

The Good News

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The TRUTH About "Lazarus and the Rich Man!"

Thousands have asked for the true explanation of the "Rich Man and Lazarus." Here is what the Bible really says!

DO SAVED mothers up in heaven see the writhing and hear the shrieks of their own lost children down in hell?

STOP AND THINK! Would you really want to spend eternity in a heaven where you would be forced to gaze constantly upon your own loved ones who were lost, hearing them frantically screaming to you for help you would be unable to give, gazing constantly upon their indescribable agony, as they, *on fire*, are burning—burning to death—yet never really burning up? Would you be happy?

Yet that is exactly the kind of heaven that is being pictured by most of the churches and the clergy! They rely more on Jesus' account of Lazarus and the Rich Man than any other argument to support their teaching that the "saved" go instantly, at death, to heaven while the lost leave their bodies and are plunged into an ever-burning inferno of eternal torture.

What the Bible SAYS!

Those who deny going to heaven or to hell at the instant of death have said the account of Lazarus and the rich man was merely a parable. But the "immortal soul" advocates insist this is *not* a parable! Jesus was stating facts that had happened, they argue.

So let's pretend this was *not* a parable. Let's take it literally. Jesus surely meant *exactly what He said*. But He did not

By Herbert W. Armstrong
say what is popularly believed!

Jesus said "There was a certain rich man." Then there really *was* a certain rich man! Jesus said definitely that this particular rich man "was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day." He really lived in luxury and splendor! (Luke 16:19.)

Also, Jesus said, "there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores." (Verses 20-21.)

Yes, there were many such beggars in Palestine when Jesus lived there.

What Happened?

Next Jesus described what happened to them.

"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died and was buried." (Verse 22.) They both *died!*

That is exactly what Jesus *said*. Now read that again. Did Jesus say the beggar went to heaven?

He certainly did not! He said the beggar "was carried by the angels into Abraham's *bosom*."

Did the Beggar Go to Heaven?

Now what is a "bosom?" If you can find what a "bosom" is—and in this case

Abraham's bosom,—you will know where the beggar was taken.

Look in your dictionary. A "bosom" is the breast of a human being, with the arms as an enclosure; a loving embrace by the arms of one person about another; an intimate relationship.

So Lazarus was carried into an *intimate relationship with Abraham*.

Lazarus here is pictured as a Gentile, who received salvation. Do Gentiles, upon being converted and becoming Christ's, enter into any intimate relationship to Abraham? They certainly do! To the Gentile-born Galatians, the Scriptures written by Paul say definitely: "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed (children), and heirs according to the promise." (Gal. 3:29.)

Thru Christ they become the children of Abraham. Thru faith we all become "the children of Abraham." (Gal. 3:7.) That is an intimate relationship with Abraham. That is being taken into Abraham's bosom!

Now Abraham is an HEIR of God. God gave Abraham a PROMISE. Notice (Gal. 3:29), those who thru Christ become Abraham's children are *heirs*—but heirs *according to the promise* God made to Abraham!

The PROMISE Was Not Heaven!

Now what did God promise Abraham? To what promise was this beggar now an heir? Did God promise Abraham and his children HEAVEN?

Let's not put any *interpretation* upon the sacred Word of God. No scripture is of any *private* interpretation—it is interpreted by *other Scriptures*. It ought not to be interpreted by man.

To learn what God *promised* Abraham, we must turn back to Genesis 12.

"And Abram took Sarai his wife, . . . and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. . . . And the Eternal appeared unto Abram, and said, *Unto thy seed will I give THIS LAND.*" (Gen. 12:5-7.)

The land of Canaan is called PALESTINE today. It is on this earth, not up in heaven. This beggar thru Christ became "Abraham's seed,"—in the intimate relationship of one of Abraham's children. Then God included this beggar when He said, "Unto *thy seed* will I give THIS LAND."

Again, later, God promised Abraham: "For all the LAND which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to *thy seed* FOREVER." (Gen. 13:15.)

Again, still later: "In the same day the Eternal made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto *thy seed* have I given *this land*, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates." (Gen. 15:18.) Here God wrote into the agreement, or the title to the property, the very boundary line of the property. Of course the expression "thy seed" refers in particular to Christ, but since this beggar was Christ's, he, also, was "Abraham's seed, and heir according to the promise."

The PROMISE was not heaven. The promise was the LAND of Palestine, on this earth. It was *for ever*, so the promise included *eternal life*, and *eternal inheritance* (Heb. 9:15.) The PROMISE, then, was ETERNAL LIFE ON THIS EARTH!

Only an Heir!

Now notice an important point. The beggar was carried by the angels into Abraham's BOSOM—that is, by Bible explanation, he became one of Abraham's children, and therefore he became an HEIR to inherit the LAND ON THIS EARTH and ETERNAL LIFE. He was not yet a possessor—not yet an inheritor—merely an HEIR!

The next question is, *when* was this beggar to *inherit*—to come into possession of ETERNAL LIFE in THE PROMISED LAND? Jesus, in telling about Lazarus and the rich man, did not cover that point. He only told *what* happened, not *when*. We must find the answer, not in human imagination or the false teaching of man, but IN THE BIBLE!

The son, who is heir to his father's property cannot come into possession of it before his father inherits it. This beg-

gar, carried into the intimate relationship of a son of Abraham, could not inherit either eternal LIFE, or this LAND, prior to the time his father Abraham receives these promises.

When, then, did Abraham actually receive these promises? The startling answer of Scripture is—HE DIDN'T!—*he has not, even yet in our day, inherited these promises!*

WHEN We Inherit the Promises

Scripture reveals the answer thru the inspired speech of the very first Christian martyr, Stephen, who was stoned to death for these very words.

It is in Acts 7: "And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our Father Abraham . . . and said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into THE LAND which I will show thee. Then came he out of the land of the Chaldeans . . . into *this land*, wherein ye now dwell. (Palestine.) And *He gave him none inheritance in it . . . yet He promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him.*" (Acts 7:1-5.)

Again this amazing fact is stated in the FAITH chapter—Hebrews 11: "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a *place* which he should *after* receive for an inheritance, obeyed; . . . By faith he sojourned in *the LAND of promise*, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the *heirs* with him of the same promise: . . . *These all died in faith, not having received the promises*, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims in the earth." (Heb. 11:8-13.)

Abraham *died*, but has not to this day inherited the promises!

Abraham died, and was still DEAD, *not living* on earth or in heaven or anywhere, but was still DEAD, at the time of Christ's earthly ministry. We read in John 8:52, "Abraham is dead." At that time—centuries after he died, Abraham WAS DEAD! He is still dead today. When, then, is he to inherit the promises?

At the time of the RESURRECTION of the just, of course! The Kingdom of God is the government to be set up IN PALESTINE to rule all nations after the Second Coming of Christ.

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven . . . and the dead in Christ shall rise first." (I Thes. 4:16.) Human mortals, in Christ, living and dead, receive *eternal life*—immortality—the PROMISES God made to Abraham at Christ's Second Coming. That is *when* they shall *put on* immortality! "Flesh and blood (human mortals) cannot *inherit* the Kingdom of God; neither doth cor-

ruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be *changed*, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead (including Abraham and the beggar) shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and *this mortal must put on immortality.*" (I Cor. 15:50-53.)

Again, notice *when* Abraham and all his children co-heirs are finally to *inherit* the promises—the Kingdom of God, on this earth, in Palestine:

"*When* the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him,"—notice, this is the Second Coming of Christ—and all the ANGELS come with Him—"THEN shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: . . . THEN"—and not until then—"shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, INHERIT THE KINGDOM prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Mat. 25:31-34.)

Jesus said Abraham would receive the promises, including eternal life, thru the RESURRECTION: "But *as touching the resurrection of the dead*, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." (Mat. 22:31-32.) Jesus did not say Abraham was then living. Yet the things God has promised are so certain they may be counted as if already accomplished. Abraham, as shown above by Scripture, was and still is DEAD. But Jesus spoke this about Abraham "*as touching the RESURRECTION of the dead.*" Abraham will be RESURRECTED.

Jesus told the Pharisees they would see Abraham *in the Kingdom* (Luke 13:28), because Abraham, now DEAD, will then be RESURRECTED from the dead!

Carried by Angels

Now again let's get back to what Jesus said about Lazarus in Luke 16. Jesus said this beggar *died*. So, like Abraham, he is STILL DEAD!

But Jesus said that, after he died, "he was carried *by the angels* into Abraham's bosom." We now know that WHERE he was carried was not up to heaven, but into the status of a son and heir of Abraham, to inherit THE LAND on this earth, and ETERNAL LIFE upon it, at the time his father Abraham comes into his inheritance—at the time of the Resurrection.

But notice, Lazarus is to be carried there *by the angels!*

When do the angels come down from
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Did ELIJAH Go to Heaven?

by Herman Hoeb

YOU HAVE been told that Elijah went to heaven.

What, then, did Jesus mean when He said in John 3:13: "*And no man hath ascended up to Heaven*, but he that came down from heaven"? Is this a Bible contradiction, or *did* Elijah really ascend to the heaven where God's throne is?

From Jesus' own statement we have the absolute proof that *no man* had ascended to the heaven of the Father's throne, except Jesus who came down from heaven (John 6:38) and who is at the right hand of the Father in heaven now (Hebrews 8:1).

Then where *did* Elijah go?

The Meanings of Heaven

There are several heavens mentioned in the Bible, *not just one!* And if, as Jesus said, *no man*, which included Elijah, had ever ascended to heaven, then the heaven into which Elijah was taken was a *different* heaven! Which one was it?

There is the heaven of God's throne, where Jesus is today. Jesus, being the High Priest of God, is the *only* One who has the right to be in *that* heaven with the Father. Hebrews 8:1-5 explains the original earthly tabernacle under the Old Covenant with its most holy place, or compartment—the type of the throne of God in heaven. *Only* the high priest—type of Christ as High Priest now, was allowed to enter.

The word "heaven" also means the expanse of this great universe—the space where we find the sun, moon, stars, comets and planets. How often do we find the Psalmist admiring the "*heavens*, the work of thy fingers, the moon, and the stars, which thou hast ordained." Psalm 8:3; Genesis 1:15-17.

