLO are to wipe out the nation of Israel today.

Like Saul, I was applying my energies in the wrong direction. I was striving for SELF-gain—SELF-glory. I wanted to be recognized as one of the "SUCCESSFUL" in the field of business. I was living primarily in the GET philosophy, which I have shown originated with Satan the devil.

I had argued that "all these

## PART 3

churches can't be wrong—and they get their religion FROM THE BIBLE." I was shocked—dumbfounded—to learn that in Protestant Sunday school I had been taught in most basic doctrines the very OPPOSITE of what the Bible actually SAYS. I had to learn in this initial most intensive and in-depth study where the real fault lay. The Holy Bible is the world's number-one seller. Millions own Bibles who never read them. Other millions read them—but DO NOT BELIEVE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS!

Adam and Eve were taught directly in person by God Himself.

But they DID NOT BELIEVE WHAT HE SAID. They *did* believe Satan when he came along.

Jesus came with His gospel message—the ANNOUNCEMENT of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD which will restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and bring PEACE to the earth. But after 3½ years of CHRIST Himself preaching that message to thousands, only 120 actually became BELIEVERS (Acts 1:15).

People do believe what *other* books say. But the Bible is the very written Word of God—actually GOD speaking in print—and few indeed believe *what God says*. They make of it a mystic book which almost NOBODY UNDERSTANDS—yet it is plain and simple; it says what it means and means what it says.

I had studied hard, deeply, thoroughly. I DID NOT WANT to believe my wife was right. I was studying with an unconverted, carnal mind—a mind enabled to understand PHYSICAL things by the addition of the HUMAN spirit to the human brain (as in all humans)—but I NEEDED a second Spirit to enter *with it* to UNDERSTAND the things of God—His HOLY SPIRIT. That's why it took SIX MONTHS of intensive, in-depth study to come to see what my wife had been able to see and understand in

15 to 30 minutes—she already HAD the Spirit of God.

### What the Holy Spirit Is

Just what is this Holy Spirit? First of all, it is the Spirit which comes directly from God; which, entering into a human, impregnates that human with GOD-life—*eternal life*—just as the male sperm entering into a female egg cell (ovum) impregnates the woman with a new human life then begotten in her womb. “The [Holy] Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Rom. 8:16).

The Holy Spirit, secondly, is the Spirit of UNDERSTANDING. It opens the human MIND, in conjunction with the human spirit, to COMPREHEND—to UNDERSTAND—spiritual knowledge, spiritual principles, spiritual facts. It opens the mind to UNDERSTAND the LAW of God, “because the carnal mind [natural human mind *without* God’s Holy Spirit] is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7).

So the Holy Spirit opens the mind to UNDERSTAND God’s *way of life*, and to be willingly subject to it as the WAY OF LOVE. And LOVE is *outgoing*. It is love toward God and concern for the good and welfare of others equal in amount to our self-love and self-concern.

Thirdly, the Holy Spirit of God entering into one imparts to the mind a new and opposite attitude—God’s attitude; instills in that mind GOD’S LOVE, far transcending natural human love—the love that fulfills His law.

Fourth, the Spirit instills in one the gift of CHRIST’S OWN FAITH—the very same FAITH with which He healed and performed miracles. Faith in GOD that BELIEVES what God SAYS! It is the Spirit of POWER—not physical, but spiritual power: power to resist temptation, power of WILL to DO God’s way.

Now I had struggled (with at least an HONEST mind, I must admit) for six long months to learn God’s WAY of GIVE as opposed to Satan’s way of GET, which I had previously practiced. My study had led me to UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER of my life to God. I learned that Christ had bought and paid for me by the sacri-

fice of His life, and I now GAVE OVER MY LIFE TO HIM. Of course, as I said in the previous installment, by this time my own estimation of myself had shrunk so low, I didn’t see how God could ever USE my life—but it was now HIS, *if* He could use it.

### Conditions To Receiving Holy Spirit

The biblical CONDITIONS to receiving God’s Holy Spirit are two: REPENTANCE and BELIEF. Remorse is far from real repentance. Real repentance is developed by godly sorrow. It means a complete ABOUT-FACE—a total CHANGE from the GET

**I had argued that “all these churches can’t be wrong—and they get their religion from the Bible.” I was shocked—dumbfounded—to learn that I had been taught in most basic doctrines the very opposite of what the Bible actually says.**

way of Satan to the GIVE way of God.

But I could find no PROMISE in the Bible that anyone would receive the Holy Spirit until after water baptism.

As I have said, I had made a most THOROUGH and in-depth STUDY of this whole question in many outside sources. But I had been brought up in a Protestant church which did not believe in water baptism, and I had not yet studied what the Bible said about water baptism. Now I did study it—thoroughly.

I did find one exception where the Holy Spirit was given without—and prior to—water baptism: at the house of Cornelius, a Gentile captain over 100 Roman soldiers. But even so, Peter *commanded* water baptism. Nevertheless, there is NO PROMISE of the gift of the Holy Spirit prior to water baptism. And I’m sure God did not want me to come into His ministry the EASY way.

Therefore, I was baptized. Now along with my Bible study of the question, I had counseled with three ministers—a Baptist, a Seventh-Day Adventist and a Quaker. I chose to ask the Baptist minister to baptize me.

### Baptized into Christ—Not Denomination

But I had learned that we are baptized “into Jesus Christ” (Rom. 6:3), NOT into a religious denomination. I learned, when I asked this minister to baptize me, that he had no authority to baptize me, *except* INTO HIS CHURCH.

