

The Good News

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Attend GOD'S FESTIVALS

Can YOU afford the joyous privilege of attending God's annual festivals? Here is the answer to the question we promised you at the Feast of Tabernacles!

by Roderick C. Meredith

HOW joyous the recent Feast of Tabernacles was! What a tremendous inspiration and blessing it was to attend!

How much more real *meaning* there is in the annual festivals God has ordained than in the continual round of holidays the children of this world are busy observing. Most of you brethren know this—because you have attended God's annual festivals before. And you have undoubtedly compared them with this world's holidays.

No comparison, is there?

No, because God's annual *holy days* point out—step by step—the great PLAN of God and His method of working out that plan. But the *holidays* of this babylonish world picture only a *false* Christ and a *counterfeit* plan of salvation devised by *Satan the Devil!* But while most of you brethren have already *proved* this to yourselves, many of you wonder *how* it is possible to keep these joyous festivals God has given His people.

So here is the answer—in *writing*—to the questions so many of you asked us during the recent Feast of Tabernacles.

A GOD-Given Blessing

Are you *commanded* to leave your homes and assemble with God's church during His annual festivals? Are there any *exceptions* to this command? And *how can you afford* to take such a trip?

While the world is busy observing the *pagan* holidays of Christmas and Easter, and devising "camp meetings" according to *human reason*—the "way which seemeth right unto a man" (Proverbs 14:12)—it sneers at the days God has *made holy*. The world ridicules these days as "Jewish"—forgetting that *Jesus* and the apostles kept these days in the *New Testament*. These days are *never* referred to as being "holy to the Jews." But God calls them "MY sabbaths"—"holy unto the Lord!"

These annual festivals *are* holy to the Eternal Creator who gives you every breath of air you breathe! He *commands* you to keep them—for your own good. You are *defying Him* if you refuse to keep them. In so doing you will lose knowledge of the true God and of *His plan* which is pictured by these days. And you will be missing out on the most happy, joyous, and really worthwhile *vacation opportunity* there is.

God's annual festivals truly are a great *blessing* to those who are yielded to God. Many of you brethren have come out of this world, and then found yourselves *unable* to fellowship with any of God's people. It is often impossible to meet with other true brethren on the weekly Sabbath. BUT God's *annual Sabbaths* or holy days provide an opportunity to travel even some distance and have that needed fellowship with other members of the true church of God.

For many brethren who have attended

before, the annual festivals are eagerly anticipated as an opportunity to renew the wonderful fellowship with brethren from all over the nation—and to drink in spiritual food in the inspiring meetings which are the highlights of the entire year.

In His wisdom, God has ordained that we should take time each year to make the trip to attend His annual festivals—where we can *relax* from our daily routine, *rejoice* with other brethren, and *learn* more spiritual truth in a few days than we ordinarily would in months. This is *God's way!*

Inevitably, many brethren will say, "But we can't afford to attend God's festivals."

The truth is, *you cannot afford not to attend!* And God has instituted a plan to ensure that you CAN attend—if you will do your part.

How to Afford It?

But HOW can we afford it?

These festive occasions are *commanded* to be kept in the *place that God chooses*. Deuteronomy 16:16 shows particularly that the days of unleavened bread, including the passover (verse 6), the day of pentecost, and the feast of tabernacles are all to be kept *where God would choose*.

HOW do we do it?

God has not only provided, but also *commanded*, a way to make it financially possible for us to keep His holy days!

It is a way which requires continual EFFORT and determination. If we are to be OVERCOMERS—and *they only* will be 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 patience and love.

What does God command?

God commands us in Deut. 14:22-27 to save each year 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* tithe or tenth 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 fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psa. 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 (through 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. And, as we just read in Malachi, if we do obey God by paying our tithes and giving offerings, He will bless us.

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 where 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. Notice that 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 12th 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 *special* or *second* tithe is for *you* to use AT THE PLACE which God has chosen for you to appear before Him on these holy days.

Should You Spend Your Second Tithe at Home?

If for some unforeseen circumstance you are unable to attend the Feast of Tabernacles, what should you do with your second tithe? Many that we have met on the baptizing tours, and others by letters, have asked about this problem.