Beside the heaven of the stars, we also find that the atmosphere, the air that surrounds this world, is also called *heaven*. Birds fly in the midst of heaven—certainly *not* God's throne in heaven—for we read in Genesis 1:20 of "fowl that may fly *above the earth* in the open firmament of heaven." In blessing Jacob, Isaac said: "God give thee of the *dew of heaven*" and Moses joyed that the "heavens shall drop down dew." See Gen. 27:28; Deut 33:28.

Here heaven can mean only the atmosphere where the clouds and the wind roam. Everyone of us is right now breathing the *air of heaven!*

Which Heaven?

Since Elijah could not have gone to the heaven of God's throne, then to which heaven did he go? for the Scripture reads "and Elijah went up by a *whirlwind* into heaven (2 Kings 2:1, 11)."

The answer ought already be quite obvious; for he "went up by a *whirlwind* into heaven." There could be no whirlwind in any other place but in the atmosphere surrounding this earth—in the heavens in which the birds fly. You certainly have all seen the great lifting power of a *whirlwind*, haven't you? If great timbers can be flung into the air, it would not be any great feat for the Ever-Living who planned to take Elijah up by such means!

Why Taken Up?

There was a reason for this unusual act of God. Why did he take Elijah up into the atmosphere? Was it to make him immortal? No, *the Scripture says no word* about that. The ancient prophets did not receive any promise of immortality prior to or apart from us. And we shall receive it when Christ returns (Heb. 11:39, 40).

If Elijah were not made immortal—for that would give him pre-eminence above Jesus—what *does the Bible say?* What men presume matters nothing.

In 2 Kings 2:3 and 5 the answer is plainly recorded. "Knowest thou that the Lord will take away *thy master from thy head today?*" Or as the Smith and Goodspeed translation has it "Do you know that today the Lord is about to take away your master *from being your leader?*"

Christ is the head of the church today as Elijah was the head or leader of the sons or disciples of the prophets in that day. But God wanted Elisha to direct his work as Ahaziah the King had died (2 Kings 1:18). So what did He do? He could not allow Elijah to be among the people with Elisha directing the work now. That would have been the same as disqualifying him! Since Elijah was not to die just yet, and since *God never takes an office from a man when that man has been performing his duty well*, the only thing God could do would have been to *remove Elijah* so that another would have to fulfill the office as prophet of the Eternal.

This God did do. When taken up,

Elijah's mantle dropped from him and Elisha picked it up. See the twelfth to the fifteenth verses inclusive of 2 Kings 2.

And what did the "*manile*" mean?

In Clark's Commentary we note that it was "worn by *prophets* and *priests* as the simple insignia of their office." Vol. 2, page 484.

The purpose of God in removing Elijah was to replace him with another man who would carry on the work of Israel for another fifty years. This work had to start under a new king for Ahaziah had just died. And Elijah was already aging. So as not to disqualify Elijah in the sight of the people, God took him away from the sons of the prophets and the people, allowing the mantle which signified the office of Elijah to drop into the hands of Elisha. Thus God preserved the name and office of His prophet from the possible slurs of the king.

How Taken Up?

Having crossed Jordan near Jericho, Elijah was taken up by a whirlwind in what appeared to be a chariot and horses of fire—signifying the very present power of God and angels in the action. The violent motion of the wind pulled the mantle off the prophet as he was seen to ascend into the sky. You probably remember reading the promise of Elijah that Elisha would have a double portion of the Spirit of God if he would be allowed by God to see him taken up. All this meant that Elisha was to be the leader, the new head of the sons of the prophets, just as a double portion was the right of the first-born (2 Kings 2:9).

Having ascended into the air, Elijah was borne away out of the sight of the new leader—beyond the horizon. But—

Where Did Elijah Go?

This has been the perplexing problem to so many!

He did not ascend to the throne of God. *Jesus said so!* He couldn't remain in the air forever.

And God did not say that Elijah was to die at that time. If he were, Elisha could have assumed his new office without the removal of Elijah, for we know that Elisha died *in office* after fulfilling his duty. (See 2 Kings 13:14).

The sons of the prophets who knew
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Here's How *YOU* Can Afford to Attend God's Festivals

by Rod Meredith and Raymond McNair

GOD WANTS His people to get together! And, as most of you readers know, God commands us to keep His Holy Days instead of this world's holidays—which have mainly come from paganism.

The seven annual Holy Days of God provide special times for God's true worshippers to meet at a *time* and *place* selected by God—and not in a man-devised "camp meeting." They are seasons of joyous fellowship!

Each of these festivals pictures for us a part of *God's plan* and keeps us *annually* in remembrance of it. The churches of this world have substituted the pagan holidays, and have, therefore, lost true knowledge of God's plan of salvation.

If we are to contend *earnestly* "for the faith which was once delivered," we are going to forsake the pagan holidays and customs of this world and begin to *keep* holy the days God *made* holy! And God has given a means so *we can afford* to do it.

Why These Festivals?

To review briefly—before explaining the amazing plan God has instituted so you'll be financially able—we should remember *why* God commands you to observe the festivals.

Turning to Exodus 12—this was **BEFORE** God made the Old Covenant with Israel at Sinai and commanded animal sacrifices—we find in this chapter *God* began instituting His festive occasions with the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month of God's sacred calendar (verses 1-6). In verse 14, the Eternal says that the first annual holy day is a **MEMORIAL** to be kept **FOREVER!** Also in verses 15-17, the entire seven days of Unleavened Bread are commanded to be observed *forever!*

These days were commanded *forever* and they were nowhere abolished. (Another article will appear in a later issue of the *Good News* explaining misunderstood texts in the New Testament.)

God *later* put sacrifices upon these days just as He did on the weekly Sabbath and upon every **SUNDAY**, and upon *every day of the week*, every week of the year! See Exodus 29:38. Do Sunday-ad-

vocates think Sunday was abolished from the week because the offerings of that day by ancient Israel are abolished? Of course not!

Then why use this fallacious argument to try to do away with God's Holy Days? They are still coming around year by year!

Instituted Before Sacrifices

Now let us turn to another place where these feasts or festivals of God were commanded **BEFORE** any animal sacrifices and meat offerings were instituted. In Exodus 23:14-18, we find the Feast of Unleavened Bread (including the Passover), the Feast of Firstfruits (or Pentecost) and the Feast of Ingathering (festivals of the seventh month) are commanded to be kept holy.

These are commanded again in Exodus 34:22-25. Notice that these days had *no connection* with animal sacrifices—except the sacrificial Passover lamb, which symbol Jesus changed to *unleavened bread and wine*.

God tells us in Jeremiah 7:21-24: "For I spake *not* unto your fathers, *nor* commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you."

The Eternal didn't command offerings and sacrifices at the time He instituted His festivals forever. So when reading the following texts, don't get the **FALSE** idea that the days were given for the *purpose* of the sacrifices. The sacrifices were put on the days *later*, just as on Sunday and every day of the week. With the death of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit, the sacrifices were terminated, but the annual festivals, the sabbath, yes, and every day of the week still continued as they do today.

In Leviticus 23 is a complete list of all the festivals God gave to Israel—they were not given to Gentile nations because these nations were without God, having no hope (Eph 3:12), but Gentiles today keep them when they are

grafted into Israel of the spirit (I Cor. 5:8).

In Lev. 23:3 is mentioned the weekly Sabbath day right along with the other "feasts" or special days set apart for the worship of God. In the fifth and sixth verses are mentioned the Passover, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. *All seven* of these annual occasions are commanded in this chapter. In verses 21, 31, 41, the Holy Days mentioned are specifically commanded to be kept **FOREVER**.

New Testament Examples

Every one of these days is intended to be kept forever and we find that Christ and the early true church **DID** keep them.

In Matthew 26:17-30, we find that Jesus kept the passover—only he changed the manner of observance from the use of the roast lamb to unleavened bread and wine. In the seventh chapter of John, the Holy Spirit recorded that Christ kept the Feast of Tabernacles. In verse one it says that **JESUS WOULD NOT WALK IN JEWRY**. Yet he kept the *Feast of Tabernacles!* Why?

Because God had commanded it **FOREVER!** So if we are to be real Christians, *we must follow Christ's example!*

All through the Book of Acts, we find that the early true church of God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit kept God's Holy Days.

In Acts 2:1, we notice the disciples had gathered together to keep the day of Pentecost. If they had disobeyed that command, like today's worldly churches, they would not even have been there to receive the Holy Spirit!

In Acts 20:6, Paul and the disciples were keeping the days of Unleavened Bread. This was **LONG AFTER** the sacrifices and carnal ordinances had been nailed to the cross. Yet we find the Holy Spirit inspired the author of Acts to inform us that the days of unleavened bread were **STILL** in existence.

The days of Unleavened Bread are again mentioned in Acts 12:3. In verse four, the King James translation of the Bible has the word "Easter" for the original Greek word meaning *passover*. This is the only place such an unusual translation error occurs.

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HELL—What Does the BIBLE Teach About It?

by Dr. C. P. Meredith

ARE ANY of your loved ones going to burn forever in hell fire? Some of them probably are disobeying God.

Do you believe in a God who has prepared a horrifying nightmarish place of everlasting torture for those that disobey Him?

The most "popular" teaching is that *hell* means a place of never-ending torture for the wicked.

But the ideas of men on this subject are not important. We want to know what ALMIGHTY GOD, our Creator, has to say about this through the revealed Word of God, the Holy Bible. For the Bible says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Tim. 3:16.

What the Word Hell Really Means

Is such a place mentioned in the Bible? Yes. Four different Hebrew and Greek words have been translated into the English word "hell" fifty-three times.

First though, let's look into the origin of this word "hell" so as to eliminate any man-made ideas we may have associated with it when we see the word in print or hear it.

We should realize that the Old Testament was originally inspired in the Hebrew language and the New Testament in the Greek. There are a total of *four separate and distinct words* in these two languages, all of which have been translated into the words "hell," "grave" or "pit" in the English Bible. Three of these words have separate and distinct meanings.