I was required to go before a board of trustees to see if they would give their pastor authority to baptize me into Jesus Christ. Somehow I had a peculiar feeling, as I sat before that dignified, stern-faced board. I was still comparatively new in biblical knowledge and understanding, but as they questioned me, I soon saw that their understanding of the Bible was very elementary compared to mine. Somehow I felt almost like Jesus at age 12, sitting before the august and dignified body of doctors of religion, who “were astonished at his understanding and answers” (Luke 2:42-47).

Anyway, the board members were sufficiently impressed when I quoted the scriptures that we are to be baptized into Jesus Christ—not a religious denomination—that one suggested, “Well, after this man has shown us what the Bible says, I don’t see how we can refuse his request that we authorize our pastor to baptize him into Christ without requiring him to join our church.” The others then agreed.

Of course that baptism was an EXPERIENCE—one I shall never forget. It was on a Sunday night. I was buried under, and came up out of the water. It was a type of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

### What the Experience Was Like

But just what *was* the EXPERIENCE of receiving the Holy Spirit? Did I feel certain physical sensations—were there tingling sensations going up and down my spine, as some Pentecostal people claim to feel? No! Nothing of the sort.

But there was a *very definite spiri-*

*tual experience!* I came up out of that water feeling as if all my sins had been left buried there. I had a sense of knowing that I was CLEAN spiritually. There was the conscious knowledge that now I was really God's son—I had fulfilled His requirements. I had given my life to Him, and there was a very definite KNOWING that His HOLY SPIRIT had now entered my mind and life! And His Spirit did definitely witness with my spirit that I was His child (Rom. 8:16). It was a definite KNOWING—a changed attitude of mine—not a physical feeling.

Up to this time, as I have said, I was wrestling with these biblical questions, studying almost night and day, with a carnal mind. I was really amazed to find that from that moment, real UNDERSTANDING of things I studied in the Bible came easily and quickly, compared to my experience with a carnal mind. I was now WILLING to accept God's truth whether it was what I wanted or not. I no longer sought MY will, trying to prove it by the Bible, but I merely sought GOD's will.

Yes, that was definitely a "SUD-DEN EXPERIENCE." But was I now "saved"? Was my salvation now completed?

### Like the Corinthians

Not by any means. I was like the Corinthians. They, too, had gone through this initial "EXPERIENCE." They had received the Holy Spirit. They were under God's grace, for Paul wrote: "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 1:4). But the apostle continued: "... there are contentions among you" (verse 11).

Later Paul lamented: "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual [that is, spiritually minded with spiritual understanding], but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ" (I Cor. 3:1). Yet, they had repented, believed and received the Holy Spirit.

But let me intervene to say right here that the Holy Spirit is given to us BY DEGREES. Most start out with a VERY SMALL portion of God's Holy Spirit. They are still perhaps 90 percent carnal, as were these Corinthians.

At the opposite extreme was Jesus Christ Himself. He was the very begotten Son of God—the ONLY *begotten*—that is, the ONLY one ever begotten prior to HUMAN birth *by God*. Jesus had the Holy Spirit in FULL measure. We, only partially at first—yet some to a greater degree than others.

I firmly believe that God by His grace granted me a much fuller portion of His Spirit at the very beginning than is the average experience. Why? I had been brought low in morale, SELF-confidence. I had made a thorough study and accepted what I DID NOT want, but

**People do believe what other books say. But the Bible is the very written Word of God—actually God speaking in print—and few indeed believe what God says. They make of it a mystic book which almost nobody understands.**

what I saw was God's TRUTH. My mind was finally more fully open to God's TRUTH than most. I was more emptied of SELF. I made an *unconditional* surrender—gave my life to God. Further, what I did not realize then was that God was preparing me to be His apostle. He had been working me over spiritually, and as we might say today, He worked me over "REAL GOOD."

So much of this world's—Satan's—ways of GET have worked their way into our minds and attitudes that we simply do not get rid of all of them at once. As Peter says, we "GROW in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18).

Let me here interrupt and ask again, WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE in placing HUMAN life here on earth? As I have said, the one thing even God cannot create all at once—instantaneously by fiat—is holy, spiritual, righteous CHARACTER. That must be BUILT within us with our

own consent, with a CHANGE of mind and heart, and with willingness to beseech God to place His character within us.

And that is definitely a PROCESS! It requires our own choice, decision, will, and diligence seeking it and working at it.

### Experience and Process

So conversion is *both* an experience and a process. But often I am forced to wonder *how many* who *profess* Christianity have ever even so much as gone through the initial process by which we receive God's Holy Spirit! Better search your own heart!

I realize fully that all do not have exactly the SAME experience. This initial EXPERIENCE of receiving the Holy Spirit may take place in different ways under different circumstances. All may not have had to swallow such a bitter pill of admitting defeat as I did. I only give you my experience as one example. That's the way I had to go through that initial experience.

But conversion definitely DOES require a TOTAL UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER to God and His WAY OF LIFE—GOD'S LAW! It DOES require a REAL REPENTANCE. As I said, that is much more than just remorse. I know a man who was so SORRY for what he had done—for his sins—that he broke down and cried like a baby when he was with his wife and me. But the next morning he was back in the same previous carnal *attitude*; the remorse was all over, and he had not changed!

