

December 1979

The Good News



A King's Message to Our Teens

Thy Kingdom Come • God's Law of Tithing

What a Wonderful Feast!
by Herbert W. Armstrong

The Good News

December 1979

ISSN 0432-0816 CIRCULATION: 116,000 VOL. XXVI, NO. 10

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Published by the Worldwide Church of God
PUBLISHER: Herbert W. Armstrong
TREASURER: Stanley R. Rader
PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION: Roger Lippross

The Good News is published monthly (except combined June-July and October-November issues) by the Worldwide Church of God, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123. Copyright © 1979 Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved. Second-class postage paid at Pasadena, Calif., and at additional mailing offices. Registered as second-class matter at the Manila Central Post Office on Jan. 18, 1974.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE GOOD NEWS OFFICE NEAREST YOU.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

United States: 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123

Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V8C 2M2

Mexico: Institución Embajador, Apartado Postal 5596, México 5, D.F.

Colombia: Apartado Aéreo 11430, Bogotá 1, D.E.

United Kingdom, (Ire, Europe and the Middle East): P.O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., AL2 2EG England

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South Africa: P.O. Box 1060, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa 2000

Ghana: P.O. Box 9617, Kotoka Int. Airport, Accra

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Nigeria: P.M.B. 1006, Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria

Australia, India, Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia: G.P.O. Box 346, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia

New Zealand and Pacific Isles: P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1, New Zealand

The Philippines: F.O. Box 2803, Manila 2801

West Indies: P.O. Box 6063, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00930

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COVER: This confused, evil world places tremendous pressures on young people. King Solomon's advice to youths, recorded in the book of Proverbs, is as relevant today as it was 2,900 years ago. See article beginning on page 8. Photo by Dexter Faulkner and Scott Ashley.

Letters

She has poise

I just had to write and let you know what an impact Bernie Schnipert's article ("Just One More Thing," September, 1979, *Good News*) had on me.

Because of his article, poise is now working in my life, and what a load off my shoulders!

Now I have poise. It was there all along, the help from God that I needed to maintain poise. All I had to do was take it.

Sheena C. Pope
Dugger, Ind.

Knowledge from God

It is obvious that God is blessing the articles in *The Good News* with the richness of His inspiration. May He continue to do so. It is a thrill to know that, as we read *The Good News*, we are receiving knowledge that is coming directly from the Almighty God!

Gene and Nancy Griffin
Jacksonville, Ark.

Most thought provoking

Thank you, thank you for the August, 1979, issue of *The Good News*. To me, it has been the most thought-provoking *Good News* yet.

The "Ministry," the articles: "When the Light Goes Out," "Prove All Things," "Christian Meditation" and all the other articles as well made me realize how much I have fallen down in developing God's character.

Donna Thompson
Fort Stewart, Ga.

Personal responsibility

Your [Herbert W. Armstrong] article in the June-July *Good News* carried a tremendously powerful impact to me personally ("Now Christ Moves Swiftly to Make Church Ready"). Somehow God, through that article, made me feel my own responsibility to get the spots and wrinkles and blemishes out of me, in a way I had never understood before.

Nettie Herzog
Pasadena

PERSONAL

BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

DID GOD REALLY CUT OFF ALL MANKIND FROM HIM — except only the VERY few specially predestinated to be called? DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE He did? Would that be UNFAIR?

BY FAR THE MOST universal error and misunderstanding in fundamental Christianity of this world is the belief that NOW is the ONLY day of salvation — that God is desperately TRYING to get everybody saved (spiritually) and Satan cunningly trying to keep everybody "lost."

They look on this as GOD'S WORLD. But they don't realize SATAN is the god of this world.

Jesus said, "No man CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44). That says all are SHUT OFF — unable to come to Christ, except those whom the Father has predestinated to be called NOW!

Is God unfair?

Is that UNFAIR on God's part? Are you sure you UNDERSTAND WHY Jesus said that — WHY God cut ALL HUMANITY off from Him and from access to Him, up to now — except the VERY few God has predestinated to be called NOW? WHY God hides Himself from the world?

It all started with Adam in the Garden of Eden.

Now see if we can understand something perhaps you have never really understood before.

What has been overlooked is that in the CHOICE Adam had to make, God required that he choose which tree to REJECT as well as which to TAKE.

Satan was just around the corner, so to speak, waiting for a chance to tempt Adam into REJECTING God, even as he himself had rejected God, God's LAW and His WAY — God's GOVERNMENT — when he was the archangel Lucifer.

If Adam REJECTED God as Creator and Ruler over the GOVERNMENT OF GOD — as he did — what did God do?

Actually the tree of LIFE was symbolic of God's Holy Spirit, but also of God as LORD over the government of God, as source of religion and as revealer of basic knowledge.

Satan tempted Adam through his wife Eve, Adam took of the forbidden tree.

In so doing, he TOOK TO HIMSELF THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT IS EVIL! In so doing he REJECTED God as Revealer of that and all basic knowledge, as well as Lord and Ruler in government.

He rejected God as Giver of ETERNAL LIFE!

In taking of the forbidden tree, he REJECTED the tree symbolic of the HOLY SPIRIT and sovereignty of GOD. He REJECTED GOD, God's GOVERNMENT, God's WAY of life.

Man out off from God

Then what did God do? Genesis 3:22-24. God drove him out of the garden and BARRED ACCESS TO THE TREE OF LIFE lest he take, in sin, and cut Adam, and all offspring from him, off from God and the gift of the Holy Spirit — EXCEPT the infinitesimal FEW God predestinated to be specially called in preparation for the future KINGDOM OF GOD.

WAS GOD UNFAIR?

Supposing God had NOT cut mankind off from access to His Holy Spirit. Consider, what would have happened.

Satan was still on earth's throne, though disqualified as earth-wide ruler. Man would have TAKEN God's Holy Spirit, the gift of eternal life, without repentance — while being led by Satan — living in sin that would have resulted in an ETERNAL LIFE in total UNHAPPINESS, mental torment, wretchedness, utter hopelessness!

WOULD YOU WANT THAT?

That would have been immortally UNFAIR to humanity.

Can you see how it would have

been supremely UNFAIR had God allowed man to bring such a fate on himself?

That is WHY God cut mankind off for 6,000 years — until CHRIST could come, REJECT and OVERCOME Satan, take on Himself the penalty of human sins, qualify to RULE in GOD'S LOVE on that throne of the earth, replacing Satan and putting Satan AWAY from mankind!

God put mankind — all but the few CALLED — in a state cut off from God, but NOT YET JUDGED OR CONDEMNED!

Meanwhile He has called those He chose because they were the ones God felt might, as Christ had, REJECT Satan and His evil ways, ACCEPT the GOVERNMENT OF GOD through faith in Christ, and as Jesus did, overcome Satan, even though specially tempted by him.

Those of us called now, if we repent, overcome Satan, this world and ourselves, shall inherit the KINGDOM OF GOD and SIT WITH GOD ON HIS THRONE, when we shall then — with Satan gone — undertake to SAVE THE WORLD!

Those from Adam to now who died, not yet being judged, will be resurrected to mortal life in the GREAT WHITE THRONE Judgment, and be then, after the Millennium, called to repentance and the gift of IMMORTAL LIFE — with no Satan to tempt and oppose them!

Above all, the Creator God is creating RIGHTEOUS and HOLY CHARACTER! That comes from REJECTING the evil way and turning voluntarily to the way of God's love.

But how has Satan deceived?

Satan poses as an angel of LIGHT! He deceives the world into accepting HIM as GOD! He deceives into thinking evil is righteousness and God's law is evil. He deceives the Christian world into believing that they can

(Continued on page 23)



Church brethren from 14 Feast of Tabernacles sites hear Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong by microwave hookup from Tucson, Ariz., on the Last Great Day, Oct. 13. Inset: Mr. Armstrong strides to the stage to give his sermon left; brethren examine a copy of Mr. Armstrong's book, Tomorrow... What It Will Be Like, center; and children enjoy themselves at the Festival, right.

What a Won

The following article by Herbert W. Armstrong was published in *The Worldwide News* of Oct 29, 1979. It is reprinted here for the benefit of our co-workers.

GREETINGS! Surely this was the greatest, most joyous, inspiring and helpful and blessed Festival in 1,900 years!

And four days before the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, the inspi-

ration came to see if the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. could put through for us a national hookup with all other Feast sites. I was scheduled to leave Tucson, Ariz., the next day, Tuesday, for the Savannah, Ga., site, to speak there on Thursday morning and at the St. Petersburg, Fla., site on Sabbath afternoon.

It was an exciting idea, though one considered technically impossible without several weeks' time. The in-



Photos Left to Right by Mike Snyder, Dennis Bernasconi, Tom Hanson, Mike Snyder

derful Feast!

spiration had come through Mr. Stanley Rader. He and I discussed it on Monday.

Even though it seemed technically impossible on such short notice — he had already at 5:30 that morning talked with many telephone officials by long distance — they had said they would leap swiftly onto the emergency and see if it could be done.

I needed the answer by noon Tuesday, when we were scheduled to take flight for Savannah. Tele-

phone officials, and Mr. Rader in constant contact with them from his home here in Tucson, worked through the day and night. And by Tuesday morning, Mr. Rader told me, they had already cleared the way for a hookup with at least three or four sites from the Tucson Community Center.

They had put all the emergency facilities of the greatest telephone company on earth into night-and-day action, and would have to let us know later how many additional

By Herbert W. Armstrong

sites might be hooked up, if any.

I had to make a quick decision.

"Already we are assured that you will speak to more Festival sites from here, than if you fly on east," said Mr. Rader. And there was good prospect that by the Sabbath we would be connected with more sites.

I saw the hand of God in this and made the decision to stay here — go ahead, and hook up as many more Feast sites as possible.

Do you realize the Bell telephone
(Continued on page 11)

Thy Kingdom Come

Do you really yearn for God's Kingdom to be set up on this earth? Jesus Christ commanded His followers to pray for that very event. In light of present world conditions, the Kingdom of God is mankind's only hope.

By Les McCullough



Trae poverty cannot be described, only experienced. The poverty and inhumane conditions existing in many Third World nations is incomprehensible to those who have only lived in a wealthy country such as America.

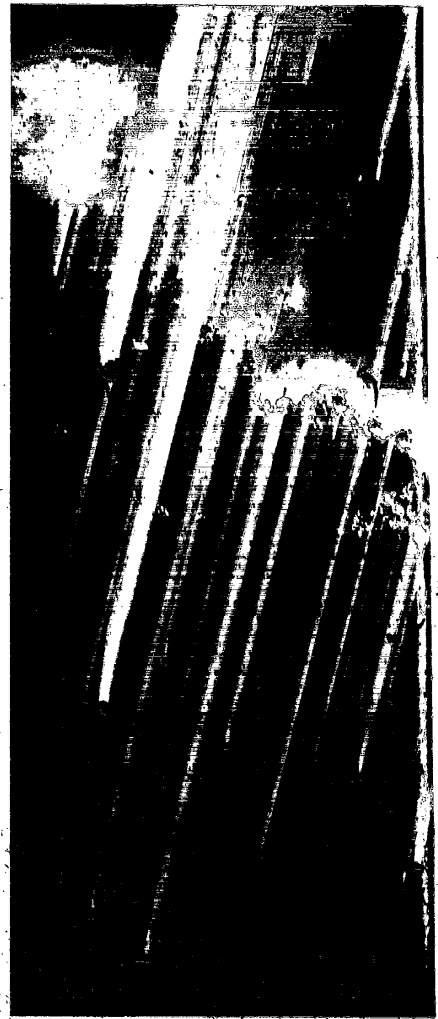
India is probably the epitome of this human misery. I read many articles and saw perhaps hundreds of pictures of the poverty-stricken masses so characteristic of that country before my visit there a few years ago. But when I arrived, the reality was so shocking that I know it could never be properly expressed

in a photograph or described on paper.