Now let us notice *where* the second tithe was to be spent. "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, *in the place which he shall choose* to place his name there. . . that thou mayest learn to *fear* the Lord thy God always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the Lord thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the Lord thy God hath blessed thee: then shalt thou turn it into *money* . . . and shalt GO unto the place *which the Lord thy God shall choose* . . . and thou shalt eat *there* before the Lord thy God, and thou shalt rejoice." (Deut. 14:22-27).

The second tithe—the tenth that God wants *us* to use, which is another and separate tenth from the first tithe that He reserves for Himself for the carrying out of the gospel—the second tithe we are to use to attend *the festivals*. But let us read further: "Thou mayest NOT eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine . . . but thou MUST eat them before the Lord thy God in the place which the Lord thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter" (Deut. 12:17-18).

Here is a positive command *not* to use the second tithe at home if you are unable to attend. You *must* use it to enable you to attend the festivals at the place which God chooses. If the money is spent for any other purpose, then you are breaking a command of God—you are not learning to *fear* His authority—and you are cheating yourself of the wonderful blessing of fellowship with others of like faith.

Let's use the minds God has endowed us with to carry out these commands in

a reasonable manner. Deuteronomy 14:22 states that you shall tithe the increase of your seed. Then it is certainly permissible for you who are farmers to bring some of your produce or canned goods to the feasts instead of money.

If for unforeseen circumstances you are unable to attend the festivals, and if you are prosperous, it would be the right and brotherly duty to enable others to use your tithe. It can be sent to Pasadena, with an explanation that it is to enable others to attend the festival. But if you are like most of the brethren, not having many worldly goods, and a small income or none at all, and if you are unable to come to the festival, you should SAVE IT UNTIL THE NEXT YEAR or for two years, if necessary, when you will then have enough to assemble where God has chosen to place His name. Meantime, you will be observing the festivals at home just as you would at the feast.

Sad as it sometimes is, with some families, the second tithe *just hasn't been enough* to bring 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 of God helped its needy members and we follow this principle.

In many cases we try to aid the poorer brethren through the extra second tithe of those *few* who have more than enough. But only those who have faithfully saved their insufficient second tithe deserve the extra help. If you haven't tried to save your little, God can not deem you worthy of His extra assistance.

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? Let everyone examine his own heart!

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.

Tithe for the Poor

In reading the reference given in Deuteronomy 14:22-27, some of you may have wondered about the meaning (Please continue on page 7)

How to be an OVERCOMER

WHY are we not more successful in living up to God's standard? WHY do we slip and fall occasionally?

Here is how YOU can overcome where you are weakest and hardest tempted!!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

DO YOU have some "besetting sin"—some point of weakness, perhaps secret, you have been unable to overcome?

Have *you* ever met temptation, struggled with it, only to wake up a little later to the remorseful fact that you had slipped, and failed to overcome?

Or perhaps you are struggling with some habit that holds you as its slave—struggling, wrestling, always fighting it, yet somehow never able to conquer it.

Only the Overcomers

These things are serious. We *must* overcome these sins, these habits, these sudden temptations—be cleansed of them thoroughly—if we expect to get thru to the Kingdom and inherit eternal life.

"To him that OVERCOMETH," says Jesus, "will I grant to sit with me in my throne."

"He that OVERCOMETH, and keepeth my works unto the end, *to HIM* will I give power over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron." (Rev. 2: 26-27; 3:21.)

Not all are even called, now. Many, tho they may have *heard* the true message, have never received a conscious convicting KNOWLEDGE of the truth. This is not the time when God is calling them.

But God is now calling *SOME* to a life of separation—to a new and different and Spirit-filled and Spirit-led life—in order that they may be wholly CLEANSED of sin, and that they may GROW in grace and knowledge, thus being prepared, trained, fitted for a position of solemn responsibility—that of king or priest—in God's KINGDOM! And it is *only* those who qualify by the training, the overcoming, the spiritual development and growth, DURING THIS PRESENT LIFE, who shall thus reign with Christ. Study the parable of the pounds, in Luke 19: 11-27.

Why We Stumble and Fall

So the Christian life is a new and a different life; an OVERCOMING life. Sin

must be torn out, root and branch. We must be made righteous, holy.