This initial EXPERIENCE *changes one!* As the Bible says: "... godly sorrow *worketh* repentance to salvation" (II Cor. 7:10). It means a total ABOUT-FACE. It means turning from the self-centered way of vanity, lust and greed, envy and jealousy, resentment against wrongs or fancied wrongs, rebellion against God's government over one's life, the spirit of competition that leads to strife, violence, war. It means a change to the way of GIVE—the way of LOVE—love of and *obedience to God*, and outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others equal to your own self-concern.

You won't completely forsake, at all times, the former SELF; you won't

live perfectly all at once the NEW way of LOVE and concern toward others, but your whole INTENTION—YOUR ATTITUDE—will have made that change.

And you may not receive a FULL measure of God's Holy Spirit all at once. You probably will start out as a "babe in Christ" like the Corinthians.

### The Old Testament Example

Yet, because conversion definitely also is a process—a development—a GROWTH that takes TIME, I also wonder how many we may feel "are just not converted at all," when they *are, in truth, "babes in Christ"* who have not grown very large SPIRITUALLY as yet, but who HAVE received the Holy Spirit, even in small measure, and are actually GROWING and headed in the right direction.

Remember, God looks on the heart—the attitude—the obvious intention!

Many experiences recorded in the Old Testament were intended as examples for us today. In I Corinthians 10 we read: "Now all these things happened unto them [of Old Testament times] for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (verse 11).

It is true that the Bible deals in types, which any biblical student having the Holy Spirit ought easily to understand. It also deals in symbols—but the Bible explains its own symbols, not always in the same context with the symbol. It also contains allegories—but the Bible itself explains the allegories so we can UNDERSTAND. In other words, we should never try to interpret the Bible. The Bible interprets itself!

In a number of instances—as in the Passover—Egypt is used as a type of SIN. The taking of the Israelites out of Egypt is a TYPE of our going out from sin. Their entrance into the Promised Land is a type of our entrance into the Kingdom of God. In these instances—as well as many others—the physical is a type of the spiritual.

The presence of squatters occupying the Promised Land also is a type of sin in our lives. God OWNS the earth. He had assigned by PROMISE to Abraham, for his descendants,

this Promised Land. Therefore it rightfully belonged to them, and not to the Gentile nations who had simply moved in and taken it over.

God promised to drive out these squatters. But He said: "I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land" (Ex. 23:29-30). Notice also Deuteronomy 7, especially verse 22.

God forbade the Israelites to worship the idols and gods of these

**The one thing even God cannot create all at once is holy, spiritual, righteous character. That must be built within us with our own consent, with a change of mind and heart, and with willingness to beseech God to place His character within us.**

Gentile nations. But the wild animals coming in would have been a greater danger. If we were able to drive out EVERY SIN from our lives all at once, we would become spiritually PROUD, and spiritual pride is the greatest of sins. Job had it. And he was the most difficult for God to convert of any man in history.

I knew a Pentecostal family years ago. The children were mature—grown and married—but their mother, so they claimed, was spiritually PERFECT. Truly, she was a good woman, to all appearances. Yet she actually was guilty of the greatest sin of all. She herself claimed to be perfect, without sin. She and her family exalted her above all others. Yet others could see several real sins in her self-righteous, holier-than-thou life.

### What Is God's Purpose?

God's PURPOSE is to build HOLY, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER—God's OWN character—into us humans.

It starts with a REAL and lasting REPENTANCE—a total and permanent CHANGE in attitude from GET to GIVE. It requires BELIEF—not only believing on Christ—but BELIEVING CHRIST: believing and obeying WHAT HE SAYS! Christ is the personal WORD of God. The Bible is that same WORD in print. It is the LAMP to our feet (Psalm 119:105) to GUIDE US in GOD'S WAY, like a lamp on a dark night in the woods, leading us in the way of safety.

So, through HIS WRITTEN WORDS, we GROW in the KNOWLEDGE of Christ. It requires constant Bible reading and STUDY. It requires constant earnest, heart-rending PRAYER. It requires FELLOWSHIP with the brethren. In church services, we not only have fellowship with our brethren, but also with Christ and the Father. "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another—and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin" (I John 1:3, 7).

So remember, I have often said God is reproducing Himself. We who are converted and are *being* spiritually matured are merely the type of what we once were *before human birth*. First, we were begotten in a conception that required both a father and a mother. In order to make human reproduction possible, God formed humans in two sexes—MAN and WOMAN. Because He designed us with the potentiality of becoming HIS very own born children, God in His LOVE formed sex as a holy and beautiful thing.

But because Satan has no sex, he is jealous; he hates the fact that God gave us humans this blessing. So he has cunningly contrived to DECEIVE humans into the misuse of sex and even its nonuse—and total misunderstanding concerning it. Through some professing Christian organizations, Satan has deceived MAN into looking on sex as something shameful, evil and dirty. (See my book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.)

But this I DO KNOW: There is the initial EXPERIENCE of conversion, when the SELF-CENTEREDNESS in the mind DIES and the Holy Spirit of God ENTERS and produces a total about-face in ATTITUDE of mind.

