

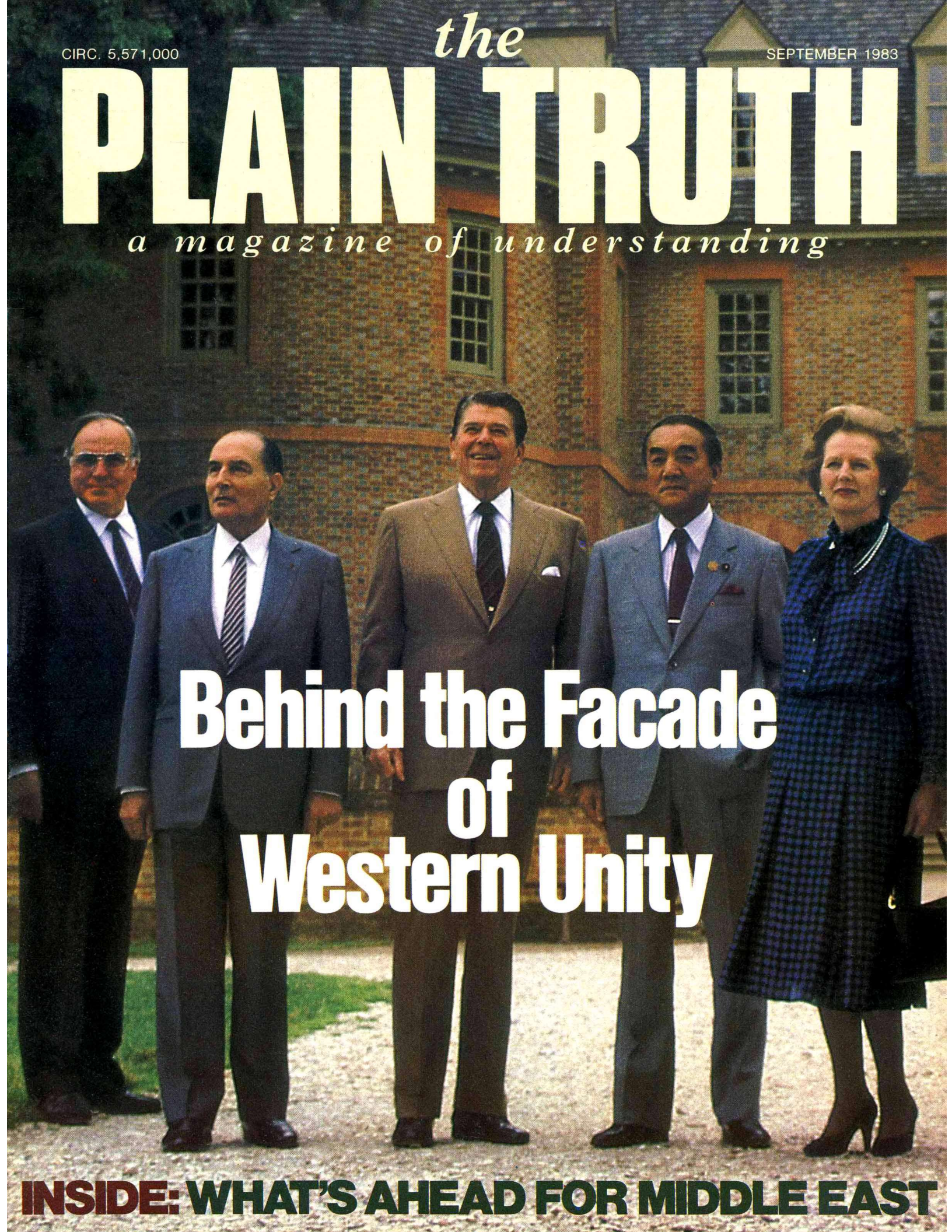
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# PLAIN TRUTH

*a magazine of understanding*



## Behind the Facade of Western Unity

**INSIDE: WHAT'S AHEAD FOR MIDDLE EAST**

# PERSONAL FROM

*Stuart K. Couching*



## Christianity Is a Growth Process

**H**ow many times have you heard non-Christians, judging one who professes Christ, say in disgust, “Well if *that’s* Christianity, I don’t want any of it!”

How many judge GOD by the way professing Christians live? How many assume that one must live a *perfect* life, before he can become a Christian?

How many say, “If I could give up smoking, I’d become a Christian.”

How many think a Christian is supposed to be perfect, never doing anything wrong? Suppose you do see or hear about a Christian doing something WRONG. Does that mean he is a hypocrite—that he is *not* really a Christian, after all?

Is it possible for one to actually SIN, while he is a Christian, and *still remain* a truly converted Christian?

I suppose many would reply in the negative. But here is a vital point *you need to* UNDERSTAND!

It’s hard to believe—but TRUE! Few know just what *is* a Christian. Few know HOW one is converted—whether suddenly, all at once, or gradually. Does conversion happen *immediately*, or is it a PROCESS? IT’S HIGH TIME WE UNDERSTAND!

The TRUTH is that there is a sense in which true conversion *does* take place *at a definite time*—all at once. But it is also true that in another sense conversion is *worked out gradually*—a process of development and growth.

NOW NOTICE CAREFULLY!

WHEN does one really become a Christian? It is when he receives God’s Holy Spirit. In Romans 8:9, we read that *unless* we have the Holy Spirit, we are not Christ’s—not Christians.

There is a definite TIME when God’s Spirit enters into one. At the *very moment* he receives the Holy Spirit, he is, in this first sense, *converted*. Yes, *all at once!* If he has Christ’s Spirit, he is CHRIST’S—he is a Christian! He has been begotten as a child of God.

But does that mean his salvation is complete? Is he now fully and finally “saved”? Is that all there is to it? Is he now suddenly *perfect*? Is it now impossible for him to do WRONG?