Why, then, do so many of us continually stumble and fall? Yes, even those who do strive, struggle, and even PRAY, and PRAY for help, for victory, over some vicious habit? WHY?

First, notice a portion of Paul's instruction to the Philippians.

"And be found of Him, not having mine OWN righteousness, which is of the law, but *that which is through the faith of Christ*, the righteousness WHICH IS OF GOD *by faith*." (Phil. 3:9).

Notice, it is not OUR righteousness, but GOD'S.

David was inspired to write: "All thy Commandments are righteousness." (Ps. 119:172). Yes, and LOVE is the fulfilling of the law (Rom. 13:8).

The Kind of Love Required

Right here is one trouble. Too many Commandment-keepers are struggling along, trying to keep the Commandments in their own power and strength—thinking it is THEIR own personal human love that fulfills the Law!

Too many "Commandment-keepers" have only been converted to the ARGUMENT of keeping God's Commandments, and have never really EXPERIENCED definite salvation—for a real conversion is a DEFINITE EXPERIENCE! Such people need to go to a private place, alone with God, and get to their knees, and pour out their hearts to God, and stay with it until they really KNOW they are converted by GOD'S POWER, and have received His blessed Holy Spirit!

No wonder so many become continually discouraged, and feel like giving up!

We do not even HAVE the kind of love that fulfills God's law and makes us righteous! LOVE is of God, for God is love! And it takes "the love of God, shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost," (Rom. 5:5) to fulfill the law, make us Commandment-keepers, and give us GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The law is SPIRITUAL (Rom. 7:14). We are carnal. It takes a SPIRITUAL love

to fulfill a spiritual law. The Holy Spirit within us is merely GOD'S LAW IN ACTION! And since God alone can supply the LOVE that makes us righteousness, it becomes GOD'S righteousness, not ours.

How to Get Faith

But how do we receive this LOVE? Note again the Scripture quoted above: ". . . the righteousness which is of God BY FAITH."

It comes, then, by FAITH. Now most people seem to believe that the FAITH, by which we must receive everything God gives us, is something that we, ourselves, must work up and supply, by some kind of hard effort. And it does become *such an effort*, doesn't it, trying to strive to have FAITH?

Foolish babes in Christ! Can't we see that if WE were able to supply the faith which brings all else that we, ourselves, would earn our own salvation by WORKS? It would be the kind of righteousness that is only FILTHY RAGS to God!

Stop trying to work up faith. YOU have no faith. The Scripture above speaks only of "THE FAITH OF CHRIST!" Not *your* faith—CHRIST'S faith. Jesus had REAL FAITH! He performed miracles! And he rose from the dead—and HE LIVES.

Here is the secret! He gives—He imparts—HIS strong faith to you and to me! Yes, even FAITH is a gift of God—one of the spiritual GIFTS (Eph. 2:8; and I Cor. 12:9).

Then how shall we go about getting more of it? By yielding, submitting our desires, our purposes, our wills, to HIM, by ASKING Him in real earnest persevering prayer, and by trusting Him to give it!

Why We Have Not Been Delivered

God's Word promises. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; *but will, with the temptation*, also MAKE A WAY OF ESCAPE, that ye may be able to bear it."

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(I Cor. 10:13.)

But has it not often seemed, in your experience, that God has failed to keep this promise? Temptation has come. You have struggled, even prayed, yet you were overpowered, and you did not find the way of escape! Then what is wrong?

Jesus said "I will NEVER leave you nor forsake you." "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." God's Word promises, "Sin shall NOT have dominion over you." Yet have you not found that sin has had DOMINION over you, holding you its slave? Have you not fought it desperately, even with tears streaming down your face—only to fail?

How to Apply and Use Faith

WHY? What is wrong? Simply that we have not known how to receive, apply, and use the FAITH God promises to give!

First, there is something WE must do. Some go to one extreme and try to do it all. Others swing to the opposite extreme, plead with God, make little effort themselves, and expect Him to do it all.

James says "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (Jas. 4:7.)

Submit! Resist! This takes effort.

Peter says to humble ourselves, casting ALL our care upon the Lord, and to be sober and VIGILANT; because the devil is walking about, watching for the chance to tempt us when we are off our guard: "whom RESIST, steadfast in the faith." (I Pet. 5:6-9.) We are to resist

Satan, and do it in the faith of Christ—but HOW?