Sheol (Hebrew) and *hades* (Greek) mean the same thing—simply the *grave* or *pit*. Of *sheol*, *Smith's Bible Dictionary* says, "It would perhaps have been better to retain the Hebrew word *sheol*, or else render it always by THE GRAVE or THE PIT." It says further, "It is clear in many passages of the Old Testament that *sheol* can mean only THE GRAVE."—not a fiery hell!

Of *hades* it says, "In the New Testament the word *hades* (like *sheol*) sometimes means merely the GRAVE, or in general, the unseen world." (Pages 1037, 1038).

The Real Meaning

To bring the truth out clearly, Acts 2:31, speaking of the resurrection of Jesus says: "He (David) seeing this before spake of the *resurrection* of Christ, that his *soul* was not left in *hell*, neither his flesh did see corruption." The soul of Christ was the body that went into the grave! Yet here we read that Christ went to *hell*!

The word in the original manuscript here was *hades*—the grave! Also in I Cor. 15:55: "O grave (the word *hades* was used in the original), where is thy victory?" Clearly *hades* is the *grave* or *condition of death*.

Gehenna is the Greek word translated "hell fire" so often. It is associated with the dump at Jerusalem and denotes a continually burning fire that burned up completely all refuse that was thrown into it—TOTAL DESTRUCTION. This was the word used by Christ with reference to the *second and everlasting death*. Thus, the Jews understood what Christ meant when He said, "Fear him that is able to *destroy both body and soul in hell* (*Gehenna*)."

The *Smith Bible Dictionary* on page 1038 says of this word, "The word most frequently used in the New Testament for the place of future punishment in *Gehenna* of *Gehenna-fire*."

In Mark 9:47 Christ said: "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire." *Gehenna* is used here in the original manuscript. Christ says here it is better for us to destroy our sinning members (see Col 3:5) than to be burned up in *gehenna*.

Tartaroo is the third Greek word used with a distinct meaning. It denotes a condition of restraint for *fallen angels*. It is used only once in the Bible (2 Peter 2:4) and does *not* refer to men.

Now things are becoming clearer! The King James version is only a translation by man, subject to error, and without God's direct inspiration. God's Word, as He originally inspired the writers of the Bible, didn't make any contradictory statements about death, *hell* and destruction. "God cannot lie." The Bible is the word of God! Therefore

as God inspired it, it didn't contain any lies, imperfections, or contradictions of any kind whatsoever!

Even in the Bible, "*sheol*" is translated "grave" and "pit" more often than "hell." That is the intended meaning anyway so why do men try to read "burning hell" into it? This is absurd in many places such as in Jonah 2:2 where Jonah cries to God out of the belly of "hell" (i.e. the ~~whale's~~ belly). **HUGE FISH'S**

"*Sheol*" here should have been translated "grave" or "hidden place" as it sometimes means. Certainly it would be ridiculous to say that Jonah's temporary grave in the ~~whale's~~ belly was the fiery furnace of hell! Also, in Luke 16 we find in the parable of Lazarus and the rich man that the rich man did not go at once to a burning hell after he died but only to his grave for the word in verse 23 which was translated "hell" was "hades" which means grave.

Now we are beginning to see the *real* meaning of the words translated "hell." They just don't mean the things that the "Hell-fire" preachers say they do! No, indeed! The Creator God has a lot more wisdom, and infinitely more love than these so-called ministers would have us believe. Time and again they would have us feel the pangs of terror by using the word "hell" where only the meaning *grave* or *pit* is intended.

The English word for *grave* or *pit* was "hell" in previous centuries, and they used to say that they buried their potatoes in "hell" for the winter.

The *Encyclopaedia Americana* says that the origin of the idea of a hell came about by centuries of man's thinking on a reward. It is MAN'S IDEA of what such a place should be, and not what is actually revealed to us by God through his Holy Word. The idea was gradually developed by the Greeks and Romans. Clement of Alexandria speaks of spiritual fire in this world, Gregory the Great (604 A.D.) established the doctrine of hell, and Dante Alighieri (1265-1321 A.D.) gave the idea a great forward thrust when he wrote his *Divine Comedy*. It became a place of eternal punishment and a place where the devil reigned supreme. It was said to be located beneath the earth's surface.

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Is Elijah in Heaven?

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that their master was to be removed also knew that Elijah was *not to die then*. That is why they were fearful that the Spirit of God might have allowed him to drop "upon some mountain, or into some valley (2 Kings 2:16)." Elisha knew that God would preserve Elijah from falling, but at their insistence he permitted men to go in search for him—to no avail.

Elijah was gone!

And where to? Certainly the whirlwind used by God could not take him beyond the earth's atmosphere. Neither does the Bible account leave Elijah in the air!

The Answer Unfolds

Let us skip over a few years and see what further events the Scripture records. The son of Ahab, king of Israel, Jehoram, or Joram as he is variously called, began to reign about 896 B.C. This was the year of the removal of Elijah (2 Kings 1:18 and 3:1). During this king's reign Elisha was the recognized prophet of God (2 Kings 3:11). In the fifth year of Joram king of Israel, the son of the king of Judah began to reign along with his father in Judah (2 Kings 8:16). His name also was Jehoram. The first thing he did to establish

his kingdom rule was to put his relatives to the sword lest they should claim the throne from him (2 Chronicles 21:4). After that he followed the human ways of the nations about him and did evil in God's sight. Then Edomites bolted his rule.

Ten years had now expired since Elijah was taken from the people. But what do you think was about to happen?

A Letter Comes from Elijah!

Yes, after this wicked rule by the Jewish king, *God chose Elijah to write a letter and have it sent to the king!*

The contents of the letter are found in 2 Chronicles 21:12-15. In part it read: "Because thou *hast not walked* in the ways of . . . thy father . . . but *hast walked* in the way of the kings of Israel . . . and also *hast slain* thy brethren of thy father's house, which were better than thyself . . . *thou shalt have great sickness by disease.*"

From the wording of the letter, Elijah wrote it *after* these events had occurred, for he speaks of *them as past events*, and of the disease as *future*.

And this was *ten years after Elijah had been taken* to another location by the whirlwind.

That God should have used him to convey the message is very reasonable, for he was the prophet of God in the days of the present king's father—and the son was not going in the ways of his obedient parent Jehosaphat.

RADIO LOG

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What All This Means

Folding up human ideas and laying them forever aside, we can see from these events recorded in Scripture that God allowed Elijah the prophet to live about ten more years on this earth after his removal as head of the prophets. The Scripture implies that almost no one knew where he was during this time. To be living these years, God must have placed him again upon the earth where few if any others knew of his presence, or at least they did not reveal it. Elijah was still a human being the same as always, but removed from his own people.

The letter he had others deliver was known to be his—implying that he was considered to be alive some place. Just how much longer he lived, the Bible does not mention. But in that *it is appointed unto all man once to die*—with the exception of Christians alive at Jesus' return—Elijah *must have died* somewhat later. See Hebrews 9:27. The prophet, *being mortal flesh as we are*, could not have lived much beyond his seventy years.

To suppose that God gave him the power of an endless life of nearly three thousand years already *is to read into the Bible what is not there!* He was mortal, subject to death, and after being lifted into the atmospheric heavens, spent the remaining years of his separate life at some other location on the earth, living as every human being, before he naturally died.

Elijah on the Mount

The only remaining texts that puzzle people are those relative to the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus. The record of the event is found in Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36. Leaving the mountain, Jesus told his disciples: "Tell *the vision* to no man (Mt. 17:9)."

A vision is not a reality but a picture in the mind put there supernaturally, in this case, by God. Moses died, and was buried (Deut. 34:5-6). Both he and Elijah were still dead in their graves, but *in vision* both they and Jesus were seen in the glory of the resurrection—an event to which Moses and Elijah have not yet attained, (Heb. 11:39). *The vision* was granted the disciples after Jesus had spoken of the glory of immortality in the coming kingdom.

After all these Scriptures have been studied, what is the conclusion? That Elijah is dead in the dust of the earth awaiting, as are all the holy men of old, the resurrection of the just. Elijah, some years after being removed in the whirlwind, went to the grave, but he will rise again, this time to live forevermore.

ON THE CAMPUS

FOLLOWING are articles written by students on student activities. The purpose of this entire section will be to give you the story of our jam-packed lives on the campus. We hope you won't mind if we occasionally poke a little fun at ourselves—striving human beings are always funny—and no matter how serious minded, our frailties wink. (We don't think there is anyone here who would claim to be the acme of perfection.)
—thanks! Criticism and suggestions welcomed
The Campus Editor

“Consider the Ant, Thou Sluggard”

by Calvin Allen

You have read a great deal about the student life here on the campus. There have been articles in the *Good News* about our recreations and social functions but no one has written anything about our physical work. As one of the two students who have been given a position in the supervision of student labor, I can familiarize you with just what we fellows do.

I mentioned being given a position in our work. Perhaps I should explain just what system of administration we use at Ambassador College, whether it is democracy, socialism, or other accepted human government.

To make a long story short, we use theocracy, God's government. That means God does the ruling. Those he has placed in position under him (I Corinthians 12:28) carry out His orders and principles. We must have government in order *not* to have confusion.

Don't misunderstand me, I don't mean to say that all governments are without confusion; only God's government is. When you see confusion among leaders, you can be sure that God doesn't have his hand in it. No two can be the leader in the *same* office. As Christ said, “My father is greater than I” in authority, though both are of God's family. Yet two or more may be in different offices on an equal rank, just as the twelve apostles who will rule the twelve tribes of Israel in the soon-coming Kingdom.

When I mentioned that two of the students had been given equal positions in the work here on the campus, you might have thought we were a confused team, but that has been worked out by Mr. Elliot, who is director of men student labor. By having one of two students over the fellows who work in the mornings and one over those who work in the afternoons, the plan functions splendidly under Mr. Elliot's immediate direction.

God's principles are thus carried out by Mr. Armstrong, whom He has chosen to direct His work, and Mr. Armstrong, in turn, appointed Mr. Elliott to direct student labor. Mr. Elliott's plans are then executed by the two of us who direct the other fellows in doing what God wants done—as He reveals it to those who serve under Him.

All students are working their way through college and everyone cannot work at the same time; some are able to work in the mornings and some in the afternoons. This largely depends upon what courses are carried. We have a system worked out whereby the exact hours each student is available for work are charted. The foreman in charge knows in advance what jobs are to be done and how many students he will have to do them.

