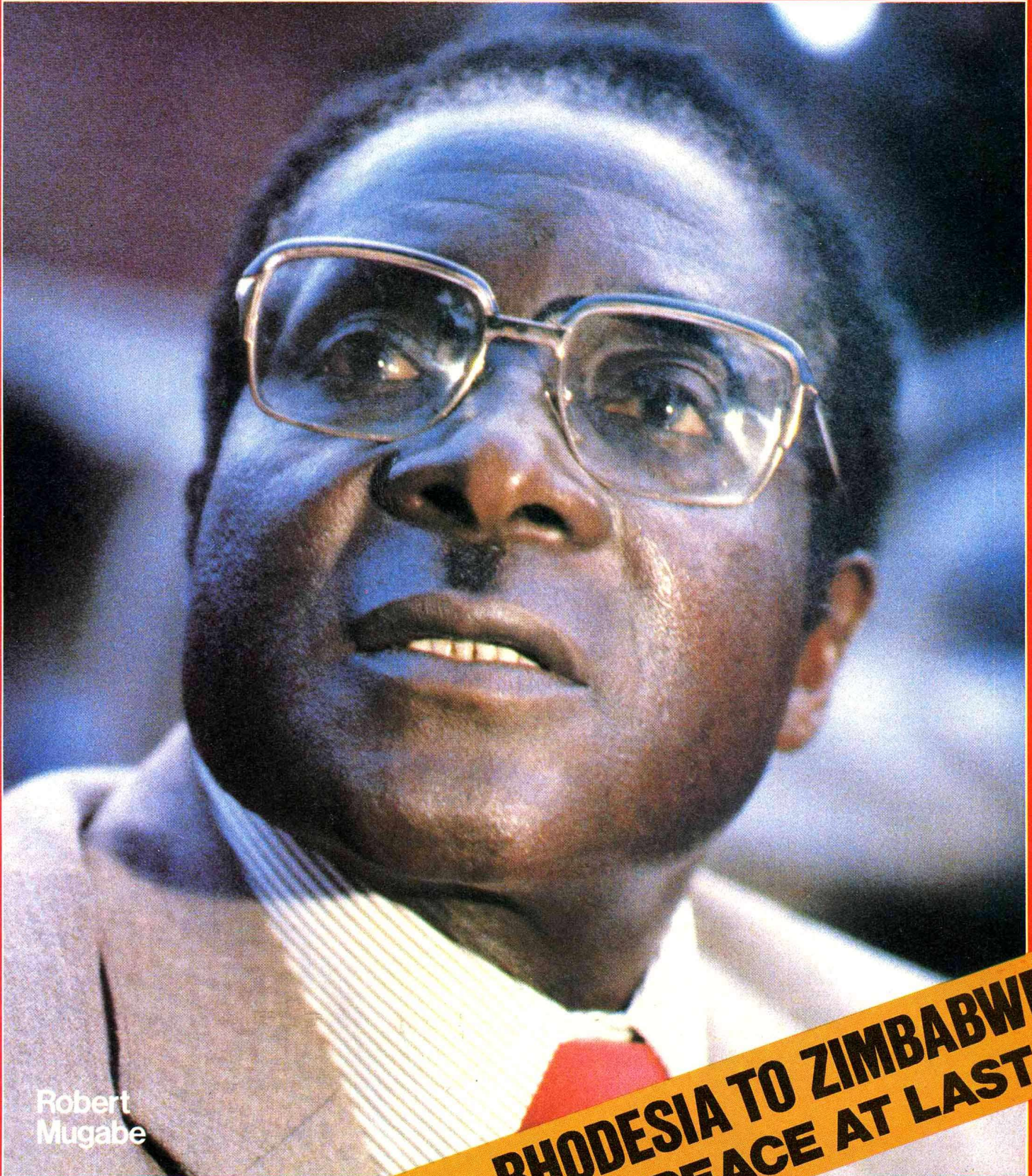


MAY 1980

THE
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

**PROPHETIC
LOOK
INTO TOMORROW**
See Page 1



Robert
Mugabe

**RHODESIA TO ZIMBABWE:
PEACE AT LAST?**



Personal from...

A very sobering issue of The Plain Truth—now like an entirely new magazine. The meaning of world events today—a prophetic look into tomorrow!

IN ALL our worldwide activities, I have personally been initiating a housecleaning. *The Plain Truth* is now a much improved magazine. As always, it still is *ahead of its time!* It is entirely unique—unlike any other—giving you the *meaning* of the now fast-moving world events today—and giving you a look into the world TOMORROW! You get this UNDERSTANDING in no other magazine.

The Plain Truth is now running around two million copies monthly. It should be the largest-circulation publication on earth. We hope to expand it to that.

When we turned our calendars over to January 1, 1980, we were entering a new DECADE not only—but a new and more active phase of this fateful TIME OF THE END! As I have written before, entering the decade of the 1980s is an entirely “new ball game.”

Actually the world did not realize it, but we entered the “time of the end” (of this world’s civilization) about January 1, 1900—as the 20th century dawned.

