

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

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Where Are We Headed?

What's prophesied from here? Will we have HYDROGEN war? Will peace, happiness and prosperity ever come to this entire earth — and if so, how will it be brought about?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THIS world is *helpless* today! It's in a **HOPELESS** predicament! "Oh, I wouldn't say that!" many will exclaim. People don't want to believe it! They prefer to deceive themselves with wishful thinking.

And therein lies our **DANGER!**

Most men are afraid to face the facts! But the development of science in engines of mass destruction has far outsped development of man's power to control them! And man at last has built the awesome frankenstein monster that threatens to destroy him from off the earth! Man has reached that stage of development and "progress" at last where he is utterly unable to save himself!

These relentless forces now set in motion would continue until the fear so frankly expressed by top scientists of the blasting of human life completely out of existence would become a reality — **IF** Almighty God Himself did not intervene to save us from ourselves!

But thank God! —that's prophesied!

What's PROPHESED?

It's time we were becoming concerned!

It's time millions were becoming **ALARMED!**—yes, **FRIGHTENED!**—aroused, and a little more than curious to learn what's prophesied, from here!

For the immediate future—the next five, ten, or twenty-five years—the stern revelation of prophecy shows this world

will go from bad to worse! World-confusion, strife, destruction, will increase with rapid acceleration! It's the natural course to expect! The United Nations won't bring peace. The aggressor nations —and we are so gullible we never recognize them until **AFTER** they plunge the world into another war!—will go right on with their scheming and diabolical planning for world-rule! The dreaded atomic-war will come!

In a later number will appear an article outlining the exact prophesied sequence of events, from here! But for the present, let's skip on *past* the nightmare of the immediate future, and take a long-range view on beyond!

The greatest prophet who ever lived looked down into our time, and of the now-imminent future, said, "And there shall be . . . distress of nations, with perplexity . . . men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things coming upon the earth! . . . And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with **POWER** and **GREAT GLORY!** And when these things *begin* to come to pass . . . *know ye* that **THE KINGDOM OF GOD is nigh** at hand. Verily I say unto you, *this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled!*" (Luke 21:25-32).

WORLD GOVERNMENT To Come

Today the world's **ONLY HOPE** is the

direct supernatural intervention of Almighty God in the affairs of men! We're so hopelessly involved and entangled in the type of paganized, competitive-government civilization built up on earth, we cannot extricate ourselves! We're in the death-grip of an evil system, and only God can save us from extinction!

But God *will* intervene! He will send Jesus Christ once again to earth—and this time, not as the lamb-like gentle Teacher, but in all the supreme supernatural **POWER** and **GLORY** of God!

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heavens must receive *until* the **TIMES OF RESTITUTION** of all things." (Acts 3:20-21). Jesus Himself said, "*If I go, I will come again!*" (John 14:3). **HIS COMING IS THE WORLD'S ONLY HOPE!**

And with Him shall come, at last, **WORLD GOVERNMENT!**

Yes, the idea of world government is sound! It *is*, truly, the world's only hope! *World government will come!*

But not by the hand of man! Not by well-meaning politicians with competitive national interests to protect! Nor by conquest—not by any Hitler, Stalin, or mysterious "Beast." No world power will ever accomplish total world rule! But when Christ returns, He shall come as **KING** of kings—a **WORLD RULER** with **SUPREME** wisdom and power.

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By the Radio Church of God

The Real WHY of Christ's Coming To Earth

Few seem to have understood the purpose of either Christ's coming to earth 1900-odd years ago, or His prophesied second coming, now imminent!

He came the first time as a divine Messenger, bearing a MESSAGE from God. That Message was the GOOD NEWS (Gospel) of the KINGDOM OF GOD—a future WORLD GOVERNMENT!

That Message was Christ's Gospel. In other words, the true Gospel of Jesus Christ—the very Gospel He commissioned all New Testament ministers to preach to all the world thru all this age. Yet almost universally that True Gospel Message is rejected today, and the organized and powerful denominations of this world have, as prophesied, turned to another gospel—a gospel ABOUT a different Jesus! They don't even preach the same Jesus described so vividly in the New Testament!