NO! FAR FROM IT! But WHY? What’s the answer? Why do so many MISUNDERSTAND?

Here is the PLAIN TRUTH you need to know.

First, there are TWO *conditions* to becoming a Christian: REPENTANCE, and FAITH. These two we, ourselves, must perform. Yet no one can, of himself, say, “Oh now I see—I must repent. All right, I hereby repent.” One does not just decide casually, as a matter of routine, to repent. WHY?

Jesus Christ said that none can come to him, except the Spirit of the Father draw him. God *grants* repentance. God calls one, and convicts the mind and conscience by his Spirit, working on the mind *externally*. Usually a real struggle goes on within. The person has been shaken to *know* he has done wrong—he has sinned. He is not only sorry—he abhors himself! He is brought to real REPENTANCE not only for what he has done, but for what he now sees that he *is*.

Yet he, himself, must make the decision. If he does repent, surrender to God and in FAITH accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior, then, upon performance of these two conditions, God *promises* to put within him the GIFT of the Holy Spirit. This is the very *life* of GOD—SPIRIT life. It imparts to him the very *divine nature!*

Then *what*, at that stage, *has happened?*

This new convert has only been *begotten* of God—not yet BORN. He has not received the full measure of God’s Spirit Christ had—he is only a *spiritual babe* in Christ—he must now GROW spiritually, just as a newly conceived fetus in its mother’s womb must grow (Continued on page 39)

# THE MIDDLE EAST IN PROPHECY

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The astounding background to the crisis in the Middle East—and how it will be resolved!

**T**HE MIDDLE EAST is seething with crisis after crisis. Few people realize the true significance of this turmoil. They seem to have no conception of the danger it threatens—even-tual danger to the whole world.

It's time we woke up to the facts! It's time we knew what prophecy reveals. It's time we knew the background—the vital factors that have led up to this world danger—the significance of this series of crises!

There is only one way to know the answer. The God who made the world—who makes and un-makes nations—he reveals the future before it happens so we can know and take warning!

The time has now come to reveal a most amazing prophecy!

## Unveiling the Future!

What is the real significance of this seething unrest? To understand it, we must study a marvelous prop-

hecy, never before understood—a prophecy that has been closed and sealed until now—a prophecy that foretold, 2,500 years ago, this very series of crises and the war that shall finally draw in all the nations of the world!

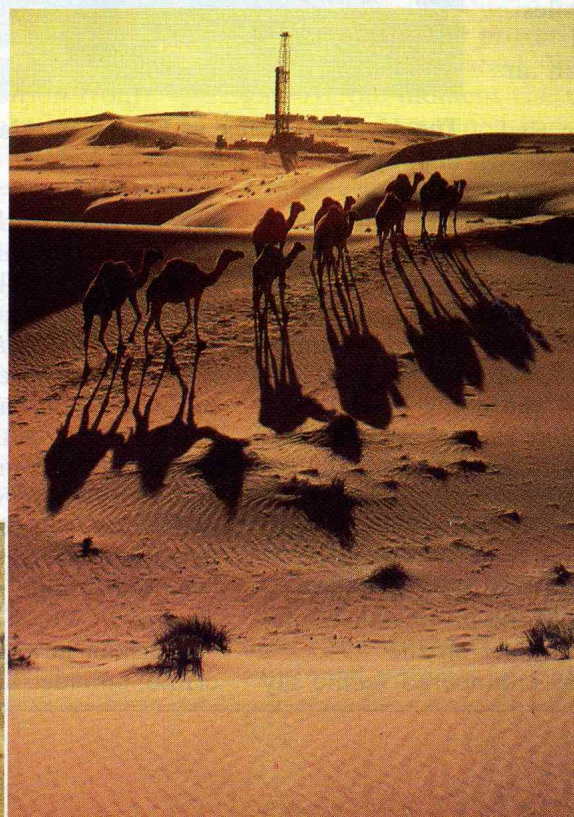
It is one of the most amazing prophecies in the Bible. It is most specific, describing historical events, up to the present, in more detail than any other prophecy. It is the longest prophecy in the Bible. It is found in Daniel, chapter 11. It describes the impending war!

The prelude is found in the 10th chapter of the book of Daniel. The prophecy came to Daniel in the third year of the reign of Cyrus, king of the Persian Empire (Dan. 10:1). A “man,” apparently the archangel Gabriel (Dan. 9:21), appears before Daniel, to make him understand what shall befall God's people in these present “latter days” (10:14).

## The “King of the North” and the “King of the South”

The first verse of the 11th chapter is a continuation from the last verse of the 10th chapter. The angel says to Daniel, “Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia. And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will” (Dan. 11:2-3).

Actually there were 12



DON KILMPP—IMAGE BANK



more kings in the Persian Empire, but only the first four following Cyrus were of importance for the purpose of this prophecy. They were Cambyses, pseudo-Smerdis, Darius and Xerxes. It was the last, or Xerxes, who was the richest of all and stirred up war with Greece.

Then King Philip of Macedonia planned a great war to conquer the Persian Empire, with an army made up mostly of Grecians. He died before the plans were completed. But his son, Alexander the Great, took over his plans, and invaded Persia. He met the Persian army at the Battle of Issus, 333 B.C. (Dan. 8:2, 5-6). Then he swept down into Egypt, and then to a final crushing defeat of the Persian Empire at the Battle of Arbel-la, 331 B.C., after which Alexander marched on a conquest clear to India, sweeping all before him.

Notice now verse 4 of the prophecy: "And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those."