How well I remember that moment! I knew nothing at that moment of the fateful century I was to experience. I was 7½ years old. My parents took me to a “watch-night” in a Methodist church in Des Moines, Iowa. Along about 9 o’clock that night I wanted to lean over and go to sleep. My father kept waking me and sternly whispering I must stay awake. Time and again I would start to drift off into slumber—but my father was very attentive. What a relief when the clock struck 12—the old century gone and the hectic 20th century ushered in. At that moment I had no desire to live (awake) on into this 20th century. All I wanted was to drift off to sleep!

The old horse-drawn streetcars had just been replaced by the electric trolley car. Very few homes had telephones (hung on a wall, with a handle to ring a bell). Such things as airplanes, radio, television, motion pictures were unheard of.

Modern science was yet in its infancy. Technology and the Machine Age were in swaddling clothes. No one had yet heard of the automobile. Indian tribes still ran free from parts of Iowa and west and south. But 2½ years before, I had seen for the first time a President of the

United States—William McKinley.

But what has whipped by since then? When I was 11 Orville Wright made the first flight of some 50 or 100 feet in an “airplane.” By 1914 airplanes played an important part in World War I. The automobile came—first as a “horseless carriage” guided by a stick instead of a wheel. World War I started the downward plunge in morals. I was shocked to see women working as elevator operators in the Marshall Field store in Chicago. Women were beginning to “win their rights.” Everybody was out to GET his “rights.” Women won the vote. The emancipation of women had begun—and with it the collapse of the FAMILY STRUCTURE.

After World War I it became legal to publish information about sex. The moral toboggan-slide was on. Family life began disintegrating. Science and technology, promising the world a new age of leisure, license and luxury, began producing more and more terrifying weapons of mass destruction. Then, came radio, movies and after World War II, television. We entered the age of mass transportation, instant communication, the NUCLEAR Age that empowers one madman at the head of a government to blast all LIFE from off this planet. But never mind! We now can go to other planets!

A man by my family name (but no relation) was the first to set foot on the moon. We have sent cameras to land on the surface of Mars and send back close-ups of the martian surface.

All the while, people have more and more fiercely striven against others to “GET” or to “TAKE” from them. Violence has spread over all nations of the earth. We await the WAR that will DESTROY ALL HUMANITY!

In this mad, mad struggle for advantage in a technological world that in near-fatal sickness HAS LOST ITS WAY, *The Plain Truth* continues, after more than 46 years, to give you true UNDERSTANDING of today’s brutal world and to give you a look into the FUTURE—to bring you the GOOD NEWS of what finally WILL take place on this earth! A time when PEACE and RIGHTEOUSNESS, HAPPINESS and knowledge of RIGHT WAYS will cover the

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Part Four:

A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion

How could the world have become so mixed up? Out of this spiritual wilderness, a voice cries out in clarity and power, with the reassuring truth of the world's only and sure hope!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Editor's note: We are printing here, serially, the new book by Herbert W. Armstrong with the same title as this article. The book will appear in bookstores later this year.

Chapter 3

Part Two: WHO AND WHAT IS GOD?

THE CHARACTER OF both God the Father and Christ the Son is that of spiritual holiness, righteousness and absolute perfection.

That character might be summed up in the one word LOVE, defined as an out-flowing loving concern. It is the way of giving, serving, helping, sharing, not the "GET" way.

It is the way devoid of coveting, lust and greed, vanity and selfishness, competition, strife, violence and

destruction, envy and jealousy, resentment and bitterness.

God's inherent nature is the way of PEACE, of JUSTICE, MERCY, HAPPINESS and JOY radiating outward toward those He has created!

WHAT and HOW Does God Create?

Since God is Creator, to *know* Him we need to understand WHAT and HOW He creates—what is His overall PURPOSE.

God's major PURPOSE is the creation of His very own perfect CHARACTER within His own created living beings.

But did you know that there is something that even GOD—with all His mighty and supreme power *cannot do*—of Himself by *fiat*?

God has created many things. The ancient King David mused, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained"—great, vast in size and distance—works of God's creation, David then asked, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:3-4.)

Yes, a hundred thousand people, assembled in the Pasadena Rose

Bowl on New Year's Day, seen from 1,000 or 2,000 feet above, look like tiny insignificant ants—or even smaller insects. WHY should God be mindful of insignificant MAN? In the second chapter of Hebrews this same psalm is quoted, and there God's Word proceeds to reveal that in MAN God purposes to complete the very highest pinnacle of the perfection of His creation! Yet God cannot do this alone—all by Himself! We were created to have our part in this supreme act of creation.

God's own perfect and righteous spiritual CHARACTER in MAN is the supreme goal of God—His ultimate PURPOSE! But MAN must have a *part* in this supreme feat of creation!

This creation of character within created beings requires the existence of MIND within those beings—the capability of thought processes, reasoning, decision making. Of all living things and beings God has created, only two, angels and humans, have that mind-power. It is, therefore, only in angels and humans that God's perfect spiritual and righteous character may be formed.

On earth God has created the flora—plant forms of life, as well as the fauna—animal forms. Plants, grass, grain, fruits, flowers have life and reproduce themselves. But they do not have brain or mind. They have no possibility of character development.

The fauna have brains, but apart from humans they do not have MINDS. There is not in them the same self-consciousness, thinking and reasoning ability that is in man.

Therefore, of all life forms created on earth out of matter, only *humans* have the potential of having God's character created in them. (Incidentally it follows, then, that God's purpose in creating the fauna and flora on earth is primarily for the benefit of man. Much of both fauna and flora serves as food for man. Some as food for animals. Flowers, vines and grass for beauty and for the enjoyment of man.)