What Kind of Work

Our work has a wide range. Anything from digging ditches and laying water pipe to grubbing out trees and picking fruit, helping in the mail room, addressing and checking the *Plain Truth*, the *Good News* or a “Co-worker Letter” and the janitor work in every building.

You may wonder how anyone could keep twenty young men busy on five acres of ground. Well, I just wish you could visit our campus from time to time and observe how we have been restoring and improving property and altering according to planned campus design new property that has recently been acquired. Of course, there are innumerable other jobs in addition to the daily routines, painting, electrical work, gardening and others.

I have just touched on the men's work. The girls' work, over which I naturally have no supervision, varies from helping in cooking and housecleaning at Mayfair to the major work in the office, doing the routine jobs that exist there.

It might be interesting to know what has to be done when you write and request your name to be placed on the mailing list, or send in tithes and offerings to help in this great work. Later, one of the girls will explain the work of young women students in the office.

Student-Faculty Relationship

by David Jon Hill

You people out there may want to know just what the relationship is between the students and the faculty here at Ambassador.

Do we go around in a submissive mood in awe of their authority and their greater learning; or do we regard them as necessary evils, something that has to be put up with in order for us to gain an education?

Neither of these holds true in our case. We find ourselves in a rather striking situation that is not found in many other colleges that I know of. We can associate with our teachers and professors and carry on an intelligent conversation with them, enjoying ourselves while doing so, as easily as we can with our fellow students. We talk of our studies, or music, or literature; we talk of ideas and ideals, and discuss them freely.

Do we take what is told us and glibly swallow it, and take it for granted that with their superior knowledge they can't possibly be wrong in anything they might say? Do we take what they say with a grain of salt, and put them in the category of the older generation?

Again neither of these explains our attitude. We listen to what they have to say; we give our own ideas on the subject, whatever it may be. If we are stumped for an explanation to anything, we inquire into that and find out what is really the truth of the matter.

Now, immediately someone who didn't know the students here would say: the first place they go, no doubt, is to their Bible, and no doubt it's the only place. They would be right in their first assumption, the Bible is the first place we go; but there are other sources of knowledge which, in many cases, deal on subjects and give statistics and facts, that our Bible does not contain. So, we glean information from whatever source we can, check it through other sources of information, and finally go, of course, to

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How YOU Can Afford to Attend

Continued from page 4

In another place, the apostle Paul said: "I must by all means *keep this feast* that cometh at Jerusalem (Acts 18:21)." And Paul "hasted if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost (Acts 20:16)."

Paul *commanded* the GENTILE Christians of Corinth to *keep* the festival or feast of Unleavened Bread (I Cor. 5:8). He commanded in I Cor. 11:1, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." WHY do some of us fail to follow Christ and Paul in observing the sacred festivals of God?

We have been DECEIVED! The "popular" churches of today do not keep the same days holy that Christ and the early true church did! If we are true followers of Christ, then let us forsake these pagan holidays and begin to keep God's Holy Days as He commanded.

How to Afford It?

But HOW can we afford it?

These festive occasions are *commanded* to be kept *in the place that God should choose*. Deuteronomy 16:16 shows particularly that the days of Unleavened Bread (together with the Passover, verse 6), the day of Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles were all to be kept *where God would choose*.

As many of you know, we have been keeping the Feast of Tabernacles at Belknap Springs, Oregon. We now have reason to believe that *God will choose* and open to us a place in California or some other more central location. In the past, many have come from as far away as Texas and Louisiana and Missouri to keep the Feast of Tabernacles with us. They had a wonderful experience in this God-commanded festive occasion—being filled, and filling others whom they had never before seen, with love and inspiration.

This particular feast of God pictures the thousand-year rule of Christ when the world will be at peace and happy amid prosperity. Therefore, as you read chapters 12 and 14 of Deuteronomy consider how this festival is *the time of your great rejoicing, your spiritual revival, and YOUR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP*. People who have experienced just one of these joyous occasions of God wait with eager anticipation, yearning for the next gathering.

And HOW do they do it?

God has not only provided, but also *commanded* a way to make it financially possible for everyone to keep His Holy Days!

It is a way which requires continual

EFFORT and determination from true Christians. But if we are to be OVERCOMERS—and *they only* will be priests and kings in the Kingdom of God—then we will have to exercise enough strength of character and will to obey this command of God. Actually it works no real hardship, but brings a great blessing to ourselves and others. It is a way that builds faith and hope and patient love.

What does God command?

God commands us in Deuteronomy 14:22-27 to save a special or *second* tithe, *to go* to the place God selects for each of His festivals, and *to rejoice* in them. This second tithe is for expense money to enable us to keep God's annual Holy Days. In ancient Israel most of the money was spent for food there, as the expense for traveling was almost nothing. Today, however, our greatest expense is often transportation rather than food. As the purpose of this *second tithe* is to enable us to attend the festivals, we will often spend a good portion in transportation.

Not the First Tithe!

Please do not confuse this second tithe, especially for these occasions, with the first tithe which God has commanded us to render to His true ministers for proclaiming to the whole world the Gospel. *Unlike* the second tithe, the *first* tenth or tithe of our income belongs to God. He created all things and is only *permitting* man to use this material world anyway. "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein (Ps. 24:1)."

In Numbers 18:21 we read that God gave a tenth or "tithe" of Israel's income to the Levites for an inheritance. This tithe does *not* belong to us, it is the inheritance of God's ministry. Today the priesthood has been *changed* (Hebrews 7:12), so we now pay our tithes to God's representatives, Christ's true ministers, for the gospel work (I Cor. 9:14).

In Malachi 4:8-12, it says that we are *robbing* God if we fail to render to Him (thru His true servants) our tithes AND offerings. Most people in this confused world don't even realize this. But once we have the knowledge of the truth, we had better repent and begin to obey God in this matter. It is all for our own good though. As we just read in Malachi, if we do obey God by paying our tithes and giving offerings—He will bless us abundantly. But God does want us to be willing to obey Him, and to put that ahead of our own selfish desires.

In Deuteronomy 14:22-27, we find that our Creator commands us to lay by a *second* tithe of our increase or income and go to the place which God

has chosen. From this tithe we ourselves are to eat, drink, and rejoice in this place—the place God has chosen that His annual Holy Days are to be held. We set aside this special tithe (or tenth) of our income *every year* in order that we might have the expense money to attend and to rejoice with the brethren in them. Notice it says in verse 23, "and THOU shalt eat before the Lord thy God. . . ."

This tithe is to be spent on *yourself*—not for the ministry. Since there is a commanded tithe for the ministry, this must be *another, different* tithe.

In the twelfth chapter of Deuteronomy, this *special* tithe is mentioned in verses 6, 11 and 17 along with the sacrifices Israel used to bring. Here again this second or *special* tithe is for *you* to use at the place which God has chosen for *you* to appear before Him on these annual Holy Days.

Yes, God has provided a method by which we can keep His festivals IF we are willing to do our part! It isn't difficult once we try. God has promised to care for our every need (I Peter 5:1). And *if we love the brethren* we won't fail to do it.

Are we going to follow Christ or not? Let every one examine his own heart!

Produce Too!

Let's use the minds God has endowed us with to carry out these commands in a reasonable manner. Deut. 14:22 states that you shall tithe the increase of your seed. Then it is certainly permissible for you farmers to bring some of your produce or canned goods to the feasts instead of money.

Sad as it sometimes is, with some families, the second tithe *just hasn't been enough* to get them to the Feast of Tabernacles. In this case, those having *more than enough* second tithe should help those who lack. Remember, God doesn't expect the poor to save more than their small tenth, but *they must do their part!* God often blesses others however, with a larger tenth so they can help those who have less.

We find in Acts 4:32-35 that the early church helped its needy members and we try to follow this principle. If there is not enough second tithe to take the entire family to the three great feasts, then just the man, as head of the family, should go (Deut. 16:16). The other members of the family are expected if circumstances permit, and God will help us work it out in time if we do our part. Of course, if the husband is an unbeliever, the wife should certainly try to come anyway.

Some of you are probably thinking that saving both the first and second tithe is going to be impossible. That's

what the *world* believes! But we are not of the world but of *the household of faith*.

Do you think God has commanded you to do something which He knows you will be unable to perform? NO! Those of us who have saved these two tithes know by EXPERIENCE that God is able to bless us sufficiently that we abound to every good work (II Corinthians 9:6-8). He is doing it this moment for hundreds of the brethren and he will do it for you. You just do YOUR part, and God will be faithful to perform HIS!

Tithe for the Poor

Now don't be shocked! You probably haven't heard it before, but God wants us to save still *one more* tithe every third year to help the poor and needy! This is *God's* way of providing money for charitable purposes. In Deuteronomy 14:28-29 and Deut. 26:12-15 we find this tithe commanded. It used to be set aside in every walled city, "within thy gates (Deut. 26:12)." But now many poor are so far away that we simply send it wherever needed. This is to be saved only every third year and is the only other tithe commanded. It is especially for the poor brethren or poor and aged relatives. Any real Christian knows there is great wisdom in this command of God.

Historical Example

A most convincing example from a reliable historical source of how the Jews paid these tithes is given in the book of Tobit. This book is found in what is known as the Apocrypha—a collection of Jewish history and writings covering and extending beyond the period between the Old and New Testaments.

These writings were not inspired but they do give us a great deal of reliable information. Tobit was a man of the tribe of Naphtali, which was among the ten tribes of Israel taken captive by Assyria. He continued to keep the commandments of God even after the rest of his tribe began offering sacrifices to Baal and leaving their land of captivity for Northwestern Europe where Israel is today.

In the third paragraph of the book of Tobit, he tells us, "But I alone went many a time to Jerusalem for the festivals, as the Scripture commands all Israel with an everlasting decree, taking with me the first fruits and the tenth part of my crops and my first shearings, and I would give them to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar. A tenth part of all my produce I would give to the sons of Levi, who officiated at Jerusalem, and *another tenth* I would sell, and go and spend the proceeds in Jerusalem each year, and a *third tenth* I would give

to those to whom it was fitting to give it, as Deborah my grandmother had instructed me—for I was left an orphan of my father."

