

the
MAIN TRUTH

a new way of understanding

**A New Look
at the
ENERGY
CRISIS**



About Our Cover

Electric output from plant on U.S. East Coast highlights new look at energy crisis. Threats of oil and gas shortages, electrical brownouts and the struggle between nations for world's dwindling fuel reserves are growing more serious. The result could be a disastrous international conflict over the earth's remaining natural resources.

Larry Dalton Photo Truth

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IN THIS ISSUE

Personal from the Editor	1
A New Look at the Energy Crisis	2
Advance News	9
The Dilemma of Prostitution	10
Genocide — Man's Way to Peace!	16
The Carpenter of Galilee Who Brought the World Love	20
Heaven, Hell and the Hereafter	24
What Our Readers Say	34
What You Can Do	35
Speaking of the Devil	36
Radio-TV Log	41

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Personal from

Robert A. Armstrong

Personal Meetings With Heads of Governments — But Why?

RADERS of this page know that in the past four years I have had many personal meetings with heads of state, kings, presidents, prime ministers, cabinet ministers, members of law-making bodies, leading educators and other world leaders. But why?

They know also that besides being the editor of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, I am an ordained minister and president of the Worldwide Church of God.

So some may wonder, what possible connection could there be between the problems of governments and the message of Jesus Christ?

As I have said before, I have been invited for these private talks. "But what do you talk about in these meetings?" many ask. We talk about their problems — about world problems and conditions. We talk about their struggles to better the lot of their peoples — about their views and efforts toward world peace.

What Possible Relation to Government?

"But what does that have to do with the gospel?" some will ask. The answer is, governments and government problems have the very most vital connection with the gospel of Christ.

Yet few understand!

The PLAIN TRUTH is a magazine of UNDERSTANDING. And our massive readership of some eight million needs to understand it and when

one knows what is the gospel of Jesus Christ, he will understand why these meetings are so important. He will understand also why higher education and virtually the entire educational system has turned its back on religion and the Bible. He will understand why, in groping for truth to replace the superstition of what educators and scientists supposed was the gospel, they have developed the theory of evolution as the basic concept and approach to knowledge.

Neither religion nor government nor education has found the cause of the frightful evils in today's world, nor have they found the solutions to the tragic problems of suffering humanity. They fail utterly to point the way to or to produce peace! The evolutionary theory gives no explanation for the real vital problems of today's very sick world. It offers no solutions. But the gospel of Jesus Christ *if they only knew what it is* does give the rational and true explanation, and it outlines the solution that will be made!

But, one may ask in bewilderment, doesn't everybody know what is the gospel of Jesus Christ? Hasn't it been preached for more than 1900 years?

Incredible or not, the answer is an emphatic NO! Christ's gospel was not proclaimed to the world for over 18½ centuries!

That I know, is a staggering statement. It may sound absurd.

People will ask, "But haven't they preached Christ to the world? Haven't they pleaded BELIEVE ON CHRIST and ACCEPT CHRIST? Haven't millions believed on Christ? Haven't millions accepted Christ? Haven't millions professed Christ? Do not millions call their religion after his name the Christian religion? And isn't Christianity the largest religion on earth, with more followers than any other religion?" Quite true.

Christ Is Not the Gospel!

But preaching Christ is not preaching Christ's gospel! Christ the person is not the gospel! Christ was the messenger who brought the gospel — the messenger God sent with a MESSAGE for all mankind and that message is the gospel.

The very word "gospel" means "good news." Jesus brought BIG news — the most important news announcement ever reported to mankind. It is the advance news of how WORLD PEACE will come!

Jesus Christ, the person, is the greatest, most important person ever to walk on this earth. But he, as a person, is not the gospel. The miracles he performed are not the gospel. The things Jesus did are not the gospel. What he preached — the tremendous good news he announced — is the GOSPEL.

Tune in your television set any Sunday morning, and you'll see the weekly Sunday morning religious (Continued on page 28)

A New Look at the ENERGY CRISIS

The Western world is on an astounding energy binge. Available supplies of coal, oil and natural gas are being blasted and scraped from the earth and sucked up and burned at unprecedented rates.

Why must we use ever increasing amounts of energy per person?

by Jerry Gentry

ENERGY MAKES today's world go round. In its various forms, it powers our factories and propels our airplanes, autos and ships. It transports our bodies over freeways and through airways. It moves our cargo and blasts rockets to the moon. It illuminates our homes and offices.

Inside our buildings, energy warms our bodies when we are too cold. Later, it cools us down when we are too hot. It brings us the evening news on television or a recorded stereo concert in the living room. On our heavily mechanized farms, energy drives sophisticated machinery, and even causes our crops to grow. In the home, it cooks our food, which supplies our bodies with necessary nutrients.

Energy itself is good. It is a fantastically marvelous servant of mankind. Yet the by-products of our daily energy consumption pollute the air we breathe and the water we drink. And the way we obtain energy sometimes strips mountainsides and plains of their beauty. By-products of our energy-consuming automobiles create the familiar dirty brown haze over our cities.

While bringing us a higher standard of living and gross national product, energy production and consumption often degrade the quality of our lives. Energy gives us material things to titillate our senses, excite our minds and pamper our bodies. Yet it does not always increase our well-being.

We hate the filthy by-products of our energy cravings. We don't want a power plant in the back yard, nor do we care to live next door to an oil refinery. Yet when the lights dim or when we hear of gasoline rationing, we insist we really do need power, we can't live without it, please don't turn it off.

World Consumption of Energy

Into this picture of energy in our daily lives enter some staggering facts about present world energy consumption.

- The United States represents about 6% of the world's population, yet consumes about 30% of the energy extracted from the earth. Half of everything transported in the United States today is fuel.

- The combined European, Japanese, Soviet and United States energy consumption comprises approximately 70% of all fuels burned, leaving only 30% for the remaining three fourths of the world.

- Affluent man has become dependent upon ever-increasing volumes of energy which are totally out of proportion to population increase. In fact, per capita consumption is doubling every 10 to 15 years in the United States. In the European Community, energy consumption has trebled during the last 21 years and represents one fourth of all industrial development and over one million jobs.

- The world's nonrenewable energy sources—oil, natural gas and coal—are finite. Known reserves of natural gas are very limited. Oil and coal will run out in only a few hundred years.

