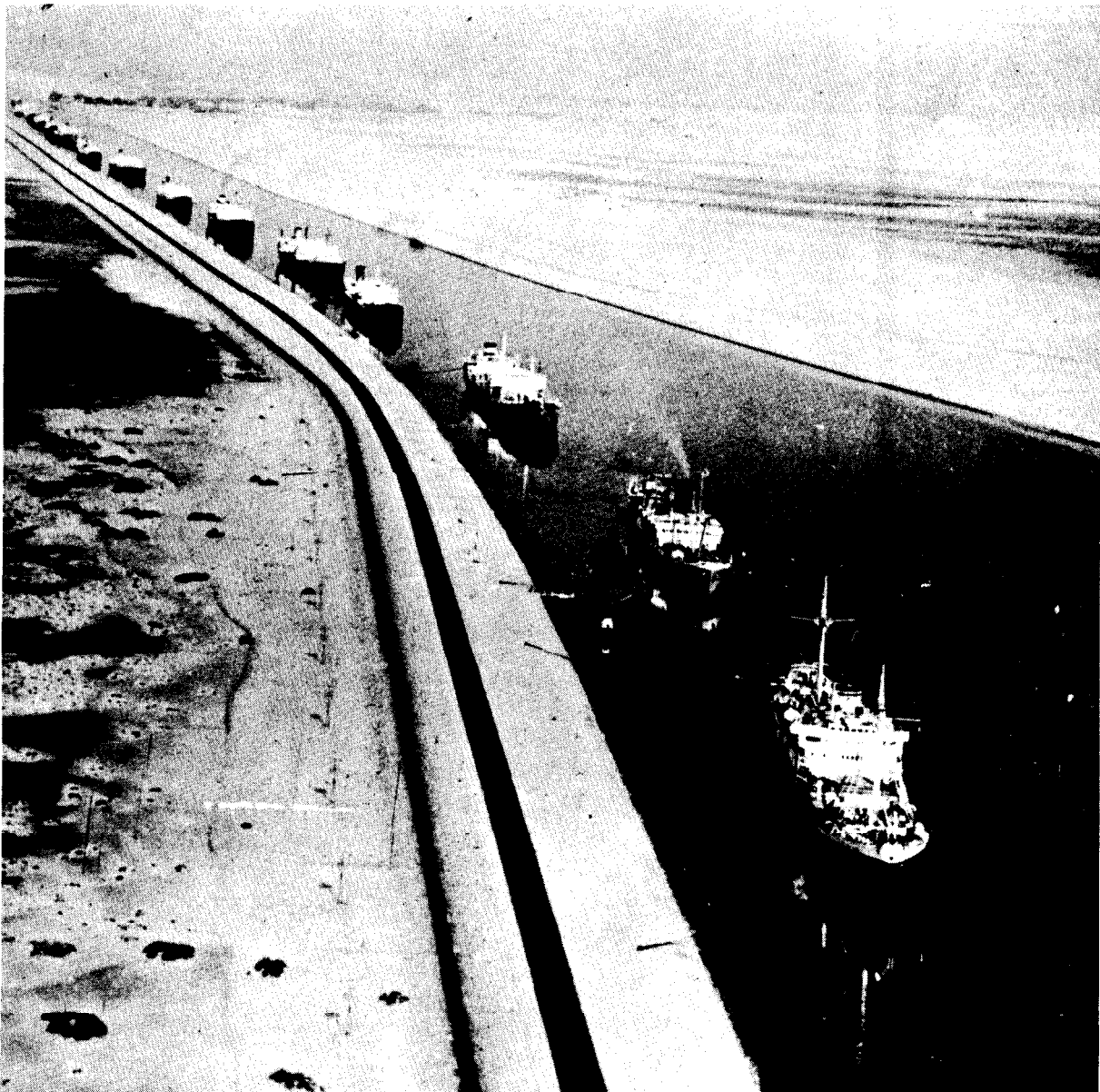


the **PLAIN TRUTH**
a magazine of understanding

VOL. XXI, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1956



—Wide World Photo

SUEZ CANAL seized by Egypt! For the full report on the seizure of this 103-mile life-line of the British Empire read Mr. Armstrong's first-hand report on page 3.

The PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding.

VOL. XXI NO. 9

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Associate Editor

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of any change in your address. IMPORTANT!

Heart to Heart Talk with the Editor

SOME seem to think *God's* people never encounter difficulties, meet trials or tests, but are blessed continually with smooth sailing!

Because this great and important work of God, conducted through His called human servants, has had to survive a long and severe series of crises and tests of faith, a few have concluded, "Well, if it has met with some trouble, and is in a crisis, I guess it isn't God's work after all. I guess God has deserted it." And then they proceed promptly to desert it themselves, just when it needs their help the most!

Does the Bible teach smooth sailing for true Christians whom God is using? Did the men of God, whose lives pleased God, as recorded in the Bible, have only an easy time of it, or were they constantly meeting trials, tests, troubles of every sort—being continually forced to cry out to God for deliverance?

Listen to God's own instruction:

"MANY are the afflictions of the *righteous*: but the Eternal delivereth him out of them all."—Psalm 34:19.

"For I was envious of the arrogant, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. . . . They are not in trouble as other men . . . Behold these are the ungodly who prosper in the world; they increase in riches . . . For all the day long I have

been plagued, and chastened every morning" (Ps. 73:3-14).

"We must through *much tribulation* enter the Kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

"All that will live godly in Christ Jesus *shall suffer persecution*" (II Tim. 3:12).

"If we SUFFER, we shall also reign with Him" (II Tim. 2-12).

"For as the *sufferings* of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether *we be afflicted*, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the *enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer*" (II Cor. 1:5-6).

But is God unfair? Does He hate Christians and punish them, while He loves the ungodly and prospers them? *Not at all!*

There is great purpose in the trials, tests, tribulations, and sufferings the Christian must endure. For these are the very means of strengthening CHARACTER—of developing fine, upstanding, strong Christians.

God does not *bless* the ungodly with wealth—they acquire it usually in one or both of two ways: by setting their heart and mind on acquiring it, and following through this purpose to the exclusion of all else, until without realizing it, the pursuit of MONEY becomes the pursuit of their god, destroying the soul; or by dishonest means.

But God does bless those who seek Him *first*—not always with great monetary wealth, but always, in the end, with material prosperity they never would have had otherwise. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteous-

DAILY TV

Plans have been made to put The WORLD TOMORROW on Television DAILY—or at least five times a week. In order to create the special fund required to make this possible, we have cancelled the weekly TV series temporarily. Announcement will be made as soon as we are back on DAILY. Radio Station KARM is now added. Opening to us is a weekly radio program in Manila, Philippines.

ness," admonished Jesus, "and all these things (material prosperity in shelter, food, clothing, etc.) shall be added unto you." That is Jesus' PROMISE. God loves to see His servants prospering. So He says through David and John. He
(Please continue on page 20)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

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

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

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DANGER TO AMERICA in SUEZ Crisis!

Will it provoke WORLD WAR III with Russia? What's back of Nasser's snatch? What does PROPHECY say? Mr. Armstrong has just returned from Cairo. Here's the TRUTH!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

I HAVE just returned from the present trouble-spot of the world. I have had important interviews in Cairo and other Middle-East capitals.

The Middle-East is boiling. The people of the United States do not realize the true significance of this crisis. They seem to have no conception of the DANGER it threatens—danger to AMERICA!

It's time we wake up to the FACTS! It's time we know what PROPHECY reveals. It's time we know the background—the vital factors that have led up to this world-danger—the significance to America of the SUEZ CANAL.

The Dilemma

As this was written, August 5th, the big news headlines reported President Nasser of Egypt was ready to FIGHT, rather than submit to international control of the Suez Canal. Russia has been supplying Nasser with arms and planes. Nasser has mobilized his armed forces. Britain and France have advised their citizens and subjects who may be visiting in Egypt to get out before trouble starts. If war breaks out, WILL RUSSIA JOIN IN—WILL IT PROVOKE WORLD WAR III?

Here is the dilemma, to which there seems to be no answer:

Neither nationalization of the canal, as Nasser has made it by his seizure, nor internationalization, as Britain demands, will solve the problem or relieve the crisis.

To allow the canal to become the complete property of Egypt, with all rights of control, operation and management in Nasser's power, would only give this upstart dictator a weapon by which he could sever the very lifeline of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and could very seriously affect, if

he could not end, the prosperity of the United States. It is precisely that serious—a fact realized by few Americans. It is a life-and-death matter for Britain.

On the other hand, to make the canal fully international means that the Soviet Union would become an equal partner in it. This would give the Russians special rights they have never had, open up world trade to them in a way they do not now have it, greatly build and strengthen Russian economic power—and therefore also military power—without benefiting the western powers beyond what they have always enjoyed.

But, VITAL to the United States, it would become a precedent. *Russia could then demand the same international control of the Panama Canal*, and every other strategic sea-gate around the earth. This would threaten American security!

WHY Nasser Seized it

The war-clouds that have hovered over the Middle-East were cleared just long enough to permit Mrs. Armstrong, our son Richard, and myself to visit Cairo and the capitals of the Middle-East—Baghdad, Ammon, Damascus, Beirut, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Before we first flew to the Middle-East, in April, the United Nations sent its Secretary-General, Dag Hammerskjold, to these same capitals we visited to use United Nations pressure to bring about a cease-fire in the war that was starting between the Arab nations and the Jews of the new nation "Israel." For a while it appeared that we might be unable to visit these ancient Bible lands. Then, just a few days before we flew over from London, Mr. Hammerskjold did succeed in bringing about a temporary cease-fire. It was now possible for us to go.

But it was only a temporary truce. He

was still flying from Jerusalem to Beirut to Ammon to Cairo, even while we were there. En route from Cairo to Baghdad, our plane made a stop at the Ammon airport, and I was able to get a motion-picture shot of Secretary-General Hammerskjold's U-N plane, as it was standing at the airport, from our plane while in the air. No one was permitted to take any pictures of it while we were on the ground at the airport.

Now that we have returned to America, our mission accomplished, the crisis explodes all over again—this time over the seizure of the Suez Canal! It was quieted just long enough to allow God's emissaries to complete their visit.

But WHY did Nasser seize the canal, and provoke this world-crisis? Here, in few words, is the background of events and situations that led up to it.

It all really started with the Saudi Arabians. They are the original fanatical anti-Jewish nation. In 1945, and until the new nation "Israel" was set up in 1948, their Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia (as his card designates), was in charge of Palestinian affairs for the Arab nations. I know the Sheikh well. I first had an hour-long conference with him at the San Francisco Conference in 1945.

In February, 1947, while in London, the Sheikh invited Mrs. Armstrong and me to a Royal reception, the most glamorous social event in London since the war, to be presented to the present King of Saudi Arabia, who was then Crown Prince Emir. The Sheikh now makes his headquarters at Cairo, center of the present world trouble.

