

# THE PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

West Germany's  
Chancellor Schmidt

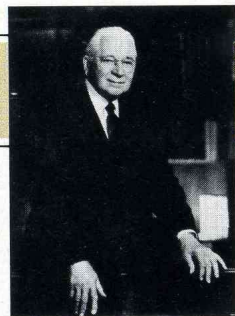
East Germany's  
Chairman Honecker



**THE TWO GERMANY'S**  
Trouble Brewing in the  
Heart of Europe

SEE PAGE 4





Personal from...

## Why I Talk With Heads of State About World Evils and World Peace

**I**n the last eight or nine years I have frequently, on this page, told you of personal meetings with heads of state around the world—kings, emperors, presidents, others high in governments—and with leaders in higher education.

But WHY all these meetings with world leaders?

At first, I did not know, myself. I did not initiate these meetings. Invitations seemed to come coincidentally. And the favor I was given in the eyes of these government leaders was even more astonishing. All my life, from age 19, I have come in personal contact with important men—at first, executives of major business corporations and banks. Although I found those men cordial, there was no *special* warmth and favor, such as I began to experience in meeting these heads of state. I didn't understand it myself.

I did know that they were tremendously concerned about their own problems of government and about accelerating evils in this world. All my life I had felt concerned about the social evils and the unhappy state of the lives of most of this world's billions. And I knew I had learned what few seem to know—the CAUSES of the unhappy state of the world, as well as what would, if applied, CAUSE world peace, universal prosperity, happiness and abundant well-being.

These men at the helm of governments are charged with the responsibility for improving their peoples' well-being. And I learned that they really were interested in hearing what I had to say.

But how should I know the solutions? Didn't it seem ridiculously incongruous that I should have discovered the *answers* to humanity's problems which had eluded science, religion, education and governments—answers to the seemingly unanswerable?

What I knew was something undiscovered by science, something outside the field of technology, overlooked by religion, untaught by education.

Yes, it would seem one might retort with that age-old

cliché, "Just who do you think you are?" They might ask, "Do you set yourself above science, religion, education?"

And I answer, "No, indeed!" I have just been willing to BELIEVE the SOURCE of knowledge and truth. It was all there for any and everyone to know, IF THEY WOULD ONLY HAVE BELIEVED!

Well, how did it come about?

Back in 1926 I was challenged! I was challenged on the theory of evolution and on a biblical question. I wasn't religious. I knew virtually nothing of the Bible. I had no interest in it. I did have an interest in Darwin—and even studied farther back into Lamarck's theory of use and disuse. I researched Darwin's *Origin of Species*, Huxley, Haeckel, Spencer, Vogt, Chamberlin. They, of course, instilled within me no biblical faith. But I wanted to research both sides. I believed in the slogan, "Get ALL the facts—then decide."

In that world's best-seller, the book which, it seemed, as Bruce Barton said, "nobody knows," I found astonishing facts. There I found the ANSWERS. It required no extraordinary intellect. It needed only willingness to BELIEVE what is true. There I found, available to all, what science has never discovered, religion has overlooked, education has never taught.

I noticed the incident of the "forbidden fruit." It portrays the ever-living Creator instructing the man and the woman He had just created in what they needed to know. It portrayed Him revealing basic knowledge—knowledge undiscoverable and unobtainable, except by revelation from the SOURCE. But the first humans *didn't believe!* After all, they had only their Maker's *word* for it! The serpent suggested their Maker was not a reliable source of knowledge.

"You shall not surely die," he lied, contradicting the Creator's positive statement. When Eve *observed* that the forbidden fruit was good for food, pleasant to the sense of sight, and intellectually (Continued on page 42)



# Part Three:

# 7 PROOFS OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH

*Where is the one and only true Church today—the Church founded by Jesus Christ in A.D. 31? Seven major eye-opening proofs identify it unmistakably.*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

*Previous installments in this series of articles included proof number one, "Who and What Is God?" (February Plain Truth); proof number two, "The Government of God and Creation of Holy Righteous Character" (March Plain Truth); and proof number three, "What and Why Is Man?" (March Plain Truth).*

## Proof Four:

### THE TRUTH ABOUT ISRAEL

**T**he Holy Bible is essentially the book of and concerning the nation Israel. It is concerned with other nations only as they come into contact with Israel.

But the answer to WHY God called that nation and the fact of their division into the TWO nations—the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah—and the present-day identity of the house of Israel forms another vital PROOF that identifies the one

and only original, true Church of God.

God's true Church knows that ONLY those specially called by God for a special purpose have had access to Him from Adam until now.

Certainly it is almost without exception that those called did not first seek God—He sought out and called them.

Noah was not seeking God, but God called Noah to build a great ship on dry land away from any ocean. Noah carried out the assignment amid persecution and jeers.

Abraham was not seeking God, but God called him—and without protest or question he obeyed and went on to become the "father of the faithful," to whom the promises of both the national birthright of Israel and eternal salvation through Christ were given.

Moses was not seeking God, but God called Moses at the burning bush. He made excuse, protesting the assignment—saying he could not do it because he had an impediment of speech. But God called his brother Aaron to speak for him.

The children of Israel, 430 years after Abraham, were groaning and crying out because of their slavery in Egypt—but there is no statement recorded that they were seeking a relationship with God. However, God heard their groanings and delivered them by supernatural miracles out of Egypt under Moses.

There must have been two to four million of them—for there were 600,000 men, not counting women and children.

At Mt. Sinai God proposed to them His covenant that they become His nation and His congregation ("... the church in the wilderness..." [Acts 7:38]). God offered them, for obedience to His government, material and national rewards—but *no spiritual salvation*. The Holy Spirit was given *only* to the prophets whom God called and chose.

#### **Wonderful Abilities of Natural Mind**

Now WHY did God call a carnal, unspiritual people into a husband-and-



wife relationship, designating them as His nation and giving them His government?

Natural carnal MAN, with only the "human spirit" to impart materialistic intellect, has been—even without contact with and help from GOD—able to accomplish wonders in the physical realm. This is *not* testimony to the goodness of MAN, but to the wonderful creative ability of man's Maker!

At the tower of Babel God said: "... this they *begin* to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Genesis 11:6). Invention and production of the modern computer and sending men to the moon and safely back are two modern examples.

Cut off from GOD—having only the one "human spirit" that empowers intellect—MAN has developed a scholarship that says, "Given sufficient KNOWLEDGE, we can solve every problem." The modern university is a KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION factory.

Yet, I have said the most highly educated are the *most ignorant*—because their development of knowledge has been LIMITED—confined to the physical and material. Without the Holy Spirit of God, they are, in the vernacular, "not all there"!

God says of this "intellectual" human mind, that it is "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9); and, "... the carnal mind is enmity [hostile] against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).

God had shut man off from God's revealed knowledge.

#### Why Carnal Israel

One reason God raised up ancient Israel was to *eventually prove* to all humanity, the vast majority of whom do not yet realize it, that the carnal mind with all its intellectual accomplishments simply *will not* accept and live by the revealed knowledge of GOD—even though God should reveal it to them (Romans 1:20-21).

Other nations were cut off completely from God's revealed knowledge. But, as stated previously, God retained the prerogative of calling out of man's world a certain few in

preparation for His Kingdom. So God deliberately called a NATION, and through Moses revealed to them the knowledge of HIS LAW, HIS WILL, HIS WAY OF LIFE, which is outflowing LOVE!