I saw children who sat motionless in cow dung, staring blankly into space. They could neither laugh nor cry. Such displays of emotion seemed alien to them.

Many of the babies were purposely maimed to make them more effective beggars. Everywhere the air was thick with the stench of human waste. And those children will never know anything different. Not in this world, anyway.

Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe and Savior of all mankind, knew what He was talking about



Photos by Scott Ashley

when He said, "Thy kingdom come."

Who else could know better? Christ formed man from dust (Gen. 2:7). He wept for man (John 11:35); and He wept for the world (Luke 19:41). He really meant it when He told His disciples — of all ages — to pray for God's Kingdom to come.

True lasting peace

Why? Because the government of God will accomplish what man has tried and failed to achieve for 6,000 years — true, lasting peace. When God establishes His rule worldwide, happiness will abound, and man will be free from the insolvable problems that confront him today.

Instead of diligently praying that



God would establish His Kingdom on earth, each generation of man has vigorously tried to make its own brand of government work, with no success.

If each person desired God's Kingdom as fervently as he tried to justify his own miserable surroundings, then all could finally have real freedom: freedom from hunger, freedom from poverty, freedom from sickness and freedom from sin and death. That's what God's Kingdom offers.

What is God's Kingdom anyway?

The religions of this world softly drool about the "Gospel of Jesus." But what they don't teach — and don't know — is that the Gospel is simply the advance news of the King-

dom of God. Christ preached it (Mark 1:14), the apostles preached it (Acts 20:25), and God's Church preaches it today.

Occasionally, the multitudinous religious denominations of this world do mention the Kingdom of God. But neither Christ nor the apostles would recognize their concepts of what the Kingdom is — and for good reason.

Some say that the Kingdom is permanently located in heaven. Others say that the Kingdom will eventually be set up in the hearts of men once all mankind learns to work together in peace, harmony and good will. How long must we wait for that? Thank God, not long! You won't find any of these "Kingdoms" in the Bible.

All right, we know what the King-

dom of God isn't. Now what is it? In one sentence, the Kingdom of God is the government of Almighty God ruling over the entire earth.

It will indeed be on earth (Rev. 5:10; Prov. 10:30). Jesus Christ will be its King (Rev. 19:15-16). The entire human race — all nations — will be its citizens (Jer. 33:9). All men will finally learn to live peacefully and fully obey God's laws (Mic. 4:1-4). Its beginning will cover a thousand-year period (Rev. 20:3-5), and it shall continue to increase forever (Isa. 9:7).

When Christ returns to earth He will throw down every existing government (Rev. 19:15) and give His kings and priests (Rev. 5:10) — those begotten Christians who kept

the faith and endured to the end (II Tim. 4:7-8; Rev. 2:26) — power over the nations to rule them with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27). This is reality! And you're going to see it come to pass.

Do you want the Kingdom now?

You know of the terrible plight of most humanity. And you also know of the Kingdom of God — the glorious solution to all man's problems. But do you really want God's Kingdom to come now?

Are there certain things you'd like to do first? Would you younger people like to live a little more first? Would you rather get married, have your family and enjoy your life to the full — first?

How about some of you older people? Do you longingly yearn to see God's way of life instituted here on earth so that all human heartache can be eradicated? Or do you sometimes wish that you could have more time to prove that you too can be a great success in life?

We like to indulge ourselves and experience life. But be circumspect (Ex. 23:13; Eph. 5:15). Look around. Is what you see good? Obviously not. Then, why would anyone want to hang onto it?

True Christians will not love its ways or systems, but will care for its people — just as Jesus Christ did. They will earnestly look forward to the return of Christ and the establishment of a perfect way of life for all mankind.

Thy Kingdom come

Jesus Christ, our elder brother in God's Family, admonishes us to pray zealously, "Thy Kingdom come." It should usually be our first request to God the Father, immediately after hallowing His Holy Name (Matt. 6:9-10).

But how do we pray, "Thy Kingdom come"? Do we mumble and repeat those three words over and over in sanctimonious rhythm? That's not what God intended, and it's crucial for your personal salvation that you learn what He did mean.

First of all, comprehend what the words *Thy Kingdom come* literally mean. Paraphrased into modern English it reads: "I fervently desire, with my whole being, the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the government of God on this earth."

To entirely grasp the significance of these concepts, we must experience true compassion for our brothers on this planet (Ezek. 9:4). Our world is utterly wretched, its people are miserable and doleful, and we must care!

So what if we care? What can we do? Simple. We can — no, we must — beseech God to intervene in world affairs and straighten mankind out. Will the Great God of heaven and earth listen to our feeble requests and speed His return?

Absolutely!

The apostle James was inspired to write that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Jas. 5:16).

Now read Revelation 8:3-4.

The prayers of the saints fill God's royal throne room. And immediately thereafter, as a direct result of these prayers, God intervenes in world affairs by pouring out His seven trumpet plagues (Rev. 8:6 to 11:15).

These supernatural disasters culminate in the return of our Savior and His subjugation of the kingdoms of this world, transforming them into "the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

Do you realize what that means? Can you see your enormous responsibility? Don't just skim over these words as you pleasantly nod your head. This is reality! You are involved in the salvation of humanity! God is watching your personal reactions — right at this moment. That's not some religious scare-talk. It's a fact.

Prelude to God's Kingdom

This article is being read by a select group in human history. Nothing is more important right now. God must give this world His powerful warning message — a witness so plain that it will be permanently imprinted in all human minds — and only then will the end come (Matt. 24:14). God's worldwide witness must be completed before He intercedes to save man from himself.

God's Work must precede God's Kingdom. That's God's plan: the witness, man's near self-destruction, the Kingdom — in that inviolate order.

God's Work is preaching and publishing that critical warning an-

nouncement today (Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10).

That means you. You are part of God's Work. After this mammoth task is accomplished in the world, and God's Church has been made ready to marry Jesus Christ (Matt. 24:44), then and only then will God finally bring His Kingdom to earth. So when you pray "Thy Kingdom come" you must at the same time be wholeheartedly dedicated to God's Work!

How do you prove your sincere devotion to God's Work? How can you help get *yourself* ready spiritually? Read on.

Recognize that you are involved already. God has called you. Realize that this is the very Work of God! And you're an integral part of it.

But the question is: How will you respond? Even God doesn't know. Will your Creator be able to use you? Or will He be forced to call someone else to take your place?

You have been offered the awesome opportunity to participate in God's Work and to give a vital warning to this world at the close of man's rule. And God has promised you eternal life and the exalted position of a ruling son in His Royal Family, as His free gift.

But there are responsibilities. Here's what you must do! You must be totally engrossed in God's Work! That means enthusiastically devoting yourself to God's Work in prayer.

And many thousands of *Good News* subscribers, who are co-workers with Christ in this great Work, realize it also means cheerfully paying God's tithes and giving offerings to His Work!

No one who prays about himself all the time or covetously lavishes all his money on himself will ever gain eternal life. Your personal salvation is directly related to how immersed you become in the Work of Almighty God.

The more we all throw ourselves into God's Work as a vibrantly united team, the sooner God will fulfill His warning witness in the world today and bring his government — the Kingdom of God — to all mankind in the world tomorrow.

Look forward to the time when the whole world will thank God in unison, saying, "Thy Kingdom came!" □

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG



THE EARLY YEARS

From birth through late teens a person develops attitudes that will strongly affect the rest of his or her life. Now young people and anyone of any age can learn from the early experiences of Herbert W. Armstrong, one of the most successful men on earth today. Send for your FREE copy of our booklet, *The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong: The Early Years*, today.

From Herbert W. Armstrong to teenagers:

Hi! Kids: I did not have the privilege of growing up in God's Church, as you do. I was brought up from childhood in a Protestant church and in a boys' Sunday school class.

But we had an older young man as teacher, and instead of following the usual church lessons, we went through the book of Proverbs again and again. This continued until I was 18, when I dropped out of church attendance.

We boys were so interested in the book of Proverbs that when we finished the book, we began it all over again, as the years went by.

I'm sure, now, that God was guiding in this. It helped prepare me to become Christ's apostle, to raise up God's true Church for our time, so you teenagers could be brought up in God's Church. Read this article and keep on studying in the book of Proverbs.

by Scott Ashley

I always thought the Bible was for adults. Until I became one. Then I thought it was for older adults. After all, it contains some pretty heavy reading that isn't always the easiest to understand, much less live by! It only discussed adult behavior, adult problems and adult solutions — or so I thought.

So it came as something of a surprise to me when, while preparing a Bible study for a group of teens in an area church, I opened my Bible to Proverbs and saw for the first time Solomon's reason for writing the book.

"The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple; to the *young man* knowledge and discretion," the book begins (Prov. 1:1-4). The Hebrew word translated "young man," *naar*, "is frequently used to signify such as are in the state of adolescence" (*Clarke's Commentary*).

Solomon goes on to say that even a wise man will learn from these lessons (verse 5), but he repeats over and over

again that the book is aimed at a pre-adult age-group. The phrase "my son" introduces many verses, followed by an exhortation for this or that kind of right conduct (Prov. 1:8, 10, 15; 2:1; 3:1, 11, 21). "Hear, ye children," begins the fourth chapter.

Need for proper teaching

And why is it addressed to young people? Solomon answers that himself in Proverbs 22:6, a verse very familiar to most of you, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

All children learn from their parents either good or bad behavior. If responsible behavior hasn't been taught (although it may not always be exhibited) by the time a child leaves home, chances are it will never be learned. Solomon recognized the need for proper teaching before a child goes out to face the world on his own and recorded these important lessons for you.

God wants us all to profit from the experiences of others, and had many events recorded in the Bible as examples for us (1 Cor. 10:11). Experience is the most effective teacher, but not necessarily the best teacher.

Once you have tried something and found it harmful, you can't go back and "unexperience" it. Even though God forgives your sin, He doesn't necessarily remove the consequences of your actions.

Read about one of David's biggest mistakes in II Samuel 11 and 12. David committed adultery and murder, and although God totally forgave him (12:13), David still had to endure an excruciatingly painful experience as a result.

It's obviously better to learn a lesson from David's mistakes than try it yourself and have the same thing happen to you. And Proverbs is a whole book about learning from the experience of others.

Solomon given wisdom by God

But what were Solomon's credentials? What made him such an authority on how young people (and everyone else, for that matter) should conduct their lives? For beginners, he was the wisest man who ever lived — God said so. Let's read about it.

After David's death, his son Solomon succeeded him to the throne. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked him what he wanted most as king.

"I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties," Solomon answered. "Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

God was quite pleased with Solomon's genuine humility. "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked," God replied.

"I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for — both riches and honor — so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings" (1 Kings 3:5-13, New International Version used throughout).

Not bad, huh? But read on: "God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and the breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. . . . He was wiser than any other man. . . . Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom" (1 Kings 4:29-34).

Proverbs is a far-ranging book reflecting Solomon's many interests. It discusses business and economics, nature, agriculture, marital relationships, friends, children, and dozens of other aspects of human behavior. For the sake of simplicity, we will look at seven important principles and warnings especially applicable to young people.

The company you keep

The first of these principles as it appears in the book is about keeping the right kind of company. "My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them," Solomon warns.

"If they say, 'Come along with us; let's wait for someone's blood, let's



A Timeless Message to Teenagers

Almost 3,000 years ago Solomon, king of Israel, was inspired by God to record for all time vital keys for successful living he had learned. Those lessons were collected in the book of Proverbs, and Solomon addressed that book to you!

waylay some harmless soul . . . we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse — my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; for their feet rush to sin, they are swift to shed blood" (Prov. 1:10-16).

"Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared," he says (Prov. 22:24-25).

Not a day passes when the morning paper doesn't give the grisly details of some murder, robbery, rape or beating committed by juveniles and young adults somewhere, exactly as Solomon described. According to statistics released by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, about half of all arrests are of teenagers under age 18, and that group accounts for the majority of arrests for burglary, larceny and auto theft.

While this is perhaps the most dramatic manifestation of the fruits of associating with the wrong people, it doesn't even begin to take into account drug and alcohol abuse, vandalism and cheating and dropping out of school, for example. Use some wisdom, as Solomon said, and avoid those who would drag you down to their level.

The principle has another side too, as Solomon shows. "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm" (Prov. 13:20). In the same way as a young person can be negatively influenced by the wrong friends, he can also be positively influenced by the right friends, picking up their attitudes and values. These friendships are valuable for both parties, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Prov. 27:17).

Reaping what you sow

The second principle goes hand-in-hand with the first — you will reap what you sow, whether good or bad. Many of the proverbs apply equally well to these first two principles. "These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves! Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it" (Prov. 1:18-19).

And, "A scoundrel and vil-

lain . . . who plots evil with deceit in his heart — he always stirs up dissension. Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed — without remedy" (Prov. 6:12-15).

People tend to overlook the time element in their actions and behavior. Crime does pay (Ps. 73:3-5, 12), or there wouldn't be so many people committing it. It's a way to get a lot of wealth with very little effort — but consider the end result.

"For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths," Solomon says. "The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly" (Prov. 5:21-23). Not a pleasant way to go, is it?

Like the first principle, this too has another side. If you sow good seed, you will reap good fruit. "The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous. He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble. The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame" (Prov. 3:33-35).

God doesn't reach down and zap you every time you do something wrong, a fact most people take to mean that He doesn't exist or doesn't care even if He does exist (Eccl. 8:11). They don't realize God is giving them a chance to change before they end up in the condition Solomon described.

The value of correction

The third principle, one mentioned perhaps in more places in the book than any other, is the value of correction and discipline. Solomon sums it up pretty well: "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid" (Prov. 12:1). Ouch! That one kinda hurt.

One of a parent's main responsibilities is disciplining his children. Solomon says, "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him" (Prov. 13:24). Also, "Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul" (Prov. 29:17).

Do you take parental correction? If you don't, Solomon said you are stupid. Argue with him if you don't like it — but you're only arguing with the wisest man who ever lived.

On the contrary, you might as well admit that there are people who know more than you, and your parents are two of them. "A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke" (Prov. 13:1).

But correction doesn't stop with parents. God will have His hand in your life, too. "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in" (Prov. 2:11-12).

Correction is a lifelong process: "Rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning" (Prov. 9:8-9).

The value of wisdom

Four: You have your very own gold mine, and so far we have only scratched the surface of it. That gold mine is the book of Proverbs and the rest of God's Word with it. It is wisdom — written for you and me that we might learn how to live. And that knowledge is more valuable than material possessions, Solomon tells us.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding," he writes (Prov. 9:10). Knowledge of itself is useless without that proper fear and respect of God to put it all in perspective. Man lacks the spiritual knowledge and wisdom to know how to solve the problems that now threaten to destroy him.

"Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold," Solomon counsels, "for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her" (Prov. 8:10-11). "How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!" (Prov. 16:16). Few people have ever had both wisdom and riches. Solomon did, and he knew wisdom was his most valuable possession.

Educate yourself. Develop your mind — it's one of the most valuable and precious gifts God has given you. Use the educational opportunities available to you, do not neglect study and meditation on God's Word. It's one of the best investments you'll ever make.

(Continued on page 22)

Wonderful Feast!

(Continued from page 3)

system is not only by far the largest telephone system in the world, but the very largest and efficiently operated corporation in the United States? When I travel in other countries I really do come to appreciate the vast superiority of our American telephone service.

Even with their vast and intricate technical facilities it would ordinarily require a few weeks' time to accomplish this.

God intervened to help us

Did you think the Almighty God would ever help the telephone company? Well, He certainly did this time! There was NOT time to arrange the hookup by satellite. So they went to work to do it by microwave and cable. At one site they had to build a special tower. Many of our sites are located in other than main major telephone centers. This required special emergency operations.

As the days went by, they continued to notify us they had succeeded in adding more sites, and by Friday, I think it was, we had the good news they had done THE IMPOSSIBLE, and we would be hooked up with ALL U.S. sites — and perhaps some in Canada.

Now all this required special emergency activity also on our part. A switch at Savannah had to be made to fill in for me on Thursday morning. We had TIME-ZONE differences to deal with. We here in Tucson are not on daylight-saving time, so we are in the same time zone as the West Coast. To accommodate the Atlantic time zone Feast sites we had to arrange for them to start their final afternoon service at 4:30 p.m. Central time zone sites at 3:30. We had to move the morning service in Tucson and the West Coast sites up to 9:30, and the final afternoon service to 1:30 instead of 2:30 — and all brethren notified in time.

I decided, to avoid irregular timing mix-ups by having other Feast sites start with their own song service, and special music, it would be necessary to deprive them of this, and ALL SITES simply be with us here at Tucson, and listen in and see our open-

ing song service and special music. Instead of a sermonette, I wanted Mr. Rader to fill in for the entire U.S. membership briefly on the California lawsuit invasion. I hated to deprive other sites of your final day special music, for other sites have inspiring expanded choruses.

But I felt that our brethren here at Tucson did not let you down and provided superb, moving, special music under direction of John Schroeder and with possibly the two most emotionally inspiring choral numbers — "The Hallelujah Chorus," and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" ("I have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord"), the latter accompanied by proper orchestral instruments.

On Sabbath morning Mr. Rader gave me the final good news of the "IMPOSSIBLE" telephone hookup — some three or four Canadian Feast sites had been added.

WHAT A THRILL! It was not like an NBC or CBS or ABC national network — already smoothly operating for years. This hookup had to go into sites far off the main telephone and television network centers. It really was the "MISSION IMPOSSIBLE" — **ACCOMPLISHED!** I'm sure it required some divine intervention — actually a real **MIRACLE!**

Satan's opposition

GOD WANTED HIS WHOLE CHURCH CONGREGATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND MUCH OF CANADA TO HEAR THE MESSAGE HE GAVE ME!

But SATAN DIDN'T. It seemed every possible obstacle was thrown at me personally. Three or four nights before, I came into sleeping difficulties — nerves would not let me sleep. Wednesday night I don't think I managed to get as much as three hours' sleep. Thursday I was like a physical wreck from loss of sleep. That night I was troubled again, but managed to get about 5½ hours' sleep, due to sheer physical exhaustion.

"Don't worry, God will give you the strength and cause you to rise to the occasion tomorrow," assured my wife. "He isn't going to let you down."

That night again I couldn't get to sleep until after midnight — was up an hour and a half more at one time

and managed to get no more than about five hours' sleep. I went back to bed in one last desperate effort to try to gain a little strength in more sleep. I asked my wife to awaken me if asleep just in time to shower, shave, dress and get to the Tucson Community Center.

If Satan could make me too weak to go on at this last moment, he would have undone the miracle God had given us in setting up this "IMPOSSIBLE" hookup. But God DID NOT LET ME DOWN! Through the morning I did succeed in getting a little more sleep — not as much as needed — but it helped greatly. My wife's faith never ebbed, and her imperturbable assurance was almost provoking — YET REASSURING to me. She never doubted a minute.

I was certainly under par physically. My voice seemed husky, even after I arrived at the Community Center. Actually in spite of hurrying when finally awakened, I was about 10 minutes late arriving at the auditorium. I guess you all heard the long applause when I entered — as Mr. Rader was speaking. That was inspiring, and now I knew God would lift me up to the occasion!

Local TV station cameras were there. One local TV news report that night said I started out slowly and a little tired, but gained momentum. The huskiness left my voice. I was now in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ, safe from any further thrusts of Satan. The living Jesus DID lift me up to the occasion. I knew I had His message!

Christ's message delivered

I feel God had given me the best and most complete final-day message of my life. It is awesome to realize that God has revealed and given to all of you through me such a message, summarizing God's great master plan from original creation to now — and on through the Great White Throne Judgment after the millennial reign with Christ.

Jesus Christ wanted you and all His people to really fully grasp that message, which came from HIM. No man outside God's Church today has ever spoken such a message in 1,900 years! **IT WAS FOR YOU AND ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP — GOD'S CHURCH!**

(Continued on page 24)

Toward the end of the period of Judges (c. 1130 B.C.), about 50 years after Gideon, God punished Israel at the hand of the Philistines. He allotted the enemy 40 years to exact tribute (Judg. 13:1).

But God also planned a deliverer.

Birth of Samson — a miracle

God chose to bring a champion out of the tribe of Dan. He sent an angel to visit the barren wife of a man named Manoah, promising her a son. She was warned, however, that during her pregnancy she should abstain from wine, strong drink and any unclean food (Num. 6:2-8, Lev. 11), for the child would be a Nazarite unto God.

She was told that the youth should never have his hair cut or his beard shaven; and he would grow up to challenge the Philistines and begin to throw off their yoke of oppression.

The woman immediately ran and told her husband these things. But he was skeptical. He prayed to God to send the angel again, and God obliged. This time, as before, the angel appeared to the woman. She asked him to wait, while she went and found her husband. So the man then heard the message with his own ears.

Manoah's wife conceived, just as the angel had said, and bore a son. They called him Samson (meaning a "ray of sunshine"). And God was with him from birth.

A Philistine bride

When Samson was about 20, he went to Timnath, a city of the Philistines. There, infatuated by a beautiful young woman, he asked his parents to get her for his wife. But they discouraged him, saying he should marry a girl of Israel.

God, however, intended to use the woman to provoke Samson against the Philistines. And so the preparation for marriage began.

On a subsequent trip to see his future bride, Samson was attacked by a lion. Reacting suddenly to defend himself, he slew the animal with his bare hands, as if it had

Old Testament Personalities

SAMSON



Illustration by G. Dove

been a tiny lamb. No one could have been more surprised than Samson. He kept the thing a secret, however, even from his parents, for he knew the supernatural strength must have come from God.

Later, when visiting the young woman again, he stopped to look at the carcass of the lion. He saw it had been taken over by a swarm of honey-bees, and they had filled the chest cavity with honey. He took out several pieces of the honeycomb and saved some for his mother and father. Still, he didn't tell them where he got it.

The wedding day arrived, and Samson's family made a feast at the bride's home. But when the Philistines saw the intended groom — a stranger with a mass of curled hair, accompanied by a host of relatives — they were suspicious of trouble and sent 30 young men to the banquet pretending to be guests.

Samson, a bit aggravated by their presence, challenged them with a riddle: "Out of the eater came forth food, and out of the strong came forth sweetness" (Judg. 14:14). He gave them seven days to solve it. If they failed, he would receive 30 shirts and changes of clothing. If Samson lost, he would furnish them each a shirt and change of clothing.

They agreed.

Three days of the wedding feast went by, and the young Philistines had no answer. On the seventh day, they became desperate to save face as well as their shirts. They took the bride to one side and threatened to burn her and her father's house, ac-

curring her of inviting them to the wedding just to bilk them out of their possessions.

Frightened, she pressured Samson with tears for the answer. He re-

fused; but she persisted, saying he didn't love her or else he would tell her. The seventh day of their honeymoon became an agonizing harangue. Finally, toward sunset, he gave in and told her the answer.

She immediately passed it to the young men, and they triumphantly told it to Samson.

He knew his wife had betrayed him and simply replied: "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle" (verse 18). Meaning, of course, they had pressured the answer from his new wife.