While we were in Cairo, a few weeks ago, the Sheikh came with his wife and three daughters to visit us in our hotel.

He talked with Dick and me for more than two hours, while Madam Hafiz Wahba chatted with Mrs. Armstrong, telling her of the problems and experiences of managing the social affairs of the Embassy in London, where they were stationed so long.

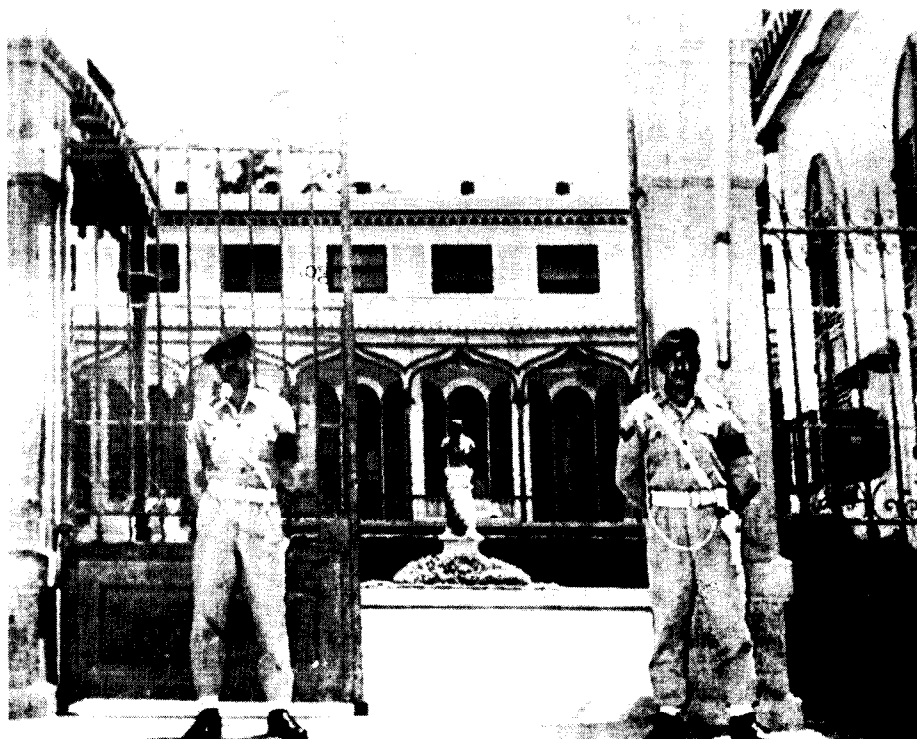
The Background

The present Suez Canal crisis is merely the outgrowth of a series of developments, beginning with the Jewish-Arab conflict over Palestine.

The Arab position in this controversy was explained to me by His Excellency the Sheikh. Briefly, it is this: The Jews, of course, claim Palestine as their ancient home-land—the seat of their religion. But the Sheikh points out that Palestine has not been the home of the Jews for nearly 2,000 years. It has been the home of the Arabs for thirteen long centuries. They built their great great mosque, "Dome of the Rock" (falsely known in America as the Mosque of Omar), in Jerusalem in the 7th Century. It occupies the site of the ancient Temples—those built by Solomon, the Jews of the Ezra-Nehemiah period, and Herod's Temple of the time of Christ.

These Temples were built on and around the great Rock, atop Mt. Moriah, that originally was the threshing floor of Ornan, which David purchased on orders from The Eternal as a site on which to build an altar—and, later, Solomon's Temple. Today this huge Muslim Mosque is built over this large rock. Later, on our Middle-East tour, we visited and carefully inspected this rock (see I Chron. 21:18 to 22:19). The Muslim Mosque has occupied the site since the 7th Century. It is second only to Mecca as a holy spot of pilgrimage for all Muslims—and has been for 1300 years. Jerusalem, therefore, is the "Holy City" of the Arabs as well as of the Jews.

The Sheikh then pointed out that North America was, until some 100 to 300 years ago, the home of the Indians. Our people have been settled, even on the eastern sea-board, only some 300 years—and on most of the West Coast and much of the central part of the nation only some 100 to 150 years. Our nation, as such, has had an existence of only 180 years in this land we call ours.



—Wide World Photo

Egyptian soldiers guard the entrance of the Suez Canal Company Headquarters in Ismailia following the nationalization of the famed waterway.

He asked me how we would feel about it, if Russia and some other nations began now to insist we move out of here—becoming homeless refugees—and give North America back to the Indians! Their people occupied most of North America even 200 years ago. The Jews have not been in Palestine for nearly 2,000 years. It has been the homeland of the Arabs for 1,300 years. Jerusalem is *their* Holy City. *Their* Mosque is there today—not any temple of the Jews.

If the Jews need a national home, let them go somewhere else, exclaimed the Sheikh, with some real feeling. Everywhere in the Arab nations the Arab people indignantly and with emotional feeling pointed out to us the pitiful refugee camps, filled with Arabs driven out of Palestine, where their people have lived 1,300 years, to make a home for Jews who have lived elsewhere 1900 years!

You'll have to admit the Arabs have a big point. That's their viewpoint on this Jewish-Arab strife. They still refuse to recognize the new nation "Israel." To them, these Jews are illegal intruders and trespassers. And Arabs will fight with religious fanaticism to exterminate the Jews from Palestine.

That's the basic background for this whole Middle-East crisis.

But, more recently and specifically leading to the immediate Suez crisis, here is the chain of facts and events:

Egging on Nasser

Saudi Arabia is fabulously rich in oil.

More than half of all the world's known oil reserves are in this Middle-East—60% to be exact! Western armed forces, above all BRITAIN'S, are absolutely dependent on this oil. They could be defeated in war quickly without it! The whole Western economy depends largely upon it.

Russia, having less than 7% of the world's oil reserves, looks on this Middle East with hungry, covetous eyes. THERE'S THE CAUSE OF TODAY'S FRICTION, mingled with this Arab-Jew dispute over Palestine.

The Saudi-Arabians, receiving more millions of dollars from American oil companies than they need at home, began using this money to fan the flames of racial hatred among other Arab countries against the Jews.

Gamel Abdel Nasser, the young, dynamic, 38-year-old President of Egypt, has been swept into the vortex of this

wave of racial hatred and fanaticism. Nasser started a program to rehabilitate his backward people—put in force compulsory education, started a great dam project to harness the Nile and re-build Egypt. But he is young and ambitious, and now apparently aspires to be the "big-shot" leader of all the Arab nations. Today Nasser is beginning to forget the wretchedness and ignorance of his people—which we saw there.

The Soviets saw their opportunity to make a drive into the Middle East, and stir up things against America and Britain. They offered Nasser arms at half price. He is impetuous, lacking mature wisdom, and he fell for their bait. Now he is becoming a sword-rattler, and a threat to the peace of the whole world. He has started many incidents on the Israel border at the ancient town of Gaza.

Nasser has recently prophesied a united Arab Empire, stretching from the Persian Gulf to the Atlantic—to include such nations as Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria. Recently Nasser has been inciting the vast Arab population of Algeria to rise up in revolt against the French, who rule the land.

When Nasser first started his progressive and constructive program to rehabilitate his backward people in Egypt, and to build the \$1,300,000,000 Aswan Dam to harness the Nile, the United States began lending a sympathetic ear. The Washington administration began negotiations toward giving Nasser large financial aid in building his dam project. But when Nasser began to have illusions of grandeur, and to envision himself as the supreme Dictator over some nine Arab nations, and to put himself under obligations to Russia, playing the Soviet against the United States, the United States government cancelled its offer to help him build his dam.

This infuriated the impetuous Nasser. In retaliation, he seized the Suez Canal. The State Department had speculated on the chances of this action before cancelling out the offer on the Aswan Dam, but they guessed wrong. They assumed Nasser wouldn't dare.

The crisis picked up momentum by the minute. Britain froze all Egyptian money and credit in London. Secretary

Dulles, in Perm, flew to Washington, then on to London. But, as usual, the American government backed down on using "the Big Stick," and decided they could keep peace by turning the other cheek, and acting soft.

And, as stated above, at the time this article was written, on the very deadline for going to press, Nasser was reported as ready to fight rather than give up exclusive control of the Suez Canal.

It began to look as if Britain might have to send her military forces to the Canal alone. And estimates were that unless the United States entered such a war on the side of Britain that Nasser would win.

And if the United States entered, the question then is one of whether RUSSIA would enter on the side of Egypt.

And *that*, of course, would mean that WORLD WAR III is *here!*

WHY Suez Is so Vital

But now, before I show you what is prophesied to be the outcome of this crisis, it is necessary that we understand WHY Suez is so important to Britain and America.

The Suez Canal is one of the major factors in our growth to economic power and national greatness never before equalled by any nation.

Did you ever wonder WHY the United

Here is a remarkable picture of Egypt's past glory—the pillars of an ancient temple at Thebes. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong brought this picture home with them. Notice the tiny man at the bottom compared to the gigantic pillars.



States and the British Commonwealth have become the most powerful nations of earth's history?—WHY we have possessed more than two thirds of all the world's developed resources—WHY we have enjoyed prosperity and luxuries for our peoples, such as no people ever possessed since human life was created on this earth?

Strange as it may seem, this same national wealth, power, and greatness was promised many centuries ago by the Almighty Creator to Abraham for *his* descendants. You'll read the entire thrilling, exciting story in our booklet, "United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy," if you have not already read it. This booklet will be sent free upon request. If you have not received your copy, you should write for it immediately before you even lay this magazine down.

Yes, WE are the nations who have actually come into all the vast national wealth and resources, the military power, that God promised Abraham in the Birthright promise. Figuring prominently in those divine promises was *this very Suez Canal!*

The whole story is stranger than any fiction—more thrilling than any novel. In making this little-understood Birthright promise to Abraham *unconditionally*, God said:

"By myself have I sworn, saith the Eternal, for *because* thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; *and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies*" (Gen. 22:16-18, repeated in Gen. 24:60).

The nations to whom the Birthright was promised were to POSSESS THE GATE OF THEIR ENEMIES! A gate is a narrow passage-way of entrance or exit. Considered nationally, and in terms of world trade and military sea-lanes, a GATE is just such a narrow passage-way as the Suez Canal, the Panama Canal, the Strait of Gibraltar, etc. There are seven such major strategic sea-gates in the world. And Britain and America have possessed and controlled *every one of them!* God's PROMISE was fulfilled IN US!

HOW did our vast wealth and great

power come to us? It all came primarily thru two avenues—our people were divinely led to possess the lands that contained these tremendous resources, and *we have controlled the sea lanes* thru possession of these gates, which has made possible world trade which has produced wealth.

The wealth that made Britain, prior to World War II, the wealthiest Empire the world ever had, came largely thru *her vast shipping by sea*—by wealth actually produced in her colonies and possessions. You've heard the proud boast that the sun never sets on the British Empire.