God DID NOT give them His Holy Spirit. He gave that only to Moses and the prophets—all specially called.

But God did give them His spiritual LAW. As a *substitute* for the shed blood of Christ, He gave them animal sacrifices, which could not remit sins—they were only a reminder of sin. He gave them also, as a temporary *substitute* for the Holy Spirit, a law of physical rituals, meat and drink offerings and carnal ordinances. These instilled the *habit* of obedience. Then, of course, He gave them, as a civil nation, His GOVERNMENT, with its basic spiritual law and its statutes and judgments. He gave them HIS SYSTEM of government—authority from the TOP DOWN. God Himself was their congress, parliament, kneset and diet. He, through Moses, was their Lawgiver.

Under God was "the Word"—*Yahweh*—who was to become Christ. Under Him was Moses. Under Moses were captains over thousands, captains over hundreds, over fifties.

When Moses' brother Aaron and their sister Miriam wanted equal authority in the government with Moses, God punished! When Korah and his group wanted equal say-so and authority, God destroyed them. It was GOD—not the people—who chose and put Moses in authority. There was no democracy.

#### How Did Carnal Israel Respond?

But how did carnal-minded Israel respond to God's great generosity, love and blessings?

Let God answer!

He says: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Eternal hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are

corrupters: they have forsaken the Eternal, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:2-4).

#### After Moses

After Moses, the Israelites were led into the promised land by Joshua. Israel served God—to a degree—until Joshua died at age 110.

Then, true to human experience, when that generation died, "... there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Eternal. . . . And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Eternal, and served Baalim [a pagan god of the Canaanites]" (Judges 2:10-11).

Repeatedly they would forsake God, turn to idolatry of neighbor nations, go into captivity, and cry out to God for deliverance. Then God would raise up judges (heroes, leaders) by whom He freed them, but then, after a degree of peace, idol worship was resumed, and when the judge died, God allowed them to be taken into captivity again.

This continued for some few generations.

Then Israel was ruled by the priest Eli. Eli had two sons, also in the priestly service. These sons were taking unlawful gain from the people, misleading the people, having immoral relations with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle. Now Eli was very old—near 90—and said to his sons, "... Why do ye such things? . . . Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father . . ." (I Samuel 2:22-25). The sons continued the evils, and the priest Eli did not put them out of the priesthood.

#### When Sons Go Wrong

God said to Eli, "Wherefore . . . honour thy sons above me?" (I Samuel 2:29) and decreed they should die. When news came to Eli that his sons had been killed and the ark of God taken in battle, Eli fell backward, broke his neck and died!

Perhaps another evidence of the Worldwide Church of God being the one original Church of God is that its apostle did remove his son, who was secularizing God's Church and col-

*(Continued on page 40)*



## PART SIX:



# THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY



*Never in history have two nations spurred from virtual obscurity into incredible, unprecedented national wealth and power. Was it merely chance? A fluke of history? Or were they given this wealth for a reason? This installment explains just why these birthright peoples enjoyed nearly three-fourths of the world's wealth, and what the Bible prophecies about them mean to you today!*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**T**he most remarkable fulfillment of biblical prophecy in modern times was the sudden sprouting forth of the two mightiest world powers—one, a commonwealth of nations forming the greatest world empire of all time; the other, the wealthiest, most powerful nation on earth today. These birthright peoples came, with incredible suddenness, into possession of more than two-thirds—nearly three-fourths—of the cultivated wealth and resources of the whole world! This sensational spurt from virtual obscurity in so short a time gives incontrovertible PROOF of divine inspiration. Never, in all history, did anything like it occur.

But why did this unprecedented national wealth and power come to our birthright inheritors only after the year A.D. 1800? Why did not this national dominance come to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh millennia ago—in the days of Moses, or Joshua, or David, or Elijah?

### **A "Nation" and a "Commonwealth of Nations"**

Remember now the birthright promise was given to the two tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh—not to the other

tribes or their descendants. These two birthright tribes were part of the northern kingdom of Israel.

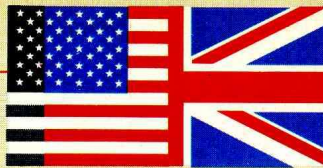
Notice again the original promise: "A *nation* and a *company of nations* shall be of thee" (Gen. 35:11).

In passing on the birthright promise the dying Jacob (Israel) said of Ephraim and Manasseh, sons of Joseph, "... let *my name* be named on *them*" (Gen. 48:16). Hence it is **THEY**—the descendants of Ephraim (the British) and Manasseh (Americans)—not the Jews, who are referred to in *prophecy* under the names of *Jacob* or *Israel*. Continuing, Jacob added, "... and let *them* grow into a multitude."

Then, speaking of Manasseh and his descendants *alone*, Jacob said prophetically: "... he also shall become a people [nation], and he also shall be **GREAT**: but truly his younger brother [Ephraim] shall be greater than he, and *his seed* shall become a **MULTITUDE** [a company, or **COMMONWEALTH**] of **NATIONS**" (Gen. 48:19).

In A.D. 1800 the United Kingdom and the United States were small and insignificant among the earth's nations. The United Kingdom consisted only of the British





Isles, a very small part of India and of Canada and a few little islands. The United States consisted only of the original 13 colonies and three added states. Neither possessed any great wealth or power.

But beginning in 1800 these two little nations began to sprout and to grow into vast national riches and power such as no people ever possessed. Soon Britain's empire spread around the world, until the sun never set upon her possessions. Canada, Australia, South Africa were given dominion status—made free and independent nations, ruling themselves independent of England—a *company*, or commonwealth, of nations joined together, not by legal government, *but solely by the throne of David!*

But why was that tremendous birthright, which was promised *unconditionally* to Abraham, repromised to Isaac and Jacob, never bestowed for millennia of time—until after A.D. 1800? The answer is amazing—exciting!

To understand this miraculous burst into world dominance, it is necessary to examine the very pivot of Old Testament prophecies—the 26th chapter of Leviticus.

#### Prophecy for Now!

This remarkable prophecy pertains to *our time*, as well as giving warning to the people of Israel in Moses' day. Few realize that the prophecies of the Old Testament pertain, primarily, to this 20th century—not, in many cases, to Old Testament times at all.

Most ministers and church leaders today were schooled in the theological seminaries of their particular denominations. They were taught, nearly altogether, from sectarian books, *not* from the Bible. Many of these will say: "We are a New Testament church," supposing Old Testament prophecies pertained only to Old Testament times, having no meaning for us today. *That is an error and a delusion!* Many Old Testament prophecies were never written for, nor read by or to, the Israelites of those times. The New Testament Church of God is actually built on the FOUNDATION of the Old Testament prophets, as well as the apostles (Eph. 2:20).

Daniel wrote after both Israel and Judah had been removed from Palestine as slaves. He had no way to communicate his prophecies to his enslaved countrymen—and besides, the meaning was closed and sealed until our time, now (Dan. 12:8-9).

Ezekiel was a prophet, *not* to the Jews of the house of Judah, though he was among them in their captivity. But his prophecy was to be delivered to the house of Israel—driven out some 130 years before, and by Ezekiel's time lost from view. His prophecy was to be delivered to the house of Israel TODAY, in this 20th century, by God's ministers who now *know* their identity!

And this prophecy of Leviticus 26, though written by Moses before the Israelites had entered the promised land, is one of dual fulfillment. It was a *warning* to those of Moses' day, but its final fulfillment, as we shall see, has taken place and is now taking place—in our time. And,

through the dual fulfillment, typical of so many prophecies, it is also a WARNING to the American and British peoples of impending events! Leviticus 26 is the basic prophecy of the Old Testament. It contains a vital, living, tremendous message and warning for our people today!