Fuel shortages are focusing world

attention on the international politics of energy. How to keep supplies flowing is becoming the politicians' dilemma.

The most basic aspect of this dilemma is why such great amounts of supplies are even needed. Certainly the present international tension over oil would not exist unless there was burgeoning consumption of this energy source elsewhere in the world. Certainly there would be no electrical crunch during peak hot summer periods if our daily lives were not demanding more and more electricity.

To understand what is behind the energy crisis, we must understand how we depend upon energy, not just where it comes from. We must understand why the world is consuming as much energy this century as it did during all prior history.

Consider the following figures which measure energy consumption on an individual level. Each American, for example, is responsible for burning the equivalent of just over 24,000 pounds of coal every year. Each Canadian is responsible for a little less (20,000 pounds). Statistics from other leading countries are as follows: each Swede, 14,000 pounds; each Czech, 14,000 pounds; each Belgian, 13,000 pounds; each Dane, 13,000 pounds; each East German, 13,000 pounds. Each citizen of Australia, Britain, the Netherlands, and West Germany consumes close to the equivalent of 12,000 pounds of coal each year.

These figures contrast greatly with energy consumption in the underdeveloped world. For example, an Ethiopian nomad herding his

HUNDREDS of railroad gondolas carrying low sulphur coal mined in Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia wait at the port of Norfolk, Virginia to be transported to Europe and Japan.

James G. Thompson - Photo by Frank

PLAIN TRUTH July-August 1974





sheep over sparse East African rangeland could carry on his back his total yearly energy consumption in coal equivalent. His coal sack would weigh a meager 71 pounds. (The above figures do not include food energy consumption.)

Changes in Technology

One quite obvious reason for the increasing energy consumption in the developed world is an increasing population that demands more and more goods and services. In the United States, the population increased by 43% during the period 1946 to 1966. Yet U.S. energy consumption more than doubled. By the year 2000, the U.S. population is projected to be near 270 million, roughly a 30% increase over the 1970 figure. Yet energy consumption is projected to be four or five times greater than at present!

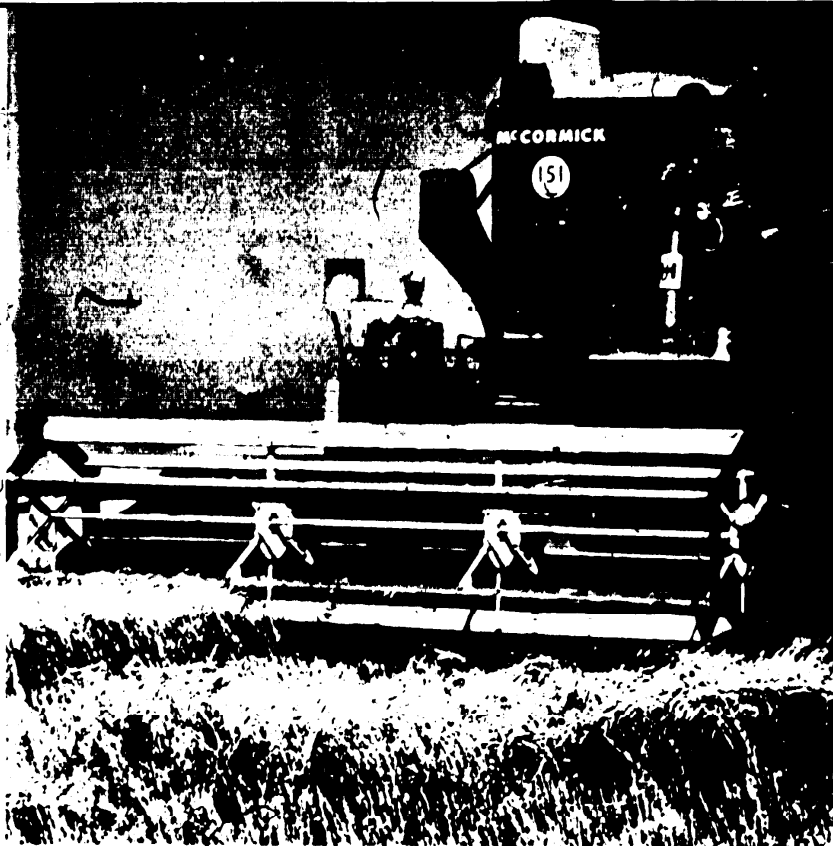
Obviously, population increase alone does not explain the increase in energy consumption. Actually, it is *increased per capita consumption of energy* which explains the overall increase and the present energy crunch.

Why then are people consuming more energy per person today than before? The answer lies in significant changes in technology.

Since World War II we have seen dramatic changes in the way affluent people live their lives. For example, even though people consume roughly the same number of calories of food per day as they did 25 years ago, the *kinds* of foods and the packaging have changed dramatically. Substitutes have replaced natural foods, such as margarine for

TREMENDOUS usage of electrical power (upper left) for pleasure and profit. This strip in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada, is brilliantly lit up at night to attract gamblers and pleasure seekers. Devastation caused by strip mining is starkly revealed in this view of barren, convoluted mines (lower left). Such scars — when not covered up — are a constant reminder of the ecological crisis.

Top: A. Lehrer — Plain Truth
Lower left: Jerry Gentry — Plain Truth



HARVESTING WHEAT with a McCormick combine in Oklahoma (left) requires 250 units of fuel energy for every 50 units of crop (measured in BTU's) harvested, whereas an efficient Filipino farmer produces 50 units of crop for each single unit of human energy (below):

Top: Jerry Cantley Photo Truth
 Bottom: Espinosa/Agribusiness Photo Truth



butter, and refined pastries have replaced natural whole grain products. A variety of highly processed, preserved and packaged "foods" have made their ways into our diets. Every step in these processes requires energy.

We have witnessed a wholesale shift from natural fibers to synthetic fibers as well. Synthetic fiber production in the United States, for example, increased by a staggering 1,972% between 1950 and 1968, whereas cotton and wool use decreased by 33% and 61%, respectively. The use of plastics increased by 1,024%, while lumber use decreased by 23% between 1946 and 1968.

In the case of synthetic fibers polyester, nylon, acetate, etc. — and plastics, the very products themselves are manufactured from the same nonrenewable coal, oil or natural gas derivatives, from which great amounts of energy are required in the manufacturing process.