The key to it all is "BE VIGILANT." Be on your guard! Be ever watchful! Be prepared! That's where we fall down! It takes constant, continuous, vigilant effort, never letting down!

Unless we, ourselves, had to put forth some effort we could not be OVERCOMERS! But if we had power to do it all, we should not need God! So it requires our effort—our continuous, watchful, ever VIGILANT effort—*empowered by GOD'S SPIRIT!*

James continues: "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh unto you." (Jas. 4:8). Now we are getting closer to our answer! When temptation comes, we ARE TOO FAR FROM GOD—and we are then unable, SUDDENLY, on the spur of the moment to get close enough to Him to get the help and the deliverance we need!

It sometimes takes TIME to get CLOSE to God—into that intimate contact with Him so that we can draw on Him for the power we suddenly need!

In other words, when temptation unexpectedly has come, we have found ourselves caught off guard—out of prayer—out of contact with God—OUT OF SPIRITUAL TRAINING!

You were entering a CONTEST with Satan. You tried to wrestle with him, but you were OUT OF TRAINING, out of spiritual condition.

TV LOG

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And, when the temptations suddenly assail you, no matter how hard you then try, or cry out to God for help, you are simply TOO FAR AWAY FROM HIM to get help!

Spiritual training, to get and KEEP in constant vigilant condition to meet the foe of temptation and sin requires *continuous, earnest, persistent PRAYER!* That is why we are commanded so often to PRAY WITHOUT CEASING! To KEEP IT UP!

If we draw nigh to God, and then KEEP close to Him, our problem will be solved. We will then have the FAITH. We will then be continually FILLED with His Spirit—His power to overcome.

We can keep in spiritual training only if we keep our affections—our minds—our thoughts—on SPIRITUAL things. Read Col. 3:1-10. Most of us keep our minds filled with earthly, material cares and interests, turning to the spiritual only occasionally! Seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Sometimes it takes a siege of FASTING AND PRAYER—earnest, *determined, persevering prayer*—seeking God with all our might—with weeping—staying with it, DETERMINED, until we get thru. Then we must keep in CONTINUOUS prayer. Cast ALL our cares upon HIM. We are not doing that. If you do, there will be many things a day to pray about! And it takes daily PRIVATE prayer, in real earnest, besides family or public prayer. Is eternal life WORTH IT?

* * *

PRAY that success will not come any faster than you are able to endure it.

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The *Dramatic* Story of Chinese Sabbathkeepers

Here is disclosed one of the most ASTOUNDING episodes of history. It is like reliving the experiences of the judges and prophets of old! (Editor's note: We regret that the publishing of this article has been delayed since September.)

by Herman L. Hoeb

FOR SEVEN years I have wanted to write this little-known inspiring drama of human experience. *Until now* I have never been able to uncover all the records which I knew must exist.

Thanks to the British Museum Library and sellers of rare oriental books in London, I am able to give you these facts from the records.

The Mystery Begins

This dramatic account commences with the year 1813. It begins in a small village some little distance from the important city of Canton, China. Here the chief character in the drama, Hung-sui-tshuen, was born. For ease of pronunciation, I shall call him Hung.

Hung came from a royal family. His father and mother, as well as many other relatives, had previously fled to South China as a result of the Manchu invasion.

By the time Hung was 16 he had become proficient in the usual course of Chinese education. At 18 years of age he was appointed schoolmaster of his native village by unanimous acclamation of the townspeople.

Five years later he was given a set of books. Translated into English, the title of these books was "Good Words for Exhorting the Age." At the time, the books appeared of little value to Hung.

The next year, 1837, Hung lost an advancement in his scholastic rank because his Manchu superiors were jealous of his ability and fearful of his ancestral background. This loss so upset him that he became quite ill.

The Manchus, remember, were Mongolian warlords who seized China—now they are the Communist overlords who rule China.

During the period of recuperation, Hung had an extraordinary *vision*. A record of the vision is preserved in Theodore Hamberg's booklet, "The Visions of Hung-sui-tshuen." Hamberg was a missionary of the Basle Evangelical Society to China (a Swiss institution).