Thus we see that the Israelites had always understood that they were to save all three tithes, and that each one was to be used *for a different purpose*. God's commandments are not hidden from anyone who sincerely desires to know the truth.

Are you living by every word of God? Let us obey our own spiritual Father by keeping His annual Holy Days and saving the tithes that He has commanded!

We who have been attending God's feast days are looking forward to the pleasure of meeting many more of you—our co-worker friends—in these annual Holy Day gatherings.

Literally scores of you have written us asking, "How can we have fellowship with other true believers"? God in His infinite wisdom *knew* that His children should congregate for instruction and Christian fellowship. That is why God BLESSED us by giving us His annual festivals! We should *appreciate* this love God has lavished on us by saving the tithe that He commands for His Holy Days.

Then, *let's be there!*

Write us if you want further information on time and place or other matter for God's festivals. Reread or write for the articles on them in the April and June issues of the "Good News."

God has made your presence possible IF you do your part! Are you willing?

Hell—What Bible Says

Continued from page 5

The Catholic church accepted these ideas of hell in a large measure and they were later adopted by other denominations. Few were aware of the *origin* of the beliefs they came to accept regarding this place.

The World Has Wrong Idea of Hell

The Encyclopaedia Americana tells us what the *world thinks* "hell" is. Quoting from it, we find that the *world thinks*, "It (hell) is a place where the devil reigns supreme and lost souls go and suffer eternal punishing."

Actually, none of these ideas expressed in this quotation are correct! The Bible, in I Thes. 5:21, says to *prove all things*. The devil is not going to be around so he can punish anyone forever, for Revelation 20:10 says he is going to be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone and be tormented day and night forever and ever or as the Greek transla-

tion says "for the ages of the ages." That is the final destination of the devil! He is the one that is tormented forever—and not man—for the devil is a spirit being and as such cannot burn up as is shown in Daniel 3:25 where Nebuchadnezzar saw the angel walking in the fiery furnace.

Now let's continue Rev. 20, verses 13, 14, 15. Note that these show what takes place to man AFTER the devil has been disposed of forever. They show the final end of the evil people of this world. These verses read, "And the sea gave up the dead that were in it; and death and *hell gave up the dead* that were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

This is the FINAL GEHENNA FIRE spoken of by Christ. Note that it says this is the SECOND DEATH. It is clear that the devil is not reigning supreme at this future time—he is in the lake of fire! LOST MAN is there all right, but not any lost IMMORTAL SOULS are spoken of! Nothing is said of descending into the earth to reach this lake of fire and nothing is said of man being tormented forever and ever.

The picture the average person has of hell would seem to be about as wrong as it could be. When you begin to see the truth about some of these things, you wonder how a person could ever become so mixed up!

People today are mixed up about many things! It is a good sign when YOU start to question some of the things YOU have taken for granted!

This is the time of the end spoken of by Daniel in Daniel 12:4 where he said, "Seal the book till the time of the end: many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased." GOD HAS NOW OPENED THINGS UP TO BE UNDERSTOOD WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN UNDERSTANDABLE BEFORE and the TRUE KNOWLEDGE of the Bible is going to reward those that have it.

"Eternal Fire"

No, man is NOT GOING TO BE TORMENTED FOREVER! The everlasting punishment of the wicked is death, not life in any form.

True enough, this DEATH IS CAUSED BY FIRE. In Matthew 25:41 Christ told the wicked to depart into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. He did not say that any would remain in the fire but only that the fire was everlasting—since it was prepared for the devil and his demons who are spirit and will live forever. The fire is called an un-

quenchable fire because it is not quenched, or put out—it continues to burn as long as there is anything to burn; but the people cast into it, not being spirit beings, *will be consumed.*

Jeremiah said of an unquenchable fire in Jeremiah 17:27, "I (God) will kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and IT SHALL NOT BE QUENCHED." That fire long ago accomplished its end in burning the palaces at Jerusalem. God had the king of Babylon set fire to them. After it had accomplished its purpose, *it went out*—and not before!

Jude (Jude 7) speaks similarly of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah suffering the vengeance of *eternal fire*. The eternal fire *burned these cities completely up* but it is *not* burning there today!

DESTRUCTION IS GOING TO BE COMPLETE for remember that Malachi said in Malachi 4:1-3, "The day cometh that shall burn as an oven and—all that do wickedly *shall be as stubble*: and the day that cometh shall *burn them up*, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall *leave them neither root nor branch*—(There is going to be nothing left—neither root nor branch!)—and ye shall tread down the wicked for *they shall be ashes* under the soles of your feet."

Hell is going to be a lot hotter than most people think for it is going to *burn them up!* The Bible does not speak of an eternal punishing of man, but of an eternal punishment! The punishment is *death*, not *life*, and that *death* is for *all eternity!*

The final end by fire is also mentioned in Revelation 21:8, and 2 Peter 3:10 says, "The day of the Eternal shall come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with a fervent heat and the earth also and the works therein shall be burned up." Psalms 37:10 says, ". . . for a little while and THE WICKED WILL NOT BE." And verse 20 says, "But *the wicked shall perish* and the enemies of the Eternal shall be as far of lambs: *they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.*"

Don't let Revelation 20:10 mislead you where it says, ". . . into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet ARE." Note that this word "ARE" is in a different type of lettering in the King James version than the rest of the sentence, indicating that it was not in the original text but was added later by others. It should read, "WERE CAST." The point is that the beast and false prophet will be mortal men and will not still be in the lake of fire by the time the devil is cast into it. They will have burned up.

There is going to be a short period of TORMENT. The mental side of this tor-

ment is brought out in Luke 13:28 where it says, "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out."

The possible brief physical period of torment is brought out in Matthew 13:42 which says, "And (Christ) shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." But this furnace of fire shall burn them up, root and branch! It is *the second death!* They shall remain dead FOREVER!

The Wages of Sin Is Death

"Sin is the transgression of the law," as I John 3:4 points out. God requires OBEDIENCE from everyone and we are going to have to give evidence of a desire to be obedient before we can even be begotten, to say nothing of finally being BORN into the kingdom.

Disobedience is sin and, "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23.) Everlasting DEATH!

When the Bible says, "The wages of sin is death," it is not referring to the deaths that we see occurring around us each day. These are the ones that are referred to in I Cor. 15:22 which says, ". . . for in Adam all die . . ." and in Hebrews 9:27 which says, ". . . and it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." This is the FIRST DEATH—a death caused by a person wearing out PHYSICALLY and from which he can be resurrected. The SECOND DEATH is caused by knowingly and persistently disobeying God *and from this death there can be no resurrection.*

Hell Not Time-Space Separation

Hell does not consist of a separation from God by time and space—a lost soul shrieking and wailing as it sweeps onward through the blackness of eternities. Some seem to hold such a thought but it is not true; for *man is not born into this world with immortality*—he has no eternal life abiding in him he is like a clock that is going to run down, and as soon as his short mortal life span has run out there is NOTHING LEFT OF HIS CONSCIOUSNESS to torment! He is DEAD!

No, God in His mercy has no interest in tormenting poor lowly man forever!

Do All Go to One Place When They Die?

The Bible says they do in Ecclesiastes 3:20. When some people hear this, they quickly conclude that this means *hell* because each goes to a separate place when he dies here—the grave. Let us not take other people's word for things so easily, but take a look at the Bible ourselves.

Let us read the words of Ecclesiastes 3:20—"For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them; as the one dieth so dieth the other; yea they all have one breath; so that a man has no pre-eminence above a beast: for all is vanity, ALL GO UNTO ONE PLACE. . ."

But don't be so hasty! Let's finish the reading of this verse. All right! ". . . *all are of dust and all turn TO DUST again.*" There it is! The common element is dust! We die and turn to dust again! We don't go to a burning hell! The ONE PLACE into which all go at death is *the dust of the earth!* "Dust thou art," said God to Man, "and *unto dust* shall thou return."

Time of Second and Final Death

There is a time sequence running through chapters 19 and 20 of Revelation which shows *when* the SECOND and FINAL DEATH of sinful man will occur.

Revelation 19:11 tells of Christ's second coming to assume control of the earth, and verses 19 and 20 show how the beast and false prophet are cast into a lake of fire and brimstone. With them out of the way, Satan is seized, bound, and cast into a bottomless pit for a thousand years (Chapter 20:2-3), during which Christ reigns (verse 4). At the end of this time Satan is loosed for a period (verse 7), then he will be seized and cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, there to remain forever (verse 10). After this a white throne judgment occurs (verse 11), and then the final judgment with the evil people being cast into the lake of fire which is their everlasting destruction (verses 13-14-15). The burning up of the world is described in 2 Peter 3:10.

Why Is a Hell Necessary?

Yes, why is a hell necessary? Most of us have heard of such a place all our lives and been made uncomfortable by the thought of it.

It is thought of as a place of endless torment for those unfortunate enough to go there, but did you ever hear one good word about it when it came to a discussion of any benefit it might be to the one sent there? No, you probably haven't. Satan would have us think of God as a harsh unfair monster who would torment man forever for sins.

Now let's see WHY the lake of fire spoken of in Revelation 20:14, which is the *real gehenna-fire* mentioned by Christ, is to be used for sinful man's everlasting destruction.

The Eternal is forming from mortal man a family for Himself—a family known as the "Kingdom of God." It is a spirit family referred to by Christ throughout his parables in the four gos-

pels. We are to become His very sons and He is to be our Father and we are to rule with Him forever (Revelation 20:4 and 22:3-4-5), but NO DISOBEDIENT PERSON IS TO BECOME HIS SON! He will not allow it. If any person on this earth, after seeing plainly God's plan, for an immortal spiritual life, decides he wants none of it but would rather go on living his OWN WAY—the way of MATERIALISM which is temporary and perishable—then that person is not going to be given *the gift of spiritual and eternal life* but is going to be DESTROYED—not live forever in torture in this lake of fire!

Yes, God is going to take VENGEANCE—"Vengeance is mine saith the Eternal"—Romans 12:19). Those who, through their hardness of heart, will not repent and avail themselves of Christ's blood for the forgiveness of their past sins and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit which will help prevent them from sinning in the future, will be destroyed forever. BUT HE is going to show His MERCY (Psalm 62:12, 89:14, 100:5) on these very same people by destroying them forever; for He knows *they would never be happy* in the glorious Kingdom of God *by going on following their own ways* (Isaiah 55:7-8-9) which only lead to misery and suffering. Most certainly "GOD IS LOVE"! (I John 4:8 and 16).