GOD set the bounds of the nations. GOD saw to it that the Germans were bottled up inside Europe—that the Russians were hedged in without access to the warm-water sea lanes for world trade.

The Russians look today with covetous eyes on the Suez Canal. They are sending arms to Egypt for half price in an effort to win the friendship of the Arab world. Their real objective is to get an outlet to the seas, thru the Black Sea, the Bosphorus, the Dardanelles, and the Suez Canal.

On our recent tour of the Middle East we went by ship from Istanbul, Turkey, up the Bosphorus to the mouth of the Black Sea. There, we saw with our own eyes the mines blockading that narrow entrance from the Black Sea. These are maintained by the Turks to keep Russian commerce bottled up in the Black Sea. If the Russians ever gain free access thru this pass, together with the Suez Canal and the Strait of Gibraltar, they will soon become so powerful, thru expanded world trade, that they can dominate the world.

British maritime power has primarily created British commercial and military power. British maritime supremacy has been possible only because Britain controlled Suez, Gibraltar, and other vital sea GATES.

If Nasser now can take over and retain Suez, BRITAIN'S LIFE-LINE IS SEVERED. And Britain, already hitting a toboggan-slide in economic resources since World War II—losing her possessions one after another—will be doomed to become a second-rate world power!

Suez is a LIFE-AND-DEATH concern

for Great Britain! And it is of paramount importance to the United States!

What is PROPHESED!

Finally, much of what is revealed in Biblical prophecy concerning Egypt was published in the May, 1956, issue of The PLAIN TRUTH, in the article, "*World War III Threatens to EXPLODE in Middle East!*"

Egypt was once the proudest, greatest nation on earth. The ancient Pharaohs built stupendous temples, monuments and palaces that were the wonder of the ancient world.

We recently journeyed by train 450 miles up the Nile to the site of the ancient Thebes, site of the tremendous temples of Karnak and Luxor, now mostly toppled and decayed in ruins. But many of the pillars still stand, and one is filled with awe at the grandeur and material glory the ruins testify of a now long-dead past. We were sailed across the Nile, and taken by automobile to the Valley of Kings, where we went down into King Tut's (pronounced "Toot's") recently discovered tomb, and two others. We visited the mighty pyramids, and went thru the passage system of the Great Pyramid of Giza.

Egypt was once the leader of world civilization. But, some 600 years before Christ, the reigning Pharaoh, Hophra, boasted (Herodotus, Vol. II, page 169) that no God could deprive him of his kingdom. The Eternal God responded.

The Eternal God said, "I will give Pharaoh Hophra the king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies" (Jer. 44:29-30).

This Pharaoh was dethroned by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon shortly after that prophecy was written.

The Prophet Ezekiel, of the same period, was inspired to write: "The word of the Eternal came unto me saying, 'Son of man, set thy face against Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against all Egypt: speak and say, Thus saith the Lord Eternal; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his irrigation canals, which hath said, 'My Nile is mine own, and I have made it for myself' . . . Behold, I will bring a sword upon thee, and cut

(Please continue on page 18)

BRITAIN IN TROUBLE!

What is **BEHIND** the rebellion, the uprisings and open violence against Great Britain? Can Britain regain her place of power in world affairs? Here is what **GOD ALMIGHTY** says **IS GOING TO HAPPEN!**

by Garner Ted Armstrong

THIS world is thrashing violently in the throes of world revolution! NEVER BEFORE in the history of mankind has there been a time of such **WORLD TROUBLE!** Nations possess gigantic weapons of destruction *which could blast all human life from off the face of this earth*—and irresponsible world leaders carelessly toss threats of being able to immediately send hydrogen bombs to **ANY PART OF THIS GLOBE!**

It's time **YOU** were concerned about the breath-taking occurrences that **YOUR BIBLE** shows are *just ahead!*

Western Powers in Trouble!

With Russia steadily gaining confidence from her spheres of influence, making new friends through trade and political maneuvering, the western alliances find themselves faced with a seething time of *unrest, political insults* and often *open rioting!*

What is happening to Great Britain?

The former great empire that boasted, "The sun never sets on the British Empire" is now finding herself saddled with both foreign and domestic problems that are growing fantastically larger than she is able to handle!

The entire Mediterranean area is ready to flare up into *open warfare* at any moment. Britain finds herself being given the "go home" treatment much the same as the United States has been receiving for the past several years. Former areas of the dominion, even some commonwealth members are openly belligerent, or distrustful of Britain. **HERE** are *just a few* of the problems Britain faces *now* beside the seizure of Suez!

Cyprus in Revolt

British troops withdrawn from Suez were stationed, for the most part, on the island of Cyprus in the eastern Mediter-

anean. Cyprus is about 40 miles south of Turkey and 60 miles west of Syria. Although colonized by the Greeks before the time of Christ, Cyprus had never belonged to Greece in modern times. The population of Cyprus is, however, about 80% Greek. Turkey conquered Cyprus in 1571, and Britain took over the island in 1878. The some 400,000 Greek inhabitants of Cyprus are now *demanding* that Britain *get out!* Turkey, a rival of Greece, is protesting any such move, and claims title to Cyprus should Britain leave.

Cyprus is the last British-owned base in the area, and as such constitutes a *vital remaining link* in the weakening chain of the British Empire. Should Britain be *forced* to leave Cyprus, she

would be left without a base sufficiently close to the Suez canal and the eastern Mediterranean to protect her interests in the vast middle-eastern oil fields of Iran and Iraq. Cypriot students have tossed bombs, killing both military and civilian personnel. The British union jack has been *openly burned* in defiant demonstrations. Cyprus is gripped by tension and hatred, and is being held only by force as a part of Britain's defenses.

Ceylon Going Communist

In April of 1956, Ceylon's new Prime Minister, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, who was an Oxford classmate of Sir Anthony Eden, said he wanted the British to leave Ceylon. Strategically located at the

British infantrymen search Cypriot rioters after a homemade bomb accidentally killed an 8-year-old child. You can see the child covered with a blanket in lower right of picture.



—Wide World Photo

southeastern tip of India, Ceylon constitutes one of the *most important bases* for British air and sea forces in the *entire Asiatic sphere*. Bandaranaike declared the presence of British troops and sailors made the small island a prime military target in case of war, and said public sentiment was toward telling the British to "go home." The vital bases at Negombo and Trincomalee are apparently *lost to the British!*

South Africa Going Fascist

Years of racial strife and unrest in the Union of South Africa were climaxed in December of 1954 by the election of Johannes Gerhardus Strydom as Premier. Strydom, whose slogan, "The white man must remain boss," became well known through the Transvaal, is known to be an open admirer of Hitler, and uses Nazi tactics. He said in 1941, "One of the cornerstones of the British Empire" to which he is opposed, "is equal rights for everybody irrespective of color or smell. The other cornerstone is British-Jewish capitalism." Strydom wants to overturn these two cornerstones.

Strydom earnestly wishes to make South Africa a republic, *independent of the British Commonwealth*.

Should the Suez canal be closed, the tip of South Africa is the key to the major shipping lanes of the world connecting East and West. Even with the continued use of the Suez canal, a great deal of shipping passes the Cape of Good Hope each month. Who controls South Africa controls the vitally important shipping lanes around the Cape of Good Hope!

Kenya Aflame

Terrorism in Britain's East African agricultural colony of Kenya was taking the lives of whole families until only recently. The hideous slaughter of innocent victims by the *Mau-Mau* seriously endangered Britain's economy in Kenya, forcing settlers to fortify themselves behind barb-wire enclosures, holding agricultural activities and cattle-raising down to a bare minimum. Communist agitation was suspected as the motivating force behind the fetish-like sect of the *Mau-Mau*, a secret order of native terrorists sworn to drive the white man from Africa. Many Britons

sent families to England for safety—others left holdings in Kenya, returning to England for good.

The reign of fear and terror that held Kenya in its icy grip was another thorn in the side of the British lion—a thorn that went deep into economy, and demanded the presence of thousands of additional British troops to protect settlers and their families. Kenya is one of Britain's most important overseas holdings.

Gibraltar Next?

The famous "Rock of Gibraltar" represents one of the world's most vital sea gates. Situated at the end of a low peninsula jutting out from the southern coast of Spain, Gibraltar's huge lime-

stone mass stands as a bristling guard at the narrow channel entering the Mediterranean from the Atlantic Ocean. Gibraltar is honeycombed with defense works, including huge coastal guns and anti-aircraft batteries. With Britain's years of occupation, Gibraltar has become the most heavily fortified spot in the world.

Spain has long laid claim to Gibraltar, since the very rock itself is an integral part of the Iberian Peninsula and Spain. After the deposition of King Alfonso and the establishment of Franco's dictatorship in Spain, the Spanish cry to repatriate Gibraltar became much louder. During our recent trip into Spain, we saw signs splashed on brick walls which read, "Gibraltar is Spanish!"

British conduct house search for terrorists on Island of Cyprus—the last remaining stronghold of the Commonwealth in the Eastern Mediterranean.

—Wide World Photo





—Wide World Photo

Police on Island of Cyprus must search for concealed weapons even in the vegetable baskets of cyclists. Many policemen have been killed by hidden arms.

Political agitation by the Spanish government under Franco for the return of Gibraltar to Spain has grown increasingly more frequent—more insistent. *It is possible* that Nasser's rash act in declaring the Suez Canal to be Egyptian national property may lead to similar attempts by the Spanish to regain Gibraltar.

Gibraltar is the key to the entire Mediterranean—the most vital military location in the entire European area!

India Is Gone

Now a member of the Commonwealth, but with the word "British" omitted, India was for well over 100 years a colony of Great Britain. As a result of the East India Company's efforts, Britain gained control of India as a colony in the 17th century. February 20, 1947, the British Government announced its intentions to partition India into two separate countries, giving self government to each. The British withdrawal followed 40 years of religious struggle by both Hindus and

Moslems against the British government.

The partitioning of India into the areas of Pakistan and India proper was a result of religious antagonism between Hindu and Moslem peoples. After the British departure, India leaned increasingly toward the East, where she is bound by centuries of racial and religious ties. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru received Russia's top men, Bulganin and Khrushchev, on a visit to India only recently, and then returned the visit by going to Moscow at their invitation. India is pock-marked with Communism, going steadily toward the Communist sphere. As the country with the second largest population, India is a major concern of the western alliances as she steadily leans toward the East.

India's millions are prime targets for Communist agitators, whose efforts have led India toward open hatred of Britain and the United States. Currently, Russian aid and technicians are being received with welcome by the Indians, while Western aid in any form is regarded with suspicion.

Malaya Soon to Go!

The Federation of Malaya is another of Great Britain's most important overseas possessions. The Malay states are the world's richest source of tin—and were the primary Japanese target in the area during the opening months of Japan's aggression during World War II. Rich in rubber as well, the Malay States have been the scene of great Communist agitation since the close of World War II.

Radio listeners from Malaya to the *World Tomorrow* program write they dare not venture out at night except in armoured cars! Neighbors who wished to hear Mr. Armstrong's broadcast had to travel with military escort to the homes of other listeners!