Yes, it was Jesus Christ who first proclaimed to the world the idea of world peace thru a future WORLD GOVERNMENT!

Jesus even proclaimed Himself the future KING of that world government—and for this cause He was crucified! (John 18:37). Will His true ministers, who dare proclaim today His coming WORLD GOVERNMENT, be martyred also for this same teaching?

But what they did not understand about His Message was that His Kingdom was for the FUTURE. He said plainly, "My kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36).

No Human Can Wisely Rule World

But world government brought about by the leaders of the present world governments is absurd and impossible! What man lives today who could safely be entrusted with that much POWER?

What man would not abuse such vast world-power, exalt himself, wield it to his own ambitious and selfish purposes? What man has the wisdom to execute such power, save this world from itself, and administer his great office for the good of the governed?

Again I repeat: Human civilization has "progressed" adversely to the point where now it is utterly HELPLESS to save the world from itself! The world's sole hope now lies in the supernatural intervention of GOD!

Now notice the descriptions of Christ's imminent return to this earth!

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war" (against evil). "And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations . . ." ("For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword"—Heb. 4:12. This is not a sword of steel to do physical harm, but the Word of God to correct and do spiritual GOOD!) ". . . and He shall rule them (ALL NATIONS) with a rod of iron: . . . and He hath . . . a NAME written, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords." (Rev. 19:11-16).

A supernatural, divine world-ruler! A KING over all kings of the earth! One whose weapon is the WORD OF GOD—THE TRUTH! And Jesus said it is the TRUTH that shall make men free! A world-King who shall judge in RIGHTEOUSNESS! Surely that's the world's greatest need!

Is a REAL UTOPIA Impossible?

Men ridicule the idea of a utopia today, as though it were impossible. But WHY should it be impossible? WHY shouldn't men have it?

The answer comes thru another question: why is there so much unhappiness, strife, injustice, fear, and suffering now? Simply because men are thinking, acting, and living contrary to all the laws by which such happiness, universal prosperity, and joy could come! That's the plain and simple answer! Because of selfishness, greed, vanity!

Suppose everyone on earth loved all his neighbors equally with himself! Suppose everyone was honest, kind, just, considerate, gentle, pleasant and cheerful—industrious, in perfect health and of keen alert mind—humble, trusting fully in God, working happily with zeal and enthusiasm to accomplish all the Good he could! Can you visualize what a world would result? Well, it would be a real and practical utopia!

But, you say, that's contrary to human nature! Yes, true! But Jesus Christ is coming to change human nature! The POWER OF GOD in one, thru His Holy

Spirit, changes,—converts, that soul. It gives him power, if he wills, to master—to overcome the human nature within! Thru FAITH he can be changed into the kind of person described above! And the mission of Jesus, at His second coming, is to work exactly that change in humanity!

IMPOSSIBLE? Oh, no! Nothing is impossible with God! And Jesus is coming in all the supernatural power and glory of GOD!

A Preview of Coming UTOPIA

It's possible, now, for us to peer into the future—on over past and beyond the hellishness this world will put itself thru during the immediate future—and catch a preview of the world tomorrow!

First, the nature of Christ's world-rule:

"With righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity the meek of the earth . . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the KNOWLEDGE OF THE ETERNAL, as the waters cover the sea." . . . None deceived, as most are today—true knowledge universally—true education shall be a basic part of the program . . . "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." (Isa. 11:4-10).

Now for the effect—a preview of HAPPINESS and WORLD PEACE:

"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain (kingdom) of the house of the Eternal"—that is, the KINGDOM OF GOD—"shall be established in the top of the mountains"—that is, reigning over the great nations of earth—"and it shall be exalted above the hills"—the smaller nations. "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the house of the Eternal, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He (Christ) shall teach us of HIS ways, and we will walk in HIS path: for THE LAW shall go forth of Zion, and the Word of the Eternal from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE!" (Micah 4:1-3).

It is when people are undeceived—when GOD'S LAW goes forth—when people begin to seek God's laws, and live by HIS ways—and when, thru Christ and the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit, by the decision of each person and by the power of God, even HUMAN NATURE IS CHANGED, that we shall have PEACE—PROSPERITY—HAPPINESS, and JOY!

