

the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

VOL. XXI, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1956



One of four patios on our picturesque AMBASSADOR COLLEGE campus

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VOL. XXI NO. 4

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as the Lord provides. Address
all communications to the editor.*

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Heart to Heart Talk With the Editor

There are times, I have to confess, when I feel impotent, helpless, frustrated. I wonder if any of our readers could put themselves in my place, and realize what I see and know, and how I feel.

I look back over the years, and recognize how God called me, nearly 40 years ago, out of a fascinating and successful life in business—how I ignored the call and put it out of mind, as a sleeping man enjoying a dream resists and puts out of mind a call to awake in the morning—how God seven years later literally shook me out of my worldly trance and awakened me to the true reality of His call—how after another seven years God had me officially ordained into His ministry after a 3½ year-night-and-day preparation period of prayerful study—how 3½ years later the present work of world-wide evangelism was started in one tiny area on one tiny 100-watt radio station—how, after one 19-year time-cycle, God opened another great Door and His last warning Message began to be thundered all over Europe—and how He has revealed that there remains only the one more 19-year cycle (of which we are well into the 4th year already)—after which it will be TOO LATE!!!

It's far later than we think! These years are whipping past at jet-plane speed. God has set SUPER-power instru-

mentalities at our disposal whereby I can speak HIS LAST WARNING to a dying world in one small radio studio, and my voice is magnified to be heard in millions of homes and public places around the world today!

Yes, MILLIONS are *hearing* God's last solemn, frantic WARNING! Would you suppose that fact would fill me with joy, sweep my being with elation? IT DOESN'T! Instead, I feel defeated—FRUSTRATED!

Do you know WHY? Because I see, as Christ said of HIS preaching to the people, that "they seeing *see not*, and hearing they *hear not*, NEITHER DO THEY UNDERSTAND." Only at Nineveh did the people ever *heed* a warning!

It gives me a feeling of utter futility—of putting forth supreme effort, fighting thru the years with all my own strength and energy, plus all that I've been able to drink in from God—and yet, it's like being on a tread-mill—actually making no progress!

I, personally, SEE what lies ahead! It fills me with frantic TERROR—for the safety of all the people whom I love—people who *could* be spared and protected from the catastrophes they are bringing on themselves—even as I fully expect to be spared thru God's supernatural protection—BUT THEY WON'T!

They just don't seem to SEE what I see! GOD HELP THEM! GOD HAVE MERCY UPON THEM!

Across the page in this first issue of the ENLARGED *Plain Truth* is, perhaps, the most shocking, alarming article we have ever published, from the pen of Herman L. Hoeh. I have read it—and *shuddered!* I know these things are coming! Hundreds of thousands of you will READ this article. But, seeing, will you SEE what's coming?

WILL YOU UNDERSTAND? Will you HEED—and spare your own precious life from the things to come? WILL *you* take warning? Will this article do any good? Are we, after all, on a treadmill?

IT'S UP TO YOU!

God says that if we ourselves SEE these things coming, and WARN you, we have acquitted ourselves—your blood is not on our hands. But that is not enough to satisfy me—just to save my own skin. I WANT TO SEE YOU SAVED, TOO!! Yet I'm HELPLESS, further than

to sound the truthful WARNING.

Yes, IT'S UP TO YOU! What will YOU do about it?

If even ONE of you would write and tell me you DO really comprehend this desperate warning—and that you do intend to WATCH, and PRAY ALWAYS, (Luke 21:36) that you may be accounted worthy to ESCAPE all these things surely coming to pass, it would give me great encouragement.

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

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

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

- WLS — Chicago — 890 on dial — 11:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri., 8:30 Sunday night.
- WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—Sundays, 11:05 P.M. Eastern time. 10:15 P.M., Mon. and Wed. thru Fri.; 10:30 P.M., Tues.
- WRVA—Richmond, Va.—1140 on dial—Sundays, 11:05 P.M. Eastern time.
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Mondays, Greenwich time

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Wednesday: 11:30-12:00 noon African Beam. 5:15-5:45 P.M. S.E. Asia Beam.
- RADIO FORMOSA
Wednesday: 5:50-6:20 P.M.
- RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES
Saturday 10:00-10:30 P.M.

DISEASE EPIDEMICS threaten U.S.A. in 2 years!

The spectre of horrifying epidemics frightens U.S. Public Health Department. Read how five years of drought and floods—the pollution of surface water by industry—indiscriminate use of “wonder drugs”—and decades of “soft” living are combining to produce raging epidemics!

by Herman L. Hoeh

PRESIDENT Eisenhower's heart specialists, Dr. Paul Dudley White, recently warned 500 physicians in North Carolina that “soft” living has already made America one of the most unhealthy countries in the world. Stocky robust men, still in their middle age, he pointed out, *suddenly drop dead of heart attacks.*

Why?

Dr. White is not the only man to see the handwriting on the wall! In May, 1955, the “Scientific American” warned us: “We are beginning, in fact, to witness the appearance of *man-made diseases.*”

Think of it!—*new MAN-MADE diseases.*”

Even the American Medical Association in its February, 1956, issue of “Today's Health” acknowledges that “some *new disease symptoms* may be caused by **HIGHLY PROCESSED FOODS** and by **WONDER DRUGS.**”

Whether or not we want to admit it, we are living in an age in which the scientific and medical ingenuity of man *threatens to go out of control* and exterminate human life! It is time we come to our senses. It is time we realize where we are headed.

Just Around the Corner

Without realizing it, this nation has suffered five continuous years of drought. Our superabundant reserve of food is gradually being depleted. The sixth year of drought is already beginning in many areas. Normally dry regions are becoming dryer. Rain in many areas has become dust. Farm income has hit a new low.

At the same time raging floods are making wet areas wetter. These rushing

torrents often spread pollution to otherwise pure surface water—threatening the health of entire communities.

What really gives nightmares to state and federal authorities, however, is the *long-range effect on human health* of industrial pollutants. For decades industry has flushed millions of tons of poisonous chemicals, acids, oils and grease—and now portions of atomic wastes—into the nation's streams and rivers.

This dangerous practice has also been followed in Great Britain and other industrialized western countries.

At the same time, new farm chemicals and food preservatives and dyes have become a major contributing threat to health. Since their use, polio, cancer and heart diseases are fast approaching epidemic proportions.

News Headlines in Advance

In newspapers, magazines, over the radio and television you hear constant appeals for more money to further medical research on these **MAN-MADE** diseases! Millions of dollars and thousands of laborious hours are being spent in a **FUTILE** effort to “cure” diseases *without removing the causes.* Each year the death rate due to diseases found only among *civilized* people increases. What we are unconsciously producing with our “soft” living and “wonder drugs” is a race of inferior human beings without the ability to resist the impending epidemics we are bringing upon ourselves.

Unless we immediately change our living habits, it will not be long until screaming headlines and shocking news reports tell of devastating epidemics with which medical science cannot cope.

Man-created PLAGUES are just around the corner!

The news headlines of the pulsating present and a devastating future were written millenniums ago **AS A DANGER SIGNAL AND WARNING FOR US TODAY.** If we would have heeded this *warning*, we would not have had to endure these past five years of drought and intermittent floods.

If we continue to disregard *this warning*, we will find ourselves surrounded by the worst epidemics that have ever struck this generation—and that beginning about two years from now!

This warning—written millenniums ago—is especially vital today. Man's wisdom has *not* kept pace with his scientific know-how. We are **TAMPERING WITH NATURE** *without understanding the LAWS that regulate it.*

It is time we open our eyes to this inspired warning before it is too late!

God had this prophetic warning penned over 3400 years ago. Precious little time remains in which to stem the tide of natural and **SUPER-natural** forces that we are presently unleashing upon ourselves.

Here is the WARNING!

You will find today's and tomorrow's headlines written in advance in God's revelation to man—the Holy Bible. Let me show you these very headlines. You have already seen some of them in the newspapers and magazines and over television.

You will find these headlines summarized in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.

Let's understand these two chapters.

Here is how we could be healthy and prosperous: “If you walk in my statutes,” says God, “and *keep my commandments*, then I will give you rains in their season,

and the land shall yield her produce" (Lev. 26:3).

We would not have droughts and famines. The rain would fall *when* we need it and *in the quantity* we need it—if we OBEY God's laws. GOD'S LAWS REGULATE NATURE. When we conform to them we are blessed. When we violate them, we bring nothing but trouble upon ourselves.