With the Communist successes in Viet Nam, and increasing Communist activity in Burma, Malaya stands tottering on the edge of the vast Communist world, shot through with Communist agents and agitators, ready to be swallowed by the red horde at the least sign of weakness by the British.

And Singapore, Too!

The British are well aware of the tremendous importance of Singapore to their continued well being. Situated on a small island at the end of the Malayan Peninsula, Singapore is a vital British Naval and military base, guarding the narrow part of the Strait of Malacca. The waterway overlooked by Singapore's guns is one of the most important sea gates in the world, linking the abundantly rich East Indies (Indonesia), the Philippines, and all the South China Sea with the open waters of the Indian Ocean. Shipping is normally heavy through the Straits of Malacca. Japan's wartime conquest of Singapore was a major blow to the British at the opening of hostilities in Asia, and the loss of Singapore's great coastal guns and military installations lengthened the war considerably.

Singapore is a separate Crown Colony, with a population of about 80% Chinese. Of these, one half are under the age of 21. The Chinese "middle" schools, comparable to our high schools and junior colleges, are infested with Communist Party Members, who agi-

tate against "white rule" and work with Singapore's active Communistic Labor Unions.

Open hatred and rebellion flared on May 12, 1955, when Communist students led uprisings which resulted in the deaths of three persons and the injury of thirteen others. Gene Symonds of the United Press, while covering the uprisings, was brutally attacked with stones, clubs and broken bottles by the angry rioters. He was left broken and bleeding in the street, and died in a hospital a few minutes later. He had covered the Korean conflict, taking his camera to the front lines for action shots, and had survived the rigors of war—to die ignominiously on a dirty street in Singa-

pore, a victim of Communist-inspired students.

The "middle schools" (high schools) are swept with a wave of terrorism that keeps uncooperative professors and students *afraid* to take counteractive measures. For instance, in early 1955, an anti-Communist youth was called from his harmonica class and *shot to death* in the midday sun. *His classmates were too frightened to attend his funeral!*

Britain says she is taking a "calculated risk" in opening the polls to voters in Singapore. In April, 1955, the British staged the island colony's first independent elections. As a result, control was won by the Labor Front, an apparently Western party, but mildly social-

ist. Britain is planning to give Singapore independence as a self-governing democracy! *Keep your eyes on Singapore!*

China Eyes Hong Kong

Lying at the mouth of the Canton River just 90 miles south of Canton, China, this small island (32 square miles) is a vital link between East and West. Britain maintains a large naval base there to protect her interests in the vast Asiatic area. Less than 10,000 Britons live in Hong Kong, as opposed to 2½ million Chinese. The strategic location of Hong Kong makes it one of the world's important sea gates, guarding major shipping lanes between eastern
(Please continue on page 13)

This is Singapore—Britain's mighty naval bastion in the Far East. Loss of this strategic fortress would sever the Empire's lifeline in yet another place!

—Wide World Photo



The "SECRET RAPTURE" *fact ... or fiction?*

Will Jesus return invisibly, secretly to "rapture" or take away the Church to heaven BEFORE the coming tribulation?

by Herman L. Hoeh

A TIME OF fiendish, diabolical torture is NOW being planned in the name of religion. *YOU are among its intended victims!*

And millions along with you, who think they can escape this coming tribulation and wrath of ANTICHRIST, are *plunging blindly into it!*

It is time you knew what is coming and how to escape it.

Is the "SECRET RAPTURE" the Way of Escape?

The common idea today among fundamentalists is that Christ may return *invisibly, secretly*, "at any moment" to "rapture" or "catch away" the Church *before* the great tribulation and the appearance of a superhuman "Antichrist." This *secret* return of Christ they call "the first phase" of Christ's second coming.

Jesus, we are asked to believe, may suddenly descend from heaven this very day. But He will stop in mid-air! Immediately, the righteous dead will be raised and all true Christians who are alive will be "translated." Then Christ returns to heaven—some say for 3½ years, others say for 7 years.

During this period, according to this teaching, God will vent His wrath upon the world by permitting Antichrist to deceive the nations—especially the Jews—and to torture all who won't submit to him. This time of torture they call indiscriminately the "tribulation" and "Day of the Lord."

Then, they say, the "second phase" of Christ's coming will occur. Jesus will come *visibly*, in power and glory, WITH the saints, to conquer Antichrist and to restore the Jews to Palestine!

But is this what the Bible really teaches?

Are there two phases to the second coming of Jesus Christ? Will He return

secretly? WHY IS THE WORD "RAPTURE" NOT MENTIONED ONCE IN THE ENTIRE BIBLE?

When, where and why did the doctrine of the secret rapture *begin?* The answers to these questions will shock you!

It is time you learned the TRUTH!

Unable to Agree Among Themselves

The ranks of those who believe in a secret rapture are in total confusion! They cannot agree among themselves. They quarrel over how many in the Church are to be "raptured." They dispute among themselves over the length of time that Christ will be in heaven between the "two phases" of His return.

They disagree over who the Antichrist will be—Judas resurrected, Satan in human form, some man who is alive today? Some say Antichrist will have his headquarters at Jerusalem; others contend it will be old Babylon rebuilt on the Euphrates River.

But no matter what their views on these subjects may be, there are certain Scriptures which they always use as proof for their doctrine of a secret rapture. These Scriptures we must examine.

A Time Sequence of Events Tells

Jesus has given us a time sequence of events soon to occur. This sequence you will find in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. These three chapters contain the order of events at the close of this age of man's rule. Notice what Jesus told His disciples—and that includes you and me today if we obey Him.

Following false teachers, proclaiming a false gospel, yet coming in the name of Christ, would be wars, famines and pestilences—occurring in that order. Then there would be what?—the secret return of Christ to take away the Church in a secret rapture immediately before

a tribulation? No! Here are Jesus' own words:

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars . . . and famines shall be and earthquakes in divers places. But all these are the beginning of sorrows. THEN"—the very next event—"shall they deliver *you* up unto TRIBULATION, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations *for my name's sake*" (Mat. 24:6-9).

Did you notice that? Jesus' own disciples—those who follow Him—"YOU"—are to be delivered up to tribulation!

The disciples of Jesus could not be in tribulation if they were secretly raptured to heaven *before* the tribulation and if only unbelievers remained on earth. Besides, Jesus said that it is "FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE" that the nations would hate you. This must be referring to believers, not non-believers.

Mark records the same statement of Jesus: "And ye shall be hated of all *for my name's sake*" (Mark 13:13). A martyrdom of Christians! Luke records the same (Luke 21:12, 17).

A Way of Escape?

Though Jesus prophesied that Christians would be persecuted in a coming great tribulation, HE ALSO SAID THERE IS A WAY OF ESCAPE!

But that way of escape is *not* the secret rapture!

"But watch," said Jesus, "and pray always that ye be accounted worthy *to escape all these things that shall come to pass*, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36). You can *escape* all the troubles soon to fall on a heedless world—but *you must watch world events and pray!*

Jesus repeated this same promise to His Church today: "Because thou didst keep the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of trial"—

the tribulation and events that follow—"which is to come upon the whole inhabited earth, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Rev. 3:10).

But how and where are the Christians who watch and pray going to escape? Turn to the 12th chapter of Revelation. Here we find the answer!

Here we find the true Church—the Church of God—pictured. A woman, remember, is the symbol of a Church (II Cor. 11:2). This chapter pictures the true Church, whereas the 17th chapter of Revelation pictures the false churches—a mother church and her daughter churches. Notice verse 6 of chapter 12. In the tribulation during the Middle Ages "the woman [the true Church] fled into the wilderness, where she hath there a place prepared of God." That tribulation is merely a type of the coming great tribulation—a time of trouble of such magnitude as has never occurred on earth before. Now turn to verse 13:

"And when the dragon [Satan] saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman"—this is the persecution that is yet in the future, a persecution that is being secretly planned at this very moment! How does the Church escape? "And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman that she should fly TO THE WILDERNESS to her place" for 3½ years.

The Church is NOT taken to heaven, but to the *wilderness*—to a desert region *here on earth*. "And the *earth* helped the woman" (Rev. 12:13-16).

Could anything be plainer?

But what happens to those not accounted worthy to escape? "And the dragon . . . went away to make war with the rest of her seed"—the remainder of the Church that did not escape. The people whom Satan hates—and against whom he stirs up the nations—the people who "keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus" (verse 17).

How plain! Some of the Church escapes to a place of safety on earth. But there is no secret rapture! Jesus told us to "pray that your flight be not in winter, neither on a sabbath: for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the world's beginning until now, no, now ever shall be" (Luke

21:21). If there were a secret rapture we would *not* have to be concerned about either the winter or the sabbath!

Is the Tribulation the Time of God's Wrath?

There is another great mistake that all who believe in the rapture theory have carelessly taken for granted without proof. It is that the "tribulation" and the "Day of the Lord" represent the same period of time.

The tribulation is the wrath of Satan, the wicked spirit ruler of this present age. We read of that in Revelation 12. The devil is angry. He is responsible for the persecution of the Christians who are not accounted worthy to escape. Satan hates God's way. So does this world. It is Satan's world—little wonder that it hates the good news of the Kingdom of God.

What did Jesus say would immediately happen after Satan's wrath—the tribulation? The rapturists would have you believe that the "second phase" of Jesus' return would immediately occur. This is *not* what Jesus said. Notice:

"IMMEDIATELY AFTER the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Mat. 24:29).

Now turn to Joel 2:31: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood *BEFORE* THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD COME."

The "Day of the Lord" is the time God steps into world affairs directly. It is the time of *His* wrath against the nations!

This "Day of the Lord will come like a *thief in the night*," wrote Paul in I Thes. 5:2. This is not speaking of the rapture, but of the *time* of God's interventions in world affairs shortly before Jesus returns.

Compare this with Revelation 6:12, 16-17: "The sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the whole moon became as blood; and the stars of the heaven fell to the earth . . . and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall upon us, and hide us from the face of the one sitting on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: because the great day of their wrath is come; and

who can stand?'" This day of God's wrath comes unexpectedly—like a thief in the night.

The tribulation, however, occurs *before* the "Day of the Eternal's Wrath"!

Notice that during this "Day of the Lord" trumpets begin to sound—(Rev. 8:6). "And the seven angels that had the seven trumps (or trumpets) prepared themselves to sound." Trumpets are a symbol of war. This is the time when God is turning the nations loose upon one another till they learn that God alone can bring peace and that His laws make life worth living.

Notice, now, an amazing fact which very few have grasped!

The Seventh Trumpet Sounds

What happens when the seventh and last of these trumpets is sounded? "And the seventh angel sounded: and great voices in heaven came saying, 'The Kingdom of the world is become our Lord's and His Christ's, and He shall reign unto the ages of the ages' . . . 'We thank thee, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was; because thou hast taken thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were wroth, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the *death*, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth'" (Rev. 11:15, 17-18).