How marvelously—how accurately—that came to pass. We quote from one of the authoritative histories, *A Manual of Ancient History* (Student Series) by Rawlinson: "Cut off unexpectedly in the vigor of early manhood [the 33rd year of his age, June, 323 B.C.], he [Alexander] left no inheritor, either of his power or of his projects" (p. 237). The Empire was left leaderless and in confusion, but out of this emerged, by the year 301 B.C., four divisions, just as prophesied, by a division of the Empire into four divisions by Alexander's generals. They were:

1. Ptolemy (Soter), ruling Egypt, part of Syria and Judea.
2. Seleucus (Nicator), ruling Syria, Babylonia and territory east to India.

3. Lysimachus, ruling Asia Minor.

4. Cassander, ruling Greece and Macedonia.

Thus was the prophecy of verse 4 fulfilled to the letter.

Now notice what follows. From here the prophecy foretells the activities only of two of these four divisions: Egypt, called "king of the south," because it is south of Jerusalem; and the Syrian kingdom, the king of the north, just north of Judea. It is because the Holy Land passed back and forth between those two divisions, and because their different wars were principally over possession of Judea, that the prophecy is concerned with them. Here is verse 5:

"And the king of the south [Egypt] shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion." In history, we learn that the original Ptolemy I, called Soter, became strong and powerful, developing Egypt beyond the greatest dreams of Alexander. One of his princes, or generals, Seleucus

Nicator, also became strong and powerful. And, in 312 B.C., taking advantage of Ptolemy's being tied up in a war, he established himself in Syria, and assumed the diadem as king.

Verse 6 says, "And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement [margin, "rights" or "equitable conditions," or "marriage union"]: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times."

#### Fulfilled to the Letter!

At the end of 50 years, this occurred exactly as described!

Syria's ruler, the king of the north, at this time was Antiochus II, called Theos. His wife was named Laodice. And, says Rawlinson's *Ancient History*, page 251, "Her influence . . . engaged him in a war with Ptolemy Philadelphus [king of the south], B.C. 260, which is terminated, B.C. 252, by a marriage between Antiochus and Bernice, Ptolemy's daughter."

The prophecy says "he that begat her" shall be given up. Also that she shall not retain the power of the arm, neither shall the king of the north, whom she married, stand. All three are to come to their end. Notice how accurately this came to pass.

Says Rawlinson's *History*, pages 251 and 252: "On the death of Philadelphus [he that begat her], B.C. 247, Antiochus repudiated Bernice, and took back his former wife, Laodice, who, however, doubtful of his constancy, murdered him to secure the throne for her son Seleucus (II) B.C. 246 . . . Bernice . . . had been put to death by Laodice."

Nowhere in all the Bible is there so literal a prophecy,



giving so many details of future history. And to read an ancient history of these kingdoms is simply to see unfolded before your eyes, step by step, verse by verse, this marvelous prophecy. There can be no doubt of its right application!

### The Holy Land Changes Hands

Next let us notice verse 7: "But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate [margin, "in his office"], which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail."

"Out of a branch," or "shoot," of her roots. Her parents were her roots. Hence, this must be her brother, who next should occupy the throne of king of the south and fulfill this prophecy. Now listen to this accurate fulfillment, quoted word for word from the same page of Rawlinson's work (p. 252):

"Ptolemy Euergetes [the III, eldest son of Philadelphus (p. 272) and therefore Bernice's brother, a branch of her roots] invaded Syria, B.C. 245, to avenge the murder of his sister, Bernice. . . . In the war which followed, he carried everything before him."

The eighth verse of Daniel 11 says this king of the south would carry captives and vessels of silver and gold into Egypt, and continue to reign more years than the king of the north, who at that time was Seleucus II, and verse 9 says he shall return into Egypt. As verse 7 said he should "enter into the fortress of the king of the north," Ptolemy III did seize the fortress of Syria, Seleucia, the port of Antioch, capital of the kingdom! Then he carried back to Egypt immense booty and 2,500 molten images and idolatrous vessels which, in 526 B.C. Cambyses had carried away from Egypt. He continued to rule until 222 B.C., while the king of the north, Seleucus II, died in 226 B.C.

When he died, his two sons took over the kingdom of the north; first Seleucus III, 226-223 B.C., who ruled only three years, and then his brother Antiochus III, called "the Great," 223-187 B.C. Both of these two sons of Seleucus II assembled immense forces to war against

Egypt, avenge their father, and recover their port and fortress, Seleucia.

And this was accurately prophesied in verse 10: "But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return and be stirred up [margin, "be stirred up again"], even to his fortress."

"And," continues verse 11, "the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand."

In fulfillment of the latter part of verse 10, Antiochus the Great, after 27 years, recovered his fortress, Seleucia, and he also conquered the territory of Syria, as far as Gaza, including Judea. But the young Egyptian king, now Ptolemy IV (Philopater), was roused, and with an army of 20,000 inflicted severe defeat on Antiochus the Great; and fulfilling verse 12, he killed tens of thousands and again annexed Judea to Egypt. But he was not strengthened, for he made a rash and speedy peace with Antiochus, and returned to dissipation, throwing away the fruits of victory. Says verse 12, "And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it."

"For," as verse 13 continues, "the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches." It was "after certain years," or 12 years later, 205 B.C., that Ptolemy Philopator died, leaving his throne to an infant son, Ptolemy Epiphanes. Then Antiochus assembled a greater army, and won great victories.

He then made a treaty allying Philip of Macedonia with him, and others, against Egypt, and they wrested Phoenicia and southern Syria from the king of the south. In this they were assisted by some of the Jews. Josephus' Jewish history says many Jews helped Antiochus.

But notice how accurately Almighty God had foretold this, hundreds of years before it happened!—

"And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall" (v. 14).

### Read It in Your Own Bible!

To save space, the reader is asked from this point to read each verse of the prophecy from his own Bible, thus saving us reprinting the prophecy in full here. We give here only the facts in history.

Verses 15-16—"the glorious land," of course, refers to Judea, the Holy Land. Antiochus the Great besieged and took Sidon from Egypt, ruined the interests of Egypt in Judea at the Battle of Mount Panium, 198 B.C., and then Antiochus took possession of Judea.