God's spirit then moved him to the Philistine city of Gaza, where he slew 30 men to pay himself back, taking their garments to pay his debt. Then he angrily went home to Israel, leaving his bride behind.

The rebellion begins

A few months later, having cooled down, Samson took a gift and visited his wife's home, intending to solve their differences (Judg. 15:1). To his surprise, he found his father-in-law had given her to another man.

Now he was really angry, especially at the young men of Philistia. He decided to avenge himself by burning the Philistines' grain fields, for it was harvest time.

He began by catching jackals (foxes). When he had 300, he tied their tails together in pairs with a lighted torch between them and sent them running through the fields. His plan took considerable time, but the damage was devastating.

The Philistines, hearing that Samson did this in anger because his wife had been given to another, burned the young woman and her father to appease his wrath.

But this provoked Samson all the more. He slew many of them in vengeance and then left for refuge in Judah.

By now the Philistines were in arms against him. They brought an

army to Judah to take him captive. Fearful, the men of Judah talked Samson into giving himself up and took him bound to the Philistines.

On the return to Philistia, however, God's spirit filled Samson with supernatural strength. He broke his bonds, picked up the fresh jawbone of an ass and slew a thousand of his captors. The rest fled in terror. God then gave him water to drink from a cleft in a nearby rock.

This slaughter began a 20-year period when Samson single-handedly protected southern Israel against the Philistines. The chain of events leading to this personal wrath were: Samson's attraction to the Philistine girl, an attacking lion, the honey, the marriage, the riddle, the betrayal of his answer, his anger, the loss of his wife. It is a remarkable example of God's hand in human affairs.

Samson, grieved by his unfortunate experience with marriage, never took another wife. He began, instead, to seek the company of harlots, which led to his ultimate downfall.

Once in Gaza, while he visited a harlot, the Philistines locked the city gates, intending to wait and kill him in the morning.

He knew their evil scheme, however, and left the house at midnight. In his escape, he tore the heavy gates — posts and all — from the walls, carried them out of the city and stood them on a hill facing toward Israel.

Delilah

The woman who finally brought Samson down was Delilah (meaning "coquette"). She lived in a town on the main highway between Israel and the coast of Philistia. She was beautiful, immoral and devilish. But Samson loved her. Whether she was Israelite or Philistine isn't known, and doesn't matter, for her first loyalty was to money.

She was offered 1,100 pieces of silver by the Philistine elders if she could find the source of Samson's strength (Judg. 16:5).

So with the promise of a generous reward, she appealed to his masculine ego and displayed a bondless curiosity about the source of his physical power. She asked him, "Is there anything you can be tied with that you cannot break?" He told her "sev-

en leather bow strings, still wet" would hold him.

On his next visit, he fell asleep, and she bound him with new bow strings. There were Philistines hiding behind the curtains to see what would happen. She shouted, "Wake up, Samson, there are Philistines here!" And he broke the bonds like scorched thread.

Delilah pretended her feelings were hurt. She chided him, saying, "You don't really love me or you wouldn't lie about your strength!"

This little game continued through two more episodes. He told her rope, never used, would bind him. But the same thing happened. Then he told her if the seven locks of his head were woven together his strength would leave. While he slept, she tried this also, but to no avail. Yet she kept wearing his resistance down with talk of mutual love and honesty.

Finally, just as his wife had worn him down in his youth — pressing him for the answer to his riddle — Delilah's feigned emotions and persistence paid off. Samson told her the truth, and she knew he spoke the truth from the heart. The strength was from God, but because he was a Nazarite from birth. If his hair were cut, the vow would be broken and his strength lost.

Taken captive

Delilah immediately called for the elders of Philistia, and they came with the money. She induced Samson to fall asleep on her knees and summoned a man to cut the seven locks from his head (evidently he had his hair divided into seven curls or braids because of the great length). Then she tied his wrists and woke him as before. But God had left him, and he had no strength.

He was taken captive. The Philistines plucked out his eyes and led him away to Gaza. There he was put into prison and bound with brass chains to a gristmill — a humiliating servitude for the champion of Israel.

But as Samson toiled day after day, grinding grain and praying silently to God, the hairs of his head grew back. The Philistines either didn't notice or didn't think it posed a threat.

Then one day there was a great

celebration in honor of Dagon, the Philistine fish god. All the lords of Philistia were gathered together — several thousand of the leading men and women. They praised Dagon for subduing Samson and ridding them of their fiercest enemy. And when they were feeling especially festive, because of the wine, they insisted that Samson be brought from the prison to entertain them. They wanted to ridicule him publicly.

His final triumph

Samson was led into the courtyard by a young lad, and the crowd roared its approval, mocking his humiliating condition. He was positioned on a platform facing his audience on the ground level, with 3,000 additional spectators seated above them on the roof. They all ridiculed him, forcing him to provide entertainment.

Samson knew the stage where he stood contained the support for the upper level, as this was a common method of construction. But, not knowing where the pillars were, he asked the lad for permission to momentarily rest against them. The boy unwittingly obliged. Upon feeling them with his hands, Samson prayed to his Creator for renewed strength, repentant for allowing Delilah to come between himself and God.

Taking hold of the two pillars, he asked to be avenged of his eyes, willing to die with the Philistines. And God gave him strength.

In one last honorable effort, he bowed himself against the pillars with all his might. They twisted, buckled and fell. The roof collapsed with a roar, hurling the 3,000 screaming spectators to their deaths, crushing those below.

Samson himself died beneath the falling debris. But he killed more of the enemy on that one fateful day than he had in all his previous years.

His brethren, hearing what had happened, came and took his body. They buried it in the family sepulcher near his father, in his homeland. He died at about age 43, having judged Israel for 20 years.

Samson was celebrated as a great champion in Israel; but more importantly, an example of faith toward God (Heb. 11:32), even to his death.

— By Art Ferdig □

What is Your Concept of Hell?

By Raymond F. McNair

Major American religions and the principal faiths worldwide usually picture hell as a place of never-ending, unimaginable torment for the damned, a burning inferno of eternal torture where the devil and his demons gleefully roast unsaved sinners.

But these views of hell do not come from the Bible. They have been foisted upon humanity by the living, real Satan, the old serpent who deceives the whole world (Rev. 12:9). Satan's concept of hell would portray God as some kind of sadistic monster who apparently delights in seeing the wicked suffer in endless torture. And Satan has a special reason for blinding mankind with this particular lie.

Millions have lived and died believing in this concept of hell, horrified by the thought of being flung into some scaring furnace to burn eternally. Jesus Christ revealed that this false doctrine was inspired by "the devil . . . [who] from the beginning . . . abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it (John 8:44).

God's Word Is Truth

According to the King James Version of the Bible published in 1611, the English word *hell* is translated from three different Greek words. These words — *tartaroo*, *hades* and *gehenna* — have totally different meanings, and thus it is impossible to

understand the Bible's teaching about hell without noting which of these words is used in any given scripture.

A condition of restraint

One of the three Greek words translated *hell* in the New Testament is *tartaroo*: "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell [Greek: *tartaroo*], and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment" (II Pet. 2:4).

The archangel Lucifer anciently mounted a rebellion against God, and apparently convinced fully one third of the Creator's holy angels to support this attempt to knock the Almighty off the throne of the universe (Isa. 14:12-14, Rev. 12:4).

But God put down the attack and cast Lucifer (now Satan) and his angels (now demons) out of heaven. Christ said: "He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven (Luke 10:18). This *tartaroo*, then, is a condition of restraint in which God will confine the insurgent, evil angels.

Jude gives further clarification about the present condition of the fallen angels: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." (Jude 6).

The apostle Peter tells us that while Noah was preparing the ark, Christ actually preached to the in-

carcerated angels: "By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison" (I Pet. 3:19).

These scriptures show that *tartaroo* is some kind of a prison in which mutinous angels are kept to await the judgment of the resurrected, immortal saints of God (I Thessa. 4:16-17). Paul asks, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" (I Cor. 6:3).

The angels who sinned were cast down to *tartaroo*, but nowhere does the Bible say that man will ever be put into this particular hell. This is the only place in the entire New Testament where this word is used, and it applies to unruly angels, not to men.

Hades — the grave

The second Greek word translated *hell* is *hades*: This word *hades* occurs only 11 times in the New Testament and is always rendered *hell* except in I Corinthians 15:55, where it is translated *grave*. And that is the real meaning of this word — the *grave*.

The scriptures show that this Greek word *hades* has the same meaning as the Hebrew word *sheol*, which means *grave*.

The Hebrew *sheol* is used on 65 occasions in the Old Testament; it is rendered the *grave* 31 times, *hell* 31 times and *pit* three times. It always refers to the grave, which no human ever escapes: "it is appointed unto men once to die" (Heb. 9:27) and "All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again" (Ecc. 3:20).

hell is the collection of continues
 for punishment something eternal
 the cause of fiery torment is the subject of hell



Notice Acts 2:27: "Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell [Greek: *hades*]." This New Testament verse is quoted from Psalm 16:10, where the Hebrew word *sheol* is used for hell. Thus the New Testament Greek *hades* is equivalent to the Old Testament Hebrew *sheol* — they both refer to the grave.

Righteous Jacob knew that when he died he would "go down into the grave" (Gen. 37:35). The prophet Jonah spent 72 hours in a watery grave, buried within the belly of the great fish: "Out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice" (Jonah 2:2). Jesus Christ was to spend "three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" — in hell (Matt. 12:40, Acts 2:27).

Do any who go down into the grave remember God or have any ability to think? "In death there is no remembrance of thee; in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" and "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish" (Ps. 6:5, 146:4).

No biblical record of anyone who was resurrected from death to physical life mentioned that the person had any memory of anything that transpired while he was dead in his grave.

Nor does the Bible ever refer to *hades* or *sheol* as a burning inferno of punishment for dead people who somehow are not really dead but can feel pain. The hell to which *hades* in the New Testament and *sheol* in the

Old Testament refer is merely the grave, where all human beings are destined to be in total oblivion until the resurrection.

Gehenna — the lake of fire

There is, however, a real lake of fire described in New Testament scriptures. The Bible reveals that God has planned a hell that will be a lot hotter than any of the ones Satan has palmed off on the world. It will be so hot that it will burn unrepentant humans to a crisp — and they will simply cease to exist forever: "He [God] will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Matt. 3:12).

Christ warned us to "fear him [God] which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" and said it would be better to actually lose precious physical capabilities in this life than to be cast into this fire (Matt. 10:28, 5:29-30).

The word for hell in these verses is *gehenna*. Christ revealed the sobering meaning of this hell in His parable of the tares: "As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 13:40-42).

Christ will say to the "goats" (the wicked, who have been separated from the righteous "sheep"): "De-

part from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels . . . And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal" (Matt. 25:41, 46).

Notice that this verse does not say the punishing will last forever. Indeed the Bible does not say "punishing" but "punishment." Those put in the lake of fire will not be tortured eternally, but will be burned up almost instantly by its heat. Thus the punishment will be everlasting.

The Greek word *gehenna* is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Gai Hinnom*, meaning the valley of *Hinnom*. This rugged region, skirting the south side of Jerusalem, was where, anciently, fires were kept burning to worship the false god *Moloch*.

During the time of Christ and His apostles, the valley of *Hinnom* had become a city dump, a place where garbage and the bodies of dead animals and despised dead criminals were burned. The fires there constantly smoldered. But the refuse and dead bodies dumped there *burned up* — did not continuously keep burning.

The valley of *Hinnom* of the New Testament was referred to as *Tophet* in the Hebrew scriptures: "For *Tophet* is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large; the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it" (Isa. 30:33).