(Continued on page 29)



on my job in 1970 and was out of work for a year and a half. Well, to make a long story short, while on disability (benefits of only \$87.50 per week) we started a small business which we never thought much would ever come of. After about six months of tithing, one of our suppliers, from whom we were only purchasing maybe \$2500 per year, trusted us with over \$135,000 of merchandise on an open-account basis to sell and pay back at only 5 percent interest, a rate unheard of. This led to more and more in tithes and offerings until in 1976 we have given over \$12,000 to the Church. My wife and I are dedicating our lives and financial resources to the Work in this last-ditch effort, and hope we can expand our business and give a contribution of \$100,000 to the Work in 1977. We will help get the broadcast on the air more, and more *Plain Truths* in more locations. I am not praying to God just to increase *our* gain, but each and every member's business, so we can all contribute more. We are praying that we can keep our goal in mind and not let the increased amount of money "go to our heads."

Name withheld,  
California

### Promotion Comes from God

Last June I decided to go out into the "big world of business" as a nurse's aide. My children were all in school, and I wanted to do something "big"! I got a job at a nursing home working part time. In December the owner stated he was looking his employees over, as he had room for a promotion for one person. I discussed it with God and applied for the promotion. Wonder of wonders, the owners chose me—gave me the promotion, and a raise—and after three months I'm to receive another raise after "proving" myself. I'm in charge of this new program—have one employee under me and will have another soon. I had been working the 3-to-11 shift—now I work 8 to 4 Monday through Friday. Great, huh? You see, in my discussion with God I gently "reminded" Him of the tithes and offerings He's prompted me to give back—and now I needed Him to help me get that promotion over women who had worked there for years. He listened, and acted fast. By the way, at the year's end the owners of the home gave out bonuses. Employees that had worked there for 10 or 15 years received \$15 or \$25—I received \$50 and had only worked there since June. Talk about God being on His children's side! He's the greatest!

Name withheld,  
Nebraska

### Money Inherited

Back in the '40s we were sending money to various organizations who were on radio at the time. It was about this time that we had started to hear Mr. Armstrong, and decided we would send the money to him instead. This was before we were associated with the Church. But we were blessed for tithing and giving even then. After we were baptized, we started giving more and made several loans to the Work, as we had a little money saved. So we were blessed even more. Then after a few years we decided to cancel the loan and let the Church have the money. Well, it was not long after this that we received money from an estate. The more we gave the more we were blessed.

Name withheld,  
Kansas

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*If you would like to know more about the blessings of giving, please request our brand-new booklet entitled Your Best Investment. This free publication also contains a study of the subject of tithing. To obtain your copy, please use the coupon on back cover. □*

## TWO PROPHETS

(Continued from page 27)

does our Father have in mind to keep us *busy*, joyfully, eternally productive? And if God is eventually going to save the great majority of mankind anyway, why bother about it now?

Moses knew the answers to these questions—do *you*? Read them in the next issue! □

(To Be Continued)

### RECOMMENDED READING

Several of our booklets provide the needed background to enable you to better comprehend this series of articles. Please write for the following literature: *Why Were You Born?*, *Just What Do You Mean—Born Again?*, *After Death—Then What?*, *What Is the Reward of the Saved?*, "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?" "Who Was Jesus?" and "When a Man From Space Visited Earth." All of these publications are provided free of charge by the membership of the Worldwide Church of God, as well as by our co-workers and friends.

## CONVERSION

(Continued from page 10)

I have to WONDER *how many* professing Christians have actually experienced the receiving of God's gift of the Holy Spirit? How MANY, because of Satan's deceptive, erroneous teachings, have only seen enough of the truth to say: "I see this TRUTH. I am SO GOOD—SO RIGHTEOUS—that I want the truth, so I'll join this church." Yes, HOW MANY? How many have accepted the truth—or what they suppose to be the truth—in their own righteousness? They have not as yet even *really* repented; never MADE THE FIRST INITIAL START of the first experience of conversion.

### Begetting of the Holy Spirit

But back to our comparison or analogy of human begetting and development and birth. In the human mother, a life starts as merely an embryo, as small as a tiny pin point. Most truly converted Christians start comparatively SMALL SPIRITUALLY. But the embryo, nourished on physical food from the mother, develops and grows, and after three months develops into a fetus. A spinal cord has developed, a head, arms and legs. Gradually other parts of the physical body develop. After nine months a new human is ready for birth—delivery from the mother's womb.

So once we are IMPREGNATED—given immortal life—given GOD-life—by the receiving of the HOLY SPIRIT from the very body and person of God, we are begotten sons of God, nourished on spiritual food through the mother of us all—the true CHURCH (Gal. 4:26; Heb. 12:22-23), until BORN by a resurrection as Jesus was (Rom. 1:4). We shall then be *composed* of spirit. But we must have GROWN in this life to a point where, once BORN of God, we CANNOT sin (I John 3:9).

Yes, you see God is REPRODUCING HIMSELF. We can become AS HE IS! But it requires a BEGETTAL (the experience of receiving the Holy Spirit), a period of spiritual gestation, and a final BIRTH, when we shall BE Spirit (John 3:6; Phil. 3:21). □

# IS JESUS GOD?

(Continued from page 3)

The person of the Godhead who is our REDEEMER is Jesus Christ. John 4:42 contains this: "They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that *this is indeed the SAVIOR* of the world.'" "But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a *Savior*, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20). Read also Titus 2:10-14 and Luke 1:68-69.

