

The PLAIN TRUTH

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Prophesied to *Happen* to AMERICA and BRITAIN!

Here is the most astounding prophecy for our time. The future CAN BE KNOWN—God reveals it. YOU can thus know in advance the shocking turn of world events which soon will STAGGER our peoples! This is the concluding installment of Mr. Armstrong's series on the United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy which appeared serially in this magazine last year.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE:

W E OF the United States and the British Commonwealth nations are involved as the central powers in soon-to-occur *world-shaking events* that will dwarf the first two world wars to insignificance!

The American and British peoples, and those of Northwestern Europe, are destined to rise to a position of world POWER, prosperity and dominance many times greater than we now enjoy—and to retain our exalted position as the head nations of earth as long as humanity exists. But first we are to be catastrophically PUNISHED by our God! We have serious lessons to learn.

Our immediate destiny is laid bare in momentous prophecies. If we *knew*, we could change our national course and avert the most colossal disaster of all history. If *you* know, you can have complete protection.

Prophecies Grievously Misunderstood

The prophecies of the Bible have been grievously misunderstood.

And no wonder! For the vital KEY, without which prophetic doors cannot

be opened to understanding, had become lost since apostolic days. That key is a definite knowledge of the true identity of the American and British peoples in prophecy.

The vast wealth and resources of the United States and the British Commonwealth—and our control of the gateways of world commerce—were promised to the patriarch Abraham *and to his descendants!*

Dual promises were made to Abraham. The kingly and spiritual promise, called *the Sceptre*, culminating in the Messiah, and salvation thru Him; and the purely material and national promises, called *the Birthright*.

These two distinct promises were handed down thru Isaac and Jacob, but they went into separate tribes—for *the Sceptre* was never to depart from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10), "but *the Birthright was JOSEPH'S*" (I Chron. 5: 2). The *Sceptre* promise involved GRACE, the *Birthright* concerned only RACE.

This astounding promise, called the Birthright, has never been fulfilled in the Jews!

In previous installments we traced the

little-understood history of Abraham's descendants—how they were finally divided into *two* nations after the days of Solomon—how the northern division, the House of Israel, was taken captive and became known as the "lost ten tribes"—and how the southern division, the House of Judah, was finally destroyed and its descendants, known as Jews, scattered over the world.

JUDAH seceded from the nation ISRAEL, and formed a separate and *different nation*, the Kingdom of JUDAH. The tribe of Benjamin, and most of Levi, went into the new Kingdom of Judah. The *Birthright* and the *Sceptre* were divided into *two separate nations*. JUDAH had the Sceptre and the kingly dynasty—ISRAEL had the Birthright, jointly possessed by Ephraim and Manasseh, descendants of the sons of Joseph.

The people of the separate nation, Kingdom of JUDAH, came to be known as "Jews"—the nickname for Judah. The ten-tribed House of ISRAEL was *not Jewish*. Their descendants today *are not Jews*. Abraham *was not a Jew!* The term "Jew" is a nickname for "Judah," and was never applied to any but those of the Kingdom of Judah! The first place

in all the Bible where the term "Jews" occurs is II Kings 16:6—and there we find the Kingdom of ISRAEL *at war against the Jews!* The next place in the Bible where the term "Jew" is employed is after the ten-tribed House of ISRAEL had been invaded, conquered, and removed as slaves from their land, and *only* the Jews remained!

In the last installment we LOCATED THE NEW LAND to which the ten-tribed House of Israel migrated after their captivity. We found absolute proof that they migrated from the land of their captivity to NORTHWESTERN EUROPE and to the BRITISH ISLES, from which they have spread world-wide.

You may obtain the amazing *proof* of our national identity—that the English speaking world and the democracies of Northwestern Europe are the descendants of the House of Israel—in condensed form in my FREE booklet "*The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy.*" Write for it *immediately* if you have not already received it.

CHAPTER IX

NOW THAT we understand WHO we are, let's understand the *startling* turn of world events which will dumbfound our people and astound the world!

Open your Bibles to Micah, the fifth chapter, beginning with verse 8. Here is God's warning:

"And the remnant of Jacob"—the last generation of Jacob or Israel in this 20th century—"shall be *among the Gentiles* in the midst of many people as a *lion* among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver."

Notice that this is the time when our people are the greatest and mightiest of the nations—as a lion compared to the lesser animals of the forest. God used wild animals to symbolize the relative strength of the nations. We are the greatest, most powerful nations of earth.

God continues, "Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off" (verse 9).

God has given us victory over all our enemies in two world wars. They have been cut off. There was no nation which could deliver the enemies out of our hands.

This prophecy could not possibly apply to the Jews. NEVER have they been the greatest, mightiest nation in world power—or its greatest military power. But *we have been*, for many modern years!

It is at this moment that God warns America and Britain—at the time we are

at our pinnacle of strength: "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Eternal, that I will cut off your war-horses and destroy your chariots" (verse 10, Moffatt Trans.).

Notice, at the time we are the most powerful nations, God says He will cause enemies to destroy our *military might!*

"And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds"—or fortresses (verse 11). Our cities are to be *cut off*, or "rooted out" according to Moffatt. Yes, our cities are to be *destroyed*—by atomic and hydrogen bombing.

This is a prophecy for our day. The cities of ancient Israel were *not* destroyed. Instead, the cities were re-peopled with Gentiles according to II Kings 17:24.

This prophecy *cannot* be applied to the captivity of ancient Israel. It's a prophecy for NOW!—for the immediate future! It *cannot* possibly apply to the Jews. It can *only* apply to the American, British, and democratic nations of Northwestern Europe, this latter half of the Twentieth Century!

Our People to Become Slaves

Now turn to another prophecy, Jeremiah 30, beginning verse 3:

"For, lo, the days come, saith the Eternal, that I will bring again the captivity of my people *Israel and Judah*"—notice that Israel AND Judah are in *captivity*—SLAVERY—"and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave their fathers, and they shall possess it." This has not happened yet—it is a prophecy for the future, after our people are taken into CAPTIVITY.

Continuing with verse 4: "And these are the words that the Eternal spake concerning Israel AND Judah. For this saith the Eternal; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . . Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble"—it is the time of our *national* calamity—"but he shall be saved out of it."

We are not spared from it. We will get into this trouble, but we will be delivered out of it. How? Let's read on:

"For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke"—an enemy's yoke of bondage—"from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers"—Gentile nations—shall no more serve themselves of him (Jacob)" (verse 8).

And in verses 10-14: "Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the Eternal, neither be dismayed, O Israel, for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed FROM THE LAND OF THEIR CAPTIVITY . . . though I make a full end of the nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I WILL CORRECT THEE IN

MEASURE, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished. . . . All thy lovers"—our Gentile *allies* whom we hire with money—"HAVE FORGOTTEN THEE; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound OF AN ENEMY, with the chastisement OF A CRUEL ONE"—*why?* Here is God's answer:

"FOR THE MULTITUDE OF THINE INIQUITY; because thy sins were increased. . . . Because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee" (Jer. 30:14-15).

That's why God will allow enemy nations to overrun our land and wreck our cities—because our prosperity has gone to our head and crime, lust and pride are mounting to high heaven.

It's time we AWAKEN to our NATIONAL *sins* and change our ways by real repentance!

Notice when this prophecy in Jeremiah applies: "In the *latter days* ye shall consider it" (verse 24, last part).

This is a prophecy *for our day*—not a prophecy for ancient Israel. It is a prophecy for America and Britain in these latter days.

What Nations Conquer Us?

In Jeremiah 30:8 we have read that our people would be in slavery with a "YOKE" around our neck. Who forces this yoke of abject slavery upon us?

Isaiah 47 has the answer. In this chapter is a prophecy about the "daughter of the Chaldeans" or Babylonians. This is not the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar's time. This is the "daughter" of that Babylon. This power is pictured as a woman—a daughter of the ancient Babylon. She is called "The lady of kingdoms" (Isa. 47:5).

God says of this "daughter" of that ancient Babylon: "I was wroth with my people"—Israel—"I have polluted mine inheritance"—how? "and given them [Israel] into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily LAID THY YOKE" (verse 6).

This is the power that presses the heavy *yoke of bondage* upon our people. It is *not* communist Russia. It is the daughter of that ancient Babylon of the Chaldeans.

Let's understand the Bible's own interpretation of this modern "Babylon." What power is it *today?*—for it puts a yoke upon us in the future—*after* we have been the greatest and most powerful of the nations.

Turn to the seventeenth chapter of Revelation.

Here is a *woman* pictured. She is called a "great whore" although she masquerades as a virgin. "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF (Please continue on page 14)

Was JESUS Dead?

IT IS revealed that Jesus was "Emmanuel"—that is, "God with us"—GOD in the human flesh. He was both God and man. He was divine, as well as human. Can God die? Was Jesus really dead, or did only his body die? Was Jesus the Divine One alive during the three days and three nights a body was in the tomb? Here is a brief, pointed answer.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THIS is a question that has perplexed millions. It is an enigma that has never been made clear and plain to many minds.

Yet the Scriptures give us a plain revelation, in plain, simple words—if we can *believe* the Scriptures—which is to believe they mean *exactly what they say*, instead of what men by twisting and wresting try to make them say.

We read: "Christ *died* for our sins according to the Scriptures" (I Cor. 15: 3).

"Christ" means "Anointed," or "Messiah," and while the name "Jesus" may be used to denote the human man, the title "Christ" certainly refers to the Divine One—the one who was GOD with us. This Scripture says He died, and was buried—and it was He—the CHRIST—the Divine One—who ROSE FROM THE DEAD. He did not rise from *life* or a living state, but from the DEATH!