Obviously, this type of modern technology is doubly consumptive of our nonrenewable energy reserves. In many cases, it is simply wasteful and abusive of our energy resources.

Energy Down on the Farm

More and more crops are being grown "synthetically." While gasoline-powered combines harvest wheat, diesel-powered tractors plough adjacent fields to make them ready for a second crop. Through the intensification of mechanized farming and the use of chemical fertilizers, men have learned how to convert naturally existing fuels indirectly into crops.

Electricity generated mainly from coal, oil and natural gas is used to combine nitrogen from the air with other materials to make synthetic nitrogen fertilizer — which increased in production by over 500% in the United States between 1946 and

1968. Through massive applications of synthetic fertilizers, yields of grain and other crops have increased tremendously. But the protein content — the measure of a truly high quality grain — of these same crops has correspondingly decreased.

Efficiency per man-hour on the farm has increased to the point where one U. S. farmer can supply enough food and fiber for more than 40 other people. In Europe, the production per man-hour due to increased mechanization and use of chemical fertilizers is rising dramatically, though it's not currently as high as in the United States.

Yet, if we measure efficiency by considering *total energy consumed* per unit of crop produced, the apparently efficient Western farmer falls far below even the Chinese peasant.

An efficient Chinese wet rice farmer produces 50 units of crop (measured in BTU's of energy contained in the harvested material) for each *single unit* of human energy expended. In Western mechanized farming, 50 units of crop requires 250 units of fossil fuel energy input! This astounding disparity is sustained by the profligate consumption of our fossil fuel reserves.

According to Michael J. Perlman, assistant professor of economics at California State University at Chico, "Agriculture could be an *energy producing* sector of the economy. . . . Yet our agriculture has become a major *consumer* of our stores of energy. In fact, agriculture uses more petroleum than any other single industry" (*Environment*, October 1972, p. 12).

Chinese peasant farming and Western agriculture represent the two *extremes* of present-day food production. Neither extreme is ideal, for many reasons. The Chinese peasant must spend most of his time acquiring a subsistence standard of living. He has little time or

money for luxuries common to the Western world. Yet Western society, in its search to free man from labor, has simply carried the luxuries — and wastefulness — too far and has gone beyond good judgment, especially in the use of our rich energy resources. Somewhere between these extremes, man must find a less wasteful, more efficient way to use his energy resources.

Rolling on Synthetic Rubber Tires

Western farm machinery, autos and airplanes are not just propelled by fuel. All of these devices require rubber tires for ground traction. Interestingly enough, even the tires contribute to the energy crisis. Synthetic rubber, requiring great amounts of energy to manufacture, has largely replaced natural rubber since World War II. Consequently, rubber plantations which use renewable solar energy to produce natural rubber, have gone out of business. The reason was not quality of rubber, but economics. After World War II, the world rubber market was flooded with the synthetic variety, which drove prices down and forced natural rubber plantations out of business.

Other transportation changes have made heavy demands on energy resources, as well. Shipments by truck in the United States, for example, have increased by 74% between 1950 and 1968, whereas railroad freight, which uses only one quarter as much fuel per ton-mile as trucks (and does not require rubber tires) decreased by 7% during the same period. Speed and flexibility are reasons for increases in hauling by truck.

Our love affair with the automobile also contributes heavily to the continuing energy crisis. A prominent automobile manufacturer recently stated, "Mini-cars make mini-profits" and thus explained the reason for the auto manufacturers' ad campaigns for bigger cars, which,

of course, make bigger profits. However, it takes more energy to manufacture and drive bigger cars than it does for smaller cars.

The use by a 130-pound American housewife, for example, of a 3,000 pound automobile gulping a gallon of gasoline every 8 or 10 miles, just to bring home 2 or 3 sacks of groceries, is hardly a wise use of our God-given natural resources. The total energy cost for such a shopping trip is seldom, if ever, calculated by the individual.

Our Throwaway Society

Another significant technological change has been the proliferation of packaging for example, nonreturnable bottles and cans. According to one study, a soft drink in a nonreturnable bottle is 30% more expensive to buy than a soft drink in a returnable bottle. Yet, the energy cost for throwaway bottles per unit of soft drink delivered in this study was 3 to 4 times as great as returnable bottles. Throwaway bottles and cans are nevertheless on the increase. Obviously, monetary costs don't reflect the energy costs in such cases, which means a greater environmental impact than the monetary cost indicates.

In the case of aluminum cans, the very material itself boosts energy consumption. Aluminum production requires six times more energy than steel, pound for pound, and twice as much can for can, even though aluminum cans weigh less than comparable steel cans. The old type "tin" can (made of steel) at least would eventually rust away when disposed of, whereas aluminum will not. This fact makes disposal more difficult, in addition to the already excessively consumptive energy requirement to manufacture it in the first place.

These and other important technological changes since World War II affect the lives of every affluent Westerner. It is the way we live our lives that explains the energy crisis. Affluent nations prodigiously and

wastefully consume energy because of our peoples' *collective way of life*. The way we produce our food, clothe and transport our bodies, house our families, perform our daily work and engage in recreation explains why we have an energy crisis.