Notice that this is the time for the *dead* to be judged and to receive their reward. It is the time of the *resurrection*. And this, remember, occurs at the seventh or last trump!

Now compare this with I Corinthians 15:51-52: "Lo, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, *at the last trump*: for the trumpeter"—the seventh and last trumpet—"shall sound, and the dead"—Rev. 11:18 also refers to the *dead*—"shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

Do you grasp the significance of this Scripture? *AFTER* the tribulation, *after* the intervening heavenly signs, *during* the Day of the Lord, *at* the sounding of the seventh trump *THE DEAD ARE RES-*
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BRITAIN IN TROUBLE!

(Continued from page 10)

and western countries. During the Chinese Communist bid for control of Taiwan (Formosa), references were made to Hong Kong as an intrinsic part of China. By following their dual plan of agitation from without and subversion from within, the Communists hope to gain control of Hong Kong! Hong Kong is one of the world's major sea ports, and the greatest trans-shipment port in the world! *The British are having trouble in Hong Kong!*

The World Picture Is Black

The world over, the once-great British Empire sees its colonies, its protectorates, its commonwealth members, slipping from its grasp! A world-wide deterioration of the Western Powers is underway, and MOST OF OUR PEOPLES

ARE TOO ASLEEP TO SEE IT COMING!

There are great forces at work—forces not even SUSPECTED by the British and American people—which could well spell DISASTER for our nations! Columnists and news writers frankly warn of hatred toward the West *everywhere*—even in the nations *receiving millions* in foreign aid from our nations! The United States and Great Britain have some *very great lessons to learn!*

Egypt, Cyprus, South Africa, Ceylon, Singapore, Hong Kong, and many other vital areas to Britain's empire are erupting in defiance against British Rule! EVERYWHERE Britain is LOSING OUT!

WHY?

Faced with the possible loss of the life blood of Iran's oil, and now the loss of these vitally important sea gates, Brit-

ain and America begin to form alliances with foreign nations, such as the Baghdad Pact, which links Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan with Britain!

Rather than TRUST IN GOD to solve her problems, Britain seeks after GENTILE NATIONS, gathering them about her in alliances and leagues in a desperate effort to stave off the gathering storm of doom that clouds the horizon of the British Empire!

God says of BRITAIN (if you do not yet understand Britain's identity in Biblical Prophecy—write in immediately for Mr. Armstrong's free 24-page booklet, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*). "They will NOT FRAME THEIR DOINGS TO TURN UNTO THEIR GOD, for the spirit of WHOREDOMS (alliances with foreign nations) is in the midst of them and they *have not known* the Lord." (Hos. 5:3-4)

God sternly warns His chosen people of impending DISASTER such as has NEVER BEFORE HAPPENED TO ANY NA-

This is part of an estimated 20,000 who attended Communist-led "Freedom" Rally in Singapore. Shortly after this picture was taken, the Rally turned into a RIOT in which many were injured.

—Wide World Photo



TION if they will not WAKE UP, and *hear His warning message!*

God revealed in His word CENTURIES AGO that Britain and the United States would be *horribly punished* because of their great national SINS. God foretold how Ephraim, modern *Great Britain*, would "hire lovers" from among the foreign nations, forming alliances and pacts to protect herself from her enemies!

Centuries ago, God had written in YOUR BIBLE the account of Great Britain seeking to the *very nation she helped to destroy*—to her OWN DESTRUCTION! "Israel is swallowed up . . . for they are gone up (seeking alliances with) to ASSYRIA (modern *Germany*), a wild ass alone by himself, *Ephraim hath hired lovers!*" (Hos. 8:9) *We have attempted to BUY OUR FRIENDS!*

Incredible Rise from Ruin

The little nation of Western Germany *now*, just eleven years after the close of World War II, when she lay in smoking, utter RUINS, IS THE SECOND WEALTHIEST NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

West Germany's gold reserves total more than the entire sterling area put

together! While Britain owes more than 300 million dollars to the European Payments Union, *Bonn has credit* of nearly 600 million dollars!

With Britain engaged in labor problems and strikes, steel output and automobile production is being greatly reduced, and Germany is *capturing export markets*—ACCOMPLISHING WHAT HITLER'S BOMBS FAILED TO DO! Germany has passed Britain as an exporter of cars!

Lord Beaverbrook's London Newspaper had as its headlines not so long ago, "THEY'LL BEAT US YET, THESE GERMANS!"

What Will Happen?

God says Great Britain is like a "silly dove" without UNDERSTANDING. ". . . they call to Egypt, *they go to Assyria* (Germany). *When they shall go . . .*" while Britain is engaged in *alliance-forming with Germany and Egypt*, "I WILL SPREAD MY NET UPON THEM, I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven, I WILL chastize them, AS THEIR CONGREGATION HAS HEARD!" (Hos. 7:11-12)

YOU are hearing God's stern warning THIS INSTANT!

Loyal Negro Policeman in Kenya guards captured Mau Mau terrorists. This is the only trouble-spot where British are winning.

Wide World Photo



—Wide World Photo

A captured Mau-Mau "Field Marshal" eats in Kenya Jail.

Are Britain and America going to continue building the Frankenstein Monster that will turn on them and *destroy* them? God's warning to YOU, THIS MOMENT, is to HEAR!

Some will say—"this is an alarmists' point of view."

Some will say—"we shouldn't worry about it."

Yes, just as Almighty God foretold, the people *will not want* to hear the truth, but they will seek to hear LIES, and SMOOTH, SOFT words. "They have belied the Lord, and said, *It is not He*, neither shall evil come upon us, neither shall we see sword nor famine" (Jer. 5:12).

The modern false prophets speak a message of LETHARGY, of soothing, easy-to-listen-to *deceits!* "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means, and MY PEOPLE LOVE TO HAVE IT SO" (Jer. 5:31).

If YOU would rather hear *God's Truth* in place of the soothing cries of "Peace, Peace" (Jer. 6:14), *write in immediately* for Mr. Armstrong's AMAZING booklet, "1975 in Prophecy!"

This startling booklet is profusely illustrated with pictures—*actually showing you a step-by-step account of what God says* IS GOING TO HAPPEN within the next 10, 15 to 25 years!

There is a way of protection for YOU if you will heed!

Is OBEDIENCE to God Required for Salvation?

Can a Christian DISOBEY God and still be saved?

by Roderick C. Meredith

THIS IS a *lawless* age! Everywhere, it seems, the spirit of disobedience and rebellion is sweeping society. Even from the pulpits you hear preached that Jesus Christ abolished His Father's LAW—that it is not necessary to OBEY God any longer!

It is time we looked into the Bible to see what it really says.

One famous passage often quoted—or MISquoted—is found in II Corinthians 3. From this chapter people carelessly assume that Paul taught that the Ten Commandments were abolished—that we can go ahead and disobey them and still be saved—that if we obey them we are cursed.

Open your Bible to this important chapter—II Corinthians 3.

The Administration of Death—

What Was It?

Almost no one really understands the meaning of "the ministration of death written and engraven in stones" (II Cor. 3). Let's study it.

What is this ministration—administering or executing—of the death penalty—which was engraved on stones?

Was Paul referring to the Ten Commandments? Were the Ten Commandments engraven in *whole* stones?

No! The ten commandments were written on two tables of *stone*, but *not* on whole stones.

Then what was written in whole stones? Notice Deuteronomy 27:1-6. Moses commanded the children of Israel to set up great whole stones, and plaster them with plaster, *and write upon them all the words of THE CIVIL LAW*—the statutes and judgments—which he had just repeated to them. These statutes and judgments, based upon the ten commandments, are "righteous" (Psalm 119:7, 8). It is SIN to break them!

Included in the civil code was THE ADMINISTRATION of the death penalty

for breaking THESE LAWS. THE ADMINISTRATION EMBODIED THE "EYE FOR EYE, TOOTH FOR TOOTH" PRINCIPLE (Deut. 19:21). Whenever any of these major laws were broken, the judges and Levites saw to it that the PENALTY of the law—death—was carried out. They were responsible for the ADMINISTRATION OF DEATH.

This was what Paul spoke of—not the ten commandments or the spiritual statutes and judgments which the people were to obey! Paul is writing about the ADMINISTRATION—or "ministration," to use the Old English word—of the DEATH PENALTY for breaking the law. The Scripture in II Corinthians 3 is not doing away with the laws which *define sin*, but with the *ministration of the penalty* of death by human judges.

The ten commandments are entirely separate and distinct from this administration. The ten commandments are *spiritual laws* which last forever (Ps. 111:7-8).

Because the *principles* of the ten commandments formed the basis of the civil statutes and judgments, a violation of these principles was punished *by civil authority*.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF DEATH WAS THE CIVIL EXECUTION OF PUNISHMENTS FOR VIOLATION OF THIS CIVIL LAW CODE WHICH MOSES SPOKE TO THE PEOPLE.

The administration of the civil government in ancient Israel reveals God's method of dealing directly with *unconverted, fleshly, sinning* people.

The government of Israel had church and state combined. It was a physical, flesh-born church or congregation. The administration of civil and religious statutes and ordinances was combined in ancient Israel.

Bear in mind that ancient Israel was not promised salvation at that time. All the promises under the old covenant

were material, for this life (Lev. 26:3-12). Since those Israelites were not converted and did not have the Holy Spirit, they could not understand spiritual things. They were like most people today. God dealt with them in a *purely physical manner*, punishing them for their crimes.

Perhaps some of these punishments seem rather harsh to us. But a careful study will reveal the all-wise purpose behind them. Such things as murder, kidnapping, and adultery were punishable by DEATH.

How well calculated these judgments are. They show evildoers the enormity of sin and crime!

Taking the life of one reprobate often *saved* the lives of many decent people. People today take sin—crime—lightly, but God wants us to FEAR to do wrong!

Remember that "the *fear* of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Ps. 111:10). We must first learn to reverence and fear our Creator and His Laws. Then, when we come to know God as our Father, *love* will cast out that kind of fear which would separate us from God:

God gave Israel these penalties to teach them the *awfulness* of sin, and to show them that they must reap what they sowed. *The judges were to administer DEATH—not life*. It was a purely physical matter. Those Israelites did not understand spiritual things—and there was *no opportunity* of eternal life for them *at that time*.

Judges Responsible to God

The laws in ancient Israel were not to be carried out in accordance with human reason and influenced by unjustified anger. They were "of God." In II Chronicles 19:4-7, Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, made the *judges realize* they were not judging for men, but *for God*. They were responsible to God alone!

God promised to be "with them," guiding them in their decisions when they were executing His laws.

So we see that the decisions in Israel were NOT a matter of men judging one another according to human reason. Rather, they were determined by the laws *from God*. And in carrying them out, the judges were to be guided and inspired *by God*, were acting under His authority, and were responsible to Him alone!

These judgments were also given as an *example* to other nations of the blessings of a law-abiding society under God.