"For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and living" (Rom. 14:9).

When He rose, He was *revived*. When a boxer is knocked unconscious, the attendants work over him to *revive* him. The expression "He was revived" indicates Christ had been unconscious—not that He rose from a state of conscious mental activity.

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly . . . while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:6, 8).

God in the Flesh

The test of a spirit—that is, angel or demon—is this: "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God" (I John 5:2). But does this mean that Jesus was God *inside of* a body of flesh? Could this mean that it was merely the *body* Christ was dwelling in that died, while Christ Himself, being God, did not die, but left the body and remained alive, conscious, active, during the three days and three nights in the tomb?

Notice again: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

and the Word *was God*" (John 1:1).

The Greek word is "Logos." It means "Word," or "Spokesman." This is referring to the One who co-existed with the Father from eternity—who always existed—who is one with the Father, yet, as He Himself said, His Father is greater than He.

Always He referred to Himself as One *sent* by the Father. He said that the words He spoke were not spoken of Himself, but the Father who sent Him gave him a commandment what He should say and speak. The One who gives the orders and sends another is in a position superior to the one sent, and who obeys the orders. A husband is set by God in a position superior, in the family relationship, to that of the wife. Yet they are both human—both on the same level—and they are ONE. Not one God, but *one flesh*.

In the Church, or local congregation, an elder is in authority during a service that all things may be done decently and in order, and he has the rule over the congregation. Yet Christ prayed that the Church would be kept as ONE, *even as* He and the Father are One. The Church is composed of many members, yet ONE BODY. And its members, more than one, are to be kept ONE in the sense of harmony and unity in love and purpose, as Christ and the Father are One—and they form ONE CHURCH, even as the Father and Christ form ONE GOD—yet more than one member, or one person.

Christ the Everliving

In the Old Testament the "Logos" is called by different names. God calls people and beings *what they are*.

There was an archangel, perfect in beauty, full of knowledge. He was named what he actually was—LUCIFER, which in English means "Shining Star of the Dawn"—or Lightbringer. But when thru pride he decided to compete against God for supremacy of the universe, and to take possession and rule from God, his name was changed to what he now was—SATAN, which in English means "Adversary," or rival, or competitor.

Therefore the names of Christ have

always been—whether names or titles—words which describe *what He is*. Most frequently He was called "Yahweh," erroneously translated in the Revised Version "Jehovah." In the King James Version it is rendered "Lord."

Today we do not know either the correct spelling or pronunciation of this holy, sacred name—it was so sacred it was never pronounced in ancient Israel, any more than a son who properly honors his father would call him by his first name. Yet we know its MEANING—it means "The Eternal"—or the One in whom is inherent LIFE. *It signifies One who possesses life inherent from eternity to eternity—life-source!* He also was called "Yahweh-ropha"—God our healer. He gave His name to Moses as "I AM." That is, the One who IS—who EXISTS—who has life inherent in Himself!

He also is the Word, or Spokesman. God is Creator—but the Father created all things by, and thru, Christ the WORD.

He is the One who "SPOKE, and it was done." He is the One who said, "Let there be light"—and the Holy Spirit moving upon the face of the waters performed the command, and "there was light."

Yet Jesus spoke, or commanded, only what the Father had commanded Him. Father, Word, and Holy Spirit combined in perfect harmony in Creation!

Now, the Logos—the WORD—was God. "The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him . . . In Him was LIFE . . . And the Word *was made flesh*, and dwelt among us." (John 1:1-4, 14.)

Christ Was CONVERTED Into Flesh

Notice, the "WORD," who was the ETERNAL—the EVERLIVING—in whom was LIFE—eternal life—by whom all things were made and created—the very GOD Himself—HE WAS MADE FLESH.

Notice, He did not merely enter into some mortal fleshly body—the body of another. He was not separate from the flesh, as One inside the flesh. It says in plain language—IF we believe the Scrip-

ture—if we believe it means what it says—it says *He was made flesh!*

That is, He who had existed from eternity—He by whom God created the worlds and all things therein—He who *was and is LIFE*—He who was *GOD*—He *was made flesh*—converted INTO flesh, until He *became* flesh—and then He *WAS* flesh!

Yes, Jesus was a fleshly MAN. He was God come in human flesh. And, when converted into human flesh, the LIFE that kept Him alive resided IN THE BLOOD, as in all who are *flesh* (Lev. 17:11). The breath oxidizes the blood and is called the "breath of life"—of animal, or human, life.

Jesus was also *GOD*—He was both human and divine. But He was not *GOD* inside of, yet separate from the body of flesh—He, God, was *MADE FLESH*, until He, still *GOD*—*God with us*—became God IN (not inside of) the human flesh—*God manifest IN THE FLESH* (I Tim. 3:16)—"He also likewise (as the children are partakers of flesh and blood) took part of the same" (Heb. 2:14).

That is, as we humans are partakers of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ, also, in exactly the same manner, was partaker of flesh and blood.

And why? Why, in order that He *might* DIE!—"that through *death* He might annul him who had the power of death, that is, the devil—for verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham . . . made *LIKE* unto His brethren" (Verses 14, 16).

Jesus came, NOT in the nature of angels—that is, spirit nature. He was a human being. He was *MADE FLESH*—made *HUMAN*—He took on, at birth, *HUMAN NATURE*. He was tempted in all points like we are. He suffered as we do. He was forced to resist the pull of human nature, even as you and I. He, God, *BECAME MAN*—man so that HE *COULD DIE* for us, that our sins might be erased and forgiven!

It Was CHRIST Who Died

Jesus *DIED!* Jesus *WAS DEAD!*

And for three days and three nights the Second Person of the Godhead—*EMMANUEL*—*GOD* with us—*GOD made* human flesh—was *DEAD!*

And dead matter cannot impart life. Life can come only FROM life. As a human, Jesus was the Son of God the Father. God was His only Father. Mary was His mother. He became the SON of God at his human birth. And now He was *DEAD*—yes, *DEAD!* If He was not *DEAD*, then the penalty of *your* sins is not yet paid—you are yet in your sins—you are without hope! But Jesus was *DEAD!*

If there was no other Person in the Godhead, then the Giver of all Life was

dead and all hope was at an end!

If there was no *FATHER* in heaven while Jesus Christ lay dead—His blood in which resided His *LIFE* shed from His veins, given for you and for me—then all life everywhere had come to an end!

But the Father still reigned in high Heaven! And the *FATHER* had *LIFE INHERENT IN HIMSELF!*

Life can come only *from* life! And Christ Jesus was not *DEAD!* *His* life had gone from Him—poured out on Calvary's Cross—poured out from His veins! That's where His life resided—in His *BLOOD*, not in *spirit!* He did not shed *a spirit* to save us from our sins—He shed His *BLOOD*, and in so doing *GAVE HIS LIFE.*

But, "as the Father hath life *in Himself*; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself" (John 5:26).

God the Father raised Jesus from the dead!

Not Resurrected in Same Body

Now notice carefully. God the Father did not cause Jesus Christ to get back into the body which had died.

Some seem to believe that it was only the *body* which died—that Jesus Christ never died—Christ was alive, and preached to "spirits in prison" during the three days and nights His *BODY* was dead. What they believe is that a *BODY* Christ lived in died, But *CHRIST HIMSELF* never died, Christ was God, and, they argue, God could not die!

If they are right, they are lost and doomed to eternal punishment! *If Christ* did not die for their sins—if it was only a mortal *body* which died—then we have no Saviour, and we are *LOST.*

What happened is that the Logos—the *WORD*—the *Eternal*—was *MADE FLESH.* He was converted into—*CHANGED INTO flesh.* Now He *was FLESH AND BLOOD*, exactly as you and I.

His *life* was in His blood, and He gave His *LIFE* by the fact His blood poured out while He was on the cross! He had taken on a *HUMAN* nature. He was *God*—but now God changed INTO flesh and blood—*God WITH US*—*Emmanuel!*

Yes, the *Word* was *MADE FLESH*, and He *WAS* flesh and blood, not just an immortal Spirit IN a body of flesh and blood.

We may argue that God is immortal and could not die. But the Scriptures reveal that *GOD SO LOVED US* that while we were yet sinners, The *Eternal*, the Logos, who was with God and who *was* God in the Second Person, permitted Himself voluntarily to be *CHANGED INTO* a flesh and blood *MAN*, until He *BECAME* a human who could and did *DIE.* But God the Father—*God* in the First Person—still reigned in High Heaven—and *HE RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD*—not from life.

It was *CHRIST HIMSELF* who was *DEAD.* He was *REVIVED.* Nowhere does the Scripture say He was alive and active, or that God had Him get back into the human *BODY* that had died and was now resurrected.

Jesus Christ was *DEAD.* He was as much "out" as a boxer knocked senseless—much *more*, for the boxer usually is not dead but only unconscious. Jesus was *DEAD*—but was *REVIVED!*

And the resurrected body was no longer human—it was the Christ resurrected *IMMORTAL*, once *again* *CHANGED!* As He had been changed, converted INTO mortal human flesh and blood subject to death, and for the *PURPOSE* of *DYING FOR OUR SINS*; now, by a *RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD*, HE *WAS AGAIN CHANGED, CONVERTED, INTO IMMORTALITY*—and He is alive forevermore! Now a *LIVING Saviour*, not a *DEAD Saviour.* He *was* dead—but only for three days and three nights.

Now, How About YOU?