In the vision Hung was seemingly

transported to the presence of a *great Sovereign Ruler*. There he was confronted by an old woman—women at that time were regarded lower than animals—who said to him, "Thou dirty man, why hast thou kept company with yonder people and defiled thyself? I must now wash thee clean." He was then, in vision, taken to a river and washed in the water. After this he was conducted into a large building where his heart and other inward parts were removed and replaced by new ones! Then he was given a sword, a seal, and fruit to eat which he found sweet to his palate.

Upon awakening, he was astounded at the vision, *but could not determine its meaning*. When Hung fully regained his health, he began to reform his conduct as best he knew.

Hung-sui-tshuen continued as a village schoolmaster for several years more, giving the vision no further thought.

Then, one day, his cousin Le searched through Hung's bookcase and noted the unusual contents of the volumes "Good Words for Exhorting the Age." In them were a number of whole chapters of the Bible, according to the translation of a Dr. Morison; many sermon-essays on varied Bible texts; and other statements founded on Scripture.

Le told his cousin Hung what he had found. Hung then began to look through the books which had lain untouched on the bookshelves for seven long years. He was amazed to find that in the quoted chapters from the Bible there was a partial *explanation* of the vision he had received six years before.

Discovering the Bible

In those parts of the Scripture which he possessed, Hung found the Heavenly Father described—the great Sovereign Ruler revealed in his vision years before. Then he read of Jesus, the "elder brother of many brethren." In our versions it is rendered: "the firstborn among many brethren" (Rom. 8:29). He learned that Jesus was sent as Saviour and as messenger. He read that one needs to repent

and be baptized to obtain the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). From these verses he understood the meaning of being washed in water and of having his heart and inward parts renewed.

Hung and his cousin Le then baptized one another. They prayed to God, promised not to worship evil spirits, and cast away their idols. Hung, being a literary man, composed poetic verses to explain his conversion to his friends:

"When our transgressions high as
heaven rise,

How well to trust in Jesus' full
atonement;

We follow not the demons, we obey
the holy precepts,
Worshipping alone one God."

After destroying his idols in the little school in which he taught, Hung and his few friends were forced to flee into the interior of China. He preached what little he knew as he journeyed into the south-central provinces of China. Once again he became a school teacher (between 1845 and 1846).

Visits a Missionary

At the close of 1846 Hung journeyed to Canton after hearing that a Christian missionary from the West resided there. He studied there under Mr. Roberts, the missionary, for almost a month, and read new portions of the Bible. Young missionaries from abroad, also studying under Mr. Roberts, were jealous of Hung's talents and earnestness. They brought about his removal! Hung left the city somewhat saddened.

Returning to south-central China, Hung found that the number of villagers who listened to him and were baptized soon numbered almost 2000. They had to form congregations among themselves, and became known as "the congregations of the worshippers of God." For short, they were dubbed "God-worshippers."

Continuous study of the Bible convinced Hung that his people should not smoke tobacco or opium—which the British were selling to the Chinese—that they should refrain from intoxicating drinks except under special circum-

stances, and that the *Sabbath* should be observed on the *seventh day*. The missionaries were quite displeased about the fact that "the Sabbath is observed not upon the same day as in Europe, theirs being the Saturday of our reckoning."

Hung further noticed that Jesus didn't rise on Sunday morning, but "three days after his death"!

In reading the Old Testament books of Moses—the books of the prophets were not available to him in Chinese—Hung was convinced that God had given His people a *calendar*. The only different calendar of which Hung knew was the Roman calendar brought to China by the Jesuits. Since the Jesuit Catholics claimed to be Christians, and used the Bible, he thought they also must have the God-given calendar. He adopted it. Consequently, he could not understand the annual festivals of God, which are based upon the Sacred Calendar.

Think, for a moment, of the earnestness of these Gentile folk who lacked large portions of God's revelations. How *thankful* we ought to be to have the *entire* Word of God whenever we need to use it. And remember, most of those whom Hung baptized *could not even read Chinese!* They had to be taught orally each Sabbath—and that mainly from the Old Testament.