That Jesus, the Savior, is YHVH. See Isaiah 49:7 and Isaiah 60:16, where He—YHVH—is *also* "the Mighty One of Jacob." To be OF Jacob means a son, or descendant of Jacob—the Mighty One of all Jacob's children. Also in Isaiah 48:17, YHVH is called the *Redeemer*, and the Holy One of Israel—the One of Israel who is holy! The same is expressed in Isaiah 43:14: "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel..." Also note the next verse (15): YHVH is Israel's Holy One, Creator of Israel, Israel's King. Now notice in Acts 3:14-15 that the Christ who was denied was the same "HOLY ONE"—YHVH! "But ye denied the Holy and Righteous One... the Prince of life" (Panin). See also Acts 2:27 and Mark 1:24.

## Christ Was David's Shepherd

Who was David's *shepherd*? (Psalm 23:1.)

In John 10:11, Jesus said *He* was the Shepherd. Open your Bibles also to Hebrews 13:20: "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great *shepherd* of the sheep..." Compare this text with I Peter 2:24-25, which says: "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the *Shepherd* and Guardian of your souls." We also read: "Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief *Shepherd* is manifested you

will obtain the unfading crown of glory" (I Peter 5:2-4, RSV).

It is JESUS CHRIST who is coming again in person as KING of kings to rule, and to RESTORE. In Revelation 19:13 John writes: "He is clad in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God." "From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite the nations, and he will rule them with a

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**The Eternal Father is a Person, and is God. Jesus Christ is a different Person and is God. They are two separate and individual Persons. The Father is Supreme Head—the Lawgiver. Christ is the Word—the divine Spokesman.**

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rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty" (verse 15, RSV). And again in Revelation 17:14 John writes: "They will make war on the *Lamb*, and the Lamb [Christ] will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." The Great Shepherd who is coming to RULE as King over all kings is YHVH. "And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Eternal"—YHVH or Christ! See Ezekiel 34:11, 30-31.

Now notice Isaiah 2:1-4 and Micah 4:1-4. "It shall come to pass... that the mountain [Kingdom] of the YHVH's house shall be established in the top of the mountains [kingdoms]"—ruling the world. "And he [YHVH—Christ] shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people," and then they shall have PEACE.

In almost every Old Testament passage, the LORD YHVH—the Eternal—is Jesus Christ. Clearly, Jesus is the God of the Old Testament.

## Summary

God is not merely one Person. God is a divine Family—only one Family—but more than one divine Person. Jesus Christ spoke of His divine Father as GOD. Jesus said He was the Son of God (Matt. 27:43; John

10:36). Jesus is called *God* in Hebrews 1:8 and elsewhere. All the holy angels are commanded to worship Jesus (Heb. 1:6)—and none but God may be worshiped.

The Eternal Father is a Person, and is God. Jesus Christ is a different Person and is God. They are two separate and individual Persons (Rev. 4:2; 5:1, 6-7). The Father is Supreme Head of the God Family—the Lawgiver. Christ is the Word—the divine Spokesman.

So God is presently a Family of two Persons — God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. And the wonderful truth is that human beings may be born into this same ONE God Family as distinct, separate Personalities by a resurrection from the dead. Jesus Christ was the FIRST-born of many brethren (Rom. 8:29)—having been born again when God the Father resurrected Him from the dead (Rom. 1:4). The thorough details of these awe-inspiring Bible truths are freely given in our booklet *Just What Do You Mean—Born Again?* Write for your free copy. □

## CONVERSION

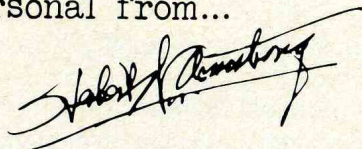
### Sudden experience... or lifelong process?

How do you define the word *conversion*? An adoption of religious belief? A "born-again" experience? Contrary to popular belief, the Bible teaches that there is more to conversion than a singular event, a one-time change. In the booklet *Just What Do You Mean—Conversion?* Herbert Armstrong supplies valuable insights on the subject.

Request your free copy by returning the coupon on the back cover of this magazine.

Just what do you mean...  
**CONVERSION?**

Personal from...



(Continued from page 1)

a GOVERNMENT—HIS government, with His constitution and LAWS. God's LAWS were—and are—a WAY OF LIFE; the way of LOVE—outgoing concern for the welfare of others; the way of peace, harmony, helping, serving, sharing.

But the angels sinned (II Pet. 2:4). They rebelled, rejected GOD's government, and adopted the way of GET, which is vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition, strife and violence, resentment and rebellion against authority. This brought disaster to the earth which these angels could have developed and improved. In six days God "renewed the face of the earth" (Psalm 104:30), prepared it for man.

God created humankind, male and female, to reproduce and bring forth the human family, made of matter from the ground; made in the image, likeness (form and shape) of GOD HIMSELF; made for a special relationship with God; made with the potential of being begotten and BORN into the very GOD FAMILY.

The first created man, Adam, was instructed in and offered, by personal teaching directly from GOD, the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, which Adam could have restored to earth, and he could have received the fantastic, *awesome* potential of being BORN INTO THE GOD FAMILY, restoring the WHOLE VAST ENDLESS UNIVERSE! But such a grand and awesome potential could be possible only in peace, harmony, working together with mutual CONCERN for one another, and OBEDIENCE to the guiding LAWS OF GOD.

Adam then also listened to the former Lucifer, superarchangel RULING over the sinning angels—his name now changed to Satan the devil. Adam, for his offspring and the entire HUMAN FAMILY, *rejected* God's government and guidance, chose to decide for himself the WAY TO GO, chose to decide right from wrong by eating from the tree of

knowledge of good and evil, and thus CUT HIMSELF OFF from God. Satan, powerful beyond human recognition, an invisible spirit, has deceived the entire human race, leading them into the WAY OF GET.