Do you realize *WHAT* a tremendous price was paid that you might be released from the death-penalty of *YOUR SINS?* The very *Eternal*—the Spokesman of the Godhead, and very *GOD* Himself—permitted Himself to be changed into a mortal human—stepped down, descended to the human plane, suffered, was tempted, persecuted, despised, rejected of men, crucified!

If Jesus had been *only* human, His death could have paid the penalty for but *one* other human being who had incurred that penalty by transgression of God's spiritual law (Romans 6:23). Since God the Father created all things by Jesus Christ (Col. 1:16), and since all things, including man, were made by Jesus Christ, He is our *Maker* and therefore *God*; and His life which He gave was of *greater value* than the total of all human beings (John 1:1-3).

He died and for three days and nights *WAS DEAD!* He who was *IN THE BEGINNING*, and *WAS GOD!* He stooped to human level, submitted to *DEATH*—trusted the Father to restore Him to life! *That* is the *PRICE* paid for you and for me. He *GAVE* Himself for *YOU*—and in so doing bought and paid for you! And therefore, *you BELONG TO HIM!* Will you *GIVE YOURSELF to Him?*

That is the only way of salvation—the only way this *GREATEST PRICE EVER PAID IN THE UNIVERSE FROM ETERNITY* can save you, great as it was.

You must *GIVE YOURSELF* up! *GIVE* yourself, *TO HIM!* Give Him your life—yourself. Let *HIM* come into your mind and heart, thru His Spirit, and live *HIS LIFE IN YOU!*

It means full, complete, utter, unconditional *SURRENDER.* You are no longer
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Did ELIJAH Go to HEAVEN?

by Herman L. Hoeh

YOU HAVE been told that Elijah went to heaven.

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

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

Then where *did* Elijah go?

The Meanings of Heaven

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

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

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

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

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

Which Heaven?

Since Elijah could not have gone to

the heaven of God's throne, then to which heaven did he go? For the Scripture reads "and Elijah went up by a *whirlwind* into heaven" (2 Kings 2:1, 11).

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

Why Taken Up?

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

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

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

Christ is the head of the church today as Elijah was the head or leader of the sons or disciples of the prophets in that day. But God wanted Elisha to direct his work as Ahaziah the King had died (2 Kings 1:18).

So what did He do?

He could not allow Elijah to be among the people with Elisha directing the work now. That would have been the same as disqualifying him! Since Elijah was not to die just yet, and since *God never takes an office from a man when that man has been performing his duty well*, the only thing God could do would have been to *remove Elijah* so that another would have to fulfill the office as prophet of the Eternal.

This God did do. When taken up, Elijah's mantle dropped from him and Elisha picked it up. See the twelfth to the fifteenth verses of 2 Kings 2.

And what did the "*mantle*" mean?

In Clark's Commentary we note that

it was "worn by *prophets and priests* as the simple insignia of their office." Vol. 2, page 484.

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

How Taken Up?

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

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

Where Did Elijah Go?

This has been the perplexing problem to so many!

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

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

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

Elijah was gone!

(Please continue on next page)

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

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Did ELIJAH Go to HEAVEN?

(Continued from page 5)

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

The Answer Unfolds

Let us skip over a few years and see what further events the Scripture records. The son of Ahab, king of Israel, Jehoram, or Joram as he is variously called, began to reign about 896 B.C. This was the year of the removal of Elijah (2 Kings 1:18 and 3:1). During this king's reign Elisha was the recognized prophet of God (2 Kings 3:11). In the fifth year of Joram, king of Israel, the son of the king of Judah began to reign along with his father in Judah (2 Kings 8:16). His name also was Jehoram. This first act he did to establish his kingdom rule was to put his relatives to the sword lest they should claim the throne from him (2 Chronicles 21:4). After that he followed the human ways of the nations about him and did evil in God's sight. Then Edomites bolted his rule.

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

A Letter Comes from Elijah!

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

The contents of the letter are found in 2 Chronicles 21:12-15. In part it read: "Because thou hast not walked in the ways of . . . thy father . . . but hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel . . . and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, which were bet-

ter than thyself . . . thou shalt have great sickness by disease."

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

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

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

What All This Means

Folding up human ideas and laying them forever aside, we can see from these events recorded in Scripture that God allowed Elijah the prophet to live about ten more years on this earth after his removal as head of the prophets. The Scripture implies that almost no one knew where he was during this time. To be living these years, God must have placed him again upon the earth where few if any others knew of

his presence, or at least they did not reveal it. Elijah was still a human being the same as always, but removed from his own people.

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

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

Elijah on the Mount

The only remaining texts that puzzle
(Please continue on page 14)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophesies of The WORLD TOMORROW!

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The Amazing Story of AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

The enthralling story of a unique college blazing new trails—recapturing true values

by Roderick C. Meredith

WHILE the world is hurling itself to a "civilized" form of nuclear *suicide*, Ambassador College stands out as an oasis in the desert of human misery and confusion.

Ambassador's motto is: "*Recapture True Values.*"

When we take an objective look at this world, its "civilization" and its education, we can more intelligently appreciate the great need for such a motto—and its attainment.

Is This EDUCATION?

Strange things are happening in this "educated" nation of ours. In our cities, young people *from nine years old up* have been running wild in a destructive frenzy that is baffling law enforcement officers. For example, the city of Chicago suffers \$400,000 yearly damage to school property alone. Children break into schools, tear up textbooks, destroy the desks, splatter ink all over the walls, paint solacious signs over the place and sometimes set fire to the building.

Notice that these are the activities of *school children*. Is this the result of "education"?

And, viewing our society as a whole, we find that the U.S. crime rate rose another 5 per cent in 1954. This was the *seventh consecutive year* in which the crime rate rose.

This wave of violence now includes even the young, teen-aged girls as part of its sordid history. A growing section of American girls are beginning to follow the boys' example and live by the law of the jungle. They often carry lead pipes or switchblade knives, and have adopted violence and downright savagery almost as a way of life.

Also in Colleges

Meanwhile from our institutions of "higher learning" come reports of increasing sexual vice, alcoholism, gambling, lying, cheating and—all around *godlessness*.

Even in our warped society, the majority of young people entering college still believe in God. But after four years of higher "education" it is *just the other way around*.

It is now "intellectual" to believe that

we actually came from worms which lived in the warm ocean slime. Modern "education" explains the marvelous creation about us by *denying* the Creator!

As the apostle Paul wrote of the ancient Greek and Roman "intellectuals"—*the very men whose ideas constitute the educational philosophy of our western world*—"And even as THEY DID NOT LIKE TO RETAIN GOD IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE, God gave them over to a *reprobate* mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Romans 1:28).

The latest quirk of the college "educated" young men is to engage in "panty raids" on girls' dormitories and take home various articles of female underclothing as sex symbols of a sort.

Is this the result of *true education*? Do you see the handwriting on the wall? Do you see the need to *recapture TRUE values* before it's *too late*?

Miseducation Brings Trouble

The root CAUSE of the frightening wave of crime and violence among young people is the *wrong kind of education*.

As the apostle Paul said, the early intellectuals "*did not like to retain God in their knowledge.*" Neither do their counterparts today. They are very intent on learning how to make a living, or how to build weapons to *destroy* human life, or, at best, how to feed *rats* scientifically. They are far too busy with these "important" matters to take time to learn: (1) *how* the earth and all life came into being, (2) *what* man is, (3) the great *purpose* of human existence, (4) the *immutable laws of life* which—if understood and obeyed—produce *health, happiness* and continuing *peace* with your fellow man, and (5) the *spiritual truths* which bring man into an intimate relationship with his Creator and open the way to *eternal life* as a son of the Almighty God.

No, there are the "inconsequential!" They are not worthy of the "educated" man's attention and study!

OR ARE THEY?

What do *you* think?

This world's "education" has completely *missed the boat!* It has rejected the very *beginning*—the starting point

of all *true* knowledge. It is a FALSE EDUCATION built on a foundation of sand—the God-denying "theory" of evolution. Both it and its product, our "civilization," are *coming apart at the seams*. They are on their way *down* and *OUT*, even though most of the world is not yet awake to this fact.

But there is *one college* which is awake to the evils of this world's education.

This college is *Ambassador College*. And the spirit and vision of its educational policy is unique in all the world.

How Ambassador Began

Ambassador College is a liberal arts and theological institution, fully recognized by the State of California and empowered to confer degrees. Believing that the most effective development of character, personality, poise and true culture is achieved by social contact of both sexes, Ambassador was made co-educational.

From the beginning, it was operated with a full and competent faculty and has maintained a very high ratio of instructors per student.

Realizing the dangerous drift toward materialism and collectivism in modern education, the founder and president of the college, Mr. Armstrong, determined that Ambassador would be different.

From the beginning, students here have been encouraged to think independently on any and every subject. But they are taught to look for the *real truth*.

Students are challenged to *prove to themselves* the existence of God and the inspiration of the Bible as His direct revelation to man. And without being hindered by the traditions of men, or fixed ideas of any kind, Ambassador's students are able to learn previously hidden truths on *many* subjects.

College Atmosphere

Perhaps the most important educational advantage at Ambassador is that students are taught the *real PURPOSE* of *human life*. This enables them to properly orient themselves in any other subject they may ever study—and to properly evaluate its true merits as re-

lated to the great *purpose* being worked out here below.

An amazing insight into many subjects is gained by students here because Ambassador encourages a vigorous intellectual curiosity in its faculty and student body alike.

Because the student enrollment is still relatively small, and the ratio of instructors high, many advantages are gained by a personalized type of instruction which is almost non-existent in the average university or college. This is especially desirable in the foreign language classes.