Verse 17—"upright ones" (see margin) in Hebrew means "equal conditions, or marriage," but the one he marries will not stand on his side. In 198 B.C., Antiochus arranged a marriage between his daughter, Cleopatra (not the Cleopatra of 31 B.C. in Egypt) and young Ptolemy Epiphanes, king of the south, by which he hoped subtly to gain complete possession of Egypt; but the plan failed.

Says Rawlinson, page 254, "Coele-Syria and Palestine promised as a dowry, but not delivered." Cleopatra did not truly stand on the side of Antiochus, for it was only a trick to gain possession of Egypt.

Verse 18—and so Antiochus turned his attention in another direction and tried to conquer, 197 to 196 B.C., the islands and coasts of Asia Minor. But the Roman general, Lucius Cornelius Scipio Asiaticus, utterly defeated him at the Battle of Magnesia, 190 B.C.

Verse 19—Antiochus next turned his attention to the fortresses of his own land, in the east and west. But, attempting to recruit his dissipated wealth by the plunder of the Oriental Temple of Belus, in Elymais, he was killed, 187 B.C.

Verse 20—Seleucus IV Philopator (187-176), his son, in an effort to raise money, sent a tax collector,

Heliodorus, through Judea. But he reigned only 11 years, when Heliodorus poisoned him.

Verse 21—he left no heir. But his brother, a younger son of Antiochus the Great, named Epiphanes (Antiochus IV), a contemptible reprobate, came by surprise and through flattery took the kingdom. To his aid came his assistant, Eumenes. Rawlinson says, page 255, “Antiochus [Epiphanes], assisted by Eumenes, drives out Heliodorus, and obtains the throne, B.C. 176. He astonishes his subjects by an affectation of Roman manners” and “good-natured profuseness [flattery].”

#### Antiochus Epiphanes

Verse 22—“the prince of the covenant” does not refer to Christ. This was the attempt of Antiochus to replace the Jewish high priest by another who would be subservient to him.

Verses 23-24—although only a few were with him at first, yet by this “Roman manner,” by deceit and flattery, he crept into power and prospered. He also invaded Galilee and Lower Egypt. His fathers, the former kings of Syria, had favored the Jews, but says Rawlinson, page 255, they “were driven to desperation by the mad project of this self-willed monarch.”

Verse 25—Rawlinson, pages 255-256, says, “Threatened with war by the ministers of Ptolemy Philometor [now king of the south], who claim Coele-Syria and Palestine as the dowry of Cleopatra, the late queen-mother, Antiochus marches against Egypt . . . B.C. 171” (pp. 277-278). But he was met by his nephew, Ptolemy Philometor, king of the south, with another immense army. But the Egyptian king was defeated through the treachery of his own officers and was outwitted by Antiochus.

Verses 26-27—continuing in Rawlinson, page 278: “After his victory at Pelusium, Antiochus advanced to Memphis, and having obtained possession of the young king’s person [Ptolemy Philometor, king of the south], endeavored to use him as a tool for effecting the entire reduction of the country.” In

174 B.C., the uncle of the king of the south sat at a banquet. Antiochus pretended to ally himself with the young Ptolemy, against his brother, Euergetes II, but each was trying to deceive the other.

#### The Abomination of Desolation

Verse 28—in 168 B.C., returning from Egypt with great plunder, Antiochus set himself against the Jews, massacred many, and then returned to Antioch with golden vessels from the Temple at Jerusalem.

Verse 29—the same year, he again invaded Egypt, but with none of his former success, because Philometor, king of the south, got help from Rome.

Verse 30—the Roman fleet came against Antiochus, he was forced to surrender to the terms of Popilius, commander of the Roman fleet, and retire from Egypt and restore Cyprus to Egypt. Returning through Judea, smarting under the defeat, he vented his exasperation against the Jews, and extended special favors to those Jews who would turn from their religion.

Verse 31—then, 167 B.C., the next year, came the climax of the horror. Antiochus sent troops to the Holy Land, who desecrated the Temple and sanctuary, abolished the daily sacrifice (see also Daniel 8:11, 24) and (Kislev 15, Hebrew calendar) placed the abomination—an image—in the Holy of Holies, making it desolate (Rawlinson, p. 255). Many who claim to teach the Bible try to apply the prophecy of this verse to Moslems in the 7th century A.D., building the Dome of the Rock on the supposed site of the ancient Temple at Jerusalem! But every verse of this prophecy, step by step, verse by verse, unfolded in actual history, just as here recounted, so there can be not the slightest shadow of doubt as to this abomination that “maketh desolate”—it was an idol set in the Holy of Holies, 167 B.C., by Antiochus Epiphanes.

#### The Prophecy Comes to Christ and the Apostles

Verse 32—Antiochus tried to end the religion of the Jews. He took away the daily sacrifice, forbade

the ministrations at the Temple. He perverted by flatteries the Jews who were willing to forsake their religion.

But—right here, the prophecy cuts off from the continuation of events in the history of those ancient north and south kingdoms. Up to this point, the prophecy was unfolded, step by step, in the actual history of the northern kingdom of the Seleucidae, or Syria, and the southern kingdom of Egypt. But, says the *Exposition of the Bible*, “all accurate details seem suddenly to stop short” with this verse.

Now let us notice verse 32 in detail, and particularly the last part:

“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries.” This, Antiochus Epiphanes did do. But now notice the last part of the verse: “but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.”

So our question now is, when, beginning with, and following, 167 B.C., did people begin to know God, and to be spiritually strong, and to do exploits in the Lord’s service? The answer is, at the time of the Maccabees, beginning in 166 B.C., and, two centuries later, at the first appearing of Jesus Christ and in the days of the apostles!

Verse 33—“And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.”