Upon Adam's rejection of God's government, God adopted a hands-off policy for 6,000 years, allowing MAN to DEMONSTRATE that the GET way can lead only to trouble, evils, pain and suffering, anguish, frustration, confusion, failure and DEATH.

God's great PURPOSE is to build into mankind His holy and righteous character, so that man will turn to the WAY OF LOVE or GIVE, and NEVER again turn to the WAY OF GET.

**God is about to prove, by 1,000 years of His rule under the give philosophy of love, that it is the only way to universal peace, happiness, success, desirable accomplishment, and well-being.**

Part of God's MASTER PLAN for working out His purpose was to call the nation ISRAEL. He called them and delivered them out of Egyptian SLAVERY, promised them that His WAY OF LOVE and GIVE—the way of His LAWS and HIS GOVERNMENT—would automatically *pay off*; make them the most prosperous, most successful, most blessed, most powerful, most happy nation on earth. Hence, the marriage covenant that set them up as one of the world's NATIONS.

But they clung to Satan's way of GET. God has allotted 6,000 years to man for this experiment of PROVING by human experience that the fruits of the GET way result only in total failure, unhappiness, discontent, anguish, suffering and death.

God sent Jesus Christ to earth, begotten by God Almighty, born human of a human mother, to proclaim the GOOD NEWS (gospel) of the KINGDOM OF GOD: the restoration of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth—after the 6,000 years. First, however, Jesus, after living a perfect

sinless life, met and conquered Satan, and thus QUALIFIED to reestablish GOD's GOVERNMENT. Then He called and taught His apostles in the ANNOUNCEMENT of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD, and He Himself went forth announcing it. The humanity of the Promised Land of Israel of that day REJECTED His message, rejected GOD's GOVERNMENT—as the angels had done, as Adam had done. They CRUCIFIED Jesus, who gave His sinless life in payment for human sins. God raised Him from the dead, making eternal life possible for MAN. He ascended to God's throne of the universe in heaven, where He has been since as the HIGH PRIEST of those CALLED out of humanity to accept HIS WAY—His GOVERNMENT—to REPENT of the GET way of sin, and to turn to God voluntarily, beseeching Him to develop in them His holy and righteous character.

At the END of that 6,000 years, God knew the GET way of a man-made society swayed invisibly by Satan would bring man to the brink of cosmocide—to the point where he could create the powers of MASS DESTRUCTION that would blast all human life from this planet!

At that time, the merciful Almighty GOD of LOVE will intervene at the very last minute; He will PREVENT man from erasing all humanity from the earth; He will save mankind ALIVE. He will send Jesus Christ in supreme almighty power and glory to take over and RULE over all mankind—to once again restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth.

Now back to ancient ISRAEL. God gave them a SPECIAL CHANCE to live under His GOVERNMENT and by His WAYS, in order to PROVE that those ways will bring success, prosperity, happiness, joy and abundance to any people who will live that way of love. But Israel FAILED.

We reached by 1933 the beginning of the very generation during which Christ will return to reestablish the government of God. That year—1933—God conferred on me the STAGGERING GREAT COMMISSION to take the GOOD NEWS—the ANNOUNCEMENT of the soon-coming KINGDOM OF GOD—to all the world for a witness to ALL NATIONS, just

before the END of today's civilization, built by a Satan-guided humanity.

Man has formed his OWN kind of governments and sought to GOVERN HIMSELF, rejecting GOD'S RULE over him. Today we are in world trouble greater than ever before in human history. Governments of men are being overthrown at the rate of one a month. Crime has never been so great. Marriage and family life are falling apart. Sickness and disease and mental illness have reached the highest point in humanity's history. And weapons of mass destruction have been developed in the past 40 years that can erase all human life from the earth!

Now notice in further prophecies what GOD said in giving HOPE to ancient Israel—and it applies to us today: "Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the ETERNAL; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the ETERNAL, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the ETERNAL thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the ETERNAL. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the ETERNAL; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion [this is a prophecy for OUR TIME, after the U.S., Britain, etc. have gone into a yet future—soon-to-occur—captivity]: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. . . . At that time they shall call Jerusalem the THRONE OF THE ETERNAL; and ALL the NATIONS shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the ETERNAL, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart [attitude of GET]. In those days the house of JUDAH [the Jewish people] shall walk with the house of Israel [the U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Western European nations], and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an

inheritance unto your fathers" (Jer. 3:12-15, 17-18).

God has a tremendous PURPOSE He is fulfilling. For almost 6,000 years now, He has demonstrated, by keeping hands off except in a few instances necessary for His purpose, that humanity, REJECTING God's rule and GOD'S GOVERNMENT and forming its OWN governments under the sway of the invisible and unrealized Satan, IS INCAPABLE OF GOVERNING ITSELF; that living by the self-centered GET way is NOT good for us and brings only unhappiness, failure, suffering, frustration, destruction and DEATH. Now God is about to PROVE, by 1,000 years of HIS RULE under the GIVE philosophy of love, that it is the ONLY way to universal PEACE, happiness, success, DESIRABLE accomplishment, well-being and joyfulness.

There is a REASON for today's tragic worldwide EVILS. There is a CAUSE for every effect. That is the lesson the Creator God is teaching by 6,000 years of actual EXPERIENCE.