Why YOU Are Alive

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY ARE you alive? For *what purpose* did God put you here on this earth? Do you know?

This is the greatest, most important question your mind can contemplate just now—the most vital question of life, yet the one most people think about the least.

If, as some believe, God's purpose in our being alive is to get us "saved"—and if, as so many believe, all there is to getting "saved" is accepting Christ as Saviour, then WHY is it that God does not instantly take each one to his reward as soon as he accepts Christ—*away* from all the continuous trials, heart-aches, and sufferings of this life?

The answer, briefly stated, is that God created the human family for a very great PURPOSE—a purpose I'm afraid most professing Christians, and even most ministers, have missed entirely.

Almighty God is the Supreme Artist—you see His artistry in magnificent sunsets, beautiful landscapes, awe-inspiring mountains, in the star-studded sky. God's work of artistry is CREATION. He is the supreme, Almighty, Creator of all.

But now in MAN, God has set His hand to produce the crowning pinnacle of His own works of creation, yes, even higher than the angels. In man He is creating perfect, righteous, holy CHARACTER! And that is the highest, most lofty achievement that even the Supreme Almighty Creator can accomplish!

God's PURPOSE in having brought you into this world—in permitting you to live and breathe—is to create in and thru you His own supreme MASTERPIECE of creation!

Is *that* important?

Oh, but you say—"Why, I'm not important—I'm not of much consequence—how could the Great Omnipotent God be specially concerned about me?"

It's true, you, as you are now, certainly are not very important—certainly of very little consequence—so far as your own inherent ability and capacity is concerned. God made you a little lower than the angels. He made man a little higher than dumb animals, but on his own power and initiative, man has sunken down to depths lower than any animal would be capable of reaching.

Man has *sinned*—yes, YOU have sinned!

You are full of faults, weaknesses, short-comings. You have bad habits.

You probably have some "secret sin" you have not yet mastered and overcome, which *no one* knows anything about except just you—and GOD!

Then can you realize the sobering TRUTH that it is the purpose of the Everliving God to make out of you—sinful and unworthy and incapable tho you have been—an immortal, spiritual and holy CHARACTER so pure, and noble, and righteous that ultimately the Eternal God Himself can look upon you with loving pride as the SUPREME product of all His creative power thruout eternity?

Can your mind grasp the awful greatness—the solemn IMMENSITY of that truth? And it *is* a truth. Of course, there will be many others on the same lofty high plane—just as holy and righteous characters as you. But you are a human being, and that is God's PURPOSE in human existence!

It ought to fill you with awe—with WONDER! Impossible? Not at all! It would, of course, be ridiculously, utterly impossible for you, of yourself, to transform yourself into such a creation. But with God ALL THINGS are possible, and this is the zenith of all things. Remember God is ALL-powerful—He is the ALL-mighty. His power is not limited.

And that's exactly why you were born—why you are alive, and reading these very lines this minute! GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOU! A great, mighty, SUPREME purpose! Does it make you feel rather humble—lowly, insignificant, unworthy? It should!

But you see, you, yourself, do not have to do this. It is GOD who is the Creator. And His purpose—His supreme purpose of all eternity—is to create in YOU, as one precious member of the human family, this very pinnacle of CHARACTER. God Himself will do this creating. HE will do the work. HE is the Divine Sculptor. You are only a piece of human clay in His Hands.

But this character will not be created in you unless and until you, yourself, make the DECISION—unless and until you simply *hunger* and *thirst* for the pure, holy character of God to be built within you—unless and until you crucify this mortal flesh and its cravings and desires and tempers—unless you REPENT bitterly and deeply of SIN, and will exert your utmost effort to put it down and hold it under, crying out earnestly to God with broken, contrite heart continuously, *believingly*, TRUST-

ING Him to forgive you and to fill you with His LOVE, His understanding and wisdom, His faith, His power, to simply take you into HIS capable Hands and to make of you what He purposes, and what you are utterly unable to make of yourself. Yes, you have your part in it—but it is GOD who will impart to you HIS righteousness—His *very own* Holy and righteous CHARACTER!