This was God's way of showing the unconverted world the perfect civil laws it needs to have. It was a witness to the heathen nations of the wisdom and justice of the God of Israel (Deut. 4:5-8).

Do you see the vast difference between this and mere human government?

How *quick* and *efficient* was the punishment of evildoers!

The *administration of death* was instituted to show Israel the result of wrong conduct. It was *part* of the law code which was "*added* because of transgressions" (Gal. 3:19). Yes, this, the administration of death, as well as the sacrificial laws, were "*added*" to God's immutable, spiritual laws—of which the ten commandments are the basis. *But* the administration of death was only to last "till the seed (Christ) should come."

The Ten Commandments, together with the spiritual statutes and judgments which magnify them, were never "*added* because of transgressions." If these laws were not already in existence there would have been no transgression—"Where no law is, there is no transgression" (Rom. 4:15). Abraham obeyed them long before Moses was born (Gen. 26:5). They stand fast "forever and ever" (Ps. 111:8).

Sacrificial laws for sins committed in ignorance and this civil administration were "*added*" because carnal-minded Israel didn't understand and wasn't able to keep the spiritual principles of the Ten Commandments. Without immediate physical punishments for wilful wrong-doing, crime and *anarchy* might have resulted!

These fleshly people needed physical judgments with "teeth" in them. And

that's just what God gave them!

Remember that these Israelites were *unconverted* and had no promise of the Holy Spirit or of eternal life under the Old Covenant. *They could not earn salvation by works*, any more than we can today! All their promises were only *material* promises for this life. The judges administered *death*, not life, to the people. As long as the nation as a whole obeyed God, there were no long drawn-out trials, no newspaper publicity, *but* the speedy operation of JUSTICE.

Two witnesses were required to convict a man of any crime (Deut. 19:15-21). The punishment for false witnesses was made so severe as to effectively discourage that practice.

Israelites did not pay taxes to keep convicts alive in association with other hardened criminals. How much our nation could learn from the wisdom and justice set forth in these laws! Our complicated bungling system of law enforcement seems rather pitiful when we compare its actual effectiveness to that of Israel. God's laws when enforced put a *stop* to crime and made men *fear* to do wrong!

Why the Administration of the Spirit

It was God's purpose to replace the "administration of death." It was only to last "till the seed should come." After Israel and Judah were scattered and driven into captivity, the administration of Israel's civil government was impossible. There was no organized civil government in Israel—no law-enforcement machinery. In Christ's time, the Jews were living under a Roman governor and had no authority to administer God's civil laws.

At this time *God sent Christ to introduce a new administration*—THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SPIRIT.

Why? Because the first administration gave only *death* for disobedience. Human judges could not impart eternal life; they could only minister death. What was needed was a new administration *of the same laws*—an administration which could give pardon and eternal life to those who repented and wanted to obey.

The promise of the Holy Spirit—the only hope of eternal life—was given to

all believers for the **FIRST TIME** (Acts 2:37). Instead of administering the death penalty for sins, Christ, the Apostles, and *his ministers today teach the people the way to eternal life*. Christ's ministers "*administer*" life to mortal man.

All men are born mortal, subject to sin. We are in need of the Holy Spirit, the begetter of eternal life. We also need to quit sinning—breaking God's laws. We need the love that fulfills the law (1 John 5:3; Rom. 5:5; 13:10). Unless we have that love which only the Holy Spirit can give, we sin, and the wages of sin is death—(Romans 6:23).

What Is Sin?

But what is sin? "Sin is the transgression of law" (1 John 3:4). The law here spoken of is *not* the administration of death that was written *on whole stones*. The "ministration of death" functioned only as long as the civil government of Israel. This law which John mentions includes *the basic spiritual law*—*Ten Commandments* which were written *on two tables of hewn stone*.

These are the commandments which "stand fast *forever and ever*, and are done in truth and uprightness" (Ps. 111:8). This law will last longer than heaven and earth (Mat. 5:18).

If you are a Christian, you are being judged by this perfect and just law!

"So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:12). This is the law which *liberates us from sin*; but if we break *one point* of it, we are *guilty of all* (verse 10).

Notice that Christians are to have God's spiritual law—the ten commandments—written *in their hearts*, not on tables of stone as under the old covenant! Paul shows right here that God's law is not abolished—that it is "written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart" (II Cor. 3:3).

God's laws—His commandments, statutes and judgments—are to be in our hearts—we are to *live* them by the power of God's Spirit.

The ten commandments were not written on stones, nor abolished. Paul says that they were on "tables of stone,"

but the laws requiring the *administration of the death penalty* by civil judges were engraven on *whole stones*.

Since we by nature violate the ten commandments, we certainly need *pardon*—GRACE—and the supernatural power of the Spirit of God in us to *fulfill* them. Christ died to pay for our sins. He made it possible to receive the Holy Spirit from the Father. His ministers are to teach the people how to quit sinning and to gain eternal life—by administering or teaching the people how to be reconciled to the Father and receive the Holy Spirit.

Difference Between Administrations

Now do you see the difference? Ancient Israel under the Old Covenant only understood the letter of God's law. Being unconverted, most of them didn't even obey that. So God gave them civil laws which prescribed punishments.

Israel's judges punished transgressors by fines and death. Thus, it was called the "administration of death." It was necessary because Israel was a nation of unconverted people. However, it was only to last *till Christ should come*, who would introduce the spiritual administration to reconcile us to God.

Today, Christians are to *forgive* men of their trespasses (Mat. 6:14-15). We are not to avenge ourselves, but to rely on God's righteous judgment to punish those who violate His laws or harm us (Rom. 12:18-21).

Not fully knowing another's thoughts or intentions, it would be impossible to judge or condemn another (Mat. 7:1-2).

Penalty for Sin Is Still DEATH

The penalty of DEATH is still in effect for those who break God's law! It is time for professing Christians everywhere to wake up and realize that *God means business!*

Hebrews 10:26-31 teaches us clearly and unmistakably that a *far worse* punishment will befall those who willfully trample on God's law than that which was visited on the fleshly Israelites. That punishment is *eternal, everlasting DEATH*.

The "ministration of death" in Israel was only a lesser, physical *type* of the eternal punishment—(eternal DEATH)—for refusing to obey God's law—once

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THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

HERE are the *Bible* answers to questions which can be answered briefly in a 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.

Should a Believer Withdraw from Lodges and Fraternal Organizations?

Lodges and secret orders of this world are modern continuations of the old Babylonish system which the Bible condemns. "Come out of her, my people!" is God's command.

We are not to be unequally yoked together with the world in social fellowship which is fundamentally contrary to God's laws. A person who really wants to be obedient to every word of God *cannot* be a part of the clubs, lodges, and other secret orders OF THIS WORLD.

God commands His children to meet together, but to separate themselves from fellowship with the world. If we depend upon God we do not need the temporary pleasures of the social whirls that these fraternal organizations afford.

Some lodges have immense power. One in particular relies directly on ancient pagan philosophy, but couches it under the Biblical names of Solomon and Hiram. Many of these organizations developed as a result of the fact that during the Dark Ages the Church would not give free reign to speculative philosophies, but enforced its own instead. Therefore, *secret* orders were formed with *the outward appearance* of Christian names and philanthropic deeds. Some lodges make to pretense to hide the fact that their deceptive philosophies are borrowed directly from "ancient pagan sources."

Of course, the world cannot see what is wrong with these ideas as long as the organizations also are doing good. What God condemns is this *mixture of good and evil!*

This world is figuratively taking of the tree of knowledge of *good and evil*. The only way to avoid the evil is to separate entirely from this bad mixture and to be joined, instead, to God's people through obedience and submission to the Almighty and His laws. Christians do not need worldly *secret* organizations. We are to let our good works shine *before* men that God may be glorified in us.

Does "wine" in the Bible mean "grape juice"?

As a result of the article on "Worldliness" in the previous issue of the last PLAIN TRUTH, several have written in this question.

Prohibitionists object saying, "But how do you know that the original Hebrew and Greek words mean *fermented* wine? Historians say the wine used was nothing more than molasses—that this grape drink was non-intoxicating and the ordinary drink of people in Christ's time."

Here is the truth about this false idea!

There are thirteen original Hebrew and Greek words for "wine" in our English Bible. How can we know which one means fermented wine? To find the answer, do not go to Aristotle or Pliny, but go to the *Bible itself*. By comparing its usage, the Scriptural meaning of *wine* can be defined.

One of the original Hebrew words for wine is "yayin." This word is first used in Genesis 9:21 where Noah "drank of the wine and was *drunken*." This wine caused *drunkenness!* Was it just grape juice or was it molasses?

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DANGER TO AMERICA in SUEZ Crisis!

(Continued from page 6)

off man and beast out of thee . . . because he hath said, "The river is mine, and I have made it." Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy irrigation canals, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, . . . neither shall it be inhabited forty years . . . and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations . . . Yet thus saith the Lord Eternal: at the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians . . . and I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be

there a BASE KINGDOM. . . neither shall it exhalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, and they shall no more rule over the nations'" (Ezek. 29:1-15).

Further: "This saith the Lord Eternal: I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of Memphis (Noph); and *there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt*" (Ezek. 30:13).

We visited Memphis. When this prophecy was written, Memphis boasted more idols than any city on earth. Today there is merely one lone small sphynx,

and a gigantic statue of Rames II, recently discovered and excavated. We took pictures of both. The countless idols were removed.

From that time to now, EGYPT HAS NEVER BEEN RULED BY A NATIVE EGYPTIAN KING. Nearly all the population today are ARABS. Nasser is, contrary to published reports, an Arab. King Farouk was an Albanian, descended from Mohamed Ali.

From the time of that prophecy, inspired of GOD, Egypt has been a base, lowly nation, ALWAYS RULED BY OTHERS. In recent times Egypt was ruled successively by the Turks, the French, the British, King Farouk, and now by the Arabs under Nasser. GOD'S PROPHECIES HAVE BEEN FULFILLED FOR 2500 YEARS!

This is a view of one of Ceylon's ports. The Communists have already ordered the British to vacate this vital Island linking British defenses in Asia with Suez and Europe.

—Wide World Photo





—Wide World Photo

Above: THE ROCK—Gibraltar. This immense rock-fortress guards the western end of the Mediterranean. Below: South African riots threaten to destroy another part of Britain's life-line.

—Wide World Photo

And Now the Future?

There is no direct, specific prophecy referring to the present Suez Canal crisis, or its immediate outcome.

However, prophecy does give us this: Britain and America, having come into the Birthright promised Abraham, since 1800 A.D., have not used this material power and greatness according to the WAY OF GOD. We have trampled all over the laws of God. Our worldly churches hate God's Law, argue that it is done away. Our schools, colleges and universities have adopted the atheistic evolutionary concept as their basic viewpoint from which all knowledge is derived and disseminated, rejecting the inspiration and authority of the WORD OF GOD. They have adopted, and inoculated our peoples with the philosophical and doctrinal ideas of the pagan Greek and Roman philosophers and priests.