Unusual opportunities in the field of musical training are provided at Ambassador. The Ambassador Chorale is an outstanding example of the type of musical training received here, and many of you will soon be able to both see and hear the chorale sing on the "World Tomorrow" television program.

Also, the Ambassador College Orchestra shows unusual promise and is becoming an important addition to the musical training afforded Ambassador students.

Excellent training in the field of public speaking is offered at Ambassador. In addition to regular courses in public speaking and voice phonetics, the men students may join one of the *Ambassador Clubs* which are patterned after the Toastmaster's International Clubs—after-dinner speech clubs usually composed of business and professional men. The *Ambassador Clubs* have proven to be a most enjoyable and helpful addition to the speech training of all participating students. Ambassador affords truly excellent opportunities in this field.

Overall, even the visitor to the college will be impressed by the Ambassador attitude of being alert to question and study *anything* about how to live happily and successfully according to God's physical and spiritual laws. Special lectures on nutrition and diet are presented from time to time, and the students are challenged to come to a really *sound* basis for healthful, zestful living. There is a course in sex and the marriage relationship which is outstanding because it is taught completely from God's point of view, involving an understanding of His great *purpose* in creating sex, and at the same time incorporating all the latest scientific and medically proven data vital to the subject.

This atmosphere of *learning to live*, this spirit of true *intellectual freedom* unshackled from tradition—these things distinguish Ambassador College from all others.

Location and Facilities

Ambassador's location in beautiful Pasadena, California, is a most desirable one. Within a few miles of the campus

are great libraries, two world famous astronomical observatories, famous galleries and museums, and outstanding technical institutions where great research projects are constantly in operation.

Downtown Los Angeles is fifteen minutes from the Ambassador campus by automobile on the freeway; Hollywood twenty minutes.

Recreational areas lie in every direction. There is nearby mountain hiking and skiing, ocean beaches, Pasadena's famous Rose Bowl and its Civic Auditorium, where world renowned recreational and cultural attractions are presented frequently.

The beautiful Ambassador campus and buildings are an attraction themselves, and provide a truly inspiring atmosphere in which to study, work, and play. Ambassador's grounds are acknowledged to be among the most beautiful in Southern California, and the athletic field, though small, is fully equipped with track and field facilities and two of the finest tennis courts in this area, with flood lighting for night play.

Priceless Opportunity

The chance to come to Ambassador College should take on new meaning to any young person of college age. When you understand it, the opportunity is *matchless*—PRICELESS!

Here you will study and learn those things which really COUNT in life. *In no other place on earth* can you so fully learn the real PURPOSE of life—and with God's guidance develop your *whole being* to fulfill that purpose. You will learn how to really LIVE the full, vigorous, productive, and abundant life that God intended.

Ambassador is NOT a "preacher's college" and very few of our students will be in the direct ministry of preaching. It is not a "Bible School." It is a liberal arts college—though it does have a required course in Bible and theology, and, in connection, the Graduate School of Theology.

The realization of Ambassador's goals and standards fills Ambassador students with ZEAL, with DRIVE, with PURPOSE! This makes their college assignments *more* than just assigned study, their work *more* than just a means to room and board, their recreation *more* than just a passing good time. All these activities take on new *meaning* and *purpose*. They become *vital steps* toward the development of the WHOLE PERSONALITY—the *whole being*—as a sharp and effective instrument in the hands of Almighty God the supreme RULER of heaven and earth.

This realization, this goal, this great PURPOSE makes Ambassador College truly *different*. It is GOD'S own college—

and there is no other college on earth like it!

A Challenge

Here is a *challenge* to any young person.

If you have successfully completed high school or plan to do so in the near future, if you appreciate the opportunity to acquire a college education and to achieve it the *sound way*, and if you aren't afraid of "bucking the crowd"—of blazing new trails—then by all means *write immediately* for the Ambassador College catalog and receive full particulars about entering the college next fall, or as soon as you are able.

These are several things you need to understand about Ambassador. First of all, an underlying spiritual purpose permeates every activity at Ambassador. And while every student who comes should have a genuine desire to find spiritual truth and to *live* it—yet no one is pressured to believe any particular doctrine or theology, but every student is encouraged to *study* with an open mind to find God's will and to obey it.

Secondly, Ambassador College maintains the very highest of scholastic standards, and any prospective student should be fully prepared to do college-level work before he enrolls. Frankly, we have found that the educational standards in some regions are so low that incoming students from these localities have not had adequate training in English, spelling, history, geography and other basic subjects to prepare for high-level college work. Such students would do well to take special outside courses and *drill* themselves intensively on these subjects before trying to enroll at Ambassador.

And any of you younger high school students who read this should take heed in time and really *apply* yourselves in mastering these subjects if you plan to attend Ambassador someday. Put forth real *effort* in preparing yourself to attend. *It will be worth it, every whit!*

It Requires Effort

A third factor every prospective student should consider is his financial situation. Before entering you should try to save at least a few hundred dollars, if at all possible, to aid in paying your college bills. Nearly every student works his or her own way through Ambassador—at least in part. And in many cases students will be able to find employment right here on the campus. But with a large freshman class expected this coming fall, there is no certainty that all the students may be employed by the college—so a number may have to find work off campus.

If you are employed by the college—and this principle also applies to you
(Please continue on page 14)

Will You Go to HELL?

Hundreds enthusiastically responded to Mr. Armstrong's article on "Hell" in last month's PLAIN TRUTH. Here is another article on this vital subject.

**Does the BIBLE reveal that God is an "angry Judge"?
—that God tortures helpless sinners ages without end?**

by Roderick C. Meredith

SHOCKING as it may seem, *you* may go to "hell"! Many of your loved ones are *right now* in "hell"!

But don't be alarmed!

You have probably never heard the TRUTH about what "hell" really is—and where all of *your* ideas on the subject came from in the first place. So *open your mind* to some *truth* you may not have understood before. Don't blindly accept *anyone's* ideas, but, "prove *all things*; hold fast that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21).

You may have been *taught* about the idea of a horrifying, nightmarish place of never-ending torture for lost sinners. Many self-styled "evangelists" use this conception of "hell" as a means of playing upon the emotions of people who are sincerely trying to find God's will.

But where did *they*—and where did *you*—learn these ideas?

Bear in mind that anything relating to the future of man or anything supernatural cannot *possibly* be known by mortal man unless God himself REVEALS these things. Man's *theories* and man's *ideas* just can't be relied upon.

A standing *witness* that the people of this world are in utmost *confusion* about spiritual matters is the *fact* that there are *hundreds* of different sects and denominations in this world—each claiming to represent Christ—but each one having its own *different* ideas. Who has the *truth*?

Jesus said, "*Thy word is TRUTH.*"

It is time we *quit* "swallowing" the *ideas* and *theories* of confused humanity, and begin to *study* these things for ourselves in *God's Word*!

Man's Idea of Hell

As in nearly everything else of a spiritual nature, mankind is confused and divided as to the type of future punishment the wicked will receive. Even most churches have *changed* or *modified* their beliefs on this subject over the years.

However, the most common present-day belief on "hell" is given in the *Encyclopedia Americana*, Vol. 14, page 81. Here are some excerpts from its article on "Hell": "Hell as generally understood

is the abode of evil spirits; the infernal regions, where the *devil rules supreme*, and where lost or condemned souls go after death to suffer *indescribable torments* and *eternal punishment* either for wickedness inherited from the sin of Adam or for more or less serious infractions of the divine law."

Notice that the devil is supposed to *rule supreme* in "hell." He is often pictured with a tail, a pitchfork, and a fiendish smile—delighting himself in inflicting these "indescribable torments" on lost sinners.

Continuing the article: "Hell, in the theological sense, has no place in most *primitive religions, nor has heaven* . . . There was no thought of dividing the future state into separate and distinct conditions of existence. Even so late a writer as the author of Ecclesiastes declares that 'all (men and beasts) go unto one place' (Eccl. 3:20) and 'there is one event to the righteous and wicked' (Eccl. 9:2)."

Yes, the men who compiled this encyclopedia found that the early religions—which they term the "primitive" religions—had no idea of "heaven" or "hell" as we know them.

It is interesting to note their comment that even so recent a writer as the author of Ecclesiastes believed that all living things went to one place—the *grave*! It might interest these learned gentlemen to know that GOD ALMIGHTY *inspired* the author of Ecclesiastes! But perhaps, they reason, God didn't know what He was talking about. He wasn't "educated" yet. Is that the way YOU reason?

But let's continue with another excerpt from this encyclopedia article on "Hell." "The *popular* idea of hell as a place of punishment—either redemptive or rigidly retributive in character—did not come suddenly and full-formed into existence. It is the product of *centuries of thinking* on the great problem of reward and punishment which, instinctively almost, man associates with human deeds."

So our concept of "hell" is admittedly a product of man's *instinctive thinking*. It did not come fully *revealed* from

God, but rather "is the product of centuries of thinking"—using *human reason* to decide what *only* GOD can *reveal*!

God's Purpose

The primary reason so many men and organizations of men have a *false* conception of "hell" is that they view it just as an isolated doctrine. They fail to look at the overall *purpose* of God in putting man on this earth, of offering him the gift of eternal life for obedience, or of everlasting punishment (not *punishing*) for disobedience.

God created man in His own image and likeness (Gen. 1:26). In the garden of Eden, He told man the way that would lead to *eternal life*. Then He told man that doing the *wrong* thing—eating the fruit of the tree which God had forbidden—would lead to DEATH (Gen. 2:17). But Satan, the father of lies (John 8:44), told the woman, "Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4).