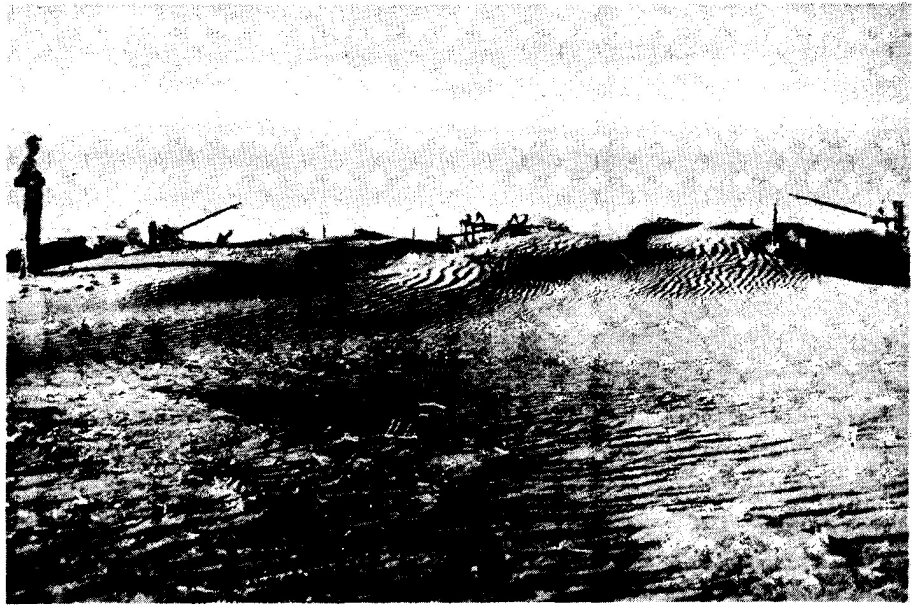
Now notice verses 6 to 9: "And I will give peace in the land . . . And ye shall chase your enemies and they shall fall before you . . . And I will . . . make you fruitful and multiply you."

These are the blessings we could have, if we would only learn that God's ways are right—that they are for our happiness.

But what occurs if we DISOBEY? Notice:

"But if ye will *not* hearken unto Me, and will *not* do ALL these commandments; and if ye shall reject My statutes . . . I will appoint terror over you, even consumption and fever, *that shall make the eyes to fail*, and the soul shall languish; and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it . . . and ye shall be smitten before your enemies" (Lev. 26:14-17).

These punishments are the immediate results of breaking God's laws—these are the first consequences of sin! Notice them: Consumption or tuberculosis; fevers, such as measles and meningitis,



—Wide World Photo

Here you see the devastating results of five years of prophesied drought.

which can settle in the eyes causing impaired vision or blindness; general weakening or languishing of physical strength—then foreign nations attacking our lands.

These curses have afflicted us for years—*because we have been breaking God's laws for years!*

A Prophecy for the Democratic Nations Today

The sequence of warnings in Leviticus 26 is a prophecy for America, the British Commonwealth and the democratic

countries of northwestern Europe today! God's time has come for this warning to go out to our nations. (If you have not already learned *how* our people are identified as the so-called "Lost Ten Tribes of Israel" in Bible prophecy, write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's FREE booklet "The UNITED STATES and the BRITISH COMMONWEALTH in prophecy." You will be surprised!)

Most people do not understand why this prophecy in Leviticus 26 is for our day. What they do not grasp is that sin produces the same consequences in every generation. AND PROPHECY IS MERELY HISTORY IN ADVANCE!

The prophecies are headlines in advance of the natural consequences of sin—the automatic punishment that results from breaking God's laws. These punishments befell ancient Israel whenever they sinned—and they are beginning to befall us now *because we are committing the same sins.*

Notice how precise this prophecy is. The initial physical punishments we reaped were diseases such as *consumption or tuberculosis* and *childhood fevers*. Thousands died unnecessarily from these diseases. We had not learned how to be sanitary. These maladies no longer characterize the present era. The timetable of prophecy relentlessly moves on!

Observe that the sword of the foreigner—as a punishment for our sins—

(Please continue on page 21)

While some areas perish for lack of water, other areas perish from sudden floods in fulfillment of prophecy.

—Wide World Photo



What's Criminally WRONG with Modern Education!

A shocking problem faces youth! The most important knowledge of all is being entirely omitted in today's "education." Here is WHY!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THERE is something decidedly **WRONG** with the world *today*—and the chief **CAUSE** is our system of **FALSE EDUCATION**. Something is criminally **WRONG** with our system of education!

Give us **RIGHT EDUCATION**, and remove the evil from human nature which **PREVENTS** the world from *acting* on right knowledge, and we **WOULD** have—**UTOPIA**. And, fantastic though it may seem, *we are* **GOING** to have it, before the present generation of young people has passed on! That is **SHOCKING**, but happily **TRUE**!

If one would really **USE** his mind in **THINKING**, he would ask, "Why doesn't the **GOSPEL** point the way, and accomplish the result?" It **DOES**—but very few of you have ever *heard* the **TRUE Gospel**!

Should Education Be Divorced from Religion?

I happen to be not only the called and chosen minister of Jesus Christ, but also an educator and a college president. And I have been asked, "What on earth is the **CONNECTION** between religion and **EDUCATION**? . . ."

In our western world we have become so imbued with the idea of **SEPARATION** of church and state, that we see no connection between religion and education. That is why the most basic and essential knowledge is **NOT BEING TAUGHT** today! Of course the "three R's"—"reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic"—are fundamental. Geography, history, languages, science are important. But they are not the **MOST** important knowledge.

The **MOST** important things to know are *these*: **WHAT** we are? **WHY** we are? that is, whether we were put here on earth by actual design and plan—and for **WHAT PURPOSE**?—and a knowledge of **THE WAY** to peace, happiness, joy, peace

of mind, the full, interest-packed **ABUNDANT life**, real prosperity; a knowledge of *what lies on beyond*—the **TRUTH** about life after death—the question of where we are **GOING**—and **WHY**, and **HOW**! *These* are the things you never learned at school! **THESE** subjects constitute the **MOST** vital knowledge which is **NOT** disseminated in our schools and our universities!

If you *were bearing* the **TRUE GOSPEL**—the *very* Gospel Message which **GOD ALMIGHTY** sent to mankind by Jesus Christ—you would realize that real conversion is **EDUCATION**! And true education leads to conversion! But the world long ago rejected that dynamic, life-giving Message—though it accepted the **PERSON** of the Messenger!

Do you realize **HOW IMPORTANT** it is to you to know **WHY** you were put here on earth?—**WHY** you are not, now, more happy, more successful?

The Purpose of Education

God's **PURPOSE** in placing humans on this earth is the **CREATION** of God's supreme **MASTERPIECE**—perfect, righteous, spiritual *characters* to be actually **BORN** into the very **FAMILY OF GOD**! Redemption is merely the working out—the completing of that spiritual **CREATION**! It is creation of holy **CHARACTERS**—sons of **GOD**—in which **WE SHARE** with God in the process.

EVERYTHING that goes into that new divine being which we may *become*, we *receive* **FROM GOD**; *but*, it comes only as *we abhor* the *evil* in us, *desire* the righteousness of God, and **BESEECH** Him for it! **WE** make the decisions. **WE** put forth our effort in overcoming and in **ASKING** and **SEEKING** from God in faith. But it is God who actually **SUPPLIES EVERYTHING**—the **LOVE**, the **FAITH**, the **RIGHT-EOUSNESS**, the **LIFE** that is **ETERNAL**.

God's great design, then, is to mold, fashion, *change* a person into something different altogether. The true Christian is a *new creation*, "created in Christ Jesus in true righteousness and holiness *unto good works*" (Eph. 2:10).

Although it is a spiritual matter, involving God's Holy Spirit, this change takes place in the **MIND**—especially the faculty of mind we call "the heart."

The *first* step is repentance. Repentance literally means "a change of **MIND**."

The *second* step, acceptance of and faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, takes place also in the mind and heart.

The *third* step is something God does—placing within us the gift of His Holy Spirit. Receiving of the Holy Spirit is the *renewing* of the **MIND** (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23). The spirit of God is the Spirit of a sound mind (II Tim. 1:7). There never lived a sounder **MIND** than Jesus Christ. Conversion miraculously places within us the **MIND** of Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5). Conversion is putting on "the new man, which is renewed in *knowledge*" (Col. 3:10). Only the "overcomers" shall be saved. Overcoming is directed by the *mind*! True Christians must grow in grace and in Christ's **KNOWLEDGE** (II Pet. 3:18). Christianity is *spiritual-MIND-edness*!

Conversion Is Education

In other words, though we perhaps never have thought of it in this light, real conversion *is* **EDUCATION**! And *true education* is *conversion*! Not the purely mental, materialistic, largely erroneous education of this world—no, not that kind at all!—but *real* **TRUE** education, which is the renewing and enlightening of the mind, the feeding of the soul, the development of self-discipline and **CHARACTER** in true spiritual values! *That* is true **EDUCATION**!

Man is the highest mortal being God has created on earth. The MIND is the highest part of man—the faculty which, above all else, elevates man above dumb animals. Did not God intend our minds then, to be developed, trained, *used* to His honor and glory?

Can't we see that none glorifies God by ignorance, by neglecting this most precious heritage God has entrusted to man—the MIND? To fulfill God's purpose in our existence, our minds need *enlightening* through the revelation of God's Word. They need to be trained, developed, cultivated, *used!* But used with the *enlightenment* that comes from God through the addition of HIS SPIRIT to our minds so that we are FREED from fears and worries, through living FAITH—through active, obedient BELIEVING in God that brings PEACE of mind, that DEVELOPS us from carnal, unhappy MORTALS into the CHARACTER of God, happily, joyfully, receiving IMMORTAL life.

WHAT'S WRONG with this World Today?

Today we live in a confused, misguided, deceived, chaotic world. We find ourselves in a civilization started thousands of years ago by a God-rejecting man named Nimrod. Every phase of this Babylonish civilization is established on principles diametrically *contrary* to the revealed principles and laws of God. This world is not happy. It's filled with strife, fear, ignorance, deception, injustice, crime, poverty, suffering, anguish, woe and DEATH!