If you'll REPENT, and come to God thru Jesus Christ as Saviour, trusting in His precious shed blood for the remission of every sin you ever committed, trusting the risen, Ever-Living Christ as High Priest to come literally inside you, thru His Holy Spirit, and to mould, fashion, shape your character—then you'll see that the Creator is STILL CREATING, in you, the very highest work of all His entire works of creation!

Yes, Christians are being "CREATED in Christ Jesus *unto good works*" (Eph. 2:10),—"CREATED in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:24).

For this tremendous purpose, you were made of mortal clay—made a little lower than the angels. Yes, made subject to pride, vanity, passions and tempers, the lusts and desires of the flesh. Character is something which cannot be instantaneously created. It grows, and is developed thru EXPERIENCES—and experiences require TIME.

It requires the human life-time, during which one must suffer temptations, encounter obstacles, endure tribulations, overcome self. But you have GOD'S POWER to draw on. It isn't really you doing it—it's God. Your part is to repent, surrender fully, wholly, unreservedly into His Hands—seek Him, cry out to Him, TRUST Him. You have your part in it, of course—else there would *be* no character!

And all this is WHY "it is thru much TRIBULATION we must enter the Kingdom of God,"—and "MANY are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Eternal delivers him out of them all,"—and "all who will live godly in Christ Jesus *shall* suffer persecution."

Are you persecuted, opposed, for your belief and Christian life? If not, you'd better fall to your knees quickly, and REPENT, and ask God to show you WHY you are not living godly in Christ Jesus! If you are, REJOICE!—and read Matthew 5:10. But don't deliberately bring on persecution thru lack of wis-

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afford to carry out such an independent policy because it will have the strength of a THIRD POWER."

Norice, even religious publications in Germany envision a United Europe, under German leadership, becoming a third power in the world, and also envision the seizure of the British Empire in Africa in order to provide release for Europe's overpopulation. Italy and Germany both need colonies in Africa, and the Germans have never forgotten that the British "stole" her colonies after the first World War. Such are the views of a religious publication about a proposed New Order—a FASCIST New Order!

Conspiracy with the Vatican!

Last summer we reported in the columns of this magazine the stupendous revelation of the Pope's *secret* plans for "Peace." In that issue we reported to you about the secret collaboration between the Nazi Underground and Vatican representatives. The following is a vitally important statement made in this same Madrid Circular Letter: "It must therefore be our (Germany's) supreme duty to place ourselves in the vanguard of the struggle to keep Europe out of any future war. If we succeed in this, we will surely gain the trust of the people and *undisputed leadership in Europe* . . . The world is longing today for the millennium. In the role of champion for peace, we would gain stature in world public opinion . . . Europe would then be willing to follow *German leadership*. Such a policy can be pursued successfully, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT ATTITUDE OF THE VATICAN. THE POPE IS A REALIST IN POLITICS AND KNOWS WELL ENOUGH, IN THE AGE OF THE ATOM BOMB, THERE IS TOO MUCH AT STAKE FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR EUROPE AS A WHOLE."

Think of it! German leaders professing peace and collaboration with the West in order to build themselves a firm foundation for world conquest—and uniting with the Church in order to cement Europe's quarreling nations into a united front against East and West. Strange as this plot for world control may appear, it is being planned today—and among nations allied with the West!

What America Doesn't Know

The West is asleep even though it thinks it is awake. We realized too late that Russia was stealing our most vital military and atomic secrets even while she was allied with us. Americans were blinded to the facts because they wanted to believe that Joseph Stalin and communism weren't so bad after all. Throughout the war the columns of "The PLAIN TRUTH" were filled with warnings of Russia's plan for world con-

trol but very few people believed it.

Today, America has agreements with such nations as Spain, Italy, Germany and Yugoslavia—all of which are basically non-democratic. We are pouring billions in financial and military aid to them *at the very time they are secretly plotting to stab us in the back*, or, as in Yugoslavia recently, where American and British officials are openly and publicly beaten and humiliated! When will we *wake up* to understand that this world is *filled* with enemies—MANY enemies—who are plotting to seize world domination which *God placed in our hands* at the close of the last war.