The World's Definition

Buddhism

"The hells are places in which souls are purged, or punished for evil-doing and violating the laws of the Buddha, to fit them for rebirth in one or other of the six states of existence . . . After a longer or shorter period (with a minimum of 500 years) every being must leave the hells and pass through other states until it reaches Nirvana, the final extinction of personal existence" (*A Dictionary of Chinese Mythology*, by E.T.C. Werner, Longwood Press, Portland, Maine, 1977).

Islam

The inhabitants are chained (Ixxiii:12). They are given hot water . . . to drink (xxxviii:57). They are given garments of fire, and hot water is poured over their heads (xxii:19). When their skins are properly burned, God will give them new skins so that they may feel the punishment further (*The Koran*, iv:590).

This is a prophecy of the coming gehenna, the lake of fire, into which Christ will fling the incorrigibly wicked.

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet . . . These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev. 19:20).

Kingdom established

Shortly after this momentous event, the Kingdom of God will be established on this earth, and Christ and His saints will rule on earth 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-6).

Furthermore, all during the Millennium when the Kingdom of God will rule all nations of this earth, the lake of fire will be kept burning in gehenna (the valley of Hinnom). Thus Christ's warning should have strong impact:

"It is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43-44).

"And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord. And they shall go

Judaism

"Judaism, as it developed from Hellenistic times, viewed hell in terms of Gehenna . . . an infernal region of postmortem punishment for the wicked" (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, "Hell," Vol. IV, 1974).

Hinduism

"Hell in Hindu mythology is divided into seven regions collectively called *naraka* . . . for sins of deep turpitude the torture is severe. The victims . . . are given extra acute sensibilities so that they might suffer every refinement of agony to the full" (*The Hindu World*, by Benjamin Walker, Frederick A. Praeger Publishers, New York, 1968).

Christianity

"Based on Jewish concepts, Christianity regarded hell as the fiery domain of the devil and his evil angels, a place of eternal damnation for those who lived a life of sin and who, accord-

ing to the apostle Paul, deny God" (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, "Hell," Vol. IV, 1974).

forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh" (Isa. 66:23-24).

Immortal worms?

Does this verse imply that there will be immortal worms, maggots that never die, feasting on the carcasses of dead rebels?

No, it simply means that the worms will continue to thrive as long as there is any flesh of the wicked to consume. Flies deposit eggs on dead bodies. These eggs then hatch into grubs or maggots. These larvae later change into flies, and the whole cycle is repeated.

The statement that the fire will not be quenched simply means that no one will put out the flames. It does not mean that the flames can't burn themselves out.

God told the Jews that if they kept His Sabbath, they would be blessed. "But," said the Eternal, "if ye will not hearken unto me . . . then will I kindle a fire in the gates . . . and shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem; and it [the fire in Jerusalem] shall not be quenched" (Jer. 17:27).

Did this mean that the fire would

burn eternally? Certainly not! It means that no one would quench or put out the fires that God would send to devour Jerusalem.

The world

"As generally understood, hell is the abode of evil spirits; the infernal regions . . . whither lost and condemned souls go after death to suffer indescribable torments and eternal punishment . . . Some have thought of it as the place created by the Deity, where He punishes, with inconceivable severity, and through all eternity, the souls of those who through unbelief or through the worship of false gods have angered Him.

"It is a place of divine revenge, untempered, never ending. This has been the idea most generally held by Christians, Catholics and Protestants alike. It is also the idea embodied in the Mohammedan's conception. The main features of hell as conceived by Hindu, Persian, Egyptian, Grecian and Christian theologians are essentially the same" (*Encyclopedia Americana*, "Hell").

burn eternally? Certainly not! It means that no one would quench or put out the fires that God would send to devour Jerusalem.

But those fires that the Babylonians and later the Romans started in Jerusalem did finally burn themselves out. They ceased to burn when there was no more combustible matter to keep their flames aglow.

So when God's fire has consumed all physical matter on earth, it will have no more fuel and will cease to burn.

Why Satan's lie?

Will God's version of hell fire cease at the close of the Millennium? No. "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison" (Rev. 20:7).

This freed, angry, rampaging devil will then "deceive the nations" and incite them to rebellion and war against God's holy city, Jerusalem. But Satan and his army will be defeated, and his followers will be devoured by a fire that comes down from God out of heaven (verses 8 and 9).

Then what will happen?

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and

(Continued on page 27)

'And this Gospel shall be preached..'

Matthew 24:14

Sermon Summaries from Ministers of the Worldwide Church of God

When a nation's security is threatened — when its status quo is challenged — people get worried and seek comfort in old things and old ways. Today the Western world is on a nostalgia kick.

Now a Pears' soap tin, an antique toy, a can of fuel additive made in 1930 or an old Sears & Roebuck catalog can command a ridiculously high price. When people sense something ominous about the present, they somehow feel that returning to former, simpler times would be better. They find security in the past rather than the future.

But our modern world's affinity for nostalgia is nothing new. The people of the Middle East in the sixth century B.C. had their own nostalgia kick going. Maybe you thought the sixth century B.C. was before there was anything to be nostalgic about, but the people then wished they could return to earlier days just as our nation does today. Why? Because they were worried.

The world of King Josiah

The world of the ancient Near East was falling apart. The great empires — the traditional superpowers — were no longer as strong and were losing ground.

The old order of doing things was being challenged, so men had premonition of doom.

Five hundred years before Christ, the Egyptians of the 26th dynasty longed for the days of the pyramids, 1,500 years earlier.

Assyria was beginning to crumble, and Ashurbanipal was collecting old documents and having them copied for his library — for nostalgia's sake. The man who succeeded him, called Shamaah-shumukim, actually revived an obsolete Sumerian language as his way of linking with the past — for security.

Nebuchadnezzar did the same thing in Babylon. Not because he had to. But the nation's security was being threatened, and people in every age subconsciously seem to do the same thing — long for a return to the past.

But now here, probably, was the feeling of nostalgia greater than in Judah.

You can read about the religious and social law to which Judah had degenerated in the first few chapters of Jeremiah. They had lost the book of the law that Moses had given

en them, so there were no worthwhile instructions on how to run the nation. Baal worship, sexual perversions and even human sacrifice scarred the society.

Judah, a couple of generations earlier, had seen the northern kingdom of Israel go into captivity. Brothers who spoke their language and had their culture were no longer there to the north.

Suppose Germany had conquered Canada in the First World War. Suppose they had deported all the Canadians and repopulated the country with peoples of a different language, with different customs. Slowly the English, Anglo-Saxon culture of Canada would have become a thing of the past. The country would be totally inhabited by people we might consider barbarians.

And suppose you knew that you had come within a hair's breadth of having the same calamity befall you. Suppose again that just about a generation ago, the Germans had come to the gates of Washington, but God intervened and repelled them because the President was a righteous man. Nevertheless, now they were right there on the border again, just waiting.

This was Judah's situation in the sixth century B.C. — and it was enough to make anybody doubtful about the future. Two monarchs cooperated with the Assyrians, King Manasseh, who was one of Judah's worst rulers, governed for 55 years.

When he died, his son Amon came to the throne. He was just as bad. And because of the country's nostalgia — the feeling they had to turn their nation around and recapture the former days of glory — they murdered Amon.

The lost and found book of the law

Then Judah's people placed Amon's young son Josiah on the throne.

Josiah was only eight when he came to the throne. Because of his youthfulness, older men acted as his regents and tutors. Fortunately, they were trying to obey God, and Josiah grew up with a knowledge of God's ways and a desire to be righteous.

Now let's pick up the story in II Chronicles.

34

One of the things a king of Israel was supposed to do before he could take over the throne was write out his own copy of the law — the five books

NOSTALGIA— A CHALLENGE FOR TODAY

When Josiah had read the book . . . and found that all those years of wanting to be righteous were just a beginning, he recommitted himself to God.

of Moses — by hand. That's one good way to really get to know it.

But when young Josiah became king, there was no book of the law available. They knew Moses' legacy existed, but it was no longer available to the men who educated young Josiah.

II Chronicles 34:1-3: "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign [about 640 B.C.], and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years [until 609 B.C., when he was killed]. And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

"For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young [16], he began to seek after the God of David his father [as he matured he began to be converted]; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images."

Josiah began to be beastly to the prophets of Baal, as Elijah had been. "And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence [he stood there and watched it]; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down, and the molten images, he broke in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them. And he burnt the bones of the priests [apparently Josiah executed both priests and worshipers of Baal and destroyed the pagan shrines throughout all the land of Israel] upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

"And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about.

"And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned unto Jerusalem" (verses 4-7).

Then, "in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house," he began to repair the temple, which was in terrible disrepair. Perhaps the roof had fallen in, floors had rotted, the walls needed redoing.

Then the Levites, the ministers of that day, collected money (apparently they hadn't been doing so before) to give to the workmen who were repairing the house of God, and "to buy hewn stone and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed" (verse 11).

When they brought out the money that had been taken in for the repair of God's house, an exciting thing happened.

("Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses" (verse 14). He was there rummaging around, and he found an old scroll.)

Deuteronomy rediscovered

Now pick up the story in the other account in II Kings 22:8:

18.

"And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it." Shaphan, after blowing the dust off the scroll and carefully peeling the thing apart, read it, and he must have said something like, "Wow, this is dynamite!"

Verse 10: "And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. [Look, while the builders were working, they found this!] And Shaphan read it before the king."

The scroll probably contained the book of Deuteronomy, and the king had never seen it before. Here was a man who'd spent years trying to clean up the land, live according to God's laws and make things right. Suddenly there was delivered to him a how-to guide that the patriarch Moses had written before the children of Israel crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy was the second law, the book in which Moses clarified and codified God's laws, the Ten Commandments, and God's challenge to the people to be His special nation. Josiah, who was on a drive to restore Israel's greatness, was hearing it for the first time. And remember, the whole nation was on a nostalgia kick.

The King's reaction

"And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying,

"Go ye, enquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us" (verses 11-13).

You can imagine what Josiah must have said to himself: "This is terrific. We're supposed to be a special nation to God, obeying him and fulfilling a covenant between Him and us. Our nation would be abundantly happy if we would just fulfill the conditions in this agreement, and this book tells us exactly what things we should do. And I didn't even know about it. My parents never taught me anything about obeying God and being part of a special covenant people to Him."

Huldah informed King Josiah that God was going to punish Judah for its sins. But because Josiah had humbled himself before the Lord, the punishment was not to occur until after his death. Throughout his lifetime, Josiah fervently taught the people to obey God and do His will.

Greatest Passover since Samuel:

"And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the

Can we today rededicate ourselves to the great truth we have been given? "But ye [Christians] are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood . . ."

people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord" (II Kings 23:2).

During the years that God's law had not been kept, weird, strange cults had arisen. Zephaniah describes weird costumes that people wore. Strange customs in music — alien to the culture and the worship of the true God — had become part of the culture.

But Josiah commanded that the people obey God's law, which they had just found. II Kings 23:21: "And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the Lord your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant."

Josiah was on a campaign to root out of the nation all the idolatrous practices and sins Judah had committed against God over the generations. And having seen what Josiah was wont to do with those who didn't obey God, most of the people were only too happy not to be wiped out by his righteous crusade.

"Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the Kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah; But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the Lord in Jerusalem" (verses 22-23).

Now back to II Chronicles 35:17-18: "And the children of Israel that were present kept the passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days. And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem." Josiah was zealous about returning to the faith once delivered.

Josiah's righteous campaign

Josiah's goal was nothing less than to rededicate his nation to being the people God, through Moses, had challenged them to be on the other side of the Jordan.

This nostalgia kick was wholesale and wholehearted. Judah really hearkened to Moses' plea: "Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

"Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

"For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

"And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of

thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons" (Deut. 4:5-9).