And *this whole worldly civilization is BASED on a system of false education!*

Modern education is almost wholly materialistic. It rejects the basic revelations of God. It gropes in the dark amid its vain speculations, in the hopeless search for the acquisition of knowledge that can come only through the very revelation it rejects! It wastes precious hours and years in the minute study of nonconsequential details and impractical and untrue theories, instead of teaching young men and women the BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF LIFE—what life is, why we are here, where we are going, and how to live successfully, usefully, happily, joyfully! In other words—the spiritual LAWS of life! Its proponents look wise and dignified, and speak learnedly

of unimportant nothings. They fill students' *minds* with much chaff, while their *souls* starve for the TRUE educational food!

Yes, something's WRONG with this world's education, as well as with its religion, its governments, its economics, its society! *Wrong education* is a basic cause of ALL the world's wrongs today!

Where, when, and how did the present educational system start?

How It Has Developed

It all started at the very *beginning*. Let's trace it, just briefly.

Our first parents rejected the revealed KNOWLEDGE of God. To Adam and Eve God revealed certain definite facts, principles, laws. This knowledge they rejected. They spurned and disobeyed God's laws—*four* of the Ten Commandments were broken in man's "original sin." They departed from God's revealed way of life.

Down through the centuries man has continued to reject God's revealed KNOWLEDGE. Contrary to God's ways, mankind soon was organized into competitive units of society, started by Nimrod at Babel, Nineveh, and the original city-states.

Ancient nations developed—all straying from the revealed knowledge, the laws, and the ways of God. Groping in the dark, seeking to learn about "The UNKNOWN," the ancients speculated their way into the pagan philosophies that have come down to us—the very philosophies which form the BASIS of modern education, the teachings of Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Epicterus, Virgil.

As the Creator said, through the Apostle Paul, of these ancient philosophers, "they did not like to retain GOD in their knowledge"; so today's popular education has no place for God or divine revelation. Today, modern education is almost wholly materialistic. It has lost sight of true spiritual values. It fails to teach young men and women the most needed knowledge of all—what life is, why we are here, the purpose of life, where we are going, *how to live* happily, abundantly, joyfully. Modern education cannot impart a knowledge it does *not* possess!

Notice where all this leads us! Here

is bewildered, deceived, unhappy suffering humanity groping in the dark, seeking by human speculation to come to a knowledge of "The UNKNOWN"!

WHO CAN KNOW? Yes, who?

If there be a GOD, would He have left mankind so hopelessly in the dark? WHY must man be in the dark about such vital basic knowledge as creation—the very accounting for the presence of things that exist, of what life is, whence it came, why it is, where we are going, what is the purpose of our existence, what of the hereafter.

Almost no one, it seems, has been able to learn what The Holy BIBLE really *is!* Let me tell you what it is.

A Revelation to Man

The Bible is GOD'S REVELATION TO MAN!

It is God's means of communicating to man the BASIC KNOWLEDGE man needs! Thru it as His vehicle of information, God reveals to man KNOWLEDGE of facts, of laws, of purposes, of events both past and future—all of which man *has no other way to know!*

Let me illustrate: Man is able, of himself, to build laboratories, to experiment through test-tubes. Man is able to invent and build telescopes and learn about the stars; to build microscopes and learn about infinitesimal particles of matter. Therefore God did *not* reveal in the Bible the laws of physics and chemistry, the distance to the sun, to the moon, and various stars from the earth. God left it for Newton to discover and reveal to us the law of gravity. MANY things man is able to discover for himself. Those things God has left for man himself to find out.

But "The UNKNOWN," which man *needs* to know, God has revealed through the Bible as a foundation for knowledge. That is the BEGINNING! And *from* there God has left it for man to go on and explore, examine, observe, and measure—and ADD to the basic store of knowledge with which God started him out! It is RIGHT for man to ADD all he can to this basic revealed knowledge. God gave us eyes to see with, ears to hear with, hands to work with, minds to think and to reason with.

THINK what a wonderful fund of knowledge man *might* have had today,
(Please continue on page 15)

How YOU Can Become a CHRISTIAN

You may be in for a surprise! Many people who THINK they are "Christians" are very mixed-up. Here is a CHALLENGE for anyone who sincerely wants to establish a closer contact with the Eternal God.

by Roderick C. Meredith

WHAT DOES Jesus Christ think of the spectacle of *hundreds* of different, competing denominations and sects—each calling themselves "Christian"? Did Christ teach several hundred different methods of salvation and ways of life—or just *one*?

Since the Korean War and the advent of the *hydrogen bomb*, thousands more Americans than ever before are attending church. More and more people are seeking a contact with God. *People are turning to religion.*

But what *kind* of religion? Will just *any* religion do?

Which Church?

Perhaps many thoughtful people have been shocked by the recent articles in the popular national magazines revealing just how careless the average American is about picking which church he attends. But the problem is certainly one for *everyone* to think about.

If you happen to be a church member, how did YOU pick *your* church—*your* theology?

Try to look at the problem objectively—thoughtfully. Before you began attending your particular church exclusively, did you first try to make a careful, unbiased analysis of all the churches to see which one taught the most Bible *truth*? Did you *study* the Bible to make certain of its teaching on various points of doctrine?

Or did you, like so many people, just grow up in your particular faith and *accept* it without ever having really *PROVED* it to yourself?

Think this over. People spend time and effort to determine what clothes they should buy, what car they should drive. A wise young man and woman spend

many hours over a period of *months* getting to really know each others' character before they are willing to make a life contract in physical marriage.

But the average person isn't even *half* as careful when it comes to uniting himself to a church and its doctrines with the hope that this will bring him an *eternal reward* from the very Creator.

Yes, whether we belong to a church or not, most of us have been very *careless* in acquiring our various beliefs in God. We have been SO *CARELESS*, in fact, that there are over *four hundred* denominations and sects all teaching *different* things in the name of Christ and God.

But the *Bible* says, and *common sense* ought to tell us, that there is only *ONE* right way. The apostle Paul was inspired to write: "There is one body (*church*), and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, *ONE FAITH*, one baptism" (Eph. 4:4-5).

How can we find the *one right way* to gain salvation? *How* can we be *sure*?

Truth Stands Proving

The first thing to bear in mind is that if any of our beliefs are *true*, they will stand *proving*. If they are *not* true, we should *want* to discover this and *rid ourselves* of this error as soon as possible.

The inspired Paul exhorted: "PROVE *all things*; hold fast that which is *good*" (I Thes. 5:21).

In proving any spiritual matter, we should obey God's admonition to "lean *not* unto thine own understanding" (Pro. 3:5). God's Word also instructs us: "There is a way which *seemeth* *RIGHT* unto a man, *but* the end thereof are the ways of *DEATH*" (Pro. 14:12).

Then how are we to *prove* which is *God's* way of salvation? Where is the right doctrine to be found?

"All scripture is given by *inspiration* of God, and is profitable for *DOCTRINE*, for *reproof*, for *correction*, for *instruction* in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16). We should get *all our doctrine* from the *Bible*. And we should let the Bible *correct* us and *reprove* us where we are wrong.

Will we?

Jesus Christ said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word of God*" (Luke 4:4). So Christians are commanded to *LIVE* by the Bible—to base their very lives on its teachings.

Then if we will honestly lay aside *our* ideas and begin to prove all things by the *Bible*, what better teaching could we follow than that of *Christ* himself. Who knows *better* how to instruct us in Christianity than *Christ*?

Let us put our own ideas and human opinions aside for a moment, and *SEE* WHAT JESUS CHRIST SAYS ABOUT THIS MATTER.

After all, He is the one who really *knows*!

The Christian Way

In Matthew 7, Jesus warned His followers, "Enter ye in at the *strait gate*: for *wide* is the gate, and *broad* is the way that leadeth to *DESTRUCTION*, and *MANY* there be which go in thereat: Because *strait* is the gate and *narrow* is the way, which leadeth unto *LIFE*, and *FEW* there be that find it" (verses 13-14).

Notice that Jesus prophesied that *few* would find the way to eternal life. It is not the broad, popular, easy *way* that so many have assumed. Are you sure that you are on the *way* that Jesus taught

would lead to abundant, eternal life?

Jesus warned us to, "Beware of *false prophets*, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. *Ye shall know them by their fruits*. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth *good fruit*; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth *evil fruit*" (verses 15-17). The "fruits," the product, or *results* of true prophets, then, should be a society filled with *love, joy, and PEACE*—the "fruit" the Holy Spirit always produces (Gal. 5:22).

The peoples of western Europe and America have always called themselves "Christian." Our countries are filled with professing Christian churches. Has the "fruit" or result been *love and peace*—or WAR?

Let's face facts.

Something is terribly WRONG with this so-called "Christian" society of ours. We call Jesus our Lord—but *is He?*

Jesus answers, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; *but he that doeth the will of my Father* which is heaven" (Mat. 7:21).

"Lip service" to Jesus Christ is *not enough!* We must be DOING God's will. We must *act* on Jesus' commands. "And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, *and doeth them not*, shall be likened unto a *foolish* man, which built his house upon the sand . . . and great was the fall of it" (Mat. 7:26-27).

Jesus taught a definite *way of life*. That *way* is *obedience* to the will of God the Father. Anyone professing to be a Christian, but going a *different way*, is "likened unto a foolish man."