Our Mechanical Maids

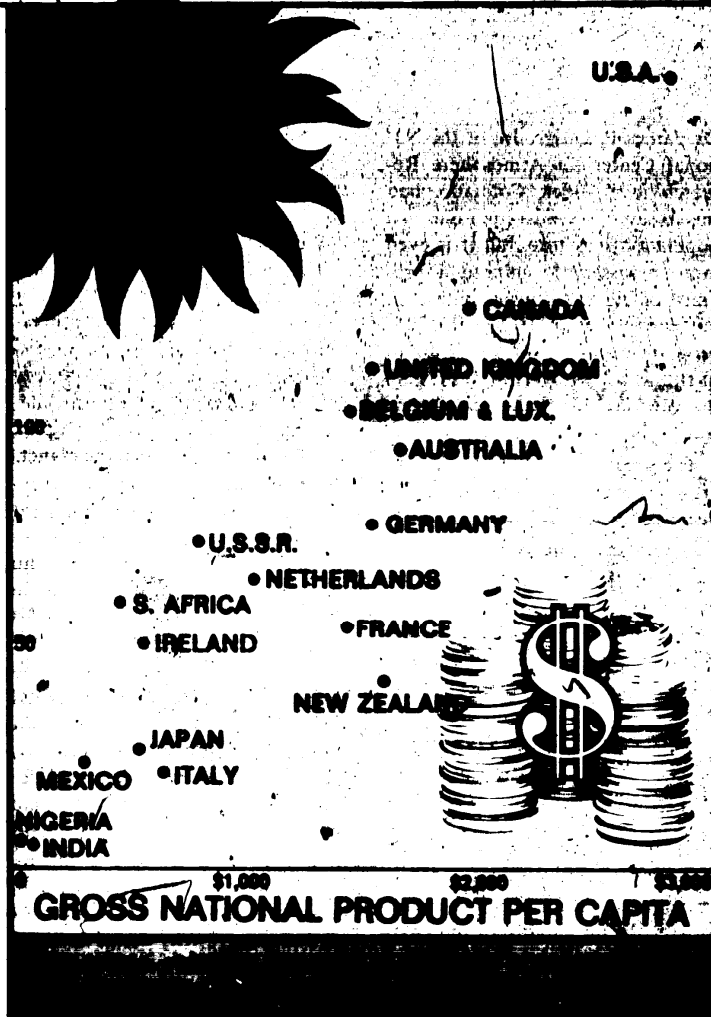
Combining all our energy consumption — industry, housing, commercial transportation, etc. — affluent nations must stable a prodigious amount of horsepower to maintain their mechanized way of life. This work is performed by mechanical "energy slaves." To power these mechanical maids, Americans use more than 8 trillion horsepower-

hours of energy every year. Imagine having to stable the number of actual horses necessary to do this much work.

Each American has at his fingertips, on the average, the equivalent of the energy expended by 500 human slaves. Europeans have roughly the equivalent of one third to one half this number; Australians, one half; South Africans, one fourth.

This means, according to science writer Irving Benglesdorf, that the true population of the United States is roughly 200 million people plus 100 billion energy slaves, making a total human equivalent of 100,200,000,000 working servants.

Regarding these "energy slaves,"



Dr. James P. Lodge, Jr., of the National Center for Atmosphere Research in Boulder, Colorado, had this to say: "We must limit our own population it is true, but it is even more necessary to impose a program of rigorous birth control on our energy slaves. To say that this program is an enormous program of **RETHINKING PRIORITIES** is to state the obvious, but it is nonetheless true."

The noxious wastes from our energy slaves are far more difficult to deal with than mere human wastes.

Nevertheless, we continue to develop new energy-consuming gadgets such as electric combs and garbage crushing devices. The total impact of all these gadgets upon the environment which supports our lives is enormous.

Environment Takes the Brunt

The destruction of our good earth is perhaps the greatest long-range detriment created by the energy crisis. One specialist, Mr. Harry Perry, put it this way: "Do you want to improve the quality of the environment [and hence the quality of life] or do you want the electricity to come on as you need it?" So far, modern technology has not been able to offer both for the vast majority

This earth, after all, is a "closed system." It operates as a unit and replenishes and purifies itself by receiving and using the sun's energy.

There are limits built into the biological systems of planet earth. Only certain quantities of additional carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, lead and other pollutants from burning fuels can be absorbed into this dynamic, living system. Only a limited amount of extra heat can be absorbed by our streams and the atmosphere over our cities before our well-being begins to suffer. Only so much radioactive waste from nuclear power can be absorbed, should the wastes be

disposed of miles underground and permeate into groundwater. Once the limit is passed, deformities and abnormalities in life forms occur.

We all know these basic facts.

The question is, does convenience of energy for the moment — for short term profit during our generation — justify future ecological disaster? Overconsumption of energy and the resultant pollution are destroying the very biological capital which supports all life on the planet.

Most, if not all, of our major exploitations of our only environment are out of step with the natural regenerative processes on earth. The way we produce, our food, clothe and transport our bodies, create and multiply the machines which work for us — plus how we maintain the tremendous outpouring of goods and services — all these give us an unparalleled gross national product. Yet all these energy-consuming activities also cause pollution. It's time we took a long look at fuels — and at the spiraling increase in energy consumption — and asked some basic questions: Do we really need all this energy? Why do we continue to base and build our world economy on polluting, nonrenewable energy resources? There are other forms of energy available.

Thinking the Unthinkable

Even though nonrenewable fuels do pollute, they are not the central problem. It is man's exploitation of them for short-term profit and convenience which is at the heart of the energy crisis.

Suppose, for example, man were to harness the sun's nonpolluting energy. Would he use it wisely? Or would he turn it to destructive uses through greed for short-term profits? History assured us that man would in fact react greedily and selfishly.

It becomes increasingly evident that we must re-evaluate not only our concepts of energy consumption,

but also the motives behind our cravings. In fact, we need to examine the unbridled profit motive itself!

We need to consider a change of approach in dealing with our environment. We have been careless and blasé in our use of the earth. We have polluted, raped and destroyed the earth God gave us, through ignorance and selfish motivation. Man has too long been taking from the earth — instead of taking care of it.

The words of noted biologist Dr. Barry Commoner echo the present dilemma facing mankind: "I believe that we have, as of now, a single decade in which to design the fundamental changes in technology that we must put into effect in the 1980's if we are to survive." He called the 1970's "a period of grace," and warned that "we must determine now to develop, in the next decade, the new means of our salvation."

This is a warning for us to change our way of life — to change the direction and use of our technologies — to become more concerned with the quality of life, rather than with the quantity of "energy slaves" at our disposal.

We need to change our basic philosophies, whether we are producers of goods and services or consumers. And we need a new approach — a concerned approach toward other human beings and the world in which we live. Almost 2,000 years ago a great teacher, the apostle Paul, wrote: "For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now." That statement has never been more true than it is today. The earth has yielded to us great quantities of energy and wealth. Yet we have not played the role of wise husband man. Our earth is wounded and we are wielding the death weapon. Our collective selfishness may kill us unless we find a new way to live. (1)

advance news

in the wake of today's WORLD EVENTS

● Fireworks Feared at World Trade Talks

The United States and Western Europe will meet head on this September in direct negotiations over their economic futures. That's when the major trading powers of the free world will gather for the "Nixon Round" of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

The publicized purpose of the GATT conference is to liberalize international trade by breaking down barriers to the flow of goods and services across national boundaries. But in order to do this, the divisive issues that separate all parties will have to be aired, and there is the distinct possibility that the negotiations could cause more distrust and ill feeling than friendship.