#### The Pivotal Prophecy

In this central prophecy, God reaffirmed the birthright promise—but with conditions—for those of Moses' day! The birthright tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh were then *with* the other tribes—as one nation. Obedience to God's laws would bring the vast national wealth and blessings of the birthright not only to Ephraim and Manasseh, but the whole NATION would automatically have shared them at that time.

Notice carefully that two of the Ten Commandments are mentioned for emphasis. These were the main *test commandments!* They were the test of obedience, and of faith in and loyalty to God. God said: "Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image . . . to bow down unto it: for I am the Eternal your God. Ye shall keep MY sabbaths . . ." (verses 1-2).

There was a *condition*—a great big "if"—to their receiving actual fulfillment of this stupendous birthright promise *in their time!* God said: "If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; *then* I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase . . ." (verses 3-4). All wealth comes out of the ground. They would enjoy bumper crops the year round, one harvest on the heels of another. Verse 6: "And I will give PEACE in the land . . . and none shall make you afraid . . . neither shall the sword [of war] go through your land." What a blessing! What nation enjoys continuous peace, without fear of invasion?

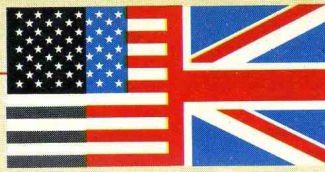
Of course, in this world, every nation has enemies. What if enemy nations attacked? Verses 7-8: "And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight. . . ."

Since many nations in this world always have been aggressors, Israel would have been attacked. A nation with the military superiority to defeat all attackers would soon become the dominant, most powerful nation on earth—especially with resources and great wealth from the ground. Verse 9: "For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you."

#### The Great Big If

But here comes the alternative—*IF* the conditions are not met: ". . . if ye will *not* hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments. . . . I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague [fever], that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of the heart [RSV: waste the eyes and cause life to pine away]: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for





your enemies shall eat it. And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you . . . ” (verses 14-17). They would be invaded, conquered, become once again slaves—as they had been in Egypt before God freed them.

### Now What Did Happen?

These Israelites griped, grumbled, complained, doubted God almost from the very night they left Egypt. God miraculously delivered them from the pursuing Egyptian army at the Red Sea. God sent manna and quails from heaven to feed them. God caused drinking water to gush from the great rock. But always they complained, showed a rebellious attitude.

The children of Israel, under Moses, came to the desert at the foot of Mount Sinai. There Moses was called up the mountain where God spoke to him. God here offered Israel the opportunity to become HIS NATION—under His rule, and, upon obedience and loyalty to His government, to receive the fabulous national birthright of world dominance.

The ETERNAL said: “Now therefore, *If* ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my COVENANT, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me *above all people*: for all the earth is mine” (Ex. 19:5). Notice, God did not force them to become His nation—a “peculiar” nation, different from the apostate Gentile kingdoms. The choice was theirs!

### The Beginning of a Nation

Moses returned to camp. He laid God’s proposed agreement (covenant) before that vast congregation of perhaps two or three million people.

“And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Eternal hath spoken we will do” (verse 8).

For two days the people were specially prepared for a tremendous event. They were to hear the very voice of God from the mountain. On the third day, amid a fantastically tremendous supernatural display of thunder and lightning and thick clouds swirling over the mountain, God’s tremendous voice—exceedingly loud—thundered in their ears the *basic law* of His government—the great SPIRITUAL law defining, in principle, GOD’S WAY of life—the way to *avoid* the evils besetting the world—the way that would cause peace, happiness, prosperity.

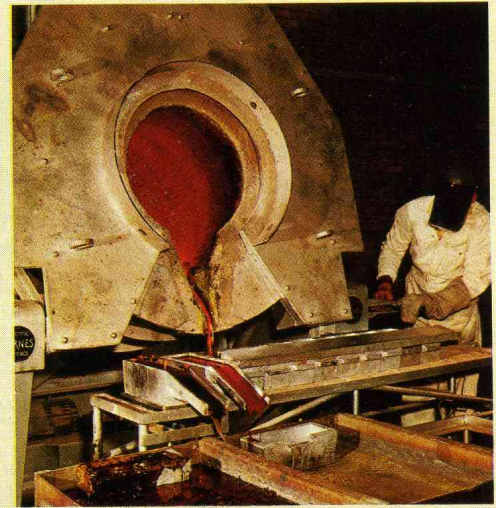
That vast assemblage actually heard the voice of THE ETERNAL GOD, delivering to them the Ten Command-

ments! The people were frightened! They trembled! It was an awesome experience which had never happened before—and has never occurred since!

Then, through Moses, God outlined in more detail His proposition for setting them up as God’s NATION. Again, the people answered with a unanimous voice, “All the words which the Eternal hath said will we do” (Ex.



The Bettmann Archive Inc.



Anglo-American Corp. of So. Africa

**THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION** brought the birthright tribes to national prominence. Early foundry in Britain used charcoal in smelting of iron (left); present-day gold smelter in the Republic of South Africa (right).

24:3). Moses wrote all the terms of this COVENANT—this AGREEMENT making these ex-slaves God’s nation—this agreement which also was a marriage covenant, with the Eternal as husband, binding the wife (Israel) to obey her husband.

Moses read the terms and conditions—the “book of the covenant”—before all the people. Again came the unanimous decision on their part: “All that the Eternal hath said will we do, and be obedient” (Ex. 24:7).

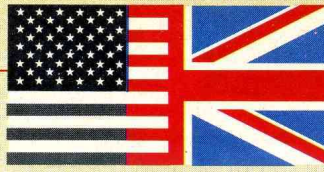
### Old Covenant a Marriage

The covenant agreement between God and this people—called “the old covenant”—was then ratified and put into effect with BLOOD (Ex. 24:5-8).

This “old covenant” was mediated by Moses. It married a mortal, human people to the Eternal. They became HIS NATION. They had promised loyal obedience as citizens.

This “old covenant” was based on the birthright promise God had made to Abraham. But human mortals, filled with the vanity, envy, lust and greed of human nature, seldom remain faithful. So the living Christ is now coming soon to be the Mediator of the new covenant, based on better promises (Heb. 8:6-10 and 9:15). But the NEW covenant will not be made with human mortals who do not keep their promises. God has been preparing—and still





now is preparing—a people to be made immortal. These immortals are to be married to Christ. And He died, rose, and sent God's HOLY Spirit "that he might sanctify and cleanse" this NEW Testament "wife" (Eph. 5:26-27).

The new covenant will be made with a people who already have been *proved*, by their Christian life of obedience, faith, growing in spiritual character and knowledge, and overcoming—a people *then* made immortal and holy and perfect.

The NEW covenant is based on the *sceptre* promise made to Abraham—through the coming KING of kings, Jesus Christ, of the very dynasty of David.

### They Turn to Idolatry

But notice how these mortal Israelites performed.

After the old covenant between God and Israel had been ratified, God called Moses up into the mountain. Moses was kept there forty days, receiving detailed instructions for the congregation (church) and for the nation—for with the Israelites church and state were united.

After Moses had been gone some days, the people said to Aaron, "Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him." So they took their golden earrings and trinkets, and Aaron had them made into a golden calf for an idol (Ex. 32:1-4).