Jesus cried, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

We are rather ridiculous, aren't we? There are plenty of names in the world to choose from. But WHY do individuals, churches, and nations call themselves "Christian" while they continue to teach and practice an entirely *different way* than that taught by Christ?

Bible Is Consistent

The religious ideas and teachings of men are varied and confused. Even the great denominations have repeatedly *changed* their doctrines from time to

time. But the teaching of the Bible is *consistent* and *unchanging*.

The true servants of God in all ages have written and taught the same basic *way of obedience* to God. "Thy WORD is *truth*," Jesus said (John 17:17). And again He said, "The scripture *cannot* be broken" (John 10:35). *God does not contradict himself in His inspired Word*. We should always bear this in mind in studying the Bible.

So Jesus continued to teach the same truths all through His ministry, and the apostles preached the *same gospel*—not something different.

Later in Jesus' ministry, one asked Him, "Good master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life."

Jesus answered, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, *keep the commandments*" (Mat. 19:16-17).

This is the *way* Jesus taught would lead to eternal life. He said nothing about a meaningless ceremony of "joining" a church and "accepting" Him as Savior. He taught that if He is to be your Lord you have to *obey* Him.

Did Jesus know what He was talking about?

Many organizations of men seem to think He didn't, for they have substituted a dead faith and belief in His *person*, but deny the *way* of salvation which He taught.

The apostles were to continue preaching the *same* message Jesus did. Before His ascension to heaven, He commanded them to go forth and instruct all nations, "teaching them to observe *all things* whatsoever I have commanded you" (Mat. 28:19).

The Apostles Teaching

The apostle Paul taught the *same way of life* that Jesus did, and he recognized that *way as being what "Christianity" is!* He speaks of having formerly persecuted the Christians as follows: "And I persecuted *this WAY* unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women" (Acts 22:4).

In Paul's day, Christianity was recognized as a *way of life*.

Of exactly *what* does this *way of life* consist?

The apostle Peter answers, "For even

hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, *leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps*: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Pet. 2:21-22). Jesus gave up His own will and suffered for us. He did no sin. He set us an *example* that we should follow His steps. This, Peter says, is our "calling."

In Galatians 2:20, Paul explains this even further. "I am crucified with Christ," he writes, "yet I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Could anything be plainer?

Paul wrote that he had crucified his own will, and that CHRIST was living in him—totally directing his life. He was not only living by faith *in*, but by the very faith *of*, the Son of God.

How to be a Christian

No human being can naturally and normally yield himself to obey God and follow Christ's example as he must.

As Paul explains, this is so, "Because the *carnal mind is enmity against God*: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. *Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his*" (Rom. 8:7-9).

We must have Christ's Spirit within us—guiding our every thought and action—to be recognized as His. How may we receive God's Spirit?

When God's church first began on the day of Pentecost, Peter gave the answer to this question. "REPENT and BE BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

We have to realize our own ways are wrong, that they have brought on this war and suffering about us, and be willing to *repent* and completely turn from our former ways and let God rule our lives. Then we should be *baptized*, which Paul explains in Romans 6:1-6 is the outward sign of our willingness to completely *bury* our old self in a watery

(Please continue on page 12)

The NEW Covenant— Does it Abolish God's Law?

Thousands have asked if the New Covenant does away with God's Commandments. Here's the TRUTH on this question.

by Raymond C. Cole

NEARLY everyone has been taught that the old covenant was the ten commandment law—that the new covenant contains only grace and promises, but no law. Hence it is argued that since the old covenant has been abolished God's law has also been abolished.

This teaching would lead you to believe that the law of God was harsh, cruel, and enslaving—that the FAULT of the old covenant was with the law, and since God gave the law, the FAULT must have been His!

Later, according to this common teaching, Jesus came with a new covenant which had no law, only promises and liberty to do what you please.

Certainly there is something terribly wrong with this concept.

Why the New Covenant?

There is a vital need for the new covenant. Why? Paul wrote: "For *if* that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For *finding fault* . . ." (Hebrews 8:7,8). So the first covenant had a fault, for "finding fault . . ." with what, the law? NO!

"For finding fault *with* THEM, he saith, Behold, the days come saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."

Then the fault wasn't with the law, but "with *them*," THE PEOPLE, the children of Israel "because they continued not in my covenant"—because they *disobeyed* (Heb. 8:9). If the fault were with the law, then the law would *not* have been perfect; but David said, "The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7).

It was to correct *the fault with the people* that God said He will make another covenant. Now let's find out what the old covenant really was so we can know HOW the new covenant will correct that fault.

What Is a "Covenant"?

The real reason most churches don't understand the truth about the covenants is that they don't even know what a "covenant" is! Webster defines a covenant as "a mutual *agreement*, a legal undertaking to do or to refrain from some act, *a document containing the terms of agreement*."

A covenant is an agreement between parties.

The Eternal God *proposed* the old covenant with Israel in Exodus 19:5,6. Here were the parties to the agreement or covenant. Notice what it says: "If ye (Israel) will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant"—that was Israel's part of the agreement, "*then*"—and this was the ETERNAL'S part of the agreement, the part he promised to do—"ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation."

Did the people accept this *proposal*? "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken *we will do*" (verse 8).

The Old Covenant a Marriage Agreement!

Very few know it, but the old covenant proposed by the Lord was a *marriage agreement* between Him and Israel! Israel was organized as both church and state.

Here is what Ezekiel wrote about this covenant, "I entered into *a covenant* with thee, saith the Lord God, and *thou*

becamest mine" (Ezekiel 16:8).

Again, in Jeremiah 31:32 you read, "My covenant they brake, *although I was an husband unto them*, saith the Lord."

Do you see, now, that the covenant was not just the ten commandments, but *an agreement* between the Lord and the nation—the church of Israel? They accepted the terms that He gave to them. They bound themselves by this first covenant to refrain from any adulterous or whorish relations with the "gods" of other nations (Exodus 34:12-17). In turn, the Lord promised to remain *faithful* to Israel, and provide for them and bless them even to a thousand generations (Deut. 7:9).

But what were the conditions of the old covenant to which Israel agreed?

The Terms of the Old Covenant

There is a great deal of needless misunderstanding about that which constituted the first covenant with Israel. In Exodus, the 19th chapter, God made arrangements to declare the conditions of His covenant to the people. Then in the 20th chapter God spoke every word of the ten commandments. The ten commandments are a perfect and complete law in themselves. When the Eternal God finished speaking them "HE ADDED NO MORE. AND HE WROTE THEM IN TWO TABLES OF STONE" (Deut. 5:22).

The ten commandments were *a distinct part* of the terms of the old covenant to which Israel agreed. They were the TABLES OF THE COVENANT (Deut. 9:9,11).

Now notice Exodus, the 24th chapter. In verse 7 Moses "took the BOOK OF THE COVENANT, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and

be obedient." Besides the *tables* of the covenant, containing the ten basic spiritual laws (Rom. 7:14), there was a *book* of the covenant containing the civil laws of the covenant between Israel and the Lord.

From the 21st to the 23rd chapters inclusive, the Eternal revealed these specific *civil laws*, which *Moses wrote in a book* (Exodus 24:3,4), were based on the principles of the ten great and broad *spiritual* precepts—the ten commandments.

After God spoke the ten commandments to the people, after Moses received the civil laws from God and delivered them to Israel, you will find that the first covenant was sealed with blood—it became binding (Exodus 24:8 and Hebrews 9:18-20).

Since Israel had accepted the Eternal God as her husband, she was to be obedient to Him just as the wife is to be obedient to her husband. The Lord was head of the nation Israel. Israel was to keep herself unspotted from the evil of the world by being faithful to the laws or terms of the agreement which would make their relationship a perfect union.

When God spoke the old covenant to Israel at the time they were brought out of Egypt, He did not command them "concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people" (Jeremiah 7:22,23).

The ceremonial and ritualistic laws were *added later because of transgressions and as a reminder of sin*—after the old covenant was sealed. They were not a part of the covenant because they came after the marriage agreement was completed. The spiritual laws of the old covenant DEFINE sin, the civil laws amplify them and prescribe punishments for disobedience.

Remember that the spiritual and civil laws were not instituted by the old covenant. They were already in existence and had to be included in the covenant. (See Genesis 26:5 and Exodus 16:28 and 18:16).

Old Covenant Had Only MATERIAL Promises

Since the ETERNAL was as a husband

to Israel, He agreed to provide for His holy nation. Carefully notice that IN NO PLACE IS THE BLESSING OF ETERNAL LIFE PROMISED, NOR IS ANY OTHER SPIRITUAL PROMISE GIVEN. Every promise given to them was *material*—they were to be fruitful and multiply greatly, their cattle and all livestock were to be very productive, their land would give abundant produce, they would become the greatest nation on earth IF THEY WOULD OBEY AS A WIFE OUGHT TO. God promised to walk *among* them and be their God. He did *not* promise to dwell *in* them through the Holy Spirit.

But if they disobeyed and did not remain faithful they were to be cursed by punishments in this world only. Hunger, sickness, famine, sorrow and war would overtake them just as *material* troubles ensnare any wife who is disobedient to her marriage vows and seeks promiscuous relations with others than her husband (Lev. 26 and Deut. 28).