Americans do not understand the psychology of other nations who lust for world control and who are conscious of a mission of world leadership—"Fuehrermission"—as the Germans say. Other nations will stop at nothing to fulfill their aspirations. It is little wonder that Americans and British can't fathom this way of thinking. We have never fought a war to make ourselves the masters of the world. In World War II Britain and America fight for self-protection and found themselves involuntarily raised to the dizzy heights of world leadership. Russia wants to take that leadership from us today and so does Europe!

Prophecy Makes Future Plain

Another reason that most people do not understand what is going to happen is that they have never understood the Revelation of God to man. The Creator reveals to us exactly what will transpire in the world from here on because He is permitting events to happen according to plan.

It is the Creator who gave America its great might and influence in the world. He warns us that other nations will finally DESTROY OUR POWER because we haven't learned to use it properly. Prophecy reveals to us the development of world history in advance; it reveals that Russia will not be able to launch a World War *now*—though she would if she could. It tells us clearly that the FASCIST system that has fastened itself on Europe for centuries will once again rise to CONQUER AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN. But a world that does not accept the Scripture as a Revelation from the Creator—thinks it only a man-made book—cannot *know* what is destined to take place.

In future articles of "The PLAIN TRUTH" we will reveal many of the *prophesied* details that are soon to happen—how Europe will unite under the influence of the Vatican and a revived Germany, how the United Europe will use the French and Portuguese Empires in Africa to destroy the British Empire, how America will be conquered, and finally how there will be another *re-*

ligious persecution in order to establish a Fascist New World Order guaranteed by the Church to bring "peace." Then you will read how Russia, instead of conquering America as she now plans, will conquer a revived Fascist German Europe dominated by the Vatican—and how in the closing battles of earth's history human life would be totally annihilated in atom- and hydrogen bomb warfare UNLESS THE CREATOR SHOULD INTERVENE BY SENDING JESUS CHRIST TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD ON EARTH AND ENFORCE PEACE AT LONG LAST.

These days are more terrible than most realize. The time is ominous, storm clouds are brewing above and below the horizon. Within less than a quarter of a century this world will be plunging to destruction in order that men might know once and for all time that the Creator RULES and that His laws alone bring peace and happiness.

WHAT is GOD?

(Continued from page 4)

Christians will finally *judge the world*, and that we will even *judge angels*.

God is a *ruling family*—a kingdom. The *good news* that Jesus proclaimed is that by surrendering our lives to God, obeying His will, and receiving His character through the Holy Spirit, we may finally be *born of—changed into—*spirit as His sons. We will then be capable of ruling this earth in peace—under Him as our Father, and under Christ as our elder brother and King.

This should make everyone realize the tremendous *meaning* of life. We must strive daily in *study, prayer, and action* to become like God that we may fulfill our *purpose* and be born as His sons at the resurrection when Christ returns.

God—or the family of God—will then be composed of *many members*. Yet they will all be *one God*—guided and motivated by, and composed of, the Holy Spirit, whose chief attribute is *love*.

Watch the coming issues of the *Plain Truth* for further articles explaining this vital subject more fully.

Why YOU Are Alive

(Continued from page 5)

dom or thru misdirected zeal!

Jesus Himself is our example. If they persecuted Him, so shall we be persecuted if we truly are His followers! Jesus SUFFERED! But it is recorded, "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience *by the things which He suffered; and being MADE perfect*, He be-

came the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." (Heb. 5:8-9).

Again, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; . . . for it became Him . . . to make the captain of their salvation PERFECT thru sufferings." (Heb. 2:9-10).

Jesus became perfect! He was born human, and was not perfect. He was made perfect, THRU SUFFERING—He learned by the things which HE suffered!

So we suffer. We LEARN thru suffering. It develops character. If we suffer with Him, we shall reign with Him!

Do circumstances come up in your life—adverse circumstances which may first bring fright, consternation, worry, but which drive you to your knees seeking deliverance from God—circumstances which you later see were actually sent from God to *punish you*—to teach you a lesson—to bring you closer to Him? God says He chastens every son whom He loves! So don't grumble, gripe and growl, REJOICE!