Jesus and the apostles did instruct many. But Jesus was put to death, and history indicates that all the early apostles were martyred, except John. And this continued, many days, even into the Middle Ages, when millions were martyred for their faith.

Verse 34—“Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And [verse 35] some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.”

Here is described in general the whole course of God’s people, from the days of Christ to the present. Compare with such passages as Rev. 12:6, 11, 13-17. And notice

the vision carries on down to this present time of the end.

Verse 36—The king of the north—who is he, now, in the early and middle New Testament times, to which our prophecy has come? In 65 B.C., Syria was swallowed up by the Roman Empire, and became a Roman province. The Roman emperor now controlled Judea, and therefore the king of the north, here referred to, is, at this time, the emperor of the Roman Empire. This verse says he should do according to his will, and he did—exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and he did; for the Roman emperors required all to worship them and sacrifice to them, as a god. He was as a god. He was to speak against the true God, and he did and persecuted all Christians.

Verse 37—his fathers had worshiped idols, but the Roman emperors set themselves up as gods.

Verse 38—the Roman emperors honored the god of forces, or (margin) munitions, and developed the greatest war-making power the world ever knew. “And a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.” After setting themselves up as gods, before A.D. 476, the emperors who followed, beginning with Justinian, A.D. 554, began to honor with gold, silver and power a god in a high religious office never known to their fathers. (Compare this prophecy of Daniel with Revelation 17:4, 5, and 18:3, 16.)

Verse 39—the emperors did acknowledge the supremacy of religion, increased it with material glory and caused it to rule over many.

### Prophecy Skips to Present

Now we come to the very present century.

Verse 40—“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him. . . .” Who is today the “king of the south”?

It cannot be the king of Egypt, for in 31 B.C. Egypt became a province of the Roman Empire, swallowed up by the king of the north. Today Egypt is a republic ruled by native Arabs. It has no king of its own.

But, in the reign of Ptolemy III Euergetes (verse 7), 247-222 B.C., Egypt annexed part of Ethiopia, immediately south of Egypt (Rawlinson, pp. 272, 273). Since that time, the 11th edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* says (article “Ethiopia”) Egypt and Ethiopia were two or three times under the same government. Thus, the two were as one land. And the only portion of that land of the “king of the south” that remained independent until the 20th century is Ethiopia!

### Ethiopia, the King of the South

Ethiopia was the only country in all East Africa that continued independent, and had a government and kingdom dating back before the Roman Empire. It was the southern part of the kingdom of the south. So it is the only possible government that could be the king of the south.

At the time of the end—our time—this king of the south was to push at the king of the north, now at Rome!

In 1895 King Menelik, of Ethiopia, sent an army of 9,000 to 10,000 men against General Baratieri’s Italian army.

North of Ethiopia was Eritrea, belonging to Italy. And southeast was Italian Somaliland.

In 1896 General Baratieri with 13,000 men tried to defend Eritrea against the Ethiopians. They lost 4,600 whites and 3,000 native troops, and more than 3,500 were taken prisoner.

In a later engagement the Italians were cut to pieces because of their inexperience in fighting in mountainous country and because they were greatly outnumbered. This defeat was disastrous to Italian expansion in Africa.

Ever since, Italy demanded revenge! In 1927 Mussolini set the time, at just 40 years from that defeat, or 1935, when he would be ready “finally to make our voice heard, and see our rights recognized!”

1935 came. The hour struck! Mussolini attacked! Now notice verse 40: “. . . and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the coun-

tries, and shall overflow and pass over.”

A whirlwind comes in the air, sweeping all before it. Mussolini did send a great air force into Africa! Also many modern “chariots”—trucks, tanks, etc.—and ships, loaded with soldiers. More than 100,000 sailed to Ethiopia.

And, notice it, Mussolini’s forces were to pass over—in the air! It is at this precise point in this astounding prophecy that Mussolini’s struggle in Ethiopia and in World War II ended. Mussolini did not finish the prophecy. There is yet another leader to arise in Europe! Notice what will next happen!

Verse 41—“He shall enter also into the glorious land. . . .”—the Holy Land. This is yet to be fulfilled.

When the coming revival of the Roman Empire takes the Holy Land, then the nations will be plunged into the initial phase of the great, last and final crisis at the close of this age! Other prophecies reveal that this revival of the Roman Empire will bring into subjection the U.S. and Britain! (Request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

“And,” continues verse 41, “many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon”—the modern land of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The coming dictator will unite many others with him—10 in all (Rev. 17:12)—reviving the ancient Roman Empire.

Verse 42 says Egypt shall not escape, proving Egypt is not now the “king of the south.”

Verse 43 says the Libyans and Ethiopians (observe that after its conquest by Mussolini, Ethiopia is not again referred to as the king of the south) shall be at his steps—and he will then control them. Italy lost control of Libya and Ethiopia after the war.

Verse 44—but news out of the east and out of the north—Russia and the Orient—shall trouble the revived Roman Empire. Russia will enter the war!

Verse 45—the coming Roman Empire shall establish its palace, as

(Continued on page 30)

Office—if possible. Try to get in to see those who do the hiring. Leave a neatly prepared summary of your qualifications, experience, education and personal information with each manager.

If you live in the United States or Canada, you can determine who the managers are by going to your library and asking the reference librarian for listings such as *Poor's Register of Corporations, Directors and Executives* or some other such list of who runs what firm. If you live in other lands, ask for equivalent lists. Or call the company directly and ask, "Who is the manager of this firm?"

By being your own employment agency, you will more quickly be employed in one of those 4 out of 5 vacancies that traditionally are usually only known by employers and who fill them by word of mouth.

- Accept the possibility that you may have more than one career in your lifetime. Employment studies indicate that in the future, one may have as many as three or four careers in a lifetime. Make the most of your time by reading about those fields that are up and coming. Where are they located? If available, seek to get into job training programs in those fields. Be prepared to relocate if absolutely necessary.