Israel Was Divorced

Now read Jeremiah 11:10. Did Israel remain faithful to the covenant?

"They *went after other gods* to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah *have broken my covenant* which I made with their fathers."

Israel and Judah did not remain faithful, the marriage agreement—the old covenant—*was broken*. Listen to what the Lord says in Jeremiah 3:8: "And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel *committed adultery* I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also."

The relationship became so bad that the Eternal was finally forced into divorcing His own people. He first sent Israel into captivity by the Assyrians and later Judah by the Babylonians (Ezek. 23).

Now that we have seen what happened to the first covenant, let's observe the fault with it.

What Was the Fault With the Old Covenant?

Paul said the fault with the old covenant was not in the laws, but in the people with whom it was made. Why?

Because it was *not* possible for them to remain faithful to the righteous conditions God had prescribed in His covenant. "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them" (Deut. 5:29).

Here was the weakness of the old covenant. *The people did not have the strength of character to be faithful to their vow*. The law was "weak through *the flesh*" (Romans 8:3). The righteousness under the first covenant was to be accomplished only through human obedience, fleshly effort, because *there was no spiritual promise of receiving the Holy Spirit*.

Israel was unable to serve the Lord because they did not have a God-fearing nature within them. This condition will be changed in the new covenant.

How the Fault Will Be Corrected

Remember that the first covenant had the spiritual laws written on two tables of stone and the civil laws in a book. Obedience had to come from carnal flesh alone. Now notice what will happen in the new covenant.

It won't be according to the agreement made with ancient Israel. Observe the differences: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith he Lord; *I will put my LAWS into their mind, and write them in their hearts*" (Heb. 8:10; Jer. 31:33).

So there will be *laws*, GOD'S LAWS, the *same* laws which stand fast forever and ever (Psalm 111:7,3); but this time they will be written in the hearts and minds of the people. They will be "written not with ink, *but with the Spirit of the living God*; not in tables of stone, but in the fleshy tables of the heart" (II Cor. 3:3).

Then the new covenant will be made only with those who have God's law indelibly written in their thoughts and actions.

And what is the power that writes God's laws in our hearts and minds? "The Spirit of the living God."

The love of God which fulfills the law is "shed abroad *by the Holy Spirit* which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit is one of the *better* prom-

ises of the new covenant (Heb. 8:6).

Also notice that the new covenant will be made with ISRAEL—the house of Israel and the house of Judah. The new covenant will not be made with those who remain Gentiles as most people falsely assume. The covenants and the promises pertain to Israel (Rom. 9:4).

Since the new covenant will be made with Israel, what about the Gentiles? Are they totally left out? Or has God provided some way by which they may receive that same blessings which are promised to Israel?

How Gentiles Can Enter

In Ephesians, the second chapter, Paul wrote to those who were "*in time past* Gentiles in the flesh . . . that at that time ye were without Christ."

Why?

"Being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

How then can Gentiles come into the same promises that were granted Israel? The next verse tells us, "But now *in Christ Jesus* ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:11-13).

So it is *through Jesus Christ* that Gentiles "are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints" (Eph. 2:19). Paul says in Galatians 3:29, "And *if ye be Christ's*, then are ye Abraham's seed (no longer considered Gentiles) and heirs according to the promise."

So Gentiles have to *belong to Christ* in order to become part of the spiritual commonwealth of Israel—the church. Paul, in Romans 11:17-18, pictures the Gentiles as branches of wild olive trees who are grafted into the natural olive tree—Israel begotten of the Spirit. Gentiles can be partakers of the same Spirit of promise and of the blessings to Israel.

But carefully notice, the Gentiles by nature do *not* receive the promise. They must become transformed into the Spirit-begotten commonwealth of Israel before they can receive any of the blessings.

How could Christ make it possible for Gentiles to be heirs to the promises made to Israel?

Christ, the Heir of Abraham

The promise of *eternal inheritance* of the earth was unconditionally made to Abraham and his "seed" (Gen. 26:3). But Abraham died without inheriting the promises (Hebrews 11:13). It remained for Jesus Christ the *one* heir who was without sin—the promised "seed" through the lineage of Abraham—to inherit the promises (Gal. 3:16).

Jesus came in the flesh to confirm the promises made to the fathers (Rom. 15:8). He also was the minister of a new *testament* or *will* by which he would bequeath His entire inheritance to His heirs in case of death. Remember the new testament contained the promise of *eternal inheritance* (Hebrews 9:15).

Christ's *testament* or *will* did not have any force until his death. "For a testament is of force *after* men are dead" (Heb. 9:17). When Christ died, then His heirs have the right to the eternal inheritance made possible through the Holy Spirit which imparts eternal life. But who are the heirs of Christ?

No one is Christ's *unless* one believes, repents, and is baptized (Act 2:38; Gal. 3:27). So you can become an heir of Christ if you fulfill this condition and receive the Holy Spirit which puts—immerses—you into the church whether you are Israelite or Gentile (I Cor. 12:13). We are Christ's because Christ *bought* us by giving His life in our stead to pay for our sins (I Cor. 6:20).

New Covenant Not Yet Completed

Christ is the Mediator of the new covenant (Heb. 8:6). According to the prophecy of Daniel 9:27, *Christ has not yet completed* His work of confirming the covenant. Therefore the new covenant must yet be completed *in the future*—"For this is the covenant that I *will* make with the house of Israel AFTER THOSE DAYS, saith the Lord; I *will* put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts" (Heb. 8:10; Jer. 31:31-34).

The new covenant will not be made with fleshly, carnal Israelites who can still sin—it will correct that fault. This time it will be made with Spirit-born Israelites who have been forgiven their

sins and who have God's laws written in their minds and hearts so they can't sin and break the covenant. The apostle John reveals that it is only at the resurrection when we are *born again*—composed of spirit—that we won't be able to sin because we will have God's nature permanently implanted in us (I John 3:9). Jesus told Nicodemus also that we must be born again—of the Spirit—before we can inherit the kingdom and gain eternal life (John 3).

Bear in mind that the new *testament* or *will* of Jesus Christ has been in force since His death. But His testament or will has conditions which we must meet before we can inherit the promises. The Greek word for "testament" also means "covenant." Since the new *testament* involves our agreement to fulfill these conditions, it also becomes a *covenant*—and that new covenant will not be confirmed with us—we won't *inherit* the promises—*until* we are first made immortal and have God's nature so we can't sin (II Peter 1:4).

New Covenant a Marriage Agreement

All that the Scripture says concerning Israel and the promises under the new testament pertains to the *church*. It is the *church* that is Israel begotten and soon to be born of the Spirit (Acts 26:6, 7). Under the old covenant Israel could have become a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6), under the new covenant the church will become a kingdom of priests governing *the physical nation* Israel (I Peter 2:9; Rev. 5:10; Acts 1:6).

As the church is Israel—Abraham's seed and heirs of the promise—then it is the church with whom the new covenant will finally be made. But we read in II Corinthians 11:2 and Ephesians 5:32 that Christ Jesus at His second coming will marry the church which is now his espoused bride. Therefore the new covenant will be ANOTHER MARRIAGE AGREEMENT! Christ will be the husband, the church will become His wife.

Remember that the ETERNAL was the husband of ancient Israel. Under the old covenant Israel could never remarry her husband once the divorce was given and she was defiled by relationships with heathen gods. So the Lord—*not* the Father—but the Word who became Jesus

was born into human flesh to die so that Israel would be free to remarry. That's why we read in Revelation 19:7, that before the coming marriage between Christ and the church takes place it will be said: "The marriage of the Lamb is come, and His WIFE (*not bride*) hath made herself ready." This could not be said of the church unless it was Jesus and not the Father to whom Israel had once been married.

New Testament Has Promises and Curses

The new covenant has better promises—eternal promises—but there are also curses!

We know that during the time of the old covenant a violator of the law died without mercy under two or three witnesses. What about the person who spurns the terms of the new testament? "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye," continues Paul in Hebrews

10:29, "*shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing?*"

Under the old, they perished at the hands of men. Under the new the wicked will perish at the hand of God in the lake of fire.

How important it is that we understand the truth about the new covenant! In *no* place does God say that He will take away His laws or give us *different* laws. The new covenant doesn't abolish the commandments, it established them in us according to the spirit and intent, not just in the letter. I hope you will not be found rebellious toward God because you haven't awakened to the fact that God wants to pardon you through the sacrifice of His Son and give you the Holy Spirit so you can live by His commands for your own good.

How YOU Can Become a CHRISTIAN

(Continued from page 8)

grave and come up to walk in newness of life—following Jesus' example.

Then we are promised the "gift" of the Holy Spirit to guide us in obeying and following Christ—our *real* Lord and Master.

God's Spirit is a part of His own *character* placed within us to enable us to live as we should. Paul explains that, "the *love of God* is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us" (Rom. 5:5).

There are many *human ideas* about how we should express this love every Christian should have. *But God Himself tells us clearly in His Word.*

"For this is the *love of God*, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3).

Yes, God's love will always lead us to obey Him, to follow Jesus' example, and thus to be a *real Christian*.

Perhaps the best definition of a "Christian" contained in any one verse of the Bible is found in I John 2:6. The Weymouth translation makes the intended meaning more clear than the

older King James wording. It reads: "He who says that he abides in him *is bound to live as he lived.*"

How many of today's professing "Christians" feel BOUND to live as Jesus did?