In sharpest focus will most certainly be the rising tensions between the United States and the European Community on the bread-and-butter issues of international trade and monetary affairs. According to one American analyst stationed in Brussels, "The United States and the Common Market are sounding more like foes than the partners they claim to be."

Certain sectors within the American economy complain that the European Community has erected many barriers to the importation of U.S. goods, especially agricultural items. American officials also object to the "special preferences" linking the European Community and many of its customer nations, especially in Africa and around the Mediterranean.

The European Community, in its annual report for 1972 said that Europe "for its part, also has plenty to complain about." Repeated dollar crises and devaluations are disrupting export-oriented segments of European industry. Moreover, numerous non-tariff barriers place European exporters at a competitive disadvantage in the American market. And any further liberalization of the Community's import structure can only hurt severely hurt European farmers whose products can't compete with those from the United States. The Community's complex Common Agricultural Policy is so popular with European farmers that it

would be political suicide to tamper much with this policy.

The growing controversy has some officials deeply worried on both sides of the Atlantic. Former U.S. Ambassador to the European Community, J. Robert Schaetzel, has warned that an "ominous mistrust" is building up in both camps, with neither side willing to listen to the other as it should. West German Finance Minister Helmut Schmidt, after a visit to Washington, told an interviewer that there was a "major danger" that trade disputes might shatter the Atlantic alliance. "Europe cannot afford to allow itself to get involved in a trade war with the United States," Schmidt said. With \$25 billion in trade between them each year, the U.S. and the Common Market have an enormous stake in preserving economic peace.

Presidential adviser Dr. Henry Kissinger stated in April that "it is the responsibility of national leaders to insure that economic negotiations serve larger political purposes. They must realize that economic rivalry, if carried on without restraint, will in the end damage other relationships."

The coming trade talks will wrestle with other troublesome trade matters as well. Officials in both the United States and Western Europe are increasingly incensed with what they claim is Japan's "rampant mercantilism." Tokyo's "export madness," they say, is not matched by a liberal policy toward imports from others.

It is becoming quite clear that unless something positive is accomplished this fall, a serious world economic crisis could develop. According to Mr. Schaetzel, a future "breakdown of the whole world monetary system" is a very possible occurrence.

It has been said that "in trade, we're all sinners." It remains to be seen, in September, whether the world's trading powers will meet in a spirit of compromise — or retreat still further into entrenched self-interest.

One American source has already predicted the likely climate of the talks: "You can expect all the negotiations to be extremely difficult. Each side will try to win or save all it can by talking and not listening."

— edited by Gene H. Hogberg

The Dilemma of PROSTITUTION

Societies have struggled with this human vice over the centuries. Now, some authorities favor legalization as a means of control. But is this the real answer?

by William F. Dankenbring

CAROL IS an attractive young woman who makes a living as a prostitute. Born and reared in Miami Beach, Florida, her father died while she was still a little girl. After his death, her mother became a prostitute and taught her daughter the trade.

Carol now lives in an upper-middle-class home and has a telephone answering service. She hustles the local bars around town, passing on her phone number to certain individuals. Interested men call her and a recorded voice says: "Hi, this is Carol. If you want to leave a message, leave your phone number and I'll call you back." Carol can call home from a bar, get the messages through a recording, and contact her clients.

She has been arrested several times and has learned all the methods of the vice squad. She knows that the policemen assigned to the prostitution detail usually work in the evenings, so she stays out of Miami Beach after 6 p.m. and hustles

clients in other parts of the greater Miami area.

Because the vice squad had received several complaints about her from local hotels, they obtained her phone number and called. She returned the call about two hours later, and the officer told her: "Never mind, honey, I've found someone else."

Carol had no idea that she was talking to a policeman. She thought a prostitution agent would never say that. So the next night, when a friend of that same fellow called and told her the man she had talked to the previous evening had given him her phone number, she wasn't the least suspicious. She came right over to meet the man, undressed, and was immediately arrested. Carol was later convicted, heavily fined, and ordered to see a psychiatrist.

Carol is only one of an estimated 100,000 women who are full-time prostitutes in the United States, working in the shadowy world of

pimps and illicit pleasure seekers. These women "work" an average of six days a week, have three clients (called "Johns") a day, with an average fee per contact of about \$10, though some go much higher.

Prostitution in the United States is a billion-dollar-a-year racket, and business is booming. The average prostitute grosses about 10,000 dollars yearly and nets perhaps 6,000 dollars, although some may make considerably more if they are willing to abuse themselves enough and put in long hours. As one madam who lived in a Nevada house of prostitution said "It depends on the girl."

Prostitution Around the World

Prostitution is also rampant in Europe

In Munich, West Germany, the city's officially registered houses of prostitution were closed in the latter part of 1972. In the wake of the



PROSTITUTION is a thriving business in the Western world. In some nations it is legalized and regulated, but no nation has effectively solved the causes of prostitution.

Thomas Hooper — Woodfin Camp & Associates

closure, about two hundred "massage salons" sprouted up, some in exclusive suburbs where they had never been seen before. In some of them, virtually anything was allowed. Munich now has an estimated 1,400 full-time prostitutes.

In West Germany, some 200,000 work full-time as prostitutes, and every third man between 21 and 65 is a regular customer. In Hamburg, the red light district is called the Reeperbahn. Twenty-four-hour-a-day sexual service is provided for all male visitors (women and children are not admitted). Two hundred girls ply their trade at the Eros Center in the Reeperbahn. Hamburg has 1,200 officially registered prostitutes.

In England, prostitution itself is not a criminal offense, but soliciting on the streets has been punishable by fine since 1959. Pimps, madams, and others associated with prostitutes are subjected to large fines and long prison sentences. A large portion of London's estimated 17,000

prostitutes are concentrated in the Soho district.

In Sweden, prostitution is not considered a crime. It is a very minor problem in Sweden primarily because premarital sex is widespread.