The Marriage Ceremony

The number of new converts steadily grew. Marriage ceremonies had to be performed. Hung examined the Bible and *found the answer!* Here is a description of their ceremony:

"When the bridal party are all met together, they proceed to the church . . . and after many prayers and a severe examination of the bride and bridegroom's theological tenets, THE MINISTER JOINS THEIR RIGHT HANDS TOGETHER, and when each have accepted the other, pronounces a concluding benediction. . . . Divorce is not only not permitted, but actually unknown or thought of." (From Lin-Le's book, *Ti-Ping Tien-Kwoh*, page 317).

How exactly like the marriage ceremonies God has ordained in His Church today!

Does not this demonstrate the guidance of God?

Beside these changes, the Chinese converts of Hung ceased to practice the binding of women's feet, began to lay aside the custom of polygamy, ceased to deal in the slave trade, and became obedient to the laws of God as revealed to Israel through Moses.

In order to be converted, they taught as follows:

"They"—the converts—"must kneel down in God's presence, and ask Him to forgive their sins." Following baptism, the form of which Hung did not under-

stand perfectly, "they must continue daily to supplicate Divine favour, and the *Holy Spirit's assistance* to renew their hearts, saying grace at every meal, keeping holy the Sabbath day, and OBEYING ALL GOD'S COMMANDMENTS, especially avoiding idolatry. They may then be accounted the *children of God*. . . ." (From Lin-Le's book, page 315.)

The Next Great Step

To begin with, Hung and his converts were not fully acquainted with the instructions found in the New Testament. They had to be guided mainly by Moses' instruction found in the law. But notice what they did:

When the prosperity and learning of the God-worshippers was noised about the countryside, many in distress sought the protection of these Sabbathkeepers. Whole families of afflicted and destitute came to them, as well as outlaws who fled from the power of the oppressive Manchu dynasty. Once again Hung looked into the Bible. He saw the example of David. "And everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him (David); and he became a captain over them" (I Sam. 22:2).

Hung therefore became a captain over his fellow Chinese. He instructed them according to Moses' law and punished offenders accordingly. *These Chinese malcontents*, like those of David, *were not converts*, but merely willing to do as Hung instructed because they disliked the Manchu overlords.

Next, Hung remembered the sword that he had seen in the vision. He read in the Bible of "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon" (Judges 7:14, 20). He felt responsible for his people as did the *judges* in Israel of old.

Here is what Dr. Bridgeman wrote of the next turn of events: "Their government is a theocracy, the development apparently of what is believed by them to be a new dispensation. As in the case of the Israelites under Moses, they regard themselves as directed by one who has been raised up by the Almighty to be the executor of His will on earth." (Page 211 of Lin-Le's work.)

By 1851 the malcontents had increased by tens of thousands. They proclaimed Hung-sui-tshuen the ruler of a new dynasty administering a heavenly or Celestial Kingdom. Hung tried to follow the pattern of David and Solomon, mentioned in I Chron. 29:29: "Then Solomon sat upon the *throne of the Eternal*, as king instead of David his father, and prospered."

The new dynasty was entitled the "Taí-ping," meaning the kingdom of "our Sovereign," the One who created heaven and earth.

The malcontents, to protect their domain, were at first conscripted for defense. Then Hung read in the law what Moses said: "When thou goest forth to battle against thine enemies"—the enemies of the Tai-pings already persecuted them for religious and political reasons—"the officers shall speak unto the people, saying: What man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? let him go and return to his house . . . What man is there that is fearful and faint-hearted? let him go and return unto his house" (Deut. 20:1, 5, 8). Hung therefore made army service a *voluntary* matter!

The soldiers were instructed to pay the country people for whatever food and clothing they required on their journeys. Vast areas of China were freed from the Manchu oppressors. By 1860 the movement gained such power that it attracted international recognition. Several thousands became faithful converts and upwards of 50,000,000 Chinese were living in prosperity and at peace under the Tai-ping administration of God's laws.

The Hand of the Jesuits

In abolishing the idols of the country, the Tai-pings naturally destroyed the images of Mary and the saints, as well as those of the Buddhists. The ire of the Jesuits was aroused. They persuaded the French forces in China to support the ruling Manchu dynasty with whom they had previously been quarrelling.