On the Campus

Continued from page 7

the Bible again for the last check.

The teachers here take a lively interest in the students. Mr. Armstrong has more or less of a program of weekly entertainment for different boys and girls. He takes them out to the sights that are to be seen in this vicinity, gives them an enjoyable time that they might not otherwise be able to have, and, his home is open to all of them at all times to use its conveniences. We can go over and consult with him if we have any personal problems. He has an open mind and is broadminded enough to accept ideas that youth may have on certain subjects.

The other professors are also very willing to help us whenever possible. Their hearts and their pocketbooks, to a surprising extent, are willing to give us a good education.

Here is only one example: my relationship with a professor of languages here. I am always welcome to his home; he's always glad to talk over my problems with me; give any help if he can; tell me of his experiences, which are varied and exciting; to be a real friend especially when I'm in need. From what I gather, other of the students have simi-

lar contacts with other of the professors.

Does this filial and genial association with our professors and teachers make us have any less respect or regard for them? Definitely not! I think our regard is heightened for them in that they can bring themselves to associate with us as freely as they do. To come, more or less, down to our level; although we dislike belittling ourselves in thinking that. This association gives us an opportunity to become more mature and able to understand things better in the light of a more experienced mind.

Here at Ambassador we try to make the best of every opportunity with the proper attitude. When we see an opportunity we jump at it, but not in the haphazard way that a juvenile would go about it. We usually examine quite a few of the points of a thing before we leap into it, and when we take advantage of an opportunity we look to the other person's welfare as well as our own so that we might not implicate anyone else in something which we wouldn't wish to be implicated in ourselves.

Accepting things with the true spirit and the proper attitude, we come to realize that there's no joy in life so great as the joy of others. If practiced by all, this idea, this attitude, would make for a better world. We can't hope for this now, however, because the nations are in too much turmoil, too much in a hurry to get things done that have temporary satisfaction and temporary security. There is, though, something to look forward to: everyone will have his chance, and in the Kingdom of God there will be a perfection of our ways; and those who do not enjoy the joy of others now, will certainly do so then.

We here at Ambassador are trying our best to come to that place of perfection through the exercising of the right spirit and attitude; and relationships with one another are vitally important in the exercising of that practice.

Mayfair—Second Floor

By Elise Bernard

"There goes that bell again and I have just gone to bed" I groan as I reluctantly crawl out of bed, and so it seems. This California climate does something to a person for I am always eying the bed with persistent longing. So begins a typical day at our student home, Mayfair.

The girl students live on second floor at Mayfair, and I am sure many of the visitors, also the listeners out in radio land, have wondered what it would be like to visit a place where only girls reside. I will try to give you a word picture of Mayfair, second floor, and some of the activities the students participate

in every day, there and on the campus.

Each morning, the bell rings at six thirty and (except for those who are already studying or working in the kitchen) we take turns combing hair, washing faces, and occasionally someone hums a tune to the swish of the running water. A day has begun.

After a dash of cold water to arouse our sleeping spirits we look forward to the new day and with this bright outlook on life descend the stairs to a hearty breakfast prepared by Mrs. Wallace, our cook.

After breakfast we wash the dishes and listen to Mr. Armstrong's program; then each girl goes to her classes or work, however her schedule may require. The day is spent in study and work, but there is time for recreation, too. The day is filled to the brim with the activities we believe are necessary to form good character and supply abundant living.

Each student, boy or girl, is a participant in this worthy cause.

"But," you say, "What happens on second floor? That is what we are interested in."

To be perfectly frank numerous things happen on second floor. If this typical day should be Tuesday, after our classes are over by five, we dress for dinner and after dinner we have an etiquette reading which is informative and entertaining. After a few minutes chat we go upstairs to study. The girls may gather in groups and discuss classes, for example. World history and a coming examination, or perhaps a lighter, but important topic, their previous date.

One evening the girls gave a party just for girls. "Oh," you say, "That would not be fun. Imagine a party without men."

It happened here and it was fun and this student is hoping it will happen again, soon. Of course we missed the men and they are nice fellows to have at a party but it just goes to show you that girls can entertain girls and have fun.

The students are serious minded and realize they are here for a purpose, so often you will see a group with open Bibles studying diligently or discussing an important subject.

Over in another room a student is ironing while her roommates are studying diligently. Immediately everyone realizes the day is almost over for it is ten o'clock.

Those that had social engagements wander in to relate the happenings of the evening and then it is ten thirty and time for lights to be out.

Amid the scramble for bed there are murmured good-nights and then all is quiet as we drift to the land of Nod. Another day has ended at Mayfair, second floor, and it has been an enjoyable day. Don't you think so?

Question Box

Your questions answered in these columns! Your opportunity to have those puzzling queries, needing only a short reply, solved. If yours are not here, then write them to us. As space permits they will be printed if an answer is possible. Of course, questions demanding lengthy replies cannot be placed in these columns.

Edited by the Students.

Is It Right to Give Xmas Presents to Children If I Explain It Isn't from Santa Claus?

The giving of presents in itself is all right but the fact you are connecting the giving of presents with Christmas time will only sanctify this pagan holiday in the eyes of your child. There is no reason why you should not give your child gifts, but when it becomes a practice to wait until a particular time each year, only to be faced with the perplexing problem of explaining that the presents were not connected with Santa Claus, you should not do it. Even with detailed and careful explanations, your child will still associate the giving with Christmas celebration and Santa Claus because of the influence of outside environment.

Throughout the year, make it a practice of giving your children love, affection, and gifts, when their conduct deserves it, so your offspring will never feel sorrowful or envious when children of this world receive gifts once a year. You can make your children's life so enjoyable that other children will wish they had parents like you.

Send for the booklet, *The Plain Truth About Christmas* which proves conclusively you, as a christian, can have no part in this idolatry that has not a trace of real christianity.

Are Communism, Fascism and Nazism the Three Unclean Spirits?

Communism, Nazism, Fascism are instrumentalities of Satan. They are evil. They are lying deceptions.

But evil as they are, these systems are not the three unclean spirits described in Revelation 16:12-16.

Then, what are they? When do they deceive the world?

First, the time of their operation in the world is in the future, culminating in the sixth plague to be poured out upon Babylon at the return of Jesus Christ. These unclean spirits could not be any of the "isms" of today, because the seven last plagues are the wrath of God (Rev. 16:1) yet to be poured out on the world "in the presence of the Lamb" when he comes the second time (Rev. 14:10).

Second, from the Bible itself we know

that unclean spirits are demons or "devils" as the King James Version expresses it. In Mark 1:23, Jesus cast an "unclean spirit" out of a person in the synagogue. But in Luke's description of the same event, this unclean spirit is called a demon or "devil" (Lu. 5:33-37). Actually there is only one devil but many demons.

So the Bible explains that unclean spirits are demons, spirits who can possess people, as the next points show.

Third, these unclean spirits come out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet. Who are these according to the Bible?

The dragon is interpreted by the Bible as the devil or Satan (Rev. 12:9). The beast according to the Bible is the political leader of the Babylonish system, pictured in Daniel 7, Revelation 13 and 17, who is yet to appear in Europe to head the last rebirth of the Roman Empire.

The false prophet is the religious leader of this Babylonish system, who has been ruling the various rebirths of the Roman Empire for more than a thousand years.

Fourth, the three unclean spirits come out of the mouths of these three—the devil, the "Beast," and the "False Prophet." In I Kings 22:21-23 we find unclean spirits, lying spirits in the mouths of the false prophets in ancient Israel. These spirits possessed or so completely deceived the false prophets that the demons or lying spirits actually talked through the mouths of the men. Just as demons did possess the false ministers of Israel, so these unclean spirits will possess the beast and the false prophet and use their mouths to utter lies to deceive the nations.

Having these four points in mind, let us see what these spirits are to do. Rev. 16:14 reads: "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

The purpose of these demons is to gather the nations to fight Christ at his return. And they shall deceive the whole world into doing so, by the lying propaganda and the miracles they perform.

Compare this verse with Rev. 19:20 and 2 Thess. 2:10 where the false prophet performs miracles by these deceiving spirits or demons.

In order to deceive the professedly "Christian world" into fighting Jesus when he returns, these spirits must misrepresent the time and purpose of the second coming of Christ. Their deception must picture the real second coming of Christ as something evil.

And do you know that the world is already being prepared for these three lying spirits! There is already abroad in the world a teaching that is deceiving millions—that is preparing the "Christian world" for this great final deception that will gather all nations to Armageddon.

This doctrine is the Rapture Theory and the false doctrine about a super Anti-christ. These two doctrines are deluding many churches into believing that a secret rapture of Christians will occur before the tribulation and that the Anti-christ starts the tribulation which to them is the same as the Day of the Lord!

But the Bible says the day of the Lord follows the great tribulation (Mark 13:34 and Joel 2:31). The day of the Lord is the time of God's wrath! The world is already being deceived about the time and purpose of Christ's return!

Yes, the three spirits of demons will delude the whole world into fighting its Maker, into believing that the second coming of Christ is actually the coming of Anti-christ!

What terrible deception it yet to delude this world in the devil's last attempt to keep Jesus Christ from taking over the rulership of the earth!

Will Christians be Taken Into Captivity?

The great tribulation—our time of captivity—is a time when the Christians are to be tried.

In Matt. 24:9, we read: "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my names' sake."

This refers to both national and spiritual Israel. That is, the nations of Israel today, America, England and the Northwestern Democracies of Europe will suffer during the coming war or the tribulation period when Europe arises to war against us. But, also those called to be a separate people, true Christians, spiritual Israel, will suffer greatly because of their belief.

Again, in Revelation 7:14 we are told the following: "And He said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the

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You Will Have to *Experience* the Feast of TABERNACLES!

by Charlene Glover

THE BUSTLE of excitement was great here in Pasadena as students and church brethren alike prepared to leave for beautiful scenic Oregon and the Feast of Tabernacles. Some left by train, others by cars, while others went by chartered bus with no outsiders to disturb.