Moses came down from the mount carrying the two tablets of stone on which the Eternal had engraved the Ten Commandments with His own finger. On seeing this golden idol and the people worshipping it in merriment and dancing, he lost his temper and in a rage threw down the tablets of stone and broke them.

Of course, just as some very large religious bodies who claim to be Christian do today, they merely said this calf *represented* God—it pictured to them what they supposed God looked like.

After making this molten gold calf, Aaron proclaimed a feast "to the Eternal" (Ex. 32:5), during which they worshiped before the IDOL. Go into an Anglican church or a Roman Catholic church today and ask the priest or official whether the images of "Christ" and of "Mary" are idols—whether or not they are worshipping IDOLS. They will indignantly say, "No! We don't worship idols. We don't worship the images. We don't claim the images actually *are* Christ or Mary—only that they *represent*, or picture to us, what Christ or Mary look like!"

Well, that is precisely the way ALL PAGANS ALWAYS WORSHIPED IDOLS! But God's wrath waxed HOT at this (Ex. 32:7-10). God will NOT ACCEPT such worship! See also Deuteronomy 12:30-31.

### Withheld 40 Years

In the second year after leaving Egypt, God had moved the Israelites to a new camp in the wilderness of Paran (Num. 10:11-12). God then told Moses to send twelve



**MORE THAN HALF** of all tillable, cultivatable, temperate-zone lands of the earth came into possession of the United States and British Commonwealth nations after A.D. 1800.

men—one leader or ruler from each tribe—to spy out the promised land and bring back a report on the land and its inhabitants (Num. 13:1-2).

These men were gone 40 days. On their return, all but two—Joshua and Caleb—misrepresented what they had seen, giving an evil report. When Joshua and Caleb reported the truth, the people tried to stone them. They accepted the evil report, complained against God, doubted, rebelled, disobeyed.

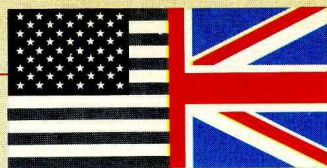
Have you ever wondered why these Israelites were 40 years in the desolate, barren, desert-and-mountain wilderness getting to the promised land? It was not because it required 40 years of travel. These men sent to report on it journeyed to it, walked all over it from one end to the other and returned—round trip—in 40 days. But the people griped, disbelieved God, disobeyed, and refused to go forthwith to POSSESS IT; instead of deciding to march ahead and POSSESS this great prize God wanted to give them, they *despised it*, lacked faith to go in and possess it, refused to march forward.

This promised land is a type of the glorious Kingdom of God, which the living Savior, Jesus Christ, offers us. But today we, the descendants of those Israelites, despise it, prefer the "slavery" of SIN, fail to exercise the FAITH to go on and POSSESS God's Kingdom. We, too, rebel, disbelieve, and disobey. And those who thus despise it shall not enter that glorious Kingdom with eternal life in happiness and accomplishment.

To this rebellious population, God said: "Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness . . . ye shall not come into the land . . . save Caleb . . . and Joshua. . . . But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised" (Num. 14:29-31).

"And," continued God, "your children shall wander in





the wilderness *forty years*, and bear your whoredoms, until *your* carcasses be wasted in the wilderness” (verse 33).

And now comes the “*day-for-a-year principle*”: “After the number of the *days* in which ye searched the land, even *forty days, each day for a year*, shall ye bear your iniquities, even *forty years . . .*” (verse 34). And this punishment was, in fact, a WITHHOLDING of the promised blessing for this duration of forty years.

### Idolatry Again

That generation of Israelites was not allowed to enter the promised land. They spent forty years in the wilderness. Their children entered the Holy Land under Joshua’s leadership.

Then what?

They became so busy occupying their promised land, driving out the many little kingdoms, that during Joshua’s life and a little longer they served God and prospered. They were making a nice start toward inheriting—in *their* day—the tremendous blessings of the birthright.

But after Joshua died “and also all that generation . . . there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Eternal, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Eternal, and served Baalim: And they forsook the Eternal God of their fathers. . . . And the anger of the Eternal was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the Eternal was against them for evil, as the Eternal had said, and as the Eternal had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed” (Judges 2:10-15).

So, precisely as God had warned in verses 14-17 of Leviticus 26, God *did* appoint over them terror; they *did* sow their seed in vain, for their enemies ate it. God did set His face against them!

God’s WORD STANDS! What a pity neither individuals nor nations seem able to believe that!

But that was not the end. God is a merciful, forgiving God. He repeatedly gave them another chance. Continue the history in the book of Judges: “Nevertheless the Eternal raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way . . .” (Judges 2:16-17).

This happened repeatedly. Every time they were put under the yoke of another nation, as vassals, they cried out to God for deliverance. But also every time God sent a judge to free them, they quickly turned from God. As soon as things were going well for them, these people turned again to idolatry.

But were they so different from us, their descendants

today? Most of us seek God only when in trouble—only when in our *self-interest* we feel we need Him!

Up until this time, though these people had complained, lacked faith, gone contrary to God repeatedly, nevertheless, they still recognized GOD as their only Ruler. They may not have trusted in, or obeyed Him and His rule, but they acknowledged no other Ruler.

### They Reject God as King

But in the days of Samuel they rejected God even as their national King—as their civil Ruler. They demanded a human king, like all the unbelieving Gentiles (I Sam. 8:1-7). This probably took place near the end of 1112 B.C.

To reject God as Ruler was the greatest sin. Up until this time they had recognized Him—had looked to no other as King. This seems to have begun the years of complete sin, for which God punished them.

Nevertheless, under the “old covenant” of Mt. Sinai, they were still God’s nation. God still dealt with them. He did not “divorce” them until 721-718 B.C., as we shall see.

They suffered under Saul. They began prospering under King David, and in Solomon’s reign they reached a considerable state of prosperity. However, they had not yet flowered into the full predominant-world-power status promised under the birthright. And Solomon’s prosperity turned him to idolatry. Again they were violating the *condition* for receiving the birthright.

When Solomon’s son Rehoboam became king, he threatened to put still heavier tax burdens on the people. Thereupon the nation rejected Rehoboam and set up Jeroboam, of the tribe of Ephraim, as king.

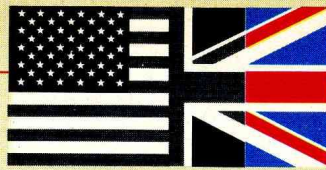
### A Nation Divided

This caused division! In order to retain the Davidic dynasty, Judah thereupon seceded. With Benjamin, and most of Levi, they formed a new nation—the kingdom of Judah! No longer did they have the national name “Israel.” The people of this new-formed kingdom of Judah are the ones who became known as the JEWS. The people of the kingdom of ISRAEL, occupying the northern part of Palestine north of Jerusalem, never were called Jews.

Now the birthright and sceptre promises *were divided* into TWO NATIONS. Remember, Ephraim and Manasseh shared the birthright. *If* it were then inherited, the others of the TEN-TRIBED nation of Israel would have automatically shared it with them—since they were part of the same nation!

But under Jeroboam the ten-tribed nation ISRAEL completely violated God’s laws, particularly the two test commandments. Almost the first act of Jeroboam was setting up idols. And he *changed* God’s autumn festivals from the seventh to the eighth month. There is ample evidence that he also changed God’s Sabbath from the seventh to the “eighth” day (first day of the week). This will be shown in a later installment.