In the Soviet Union, prostitution has been officially outlawed. Marxist leaders regard prostitution as a form of exploitation and a sign of Western moral decadence. However, prostitution has not been entirely eradicated. Occasional articles in the Soviet press indicate that the problem still exists wherever tourists are found.

Another major center of prostitution has been Vietnam. At the height of the conflict there, Saigon had more than one hundred illegal brothels. In 1969, the senior American military officer recommended that post exchanges in Vietnam have their own brothels in order to reduce the incidence of venereal disease. GIs were contracting V.D. at the rate of 200 out of every 1,000

soldiers, compared to the United States rate of 32 out of 1,000, according to Charles Winick and Paul M. Kinsie in *The Lively Commerce*, a scholarly report on the modern prostitution problem. Of the GI cases of V.D., about 47 percent involved men who had contracted it more than once during their tour of duty.

Why Does Prostitution Flourish?

What is behind the current upswing of prostitution?

In an age of casual sexual liaisons, why is commercial sex doing such a booming business?

States *The Encyclopedia of Human Behavior, Psychology, Psychiatry, and Mental Health*. "The factors that produce prostitution are, in most cases, similar to those that produce promiscuity: disorganized home life, rejection and neglect, resentment against parents, association with delinquent individuals or groups." (Robert M. Goldenson, vol. II, p. 1025).

Prostitution and the

PROSTITUTION is as old as man and has been a problem to society since biblical times. Yet strangely, millions today don't know what the Bible says about this social problem.

Modern clergymen have a vast assortment of ideas about how prostitution should be dealt with. Interestingly however, their proffered solutions to the problem often contradict the biblical solution.

States Dr. Robert Denton of the General Theological Seminary, "They didn't worry too much about prostitution in Biblical days...."

Another, Howard Moody, senior minister, Judson Memorial Church of the United Church of Christ, added: "Consenting adults should be free to engage in sexual activity.... Prostitution is a victimless crime."

Still another, Gary Marshall, associate pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, opines, "Legalizing prostitution makes good sense to me."

And perhaps most shocking of all, Ralph Clingan, pastor, Ascension Presbyterian Church, asserted: "I'm

all for it.... The existence of prostitution in biblical times was always disdained but never forbidden...."

What does the Bible say about prostitution? Does it condemn it or condone it? What approach should society have toward this problem, if it were to follow biblical guidelines?

The Bible makes two things clear: Prostitution should be banned, and mercy and compassion should be shown toward the women who have been victimized by this illicit trade.

Three thousand five hundred years ago, when the ancient nation of Israel left Egyptian slavery, God instructed them: "Do not prostitute your daughter, and so make her a whore; thus the land shall not play the prostitute and be full of lewdness" (Leviticus 19:29). (All quotations are from *The New English Bible*, unless otherwise stated.) God also commanded, "There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel..." (Deuteronomy 23:17, KJV).

Despite these clear rules, ancient Israel began circumventing God's

laws. Almost immediately, the people plunged into sexual contact which had been forbidden (Numbers 25:1). Throughout the following generations of Israel, prostitution was never dealt with successfully because the nation never wholeheartedly obeyed the laws of God. In fact, one of the mightiest heroes of ancient Israel, Samson, had a weakness for women.

During the days of Solomon, when Israel was at its peak of greatness, prostitution thrived. (One of Solomon's first judgments concerned two harlots - 1 Kings 3:16-28.) Solomon himself set a bad example of sexual conduct, since he had 700 wives and 300 concubines - he was "a lover of women" the ancient Chronicler relates (1 Kings 11:1-3).

Ironically, Solomon himself wrote about the dangers of young men falling into the hands of prostitutes. In Proverbs, he declared: "Why, my son, are you wrapped up in the love of an adulteress? Why do you embrace a loose woman?" (Proverbs 5:20.)

A prostitute often comes from a broken home, an unstable family, or from a slum environment. She may associate as a young girl with a morally loose crowd. Her relationship with her father is generally negative. After she leaves home and is on her own, she may have difficulty finding a job. Desiring money and the nicer things of life, the girl may know of friends or acquaintances who are prostitutes. The hours are not bad, the money seems good, and not much effort is required. So she makes the transition from the straight world into a new career

which promises much but delivers little. For unlike most professions, the prostitute's mobility is downward with increased age and experience.

A few years ago in south Seattle, Washington, a young man thought of a scheme to earn fast money. He knew a lot of girls in a local high school, approached them, and asked if they would like to make some easy money on weekends.

Many of the young, naive girls were attracted to the idea. They wanted money so they could have nice clothes and buy extra things for themselves. The young pimp prom-

ised them they would be treated well. Since they were Oriental girls, he said, they would receive preferential treatment and more money than other girls.

The girls bought the idea, but soon found out it wasn't as they thought it would be. They had no idea of the headache and problems prostitution would cause.

They hid their clandestine activity from their parents. Some quit after a while. Others began to feel ashamed, but they were stuck. Their pimp soon changed his tune and threatened to tell their parents if

Bible

He also admonished: "My son, mark my words, and accept my guidance with a will. A prostitute is a deep pit, a loose woman, a narrow well, she lies in wait like a robber and betrays her husband with man after man" (Proverbs 23:26-28).

The prophets of Israel, looking far into the future, foretold that a time of great distress would come upon the people because of physical and spiritual harlotry. Jeremiah warned that a time would come when honesty would be obsolete and morality laughed at. Inspired by God, he penned these words: "I gave them all they needed, yet they preferred adultery, and harried the brothels; each neighs after another man's wife, like a well-fed and lusty stallion" (Jeremiah 5:7-8).

Prostitution, wife-swapping, sexual perversions, commercial sex clubs, and "swinging" are roundly condemned in the Bible. Because of sexual immorality and other forms of lawlessness, God finally ordered Joshua and the Israelites to expel the Canaanites. And he warned his

people if they fell into the same immoral decadence, they could expect a similar fate (Deut. 12:28-32).

The Bible makes plain that if those who engage in immorality or prostitution repent of their sins and turn to God, they can be forgiven. Jesus himself warned the self-righteous Pharisees, "Surely evil men and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom before you do. For John the Baptist told you to repent and turn to God, and you wouldn't, while very evil men and prostitutes did." (Matthew 21:31-32, *The Living Bible*).