Do you have enemies? Can you see that the Devil is literally after you, perhaps using deceived people under his sway, even tho they pose as Christians? Well, REJOICE! If Satan is angry with you, then you must be one of God's elect! Read Revelation 12:12-17. But you don't need to fight back against your enemies. God will fight your battles for you, if you'll just TRUST Him! Pray for your enemies—and be sure it's not a prayer *against* them. If their works are evil, do not fellowship them—avoid them, but never be unkind to them. Everyone whom God is using, and who is accomplishing anything for Christ will have enemies. But keep your heart filled with the LOVE of God, your mind filled with His FAITH, and TRUST HIM!

Of course, you do have *one* enemy whom you, yourself must fight—continuously, relentlessly. That enemy is your own SELF! You are your own worst enemy. If you, with God's help, overcome *him*, you shall sit with Christ on His throne, ruling over the nations!

God is the great Master Sculptor. We are His clay. If we submit into His hands, He will shape, fashion, and mould out of our lives a beautiful, holy and perfect character that shall one day, when finished, become His crowning MASTERPIECE!

It is for *that* purpose that you were born, and are alive. Don't let another day—not another hour, or minute, pass by while you neglect or overlook that great PURPOSE! Yield yourself fully to God—re-dedicate your life—re-consecrate yourself, utterly and wholly, and do it NOW!

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

HERE are the *Bible* answers to questions which can be answered briefly in short space. *Send in your questions.* While we cannot promise that all questions will find space for answer in this department, we shall try to answer all that are vital and in the general interest of our readers.

Are the Last Twelve Verses of Mark's Gospel Inspired?

One of the most controversial points of Scripture is whether Mark 16:9-20 is actually a part of Scripture. Although it appears in the King James Version, many other translations either label this section as an appendix or leave it in the footnotes as in the controversial *Revised Standard Version* of the Bible. The Moffatt translation, together with the Goodspeed and others, not only has the long ending found in the King James Version, but it also has *another* shorter ending.

Since the Bible is a revelation from God about those essential facts which we need to know, but which we have no other way of obtaining, it is very important that we know *what constitutes the Bible*. If this last portion of Mark's Gospel is spurious, it is time we learned of the fact. If it is genuine, it is vital that we believe what it contains.

Let us briefly understand the facts behind the controversy. The eighth verse of Mark, chapter 16, ends abruptly—seemingly at a place where it would be natural to have the thought continue. Why? There have been two reasons generally postulated. (1) That Mark originally wrote an ending that has been totally lost, the present endings being merely additions by later copyists. (2) That for some yet unknown reason Mark was not permitted to finish his gospel, and that probably *another person* wrote an ending. The scholars are, of course, in confusion as to whether this ending was inspired, or whether it was merely the addition of another copyist. It might be important to bring in at this point the fact that almost all scholars dismiss the secondary short ending found in the translations of Moffatt, Goodspeed and others. In Hasting's *Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels* it is plainly stated that this short addition is not found in any of the early Church writers. We can therefore consider it as

merely the addition of a copyist.

The longer ending to Mark's gospel is, however, quoted extremely early. Mark 16:19 is quoted as a *part of Mark's account* by Irenaeus in *Against Heresies* (Bk. iii,10,6) between 182 and 188 A.D. There are allusions to it in even earlier writings, although not as a true quotation. Not only did Irenaeus accept it as a part of Mark's gospel when arguing with "heretics," but, says Hastings: "No writer before Eusebius is known to have rejected them, and their presence in all later MSS (manuscripts) shows that the successors of Eusebius, in spite of his great authority, did not follow his judgment in the matter." (Eusebius was the court favorite and the church historian in the days of Emperor Constantine.)

These facts point plainly to the great antiquity of the longer ending as preserved in the common English versions. But were they inspired?