And, as stated, God created angels with mind-power. So it devolves down to the fact that of all separate entities created by God, only two—angels and humans—have the potential of character creation.

The Duality in Creation

But now an important fact in HOW God creates. There is a duality principle involved.

God creates in *two stages*.

I am reminded, as an analogy in explaining this, of certain furniture stores. Most cities in the United States have a store selling "unfinished furniture" or "furniture in the raw." Often such furniture is of very fine quality. It is new, fresh from the factory, but it is unfinished—the varnish, polish or paint has not been applied. It is finish-it-yourself furniture.

Few if any have known it, but God created this earth and all planets in this unfinished state.

It was mentioned in chapter 3 that angels were created before even matter. God formed angels with minds, even superior to human minds. They are composed of spirit. But some "appeared" by some process of manifestation to Abraham (Genesis 18), to Mary Magdalene (John 20:12), and before the apostles (Acts 1:10-11)—and they appeared in the form and shape of men. Ordinary angels

do not have wings, but the two higher-rank angels, seraphs and cherubs, are revealed as having wings.

It is important to know that angels were created in *two stages*. The duality principle applied to their creation as it did to the creation of the earth and of man.

Perfect, holy and righteous character, as already explained, is something God Himself cannot automatically create by *fiat*. (The analogy of unfinished furniture applies.) But God did create angels with *mind-power*. God also of necessity gave them free moral agency—the right of free choice—the right and ability to think, to reason, to make decisions and conclusions.

Definition of Character

At this point let me define holy, righteous, perfect spiritual character:

This perfect spiritual character is the ability of a separately created entity with mind and free moral agency to come to the knowledge of the right as opposed to the wrong, to decide and *will to do* the right, even against desires or pulls to do the wrong, and finally to overcome pulls toward the wrong until doing the *right* becomes fixed nature.

But since the right way is simply God's way—the way of God's own character and the way of God's Law—and righteous and perfect spiritual character is God's character, that character must actually come *from* God, but on the decision and *will* of the separate entity.

Now consider: In the original creation of the angels, it was impossible for God to build or create this character in them by *fiat*. That would have made them mere automatons or machines—it would not have been character.

Therefore, the creation of angels could not be completed in the original creation as an act of God. Their finished creation could not be finished—complete—until their own developed character—either righteous or evil—had been formed and instilled within them—by their own volition, decision and will.

God placed them on the earth at the time of its creation (Job 38:4-7). The earth, like the furniture in the

raw, was as yet UNFINISHED. It was perfect as far as God had made it. But He intended the angels to put on the final finishing touches—beautifying it—developing its usefulness. The very doing of this was the training ground to develop angelic character. God intended them to work the earth—by utilizing the physical and chemical elements and forces already present in the earth.

In order to regulate them in peaceful harmony and unity, and guide them in character development, God placed over them THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.

To administer this worldwide GOVERNMENT, God placed a super archangel, named Light-bringer—Lucifer, in Latin—one of the supreme, top-ranking and empowered archangels, who were cherubs. They represented the supreme masterpiece of God's creative accomplishment, so far as spirit beings directly created was concerned.

This Lucifer had been trained in the administration of the Government of God. He was one of two cherubs whose wings covered the very throne of God. He was perfect in knowledge and in all his ways from the day God created him until iniquity—lawless rebellion—was found in him.

As long as the Government of God was administered on earth, there was earthwide PEACE, happiness, joy and rewarding accomplishment.

We are not told in the Bible how long that was. It might have been millions of years (angels are immortal) or it might have been a very few years.

But Lucifer allowed jealousy and envy against God to turn him to rebellion. He became resentful and bitter. He turned to a spirit of competition instead of obedience and cooperation, and that led to violence and destruction. The LIGHT of God's truth, which had once filled his mind, turned to utter darkness. He led the angels under him—a third of all created angels—into rebellion with him. In his vanity he tried to exalt himself above God (Isaiah 14:12-15) and led his angels into an invasion of God's heaven to try to defeat God.

A destruction of wasteness and decay came over the face of the earth
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They Ignore God the Father... Do You?

There are two basic common and universal errors in the preaching of the "Gospel" by this world's "Christianity."

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHAT ARE THE two most universal errors in the proclaiming of the "Gospel" by the various sects and denominations of traditional Christianity today?

1) They ignore God the Father, and 2), they proclaim a FALSE GOSPEL—in which God the Father is mostly ignored. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news that Jesus Christ, as God's Messenger, brought. In other words, the message GOD THE FATHER sent to mankind by His Son and Messenger (Malachi 3:1) to mankind.

Jesus said plainly, "I speak that which I have seen with my Father . . . for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me" (John 8:38, 42). Again, Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works" (John 14:10).

In the first sermon Peter spoke to gentiles, he said, "The word [Gospel] which God sent . . . preaching peace by Jesus Christ . . ." (Acts 10:36).

That message from God the Father was not proclaimed *to the world* from the middle of the first century, when it was suppressed, until the middle of the 20th century. Then, after going to the United States coast to coast, it began, January 7, 1953, reaching all Europe.

What has been proclaimed? MAN'S "gospel" about the Person of the Messenger, but omitting His MESSAGE, which came from God the Father.