Implication for us

Would we do likewise today?

What would happen if, in an archaeological dig in the Middle East, a special book were found and brought and given to President Jimmy Carter? What if the material in this book convicted the President so strongly that, in a real determination to return to the true faith of the Bible, he looked into God's Word and found:

"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."

"The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people" (Deut. 7:6-7).

The United States started out as a bunch of scraggly fugitives from persecution, poverty and even prison; who came to this continent to somehow forge out a new life, and by God's grace became the greatest nation on earth.

What if the President became determined to head up a crusade like Josiah did? Would we, in this age of nostalgia, respond and support him?

A nostalgia kick? The story of Josiah has a lot of implication to today. When Josiah had read the book of Deuteronomy and found that all those years of wanting to be righteous were just a beginning, he recommitted himself to God and God's ways, and he and his nation were blessed, as long as they fulfilled their part of their covenant with God.

God's Challenge

Can we today rededicate ourselves to the great truth we have been given? "But ye [Christians] are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people."

Moses said these things to the people of Israel before they crossed into the Promised Land. Peter is saying them to us — spiritual Israel — today. "That ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (I Pet. 2:9).

We have been called to show the world what God is like. And one day the world will say of us: "What people are so righteous, that have God so close to them? What people are like these people, who have such magnificent laws and such a way of life?"

That's the challenge God has put before us today.

John Blufford has been in God's ministry for more than 12 years and presently serves in the Church's International Office in Pasadena.



Good News on the Caribbean Work

How It Began

The first church to be raised up in the Caribbean area was on the French-speaking island of Martinique.

Several years ago, Dibar Apartian, speaker on *Le Monde Avenir* broadcast, received a letter from a Seventh-day Adventist minister, Louis Jubert. Mr. Jubert had heard Mr. Apartian's broadcast on "Where Will the Millennium Be Spent?"

"I have been a minister and teacher for 22 years," he wrote. "I have never heard this. You are a false teacher. But — if you are right, I will turn in my ministerial credentials." Mr. Apartian sent Mr. Jubert some literature, and three months later, Mr. Jubert sent Mr. Apartian his ministerial credentials!

Mr. Jubert resigned from his church and began to carefully study the teachings of God's Church. About 20 other people studied with him. Mr. Jubert was deeply respected in the community for his honesty and integrity. But he was persecuted by his former congregation; stones were thrown at his house and he was insulted.

Mr. Jubert continued to study for three or four years. More people began to study with him, and he built a meeting hall next to his home.

In 1969, Herbert W. Armstrong was able to visit the group with Mr. Apartian. Mr. Apartian remembers that Mr. Armstrong was impressed with the depth of the questions the people asked and the sincerity the small congregation showed. And their meeting hall, Mr. Armstrong said, was "Ambassador quality." Mr. Jubert was ordained as a minister of the Worldwide Church of God shortly afterward.

He worked hard, preaching, teaching and visiting, but he was no longer a young man. Gilbert Carbonnel, a deacon from the Paris, France, church, and a native of Guadeloupe, was sent to help him in Martinique. Six months after Mr. Carbonnel's arrival, Louis Jubert died. He left behind him a vibrant and growing congregation.

The church in Martinique has continued to grow under Mr. Carbonnel and today numbers about 230. It is the largest French-speaking congregation outside French Canada.

open an office in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Mr. Bass's assignment is certainly one of the Work's most complicated. He must supervise and coordinate Church activities in more than a dozen countries.

Although tiny by world standards, each of the independent West Indian countries guards its individuality carefully. They are reluctant to grant work permits even to citizens of neighboring islands, let alone Americans.

Also funds cannot be

moved easily from one country to another. Thus Mr. Bass may find funds stockpiling in one place, while a neighboring church area can barely make ends meet. The total postal system is often erratic, so a small receiving and mailing office must be maintained on each of the main islands.

Mr. Bass has likened his manpower and administrative problems to a game of chess — each piece can only be moved in certain directions, and everything must be plotted in advance. □

God's Church in Guyana

Did the Jonestown mass suicide have an adverse effect on God's church in Guyana? Not according to Paul Krautmänn, pastor of the church in Georgetown, Guyana. "We were expecting some sort of a backlash against what might be termed American religion. But in fact, in the last year we have had good favor."

Church membership in Guyana now numbers 55. There is no *World Tomorrow* broadcast, but *Plain Truth* circulation stands at 2,577.

Mr. Krautmänn is an Englishman who first went to Guyana several years ago to work as a librarian. Then he heard about the Church and applied for admission to Ambassador College.

After graduation, Mr. Krautmänn decided to return to Guyana to serve the newly independent nation, and he wanted to use his Ambassador College education to help the church.

Because Mr. Krautmänn's wife Juanita is a Guyanese citizen, he is able to hold dual nationality and thus has no difficulty gaining permission to work in the country.

Earlier this year Mr. Krautmänn approached the Guyanese police department

and offered to supply them with free literature. The police showed great interest in Church booklets on crime, drugs, health, finances and the Ten Commandments. The Commissioner of Police asked that copies be made available to every police station in Guyana. □

Developing Local Leadership

No one living in a democratic country likes to think about losing his freedom — but it can happen.

The influence of Cuba, the Caribbean satellite of the Soviet Union, is becoming more powerful in the West Indies, and some political analysts believe it will not be long before other islands tilt toward the left and communism. If that happens, God's Church will find it difficult to operate freely in the area.

In anticipation of this potential problem, Stan Bass, Caribbean regional director, sponsored a seminar for leading members from all the English-speaking islands.

For 10 days, 23 men and their wives met together on the beautiful island of Tobago for a series of lectures and workshops on the subject of

The Director and the Job



Caribbean Director Bass

Stan Bass, regional director for the Caribbean area, was ordained a local elder at the Feast of Tabernacles in 1963. He served in the Chicago, Ill., church a few months before enrolling in

Ambassador College in 1963.

After conducting baptizing tours across the southern United States, he was assigned to the Houston, Tex., church, and then was transferred to New York.

In 1968, Mr. Bass was asked to move to Barbados to take care of the church there. He was able to live in Barbados until July, 1972, when the authorities refused to renew his work permit. Mr. Bass and his Jamaican wife Millie were forced to move to Miami, Fla.

Then in February, 1974, the decision was made to

Church leadership. Mr. Bass and John Halford, from the International Office in Pasadena, conducted the seminar.

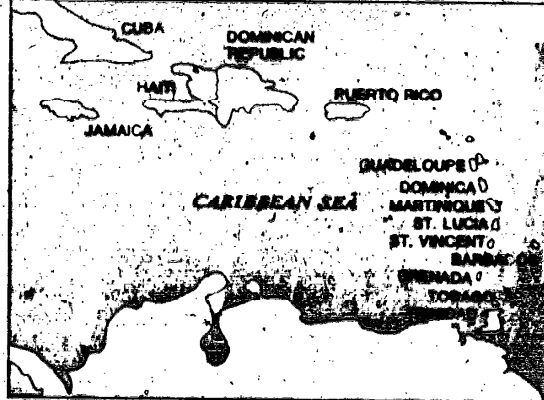
Mr. Bass said he was pleased with the results of the seminar. He particularly noted the progress the men had made in their public speaking, with the help of a videotape recorder.

Mr. Bass commented to the men in his opening remarks: "We have not brought you here to train you to be ministers. Only God can call you to that office. But we have come to show you how you can be of greater help to your local minister in serving God's people."

"However, we also want to have people who could take over and fill the gap should anything happen to make it impossible for a minister to function in your countries. We do not want to leave our brethren without qualified leadership.

"But," he added soberly, "let us hope and pray that this will never be necessary." □

Islands of the Caribbean



God's Work in the Caribbean has made much progress.

God's great end-time message is going to the West Indies. Stretching from Florida to Venezuela, this region of literally hundreds of islands is known for its beauty. The largest of the islands, Cuba, is more than 600 miles long; the smallest island does not even merit a dot on most maps.

One island is a U.S. territory, two others are part of France, and another was the world's first independent black republic. English, French, Spanish, Dutch and Danish are spoken here. Some islands are relatively wealthy, while others suffer from extreme poverty. Together the conglomerate makes up the Caribbean.

After Christopher Columbus' discovery in the 15th century, centuries of colonization began in the West Indies, as the European powers scrambled for empires in the new world.

England, France, Spain, Holland and even Latvia quickly seized outposts in the islands and brought slaves from Africa to work sugar plantations. Today, most West Indians are descendants of these slaves.

Although Haiti has been independent since 1804, most of the islands in the Caribbean have gained their freedom since World War II.

The West Indies' palm-fringed beaches, lapped by the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea, have long been an attraction to tourists. Cruise boats are a regular sight.

Churches and Bible studies are scattered throughout the region, served by 10 ministers and elders. These islands in the sun have proved to be fertile soil for God's Work. □

Country	Languages	Churches & Bible Studies	Minister	Members	Church & Bible Study Attendance	Plain Truth Circulation
ANTIGUA	English	St. Johns		13	17	94
BAHAMAS	English	Nassau	Kingsley Mather	50	89	517
BARBADOS	English	Bridgetown	Carlos Nieto	153	259	978
BERMUDA	English	Hamilton	Roland Sampson	35	122	207
DOMINICA	English & French	Roseau		19	45	185
DOMINICAN REP.	Spanish	Santo Domingo		3	13	930 Spanish 19 English
GRENADA	English & French patois	St. George's		35	55	575
GUADELOUPE	French	Basse-Terre Pointe-a-Pitre	Erick Dubois	29	29	734 French 11 English
GUYANA	English	Georgetown	Paul Krautmann	54	47	2,577
HAITI	French	Port-au-Prince		28	50	17 English 1,182 French
JAMAICA	English	Kingston	Charles Fleming	50	79	1,510
MARTINIQUE	French	Fort-de-France	Gilbert Carbonnel	143	216	1,131 French 14 English
PUERTO RICO	English Spanish	San Juan	Stan Bass Al Sousa	56	67	4,747 Spanish 625 English
ST. LUCIA	English	Castries		43	72	587
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	English	Port of Spain	Victor Simpson Clifton Charles	210	320	7,355
U.S. VIRGIN IS.	English	Charlotte Amalie		7	5	125
OTHERS	Various			5		290

Teenagers

(Continued from page 10)

Some people think education is too expensive, whether in money or time. But if you think education is expensive, try ignorance! "For whoever finds me [wisdom] finds life and receives favor from the Lord," Solomon says. "But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death" (Prov. 8:35-36).

Be a hard worker

Have you ever wondered why your money doesn't go quite as far as it used to, why the price of everything you buy keeps creeping upward? There are many factors and causes, but what it boils down to is this: Many workers just don't produce as much as they used to. They are paid more for producing less proportionately, and the result is more dollars floating around to purchase a smaller number of manufactured items. And more dollars for fewer items is called inflation.

Many of our economic problems could be avoided if people learned the fifth principle, a simple lesson Solomon wrote for us: "I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest — and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man" (Prov. 24:30-34).

Hard work has its rewards the same as poor work has its rewards. "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings, he will not serve before obscure men" (Prov. 22:29). The best guarantee against layoffs or firings is to make yourself a valuable worker, indispensable to your employer. If you prove yourself to him in that manner, problems like getting off work for the Sabbath and Holy Days often melt away. He will know that you are too valuable to lose.

However, if you are not willing to put forth the effort first, you cannot expect to get anywhere. "The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the

desires of the diligent are fully satisfied" (Prov. 13:4). "All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty" (Prov. 14:23).

Immorality: A dead-end street

Would God have written His laws and commanded us to keep them if it was entirely natural for us to obey them? God knows man's nature. Just as the temptation to lie, steal and murder became a little too great for the superangel Lucifer, whom God created with freedom of choice, God knew that temptation would be too strong for man when He created him. And the temptation coming at young people from every side is a small word with big consequences — sex.