Even after all this, God gave the nation every chance to qualify for the tremendous birthright blessings. During the reigns of nineteen kings in seven different dynasties, God pleaded with them through His prophets. But this rebellious nation showed no disposition to turn to God's ways. They had been punished repeatedly. But they refused to learn the lesson experience should have taught them.

### The Seven Prophetic Times

Now continue in Leviticus 26: "And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you *seven times* more for your sins" (verse 18).

It is important to UNDERSTAND this!

This expression "*seven times*" is translated into the English from a Hebrew word which conveys a dual meaning. The original Hebrew word Moses wrote is *shibah*. It is defined as "seven times," and also as "sevenfold." The "*seven times*" implies *duration* or *continuation* of punishment. But the word also conveys the meaning of "*sevenfold*," or seven times greater *intensity* of punishment—as a punishment that is sevenfold more intense. In this sense, the meaning would be the same as in Daniel 4, where King Nebuchadnezzar, in a rage, commanded that the furnace into which Daniel's three friends were to be thrown should be made seven times hotter. However, in Daniel 4 a different Hebrew word is used which can mean *only* this greater intensity, and cannot refer to "times," or number of *years*. But the Hebrew *shibah*, used in Leviticus 26:18, can mean this, or "times."

Now understand the "*seven times*"—or seven prophetic "times." For this *is* a prophecy. In prophecy, a "*time*" is a prophetic 360-day year. And, during Israel's punishment, each *day* represented a *year* being fulfilled.

This "day-for-a-year principle" is explained in two other passages dealing with the *duration* of Israel's punishment. One of these we have already covered. God punished that generation of Israelites Moses had led out of Egypt by *withholding* from them entry into the promised land FORTY YEARS. That promised land was a beginning *part* of the birthright. God punished them on the principle of a YEAR for every DAY—*forty years'* DURATION of punishment for the 40 *days* of transgression.

### Ezekiel's "Day for a Year"

In order to impress on the prophet Ezekiel the *seriousness* of Israel's years of rebellion against God's rule and God's laws which would *cause* great blessings, God imposed this very principle on him—but it was enacted in reverse.

The *sins* of the house of Israel had continued from their rejection of God as King for 390 years. Naturally God could not expect this prophet, in a human lifetime, to undergo the bearing of these years of sin on the basis of each *day* of sinning being borne by him for a *year*. That would have required 2,000 lifetimes. So God reversed the actual application of the principle. Ezekiel was required to bear

Israel's sins a *day* for each *year* they had sinned. But it still was the "day-for-a-year principle"!

Ezekiel was told to lie on his left side, in an imaginary siege against Jerusalem, pictured on a tile before him. "Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee *the years* of their iniquity, according to the number of the *days*, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee *each day for a year*" (Ezek. 4:4-6). It is mentioned further in verse 9.

But in the other application of the "day-for-a-year principle," previously explained, where it applied also to a *duration* of punishment put on THE PEOPLE, the punishment was to be borne by them on the basis of a year of punishment for each *day*. Also in this case, the punishment was the number of *years* during which a promised blessing was withheld.

Now when we come to the expression "then I will punish you *seven times* more for your sins" in Leviticus 26, it is evident both by its manner of wording in the sentence and by the fact of actual fulfillment that it was speaking of a DURATION of seven prophetic "*times*," or YEARS. And on this "year-for-a-day principle," it becomes seven 360-day years—a total of 2520 *days*. And when each *day* is a *year* of punishment—in this case, as in Numbers 14:34, a withholding of a promised blessing—the punishment becomes the withdrawing of and withholding the promised blessings for 2520 years! For that is precisely what did happen!

### What is a "Time"?

But now did you notice I said that a prophetic "*time*" is a 360-day year? Why not a year of 365¼ days? Why not a solar year?

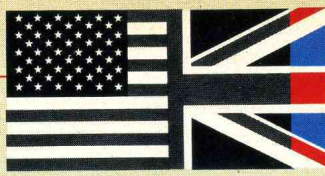
In ancient biblical times, a year was figured on a basis of twelve 30-day months. Previous to the time, in Moses' day, when God gave His people the sacred calendar, the 30-day month was used.

Notice Genesis 7:11: "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened." Now verse 24: "And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days."

Next, Genesis 8:3-4: "And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat."

So notice—the flood started on the 17th day of the second month. At the end of 150 days, the ark rested on Mount Ararat, on the 17th day of the 7th month. That





Armco Steel

**A UNITED STATES** steel mill. The U.S. possesses vast resources of iron and has facilities for turning out tons upon tons of fine-quality steel.

was five months to the day. Five 30-day months are precisely 150 days. So months, then, were 30-day months!

We find it definitely figured this way in both Daniel and Revelation. In Revelation 12:6, a prophecy of an event which in actual history did last 1260 solar years is spoken of as “a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” So here, again, a prophetic *day* was a *year* in fulfillment. In Revelation 13:5 (referring to a different event but the same amount of time) this same period of 1260 *days* being fulfilled in 1260 solar years is spoken of as “forty and two months.” Now 42 calendar months, according to the calendar now in use, would not be 1260 days, but 1276 days—and, if a leap year occurred, 1277. Or, if the extra *half*-year happened to be the *last* half of the year, it would be 1280 or 1281 days. But the 42 months of Revelation 13:5 is the same amount of time as the 1260 days of Revelation 12:6. So the 42 months were 30-day months.

The same amount of days is spoken of in still different language in Revelation 12:14 as “a time, and times, and half a time.” The “time” is one prophetic year; the “times” is two more prophetic years; and the whole expression is 3½ prophetic “times,” which is a literal 1260 *days*—or 3½ years of thirty-day months. Seven of these “times” then would be 2520 days—and on a day-for-a-year basis, 2520 years!

Then in Daniel 12:7 the same expression “time, times, and an half [time]” is mentioned.

Enough space is being taken here to make this concept plain, clear, understandable. For it is basic to several key prophecies.

A prophetic “time,” then, is a 360-day year—or a plain 360 days. And during those years of Israel’s punishment, as made plain by combining Leviticus 26:18 with Ezekiel 4:4-6, Numbers 14:34, and Revelation 13:5 and 12:6, each *day* of a prophetic “time” was one *year* in fulfillment. In Leviticus 26:18, and in Revelation 12:6 and 13:5, this meaning is verified and **PROVED** by the fact that the prophecy was fulfilled in precisely the time indicated.

#### **Birthright Withheld 2520 Years**

Now back again to the pivotal prophecy of Leviticus 26.

These Israelites had not listened to God—had not qualified to become recipients of the fabulous, overwhelming birthright national blessing. They had broken especially the two *test commandments* emphasized in verses 1 and 2 of this chapter. God had punished them in the manner He had said He would, as described in verses 14-17.

Now God said, as quoted before, “And if ye will not yet *for all this*”—all He had punished them with, described in verses 14-17—“hearken unto me, then I will punish you *seven times* more for your sins.”

Because of the manner in which this warning is worded, compared with the manner of wording where the “*seven times*” is again mentioned—and because the birthright *actually was withheld* **PRECISELY** 2520 years—it is certain that the meaning of the “*seven times*” in verse 18 is a **DURATION** of seven 360-day **YEARS**, each *day* being a *year* in fulfillment—total: 2520 actual **YEARS**! And the very enforcing of the “day-for-a-year principle” also implies a multiplied *intensity* of the punishment.