On the night of the 15th of October we all were assembled in Belknap Springs Lodge for the first service. Those of us who had been there before realize that only God could have chosen such a place to put His name there.

The quiet atmosphere breathes God's very handiwork in the lofty, spectacular mountains—a part of the Cascade range—in the magnificent trees that tower many feet high, the beautiful swift-flowing McKenzie River that moves relentlessly on—a striking illustration of God's Holy Spirit that flows in and out of our very being if we are submissive to Him.

Where We Came from

The attendance this year was over one hundred fifty as compared to somewhat over ninety last year. People from California, Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Illinois, Washington, the surrounding country of Oregon, and other states, too, were represented. Some had traveled over two thousand miles, realizing that these were the *days* God set aside picturing His plan and purpose for mankind's existence on the earth.

Many had to sacrifice a great deal in order to convoke here, but the spiritual food they received will last throughout eternity, while the money they spent is only perishable.

My Second Year

This having been my second year at the Feast of Tabernacles, I can say from my heart that this gathering was even more a blessing and nearer perfection than the previous year.

After spending an entire year of being perplexed with trials, tests, persecutions that come from living in the world, surrounded with non-believers, I can realize the problems of the brethren. They live from one Feast of Tabernacles to another, awaiting the time God has made possible for them, to forget the routine grind of earning a living, to live for eight days isolated from the world

but with genuine fellowship of true brethren.

What We Learned

For the first few sermons, Mr. Armstrong dwelt on the importance and the significance of the Holy Days. So many of the brethren had come to observe them knowing it to be a command of God, yet not understanding why. Here for the first time they learned.

This was followed by explanations of "law and grace," by sermons on prophecy making plain the coming captivity to face our people and the British, because of our national sins.

Near the end, he gave a special class in sex understanding, a preview into his forthcoming book, giving the brethren valuable information for themselves and for the instruction of their children which they can't properly obtain otherwise.

Students Assist

This year Mr. Armstrong had the assistance of twelve of the students in actual speaking from the pulpit while still others participated as song leaders, and in special singing. Yes, God's work is progressing; and will continue to progress until the True Message has been preached as a witness to all nations.

Raymond Cole struck home with his sermon on passive Christianity. His admonition to us was that we should take heed from the lives of the Israelites of old that we don't fall into the same condemnation as they—trying to retain God and the ways of this world at the same time. We in God's Truth often seem to be most lackadaisical, woefully lacking in *zeal*. How the desires of Israel typify our own!

Marion McNair spoke on our positions of responsibility in the Kingdom during the millennium. Some of the younger students stressed it too, as our goal in this life.

Baptizing Tour Reported

Rod Meredith and Raymond McNair were given two services to tell of their experiences on the baptizing tour many of you made possible by your prayers and financial help. If the angels of heaven shouted for joy over each one of the 109 that were baptized, think of the

joy we should feel at their repentance to change their ways. But the climax came when we saw several of the newly baptized attending the Festival of Tabernacles. Only by being here, could they realize the importance of the tour.

Your Duty to Teach

Herman Hoeh climaxed the Festival with a challenge to all present. All of us who realize the truth must be ready and able to give an answer at all times for the hope that is within us—to *be able to teach others!* Instead, most of us have need that we should again be taught the elementary principles of God's Revelation to Man. Many of us have been guilty of studying *only* to benefit ourselves, not thinking of the need to help our children and others we may meet in this life, much less realizing that we are training ourselves *now* to aid those whom we shall not see until in the age to come. We can't really profit unless we learn *for the purpose of helping others*, not just pleasing ourselves with the truth. We were challenged to study to make this year the most productive in our lives.

Material Blessings

Along with the spiritual, there was every material enjoyment our hearts could desire, delightful meals prepared from food brought by the brethren, vigorous mountain hikes, swimming in the pool adjoining the Lodge, side trips of interest and even an old-fashioned party with games, popcorn, roasted all-beef wieners and fruit.

The children weren't forgotten either—entertainment is provided so that their joyous laughter adds to the enjoyment of all!

We were blessed with being able to sing God's songs, the Psalms, set to music composed by Dwight Armstrong. Many services were accompanied by his violin, by solos, duets, quartets or instrumental numbers. Most every afternoon, Mr. Armstrong, Raymond Cole, or Herman Hoeh were available for Bible study with those who wished it.

The Climax of the Festival

The great day of the Festival, picturing the Great White Throne Judgment of the dead, who shall yet have an opportunity to life, was indeed a time of deep

joy and gratefulness to our Father. A baptismal service was conducted in the early afternoon followed by a most solemn service in which the little children were brought forward to Mr. Armstrong and one of the Elders to be blessed following Christ's example.

Those recently baptized had the hands of the elders laid on them for the receiving of the Holy Spirit, marking the beginning of a new life in Christ Jesus.

At the climax of this day approximately forty-five were given the right hand of Christian fellowship, a perfect ending of this, God's Festival. Everyone was beaming with happiness thru moist eyes, even though the slight tinge of sadness in parting crept in, a sadness that brought us all into closer unity by love.

We realize that now begins a year of putting the Truths we have learned into practice, making it a year of accomplishment. We who comprised the one hundred fifty this year are waiting with anticipation to see a great rise in attendance next year as many of you who read this will arrive for the first time. It is anticipated that the Festival will be held near Pasadena next year.

Yes, God makes all things possible for *you* to come.

Lazarus and Rich Man

Continued from page 2

heaven? In Matthew 25:31, quoted above, we saw that it was at the Second Coming of Christ—at the time of the RESURRECTION!

Again, Scripture reveals: Christ shall "send his *angels* with a great sound of a trumpet, and *they* shall gather together His elect from the four winds"—out of their graves in a RESURRECTION. (Mat. 24:31.) The TIME when the angels carry Lazarus and the saints into sharing the INHERITANCE with Abraham—into Abraham's bosom—is the time of the RESURRECTION! Lazarus is to be resurrected, and carried by the angels thru the air to meet Christ, at His return, and to be with Abraham, in the intimate relationship of father and son! Yes, HOW PLAIN! Lazarus will then enjoy the fond embrace of his father thru Christ, Abraham—both then resurrected and LIVING forevermore, in the promised LAND, then inherited!

There is no doubt as to how the Bible uses the word "bosom." Turn to Isaiah 40:11. Here God will care for His people as a shepherd does for his sheep, which He will carry "in His bosom." Jesus was "in the bosom" of the Father (John 1:18), enjoying the Father's blessings and close relationship. Moses carried the children of Israel in his bosom. To be in one's bosom is to have that one's love and protection, and share

his blessings and inheritance. So it will be AT THE RESURRECTION!

The Fate of the Rich Man

Now let's see what happened to the rich man—and *when*!

Jesus said of him: "... the rich man also died, and was buried." (Luke 16:22.) Jesus did not say the rich man was taken immediately at *that time* to an eternally burning hell. He did not say the *body* was buried but that the rich man himself was plunged immediately into a burning hell. He said the rich man *died*—and the *rich man*, himself, *was buried*.

Now one would hardly say of one being put into the burning caldron luridly described as the imaginary hell that the act of throwing one into that burning region was a BURYING of the person, would he? One is not *buried* unless he is *covered up*.

People are *buried* in a grave, and covered with earth. But the imaginary hell that was invented by Dante Alighieri accepted by the Roman Catholic church and later by most Protestants is never pictured as a place of BURIAL! But this rich man died and *was buried*! He, himself, was buried—not a "house" he had lived in. JESUS SAID SO—read it in your Bible! The rich MAN *was buried*!

What Kind of Hell?

In the next verse, Jesus said "And in *hell* he lifted up his eyes." (V. 23.)

So the rich man was in a place called "hell," after all, wasn't he? And in this hell he "lifted up his eyes." His eyes had been *closed*, in death, and now there came a time when they opened—he "lifted up his eyes!"

What kind of "hell" is this?

Startling tho it may be, the rich man was *buried* in the *same kind of "hell"* Jesus *was buried in*! Yes, Jesus died and was buried—and in "hell!"

In the first inspired sermon preached by Peter on the day the New Testament Church started, Peter said: "He (David) seeing this before spake of the RESURRECTION of Christ, that *His soul was not left in HELL*, neither his flesh did see corruption." (Acts 2:31.)

Jesus, too, died and was buried And in "hell" He, too, lifted up His eyes—WHEN HE WAS RESURRECTED!

Now let me explain that, and make it plain!

The New Testament was written in the Greek language. *Your Bible* is a translation in the English language. In the English language your Bible probably reads "And in *hell* he lifted up his eyes." However, in the original Greek in which the New Testament was written there are three different Greek words, each having a totally different meaning, but all three of which were

translated into the "King James" and Catholic translations by the English word "hell."

Another article in this issue will explain these Greek words and the meaning of "hell." One of the Greek words is "tartaros," which refers only to the present condition of darkness, or perversion, and of restraint, of the fallen angels, or demons. Another is "gehenna," a place at the bottom of a high ledge at the south end of Jerusalem, where garbage, refuse, and bodies of dead animals and criminals were dumped over the ledge to be burned up. Down below, the fires were kept continually burning. They *burned up*, or *consumed*—totally destroyed the bodies and refuse dumped there. This is the word Jesus used when He spoke of being finally DESTROYED in "HELL FIRE."

But this rich man was not buried in *that* "hell." He was not in "gehenna." The third, and most commonly used Greek word was written here by Luke—"hades." And "hades" means THE GRAVE—a place of BURIAL in the ground!

When the King James translation of the Bible was made, Englishmen spoke commonly of "putting their potatoes in *hell* for the winter." They buried them in the ground!

This is the "hell" Jesus was buried in—the "hell" His soul was not left in—the grave, or tomb, from which He was RESURRECTED! And *this, hades*, was also the "hell" in which the rich man was BURIED!

WHEN Did He Open His Eyes?

Now once again, Jesus did not say *when* this rich man, "in hell," lifted up his eyes. Jesus pictured him as one of the wicked, or lost. We must look to other Scriptures to tell us *when* the unjust will lift up their eyes in their graves.