Next, the British and American missionaries—who had obtained barely 1500 converts through years of work—were jealous of the fact that so many people were turning to the truth without their missionary activity. The missionaries began a deliberate campaign to malign the Tai-ping. They accused them of rejecting the Bible, of denying Jesus Christ, of wanton slaughter of innocent victims. The true reports of honest missionaries were squelched! British commercial agents, interested in selling opium to the Chinese, became fearful of the loss of revenue.

REMEMBER, THIS WAS THE ERA OF THE OPIUM WARS—when foreigners, particularly the British, were seeking to dominate China by forcing them to buy opium.

The British and other foreign elements forced the Manchus to sign treaties legalizing the opium trade. This placed the armies of the Tai-pings in a serious predicament. The British assured the Chinese revolutionists that they would remain neutral and only protect British property from destruction. In reality the British sent arms to the Manchus, and the Manchus imported arms in ships flying the American flag!

During all this time the converts of Hung were publishing the Bible as best

they could. Time and again they implored their Christian White Brethren across the sea to send them missionaries to instruct them better. Most missionaries refused to go.

What a condemnation of our people—Israel—the people chosen for a job we have *refused* to perform! When our people could have brought the truth, they refused to do so. And when we did send missionaries, they brought nothing but a Babel of confusion to the Gentiles.

A Plea Refused

The Tai-ping also sought to trade with the British. They sent an army to Shanghai to open negotiations with their professing Christian white brethren. Said the leader of the Tai-ping regiments to the British, American, Portuguese and other foreigners in Shanghai: "I came to Shanghai to make a treaty in order to see us connected together by trade and commerce; I did not come for the purpose of fighting with you. Had I at once commenced to attack the city and kill the people, that would have been the same as the members of one family fighting among themselves." (Page 283 of Lin-Le's work.)

Remember that these Chinese did not know the kind of Christianity professed by the Western World!

The extract, which I have just quoted from a longer letter, was sent to the foreign authorities in Shanghai for the following reason: When the Tai-ping, who assumed the British were neutral, came to Shanghai, they were fired upon by the British. According to a correspondent of the *North China Herald*, "They [the Chinese Tai-pings] waved the hand, begged our officers not to fire, and stood there motionless, wishing to open communications and explain their object!"

Retreating for safety, the Tai-pings encountered a missionary, Mr. Milne. In order not to have him injured in any battle, they sent guards with him to the city of Shanghai. After delivering Mr. Milne safely to his white brethren, the guards were shot down by British soldiers upon the city wall!

A Great Mistake

Hung could not understand the action of the Christian nations from across the sea. In sorrow he withdrew from all contact with foreigners, but continued to study the Bible with the faithful.

He permitted his commanders to disperse their armies throughout the walled cities of his domain. The Manchus had been badly defeated and no attack was expected. This—plus a miscalculation of the British and French intentions—proved disastrous.

Although the official government statements from abroad implied that

England would remain neutral, the actual deeds perpetrated against the Chinese demonstrated the opposite. The British marshalled the Manchus against the Tai-pings and gradually brought about their retreat and downfall. This short article cannot contain all the information which competent historians have amassed. But, as Gladstone, the British Prime Minister, once said, this action will go down as one of the blackest marks in history against Britain.

As a result of foreign intrigue, the Manchu army and religious persecution, these Chinese Sabbathkeepers, including Hung, perished for their faith.

Long after the death of those faithful Chinese to whom God revealed a measure of His truth, the malcontents who had associated with them arose again in rebellion against the Manchus. They called themselves "The Righteous Fists of Harmony"—or "Boxers." Their rebellion—the Boxer rebellion—was aimed at the foreigners and especially missionaries. But the Sabbath and God's laws had long been forgotten by them.

WHY Communism Engulfs China Today

We are reaping the reward of our sins in China today! To the carnal Chinese the European nations seemed unprincipled liars, devoid of every virtue recognized by men! From that time on the spread of the Word of God among the Chinese met with little success. No wonder Communism has engulfed the country.

When thinking of the fate of those Sabbathkeeping Chinese and their ignorant comrades who sought their protection, I am reminded of Paul's exhortation in Hebrews: "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae, of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness . . . waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of aliens. . . . And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword. . . . (Of whom the world was NOT WORTHY)" (Hebrews 11:32-38.)