And through the lessons mankind is learning by experiencing cause and effect, God is DEVELOPING perfect, holy and righteous CHARACTER in human beings—REPRODUCING HIMSELF—making us His own very CHILDREN, finally to be BORN into the GOD FAMILY!

Notice a little of the GOOD NEWS of the world that will start in THIS VERY GENERATION: "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse . . ." Jesse was the human father of King David of Judah. David was the "stem" that came out of Jesse. Jesus Christ was a descendant of David, and therefore is the "ROD" of this prophecy. In other words, "CHRIST shall come forth." Continuing, ". . . and a Branch shall grow out of his roots." The "roots" of Jesse is GOD, and the "BRANCH" that grew out of His roots, therefore, also is CHRIST (Isa. 11:1). Now continuing in verses 2-5: "And the spirit of the ETERNAL shall rest upon him [Christ], the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the ETERNAL; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the ETERNAL: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the

hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins."

This is speaking of CHRIST as KING of kings, RULER OF THE WORLD, restoring the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth—yet in THIS PRESENT GENERATION. It is speaking of the seventh millennium since Adam, following the EVIL 6,000 years to END in our present generation.

Truly, we are in the very end time.

Now continue the prophecy, describing the thousand years SOON to start: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them" (verse 6). What a picture of PEACE and contentment—wild animals tamed!

Continue: "And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw [hay] like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp [a small African cobra], and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' [serpent's] den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the ETERNAL . . ." HOW FULL? ". . . as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse [Christ], which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it [Christ] shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the ETERNAL shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people . . . And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah [the Jews] from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim [Britain] shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah

shall not vex Ephraim" (verses 7-13).

Now continue in Isaiah, chapter 12. Note the GOOD NEWS coming! "And in that day thou shalt say, O ETERNAL, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD ETERNAL is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore WITH JOY shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation" (verses 1-3). That is the time God will set out to "save" the world spiritually—salvation with eternal life!

Continue in verses 4-6: "And in that day shall ye say, Praise the ETERNAL, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. SING unto the ETERNAL; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and SHOUT, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee."

In Isaiah 14, speaking of an evil human type of Satan at a time in the very near future: "He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. THE WHOLE EARTH IS AT REST, AND IS QUIET: they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us" (verses 6-8).

Just one more glimpse into the wonderful WORLD TOMORROW, at its very beginning. At His coming as KING of kings to rule, Christ's "feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives" (Zech. 14:4).

"And it shall be in that day, that living waters [the Holy Spirit] shall go out from Jerusalem . . . And the ETERNAL shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. . . . And men shall dwell in it [Jerusalem], and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited" (verses 8-9, 11).

Today we live in the most terrifying time of human history. It will get WORSE. Then God will step in. Then PEACE shall come! □

## IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE

Many hundreds have written asking if we have representatives in their local areas to counsel with them personally and to answer their questions.

The answer is yes, we do.

The Worldwide Church of God stations personal representatives (most are ordained ministers) in the United States and many other areas of the world. These local ministers will visit you, if invited, directly in your own home.

So if you have spiritual matters to discuss or questions to ask about biblical topics such as repentance, baptism, etc., please feel free to write to us and request a private appointment. Worldwide mailing addresses are as follows:

- United States: P.O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123 (Or simply dial this toll-free number in the continental U.S.: 1-800-423-4444. Readers in California, Alaska and Hawaii may call 213-577-5225 collect.)
- United Kingdom, Europe, India and Africa: P.O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., England (Or dial this number in U.K.: Radlett [092 76] 2670.)
- New Zealand and Pacific Isles: P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1, New Zealand (Or dial Auckland 686-114—reverse the charges.)
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- Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2
- South Africa: P.O. Box 1060, Johannesburg 2000 (Or dial this number: 011-216406.)

Those residing in other areas of the world should see the inside front cover for the address of our office nearest them.

## RESURRECTION

(Continued from page 13)

"mushroom cult" to a charlatan and a fraud, the solid evidence of history proves Jesus Christ of Nazareth walked out of His tomb; that He is alive today; that He is directly intervening from time to time in human affairs; that He is on a "countdown" from heaven; that time is drawing very near for His return to this earth when billions will finally be FORCED to believe!

Neil Armstrong said that he was taking a giant step for mankind when he walked on the surface of the moon. Yet Jesus took a bigger step when he walked right through that solid rock tomb.

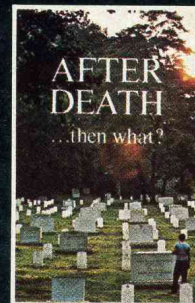
You, too, can step out of your grave in an instant of time when the heavens are rent at the return of Jesus Christ. You can also take your walk into eternity.

If you're interested, write immediately for our free booklet *After Death—Then What?* It could be the biggest step of your life! □

(To Be Continued)

## Death takes all the fun out of life.

No one likes to think about his own death. We'd like to postpone it forever. The apostle Paul called death man's enemy—"the last enemy that shall be destroyed." Everyone hopes for some kind of afterlife. For an explanation of what the Bible says on the subject, request the free booklet, *After Death, Then What?* Just return the coupon on the back cover.



# update

## TO OUR READERS

With this issue, we begin a new feature—a Worldwide *Update* of the many diverse activities of a unique Work. Each month we hope to familiarize you with an organization that Herbert W. Armstrong has often succinctly characterized as founded on the ethical principle of giving rather than the all-too-prevalent one of getting.