Key to Conversion

The complete, *unconditional surrender* of one's self to God and to Christ as Savior *and* Master is the key to real conversion.

If you would really be a Christian—*examine yourself.* Have you come to the place where you *believe* in the Creator God and in the Bible as His Word—His inspired revelation to man? Are you willing to totally *SURRENDER* your will to *obey* His Word—to *study* it *honestly*, zealously, and to *live* by it?

Are you ready to actually *GIVE* your life to Christ—yielding *completely*, willingly, so that He may *live His life in you* through the Holy Spirit? Are you willing to quit arguing and say, "Yes, Lord, *THY will be done*"?

If you sincerely feel this way, you should be *baptized* immersed in water

—as an outward sign of your willingness to completely *BURY* the old self in full surrender to Christ. "Sprinkling" or "pouring" do not picture this burial. Christ taught water baptism, and so did all the apostles and the inspired New Testament church.

If you are in doubt about this point, or if you want more information about the *necessity* and *meaning* of water baptism, write *today* for Mr. Armstrong's *free* booklet on "*Water Baptism.*"

To really be *Christians*, we need to study the Bible as most of us never have before, noticing especially the example and teaching of Christ, and *repent* of our ways and surrender our lives to God in *baptism* that we may receive His Spirit to guide us.

If you feel that this is the very *work of God*—preaching Christ's message as a *witness* to this dying world, perhaps you would like to write us about being baptized. Each summer we send out teams of ministers or advanced, competent ministerial students from Ambassador College to baptize people all over the United States who request it. And you readers in Britain may now have this same opportunity by contacting our London office.

So if you would like to make the decision to give your very life to God, send us your name and address today to be put on our baptizing list.

May God help you to take this step if you are truly ready—and may He help you to find the glorious new and happy life of a *true Christian*—led by the Holy Spirit—and fulfilling the great *purpose* of human existence.

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

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

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH.

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

America Owes

\$30 BILLION DEBT TO GOD

for the Year 1955

Because of easy credit, Americans are tumbling head over heels into debt. But the largest DEBT of them all we seem to know nothing about!

by Herman L. Hoeh

AMERICANS are the richest people who have ever lived!

Our people possess more developed resources and national wealth than any people *ever* had before. Yet we are teetering on the brink of economic ruin.

Why?

We *know* that we *owe* a public and private debt SO HUGE that the next ten generations could not pay it off. *But what we don't know is that we owe an even GREATER DEBT to the God who made us and gives us everything we possess.*

And God is going to *collect* that debt within 20 years!

People Are Going too Deep in Debt

Private debt resulting from credit and installment buying is rising dangerously. It now stands at an all time *high*. Last year—1955—installment debts rose \$5 billion. And mortgage debts rose an average of \$1 billion *each month!*

This ballooning of private debt has provided us with an **ARTIFICIAL** prosperity. We are borrowing from *future* generations in order to enjoy the material pleasures of the moment. But the day of reckoning is *fast approaching*.

Notice what is actually happening:

A new report of the U. S. Census Bureau recently revealed that the individual States of this country are adding to their heavy debts about \$1.7 billion a year. They already owe about \$11.6 billion.

Add to this the fact that county and city debts already amount to \$31 billion. The Federal Government owes the paltry sum of \$275 billion. The total debt of Americans is over \$600,000,000,000!—in public and private debt.

BUT THIS IS NOT ALL! During the last

10 years alone Americans have accumulated—beside their public and private debt—another 130 billion dollar debt to God which we apparently know nothing about. *And this debt is climbing at a faster rate than all other debts combined!*

In England and elsewhere the same story is being repeated. The world owed every Briton, prior to World War I, the equivalent of \$500. Today, just forty years later, Great Britain is in debt to the rest of the world more than \$500 for each Briton. That means a net loss of over \$1000 per person for the entire nation in forty short years! And this does not include the debt every Briton owes to God!

Who Owns the Gold at Fort Knox?

Americans take for granted that we could never have a financial crisis because of all the gold stashed away at Fort Knox. It is time we quit taking facts for granted—when those facts are **NOT TRUE!**

True, we have \$21.8 billion in gold on reserve. But out of that, foreign nations hold claims against our gold totaling \$13.8 billion! That leaves us owning *only \$8 billion*.

Most of that \$13.8 billions which other nations claim has been *given* to other nations. In many instances, the U.S. government *buys* weapons from one foreign nation and *gives* them to another for its armed forces. We pay the country manufacturing the weapons in dollars. That country in turn can exchange the dollars, printed on paper, for gold we own.

Uncle Sam is left holding the money sack *without the money!*

And what does America receive in return for its generosity—or perhaps we ought to call it financial stupidity?

American aid to Greece is a good example. In 1947 Greece became the first nations to receive U.S. aid as a weapon to halt communism. From that year until 1956 America has poured \$2.8 billion into Greece, a nation of 8 million people. The results? One Greek voter out of two voted for Communist and fellow-traveling parties in the latest elections! Americans are disliked everywhere.

When will we learn we can't buy the friendship of quarreling allies with money?

Why Such a Stupendous Debt?

Something must be wrong in our economic planning. We have lost all sense of the value of money. Notice, for example, what we did with our income last year:

In round figures America had a net income of \$300,000,000,000—that is 300 billion dollars. It averages about \$1,800 per person, man, woman and child. How did we spend it? The government took away approximately 22% in taxes—that does not count all the hidden taxes. Out of what was left, Americans spent 33% on tobacco, alcohol and food. How much did we spend on *all* religious and welfare activities? *Only 1.4% of what remained after taxes!*

That is *part* of the reason why we are in such tremendous debt. Most people are so far removed from God that they don't realize that the Eternal Creator set definite **LAWS** in motion—invisible, yet inexorable laws, which regulate our personal economic conditions. A **KNOWLEDGE** of these *laws* would teach us to recognize the right value of money—would **KEEP US OUT OF DEBT**—and would give us life-long financial security!

But that is only *part* of the reason.

Here is the rest of the answer:

Over 400 Religious Counterfeits

Out of the \$3½ billion which Americans spent for all types of religious and welfare work—that is 1.4% of the national income after taxes—99.97% *did not go to God for His Work! God received only 3/100 of 1% of all the money spent for religious and welfare work.* The remainder was given to religious organizations and worldly institutions *masquerading* as the churches and the work of God.

Did you know that there are over 400 denominations and sects in the United States—all claiming to be the Church that Jesus built? Each of them claims a right to God's money. But unless they are all the churches that Christ built, *most of them have been taking money under false pretenses!*

Is it any wonder that we still owe God a debt of \$30 billion for last year alone? That is only 10% of our national income.

Out of every \$3,300 spent for religious and welfare purposes, God's work—*His one and only work*—received \$1. That's all!

Let's put it another way. Out of every \$3,000 earned, God was paid 1¢! God's work should have received 30,000 times as much! And God is going to *collect* that amount in less than 20 years. This nation is going to pay and pay dearly for *stealing* from God. Whatever amount we have refused to pay God He is going to deprive us of until we learn our lesson and pay our debts!

It is time we opened our eyes to see WHICH is the *only work on earth* that is carrying out Jesus' commission to preach and publish the "gospel of the Kingdom of God to all nations." There are *many counterfeits* preaching about *another gospel*—a perverted gospel—but there is *only one work*, God's work, which is performing the task Jesus said must be done before the end of this age closes in upon humanity. THIS IS THAT WORK—bringing you the good news of *the World Tomorrow*—the gospel of the Kingdom and the rule of God.

Many are not yet hearing God's message because *God's treasury on earth is being robbed by a pleasure-mad, sensual generation that's going deeper into debt*

every hour because it can't lay its hands on money fast enough!

Man's first debt is to God, yet He is the last one we want to pay. How much better off we would have been had we paid the 10% we owed God instead of paying about 33% in direct and hidden taxes to support a top-heavy government and a gigantic armaments race that is destined to boomerang on human civilization and obliterate it, if God does not intervene in world affairs to save us.

People Deprive Themselves of Blessings

Happiness and joy cannot be purchased by money. Money may increase them, but it cannot create them. What this entire generation needs to realize is that we are spending our money at the wrong end. Instead of squandering money in a mad rush to buy happiness, we need to pay only a fraction of what we are now spending and we would find the source of happiness, as well as the source of national protection.

Many of you are right now heavily in debt because you have cut yourselves off from the only source that could have given you wisdom to keep out of debt—God. And you are not going to deliver yourself from debt until you make direct contact with God. You will never learn the laws that regulate your financial prosperity *until you begin to practice them.*

Yes, strange as it seems, we can prosper and be free from debt *if we pay God to be our financial partner.* In this partnership *God gives you 90%* of the income. Think of how much this country would have saved if we made God our *national partner!*

The 10%, which God reserved for Himself since the creation of the world, is called a *tithe*. It is an old English word meaning "tenth." The tithe belongs to God. Since God uses His—*not "your"*—tithe for the furtherance of His work on earth, it ought to be paid to His work. God's ministers are merely the agents who *receive* God's tithe and who spend it for the good of the people *as He directs.*

If this nation had been faithful in tithe paying, God's work would be growing 30,000 times faster each year than it is presently growing. Everyone

could then hear and understand the laws that regulate our financial well-being. There would be no private or national debt. There would be no communist menace threatening the free world. All the nations would see our prosperity and *tremble at our feet for help.* Today, because we have failed to pay God His tithe, we seek Gentile nations as partners and *we tremble* before them whenever they slap us in the face for meddling in their internal affairs.