Man has been believing that LIE ever since!

God's purpose is to develop holy, righteous character in man which would make him fit for *eternal life*. God gave ancient Israel His commandments, "that it might be well with them and with their children for ever" (Deut. 5:29).

God's decrees are always for man's *good*. They are not designed as arbitrary decrees which God has set in order to have some excuse for plunging men into flames of fire! Where do men get such ideas of God? Certainly not in the *Bible*!

Before going any further, let us be reminded again of the fact that God created man in His own image in order that man might be brought to the place where God could entrust him with the precious *gift of eternal life*. Notice that God offered Adam and Eve LIFE on the one hand, and DEATH on the other.

If man would rebel against God and make it impossible for God to entrust him with eternal life—knowing he would abuse that life—then the kindest thing that God could do would be to let

man die. Then, stubborn, sinning man would be unable to bring any further misery on himself or others by his *wrong* ways. He would just *cease to exist*, and would thus not interfere with the happiness of others who were found worthy of eternal life.

That is *exactly* what God said would happen to Adam and Eve if they disobeyed! And the reward of *eternal life* for obedience—and of DEATH for disobedience—are continually stressed all through *your Bible*.

This only is consistent with the scriptures, and with God's *plan* and *purpose*—and His character of supreme LOVE.

But we shall see that *men* have disagreed with God and His Word, and have come to believe in an entirely *different* reward for the wicked. Beside their own *human reason* which is contrary to God, where do men get their ideas of "hell?" Do any of the scriptures lend weight to their theories?

What Is "Hell"?

You will be surprised to learn that Jesus Christ himself went to "hell" when He died! In Peter's inspired sermon on the day of Pentecost, he said, "He (David) seeing this before spake of the *resurrection* of Christ, that his soul was not left in HELL, neither his flesh did see corruption" (Acts 2:31).

So—according to *your Bible*—Jesus went to "hell"!

Any real Bible student should know that the New Testament was written in the Greek language and that the King James translation into English is sometimes a little misleading. Actually, there are *three different* Greek words, each with a *different* meaning, which have all been translated "hell" in our King James Version of the Bible.

The "hell" where Jesus was for three days and three nights (Mat. 12:40) after his crucifixion is translated from the Greek word *hades*. *Hades* simply means "pit" or "grave."

When the King James translation of the Bible was made, Englishmen commonly understood that "hell" could mean a grave, pit, or hole in the ground. They often spoke of burying their potatoes in "hell" for the winter.

So the "hell" where Jesus went was simply *the grave*—the rock hewn sepulchre where He was buried. Unless you live until Christ comes and are *changed* from mortal to immortal (I Cor. 15:53)—*you will go to this same* "hell."

The second Greek word translated "hell" is *tartaroo*. It is used only once in the Bible (II Peter 2:4) and refers to the condition of restraint of the fallen angels. It *never* refers to men.

The Greek word denoting a place of punishment is *gehenna*. *Gehenna*, or the

Valley of Hinnom, was located outside of Jerusalem. It was a place where trash, filth, and the dead bodies of animals and *despised criminals* were thrown. It was like some of our city dumps today, only on a larger scale. Ordinarily, everything thrown in this valley was *destroyed* by fire—*completely burned up*.

In Jewish thought, this burning, smoking Valley of Hinnom was associated with the future punishment of the wicked. So it was natural for Jesus and the apostles to use the word *gehenna*—derived from the Valley of Hinnom—when referring to the *lake of fire* which will be the fate of the wicked. This *lake of fire* is described in Rev. 20:14-15.

These, then, are the three Greek words which are translated into the word "hell" in our Bibles. In the Old Testament, which was written in Hebrew, there is only one word which is translated "hell." That word is *sheol*. It corresponds to the Greek word *hades*—meaning the *grave*, or *pit*.

Before we consider the scriptures where these words are used and find the astonishing, God-given TRUTH about what "hell" really is, let's briefly inspect some of the *theories* of *men* on this subject.

Example of "Hell-Fire" Scriptures

A familiar passage to most "hell-fire" preachers is found in Mark 9:43-48. Jesus was showing that it was better to *rid ourselves* of *anything*—even a job, an association or a habit which we loved as much as our *right arm*—than to let it cause us to disobey God and thus be cast into hell (*gehenna*), "into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

The "hell" to which Jesus referred was *Gehenna*—deriving its name from the Valley of Hinnom which was located outside of Jerusalem. As was explained before, it was a place where trash, filth, and the dead bodies of animals and despised criminals were thrown. There were ledges along the edge of this valley on which these dead might land instead of falling down into the fires below where everything was *burned up*.

Smith's Bible Dictionary gives a description of this valley—which was something like one of our city dumps today where trash and rubbish is *burned up*.

If anything, especially a dead body, landed on a ledge above the fires, it would be devoured by many *worms* or *maggots* which were kept alive by the animal and vegetable substances deposited there.

It was to these worms that Christ was referring when He said, "their worm dieth not." But Christ didn't mean that each individual *worm* continued to live

forever! He wasn't teaching the *immortality* of worms!

Actually, these worms, or maggots, are the larvae which develop from eggs deposited by flies. They continue for only a *few days* in this larvae form, then pupate and finally emerge as flies, later dying.

These are scientific *facts*, known by any real student of science. And yet some people think that Jesus *ignorantly* stated that these larvae continued to live *forever* in that stage of development.

The Greek word which was inspired and translated into the English word "worm" in this passage simply means a *grub* or *maggot*. It is a *collective expression* for all the worms that devour dead matter. These worms do not die, but pupate and become flies. Later, these flies like all other animals will return to the dust from which they come. "All are of the dust, and all turn to dust again" (Ecc. 3:19-20).

The "fire that never shall be quenched" is a description showing that God will permit nothing to put out or quench this fire. It will simply *burn up* the bodies of the wicked.

Naturally, the "hell-fire" preachers use this passage to frighten unthinking people into believing that sinners will suffer *eternal torment* in hell fire—evidently with *worms* chewing on them at the same time!

Human Reason

But many will argue that the Bible *does* tell us about an eternal, burning "hell." As I write, I have before me a book explaining the principal doctrines of one of the large denominations. The chapter on "hell" is entitled, "Hell, Not A Pleasant Prospect, But Most Reasonable." As is so with most of today's churches, the main appeal on this subject is to *human reason*—to what seems "most reasonable" to the carnal mind of man. In this chapter on "hell," they also follow the prevailing custom of quoting PART of a Bible text to prove their point—and *leaving off the very part which would indicate the TRUTH of the subject!*

You have got to *watch* for this sort of thing. STUDY your Bible to find *all* that it says on a given subject if you want to find the truth.

Here is the *part* of the text they quote: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire" (Mat. 25:41). They do *not* quote the end of the verse which shows the real purpose of the everlasting fire. It says, "prepared for the devil and his angels." Yes, as we shall see, God has not purposed to torture *any* human being forever and ever. The lake of fire is prepared for rebellious *spirit* beings—not to torture humans forever. But this article on "Hell" does not

mention the many verses in the Bible which prove that. They just quote *part* of one verse which seems to indicate *their preconceived idea* of "hell" when taken by itself and interpreted by *human reason* instead of other scriptures in God's Word.

It is *man's* idea that lost sinners will suffer indescribable agonies in the blood-curdling "hell" they picture. They seem to forget that God is LOVE (I John 4:8). They neglect to realize that God could have no *purpose*—based on love—to torment sinners ages without end.

Let us put the ideas of *men* on the shelf, and turn to God's Word to see what the Creator *reveals* about the fate of the wicked.

It will be impossible in the present article to explain every text that "hell-fire" preachers use, but this should be an example to inspire *you* to STUDY these things in your Bible, to be sure of the *originally inspired* words in each passage, and to study *all* of the scriptures on a subject—bearing in mind that *God does not contradict himself* in His Word, the Bible. Jesus said, "The scriptures *cannot* be broken" (John 10:35).

What to Fear

Instead of fearing what some misguided preacher may tell us about hell, let us see what *Jesus* said to fear. "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the *soul*: but rather *fear him* (God) *which is able to DESTROY both soul and body in hell* (Gehenna)" (Mat. 10:28). Here we find the clear statement that God can *destroy* both our body and soul in Gehenna, or the lake of fire. There is no mention made of burning forever and ever, and yet never quite burning up. But it does speak of *destruction*.

Recall that God told Adam and Eve that if they disobeyed him, they would surely DIE. Their lives would be cut off—*destroyed*. Jesus told his disciples: "Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to *destruction* (not eternal life in "hell-fire"), and many there be which go in thereat" (Mat. 7:13). Then He said, "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire" (verse 19). What happens to a tree when it is cast into the fire? Why, it is *burned up—destroyed*.

Speaking of the harvest of the righteous and wicked, Jesus said he would tell the reapers, "Gather ye together first the *tares*, and bind them in bundles to *burn them*: but gather the wheat into my barn" (Mat. 13:30). The *tares*, of course, refer to the wicked, and the wheat to the righteous. When literal tares are burned, they are BURNED UP. What about these types of sinners which are *burned up*? Was

Jesus using wrong examples, or did he mean what he said?

The obvious answer which any honest person can find is that *Jesus meant exactly what He said*. The fate of the wicked will be Gehenna, or the Lake of Fire which the Bible mentions. But *this fire is a lot hotter than most people think!*

The wicked are human, mortal beings. Flesh and blood is subject to *burning up*. When the wicked are cast into the Lake of Fire, they will be *burned up—destroyed!*

From Genesis to Revelation, *life* and *death* are set as the two opposites—the fate of the righteous and the wicked respectively. God told Adam, "dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:19). No mention here of being plunged immediately into "hell-fire." The reward for disobedience was *death*.