In Leviticus 26 God told ancient Israel on what conditions they could receive

(Please continue on next page)



and retain this precious Birthright—obedience to God's Commandments. They refused and they never did receive the Birthright. It was withheld from Abraham's racial descendants 2520 years—until the beginning of 19th century. The promise was UNconditional. Therefore WE have received it, not because of our righteousness, but because of the obedience of Abraham.

But, as surely as we have for 150 years possessed it while we have violated God's conditions for retaining it, IT SHALL NOW BE TAKEN FROM US!

Britain's star has been fast setting since World War II. The United States today is travelling the road of ancient ROME, and just as surely rushing pell-mell into our coming FALL! Many prophecies foretell it! But we are either too proud and stiff-necked and rebellious—or too stupid—to acknowledge these prophecies in God's Word.

The HANDWRITING IS ON THE WALL!

Therefore the probable outcome of this Suez controversy—not specifically or directly prophesied in the Bible—is that Britain has lost control of Suez for the rest of this age, and will not be able to gain it back. That is the *indication*—or logical *deduction*, but NOT a definite prophecy!

Heart to Heart Talk With the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

corrects and chastens every son whom He loves. He allows His true children to suffer much—to fall into troubles, difficulties, to face trials and tests for their strengthening. But if we *endure* these tests, hard though they may be—and if we seek *first* our God, His righteousness, and His Kingdom, putting material interests second in our hearts, then in His own due time God will always prosper His children even in a material way!

"But *we glory in tribulations* also: knowing that *tribulation worketh patience*" (Rom. 5:3). Therefore it produces GOOD in, and for us.

"My brethren, *count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations*"—alternate translation: "*trials*"—"knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh

But soon, now, shall APPEAR before an astounded world the resurrection of the ROMAN EMPIRE, by a union of TEN nations in Europe.

This coming FASCIST Empire—a united states of Europe, *actually now forming, under cover*—will take over and occupy the Mediterranean territory and the Middle East.

Listen to the prophet Daniel:

"He" . . . the coming "Beast" of Revelation . . . the Führer, or Dictator-in-Chief of this united Europe . . . "shall enter also into the glorious land (Palestine), and many countries shall be overthrown: . . . He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: *and the land of EGYPT shall not escape*" (Dan. 11:41-42).

No matter WHAT the immediate and temporary outcome of the present Suez Canal crisis, Britain and America will *not* have control of it when this amalgamated European power rises up—and it will occur inside of 15 or 16 more years—perhaps sooner.

WE LIVE IN TERRIFYING, MOMENTOUS DAYS!

We near the END of the present world—the present age! We near the Second Coming of CHRIST—and the dawn of the happy, peaceful WORLD TOMORROW!

patience" (James 1:2-3).

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning *the fiery trial which is to try you*, as though some strange thing had hap-

And Now . . . The WORLD TOMORROW heard in Australia!

2CH—Sidney—Sat., 10:15 P.M.
2AY—Albury—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
2GF—Grafton—Sun., 9:30 P.M.
3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 P.M.
4TO—Townsville—Fri., 10:15 P.M.
4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
4WK—Warwick—Tues., 9:30 P.M.

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?" The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "Freely GIVE." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a PRICE upon the PLAIN TRUTH.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*, not *getting*. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!

pened unto you: but rejoice" (I Peter 4:12-13).

Moses suffered affliction in order to lead the children of God, choosing this rather than the riches of the king's palace and the pleasures of sin for a season.

David suffered constant criticism and false accusation, his enemies continually tried to unseat him, and his trials were so great sometimes it seemed God would *never* come to his rescue—yet God always did! Truly these trials teach us to be *patient*—for it often seems an eternity before God finally delivers us.

God chose Paul to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, and the Lord said, "I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake" (Acts 9:16). And late in life Paul wrote: "In all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments"—(people probably would call Paul a crook, a racketeer, an imposter and a jailbird today)—"in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings," etc. (II Cor. 6:4-6). Paul outlined more of his troubles and sufferings in II Cor. 11:23-28.

Perhaps a chosen servant of God may be called upon to endure more trials, troubles, and tests of faith than other Christians—but every Christian shall suffer persecution, and meet fiery trials, sorrows, troubles, tests of faith. All our readers who are Christians will understand. Let us not murmur or grumble. Let us have FAITH, and endure in our faith *patiently*. And above all, *let us pray one for another*, and help one another!

Who Are the Real "FOOD-QUACKS"?

Food fadists are multiplying—but the most dangerous food quacks go unnoticed!

By Isabell F. Hoeh

OUTSTANDING discoveries during the last half-century have revolutionized the field of nutrition. Unprecedented interest has developed in the role that food plays in human health.

We apparently are eating better, more "enriched" food than ever before.

But why the drives for money to combat NEW DISEASES—the radio and publication ads touting the merits of various pain killers, stomach medicines and laxatives—the increased proportion of deaths from degenerative diseases?

The Vitamin Fad

Many a person wonders if there may be something to the claims of vitamin vendors and health-food advocates. Whole industries have been formed to manufacture vitamin pills and food *supplements*. Why "supplements," if our diet gives us everything we need?

Why the daily din hailing "enriched" foods—unless there is something radically wrong with the food we are now eating!

Are those who eat "natural" foods as God created them the food fadists?—or are there others who are the *real* food fadists, who hide behind the cloak of "enriched" and "revitalized" foods for *big profits*?

All this has disturbed the tranquility of those who complacently accept the customary diet habits of the present century. Those who are curious enough to see if there is something wrong with the way we are living have their interest nipped in the bud by "authoritative" articles in leading magazines. One such article, appearing little more than a year ago in *McCall's Magazine*, would have you believe that all your worries are unfounded. The theme of these *real* food fadists—who can't give up the GIGANTIC profits "enriched" foods have brought them—went something like this:

"After all, aren't we a healthy people, blessed with the best food supply in the world? And don't our children have 70 years of life to look forward to? There is no truth," they would have us believe, "to the fact that refined foods are inferior to the natural unrefined products. Enrichment has solved that! As for getting all the necessary nutriment, all you need do is eat a sufficiently varied diet chosen from your grocer's *attractive displays*." Whoever would dispute these claims—this sirene song—are "food quacks."

First of all, *are* we as a nation really healthy? Have we forgotten what Dr. Paul D. White, President Eisenhower's physician, addressed to a House Appropriations Subcommittee? He said: "I think we are one of the UNhealthiest countries of the world today."

Why would he *dare* make such a statement?

The Real Facts

Let us look at the figures from medical reports. According to a recent survey, there are approximately 60,000,000 registered cases of *chronic* diseases in America. Add to this 4,000,000 suffering from alcoholism, 20,000,000 from overweight, and 10,000,000 from deafness (most of these are the side effects of chronic diseases). You have a not-so-grand total of 90,000,000!

Since some individuals have 2 or more chronic diseases, it means that perhaps only 40,000,000 persons are so afflicted. *That is 23% of our total population!*

And yet the moneyed interests would have you believe that we are a healthy nation!

Noting how chronic degenerative diseases have replaced acute infectious diseases as causes of death, Dr. S. S. Goldwater, Commissioner of Hospitals in New York City, fears that "America

may some day become a *nation of invalids*." Americans are already spending \$1,000,000,000 annually on prescriptions alone!

Our children, too, have not escaped the scourge of degenerative diseases. "Heart and blood vessel disorders and cancer now *cause more deaths among children of school age* in this country than all the infectious and parasitic diseases combined," reports Dr. Harold A. Kahn in the *Public Health Report* for 1951.

Tooth decay is another complaint that is causing widespread concern. But here is the BIG SURPRISE!

Writing in the *New York State Medical Journal* of September 15, 1955, Dr. Norman Joliffe states that "although in America today life expectancy at birth is near the best of any civilized country"—due to our sanitary conditions—"AT THE AGE OF FORTY, *LIFE EXPECTANCY IS NEAR THE BOTTOM!*"

There must be something *wrong* with our mental and food habits!

We are suffering from degenerative diseases more than any other nation. We are reaping the results of clever food fadists who have moulded the thinking and capitalized on the eating habits of *the people who crave the refined "attractive" foods*.

Degenerative diseases mean that our body cells themselves are breaking down—becoming defective. Instead of correcting the cause we turn to strong drugs and antibiotics which merely alleviate the symptoms but do not cure and correct the cause!

What Will the Next Generation Be Like?

It is time we awakened to the facts that the new knowledge of nutrition has
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The "SECRET RAPTURE"

(Continued from page 12)

UNRETTED AND THOSE ALIVE, who believe and practice the truth, ARE CHANGED FROM MORTAL TO IMMORTAL!

This is no secret rapture *before* the tribulation. The dead are *not* resurrected twice! Those who are still living are not changed to immortality twice! Of course *not*! There is *not* the slightest indication of a secret rapture and a resurrection of the saints *before* the tribulation.

But this is not all!

Open your Bible to Matthew 24:30: "And *then*"—after the heavenly signs which *follow* the tribulation—not *before*, but *after* the tribulation and *during* the Day of the Lord—"THEN shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of the heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send forth his angels *with a great trumpet* [or "a great sound of a trumpet"], and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

This verse also pictures the second coming of Christ—at the seventh and last trump, the *great* trump. And it is the time of the resurrection! The ELECT are gathered together. Who are the "elect" or chosen ones?

Who Are the "Elect"?

Luke 18:7 tells us: "And shall not God avenge His ELECT, *that cry to Him day and night?*"

These elect are not the Jews! The Jews will not be converted as a nation *until* Jesus returns. The Jews today are "enemies of the gospel" (Rom. 11:28), not elect or chosen. Any concordance will provide you with many other scriptures (I Pet. 1:1-2; Col. 3:12; Rom. 8:33, etc.) proving that *true Christians* are the ELECT or chosen ones today. These are the ones to be gathered when Jesus returns with the sound of a great trump!

Does Paul also mention the same tremendous noise of the seventh trumpet that will rend the air at Christ's return? "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven *with a shout*, with an arch-

angel's voice, and with the trump of God: AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST, *then* we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (I Thes. 4:16-17).

Did you notice that this is the *time of the resurrection*? It is the time of the LAST TRUMP according to I Cor. 15:52. And in Revelation 11:15, 17-18 the seventh or last trumpet is ALSO THE TIME OF THE RESURRECTION. And the time order of Jesus' Mount Olivet prophecy and of the book of Revelation place the sounding of the seventh trumpet and the resurrection AFTER THE TRIBULATION—at the very climax of the "Day of the Lord"! These verses describe the *same trumpet*, not different ones.

There is no possible room for a secret rapture. EVERY MAJOR SCRIPTURE DISPROVES IT!