Daniel speaks of the resurrection of the just, and of the unjust: "And many of them that sleep (*their eyes closed*) in the dust of the earth (*their graves—buried—in "hades"*) shall awake (*lift up their eyes*) some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." (Dan. 12:2.) **ΜΝΗΜΕΡΟΝ**

Jesus said: "... the hour is coming, in which all that are in their graves (*the original Greek word Jesus used is ~~hades~~*) shall hear His voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil (including the rich man), unto the RESURRECTION of judgment." (John 5:28-29.)

Here Jesus speaks of two different, separate resurrections. Quoted above are Scriptures showing that the "dead in *Christ*" are to be resurrected AT HIS SECOND COMING. In 1 Cor. 15:22-24, we read that ALL are to be resurrected—but in an *order* of different resur-

rections—Christ Himself, 1900 years ago; afterward, in a different resurrection, "they that are Christ's *at His coming*," and then "cometh the end,"—indicating the resurrection of the unjust later.

In Rev. 20:4 we read of the resurrection of those in Christ at His coming. But Rev. 20:5 says: "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." So the resurrection of the rich man and all the unjust or unsaved will take place *after the millennium!* It is pictured and described in Rev. 20:11-12.

So, while Jesus in speaking about the rich man and Lazarus did not say *when* the rich man will open his eyes and be resurrected out of his grave, other Scriptures do reveal that it will be *after the millennium!*

Are the Dead Conscious?

Notice, now, Lazarus, with Abraham and all the saints who are Abraham's children, are to be resurrected at the time of Christ's coming. They shall live thru the millennium. But the rest of the dead shall not live until the thousand years are past. The rich man, then, will not come back to life until a thousand years after Abraham, Lazarus, and all who are Christ's, have been made alive.

Will this rich man be conscious of the great lapse of time?

Your Bible says, if you will believe what it says, "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead *know not anything* . . . for the memory of them is forgotten" (Eccl. 9:5)—that is, there is no longer any conscious memory. They are *totally* unconscious! Job speaks of a dead man and says: "His sons come to honor, and *he knoweth it not*; and they are brought low, *but he perceiveth it not* of them." (Job 14-21). Isaiah says our father Abraham knows nothing of us, today (Isa. 64:16). David was inspired to write: "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." (Ps. 146:4).

Many times people have died, and by the drug adrenalin or other methods the heart has been started beating again. Always they say they were totally unconscious—no dreams—no knowledge—just a total blank. There is much more in the Scriptures on this and kindred subjects which we lack space to treat here.

The rich man, then, at the time of his resurrection, *after the millenium*, will come to consciousness, open, or lift up, his eyes, knowing absolutely nothing of the hours, days, and years since he died. *To him it will be the next fraction of a second* from the time he died. It will SEEM to him as if he had gone *immediately* to this state or condition in which

he finds himself rising up out of the grave.

What Is This FLAME?

But when he is resurrected, he sees a *flame* which torments him. What is this?

Now Jesus did, on other occasions, speak of *perishing* and being *destroyed* in "*gebenna* FIRE." What is this? It is described in Rev. 20:14-15, as a "*lake of fire*."

Scripture everywhere describes the final fate of the wicked as being burned up by fire. It is this "*lake of fire*," which is "the second death," from which there shall be no resurrection! The PUNISHMENT is death by fire! They remain forever DEAD! This death is for ALL ETERNITY—ETERNAL PUNISHMENT—but it is *not* eternal punishing!

Now, opening his eyes in his grave, this rich man SEES Abraham, and Lazarus in his "bosom"—his embrace! Yes, Jesus told the Pharisees that *they* would SEE Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom and they themselves thrust out! This rich man sees them! He also sees this awful flame of fire—this LAKE OF FIRE which is about to destroy him forever! He is *terrified!*

What happens when one is suddenly so horrified with fear? His mouth goes dry. His tongue sticks to his mouth and throat!

The rich man cries out in this mental agony: "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and *cool my TONGUE*; for I am tormented in this flame."

Now if the rich man were in the kind of "hell" most people seem to believe, his *whole body* would be on fire—you would think he would have called for at least a *bucket* of water to put out the fire, wouldn't you?

Look at this!

How much water did he call for? He said to Abraham: ". . . send Lazarus, that he may *dip the tip of his finger in water*." Just a couple of drops—that's all the water he requested! Doesn't that strike you as strange?

Why did he call for water? To put out the fires of all "hell"?—the kind of hell people would have you believe he was in? Ah, no! He only wanted a mere couple of drops of water on Lazarus' finger—WHY?—"to 'COOL MY TONGUE!'" That's what the rich man *said!* Open your own Bible again, and *read it!*

The flame, he said, was "tormenting" him. This word "tormented," used in verses 24 and 25 is translated from the original Greek word "odunasai." This is defined in Liddell & Scott's Greek-English Lexicon as "to cause pain, to pain, distress:—From 'ODUNH'—pain of body, but also, 2, of *mind, grief, distress*."

Why, of course! This rich man opens his eyes in his grave in a resurrection. He is resurrected MORTAL, just as he was before he died—not immortal like Lazarus! He sees this lake of fire. Now he *knows* the frightful, the AWFUL doom he is to be thrust into—to be *burned up—destroyed!* He is suffering mental anguish such as he never experienced in his life-time. HIS TONGUE IS DRY. He breaks out in cold sweat. He cries for a little water on the tip of Lazarus' finger TO COOL HIS TONGUE! He is in a condition of WEEPING and GNASHING OF TEETH!

The Final Hell Fire

Now once again READ THIS IN YOUR BIBLE! Read exactly what Jesus *said*, not what the "hell-fire" preachers have told you He said! Did Jesus say this rich man was going to suffer *endlessly and forever*—always burning—being *on fire*—yet never burning up? DID HE? Of course not!

There is *not one word* here about *how long* his anguish is to last.

Jesus was saying these things to the Pharisees (verse 14). What did He want to make them understand, when He gave this account about Lazarus and the rich man? Jesus answers this question for us in Luke 13:27,28, where He said to these same Pharisees: "Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity. There shall be *weeping and gnashing of teeth*, when ye shall see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the Kingdom of God, and you yourselves *thrust out*." Yes, they are going to be in exactly the same position as this rich man! Jesus is using him as an illustration to show the Pharisees what is to befall them! They are to be THRUST OUT—into the LAKE OF FIRE which shall consume them, leaving them neither root nor branch, as the Scriptures say!

The wicked are going to be cast into *the lake of fire!* When they lift up their eyes in their resurrection, they shall KNOW that they are doomed, now to be cast into the lake of fire to be burned up!

This rich man cried out for help because of his mental and physical anguish—KNOWING what was now to befall him! He knew he was GUILTY! When a man realizes he is guilty, and faces his just and terrible retribution, the very *first* part of the body to be affected is *the tongue*, which dries out—seems to be on fire!

What is the Great Gulf?

But Abraham and Lazarus were *afar off*, and no water was brought. The rich man had to suffer mentally for his sins. He had had his reward, in the material

things he sought and craved, during his mortal life-time.

There is a great gulf fixed between this doomed sinner and all the glorified saints in God's Kingdom.

What is that great GULF?

The *gulf* mentioned by Abraham which prevents anyone from escaping death by hell-fire, and which also keeps anyone from being burned, is *immortality*. Those who are immortal shall never die because they are horn of God (Rev 20:6). But human beings who have *not* been begotten and born by the Spirit of God are *still flesh*, subject to corruption and death. They can be burned by fire.

Don't forget, this is a *literal fire* and the rich man is a *human being* composed of flesh and blood. *Only* the saved possess immortality as the gift of God (Rom. 2:7), but the wicked reap anguish and wrath that shall devour the adversary — fiery indignation (Heb. 10:27). What happens when a human body is being burned by a flame?

There is a period of torture during which the fire *consumes* the body *before the person dies*. Then what about this rich man? Jesus *didn't* say he was immortal, for if he were he would be spirit and flames do not burn spirit. Fire is a *physical* process. It is combustion of *matter*.

The rich man is a *physical person as you and I*.

Not Completed

And Jesus *leaves* us in this account, with the rich man hearing the words of Abraham in his mind or conscience and tormented by the flames that are billowing about his body.

A *human body* doesn't burn forever. It finally turns to ashes in a fire. Therefore we must go to other verses of the Bible to find out exactly *what did hap-*

pen after the short conversation recorded.

Matthew 13:30 speaks of the wicked being gathered into bundles to be burned. What happens to wheat when in fire? It burns up!

Again in Matthew 3:12, John warned the Pharisees that they would be *burned up* as chaff if they didn't repent. They are to be burned with *unquenchable* fire, too. A fire so hot that no amount of water could be put on to put it out, because the flames would turn the water to steam.

And when God punished the wicked there will be no water to put it out. It will be *unquenchable*! But that *doesn't* say it won't burn itself out when it has nothing more to burn. An unquenchable fire *can't* be put out, but it *can burn itself out* when it has *consumed everything*.

Malachi 4:1,3, speaks of this fire that will burn the rich man: "For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be as stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this."

That is the end of the wicked! They shall perish and *not be* any more. "Into smoke shall they consume away (Psalm 37:20)."

The rich man then, being mortal flesh, is going to burn up *after being tormented in the flame*. He is going to die the second death (Rev 20:14). The wages of sin is *death*, not endless torment (Rom 6:23).

The Rich Man's Brethren

Before perishing in the flames of hell that were *so hot* as to burn him up,

the rich man asked that Christ be preached to his brethren, for they hadn't heard of his resurrection (Lu 16:27-31). The rich man asked this question, because at the time of his death and burial in the account, Jesus had not yet been preached to the Jews and Gentiles abroad. While dead and waiting for the resurrection, he had *no concept of the passing of time*. He awoke just where his thoughts ended. That's why he knew nothing of the intervening years when the gospel was preached.

Question Box

Continued from page 12

Lamb." These are they who have gone through the captivity and finally proved themselves worthy of Everlasting Life.

Also turn to Rev. 6:9-11, "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that *were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held*: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until *their fellowservants also and their brethren, that SHOULD be killed as they WERE, should be fulfilled.*"

The preceding certainly shows that many Christians will have to suffer during the captivity as they did during the Middle Ages. The church has to flee twice in Revelation 12. But, God has shown us a way of escape if we will heed, by our obedience to Him. Read Luke 21:36, "*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*"

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