Many prostitutes listened to the message of Christ and were converted. The apostle Paul, writing to converted Christians in the city of Corinth—famous for its temple prostitutes and officially sanctioned sexual practices—told them, "Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshippers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his kingdom. . . ." He added, "There was a time when some of you were just like that but

now your sins are washed away, and you are set apart for God, and he has accepted you because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you" (I Corinthians 6:9-11, *The Living Bible*).

An example of a young harlot who repented and became a changed woman was Rahab (Hebrews 11:31). She had been in the profession in Jericho (Joshua 2), but repented of her way of life when she realized what was about to happen to her nation because of—among other things—the sin of prostitution. She became a mother of the line of David, from which eventually Jesus Christ was born (Matthew 1:5).

The story of Rahab is an example for any who have plunged into sexual vice and have come to see their immorality. Change is possible. Once a person truly repents, there is no reason to continue to be burdened with feelings of guilt, depression, or hopelessness. An entirely new life is possible through God's help!

they didn't cooperate. Many of them began to feel guilt-ridden, but there seemed to be no escape.

Other girls have been beaten, threatened, enjoyed, and intimidated by their pimps. Some girls have become hooked on drugs by a pimp who then demands all their profits from prostitution in exchange for drugs.

On the other hand, occasionally there is a close relationship between a girl and her "boyfriend" pimp. But even then, many problems arise, the relationship is often short-lived, and the girl eventually finds

out that there is no real future in prostitution. As she grows older, she loses her desirability and finds life "closing in" on her.

Kitty is an example. When she left high school, she entered a house of prostitution. Sex was free and easy where she came from, and she figured she might as well get paid for her activity. Over the years, she worked her way from a hooker

to the owner of a legal house of prostitution in Nevada.

Kitty claims her profession is justified. "Many men often have personal problems at home. You know how wives are. We make a positive contribution to society. Men come here for various reasons—not just for sex. We give them someone they can talk to."

Kitty says, "It is a walk of life. It's a means of support. If a girl is going to bed with every Tom, Dick, and Harry, why not be in the business and make a buck out of it? Some girls become nurses, secretaries, or

The term "hooker" is derived from American Civil War times, from the women who followed the division of General Joseph Hooker. A prostitute is also called a "hustler," "strumpet," "harlot," or "whore."

housewives, and some go into this business."

One major reason for the booming business of prostitution today is the relaxed sexual climate in Western nations. Moral taboos are not as strict as they formerly were. The general loosening and lowering of sexual standards of conduct and the sex explosion in the movies, magazines, and arts have contributed to the modern toleration and proliferation of prostitution.

But have we honestly looked at some of the concomitant results?

Prostitution and Crime

Crime goes hand in hand with prostitution. One reason is the fact that many prostitutes become drug addicts and associate with other addicts and pushers of drugs. Addicts, to support their habit, often become thieves.

In Honolulu, after the houses of illicit sex were shut down in 1944, a sharp reduction in V.D. occurred. At the same time, there was a substantial reduction in the incidence of rape and sex crimes.

Charles Winick and Paul Kinsie, quoted above, point out: "When prostitution declines, so do other crimes." They assert, for example, that "Terre Haute (Indiana) was a healthier and safer city after the brothels closed, and there is reason to believe that elimination of the red light district had a good deal to do with the change" (*The Lively Commerce*, pp. 198-199).

The relationship between prostitution and crime goes beyond mere individual crime. Organized crime — the syndicate — usually tries to inveigle its way onto the scene. Wherever prostitution thrives, chances are that the criminal underworld has muscled its way into the racket through threats and competitors or blackmail. During Prohibition in the United States, the Chicago crime syndicate operated the largest chain of brothels in the country.

Edward M. Davis, Chief of Police

for Los Angeles, declared: "Law enforcement experience identifies prostitution as the medium by which thefts, extortions, robberies and occasionally murders are perpetrated." Wherever there are potential clients, willing to spend hard-earned money for sex and sensuality, the gangster underworld will attempt to infiltrate and obtain its share of the profit.

V.D. and Prostitution

Another side effect of prostitution is venereal disease. Perhaps 90 percent of all professional prostitutes contract V.D. during their career. Each woman can infect about twenty men before her V.D. is discovered.

Medical examiners who discovered V.D. in one California prostitute found that she had had sexual contact with 310 truck drivers from thirty-four states — many of whom had been infected by her.

Regular medical examination cannot eliminate the danger of V.D. Experience during World War II proves this. During the war, the Germans regulated brothels in Paris and had the women inspected twice weekly. During the same period, the official American armed forces policy was to suppress all prostitution. Figures show that the overall effect of the German policy was a V.D. rate four times as great as that of the Americans.

Even if a prostitute takes daily doses of penicillin, there is still the danger that she might develop a resistant strain. "Routine shots," states Patrick M. McGrady, Jr., in *The Love Doctors*, "often conceal the symptoms of gonorrhea without killing the organisms. They are also partly responsible for the new, more resistant strains of gonorrhea going around" (p. 73). However, the danger of V.D. is not really the central problem with prostitution.

Prostitution Cheapens Sex

Prostitution is a threat to society on two levels. First, it destroys the

lives of the women who become involved. Many prostitutes become addicted to drugs because of the lack of true fulfillment in their lives. Many become the virtual slaves of pimps. Such women are not really able to enjoy life. Their lives become corroded and wasted. Many of them learn to hate men.

Prostitution makes sex cheap, merely physical. There is no real love or endearing emotion involved. Intercourse itself becomes just a physical act of gratification or titillation. Prostitution debases sex and makes it routine, like nothing more than brushing one's teeth.

Aside from the degrading impact commercial sex has upon the romantic concept of love itself and upon the wholesome type of mutual love and deep feeling two people can have for each other, it also damages a woman physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Emotionally, the act of prostituting one's body creates distorted feelings toward all men, and callouses one's attitude toward life itself. Thus many prostitutes become brazen, cynical, and negative in their outlook.

Physically, there is the fact that constant sex causes irritation in the sexual organs themselves. Studies show that the constant irritation caused by having repeated intercourse with a variety of men contributes to a higher incidence of cancer of the uterus. Cervical cancer is especially prevalent among women who have their first sexual experience early in life and who have many sex partners; frequency of intercourse with a single partner, however, does not appear to increase the incidence of the disease.