Now how else do they ignore God the Father?

They preach Christ—but Him *only*.

Let me explain something here. There are *two* WAYS of life: 1) the way of GETTING, receiving, acquir-

ing—the way of SELF-centeredness; and 2) the way of GIVING, of helping, cooperating, sharing, of outflowing LOVE—which is the way of GOD-centeredness.

Now how do they of traditional Christianity preach?

Assuming that this is the *only* time of salvation, they plead with people, "RECEIVE Christ"—in other words, "GET," not "GIVE."

They believe the blood of Jesus—Christ's death, *gives* LIFE. But LIFE cannot come from death! Notice Romans 5:10: "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to GOD [the Father] by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his LIFE." We are not saved—given eternal life—by Christ's shed blood—by His death. We are reconciled to GOD THE FATHER by Christ's death.

How is that? The penalty of SIN is death. Sin *IS* the transgression of God's LAW (I John 3:4). There is ONE Lawgiver. NOT Jesus, but God the Father! When we sin we are CUT OFF FROM GOD THE FATHER! That is what modern "Christianity" ignores. All have sinned. All have put an impassable WALL between themselves and God the Father. We must be reconciled to God *first*, for it is HE who has eternal life to give!

How may we be reconciled to God the Father? By REAL REPENTANCE. Repentance is toward GOD the Father, and faith is toward Jesus (Acts 20:21).

Once we truly REPENT, which means a complete change of ATTITUDE, way of life and purpose, then our faith in Jesus Christ and His shed blood for payment of the penalty of our sins, destroys that impassable WALL between us and GOD the

Father—and we then may receive His Holy Spirit—after we have GIVEN our life, through repentance and faith, to Christ, who bought and paid for it by His DEATH.

Then our salvation—gift of eternal life—is made possible by Christ's RESURRECTION—by HIS LIFE!

But this world's Christianity thinks it may receive eternal *life* from Jesus' DEATH, and from Jesus ALONE—leaving out the FATHER.

And once converted—changed—what then? We must KEEP reconciled to GOD by obedience to His Law. If we make a slip, or fall down along the way, then IF we "confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (I John 1:9).

Of course, traditional Christianity has lost sight of GOD'S LAW and of what constitutes SIN. They ignore the fact we must be first reconciled to God THE FATHER!

None can come to Jesus for eternal salvation, except God the Father first *draws him!* Jesus said plainly in John 6:44: "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him."

It is God the Father who decides whom He shall call. It is God the Father from whom we have cut ourselves off by transgressing His Law. It is the Father who has the Holy Spirit to give. The sinner must first of all, upon being called, REPENT—change his mind and attitude in regard to sin, and obedience to God's WAY OF LIFE!

How does God call one? He DRAWS one (John 6:44) by the magnetic POWER of His Holy Spirit, working externally from outside one. Through His Spirit, God *convicts* one. On the very day Christ founded the Church, Peter had preached a

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ENERGY

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the World Tomorrow, for example, there will be highways: "In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria . . ." (Isaiah 19:23). The fact of highways and travel implies some means of rapid transportation—perhaps even superior to cars as we know them. Rapid transportation, of course, implies energy.

Moreover, one of the few good things about today's world is our modern means of transportation and communication which, among other things, allow the Gospel to go forth in a way which would have been *impossible* before. Does it make sense that the great God would not allow people during the time of His direct rule to have the benefits (without the curses, of course) of rapid communication and transportation?

Consider that during the time of God's Kingdom there will be times (at least once a year) when whole nations will travel to the city of Jerusalem to observe the Feast (Zechariah 14:18-19). How could such gargantuan projects possibly be done if energy was being doled out miserly?

Moreover, God's Kingdom will in all likelihood preside over a vast *tourism* industry. The institution of land sabbaths and the jubilee year, as described in the 25th chapter of Leviticus, means that many people will enjoy *whole years* of leisure time. Such time will, of course, not be idled away, but used productively. One obvious productive use of such time is travel—the opportunity to see different peoples, customs, lands. Such tourism naturally implies abundant, overflowing energy supplies. And since it will be God's world, God can show man how to use energy without polluting the environment.

In contrast to the danger—and even potential tyranny which the energy crisis portends for this present evil world, God's world will stand in delightful contrast. □

Ignore God?

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Spirit-inspired sermon. Three thousand there were "pricked in their heart"—"they were cut to the heart" (Revised Standard Version); "it went straight to their hearts" (Moffatt translation). In other words their whole minds and attitudes were convicted of guilt and changed, ready for repentance—a COMPLETE CHANGE TO GOD'S WAY OF LIFE. This led them to repentance TOWARD GOD THE FATHER. Then they BELIEVED on Jesus Christ, were baptized, and God the Father then gave them His HOLY SPIRIT!

NOW WHAT GOSPEL did Jesus bring from God the Father? What was the MESSAGE the Father sent to mankind by Jesus? In Mark 1:1, 14, 15, we read: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ . . . after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the KINGDOM OF GOD is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel."

Jesus proclaimed the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, based on the LAW OF GOD, to rule the whole earth, at Christ's Second Coming—now SOON!

The KINGDOM OF GOD is the divine born FAMILY OF GOD, of which God the FATHER is Father of the entire Family.