Let us consider now the common idea that the real ending of Mark was lost. Since the Bible explains that the Word of the Lord endures forever, are we to assume that so important a matter as the resurrection was allowed to perish? Notice chapter 36 of Jeremiah, verse 23. Here one of the scrolls containing the inspired words of the Lord was cut with a penknife and cast into a fire and totally destroyed. Did God leave it to some copyist to guess what it might have contained? No! Baruch, the scribe of Jeremiah, was ordered to write in a new scroll "all the former words that were in the first roll" (verse 28). So one of the basic principles is that God's inspired word *can not perish*.

Now let us turn again to the last of Mark's gospel. All commentators will agree that the last twelve verses are actually an *addition* and not the normal ending. The Greek clause ending verse 8 of Mark 16 is abrupt—as though it were anticipating another thought. Since no actual ending has ever been known to these verses, and since God does not

allow His word to perish, it is logical that there never were added verses now lost. God, for a certain particular reason, did not allow the completion of the gospel record by Mark at its original writing. The question then is this: Is the present long addition an inspired ending or a man made conclusion?

The answer is definitely that it is an INSPIRED ending. This is proved by a unique system of Bible Numerics, discovered by Dr. Panin, to be explained in the Plain Truth in a later issue. Dr. Panin discovered that within the text of the Bible, Old and New Testaments, is an amazing numerical pattern based on the fact that the letters of the alphabet were used as numbers also. This pattern, which is not found in other Greek or Hebrew works, is broken if these verses of Mark's gospel are left out.

Bible Numerics has demonstrated that the Bible as a whole—not only the books and their words, but also syllables and even letters—give an amazing pattern of sevens, elevens and other numbers, which not only indicate the inspiration of each writer by a Supreme Mind, but also the inspiration of the whole Bible by One Supreme Mind. Since these last twelve verses not only fit into the whole pattern of the Bible, but also have a pattern within themselves, we KNOW that these twelve verses were inspired by God to give added special information not found in the other gospels. God does not reveal who wrote these verses, nor why Mark apparently did not write them, because it is not necessary for us to know.

If these last verses of Mark's gospel are left out the book does not come to an orderly conclusion as does every other book in the Bible. Human writings are filled with error, but the Bible is fool-proof, complete, inspired, and wholly preserved through the power of God. These verses are an inspired part of the Word of God.

How Civilization Began

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been dispersed, he built the cities of Erech, Accad, and Calneh and these thereby came under his rule. These cities (Gen. 10:10) comprised the beginning of his empire which was later to expand and cover the known world of that time. From thence he extended his control over much of the land that God had designed for Shem (Ex. 23:31) (Miller's *Ancient History In Bible Light*, p. 54).

What made it possible that Nimrod could conquer such vast areas? "There is evidence that down to a late period the priests of the Chaldean (Babylonian)

Mysteries knew the composition of the formidable Greek fire, which burned under water, and the secret of which has been lost; and there can be little doubt that Nimrod, in erecting his power, availed himself of such similar scientific secrets, which he and his associates alone possessed" (Salverte, *Des Sciences Occultes*, p. 415).

It is possible that this "Greek fire" which "burned under water" was a sodium product. Roach and Robertson's *New Practical Reference Library*, under "Sodium," states that sodium is perhaps more abundant than any other metal on our globe and in its metallic form oxidizes rapidly in the air and takes fire in water. It was by such means as this that Nimrod became, "a mighty one in the earth" (Gen. 10:8). He "set the world on fire," it was said.

Bryant, vol. ii. p. 377, says that Nimrod conquered all nations as far as Lybia. This indicates that all the area from Babylon to Lybia was under his

sway; thereby including Egypt also. This was a large part of the populated world at that time. Upon these his religion and government were imposed. Nimrod, then, was the first to form an army, civil, economic, political and social systems. He set the pattern of laws to govern these, but in all this, he did not include God, for he turned the people to worship Satan.

Characteristics of the Babylonian System

Why has God objected all through the Bible to mankind following the Babylonish system? Let us examine closely Nimrod's way of rule and find why God would object. The characteristics of the Babylonish system of rule as represented by Nimrod's world-empire are: "rejection of God, denial of his right to rule, refusal to acknowledge man's dependence upon God for power or happiness, determination to deprive . . . God of
(Please continue on next page)

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