How *unworthy* the world is may be understood by the *deliberate falsity* of

NOTICE!

There has been no issue of the "GOOD NEWS" since September. Also, due to his many pressing burdens, Mr. Armstrong has not yet completed the article on "make-up."

recorded history in describing the Tai-ping Rebellion.

Missionaries and politicians alike have accused them of committing acts of which only the enemies of the Tai-pings were guilty. The Tai-pings were maligned just as David and his followers were.

Thanks to the cooperation of British booksellers and librarians I am able to give you these true facts now.

"The White Man's Burden"

The most important summary of this drama of human experience—the book which is the basis for this little-known record—was written by a white man who used a Chinese name, Lin-Le. The work is entitled "Ti Ping Tien Kwoh, the History of the Ti Ping Revolution." It was published in 1866 in London.

Here is a lesson we must never forget!

How we ought to appreciate what we know of God's Word! And to realize that this drama was occurring in far-off China when God's people in America were splitting up as the dying branches of the Sardis Church Era!

Our own people—Israelites, God's chosen—refused to *restore* the truth they received. Our great denominations followed the path of the opium-peddling businessmen. But the Chinese, for 200 years in bondage to the Manchus, looked to the Word of God as best they knew. "Their laws were framed and already constituted when the New Testament"—in its fulness—"came into their hands." (From page 152.)

Perhaps we can now realize the FULL WEIGHT of our *responsibility* in carrying out the gospel of the Kingdom of God to *all* nations. God has chosen US—His faithful few in an Israel filled with sin—to carry the LIGHT through radio, television and the printing press to those who abide in darkness.

Let's shoulder our responsibility and prove that we can carry "the white man's burden"!

Attend God's Festivals

(Continued from page 2)

of verses 28-29. In these verses, God is commanding another, altogether *different* tithes.

Now don't be shocked! You may not have known it before, but God wants us to save *one more tithe* every third year to help the poor and needy! This is *God's way* of providing money for charitable purposes.

In both Deuteronomy 14:28-29 and Deuteronomy 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 third tithe is to be saved *only every third year*.

Since the laws of letting the land rest and releasing the poor debtors were based on a cycle of *seven years*, we are to save this special tithe in the third and sixth years out of every seven year period. Compare the story flow in Deut. 14:28-29 with 15:1 for proof.

None of you were really God's children—*spiritually Israelites* (Gal. 3:29)—until you were converted and baptized. So you won't save this third tithe until the third year after you were converted.

Remember that this tithe is *for* the poor and needy. If you are really in financial straits God *does not expect you to save this tithe!* This is a matter between you and God alone, and you should be honest about it before Him.

This tithe is *for* the poor, not *from* the poor!

And remember that this special tithe is *only* to be saved every third and sixth year out of seven.

Some of you may think that paying God's (not your!) *first tithe* to His work, saving a *second tithe* with which to attend His feasts, and, every third year only, saving an additional *third tithe* to give the poor and needy 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 three tithes know *by experience* that God is able to bless us sufficiently that we

abound to every good work (II Cor. 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!

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 taken captive by Assyria. Prior to the captivity, he kept the commandments of God even after the rest of his tribe began offering sacrifices to Baal.

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 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's obey our own spiritual Father by keeping His annual holy days and saving the tithes that He has commanded!

Saving your second tithe will make the joyous privilege of attending these festivals possible. Because God has commanded this special tithe, He is *bound* to help you fulfill this command. If you do YOUR part, you can *know* that God will enable you to attend His holy days!

Honestly, *you can't afford NOT to attend* God's festivals! Write us if you wish future help and information on attending God's festivals. Also be sure to write us prior to attending so that all arrangements can be made in advance.

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

Holy Day Calendar for 1956

Passover service after sunset on Sunday, March 25.
Days of Unleavened Bread, Tuesday, March 27 through Monday, April 2, inclusive.
Pentecost, Monday, May 21.
Festival of Trumpets, Thursday, September 6.
Day of Atonement, fast day, Sabbath, September 15.
Feast of Tabernacles, begins sunset, Wednesday, September 19; ends sunset Wednesday, September 26.
Last Great Day, Thursday, September 27.

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