Later, David wrote of the wicked, "Into smoke shall they consume away" (Psalm 37:20).

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

Can anything be plainer than that the wicked are to be *burned up—completely destroyed*? That is why Jesus said, "Fear him which is able to DESTROY both soul and body in hell" (Mat. 10:28).

Wages of Sin

The apostle Paul summed up the whole matter of man's reward for sin when he wrote: For the wages of sin is DEATH; but the *gift* of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). If you believe this scripture means what it says, then you know the *truth*. But, unfortunately, most theologians *and their blind followers* try to *twist* and *distort* what Paul said into something else.

Could anything be more clear than

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

Thousands like you have been asking for the true explanation of the "Rich Man and Lazarus." Write immediately for your FREE copy of Mr. Armstrong's booklet "LAZARUS and the RICH MAN." Learn what the Bible really says!

this scripture? The wages, or reward, of sin is shown to be *death*, and *eternal life* is stated to be a *gift* from God—not *something we already have*.

Death means just that—the cessation of life and consciousness—*total oblivion!* In spite of the vain attempt of many preachers to make *death* mean *separation from God*, you *cannot* reconcile this with scripture. Neither does *death* mean *eternal life* in the horrifying, nightmarish torments of an imaginative "hell."

This "hell-fire" doctrine which is used to frighten so many ignorant human beings is a damnable LIE. Its author is the father of lies—Satan the Devil! If you are one who has gullibly swallowed that doctrine and suffered mental agonies from the fear of a man-made "hell-fire," God help you to study *all* the scriptures on this subject and find his *truth*.

But remember that the penalty of *death* will be caused by *fire*. Paul warns in Hebrews 10:26-27, "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 *judgement* and fiery *indignation* which shall DEVOUR the adversaries." Here we find that those who, *knowing the truth*, sin *willfully* or *deliberately* will be *devoured* by fire—they will be totally *burned up and consumed*.

This is a FEARFUL WARNING to those who *know* God's truth and still *refuse* to obey it! This is not an unreasoned fear of a harsh, stern God who delights in punishing sinners. Rather, it is the sober realization that unless we *surrender* to God's will and His way of love, and refuse to let *anything* turn us aside, God will *take away* the life He has given us.

Yet this same passage shows God's infinite LOVE. He will not take away anyone's life because of ignorance or weakness, but because they *willfully* and *knowingly* refuse to obey their Creator. This rebellious attitude in itself would bring them, and those about them, nothing but *eternal* trouble and misery if they were allowed to live forever. So God in His mercy and supreme wisdom has decreed the penalty of DEATH for such people.

The Lake of Fire

When the Bible says, "The wages of sin is *death*," it is not referring, of course, to the death we see around us every day. These are the ones referred to in I Cor. 15:22 which says, "for in Adam all die," and in Hebrews 9:27 which says, "and it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." These passages describe the *first death*—a death caused by a person
(Please continue on page 13)

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

HERE are the *Bible* answers to questions which can be answered briefly in short space. *Send in your questions.* While we cannot promise that all questions will find space for answer in this department, we shall try to answer all that are vital and in the general interest of our readers.

What Does "Not Under the Law, But Under Grace" Mean?

Does grace do away with the law? If you keep the law, have you "fallen" from grace?

Most people are *confused* by the ministers who claim to expound the words of God. You hear one group quote one set of scriptures telling of the law, and another group quoting verses mentioning grace. The common assumption is that one set of scriptures contradicts another. What folly! *All* scripture is given by inspiration of God.

Let's understand what "grace" means. Webster defines it as *mercy, favor, unmerited kindness, an exemption or pardon as from a penalty.*

It is by *grace*, the undeserved *pardon* of God, that you are delivered from the penalty of sin. (Romans 6:23.) Christ paid the penalty in your stead. If you accept the grace of God, who permitted His Son to die in your stead, to free you from sin, then you are under grace. You are under unmerited pardon, not "under the law."

"What then? Shall we sin (that is, *transgress the law*—I John 3:4) because we are *not under the law*, but under grace?" (Romans 6:15). That's what Paul asked! Shall we sin—shall we break the law? Remember, sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4).

What is Paul's answer? "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin (transgressing God's law), live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1, 2.)

If we are under grace, the pardon of God, we are not to live in sin, we are not to break God's law. If we break God's law by sinning, then we come *under the law*. It is *over* us. It has a claim on our lives. *It is only those who keep the law that are NOT under the law*; it has no claim over their lives.

"Under the law" does NOT mean under its jurisdiction. This has been the com-

mon false teaching because of a MIS-TRANSLATION in I Corinthians 9:21. Notice verse 21. To the Gentiles who did not know God's law—"to them that are without law"—Paul said he approached them without mentioning God's law until they recognized God as Creator and Ruler and Lawgiver. Once they recognized God as Lawgiver then he showed them from the scripture that they had been breaking God's law in ignorance and now should repent of that sin.

He did not want to offend them. But was Paul doing contrary to the law? No! Paul says he was "NOT without law to God, but WITHIN the law to Christ."

This verse is nearly always *mistranslated*. The original Greek cannot be properly translated "under the law to Christ." It must be translated "WITHIN the law to Christ." Through Christ, Paul was *within* the law—he was able to keep it. To be within the law means to obey it!

Grace does not do away with the law. Grace is God's unmerited *pardon* for our sins, making it possible for us to *keep the law* through the Holy Spirit that is given to those that *obey* God (Acts 5:32).

Wouldn't it be ridiculous for a judge to grant a pardon to a criminal and then tell him to commit the same crime again? Yet that is exactly how ridiculous most people make God's grace. They turn the grace, the pardon of God, into lasciviousness—license to do evil.

If grace could abolish the law, then there would be no more sin, because there is no sin where there is no law—(Romans 4:15). And if there were no sin, there would need be no grace—no pardon of God—to deliver us from the penalty of breaking the law.

Christ died in your stead and mine so that we could *obey* God according to the spiritual intent of the law instead of serving sin. As long as we were under the claim of the law because of transgression,

sin had dominion over us; we were its slaves. But now, if we repent and believe what God says, we are free to obey the law unto righteousness (Rom. 6:16).

When Will the UNCONVERTED Be Resurrected?

Jesus Christ is coming again to rule this world. When He returns, Paul tells us that *only* those who have become truly converted Christians will be resurrected—"they that *are Christ's* at his coming" (I Cor. 15:23). John calls this the "*first* resurrection" (Rev. 20:5).

Those who have part in the first resurrection rule with Christ over the nations for 1000 years. "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" (Rev. 20:5). So the UNCONVERTED—the rest of the dead—do not live again until the millennium is over!

Then what happens? At the *end* of the thousand years, there will be another resurrection—a second resurrection. John describes it in Revelation 20:12: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God." And notice also that the *book of life* is opened (verse 12). It is a time of salvation!

Now turn to Matthew 13, verses 24 through 30 and verses 36 through 42. This is the parable of the tares describing the final HARVEST of human beings.

Note verse 39: ". . . the *harvest* is the end of the world . . ." or, as it should be properly translated, the CONSUMMATION OF THE AGE. This is the time of harvest completing or consummating 6000 years of human self-rule in defiance of God. This harvest lasts through the millennium and into the time of RESURRECTION *which will follow*. Matthew 25:31-34 describes these same events which occur *after* the first resurrection.

Of course, this is not what you have been taught. But it is WHAT YOUR OWN BIBLE TELLS YOU if YOU WILL READ IT!

Most of you have been told ever since childhood that if anyone is NOT SAVED IN THE PRESENT LIFE, then he is eternally lost! But what about all those MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE who were born *before Christ's time* WHO NEVER HAD THE CHANCE OF SALVATION because CHRIST had not yet come to MAKE IT AVAILABLE?

REMEMBER that the BIBLE says "IF *the spirit* (the Holy Spirit) of him (God the Father) that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ shall also quicken your mortal bodies by *His Spirit* (the Holy Spirit) that dwelleth in you." BUT—THE HOLY SPIRIT from the Father WAS NOT AVAILABLE to people on the earth *until after* Christ ascended!

Christ *had* to ascend into heaven *first*! Christ said in John 16:7: "For if

I go not away the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." The *Holy Spirit* FIRST CAME TO THIS EARTH TO BE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEN *fifty-one days after* Christ was crucified! It came on the day of PENTECOST (Acts 2:1-4).

These MILLIONS are NOT LOST FOREVER!—They NEVER were called to be saved! *God isn't calling everyone in this age* (I Cor. 1:26). God is a JUST GOD and He has PROVIDED A WAY whereby they CAN BE SAVED!

Also, what about the great number since Christ's day who have shown very little interest in religion and have died? ARE THEY LOST FOREVER? No, because *they have never had a chance to salvation. They are blinded.* God is NOT trying to save many *now*. He has BLINDED them! Read Romans 11:5, 7-8 and 25. Notice when the world will see the whole truth—Acts 7:42, Isaiah 28:13, Matthew 13:10, 11, 13.

Let's understand WHEN GOD IS GOING TO GIVE THE UNCONVERTED who have died *in ignorance* THEIR FIRST CHANCE for SALVATION! *Note this carefully! You have probably NEVER heard it explained before in its TRUE meaning!*

"... Ye shall know I am the Eternal, when I have opened your graves . . . and shall put my spirit in you and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land . . ." (Ezekiel 37:13-14). This is speaking of *ancient Israel*—a people who have been scattered among the nations almost 150 years before this was written!