It is singularly apropos that we start this feature with the June issue, for it was fifty years ago this month that Mr. Armstrong made a commitment to the new way of life that this magazine proclaims. His commitment came after an agonizing six-month period of intensive study into the basic philosophical, religious and moral arguments and premises on which he previously had unquestioningly built his life.

His wife Loma D. Armstrong had made a statement about a teaching of the Bible that completely contradicted everything Mr. Armstrong had believed and which contradicted the teaching of most religious denominations. Mr. Armstrong was angered into a deep personal study of the Bible for the first time in his life, in an effort to prove his wife wrong.

But at the end of six months, Mr. Armstrong had to admit that his wife was right! And in the futile process of trying to prove her wrong on one point, he also came to realize that there was a wide divergence on many other points between what the Bible said and what people thought it said. He wrestled in his conscience with the dilemma of following the ways of the world at large or accepting and following the way of life he saw prescribed in the Word of God.

In June 1927, Mr. Armstrong accepted God's way and was baptized. Six years later, in July 1933, he started a series of lectures that led to the formation of this worldwide Work. In January 1934, he started broadcasting regularly on radio. The response to the broadcast resulted in *The Plain Truth* magazine, which made its humble bow to the world on February 1, 1934.

From the ministry of one man and one small congregation in the Willamette Valley of Oregon during the depths of the Great Depression has grown a Work of churches, colleges, publications and a charitable foundation that is worldwide in scope and impact.

We hope you will find this new feature interesting and informative. We welcome questions and comments about any of the stories which appear in this feature.

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## MR. ARMSTRONG SPEAKS TO AFRICAN LEADERS

On March 14, Herbert W. Armstrong addressed the constitutional conference of Namibia, and a week later, on March 21, spoke before the parliament of the newly independent Transkei.

The constitutional conference of Namibia, called the Turnhalle after the hall in which it meets in the capital city of Windhoek, is composed of eleven delegations from the eleven population groups that make up the 800,000 inhabitants of Namibia. They are forging a consti-

tution for the country, scheduled to receive its independence December 31, 1978. (The area has been a mandated territory of South Africa since World War I.)

Over forty delegates and officials were assembled for Mr. Armstrong's address. Dirk Mudge, conference chairman, welcomed Mr. Armstrong and then introduced Stanley Rader, who accompanies Mr. Armstrong on his frequent travels.

Mr. Rader compared the Turnhalle to the conference that wrote the U.S. Constitution nearly two centuries earlier. After recounting the time, effort and dissension involved in formulating the new U.S. government in 1789 (13 years after independence), Mr. Rader observed: "So the progress you have made here since the conference convened in September 1975 is remarkable in my opinion."

### Cause of World Ills

Mr. Rader then introduced Mr. Armstrong. He noted, "He has been called by leaders of some nations a builder of bridges between peoples, and has helped on more than one occasion to bridge one nation to another."

During his address, Mr. Armstrong used the Bible as a reference point to delineate the causes for many of today's ills. He pointed out that, as no world government can exist without law, neither does the government of God exist without law. "And the law of God is simply love," he said. "Love is an outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others equal to that for yourself." He further summarized it as the way of giving versus the way of getting.

Mr. Armstrong stated that from the very beginning almost all mankind has rejected God's law, choosing to pursue its own way. "This is the background that has led up to today and all of its evils."

Mr. Armstrong went on to say that although conditions may get worse in the short term, God will intervene to prevent global suicide and restore His way of peace.

In conclusion, he wished the conference well, but reminded them of their great responsibility: "You are going to be held accountable for the responsibility. And I say God help



you to do the best job that can be done. It is my prayer that you will succeed."

Mr. Robert Fahey, director of the African Work who was present for the occasion, remarked: "Mr. Armstrong may be 85 years old, but his voice was as strong and full as ever. The message was crystal clear."

#### **Transkei Parliament**

One week later, Mr. Armstrong addressed the parliament of the nation of the Transkei, which gained its independence from South Africa last October 26. About 250 parliamentarians gathered in Umtata, the capital city, to hear him. The format was similar to that in Namibia, with Mr. Rader prefacing Mr. Armstrong's address with an overview of his travels and the organization that sponsors his mission. Mr. Armstrong spoke for about 25 minutes.

The two extraordinary speaking engagements were highlights of a three-week speaking tour of southern Africa from March 10 to April 4. Setting a hectic pace, Mr. Armstrong met with numerous government leaders and spoke over a dozen times at banquets and meetings in the nations of South Africa, Namibia, the Transkei, and Swaziland. Among the leaders he met were Dr. Nicolaas Diederichs, president of South Africa, on March 15, leaders of the South African Parliament on March 17, Prime Minister Matanzima and the cabinet of Transkei, and King Sobhuza II of Swaziland on March 28. □

**A WIDE-ANGLE VIEW** (top photo) of delegates to the Turnhalle as they listen to Herbert W. Armstrong speak on March 14. The Turnhalle, comprising representatives of 11 population groups, is drafting a constitution for Namibia, which is scheduled to receive its independence December 31, 1978. Bottom photo: Mr. Armstrong autographs a copy of his booklet *The Plain Truth About Christmas* for Dr. J. Greyvensteyn, mayor of Pretoria, South Africa, March 10. The mayor, a *Plain Truth* reader, asked Mr. Armstrong to sign the booklet at the same time he requested an autograph of a *Plain Truth* article Mr. Armstrong had written two years ago when the magazine was in a tabloid format.