- Take advantage of government job training programs and seminars. Look upon your situation as a time for self-assessment and education in new skills.

- Above all, do not underestimate the power of prayer. Many look upon God as a last resort. When all else has failed and there is nowhere else to turn, we seek the help of the one whom we should have turned to first. Be persistent. God knows your needs before you ask. But you must ask (Matt. 6:8, Jas. 4:2). Then step out in faith and with knowledge into the new job opening. □



## PROPHECY

(Continued from page 26)

capital of the revived Roman Empire, and eventually its religious headquarters, at Jerusalem! Zechariah 14:2 says the city shall be taken! "Yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him"! This language signifies the end of the "beast" and the "false prophet" at the hand of God! You will find this end described in Revelation 19:19-20 and Zechariah 14:12.

And now what is the time of this end, at the close of this marvelous prophecy? The next verse, Daniel

12:1, says at the time of the resurrection of the just—at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

This prophecy begins with the kingdoms of Syria and Egypt, soon after the death of Alexander the Great—2,300 years ago. But it ends at the time of the resurrection and the Second Coming of Christ to bring peace at last to the region—and to the entire world! It is so plain, there can be no doubt of its right application!

Are you ready for that event? It is fast approaching. Now is the time to get ready, for Jesus said, "Be ye also ready"! □

## INTERNATIONAL DESK

(Continued from page 21)

alcoholism, child pornography, unemployment and the disenchantment that characterizes life in most of the so-called civilized world.

A longtime resident of the state told me, "Since the oil came and we became prosperous, our lifestyle has changed for the worse. Why can't we have it both ways—prosperity and peace?"

Because man does not *know* how to have peace, that's why.

The apostle Paul told us that 2,000 years ago and nothing that has happened since has proved him wrong.

The Alaskan pipeline has shown once again that when man puts his mind to it he seems to be able to conquer any physical obstacle. That is why God put a brake on progress at the building of the tower of Babel by confusing man's ability to communicate easily. Otherwise, God said, "Nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Gen. 11:6). Now, 4,000 years later, man once again is doing anything he imagines to do. But the increase in knowledge brings us no closer to peace. Instead, we use what we learn to bring our world ever closer to ultimate disaster.

If we could only understand that the energy man needs to solve his problems does not lie beneath the Arctic ice—or anywhere else on earth. And, likewise, that in order to save endangered species it is not necessary to halt progress. God told man not only to replenish the earth,

but also to "subdue it" (Gen. 1:28). The Creator would have taught us how to do that without wrecking the creation. He would have given us the spiritual insight we need for our well-being. But man thought he knew better—and chose to try to discover those things for himself apart from God. (A free booklet, *Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*, explains this subject in detail. Write for it to the office in your area.)

And so the search goes on. We probe the uttermost parts of the earth, desperately hoping to replenish our energy before the available stocks run out. And wherever we go we take our way of life—fighting, bickering, vanity, greed, self-righteousness—our inability to get along with each other. And that is by far the greatest threat to the well-being of the caribou, the arctic fox, the peregrine falcon, the short-tailed albatross and *every other* living creature!

In spite of (and because of) his inventive genius, mankind is about to produce a catastrophe that could destroy *everything*. As Jesus said, "Unless those days be shortened, there should *no* flesh be saved"—man or beast. Because human beings cannot find a way to peace *all life* must now be considered an "endangered species"! Thank God these days will be shortened.

Our greatest need today is not more oil—or less development. We need a better way of life. That will only come with the restoration of the government of God. Even here—at the top of the world.

—John Halford



## NUCLEAR WAR

(Continued from page 6)

the Ten Commandments. As Jesus himself stated, "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17, RAV).

It's that simple. The Ten Commandments explain *why* humanity is in such an unsolvable mess.

But, some may say, what if *I* obey these commandments and the people living in the nation next to us don't? What's to stop *them*?

Simply, God makes promises in the Bible to those who obey. What kind of hope can a person who obeys God have?

Note these words! "Thus God, determining to show more abundantly . . . the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable [not changeable] things, in which IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE, we might have strong consolation. . . . This hope we have as an anchor . . . both sure and steadfast . . ." (Heb. 6:17-19, RAV).

Now what is one of God's many promises to those who obey? "You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the *destruction* that lays waste at noonday.

"A thousand may fall at your side, and

ten thousand at your right hand; but it [including nuclear war] shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked" (Ps. 91:5-8, RAV).

Why? "Because you have made the Lord . . . your habitation" (verse 9).

Even if there be nuclear war, even if humanity as a whole doesn't embrace the way, there remain promises for the children of the obedient. "There *is* hope in your future," says the Lord, "That your children shall come back to their own border," that is, their own homes, their own land (Jer. 31:17, RAV).

If you'd like to learn of *real*, exciting knowledge that reveals *your* personal ultimate potential and gives hope to today's fear-ridden children, write for our *free* booklets *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like and Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*. They're free to you and carry no future obligations (see inside cover for addresses).

You can chase the fear of nuclear extinction out of both your and your children's lives. But to do so, you must cease the practice of "psychic numbing" and begin to really discern the signs of the times (Matt. 24:32-33). □



**"I wish it wouldn't be this way . . . because it shouldn't. Men shouldn't be killing themselves."**

Chris, age 12

## PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

physically large enough to be BORN as a human.

This new convert has now REPENTED, in his mind, from the depths of his heart. HE MEANS IT, too! In all sincerity, in his mind and heart he has *turned around to go the other way*—to live a different life. He is now a CHRISTIAN—he has received God's Holy Spirit. He really *wants* to do what is right—to obey God—to live GOD'S WAY.