WHEN does this take place? It cannot take place before Christ returns to earth at His second coming, because that will bring about the FIRST RESURRECTION. IT WILL NOT take place until after *one thousand years have elapsed* from the time of the *first resurrection* because, as we have already seen, only the righteous will be RESURRECTED then!

Therefore, THERE ARE ONLY TWO CLASSES THIS RESURRECTION CAN POSSIBLY REFER TO—the *evil dead* who have knowingly rejected the truth and the unconverted dead who *never had a chance!* The *evil dead* are those who DELIBERATELY DECIDED they did not want to be *ruled by God*. There is NO REASON to give them a *second chance* to attain immortality! *They had their chance and turned it down!* They have had their last chance.

Therefore, IT IS THE CLASS OF PEOPLE, THE VAST *blinded* MAJORITY, WHO NEVER REALLY HAD A FIRST CHANCE TO ACCEPT GOD'S WAY OF LIFE, WHO ARE RESURRECTED!

Read what Revelation 20:11-12 says about this RESURRECTION: ". . . and I saw a great white throne . . . and I saw the *dead*, small and great, *stand* before

God"—these people are *STANDING*—A RESURRECTION—and the *dead* were *judged* out of those things which were written in the books."

HERE IS PICTURED THE CONCLUSION OF THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT! Isaiah 65:20 indicates ALL will live to be a hundred years old in that age immediately following the millennium. There will be no children born then.

Even the WORST of the sinners who never had a chance will be in this RESURRECTION, for even the inhabitants

of SODOM will be there! "When thy daughters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate . . . then thou (Jerusalem) shall return to your former estate." (Ezekiel 16:55.)

God is *indeed a just God* (Deut. 32:4) and ALL WILL HAVE THEIR OPPORTUNITY TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE.

This question is fully explained in Mr. Armstrong's FREE booklet entitled "PREDESTINATION." Write for your *free* copy immediately.

Will You Go to HELL?

(Continued from page 11)

wearing out *physically* and from which he can be resurrected.

Revelation 20 shows the time of the resurrections, and when the wicked are cast into the lake of fire. Study it carefully. The first three verses describe Satan being bound for a thousand years, and the resurrected saints ruling the world under Christ.

The first part of verse 5 is an inserted thought which tells us, "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." So the heathen and the confirmed sinners are not resurrected until *after* the thousand year reign of Christ.

At that time, the devil will go forth to deceive the nation once more. He will be overcome and, "cast into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever" (verse 10). Notice that the word *are* is in italics in your King James Bible. It is an inserted word to complete the meaning, and should be rendered "were cast"—because the beast and false prophet *are* human beings who will be *burned up* when they are put in the lake of fire.

At this point, some of you may be thinking about the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man—and wondering if the Rich Man wasn't pictured as being in eternal torment. He definitely was *not!* But for the full and interesting *proof* of this, write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet on *Lazarus and the Rich Man*.

Now continuing in Revelation 20, notice in verses 11 to 13 that the dead are raised and are judged "according to their works." Verse 14 continues, "And death and hell (*hades*, the grave) were cast into the *lake of fire*. This is the *second death*." Here is a plain statement revealing that Gehenna, or the lake of fire, IS the SECOND DEATH.

Truth Makes Free

"The wages of sin is DEATH"—

not *eternal life* in hell-fire. When will the deceiving "hell-fire" preachers *repent* of preaching this LIE in order to frighten people into a false, temporary repentance based on an unreasoned, superstitious *fear* of eternal torment.

*Liar*s will not have their names written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev. 21:27), "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).

Thus, the *Bible* reveals a *very different* God from the one so often preached today.

It seems that men either try to do away with God's power altogether by preaching as though God had gone "way off" and left man to work things out according to *human reason*, or they go to the opposite extreme and look upon God as an "angry Judge" who is just waiting for an opportunity to punish helpless sinners throughout *all eternity*.

The Creator of heaven and earth is now permitting man to sin and suffer in order to learn certain lessons. *If* man will accept God's truth as it is revealed, and learn these lessons God intended, He will be given eternal life in God's kingdom. But if he stubbornly persists in going the way that leads to wretchedness and misery for himself and others, God in His mercy will cut off his life by casting him into the lake of fire—which is the *second death*.

Untold suffering and mental anguish has been caused by the *false* doctrine of an *angry* God plunging everyone who did not follow certain denominational teachings into a terrifying "hell-fire."

Most people have been *bound* by denominational teachings, and too few have been willing to study *all* the scriptures on a subject to see what the Bible really said. But Jesus said of those who were willing to continue in His word, "And ye shall know the *truth*, and the *truth shall make you free*" (John 8:32).

Ambassador College

(Continued from page 8)

studies—you will be expected to *work and work diligently*. So be prepared to put your *whole heart* into whatever you plan to do here.

You may have academic, financial, or even parental problems in coming to Ambassador College. Many a student has had to "take the bull by the horns" and overcome opposition of every kind to attend Ambassador College because it truly *is* different.

But if you have the kind of determination we want to see in Ambassador students, you will *find* a way to come!

And you'll always be glad you did, for Ambassador will not only fit you to a happy, useful life with real *purpose* now—perhaps including an opportunity to serve in the most important work on earth, but it will prepare you as no other college can for a joyful, abundant and *eternal life* in the *world tomorrow*.

And you who are of college age and realize the meaning of this work and of the times in which you are living, *think carefully* and *pray earnestly* as to whether you should attend Ambassador College.

All of you in the United States who wish the college catalog with full particulars about the college and enrollment, write *immediately* to Mr. Armstrong, Box 111, Pasadena, California. And those of you in the British Isles and Europe who wish information about the possibility of attending the college, please write to our London address: "BCM, Ambassador, London, WC 1."

Attending Ambassador College will require *extra effort* on your part. But *good things don't come easily*. Truly, this is *the opportunity of a lifetime*.

Was JESUS Dead?

(Continued from page 4)

your own, you are HIS. Give your life to HIM, and see what great usefulness and accomplishment He will put it to! See what great joys will be yours as a result of the great GOOD He can and will do and thru you—IF you are His, wholly IN HIS POWER, wholly subjected to HIS WILL!

Yes, Jesus Christ died and was dead! But God the Father RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, and HE LIVES FOREVERMORE!

You are already dead in trespasses and sins unless, or until, you REPENT of sins, surrender to God, GIVE YOURSELF to the LIVING SAVIOUR who died for you, but was RAISED to become your High Priest and coming King! We have to DIE in order to LIVE. Give YOURSELF to Christ,

and He will give you ETERNAL LIFE!

"For this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this LIFE is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and He that hath not the Son hath not life!" (I John 5:11-12.)

Did ELIJAH Go to HEAVEN?

(Continued from page 6)

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

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

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

Coming next issue— "Where Is Enoch?"

Prophesied to HAPPEN

(Continued from page 2)

HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Rev. 17:5).

This is the "daughter of the Chaldeans." She is pictured as a fallen woman associated with the *military phase* of "Babylon" (verses 8-14). The militaristic kings with whom she is associated "shall make war with the Lamb [Christ], and the Lamb shall overcome them" (Rev. 17:14 and 19:19). They therefore exist at the second coming of Jesus Christ. It is He who delivers Israel—America and Britain—from "Babylon's" yoke of bondage, by conquering this *modern Babylon*.

Where is this modern Babylon today?

A United States of EUROPE!

Almost all Bible scholars, whether Protestant or Catholic, recognize that the military phase—the "beast" upon which the woman rides (Rev. 17:7)—is the *Roman Empire*. Its final phase, to appear in our day, will merely be a RESTORATION OF THAT ANCIENT ROMAN EMPIRE—a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE which we are beginning to foster within the confines of the ancient Roman Empire! We are building the Frankenstein Monster that is destined to destroy us!

But who is the great fallen woman—the "Great Whore" which God is about to judge. She sits upon rules over—many "waters." These symbolic "waters" are explained in verse 15 as representing many different nations speaking different languages.

Her fornication has consisted of an illicit union with the political kings and emperors of this world (verse 2). In Ephesians 5 and II Corinthians 11, it is revealed that a "woman" is symbolically used to signify a CHURCH. Also in the twelfth chapter of Revelation you will read of the true Church of God pictured as a woman. The true Church of God is scripturally the affianced bride of Christ ready to be married or united with Him in a union of Church and State to rule the earth at His second coming!

But this great *false church*—Babylon the Great—is a fornicatress because she has made such a union with the kings of *this world prior* to the marriage with Christ. This woman—this *false Church*—will lend her vast power to FORM A UNITED STATES OF EUROPE—to restore the ancient Babylonish ROMAN EMPIRE by a union of Church and State.

This fascist union of church and state will beat communist Russia to the punch—this is the power that is destined to destroy us!

God says so!

A Prophecy for Our Time

Whole books of the Bible are devoted to these momentous, world-shaking prophecies about the DOOM of America, the British Commonwealth and the democracies of Northwestern Europe. It is time we looked into the Bible to see what it *really* says for us *today*.

Now turn to the little-understood book of Ezekiel.

The prophet Ezekiel began to write nearly 130 years AFTER the captivity of ancient Israel. His prophecy begins in "the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity"—about 591 B.C. (Ezek. 1:2).

Ezekiel lived among the Jewish captives in Babylonia. But Ezekiel's message is *for Israel*. Notice it:

"Moreover He [God] said unto me, Son of man . . . go speak unto the *house of Israel*. . . . And He said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the *house of Israel*, and speak with my words unto them" (Ezek. 3:1, 4).