Actually, they had sinned the 390 years mentioned in Ezekiel’s prophecy (Ezek. 4:4-5). Even from the time they rejected God as their national King, God allowed them to remain in the promised land those additional 390 years! During all these years God continued to send prophets to warn and plead with them. Had they repented and turned back to God and His ways, they still could have received the richest national blessing of all history. But they would not. Rather, they increased in sins!

So finally God took completely away from them—for a duration of 2520 years—this opportunity to reap such vast material prosperity and power.

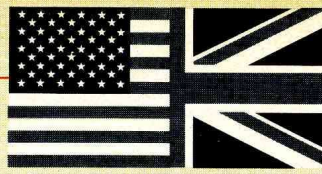
#### **Israel Becomes Lost**

Finally God *drove them out of the promised land!*

All these 390 years of national sin (Ezek. 4:5), of rejecting Him and His ways, God continued to deal with them. He kept contact with them. He sent His prophets to them. At any time during these years of their rebellion, they could have repented, turned to God, and received this vast national status.

But now, at last, God drove them out of His land! He “removed them out of his sight” (II Kings 17:18).





Again it is repeated (verse 23), He “removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.”

From that time, God sent no prophets to them. He gave them no more chance to receive the greatest national blessing of all history—until the end of the 2520 years! He hid, as it were, His face from them! He removed them out of His sight. He pleaded no longer with them. They had not qualified for nor deserved His blessings! Now He left them a slave people, to shift for themselves. He left them to their own devices!

They had rejected even the identifying sign by which they were to be known and recognized as God’s people Israel. So now they soon lost even their identity! No longer were they known by the world as God’s people. No longer did they call themselves God’s people.

They became lost! The “LOST TEN TRIBES.” Lost in name. Lost in identity. Lost spiritually! They had lost their tremendous birthright—for a duration of many generations! In due time, as a second and third generation came along, they *lost* even their Hebrew language! They regarded themselves as Gentiles! The world supposed they were Gentiles!

#### **Apostles to Britain?**

Generations later, Jesus of Nazareth, well knowing where they had migrated, sent His twelve original apostles to *make* known to them His precious gospel of God’s Kingdom—God’s government! It was the apostle Paul who was sent to the Gentiles.

Did you never wonder *why*, after Acts 15, we read no more of the twelve apostles? Except for a trip by Peter to Babylon, they had gone to “lost” Israel!

Regarding the original apostles, the Bible says: “These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, GO NOT into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans [Gentiles] enter ye not: But go rather to the LOST sheep of the house of Israel” (Matt. 10:5-6). Yes! The lost Ten Tribes.

But Jesus never begged, urged, pleaded with anyone to “get saved!” Nor did His apostles! That is a modern Protestant method. They merely proclaimed the truth, leaving it to every hearer to make his own decision whether to act on it.

Yes, the British Isles heard Christ’s gospel! But they accepted, instead, the idolatry of the Druids, pagan worship, and the counterfeit “Christianity” of the Roman Babylonian mystery religion, and even spawned the devil’s religion of the evolutionary concept.

#### **Birthright Conferred at Last!**

But when that 2520-year withholding of the birthright had expired, God was faithful to His unconditional PROMISE to Abraham! Not because of any British or American goodness, superiority, or worthiness, but because of God’s

faithfulness to His promise, beginning in 1800 these two birthright peoples *suddenly* burst forth as the greatest world powers in all history!

This national wealth and power came not because our peoples in any manner finally qualified for it. They never did! But consider:

The very fact of a withholding of the birthright from them for a definite duration in itself implies a conferring of it at the end of the 2520 years. And remember, God had promised this birthright to the descendants of Abraham unconditionally because of Abraham’s faithfulness and obedience (Gen. 26:5). God was bound by His promise to confer this stupendous national blessing regardless of the righteousness or wickedness of the descendants. But God had not bound Himself to bestow it upon any one particular generation.

Thus God was able to offer it conditionally to Old Testament Israel in and after Moses’ day. The people of those generations could have had it upon compliance with the *conditions!* Denying it to those particular generations—withholding it for 2520 long years, even—did not violate God’s unconditional PROMISE to Abraham.

But the very *fact* of a withholding for the definite duration of 2520 years implies the direct conferring of that national blessing on expiration of that definite period of withholding—*regardless* of any further qualifying or deserving on the part of the people. This must be so because of God’s faithfulness to His UNCONDITIONAL PROMISE to Abraham.

So—beginning A.D. 1800-1803, after 2520 years—God did cause the birthright nations—and them *only*—to become *suddenly* the recipients of such national wealth, greatness and power as no nation or empire ever before had acquired! Together they—the British and Americans, descendants of only *one* original tribe, Joseph—came into possession of more than two-thirds—almost three-fourths—of all the cultivated resources and wealth of the whole world!

It sounds incredible! All other nations combined shared between them only little more than a fourth of the world’s wealth. And that includes the nations descended from other tribes of Israel. It includes such nations as Germany, Italy, Russia, China—all other nations on the whole earth.

The most amazing fact of all history is this sudden skyrocketing from virtual obscurity of two nations to the most fabulous wealth and economic power ever possessed by any people. Britain became GREAT Britain—a gigantic, stupendously wealthy commonwealth of nations—the United States, the greatest nation of history.

More amazing still are the unbelievably shocking facts of the present—of how—and WHY—we are *losing* it faster than it came!

WHY? The incredible facts, the reasons, and what’s now ahead will follow! □

(To Be Continued)





**THE "GARDEN TOMB,"** located beyond the present north wall of Old Jerusalem and thought by some to be the actual crypt in which corpse of Jesus lay.



# Does Easter Commemorate the Resurrection ?

*Christ did not rise on Easter Sunday!  
This article explains what Christ did command His Church to observe!*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**H**AVE you ever stopped to consider *why* you believe the things you believe? Where did you learn the custom of observing Easter?

"I learned it from childhood," you reply. Of course you learned it from childhood! But where did the custom *really* originate?

You have *supposed* it was part of the true Christian religion to observe Easter, "Good Friday," Lent and "Holy Week"; to have colored Easter eggs; to dress up and go to church Easter Sunday. Yes, you have *supposed* the Bible taught these customs.

But *where* did God ever command you to keep any of them?

## The Meaning of Easter

From a child you have been led to believe that Easter signified the resurrection of Christ. For 1600 years the Western world has been taught that Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday morning.

These are merely some of the *fables* that the apostle Paul never taught. Christ did not rise Easter Sunday. He said He would be in the grave "*three days and three nights*" (Matt. 12:40). How can you figure 72 hours between so-called "Good Friday" at sunset and "Easter morning"?

You will want to know *when* Jesus *did* rise from the dead, so write im-

mediately for the astonishing proof in our free booklet *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday*.

The name "Easter" is merely a slightly changed English spelling of the name of the ancient Assyrian goddess *Ishtar*. As Alexander Hislop says in *The Two Babylons*, Easter "bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than *As-tarte*, one of the titles of Beltis, the 'queen of heaven,' whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country."

Easter, according to Webster's dictionary, comes "from the name of the old Teuton goddess of spring." You probably never were taught that, were you?

But if Easter came from a pagan origin, where did we get Lent?

Not from the true Church! For Cassianus, who wrote in the fifth century, says: "It *ought* to be known that the observance of the forty days [Lent] had no existence, so long as the perfection of that primitive Church remained inviolate."

Jesus never observed Lent, nor did the apostles. "The forty days' abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonish goddess. Such a Lent of forty days, 'in the spring of the year,' is still observed by the Yezidis of pagan Devil-worshippers of Koordistan,

who have inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians" (Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, pp. 104, 105).