Today, by leaving God the Father out of their message, the churches of traditional Christianity do not know that a real and true Christian may be, in this life, only BEGOTTEN by receiving the Holy Spirit—which is the begetting of God-life—and may be BORN a full GOD BEING, immortal, composed of Spirit, at the resurrection of the just—at Christ's coming!

In a word, by ignoring God the Father, they make the life, Gospel, death and resurrection of JESUS CHRIST utterly MEANINGLESS!

Let us be sure we have God the Father and the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ BOTH in the picture, as they, themselves, have placed themselves! □

Societies

(Continued from page 35)

society. They are to teach the young the right way to live (Job 32:7; Titus 2:2-5).

The Western world is backwards. It has the older generation dependent upon the younger generations. God's way is for the younger generations to be dependent for wisdom upon the older generation (Proverbs 13:22; I Corinthians 12:14)!

The basis of a stable society is a strong, extended family circle anchored to the family property and investments. The world is learning the hard way that once a society cuts its ties with the land and residential property, it sets itself adrift. Notice how the fifth commandment in its entirety makes mention of the land in connection with sound family relations: "Honour thy father and thy mother: *that thy days may be long upon the land* which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

How so?

Respecting and heeding the wisdom of the aged makes it possible to avoid many mistakes, thus promoting a longer and happier life. The apostle Paul, in repeating the commandment, added the thought "that it may be well with you" (Ephesians 6:3).

What Tomorrow's World Will Be Like

When Jesus returns to the earth to save this generation from its folly and to set up God's Government, society will be structured to conform to His way.

It will be the way that produces respect and harmony among people. Technology will benefit family life, not destroy it, because God's society will control technology, not be controlled by it. Zechariah 8:4-5 describes that happy time: "*Old men and women shall sit once more in the open spaces of Jerusalem, the Lord of hosts declares, each with staff in hand, so old are they; and the open spaces shall be full of boys and girls playing there*" (Moffatt translation).

The very young and the very old—brought together. What a wonderful world tomorrow! □

Peace in Zimbabwe is but a lull in a gathering storm. The very hallmark of our age is that "nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:7).

Dark days indeed loom ahead if this world's political leaders, driven by their emotions, jealousies and narrow self-interests, pursue unreasonable policies which can only provoke one holocaust after another.

The alternative to peace in southern Africa, remarked a former South African prime minister, is "too ghastly to contemplate." Just what this might be was more than hinted at by South African heart surgeon, Christiaan Barnard, in his remarkable book *South Africa: Sharp Dissection*:

"Let those states in Africa who give launching pads to the Communists and let those in the Western world who would be our friends know that South Africa will not commit national suicide. Those who wish to push South Africa to the brink must not be surprised if their extremist threat to the very existence of the South African society evokes the ultimate defence as made possible by its nuclear capacity."

Needed: New World Leaders

In his book, Dr. Barnard lays bare the hypocrisies and deceptions so prevalent on the modern-day political scene. What the world needs instead, he said, are governments in which "the most competent man or woman is chosen for a particular portfolio [cabinet office]." He decried the fact that his profession demanded qualified doctors and surgeons to lead it, whereas politics "requires no formal examinations, no tests or other proof of the ability of the candidates it promotes to the highest positions, not only in its own body but in the country itself."

Dr. Barnard then gives what he calls his "prescription for competent government":

"One can readily imagine that if all the countries of the world were run by the most competent people from the respective countries . . . we could then look forward to business-like debates and decisive resolutions based on the realities of a given

situation, rather than the emotive debating and impractical resolutions flowing from double standards and expediency."

Believe it or not, Dr. Barnard's prescription for the future will come to pass—but in a different way and sooner than he or anyone else might think.

God Almighty is, at this very moment, grooming a generation of leaders-to-be who will take over the reins of world government in the soon-coming Kingdom of God. Men and women are being selected for this awesome responsibility from nations, cultures, races and tongues around the earth. The world as a whole is not cognizant of what God is doing (I John 3:1), but this selection and education process is nonetheless well under way.

In the peaceful world tomorrow, its leaders—changed from mortal to infallible immortal beings—will "judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24). Governmental hypocrisy and deceit will be a thing of the past.

Peace, harmony, respect and cooperation among all nations will be the

order of the day. The Kingdom of God will prove to be the only government under which all peoples everywhere can live, free of suspicion and fear. A worldwide economic "El Dorado" will at last come about.

Suffering and destruction will cease (Isaiah 11:9). Wars, including guerrilla terrorism—the scourge of the 20th century—will be scrapped as national policies (Isaiah 2:4).

Then and only then will the hope expressed earlier by Mr. Mugabe come to pass, "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares." □

Personal from...

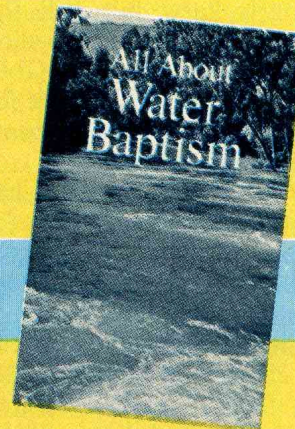
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earth! Why don't you urge your friends, neighbors and relatives to ask for FREE sample copies of *The Plain Truth*?