This was not a message for the Jews of that time. It is a message for the House of Israel—Britain and America today. Ezekiel was already among the captive Jews, but God told him to GO to the House of Israel. Actually, Ezekiel did not deliver that message in person to the House of Israel. He wrote it down in the presence of the Jews who preserved it over the centuries for us *today*—that Ezekiel's message from God would be *finally* delivered to the House of Israel *during the very generation for which the prophecy is intended!*

Now, here is the astounding prophecy: "A THIRD PART of thee shall die with the *pestilence*, and with *famine* shall they be consumed in the midst of thee; and A THIRD PART shall fall by the sword round about thee"—the sword of a foreign invasion by a united fascist Europe—"and I will scatter A THIRD PART into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them" (Ezek. 5:12).

What a national calamity!—TWO THIRDS of our people perishing!—and the remainder brutally enslaved.

What needless disaster, if we would only wake up and change our foolish ways and turn to our God in humble OBEDIENCE!

Notice the prophecy as it continues to unfold what is PROPHESED TO HAPPEN:

"In all your dwelling places the CITIES SHALL BE LAID WASTE . . . that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and cease, and your images may be cut down, and your works ABOLISHED"—yes, our great public and private WORKS totally ruined. "And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezek. 6:6-7).

Because of our sins—our *idolatry*, our *crimes*, our wreckless and wanton *waste of natural resources*—God will deliver us to the wrath of those nations that hate us. Our cities will be LAID WASTE.

Then those who laugh and scoff—those who don't want to change their ways—will know that God is the LORD, the MASTER of world affairs, the Eternal ruler over all nations.

When this terrible calamity falls upon us, "all hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water. They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be upon all faces, and baldness upon all their heads"—atomic radiation causes the hair to fall out in patches. "They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver

and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Eternal: they shall *not* satisfy their souls"—hunger stalks them—"neither fill their bowels" (Ezek. 7:17-19).

God Holds Preachers Responsible

The responsibility for the increase in our sins God lays at the feet of the preachers of this land. They are the ones who should be *warning* the people. This they refuse to do!

Here is the divine *warning* against our people because we have hired preachers to please our lusts instead of correcting us:

"For the House of Israel and the House of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me . . . and said, neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword nor famine: and the prophets shall become wind, and the word is *not* in them"—that is exactly what the people are saying today about the words of God's prophets as recorded in His Scripture. But God's word *is* in the prophets. The prophecies will be fulfilled!

"Wherefore thus saith the Eternal God . . . Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O House of Israel . . . it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation. . . . And they shall eat up thine harvest, and thy bread, which thy sons and daughters should eat: they shall eat up thy flocks and thine herds: they shall eat up thy vines and thy fig trees: they shall impoverish thy fenced"—or defended—"cities, wherein thou trustedst, with the sword" (Jer. 5:11-17).

Jeremiah's prophecy is for the House of Israel *America and Britain today*. Such a captivity of Israel has never occurred since he wrote it. It is still for the future—*the immediate future*. The only previous captivity of Israel occurred over a century before Jeremiah wrote. His prophecy, therefore, is a MESSAGE FOR NOW! But this, the preachers deny.

And no wonder, for God inspired Jeremiah to write: "A horrible thing, an appalling, has happened in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely"—the popular ministers who pretend to foretell the future do NOT know what is really going to happen—"the priests rule at their beck and call, and MY PEOPLE LOVE TO HAVE IT SO! But what will you do, at the end of it all?" says the Almighty in Jer. 5:30-31, Moffatt Trans.

Because of this failure of the churches to warn the people, God declares: "And their houses shall be turned unto others, with their fields and wives together: For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them everyone is given to COVETOUSNESS: and from the prophet even unto the priest everyone *dealeth falsely*." The ministers have said: "Peace, Peace"—when there is no peace! (Jer. 6:12-14).

Christ the Deliverer

Notice, now, how our people are to be rescued from their slavery:

"For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Eternal of hosts, that I will BREAK HIS YOKE FROM OFF THY NECK, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him. But they shall serve the Eternal their God, and DAVID THEIR KING, WHOM I WILL RAISE UP unto them" (Jer. 30:8-9).

It is the time of the second coming of Christ, and of the resurrection of the dead. David will be raised from his grave to rule over the kingdom of Israel under Jesus Christ.

None of this prophecy has yet been fulfilled. It therefore is a prophecy for this climactic "time of the end"—the end of the present age of human misrule and the beginning of the WORLD TOMORROW!

Also observe that when Jesus Christ returns our people will be in national captivity!

"I will save thee from afar and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob"—America and Britain today—"shall return, and be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid" (verse 10).

Now turn to Isaiah's prophecy. "For the Eternal will have mercy on Jacob"—out of *love* God punished us in order that we might be corrected, as any loving parent punished his children to teach them a lesson they will learn in no other way—"and will set them in their own land; and strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the Eternal for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captive WHOSE CAPTIVES THEY WERE: and they shall rule over their oppressors" (Isa. 14:1-2).

It is the very generation which was taken into captivity that will ultimately rule over their captors. This never happened to ancient Israel. The generation which was led into captivity at that time did *not* rule over their captors. They died in captivity. But in the *coming* captivity, the very ones who were slaves will be delivered and possess their oppressors in a land of peace.

Israel NOT God's Favorite Nation

Many who understand our national identity adamantly REFUSE to recognize these prophecies FOR OUR DAY. They have developed the false idea that because we are Israel we are God's favorite nation. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Israel is a *chosen* nation—a nation

chosen FOR A JOB we have failed miserably to perform.

And because we have failed in our national responsibility—and have abused every gift that God bestowed upon us in accordance with His promise to Abraham, He is going to punish us out of LOVE. We are not going to be safe behind our national borders for long. God says that when Jesus Christ returns we will be in our "enemies lands"—not in our own! That is why Jesus Christ must gather His people Israel from the lands of their captivity.

Dozens of prophecies in the Bible make this absolutely PLAIN! Notice Isaiah 11:11, "And it shall come to pass in that day"—yet in the future—"that the Eternal shall set his hand *again* the SECOND TIME to recover the remnant of his people"—the last generation in this 20th century. God recovered Israel the *first* time under Moses. Our people have *never* been regathered a second time into Palestine. This is a prophecy for our day!

Notice from what great Gentile power our people escape: "Go ye forth of BABYLON. . . ." Ancient Israel was *not* taken captive by Babylon, but by Assyria (II Kings 17:6). It was only Judah which ancient Babylon made captive. But here is a prophecy that the House of Israel—Britain, America and the democracies of Northwestern Europe—will be enslaved by Babylon, a coming fascist revival of the Roman Empire in Europe, a union of Church and State. Here is what our people shall say when they are regathered: "The Lord hath *redeemed* his servant *Jacob*" (Isa. 48:20). Yes, it is Jacob, the House of Israel, which is yet to be conquered by *modern* Babylon and once again to be delivered from slavery!

The prophet Ezekiel wrote of this same catastrophe to befall our people. "And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their *iniquity*: because they transgressed

against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the house of Israel. . . . When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their ENEMIES' LANDS . . . then shall they know that I am the Eternal their God, *which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen*: but I have gathered them unto their own land"—Palestine (Ezek. 39:23-28).

Our people are not in captivity among the nations today. Yet God inspired Ezekiel to write that we will be sent into captivity for our iniquity—our national sins and crimes. Here again is a prophecy for our day!

Notice what Jeremiah says about us: "For the Eternal hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Eternal, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil . . . and they shall not sorrow any more at all. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together. . . . Thus saith the Eternal; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Eternal; *and they shall come again from the land of the enemy*. And there is HOPE in thine end, saith the Eternal, that thy children shall come again to their own border"—a restoration of national power and prosperity (Jer. 31:11-17).

When once we have learned our lesson, and repented of our sin then God will make us the head of the nations for the thousand years. "And the Eternal shall make thee the *head*, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; IF that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Eternal; thy God which I command thee

this day to observe and to do them," said Moses under inspiration (Deut. 28:13).

What a glorious promise! We shall be the leaders of the world for the thousand years mentioned in Rev. 20:1-4. Instead of being selfish and covetous, taking from the Gentiles, we shall GIVE to the Gentiles and share the blessing of Abraham with them. Little wonder that they will love us then, though they hate us now for our great SINS.

How YOU Can ESCAPE

Though our people will not heed the warning which God is sending, though they will blindly continue in their UN-REPENTANT attitude, in their rejection of the government and the laws of God, yet YOU as an individual can escape the terrible national calamity that is destined to strike our people. Jesus tells you how you can *escape* all the troubles that *shall come to pass*—all the famine, the pestilence, the atomic bombing, the slavery and the religious persecution. Here is what he says:

"WATCH ye therefore, and PRAY *always*, that ye may be accounted worthy to *escape ALL these things that shall come to pass*" (Luke 21:36).

Unless you *watch* world events, you will be ensnared in the impending calamities. "For as a snare shall it come on *all* them that *dwell on the face of the whole earth*" (verse 35)—it comes on all but the very elect who watch and pray constantly for God's guidance and help and forgiveness.

Yes, it is time to "seek the Eternal while He may be found" and "call upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Eternal, and He will have mercy upon him . . . for He will abundantly pardon" (Isa. 53:6-7).

NOW is the time to amend your ways, to repent of your defiance of the Almighty and of His laws—and He promises that you SHALL ESCAPE.

The PLAIN TRUTH

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