Lent came from the ancient heathen sun worship, not from Jesus Christ. The same is true of the use of hot-cross buns, of dyed eggs and the Easter *sunrise* services. You will want to learn many more facts about these pagan customs that can't be included in this short article. Write for the free booklet *The Plain Truth About Easter*, which explains these and many more facts you surely need to know.

## Apostles Observed Passover

Instead of observing the customs of the churches of our day, the original, *inspired* Church of God, under the guidance of the apostles, observed the Passover as Jesus commanded on the eve before His death. Even the writers of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition, realized that fact when writing their article "Easter": "There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers. . . . The first Christians continued the observance of the Jewish [that is, God's] festivals, though in a new spirit, *as commemorations of events* which those festivals had foreshadowed."

Yes, the true, original Church kept



the Passover annually when God commanded.

It was years later, after the death of the apostles, after many Gentiles had made a profession of faith, that we find the observance of Easter beginning. The Gentiles began observing the day on Sunday, rather than on the eve of the 14th day of God's first month, when Jesus always kept the Passover, setting us an example. A controversy then arose between these Gentiles, who were bringing pagan customs into the Western churches, beginning at Rome, and those who still remained faithful to the instructions of Jesus and the apostles.

Here is a brief sketch showing how the "Easter" that you have been taught from childhood crept into the churches:

"Polycarp, the disciple of John the Evangelist, and bishop of Smyrna, visited Rome in 159 to confer with Anicetus, the bishop of that see, on the subject, and urged the tradition which he had received from the apostle of observing the 14th day. . . . A final settlement of the dispute was one among the other reasons which led Constantine to summon the council of Nicaea in 325. . . . The decision of the council was unanimous that Easter was to be kept on Sunday, and on the same Sunday throughout the world, and that 'none hereafter should follow the blindness of the Jews'" (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition, article "Easter").

That, in plain language, is how the apostate church decreed that none should follow the ways of Christ—the ways of the TRUE Christian Church! That's where the universal custom of observing Easter in the churches began.

#### It Was Prophesied

This astonishing account of the injection of Easter into the church, which will be much more thoroughly documented in our free booklet *The Plain Truth About Easter*, was prophesied by Jesus and the apostles. They did not tell of a widespread, popular growth of the true New Testament Church, but of A FALLING AWAY FROM THE TRUTH on the part of the great majority.

Prophesying of this universal

FALLING AWAY from the faith which Jesus delivered for you and me to keep, Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: "The *mystery of iniquity* doth already work" (II Thess. 2:7)—only some 30 years after the Church began! He referred to the very "Chaldean Mysteries," of which Easter and Christmas were the two chief festivals!

In another place, Paul wrote Timothy: "*Many* shall follow their pernicious ways." So today it's the *many*, not the *few*, who are going the wrong way. It is the *many* who are keeping Easter, which God never once commanded, but it is only the *few* who are observing the ordinance which God, through Christ, commanded.

Remember, the broad way leads to destruction. Let's quit these pagan customs and return to the faith once delivered.

#### What God Did Command

The communion, often misnamed the "Lord's Supper," is actually the Passover—as the ordinance should properly be called. On observing the Passover, as on every practice, Jude exhorts "that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Now that we know the *pagan* origin of the Easter celebration, let's clear away the web of error that covers the truth about keeping the Passover, the memorial of Christ's death.

Let's examine the way Jesus observed this ordinance, because we can't be wrong if we follow His example. In Luke 22:14-20, we read: "And when *the hour was come*, he [Jesus] sat down. . . . And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: *this do in remembrance* of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Notice, it was "when the hour was come" that Jesus introduced the unleavened bread and the wine. There was a DEFINITE TIME—a definite hour—when He held this ordinance *as an example for us*.

Notice, too, He commanded them to observe it—"THIS DO"! And why? "In remembrance of me," said Jesus. He instituted this New Testament

way of keeping the Passover on that tragic night, the very eve of His death.

In Matthew's account, the Bible shows that this ordinance was at the very time of the Passover, "as they were eating" (Matt. 26:2, 26). Jesus knew that His time had come. He was our passover, sacrificed for us (I Cor. 5:7).

The Passover had always been held on the eve of the 14th of God's first month, according to the sacred or Jewish calendar. It was the night of the final and last Passover supper that Jesus introduced these NEW TESTAMENT emblems—the unleavened bread and the wine—in place of the lamb that was always slain annually.

For a full explanation of the *original* Passover as God instituted it, write immediately for the two booklets *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?* and *How Often Should We Partake of the Lord's Supper?*

Remember, Jesus commanded: "This *do* in remembrance of me." Why? Because the Passover was commanded "FOREVER."

The Passover was to be observed *annually*, along with the Days of Unleavened Bread. "Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year" (Ex. 13:10). Jesus set us an example (I Peter 2:21), observing this ordinance at the same time once a year (Luke 2:42). Suppose the Israelites in Egypt had observed this ordinance at some other time than that set by God? They would not have been saved when the death angel passed by that night! God does things ON TIME. He has given us an exact time for this ordinance. Jesus instituted the New Testament symbols "when the hour was come."

#### The Ordinance of Humility

In giving us their accounts, Matthew, Mark and Luke describe the taking of unleavened bread and wine. But John relates another part of this ordinance.

In the 13th chapter of John we notice that after the Passover supper was ended (verse 2), Jesus took a towel (verse 4) and began to wash His disciples' feet (verse 5).

"So after he had washed their feet,



and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, THAT YE SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU" (verses 12-15).

If any of you are wondering if this ordinance of humility is a *command* to you, then turn to Matthew 28:19, 20. Here Jesus said to these same disciples: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them . . . *teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded YOU.*" So they were to teach us to observe ALL things WHATSOEVER Jesus commanded them!

#### Kept Once a Year in the Apostolic Church

In I Corinthians 5:7-8, Paul tells the Corinthians: "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: *Therefore let us keep the feast*, not with old leaven . . . but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." And in the 11th chapter he gives the directions regarding this ordinance.

Some misunderstand verse 26 ("as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup") by interpreting it "take it as often as you wish." *But it does not say that!*

It says "as often" as you observe it "ye do show the LORD'S DEATH till he come." Even Jesus commanded: "This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in *remembrance* of me" (verse 25). We do it in remembrance of THE LORD'S DEATH—a memorial of His death. As you know, *memorials* are celebrated annually, once a year, on the ANNIVERSARY of the events commemorated. The United States sets aside every May 30 as a special day of commemoration. So we observe the memorial of Christ's death *annually*. And just as often as each year comes around we are to "show the Lord's death till he come" by keeping this memorial.

Christ instituted this ordinance on the EVE OF HIS DEATH. It was the 14th of Abib, by God's sacred calendar, in the very beginning of the day. God starts days at sunset, not midnight. So later that same day, after Jesus had gone out to Gethsemane,

Judas Iscariot led the crowd to seize Jesus. Then He was crucified later that same day, in the daylight part of this same 14th of the month Abib.

By following the example of Jesus in observing this sacred ordinance at the same time He did—the very same time the Passover was forever commanded to be observed—we continue to remember His death, annually, on the eve of the crucifixion.