One famous text used to contradict these plain passages of Scripture is the 14th verse of I Thes. 4. "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, even so them also that are fallen asleep"—the dead are *asleep* in their graves, according to Paul—"will God through Jesus bring WITH Him." This verse is supposed to teach that 3½ or 7 years before Christ returns a secret rapture has occurred, the dead are secretly taken to heaven and now they return *with* Jesus from heaven. But *is* this what the Scripture says?

How is Jesus going to bring those who are asleep in death WITH Him? Notice: "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the presence [or coming] of the Lord, shall in no wise precede [the Old English word "prevent" meant "precede"] them that are fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself *shall descend from heaven*"—with the saints?—NO! "and the dead in Christ *shall rise first*."

Observe that Jesus, with the angels from heaven, descends toward to earth, *not* with the saints, but IN ORDER TO RESURRECT THE SAINTS! "The Lord shall descend . . . and the dead shall rise!"

After Jesus descends toward earth the dead rise *first*! They meet Christ in the air.

Now the dead are *with* Christ in the atmosphere surrounding this earth. "THEN we that are alive and remain shall together with them be *caught up* in the clouds"! We, too, shall be together in the air with those who have just been raised, those whom Jesus is bringing *with Him to this earth*. Notice that being "caught up"—Paul does not say "raptured up"—occurs *after* the tribulation, *at* the last trump when Jesus descends *visibly* in power and glory.

Suppose *you* had a friend who is returning today. You would probably meet him at the bus or rail station or at the airport, wherever he arrives. Then you RETURN WITH HIM to your home. In the same way, it is only natural that we should meet Jesus and return *with Him* to this earth at Jerusalem.

If your friend were *returning* today he would not take you back with him to the place he had already left, and then return all over again, would he? That would be ridiculous. Yet that is the concept of a secret rapture—that Jesus meets you, takes you to the place which he left (heaven) in order to return to this earth!

Jesus Returns IN LIKE MANNER

How did Jesus leave this earth? "He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight"—the disciples were looking at Him—"and while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, 'Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER AS YE HAVE SEEN him go into heaven. Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount called Olivet" (Acts 1:9-12).

Were there *two* phases of Jesus' ascension? NO! Then there will *not* be two phases to His return—He will come *in the same manner* in which He left.

Notice the prophecy concerning the fulfillment of this very promise: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh . . . His feet shall stand in that day *upon the Mount of Olives*" (Zech. 14:1-4).

Jesus ascended visibly from Mt. Oli-

vet; He will return visibly to it—but this time in all the might and power of God as King of kings. And notice that it is *in the very day* in which He returns that His feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives. "It shall be *one day* which shall be known as the Lord's, not day, and not night; but it shall come to pass, that at evening time there shall be light" (verse 7). This is the *climax* of that period called the "Day of the Lord" in prophecy. This one twenty-four hour day will bring an end to this Babylonish civilization. And notice that Jesus sets foot on earth in the very day He returns—not 3½ or 7 or 1000 years later!

That is what the Scripture says!

There is no secret rapture before the tribulation *or at any other time!* The resurrection is at the mighty sound of the seventh trump IN the Day of God's wrath which *follows* the tribulation. The tribulation is *not* the Day of the Lord. They are two separate and distinct periods of time. Christ does not return in two phases, one secret, the other visible. He returns in the same manner as He ascended—AND THAT WAS NO SECRET RAPTURE! He ascended visibly. He will descend visibly.

Some, of course, seize on minor Scriptures and misinterpret them to attempt to prove their theory. Take Revelation 4:1-2, for example. This, we are told represents the rapture. But these two verses do not say that! JOHN saw the prophecy of the Book of Revelation unfolded in heaven *because that is where Jesus is*—not because of a secret rapture!

One prominent writer attempts to prove that II Thessalonians 2:7-8 refers to the rapture. His theory is that this prophecy has *not yet begun* to be fulfilled. But notice the first part of verse 7: "For the mystery of iniquity **DOETH ALREADY WORK**"—even in Paul's day. And the Man of Sin—that Wicked One—*now* "sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (verse 4). These verses in II Thes. 2 will be explained in a future article. For the present, however, it is obvious that they have nothing to do with a so-called secret rapture.

The ORIGIN of the Secret Rapture

Now comes the surprise! It comes

from Antichrist!—that man of Sin who claims to be God!

The earliest generally recognized adoption of the doctrine of a coming superhuman Antichrist preceded by a secret rapture occurred around 1825. Samuel R. Maitland, librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury, swallowed the theory. Around 1830 J. N. Darby, founder of the Plymouth Brethren accepted it. The *Scofield Bible* propounded the same erroneous theory—and from there it has spread throughout fundamental Protestantism. And where did these misguided Protestants first learn of this theory?

From the Jesuits in the 16th century! Joseph Ribera and Cardinal Bellarmine and Alcasar were among the first to propound the theory. You can verify these facts in the *Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, by McClintock and Strong, and in many other reference works.

It is time you opened your eyes to this HERESY that has stemmed from "BABYLON THE GREAT, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth" (Rev. 17:5). Unless you recognize this vile doctrine for what it is, YOU AND MILLIONS WITH YOU ARE PLUNGING STRAIGHT FOR THE MOST FIENDISH, DIABOLICAL TIME OF TORTURE EVER INSTITUTED BY MAN! IT IS NOW BEING PLANNED! There is only one way of escape—"Watch world events and pray constantly."

The Real "FOOD-QUACKS"

(Continued from page 21)

been misused—as a sales gimmick for degenerate foods now labeled "enriched." And the public lethargy and inertia is *as much responsible* as are the profit-making manufacturers.

Notice what our "revitalized" foods have produced: Exhaustive studies of 7000 children between the ages of 6 and 16 in America and in Austria and Italy and Switzerland reveal that 57% of our young people could not pass 6 basic tests in strength and flexibility whereas only 8.7% of the European children failed.

The December, 1955, issue of Reader's Digest contained an article "Our Starving Teen-Agers, which revealed that our young people do not know what to eat to build health. **THEY HAVE NOT LEARNED THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD DIET AT HOME OR AT THE SCHOOL.**

And this is to say nothing of the poison sprays and preservatives that are being used.

Man's Feeble Solution

To get around this man-created problem some would have us believe that all we need to offset any loss from refined flour and sugar is to supplement it with a varied, well-balanced diet. A noted British authority on nutrition, R. H. A. Plimmer, recognizes that it is not quite that simple. He says: "There is *no* justification for the statement so often made that white bread eaters get enough Vitamin B from the rest of a mixed diet. The *chief* natural supply of this vitamin is in the seeds of plants, and if the germ and bran are removed from our staple cereals in the milling, the Vitamin B is removed . . ." (From Los Angeles Times, Nov. 25, 1953).

Those who recommend the enrichment of white bread would do better if they would advise adding the wheat germ to bread. The germ contains many elements, including protein, which "enrichment" does not restore.

In this same issue of the Los Angeles Times a noted American nutritional authority, Prof. George Cowgill, says, "If the American people continue to use [refined] wheat and sugar in amounts currently consumed, one would have to consume tremendous and impossible quantities of the protective foods—milk, green vegetables, fruits—in order to secure the amount of Vitamin B¹ (thiamine) which has been lost. . . ."

Even if one could do the impossible by making up for commercial deficiencies by eating a varied and well-balanced diet, *how many people know how to plan or obtain such meals?*

What all these facts add up to is this: Food quacks cannot survive unless there are people *foolish enough* to yield to their own physical desires and cravings. It is the *individual responsibility* of each person to INVESTIGATE and to PROVE

the statements bandied about on attractive wrappers at the grocer's and in health food stores. And then there are the brazen statements in popular magazines which are more often than not made to sell a common fad which may be harming the nation's health.

The *real* food fadists are those who would have you go on in your nutritional sins, while at the same time "supplementing" your mistakes with their commercial products.

Question Box

(Continued from page 17)

In Genesis 14:18 we read of Melchisedec—Jesus Christ—who "brought forth bread and *wine*: and he was the priest of the most high God." God Himself here gave *wine* to Abraham. And again, the original Hebrew word was "yayin" which *always* means *fermented* wine. This same Hebrew word is used in Amos 9:14 speaking of the coming millennium when the people will "plant vineyards, and drink the *wine* thereof." They will drink the same kind of wine that Noah, by over indulgence, became *drunk* on.

In the New Testament, one original Greek word for wine is "oinos." Proof that it is *alcoholic* is given in the story of the good Samaritan. The Samaritan poured oil and *wine* on the man's wounds (Luke 10:34), showing that the wine had enough alcoholic content to be used as an antiseptic. Would you pour grape juice or molasses on a wound?

The Greek word "oinos" is also used in John 2 where Jesus turned water into

wine by a divine miracle. It is used in I Timothy 5:23, the *command* of Paul, "Drink no longer water, but use a *little* wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities." This Greek word is also used in Ephesians 5:18, "And *be not drunk* with wine wherein is excess."

In ancient times it was impossible to preserve grape juice. Except for a short season the "fruit of the vine" was either made into a thick molasses or into wine. Check *Hastings Bible Dictionary* for the full proof.

"Taken intelligently and with discretion, alcohol (in wine and other drinks) can prolong life expectancy . . . However, even *temporary excess or prolonged over-drinking* can lead to disaster" (Pasadena Medical Society). It is for our welfare and happiness that God has *commanded us not to use alcoholic beverages IN EXCESS and for a wrong purpose*. Most people don't know where to draw the line between temperance and excess. Such people better abstain totally until they know they can "be temperate in all things."

OBEDIENCE Required?

(Continued from page 17)

the knowledge of sin has come.

Let us learn the lesson from these examples that God intended, and quit trying to use *human reason* to justify our wrong deeds. Then we will reap the blessing of keeping God's laws, and live the abundant lives that He intended (John 10:10).

"Be *not* deceived; GOD IS NOT

MOCKED: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Gal. 6:7).

DO YOU believe God's word?

Many of you have been trying to hide your eyes from God's law. You spend much time and effort in a vain attempt to excuse or justify breaking one of the commandments (Mat. 5:17-20).

Remember, (Mat. 5:17-20) that even the least commandment is still *very much in force!*

Have you been "postponing" obedience to God? Why?

Do you think that reason will stand up in the judgment?

God's word says that your reward for sin is DEATH (Rom. 6:23). Yes, *in this case* the Bible teaches CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. Remember that this time *God himself* will carry out that punishment if you don't repent!

If you haven't done so already, you'd better take Peter's advice to "*Repent, and be baptized* every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the *gift* of the *Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:38).

You will have to REPENT of breaking God's law. You will need to *be baptized* as an outward symbol of your willingness to bury your old, disobedient self. *Then* God will *give* you the Holy Spirit, through which you will *receive* the love to keep His law.

God loves you. He wants to *give* you *eternal life!*

But, in His wisdom, God has decreed that you must *first* learn to live the right, the sensible, and the happy kind of life. God's eternal, spiritual laws—the Ten Commandments, together with the spiritual statutes and judgments, are the basis of that sensible way of life.

The PLAIN TRUTH

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