They NEED the understanding of the FACTS of the world situation today. They, too, live in this world. They, too, are going to be seriously affected by events now in the making. □

The Truth

ABOUT WATER BAPTISM



- Is baptism essential to salvation?
- What are the conditions?
- When should you be baptized?
- How should you be baptized and by whom?

Repentance and belief are the first two steps toward life as a true Christian. Water baptism is the next step. It's not just a ritual, but an ordinance set by Jesus Christ. According to the Scriptures baptism is *required* before you can obtain the Holy Spirit and, eventual-

ly, eternal life. Discover the truth about water baptism. It could be the most important decision you will ever take. Request your copy of the booklet, *All About Water Baptism* today—it's free, no obligation.

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Voice Cries Out

(Continued from page 6)

(Genesis 1:2), but in six days (Genesis 1:2-26) God renewed the face of the earth (Psalm 104:30).

The GOVERNMENT OF GOD was no longer administered on the earth. Lucifer had been changed into Satan the devil. His angels had become demons. It now remained for a MAN to reject the "GET" way of life Lucifer had introduced and qualify to replace the disqualified Satan by accepting God's "GIVE" way—the Creator's way of LOVE—to RESTORE the Government of God to the earth.

Remember, angels were created out of spirit—created immortal. They are now self-existent with eternal life inherent within them. Their turn to vanity, lust and greed, competition, strife and destruction and REBELLION against God and God's WAY (which is His character) left them filled with total unhappiness, resentment and bitterness, mental torment and anguish—FOREVER!

Angels, as God created them, were superior to man as man now is. The sinning angels knew full well the tragic consequences of their rebellion against the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. They alone were fully responsible for the consequences they now are bearing, and shall bear eternally.

But we shall see that God has something better for man—even for those humans who reject the almost unbelievable, incredible, transcendent potential that is man's!

Before we come to that, in the following chapter, one more vitally important factor must be covered before we have cleared the air entirely about WHO and WHAT is God.

In the earliest revelation in God's Word about WHO and WHAT is God, in John 1:1-4, 14, TWO Persons are revealed and *only two!*

The next earliest revelation the Scriptures give us in time-order of God's existence is found in Genesis 1 and verse 1, "In the beginning God created the heavens [plural, Revised Standard Version] and the earth."

In this chapter I have covered the creation and placing on earth of the angels. All that is filled in by other portions of the Scriptures in both Old

and New Testaments. Then verse 2 of the first chapter of Genesis in exceeding brevity covers the physical calamity resulting from angelic sin.

There it is stated, in King James language, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. . . ."

The words *without form and void* are translated from the Hebrew *tohu* and *bohu*, meaning, in English, *waste* and *empty*, or *in confusion and decay*. That describes the devastation resulting from earthwide sin of the angels. This angelic sin is mentioned in II Peter 2:4. Verse 5 describes the destruction by flood coming upon the whole world by antedeluvian sin between the times of Adam and Noah. It was sin covering the whole earth, and the physical destruction by flood covered the whole earth.

The next verse, 6, describes the sins of Sodom and Gomorrha. The physical destruction resulting covered the area of those sins—the Sodom and Gomorrha area.

These three verses refer by implication to the physical chaos that happened to the earth following the earthwide sin of angels.

In Psalm 104:30 we read of God's renewing of the face of the earth, and here it mentions His Spirit as the POWER of this re-creation: "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the earth."

So, verse 2 of Genesis 1 shows this physical devastation resulting from angelic earthwide sin. The entire earth had become covered with oceans. The light of God and God's righteous ways had, by universal sin, brought darkness to the earth's surface. Now, completing verse 2 of Genesis 1: "and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

This is the first mention of the Spirit of God in the Bible, and it is here mentioned as the POWER of God by which God, through the "Word" (John 1:1), renewed the face of the earth. He, the Word, "spake and it was done" (Psalm 33:6). The Spirit of God did as the Word, who later became Jesus, commanded. The Spirit of God is the POWER of God, emanating from God and Christ.

A comparison might be made to a man's breath. The Hebrew word for spirit is *ruach*, and the Greek word in

the New Testament is *pneuma*. Both mean spirit, but both also mean wind, breath or air. In John 3:8 Jesus compared the Holy Spirit of God to wind, in explaining to Nicodemus how a man must be born of the Holy Spirit of God.

"That which is born of the Spirit is spirit," He said, (verse 6). Then to explain God's Spirit, which must enter a person prior to being "born again" as an immortal in God's Kingdom—God's very Divine FAMILY—Jesus said, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit."

As breath or air may emanate from a man's mouth or nose, so the Holy Spirit emanates from God and from Christ.

WHAT, then, is the Holy Spirit? It is the very divine life-begetting Power of God, that imparts divine and immortal life to a repentant and believing Christian, begetting such a person as a child of God. And it is MUCH MORE!

It is the POWER emanating from God by which God creates. It is the LOVE of God which the converted Christian receives from God. It is the FAITH of Christ. It is the Spirit that imparts to the human mind spiritual comprehension. It is the power of God by which the child of God may overcome sin. It is the Spirit by which, on human surrender, repentance, faith and decision, God imparts HIS CHARACTER to a human.

Praying to the *Yahweh*, who was the personal God of the Old Testament, David said: "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me. . . ." (Psalm 139:7-10).