Some always question the meaning of Paul in verses 27-29, in I Corinthians 11. The apostle is not speaking about a Christian being worthy or unworthy to take it. It is speaking of the *manner* in which it is done. We take it unworthily if we take it wrongly, in the wrong manner. Once



*Instead of observing the customs of the churches of our day, the inspired Church of God, under the guidance of the apostles, observed the Passover as Jesus commanded on the eve before His death.*



we learn the truth about its observance, and yet take it at any other time than what God says, then we take it unworthily. We take it unworthily if we do not accept the body and blood of Christ. So let's not take this most sacred ordinance to our condemnation, but take it *worthily* instead!

#### "Easter" a Mistranslation

Following the example of Jesus and the apostles, the early Church observed the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. Notice Acts 12:3. The Holy Spirit of God inspired these words: "Then *were* the days of unleavened bread." But in the next verse we read of "Easter."

We have just seen that "Easter" was injected into the church years after the time of Christ. This word

"Easter" is a MISTRANSLATION. The original Greek word is *pasha*, meaning PASSOVER. In every other place, exactly the same word is used in the original and always rendered PASSOVER. Many other translations faithfully render this verse in Acts as "intending after the Passover to bring him forth to the people."

So this verse, instead of mentioning Easter, really proves that the Church, ten years after the death of Christ, was still observing Passover.

#### What Does "Break Bread" Mean?

There are some denominations that read Acts 20:7 as a proof that the "Lord's Supper" should be taken each Sunday *morning*! First notice that this was after the Days of Unleavened Bread (verse 6). Paul was preaching a farewell meeting not on Sunday morning, but on Saturday night. It was after midnight (verse 7) that they broke bread because they were hungry. When they "had broken bread, and EATEN, and talked a long while, even *till* break of day," Paul departed.

So this was just an ordinary meal!

The same expression "break bread" is found in Acts 27:34, 35: "Wherefore I pray you to take some MEAT. . . *he took bread* . . . and when he had *broken it*, HE BEGAN TO EAT." Again in Acts 2:46: "And *breaking bread* from house to house, did EAT THEIR MEAT with gladness." This could not possibly have been the "Lord's Supper" or, more properly, Passover, because Paul says that if we take it to satisfy our hunger we take it to our condemnation (I Cor. 11:34). In that day, everyone "broke bread" at ordinary meals, because they did not have the kind of bread that we slice. Jesus broke bread because it was at the Passover supper, while "*at meat*," eating a meal.

We need to return to the faith Jesus delivered to us. Let us humbly and obediently observe this sacred ordinance as we are commanded, at the scriptural time, after sunset the 14th of Abib, according to the sacred calendar. If you haven't as yet studied about the observance of this ordinance as a memorial of Christ's death, write us immediately for the booklet *How Often Should We Partake of the Lord's Supper?* □



# CHURCH

(Continued from page 3)

lege, besides other sins. It is a difficult and heartbreaking thing for a father to have to do. Eli honored his sinning sons, holding priestly office, above God. God's apostle of our day, crushing and heartbreaking though it was, was given the courage by the living Christ to do the very difficult task of removing his son.

Samuel had been trained as a prophet from a child under Eli. He was Israel's next leader. But the people rejected God as King over them and demanded a human king "that also we may be like all the nations" of Satan's world (I Samuel 8:4-7, 20).

God gave them Saul, tallest man in Israel. But in due time Saul disobeyed God and sinned. God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse where God had chosen Jesse's youngest son David to be the next king over Israel.

Samuel's sons had not continued in Samuel's ways. And now King David had sons who conspired to take their father's throne. First, Absalom, having been exiled for committing murder, on being received back by kind-hearted David, conspired to steal his father's throne. Later another son, Adonijah, conspired to seize it and overthrow his father.

But God had chosen David's son Solomon to succeed to the throne over Israel. After Solomon's death his son Rehoboam became king.

Solomon had reigned in splendor. Not only had he built the world's finest edifice, the Temple (as God had willed and approved), but he spent lavishly on great public works, buildings and other projects. He lived in gorgeous splendor, exceeding every king before him. For this he grievously overtaxed the people. He plunged, in old age, into idolatry and turned to women.

After Solomon's death the people sent a delegation to King Rehoboam. "Reduce the excessive taxes," the people's delegation said, "and we will serve you" (I Kings 12:4).

Rehoboam consulted the older, wiser men, who advised him to heed the complaint of the people. Then he sought advice from the younger men,

whose advice he followed, saying to the people, "... My father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions" (I Kings 12:11, 14).

Again, a younger son departed from the wisdom of older men and willfully sought to lead God's people on his own rebellious way.

But the nation thereupon rejected King Rehoboam and made Jeroboam king. However, the tribe of Judah, with Benjamin, seceded in order to maintain David's dynasty and formed the *new* kingdom of JUDAH.

Jeroboam established the capital over the kingdom of Israel at Samaria, north of Jerusalem. And so the Israelitish nation was now divided into TWO NATIONS—the kingdom of Israel with its capital at Samaria and the kingdom of Judah with Jerusalem its capital. Often, in biblical history, they were called, respectively, the "house of Israel" and the "house of Judah."

Jeroboam immediately led Israel into idolatry. After a succession of 19 kings and seven dynasties of continuous idolatry and other sins, God drove the house of Israel into captivity. King Shalmaneser of Assyria conquered them in a siege from 721 to 718 B.C., removing them from their land, carrying them as slaves to Assyria on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea.

Shalmaneser thereupon "brought men from Babylon"—and other cities following the Babylonian mystery religion—"and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof" (II Kings 17:23-24).

## Kingdom of Israel Not Jews!

So here is another TRUTH unknown in the teachings of most churches called Christian: Israel was divided into two nations—and the people of the kingdom of Israel were NOT Jews, nor are they ever called Jews in the Bible!

The first place where the word "Jew" or "Jews" occurs in the Bible is in II Kings 16:5-6, where Israel and ally Syria were at war against the Jews!

But those of the house of Israel did

not remain more than a generation or so in Assyria. They migrated northwest. They became known as "the LOST Ten Tribes." And indeed they *were* doubly lost—lost in identity until they themselves, after a generation or more, did not know who they were—and also lost spiritually from God. The knowledge of this, from the Bible, is ANOTHER PROOF of the one original true Church today!

This mystery is cleared up in a substantial booklet, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*—sent free upon request. It is one of the most amazing, exciting, eye-opening accounts ever written. Shocking—but TRUE! Meanwhile, the house or kingdom of JUDAH (the Jews) continued to an extent in God's ways, but within a hundred years were sinning more flagrantly than Israel had.

## Judah Driven Out

By about 604 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar had become king over the world's FIRST EMPIRE—the Chaldean Empire, often called Babylon. From 604 to 585 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar's armies captured the kingdom of Judah and moved the Jews into Babylonian territory as slaves.

Seventy years later, the Persian Empire had succeeded the Chaldean. God caused King Cyrus, by "stirring up the spirit of Cyrus" (Ezra 1:1)—his "human spirit"—to issue a decree sending a contingent of Jews back to Jerusalem to build the second temple. Zerubbabel was the governor of the contingent and builder of the temple to which Christ came at His first appearing on earth as the human Jesus. Also, prophetically, this Zerubbabel was the type of one to come in the LAST DAYS of this world whom Christ would use in building the temple to which the glorified all-powerful Christ shall come at His second appearing. Apparently none but God's Church understands the truth of the building of this temple.

Some of Judah remained in and near Jerusalem—others were scattered into Russia, Poland, Yemen. Most of the Israelis in today's Israel have migrated into the original "promised land" from these countries. □

(To Be Continued)