YET HE FINDS HE DOES NOT DO THIS PERFECTLY! Many, at this stage, become discouraged. Some give up even trying to live a Christian life. And WHY? *Because of the false notion that a Christian is one who becomes PERFECT at one fell swoop*—or that one cannot become a Christian *until* he has broken all wrong habits, and *made himself* righteous.

It's vital to UNDERSTAND how true Christianity REALLY WORKS!

The newly begotten Christian must grow up, spiritually. What would you think of a human baby,

who became 6 feet tall *all at once*, without *growing* up? The growing up process requires TIME. There is *an instant* when a person receives the impregnating Holy Spirit of God—when he first becomes a Christian. But he is only a spiritual *infant*. He must *grow up* spiritually.

The newly converted person, *in his mind and heart*, sincerely has ABOUT-FACED! He has actually gained contact with GOD and received God's Holy Spirit. God's own divine NATURE has now been conceived within him. BUT THAT'S ALL. It is *merely conceived*—not yet full grown! And his HUMAN NATURE is *still there*. It has not been killed or removed!

God's PURPOSE in having created humanity—in having caused YOU to be born—is to reproduce himself. And GOD, above all things, *is* PERFECT, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER! God is able to create character within us—but it must be done as a result of our independent free choice. We, as individual separate entities, have our part in the process.

What *is* perfect character? It is

the ability, in a separate entity, to come to the KNOWLEDGE of the right from the wrong—the true from the false—and to CHOOSE the right, and possess the WILL to enforce self-discipline to DO the right and resist the wrong.

God's CHARACTER travels in the direction of his law—the way of LOVE. It is an outgoing CONCERN for others. GOD has that character! He has an outgoing *concern* for you and for me. He GAVE his only begotten Son to reconcile us to him, and make the JOYS of his character and everlasting life possible for us. He showers on us every good and precious gift. He even puts within us his DIVINE NATURE—*when* we repent and turn *from* the WRONG way of THIS WORLD, begin to *resist* it and turn TO him through faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior!

God's divine nature is the nature of love—of giving, serving, helping—of outgoing concern. It is the nature of humility.

Now when one is converted—has repented, and *turned from* Satan's and this world's false WAY and has

at once received God's Holy Spirit—his HUMAN nature, as I said before, does not flee. It, too, remains. It *still* exerts a pull. We still live in THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD, and it exerts a pull. God still allows Satan to be around—and HE exerts a pull.

So we now have THREE PULLS to RESIST—to OVERCOME! We must now *overcome* these three—Satan, this world and our own SELVES. We have to battle against these three, in order to develop and strengthen RIGHT CHARACTER within us. God says plainly it is THE OVERCOMERS who shall be saved—who shall REIGN with Christ!

No human being is strong enough to do this BY HIMSELF! He must seek, and IN FAITH receive, the help and power of GOD. Even with God's power he will not overcome such forces easily, or all at once. IT IS NOT EASY! Christ plainly said the way to ultimate salvation is hard, difficult. It's a constant BATTLE—a struggle against self, the world and the devil. The creation of CHARACTER comes through EXPERIENCE—it takes TIME!

THIS development is a PROCESS. It is a matter of GROWTH—DEVELOPMENT. It requires, to become PERFECT, full and right KNOWLEDGE of the very Word of God—because Jesus taught that we must *live by EVERY WORD OF GOD*.

The natural, unconverted mind cannot fully and rightly UNDERSTAND the Scriptures of God. The acquisition of this KNOWLEDGE, in itself, is a procedure requiring TIME. It is the DOERS of this Word, not hearers only, who shall be saved.

But can any man DO, immediately and all at once, this new WAY he now learns about? Can any man, all at once, break all HABITS he now sees are wrong? No, he finds he has a FIGHT against acquired former habits.

He still has this PULL of human nature to overcome. This nature is A LAW working within him. The apostle Paul calls it the law of sin and death.

Paul was *converted*. Paul was a real Christian. He had repented, accepted Christ and received the Holy Spirit. With his MIND, he wanted with all his heart, and in real intense sincerity, to DO God's WAY! But did Paul DO it perfectly?

Let him tell. LISTEN!

“For we know that the law is spiritual,” he wrote, “but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. . . . Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.” He is speaking of human nature within him. He continues, “. . . for to WILL is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. . . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Rom. 7:14-15, 18-19, 24.) Then he thanks God that GOD WILL—through Jesus Christ, and by the power of his HOLY SPIRIT. BUT IT TAKES TIME!

The truly converted Christian will find that he often stumbles, *under temptation*, and falls down—even as a physical child, learning to walk, often falls down. But the year-old child does not get discouraged and give up. He gets up and starts out again.

THE TRULY CONVERTED CHRISTIAN IS NOT YET PERFECT!

God LOOKS ON THE HEART—the inner MOTIVE—the real *intent*! If someone is trying—if he or she gets up whenever he or she falls down, and in repentance asks God's forgiveness, and sets out to do the very best NOT TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN—and to persevere with renewed effort to OVERCOME, God is rich in mercy toward that person in his or her striving to overcome.

Speaking to CONVERTED CHRISTIANS, John writes, “. . . these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And *if any man sin* . . .” (even though he ought not) “. . . we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for OUR sins . . .” (I John 2:1-2). Yes, for the SINS of converted CHRISTIANS. Such people often are under heavier temptation than before conversion. They are STRIVING against sin—STRIVING to overcome. But they are not yet perfect. Sometimes they are caught off guard. They may actually sin. Then they WAKE UP, as it were, and realize what they have done. They REPENT. They are filled

with remorse—*truly sorry*—disgusted with themselves. They go to GOD, and CRY OUT for HELP—for more power and strength from God to OVERCOME!

This is the WAY of the Christian!