WHO and WHAT is GOD? God is omniscient. God is omnipresent—everywhere present at once! *Not* in His Person formed like that of a human, but through the Holy Spirit that emanates from the Person of God the Father and also from Christ the Son.

I can, through the sense of sight,

see stars millions of light years away—but I cannot act on them. But God can project His Spirit from where He is in Person to any and every point in the vastness of the universe—and more, HE CAN ACT ON ALL SUCH THINGS!

Now once again to Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God..." This originally was written by Moses as God inspired him, Moses wrote in Hebrew. The Hebrew word translated God is *Elohim*—a uniplural noun or name. It is the same sort of uniplural word as *family, church, group*—one family consisting of two or more members—one church composed of many members—one group of several persons.

It is referring to precisely the same "Persons," making up or composing the one God, as we found in John 1:1—the Word and God—and each of those TWO Persons is GOD.

IN OTHER WORDS, GOD IS A FAMILY of Persons, composed so far of only the TWO—God the Father and Christ the Son. But IF the Holy Spirit of God dwells in one, and he is being led by God's Spirit, then (Romans 8:14) he is a begotten son of God. But, at the time of Christ's return to earth in supreme power and glory to set up the KINGDOM OF GOD, restoring the GOVERNMENT OF GOD abolished by Lucifer, then all being filled and led by God's Spirit shall become BORN Sons of God. The GOD FAMILY will then RULE ALL NATIONS with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD RESTORED!

The "Trinity" doctrine *limits* God to a supposed three Persons. It DESTROYS the very Gospel of Jesus Christ! His Gospel is the good news of the now soon-coming KINGDOM OF GOD—the only hope of this world and its mixed-up mankind!

The "Trinity" doctrine, by contrast, is the doctrine of the great false church called in Revelation 17:5: "Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth."

By that doctrine, along with others, Satan has DECEIVED all traditional Christianity.

The Trinity Doctrine

The generally accepted teaching of traditional Christianity is that God is a "Trinity"—God in three Persons—

Father, Son and Holy Spirit (which they call a "Ghost").

How did this "Trinity" doctrine enter traditional Christianity?

It most emphatically did not come from the Bible. I have quoted Revelation 12:9 saying that all nations have been deceived by Satan the devil. How, then, did the wily Satan introduce this doctrine into "Christianity"?

The history of this question is interesting. It seems incredible that a being like Satan not only could have deceived the whole world, but also "Christianity"—the very religion bearing Christ's name and supposed to be His true religion. Yet, paradoxically, Satan did!

He did it through his great false church, started A.D. 33 by Simon the Sorcerer, described in the 8th chapter of the book of Acts as the leader of the Babylonian mystery religion. It is recorded in II Kings 17:23-24 that Shalmaneser, King of Assyria, who had invaded and conquered the northern Kingdom—the Kingdom of Israel—moved the people out of their land of Samaria, north of Jerusalem, and moved into that land people of the Babylonish mystery religion from the provinces of Babylon. They were, of course, gentiles. They inhabited this area of northern Palestine in the time of Christ. The Jews of Judea in Christ's time would have nothing to do with them, calling them contemptuously "dogs." They still adhered to this pagan Babylonish mystery religion in the first century.

In A.D. 33, two years after Jesus Christ from heaven founded the Church of God on that day of Pentecost, the deacon Philip, who later became an evangelist, went down to Samaria and preached Christ's Gospel. This Simon the Sorcerer came with the crowd to hear him.

Simon had bewitched the people of that country, and they followed him as their leader in the Babylonian mystery religion "from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God" (Acts 8:10).

When the people believed Philip, preaching the Kingdom of God, they were baptized, and this Simon with them.

Then Simon came to the apostles Peter and John, offering money as a bribe, asking them to give him the

Holy Spirit. Peter rebuked him strongly. But Simon proclaimed himself a Christian apostle, nevertheless, and called the pagan Babylonian mystery religion "Christianity." He accepted the doctrine of "grace" for the forgiveness of sin (which the pagan religions had never had), but turned grace into license to disobey God (Jude 4). He aspired to turn his pagan religion, under the name "Christianity," into a universal religion, to gain thereby the political rule of the world.

Simon, the "Pater" (Peter) of his counterfeit religion, did not accomplish this in his lifetime. But succeeding leaders, with the headquarters moved to Rome, did, later, gain political control over the Roman Empire and its medieval successor, called "The Holy Roman Empire." This empire is in process of again being resurrected in Europe now!

By the 6th decade of the first century, much of the Middle East had turned from the true Gospel to a counterfeit (Galatians 1:6-7). As late as the 90s, A.D. the apostle John was still living. He wrote the book of Revelation on the Isle of Patmos.

A little later the church started by Simon in A.D. 33 was trying to turn the true Christian Passover (Christ had changed its form from that of Old Testament Israel) into the Babylonian Easter—named after the goddess Astarte or Ishtar (pronounced "Easter").

After the death of the apostle John, a disciple of his, Polycarp, waged a controversy over the Passover-Easter question with the bishop of Rome, by then leader of the church started by Simon.

Still later, another disciple of Christ's true Christianity, Polycrates, waged a still hotter controversy over the same Passover-Easter question with a later bishop of Rome. This theological battle was called the Quartodeciman Controversy. Polycrates contended, as Jesus and the original apostles taught, that the Passover should be observed in the new Christian form introduced by Jesus and by the apostle Paul (I Corinthians 11), using unleavened bread and wine instead of sacrificing a lamb, on the eve of the 14th Nisan (first month in the sacred calendar, occurring in the spring). But the

Rome church insisted on the pagan Easter, observed on a Sunday.