Why can't we learn what a Friend God is? Notice what God says of the tithe payer Abraham: "And he—Abraham—believed God, . . . and he was called *God's friend*" (James 2:23). Abraham believed God meant what He said. God said the first tenth is His. Therefore Abraham "gave Him"—God's high priest Melchizedek—"a TENTH of all" (Genesis 14:20). Abraham paid God's tithe to God's representative. God was Abraham's partner. Notice how Abraham was blessed:

It Paid Abraham to be God's Friend

"Fear not, Abram, I am thy shield, thy *reward* shall be exceeding great" (Gen. 15:1). There is a REWARD that comes of tithing. God prospers the tither and delivers him out of debt. Do you believe God can do for you what He did for Abraham? Or are you a *doubter?* or a robber of God's treasury? Do you want His blessings or His curses? Notice Malachi 3:9-12: "Ye are cursed with a curse, Yet ye rob Me, even this whole nation. Bring ye the whole tithe into the store-house," says God, "and try Me now herewith, saith the Eternal of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall be more than sufficiency . . . And all nations shall call you happy; for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Eternal of hosts."

That is God's promise—and God cannot lie. Isn't it about time you take God up on His promise?

This Work Must Grow Hundreds of Times LARGER

This work of God, carrying God's message to the nations, must grow hundreds of times bigger before our job in this age is completed. It never will unless
(Please continue on page 18)

Wrong Education

(Continued from page 6)

had he proceeded from the beginning as God intended!

Not All Education Is Wrong

I do not say everything taught in this world's educational institutions is erroneous and false. On the contrary, MUCH of it is true, accurate knowledge. Insofar as scientific men have stuck to pure observation, measurement, laboratory tests and definite practical experiments, they have been most cautious, conscientious and accurate. It is where they have mixed human speculation of "The UNKNOWN" with observed and known facts—rejecting the revelation of God—that they have gone into gross and ridiculous error.

"The fear of The Eternal is *the beginning* of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do His Commandments" (Psa. 111:10). Jesus said, "Ye shall *know* the TRUTH, and the TRUTH shall make you FREE." Notice: "Ye shall KNOW." Knowing is KNOWLEDGE—EDUCATION!

Ignorance and a false education have enslaved the human race in fear, inequality, discontent, unhappiness, poverty, sickness, suffering and DEATH! It is *only* the TRUTH that can now set men FREE!

And what is TRUTH? "Thy Word," Jesus said, "is TRUTH." The BIBLE is God's Word! It reveals the way to WORLD PEACE. It leads men out of fear into FAITH; out of the bondage of sin into the freedom of GRACE; out of sickness into HEALTH; out of suffering and death into LIFE! It reveals the LAWS OF LIFE which alone can lead to peace, prosperity, happiness, joy and eternal life.

But this precious fund of KNOWLEDGE the wise of this world REJECT! God's laws and ways they flout and disobey!

Instead, the learned of this world have become so steeped in the fables of a God-rejecting materialism masquerading falsely under the attractive names of "rationalism," "modern science," "higher education," that it has become impossible to UNlearn these deceptions and come to a knowledge of the TRUTH!

Sad Results of MISeducation

That's why so many of the highly educated are agnostics or atheists.

That's why so FEW of those educated in this world become converted, living truly spiritual Christian lives!

Today the TRUTH appears mere FOOLISHNESS to the highly-educated of this world! "Howbeit . . . we speak not the wisdom of this world . . . but we speak the wisdom of God . . . which none of the princes of this world knew . . . *For the wisdom of this world is FOOLISHNESS with GOD!*" (I Cor. 2:6-7; 3:19).

And *that's WHY* the statesmen and the leaders of THIS world are unable to bring us WORLD PEACE—*that's WHY* this world's human LEADERS are unable to usher in HUMAN HAPPINESS AND JOY! Today the world's ONLY HOPE is the supernatural intervention of GOD ALMIGHTY.

But there is *also* something the Eternal God made it possible for me to do about it, specifically and definitely, HERE AND NOW! The vision of a new and different college of higher learning, recognizing these fundamental TRUTHS, came like a revelation straight from God, in the spring of the year 1946. Circumstances positively providential made it possible for me to FOUND just such a college, in cultural, beautiful Pasadena, California, in the fall of 1947.

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

Ambassador College is a co-educational liberal arts and theological institution, distinct in a number of ways.

It holds the distinction of being one of America's youngest colleges, at the same time maintaining an exceedingly high ratio of competent, experienced faculty personnel, with academic standards at highest levels, a spiritual atmosphere that is unique, and providing a cultural setting of tone and character, with a magnificently landscaped campus. It is guided by a sound educational philosophy both progressive and unique, unfettered by the errors and evils of tradition. The college offers superior facilities within its field.

At Ambassador the emphasis is upon character building. To that end the small student body and current ratio of one full time professor to each six students provides a distinct advantage.

The Ambassador policy is based upon the recognition that true education is not of the intellect alone but of the whole personality—not of technologies, sciences and arts alone, but an understanding of the purpose of life, a knowledge of the spiritual laws which govern our lives, our God-relationship and human relationships; not a memorizing of knowledge alone but a thorough training in self-discipline, self-expression, cultural and character development; not book learning only, but broadening travel and experience; not only hearing and learning, but doing.

Truly, without vision, the people perish. But when The Eternal builds the house, we have assurance He 'will not drop the work He has begun,'—it shall remain forever! Ambassador started the smallest of all colleges, but, like the grain of mustard seed, its destiny is unlimited growth and greatness! Already it has *multiplied* in size 14 times over!

Here at Ambassador young men and women from all over the United States come to know WHY they were born—very *few* in the world, today, know that—their REAL PURPOSE in life! They learn to recapture the TRUE VALUES of life. They learn the real SUCCESS SECRETS of life—the *principles* for achieving SUCCESS — ACCOMPLISHMENT! They learn to REALLY UNDERSTAND the BIBLE! They lead jam-packed lives—they have to budget their time in order to get in the necessary hours of study, of work, of recreation and play.

Young People—Note

To the young people of college age who really hunger and thirst for *true* KNOWLEDGE to really learn what LIFE is all about—its purpose, its laws, its true values, who are ambitious not only for this rare quality of higher education, but also for a life of ACHIEVEMENT, and who have the will to WORK for it, the self-discipline to acquire it, *I extend an invitation to write for the Ambassador College Catalog for the 1956-57 year.*

High School graduation in good standing is required. Most of our students are working their own way through. The college provides unusual opportunities for ambitious students in the way of employment on the campus. The college catalog will bring you full information.

Can it be BROKEN?

Skeptics say it can. Christ said, "the Scripture cannot be broken." HERE IS THE PROOF!

by Herbert W. Armstrong



THE GREAT, startling headlines of WORLD NEWS for the next 15 to 20 years are already written in advance—yet heads of governments, and most of the people, IGNORE them.

Tomorrow's news is written in Biblical PROPHECY before these world-shaking events occur—but then, the world today has gotten away from believing in the AUTHORITY of this world's greatest seller. Few really believe the BIBLE means what it says—still fewer UNDERSTAND its prophecies.

We are living now in an age of skepticism. I am going to show you how God Almighty dares the skeptics to disprove the divine revelation—the divine inspiration of the Bible.

The Challenge of God Almighty

If the Bible is not the inspired word of God, if the Bible prophecies are not absolutely sure, then that fact can be very easily demonstrated.

Here is how!

A month ago, I gave you proof of fulfilled prophecy in the case of Tyre, one of the ancient cities of the world.

Ezekiel also wrote about another city, Sidon. Sidon is a city about 30 miles north of Tyre, on the Mediterranean, still more ancient. It was the mother city. Tyre was merely originally one of Sidon's colonies.

Sidon had been declining for centuries while Tyre had been building up as the great city of the world. In the year of 351 B.C., Sidon was in a state of decay.

I want to read to you *its present condition* from the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the current edition, article, "Sidon." "Sidon, once the principle city of Phoe-

nicia, now the principle town of the southern district of Great Lebanon . . . is today a city of 10,000 inhabitants—the majority of whom are Moslems."

Continuing about Sidon: "History: Older than Tyre and acknowledged as its mother . . . the Philistines destroyed its fleet and laid the city in ashes. Assyria and Babylonia . . . led armies against her to disturb her peace and loot her treasures . . . The Persian yoke . . . supplanted the Babylonian and an injudicious revolt against Artaxerxes Ochus met with condign punishment."

In 351 B.C. *Sidon was absolutely destroyed for its revolt*. But Sidon rose again. Further, *The Britannica* says: "Unlike Tyre, (Sidon) submitted without resistance to Alexander the Great."

If Ezekiel's prophecy were merely human speculation, do you think it would have been a logical guess, about 350 B.C., that Old Tyre would never be rebuilt, and New Tyre would finally be destroyed, that Sidon, on the other hand, would remain? That is exactly what was prophesied.