You have the choice of how you learn this sixth lesson, but God and Solomon warn of the results: "Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread [you're just a way to make a living to her] and the adulteress preys upon your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished. . . a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself. Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away" (Prov. 6:25-33).

Solomon says to watch out for the smooth-talking bombshells and hennies. "The lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked; but she knows it not" (Prov. 5:3-6).

Those consequences may not seem like much when you're parked in a car on a dark deserted road but remember these warnings and the reap-what-you-sow principle.

The seventh major lesson

The last major lesson is not to be found in studying the book of Proverbs, but rather in studying the life of its author.

Solomon was one of the great

scholars of the ages. He was the wisest man who ever lived. He was one of the wealthiest and most powerful rulers in history. He was renowned as a poet. His name, Solomon, means "the peaceable," and as an infant God named him Jedediah, "beloved of the Lord" (II Sam. 12:24-25).

He had everything going for him. But for all he had, he lacked one little ingredient that proved to be his downfall. Let's read about it in I Kings 11:

"King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women . . . Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from the nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, 'You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.' Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. . .

"He had seven hundred wives of royal birth [through political alliances with neighboring nations] and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been" (verses 1-4).

The chapter goes on to describe how Solomon began to worship the false gods of his foreign wives in direct disobedience to God's warnings and commands (verses 11-12).

Solomon, once called the "beloved of the Lord," apparently never repented, even after this last warning, and ended his life cut off from the God who had given him so much.

Solomon's character had one fatal flaw. He knew better; we have just covered that. But he lacked the firm commitment and will to do what he knew was right.

God can't give you character. Your parents can't. Only one person can, and that's you. Solomon lacked it. Only you can make that commitment, and with God's help and strength you can carry it through.

Study the proverbs and learn from the mistakes of others: Read them in your Bible, and you'll find additional proverbs on these subjects. You'll learn many more vitally important principles and lessons to help you have a successful, rich, rewarding — and eternal — life. □

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

gain ETERNAL LIFE through Christ WITHOUT repentance of transgressing God's law!

Satan deceives the traditional Christian world into believing they can have free access to the "tree of life" — eternal life — salvation — while still in their sins.

Jesus warned first, that "Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ: and shall deceive MANY" (Matt. 24:5). He said through Paul of these deceived ministers: "For such are FALSE APOSTLES, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles [those sent with the Gospel] of Christ. And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of LIGHT. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed [misrepresent themselves] as the ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:13-15).

Actually the false gospel of the professing Christian world represents that God did NOT bar entrance to the "tree of life" — or eternal salvation. But that humanity may freely go right back in to that "tree of LIFE" and gain eternal salvation WHILE CONTINUING IN THEIR SINS — while rejecting and transgressing GOD'S LAW — rejecting GOD'S GOVERNMENT, which is based on His law (His way of life).

They do NOT preach that sin is "the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4) — GOD'S SPIRITUAL LAW as summed up in the TEN COMMANDMENTS. Rather they teach falsely that the law is done away:

A typical incident

About 38 years ago, while the Church was still headquartered in Eugene, Ore., an evangelistic team from Southern California was conducting a tent crusade in the neighboring town of Springfield. There was the principal evangelist and eight or 10 young men of college age. These young men cruised about the town daytimes, each carrying a Bible, accosting people on the street, inviting them to the big tent meetings.

Two of them accosted me.

The GOOD NEWS December 1979

"Does your preacher teach salvation from SIN?" I asked.

"Oh yes, of course," they answered.

"Well does he tell them what sin is? What they need to quit doing?"

"Christ died for our sins," they answered.

"Yes, I know, but what is sin? What have we done that is sin? Can you show me in your Bible there, a plain Bible definition, saying 'Sin is —' and then giving the Bible definition of what sin is?"

"Christ died for our sins," they replied, now becoming more defensive.

"But if I come to your meetings, I

Those of us called now,
IF we repent, overcome
Satan, this world and
ourselves, shall inherit
the KINGDOM OF GOD
and SIT WITH GOD ON
HIS THRONE, when we
shall then — with Satan
gone — undertake to
SAVE THE WORLD!

want to know if your preacher can show me what the BIBLE defines as sin — what is sin. Would one of you run and bring your preacher, so I may ask him direct?"

By this time quite a little group of curiosity seekers had gathered around us. They urged, "Yes, go bring your preacher — let's see if he can answer," some said.

The "great" evangelist came. I asked him the same question.

"Jesus died for our sins," he replied, just as he had instructed his young men.

He refused to answer or open his Bible and show us the biblical definition of sin. He and his young men slunk away.

The crowd, which had gathered, laughed.

"When someone knows how to ask the right questions, they can't answer from the Bible," one said.

"He could have, but he didn't dare, because he knew if he read the true Bible definition of sin, it would destroy his whole teaching," I said. "Would YOU people like to see that Bible definition?"

They would. I was carrying a briefcase from which I took out my Bible. Turning to I John 3:4, I read, "Sin is the transgression of the law." Then from Romans 7:14, 7, I showed them WHAT law it is sin to transgress: "For we know that the law is spiritual" — that is, a SPIRITUAL law, and "Is the law sin?" (Satan represents that God's spiritual law — His way of life — is evil, but that its transgression is RIGHT.) "God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin [what sin is], but by the law." — WHAT law? — "for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." What law said, "Thou shalt not covet?" THE TEN COMMANDMENTS!

"Christianity's" error

This incident illustrates what I mean. A world-famous evangelist tells his vast audiences that death is uncertain — it may strike you when least expected. Someone somewhere may unexpectedly drop dead before tomorrow morning. What would happen to you if that someone should be YOU? If you don't come forward and accept Christ tonight, you have no insurance for tomorrow — tomorrow may be too late. So, to the mournful tones of the choir singing, "Just as I am" — in my sins — "I come, I come" the hundreds and even thousands begin the trek down to the altar.

The whole teaching of traditional Christianity is that we do not have to REJECT Satan's way of sin — the self-centered way of this world — that we may crash right back through that impassable BARRIER God put to guard the "tree of life" — that we may TAKE immortal life IN OUR SINS!

Jesus came to save us FROM our sins, not IN them. Repentance is toward GOD, and faith is toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We come to GOD THROUGH Christ, but Jesus said plainly, "No man CAN COME to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44). YOU or I cannot take the initiative — GOD must first call and draw us to

Him. We must first REPENT — square ourselves with GOD the FATHER! There is one Lawgiver — GOD THE FATHER. We must first repent — and repentance is GRANTED by GOD and TOWARD GOD (Acts 11:18; 20:21).

On the day of Pentecost, at the very founding of the Church, the inspired Peter said, "REPENT, and be baptized: [into Christ] . . . and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Jesus said, "Ex-

cept ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3, 5).

Called for a purpose

We who were predestined to be called by God the Father NOW, were called for our PART — if only by our heartrending prayers for the Work, our tithes, our encouragement and whatever is delegated to us to do — were called to this DEFINITE GREAT COMMISSION behind Christ's apostle, whom He uses as His instrument.

But WE have to overcome SATAN, even as Jesus did — as well as Satan's world and the human nature Satan has instilled within us. Those called in the Millennium or in the Great White Throne Judgment will not have Satan to overcome. On the other hand, WE, if we overcome, shall sit with Christ in His throne at Jerusalem and be given power TO RULE THE NATIONS!

God unfair? NEVER! God is the God of justice to ALL — but to each in HIS TIME and in HIS WAY! □

Wonderful Feast!

(Continued from page 11)

How many REALLY LISTEN? How many really GET the overwhelming MEANING of God's great PURPOSE? Are there some like Ezekiel reports? "Also, thou son of man, the children of MY PEOPLE . . . come unto thee . . . and they sit before thee as my people [not as outsiders], and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetness.

"And lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song, of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument, but they do them not" (they do not really LISTEN — do not get the MEANING — could not remember afterward what was really said — did not grasp or understand the real MESSAGE) (Ezek. 33:30-32). Is not that a message for the Church — God's people — in these latter days?

I have a single-track mind, which can be consciously on but ONE THING AT A TIME. If I hear a song, it is natural for me to hear really ONLY THE MUSIC, unconscious, of the WORDS. If I especially want to grasp the words of the song or hymn, I concentrate on the WORDS and their meaning, but not the tune. I simply seem unable to consciously hear BOTH the tune and the words.

I wonder if some people do not hear the sound of the VOICE — but not the WORDS — during a sermon.

Jesus Christ knew our brethren — the ENTIRE U.S. MEMBERSHIP AND MUCH OF CANADA — hearing on this MIRACULOUS NEVER BEFORE INTERNATIONAL HOOKUP — needed to HEAR and UNDERSTAND this message!

The vast organization of America's largest corporation had gone into unprecedented NIGHT-AND-DAY emergency activity for five days and nights to make this possible for us!

ALL THANKS of the Worldwide Church of God to the unprecedented emergency effort and accomplishment of the AT&T. AND ALL PRAISE TO OUR GREAT GOD!

It was indeed, A MIRACLE!

Plans for next year even greater

We are going to work NOW, a year in advance, for an even greater international hookup by satellite for next year, and hope to make it possible for ALL sites to have it visually on a large screen to SEE — as well as to hear!

As to the Feast itself, I know that here at the Tucson Festival site, it seemed the BEST EVER! Sermonettes, as well as sermons, were EXCEPTIONAL. Subjects were properly varied, yet every one covered an important phase of the MEANING of this Feast — preparing for and looking into the WORLD TOMORROW in the Kingdom of God reigning on earth!

I especially want to compliment Leroy Cole for a very moving sermonette on ENDURING TO THE END. He, like some others, has seen two members of his family — two older brothers, go out from God's Church. He spoke with some emotional feeling, but gave us a fine example of remaining LOYAL AND FAITHFUL TO CHRIST AND GOD'S CHURCH, in spite of heart-breaking divisions in the human family. I had never heard Leroy preach before.

Closer together than ever

The other sermonettes were equally good, and every sermon was an inspiring masterpiece. And the fellowship among the brethren was the

best ever — a wonderful attitude of close-knit loyal fellowship — showing GROWTH in the Holy Spirit of God!

The massive assault to destroy God's Church in January by the State of California, has only drawn us closer together than ever.

The living HEAD of God's Church, Jesus Christ, is now moving to PREPARE HIS CHURCH TO BE READY FOR CHRIST'S SOON COMING! GOD's people are responding! The few out-of-harmony and embittered ones are leaving. Christ is putting us through a HOUSECLEANING!

Our fellowship, during this Festival, was with ALMIGHTY GOD and with CHRIST, as well as with one another. As we were enjoying a foretaste of the millennial Kingdom of God, with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, and SATAN PUT OUT — so in this Festival we EXPERIENCED the fellowship of one another WITH GOD and with Christ, and hopefully with most, if not yet quite all of the malcontents and out-of-harmony dissenters, having purged themselves from us!

Let's pray earnestly, in love, that those who have gone out may be brought to SEE their error, be brought to repentance and returned in harmony and rejoicing. Yet God's Word says, "They went out from us but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us" (1 John 2:19).

Now let us joyfully dedicate our lives to GOING ON toward complete harmony and unity, adorning the Church of God with increasing RIGHTEOUSNESS — with GOD's righteousness increasing in our lives, looking toward another even greater Feast NEXT YEAR — preparing for the soon coming of our Lord JESUS, CHRIST! □

MINISTUDY

God's Law of TITHING

The Good News, in conjunction with the Correspondence Course Department, presents brief monthly excursions into the study of the Bible, delving into topics relevant to the development and increased understanding of future members of the God Family. Bible study is one means by which Christians are renewed daily (II Cor. 4:16), so let's refresh ourselves with more of the precious truths of God's Word!