About the same time another controversy was raging, between a Dr. Arius, of Alexandria, a Christian leader who died A.D. 336, and a Roman bishop, over calling God a "Trinity." Dr. Arius stoutly opposed the "Trinity" doctrine, and had many followers.

In A.D. 325, the Emperor Constantine called the Nicene Council to settle these controversies. Constantine was not then yet a "Christian," but as political ruler he assumed control. The Council approved both the Easter doctrine and the Trinity. Constantine, then civil ruler, made it a LAW. But he was not able to make it TRUTH!

Satan has deceived the entire world in regard to the very nature of WHO and WHAT God is—as well as of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Also of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, based on the spiritual LAW OF GOD. And further, of WHAT and WHY man is, what salvation is, how it is received, what is the true Gospel, what and why the Church is and what of the future!

What Is God Like?

The word *trinity* is not used anywhere in the Bible. I am going to make completely clear, as we proceed, God has not limited Himself to a "Trinity." The surprising truth, once understood, is the most wonderful revelation the human mind could receive or contain!

The very first idea or teaching about God being a Trinity began in the latter half of the second century—a hundred years after most of the New Testament had been written. The counterfeit Christianity spawned by Simon the Sorcerer was promoting it vigorously along with the pagan Easter. But the true Church of God vigorously resisted it. The controversy became so violent it threatened the peace of the world. The then pagan Emperor Constantine called the Nicene Council to settle it. The Roman supporters greatly outnumbered the persecuted Church of God.

You will find a prophecy of these two churches in the book of Revelation. In the 12th chapter is the prophecy of the true Church of God, greatly

persecuted. Jesus called it "the *little* flock." In the 17th chapter you will find the prophecy of the counterfeit church—a very great church, named by God "Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots" (verse 5). She was lined up with and sat astride the political governments. The whole world will gasp in WONDER (verse 8) when this religio-political medieval "Holy Roman Empire" is brought back to life! It is now in the preliminary stages of forming, starting from the Common Market!

There is only one small passage in the King James translation of the Bible that is generally used by "Trinity" adherents to support the "Trinity" doctrine. That is I John 5:7. In this one translation it is worded: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." Those words were added by editors of the Latin Vulgate translation probably in the early 4th century. They do not appear in *any* of the older Greek manuscripts nor in any of the other English translations. They were added to the Latin Vulgate during the heat of the controversy between Rome and Dr. Arius and God's people.

Bible commentaries explain that these words were never written in the apostle John's manuscript or any existing early copies of it. The apostle John nowhere in his three epistles or the Revelation calls Christ the Word. He speaks of "the Father and the Son" (I John 1:3), but never "the Father and the Word," except in this uninspired verse of I John 5:7.

There was a real reason why the archdeceiver Satan wanted that spurious verse added in the Latin Vulgate. The "Trinity" doctrine completely does away with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His Gospel is the MESSAGE He brought mankind from God the Father, the good news of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD! That is the ONE thing above all Satan wants to defeat. This will become plain as we proceed.

One world-famous evangelist says: "When I first began to study the Bible years ago, the doctrine of the Trinity was one of the most complex problems I had to encounter. I have never fully resolved it, for it contains an aspect of mystery. Though I do

not totally understand it to this day, I accept it as a revelation of God. . . . To explain and illustrate the Trinity is one of the most difficult assignments to a Christian."

Much is made of the fact that in a number of places in modern translations the masculine pronoun *he* is used in connection with the Holy Spirit. But not always—sometimes the Holy Spirit is referred to as *it*. For example, in the passage describing the first coming of the Holy Spirit for the founding of the Church of God on that memorable day of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit came from heaven, audibly, sounding like a mighty wind, "and *it* [the Holy Spirit] filled all the house where they were sitting." Next, the Holy Spirit *appeared*—WAS VISIBLY SEEN—manifested—"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and *it* [the Holy Spirit in the form of divided tongues] sat upon each of them" (Acts 2:2-3). In verse 18, Peter is quoting from the prophet Joel: "I will *pour out* . . . of my Spirit. . . ." The Holy Spirit, like water or a fluid can be "POURED OUT." Can you pour out a person from one into another—as from God into those assembled there?

Again in Acts 10:45, ". . . on the Gentiles also was *poured out* the gift of the Holy [Spirit]."

Finally, in briefest summary: God is a FAMILY composed at present of the TWO Persons of John 1:1-4, but with many thousands, already *begotten* by God's Spirit, soon to be born into that Divine Family at Christ's return to earth. Jesus Christ, by His resurrection, was BORN a divine Son of God (Romans 1:4)—the *first* so born into the God Family (Romans 8:29).

Both God and Christ are composed of Spirit, formed and shaped as a human person, but with eyes like flames of fire and faces bright as the sun full strength!

God is Creator of all that exists. Both God and "The Word" (who became Christ) have existed eternally and before all else. From them emanates the Spirit of God, by which God is omnipresent and omniscient. God the Father is the divine Father of the God Family, into which truly converted Christians shall be born.

But now, WHAT OF MAN? □