Now let's turn to the prophecy in Ezekiel 28 beginning with verse 20: "Again the word of the Eternal came unto me saying, Son of man, set thy face *against Sidon*, and prophecy against it and say, Thus saith the Lord Eternal, Behold, I am against thee, O Sidon. And I will send into her pestilence and blood into her streets, and the wounded shall be judged in the midst of her by the sword

on every side, and they shall know that I am the Eternal."

Now you will notice that there isn't one word saying that Sidon was to be destroyed *and never rebuilt*. God's judgment on Sidon was *not of utter extinction* as it was on Tyre, *but blood in her streets, wounded in her city, the sword on every side*—a continuously existing city—but reduced and in constant trouble!

Not To Be Utterly Destroyed

No city on the face of this earth has ever undergone so much suffering, except the city of Jerusalem. Sidon has been often destroyed and again rebuilt, destroyed and rebuilt, destroyed and rebuilt. It is there today with 10,000 population.

How did the prophet Ezekiel—how could any human man—if this was not divinely inspired, have known that Sidon would continue to exist, suffering all the while, but that Tyre, the big city, would never be rebuilt? *There is every reason why Tyre should be rebuilt*—wonderful soil all around, water, a wonderful harbor, every reason in the world why it should have been rebuilt. **BUT GOD SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT!**

Sidon, however, is a city today of 10,000 population. All is exactly as prophesied. There has been blood in her streets, wounded in the city, the sword on all sides. The article that I quoted to you in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* will

give you the history up till now. Sidon still lives—exactly as prophesied.

But Tyre suffered utter desolation. No city is there today—exactly as this prophecy said. Was this divine inspiration, or was it human guess? *How did it happen that whoever wrote this prophecy prophesied exactly as it was going to happen BOTH TIMES?*

NEVER HAS ANY UNINSPIRED HUMAN MADE SUCH A PROPHECY FOR 2,000 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE AND BROUGHT IT TO PASS. Nothing in those two cities would have indicated the fate at the time the prophecy was written. Neither in 590 B.C., nor, if the skeptics would prefer to say it was written about 330 B.C., at that time.

Another Prophecy Defies Skeptics

There is yet another striking prophecy

bearing ample testimony of Biblical inspiration. It is about another famous city in the ancient world—the city of Ashkelon.

The prophet Zephaniah lived and wrote about 630 B.C. It was before the captivity of Judah. He was warning the Jews in the first chapter of his prophecy of the captivity that was coming. There is a principle of duality in this book as there is in most prophecies, a type and anti-type. The prophecy refers literally to the Jews of that time, six hundred years before Christ; but it refers also to our time now, in the twentieth century A.D. in the years just ahead of us. Almost no one understands this type and anti-type, this duality in the prophecies. You can't understand prophecy unless you understand it. That is one of the vital keys to Bible knowledge.

The busy harbor of Sidon. Prophecy foretold that the decaying city of Sidon would be inhabited through the centuries whereas its prosperous sister city, Tyre, would become a rock for casting fishing nets. BOTH prophecies have been exactly fulfilled.

Chapter 2 in this book of Zephaniah foretells the fate of the nations neighboring on Judah, and hostile to Judah, especially the sea coast cities of the Philistines: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod and Ekron.

Notice Zephaniah 2:4-7: "Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon, a *desolation*: they shall drive out Ashkelon at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up."

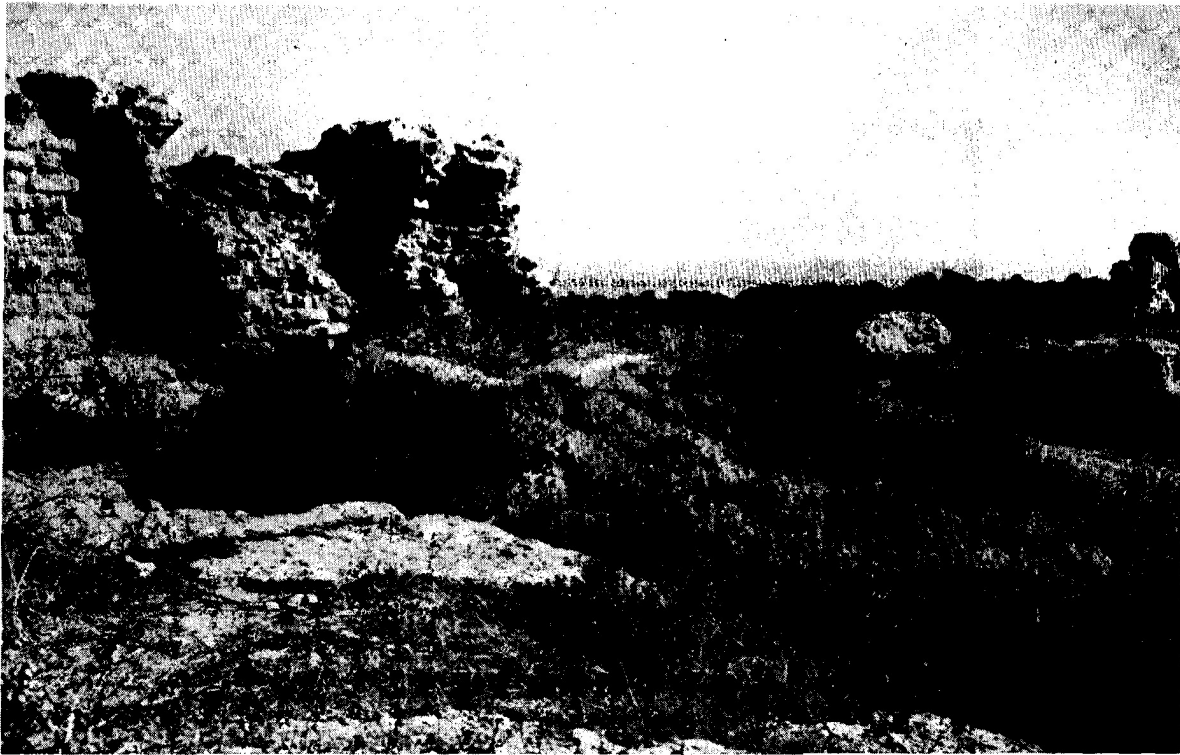
Now verse 7: "And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah, they shall feed thereupon."

My friends, that has happened! That very territory is today in the nation that is called modern "Israel."

Observe the seventh verse once again. "And the coast (of the Mediterranean, in Palestine) shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah: they shall feed thereupon." The *remnant is the last gen-*

—Westminster Films Photo





—Westminster Films Photo

The ruins of Ashkelon. Over 2500 years ago the prophets foretold that this once-flourishing city would be desolate and belong to the Jews today. This has happened, confounding the skeptics.

eration. In other words, the twentieth century, right now, in our time!

Prophecy Absolutely Fulfilled

Turn quickly to Zechariah 9:3-6. "And Tyrus did build herself a strong hold, and heaped up silver as the dust, and fine gold as the mire in the streets. Behold the Eternal will cast her out, and He will smite her power in the sea, and she shall be devoured with fire." There is another prophecy showing what happened to Tyre. Continuing: "Ashkelon shall see it, and fear; Gaza also shall see it, and be very sorrowful; and Ekron, for her expectation, shall be ashamed; and the king shall perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon shall not be inhabited."

Ashkelon was never to be rebuilt, the same as Tyre. "And a mongrel people shall dwell in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines." (Moffatt translation.)

All that has happened. In the year of 520 B.C., God prophesied that He would smite Tyre into the sea to be devoured, as it was in 332 B.C. Gaza shall be "sorrowful, forsaken," but not destroyed. Gaza rebounded—it is still there today, a population of 21,000 people. No king has since dwelt there. Ekron has about 1000 people today. In Ashdod, a mongrel people abide.

From the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, here are the facts of how that prophecy has been fulfilled. "With the Moslem conquest after the 6th century A.D., (Ashdod) generally sank into insignificance." Mongrel people are there today. The city has sunk into insignificance, but it is there.

Remember "Ashkelon shall not be inhabited"—"a desolation" (Zech. 9:5 and Zeph. 2:4).

Notice what the *Encyclopedia Britannica* says: "Ashkelon, now a desolate site"—the same words that God uses in the Bible—and further, "protruding from this sand-swept terrain, shattered columns and the remnants of ruined buildings and broken walls bear ample testimony to a past magnificence.

You can go to that desolate site of Ashkelon today and see with your own eyes—absolute desolation. You can see nothing is there. Does God Almighty exist? Could any but a divine God, a Creator, foretell these things and bring them to pass *all* as He has?

Here is proof that no skeptic can doubt. And God dares and challenges any skeptic to try to refute these prophecies. If you can refute them, you can refute the authority of the Bible!

America's Debt to God

(Continued from page 14)

hundreds and thousands of people like you begin to *pay their debt to God* and ask for God's mercy to be shown to the rest of the nation before it is too late. Time is fast running out!

As a financial partner, God is not interested in money for money's sake. He is interested in *your welfare*—"that in all things you prosper and be in health" (III John 1). Whatever you owe God as a past debt, HE IS WILLING TO FORGIVE AND CANCEL OUT. But what God does expect is *your obedience from here on*. When the knowledge of God's ways reaches your mind, He holds you accountable.

Anyone who refuses to obey God will have to pay Him every debt, material and spiritual. But for those who REPENT of transgressing God's spiritual and physical laws, there is forgiveness through the death of Christ, and the promise of material and spiritual blessings without end.

What are you going to do about it?