Instructions: The format of these ministudies is similar to that of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. Look up and read in your Bible the scripture references given in answer to the questions. Comments following the questions elaborate on the scriptures just read. That's all there is to it! (These studies are based on the King James Version of the Bible, unless otherwise stated.)

Few today realize that God lays claim to the first 10th of all our increase — wages, produce, etc. Still fewer really believe God's promise to bless those who obey His law of tithing, as revealed in the Bible.

No one can afford to be in ignorance of this fundamental financial law of God and its spiritual implications!

1. Does God reveal Himself as the Creator and Owner of everything we see around us? Ps. 24:1; Job 41:11. Does all the gold and silver also belong to God? Hag. 2:8.

God created everything and by virtue of that creation He owns it all. God therefore has a prior claim to ownership of all that is produced out of His earth. Yet God requires us to return to Him only 10 percent of what our efforts produce and earn. Notice why.

God uses the 10 percent He claims as His own for proclaiming His Gospel message — the good news of the coming Kingdom of God and the peace, joy, happiness and prosperity it will bring to mankind!

God's law concerning what we produce and earn can be compared to a contract. He wants us to understand that we are working with Him in a partnership. God allows us to live and work on His

earth — to cultivate the land and produce the food we eat. He allows us to use all His resources, in producing thousands of products for our own personal use.

But God is a generous partner. He gives us 90 percent of all that we receive, gain or produce and charges us a meager 10 percent for using His earth. That 10th in turn is spent for man's benefit — in bringing the knowledge of the blessings of God's government to mankind.

At this point in our study let's notice a few facts about the history of tithing.

2. How did the patriarch Abraham honor the Creator, Owner and Sovereign over all things? Gen. 14:17,20; Heb. 7:1-4. Did God bless obedient (Gen. 26:5) Abraham? Gen. 13:2.

Abraham was a father. In this instance he gave a 10th part of the spoils of battle (Gen. 14:18-20) to Melchizedek, God's representative on earth. The context of these verses in Genesis shows that God received His due before any further disposition of the goods was made to others.

3. Was Melchizedek God's minister? Gen. 14:18; Heb. 7:1.

Tithing is revealed in the Bible as God's system for financing His ministry. Hundreds of years prior to the beginning of the Levitical priesthood, the ministry was that of Melchizedek. (Melchizedek was none other than the member of the Godhead who became Jesus Christ! He was God's representative on earth at that time, and He received tithes from God's faithful servants.)

4. What did Jacob, son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham, promise God he would do with all his increase? Gen. 28:20-22. Was he prosperous? Gen. 30:43.

5. Before the time of Moses, the tithe had been paid directly to Melchizedek, high priest of God. But after Israel's deliverance from Egypt, notice what God commanded regarding the tithes. To whom were the people to pay tithes? Num. 18:21, 24. What use was the Levitical priesthood to make of the tithe? Verse 21.

Melchizedek (Christ, the Lord of the Old Testament) selected the Levites to be His ministers. But there was no commission to spread the Gos-

TITHING

MINISTRY

pel at this time. God's plan for that dispensation merely called for the Levites to teach the people God's law in the letter and to administer the physical rituals and sacrifices as a reminder of their failure to obey His laws. And, the people were *commanded* to bring the tithe of their produce to them. Christ (Melchizedek) thereby transferred receipt of the tithe to the Levitical priesthood for their support.

6. Does the seventh chapter of Hebrews (the priesthood chapter) make it clear that tithing is not Levitical (not having originated with Levi's descendants) or ceremonial? Heb. 7:5, 8-10.

Hebrews 7 clearly shows that tithing had long been an ongoing financial principle by the time God instituted ancient Israel's civil law through Moses. It was then that tithe paying was formally commanded. And since tithing did not begin with the administration of the Levites, it therefore is not ended now that the Levitical priesthood is no longer extant in the world.

Rather, according to verses 11-17 of Hebrews 7, God *changed* the priesthood back to the spiritual priesthood of Melchizedek. The Levitical priesthood was superseded by the priesthood of Jesus Christ — *the Melchizedek priesthood restored*. And so there was also a change as to *who* should now receive the tithe (verse 12). Christ has authorized His New Testament ministry to accept the tithes in order to do the *spiritual Work of God*.

The New Testament era was ushered in when Melchizedek (Christ), who abides as our High Priest continually (Heb. 7:3; 4:14-16), became a mortal man so He could be sacrificed for the sins of all mankind and make the Holy Spirit available to those whom God calls.

7. What is Christ's commission to His New Testament ministry? Matt. 28:19-20; Mark, 16:15. What Gospel would be preached by His Church in this end time? Matt. 24:14.

Christ came to inaugurate a new kind of ministry — a *spiritual* ministry. It is a ministry of salvation — a ministry of prophecy — a ministry of warning, as well as good news — of prophesying His glorious return as world Ruler to rescue mankind from self-imposed annihilation.

In these critical, chaotic days approaching the end of an age, the message of God's Church is reaching millions of people around the world. It is a huge undertaking requiring not only the financing of the personal needs of hundreds of ministers and other laborers, but the employing of tremendous facilities — radio, television, printing presses — for proclaiming Jesus' Gospel of the

coming Kingdom of God "unto all nations"!

Today, God provides for the financing of His globe-girdling Work by the same system He has used for millennia — the *tithing* system.

8. Did Jesus uphold God's law of tithing? Matt. 23:23. (Notice the last part of this verse.)

9. Did the apostle Paul clearly show that Christ's New Testament ministry is to be supported just as were the Levites in ancient Israel? I Cor. 9:7-14, especially verses 13 and 14.

10. How does God show that both nations and individuals have been literally stealing from Him? Mal. 3:7-12, especially verses 8 and 9.

Can anyone *afford* to rob God? Stealing from God is a very serious matter!

God has put a no-trespassing sign on the first 10th of our earnings — it is reserved unto Himself. It is only after we acknowledge God's prior claim over that first 10th of our income (by paying it to Him) that we have a legitimate claim to the other nine tenths.

11. What does one come under when he or she breaks this fundamental financial law of God? Mal. 3:9. How does one come out from under this financial curse? Verse 10.

12. What does God *challenge* us to do to prove Him — to see if He really will bless us? Verse 10.

The simple equation is: Pay to God what we owe Him — the 10th that is His — and He will reward us with blessings. God does not promise to make you a millionaire, but if you work diligently and are faithful in returning His portion to Him, He works with you, blesses your effort, causing your partnership with Him to prosper.

13. What should be our attitude in paying God's representatives the 10th that belongs to Him and even giving *offerings* (Mal. 3:8) in addition to the tithe as we are able? II Cor. 9:6-7.

A generous attitude is foundational to God's *give* way of life. God is a generous giver! He wants His children to reflect a like generosity within their comparatively limited means.

14. What does God promise us if we seek to do His will? Matt. 6:31-33, especially verse 33.

15. What precious spiritual principles did Christ reveal about the use of our treasure? Matt. 6:19-21.

If you are not already doing so, why not invest in this Work of God and begin storing up spiritual "treasures in heaven"? Make God your financial partner. Put God's tithe and your heart into the Work that He is doing today.

Why not *prove* God? — Prepared by Richard H. Sedlack

Concept of Hell?

(Continued from page 16)

brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are [were cast is a more correct translation], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (verse 10).

And that is the reason behind Satan's lie to mankind — it is Satan and his demons who shall suffer mental torment forever.

The devil and his wicked angels are spirit beings and unlike mortals, cannot die (Luke 20:35-36). But when Satan and his demons see that all they have labored to build up on this earth is destroyed, they shall experience great mental agony and torture.

Even during Christ's earthly ministry, the demons were fearful of Christ tormenting them: "And, behold, they [the demons] speaking through the mouths of those men they had possessed] cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" (Matt. 8:29).

Satan and his demons know full well that they — not man — are the ones who will be tormented (mentally) after the Millennium.

Why a gehenna fire?

Why has God ordained that there would be a gehenna fire for the wicked? To answer this question, we need to briefly review God's purpose for man on this earth.

God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden and told him to "dress it and keep it" (Gen. 2:8, 15). He told Adam he could eat of all the trees, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (verses 16 and 17).

If Adam disobeyed God — if he sinned — death would be the result, but "the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die" (verse 3:4).

Satan has deceived humanity into believing that man has an immortal soul — and thus will *not* die — ever since that time!

Ezekiel wrote, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:20).

Christ said, "fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28). And Paul said, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life" (Rom. 6:23). God will grant eternal life only to those who "seek for glory and honour and immortality" (Rom. 2:7). Man does not have immortality inherent within himself — he may receive it only as God's gift, according to God's terms and conditions.

Why can't men believe God's Word — that man is mortal and will perish unless he receives everlasting life as God's free gift? "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Man must repent of his sins, accept Jesus Christ as his personal savior and obey God, or he will not receive the precious Holy Spirit of God — and will not, therefore, receive the gift of immortality from God.

The parable of Lazarus and the rich man illustrates this truth.

We are told that "the rich man also died, and was buried. And in hell [Greek: *hades*, the grave] he lift up his eyes [by a resurrection], being in torments" (Luke 16:22-23).

The rich man looks up (he has no knowledge of the time that has lapsed since his death) and is struck with fear as he sees that God is about to destroy him and the rest of the willful sinners, the incorrigible evildoers, in the lake of fire. He sees that God is about to burn up the whole earth, and that there is a great gulf fixed between him and Lazarus. The rich man cries, "I am tormented in this flame" (verses 24-26).

But what flame?

God's fiery indignation

Paul gives us the answer: "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins. But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour [destroy] the adversaries [enemies of God]" (Heb. 10:26-27).

Peter reveals that in the coming day of God, the very elements shall melt because of the intense heat. "But the heavens and the earth,

which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (II Pet. 3:7). After the face of the earth has burned and purged away the dross of the willful evil ones, the earth will be as a new earth (Rev. 21:1).

The prophet Malachi spoke of this same day: "For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root, nor branch" (Mal. 4:1).

Malachi then says that those who fear God's name "shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet" (verse 3).

John predicts this same event: "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [Greek: *hades*] delivered up the dead which were in them. . . . 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" (Rev. 20:13-15).

It is beyond the scope of this article to explain every aspect of God's plan of salvation as revealed in the Bible. God is not, *now*, trying to save everyone. But God has a time when everyone shall have been called. He is not willing that any should perish — He wants all people to come to repentance and eternal life (II Pet. 3:9, I Tim. 2:4).

But God will not cram immortality down anyone's throat! We must want eternal life badly enough to receive it by God's grace, by His conditions (*when He calls us*) of repentance and faith. We must struggle diligently to gain eternal life: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many I say unto you, will seek to enter into, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:24).

If we choose eternal life, we shall not be hurt by the second death (Rev. 2:11, 20:6). We shall live joyous, abundant, productive lives for ever and ever and become the literal sons of God — inheriting the entire universe (Rev. 21:7)!

What a glorious future awaits us — if we freely choose and diligently follow God's way of truth, righteousness and life! □

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Tithing	Christ Now Puts Church on God's Financial Track	Herbert Armstrong	January	2
	God's Law of Tithing	Richard Sedlaciak	December	26
Work, The	The Work After 40 Years		January	14
YES Program	Good News on YES Program	Dennis Robertson	Oct./Nov.	20

What Happens After Death?

Do you have an immortal soul that goes to heaven or hell or somewhere else when your breath ceases on this earth? Will you be reincarnated into the body of another human, an animal or a rock, perhaps? Or does your existence simply cease forever?

Since the dawn of human history, people have wondered what happens after death, the inevitable event that befalls everyone.

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