It is the way of a constant BATTLE—a striving against SIN—a seeking God in earnest prayer for help and spiritual POWER to overcome. They are constantly GAINING GROUND. They are constantly GROWING in God's KNOWLEDGE, from the BIBLE. They are constantly rooting out wrong habits, driving themselves into RIGHT habits. They are constantly growing closer to GOD through Bible study and prayer. They are constantly growing in CHARACTER, *toward* perfection, even though not yet perfect.

With Paul, they say, “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I FOLLOW AFTER. . . . Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do*, FORGETTING those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS”! (Phil. 3:12-14.)

But, someone may ask, what if one's life is cut off, and he dies *before* he has attained this perfection? Is he saved, or lost? The answer is that we shall never obtain absolute perfection in *this* life.

I said, earlier, that a person who is converted does receive the Holy Spirit at a *definite time—all at once!* Not the full measure Christ had—he is not at once full grown spiritually—only a spiritual babe in Christ. Yet he is then a changed, converted man—changed in mind, in attitude, in the *direction* he has set himself to strive to travel. Even though he has not yet reached perfection—even though he may have stumbled under temptation and taken a spiritual fall—as long as, in his mind and heart, he is earnestly striving to travel GOD'S WAY, to overcome and grow spiritually—as long as God's Spirit is in him—as long as he is being LED by the Spirit of God, he is a begotten SON of God.

If, anywhere along this life's journey, that life is cut short, such a man will be resurrected. It is only

the foolish one who deliberately QUILTS and GIVES UP—who REJECTS God, and God's WAY, and rejects Christ as his Savior—who turns FROM this direction of GOD'S WAY *in his mind and heart*—in his inner INTENT—who deliberately and intentionally in his mind TURNS FROM Christ, who is lost. If, once having been converted, having received God's Spirit, and TASTED of the joys of GOD'S WAY, one deliberately rejects that way, makes the DECISION, not under stress of tempta-

tion, but deliberately and finally, NOT to go God's way, then God says it is IMPOSSIBLE to renew such a one to repentance. He would have to REPENT of that decision. But if he WILLFULLY made it, not in a time of temptation, but calmly, deliberately, willfully, then he just WILL NOT ever repent of it.

But anyone who FEARS he may have committed the "unpardonable sin"—is perhaps worried about it and HOPES he *has not* committed it and still WANTS to have God's sal-

vation—no such has committed it. Such a person MAY repent and go right on to salvation IF HE WANTS TO!

If YOU have stumbled and fallen down, *DON'T* BE DISCOURAGED! Get up and press on ahead!

If you see a Christian do something wrong, DON'T SIT IN JUDGMENT AND CONDEMN—that's God's business to judge, not yours! Let's have compassion and mercy—we don't know the inner heart of others—only GOD does! □

## Read the Bible

(Continued from page 11)

blue ink tend to soak through the paper). A set of colored pencils can aid in underlining and marking words and passages of interest. Some people develop their own special marking system using colors to signify different subjects. The main point is to develop a plan that will help you read, remember and understand the Bible. Do whatever is necessary to help you.

The physical surface of the pages of the Bible is not holy or sacred. The living Word of God is. So use what will help you in your study of God's Word. A well read and well marked Bible is invaluable.

### Useful Study Aids

Another way to read and study the Bible is by subject. Perhaps you would like to study about specific subjects such as you read of in the advertisements in the pages of *The Plain Truth*. This is where study aids come into play.

First in importance is a concordance. A concordance is a book that lists most of the words in the Bible and tells where they are used. Let's say you want to look up the word *understanding*. In the concordance you would look up the word just as you would in a dictionary. There will be a list showing every time the word *understanding* is used in the Bible. You can look up each scriptural reference if you want—or select a few to read. When you do look up *understanding*, pay attention to what is revealed in what you read. You will be surprised at what the Bible says is the basis of a good understanding.

Once you have mastered the con-

cordance, you might want to purchase a one-volume Bible dictionary. In such a reference work you will find a short explanation of historical events and background information on personalities of the Bible. For example you might like to read about Jezebel, the infamous wife of King Ahab of ancient Israel. In a Bible dictionary you could read a short sketch about her colorful life.

If you want more detailed information, there are encyclopedias available at public and other libraries where you can go for certain detailed study. In fact, it's not a bad idea as you study at a library to spend a little time and read up on subjects such as "Christmas," "Easter" and "Halloween."

A question many people ask about Bible reading and study is, "Do I need to understand Greek and Hebrew to understand the Bible?" The answer is no. The Bible has been translated into more than 1,400 modern languages and dialects. While there are a few places in which translation problems exist, they are most often corrected by checking a different translation of the Bible or a commentary, dictionary or encyclopedia. As you become more and more familiar with the various study aids, you will see which ones will help you most.

### Modern Translations Help

Another important aid is a modern translation of the Bible. In the English-speaking world, the traditional Bible has been the King James edition of 1611. But a more modern language translation can be helpful. And there are many available. Again, a public library is a good place to start to see which ones you enjoy most. I have found three

modern English-language editions suitable for basic reading Bibles—the Revised Standard Version (RSV), the New International Version (NIV) and the Revised Authorized Version (RAV), which is called in the United States the New King James Version. There are other translations also that you might find to your liking.

The Bible is a book that tells you not to accept what you hear preached just because you heard a preacher preach it. God says through the apostle Paul, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21). And Paul told Timothy, "Study [give diligence] to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). Follow the examples of the Bereans in ancient Greece who "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

There is nothing more rewarding than reading and studying God's revealed Word. All the adventure and intrigue of history, the instruction of how to live your daily life, all the news of prophecies to come are found in the Bible. It's a thriller such that when you start to read with understanding you will not be able to put down.

Why not get started on a Bible reading program right away? To help you understand the Bible as you read it, write in for the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. It's a helpful Bible study program to guide you in a systematic study of the Bible. It will take you through history, prophecy and how to live a Christian life. It's free of charge, too. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. □