Spiritually, the effects of prostitution upon a woman are devastating. Some prostitutes may attend church, but spiritually they are confused. "I'm a religious person," commented one prostitute. "I believe in God. But I don't practice the faith any more. Let's not bring the Bible and God into all this."

Men and the Prostitute

Prostitutes would not be in business at all if it were not for the lusts and carnal desires of millions of men. Many of the men who consort with prostitutes are already married and have families.

Any man, married or otherwise, who would patronize prostitutes is not fulfilling his societal role, whether as husband, father, and provider, or as an ordinary citizen. Married men who cheat on their wives weaken the fiber of the home by destroying what love they once had for their mates. They jeopardize the future of their children, who need strong moral support, masculine influence and leadership.

Let's face facts. Prostitutes are only one half the problem. The vast numbers of men who use their services are equally guilty. Single men who patronize prostitutes show how little they really value a future marriage and wife to be. They show that selfish lust, not true love, is the prime motivator of their lives!

Legalized Prostitution

Most countries have laws forbidding prostitution yet these laws are commonly unenforced. Authorities look on prostitution with "benign neglect." In the state of Nevada, in the American West, the decision to outlaw prostitution has been left up to individual counties — and three of them, led by Storey County, have opted for legalization of brothels.

For this article, we interviewed Sheriff Robert Del Carlo of Storey County, where the first step toward legalization was made. Sheriff Del Carlo recounted the fact that in Virginia City just twenty years ago, five houses of prostitution were located just two blocks from the County Courthouse, two blocks from a church, and only two blocks from a public school.

The sheriff explained that for years, law enforcement officials had attempted to prosecute prostitutes,

but geography — the county has many winding dirt roads — and a limited staff made the job exceedingly difficult, if not impossible.

So, in January 1971, Storey County legalized prostitution. The Sheriff asserted that this step enabled authorities to regulate the activities of the brothels, keep organized crime out, and see that the girls received regular medical inspection for venereal disease.

Supporters of legalized prostitution elsewhere argue that such a move would drive hookers off the streets and into licensed, regulated brothels, allowing medical supervision.

But legalization of prostitution has not driven "free-lance" (independent) prostitutes off the streets. Many of them believe that they can make more money on their own. Further, legalization makes prostitution a legitimate business and encourages its growth.

A case in point is Dayton, Ohio. An ordinance prohibiting prostitutes on downtown streets was ruled unconstitutional by a local judge. After the decision, the hookers descended on the city center by the hundreds, like plagues of locusts.

What, then, is the answer to history's oldest racket?

The Solution to Prostitution

Societies have struggled with the prostitution problem from time immemorial. In ancient Rome, prostitution was regulated. The Roman poet Seneca wrote of a young man: "He has done no wrong. He loves a prostitute — a usual thing; wait, he will improve and marry a wife."

In the Middle Ages, prostitution was extremely widespread. Thomas Aquinas, a Catholic theologian, said that prostitution was a necessary condition of social morality, just as a cess-pool is needed by a palace (Taylor, *Sex in History*, p. 21).

Down through history, nations have attempted regulation, prohibition, or licensing of prostitution. All schemes have ultimately failed.

Consequently, many authorities feel the problem is insoluble. As long as there are clients, we are told, there will be prostitutes.

And that is the key to the whole problem! Prostitution would cease if there were no clients.

Any society which desires to safeguard public morality and strengthen the home and the institution of marriage must abolish the causes of prostitution.

In ancient Israel, prostitution was, in certain periods, condemned and severely punished. Its baleful effect on public morality was well understood. And as long as the laws against it were enforced, prostitution was very rare. But law enforcement alone is not the answer. Fines and prison sentences do not solve the problem.

The real solution lies in changing the hearts and minds of both men and women, as well as in eliminating the financial causes of prostitution from society. This solution involves moral and spiritual reeducation and a strengthening of the institution of marriage.

A concerted reeducational rehabilitation program is urgently needed — a program which would include spiritual instruction, as well as vocational education. Prostitutes and their clients need to learn about the real purpose of human existence, the dignity and awesome potential of human life. They need to be encouraged to learn why immoral conduct is detrimental and corrosive to living a truly balanced, happy life.

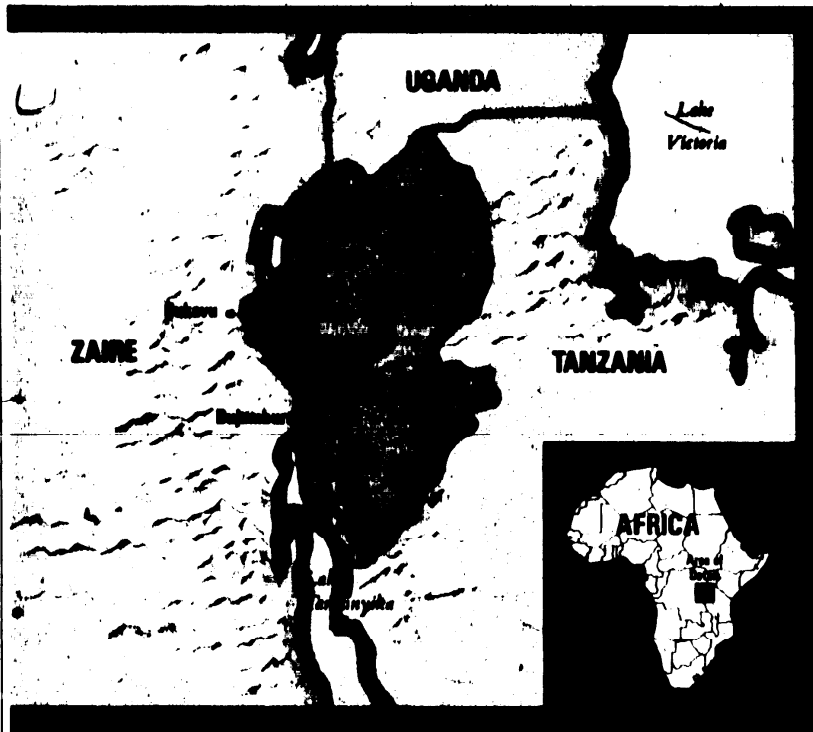
Unfortunately, the history of human experience indicates that human society will not enter upon such a program. These needed changes can, therefore, only be accomplished by superhuman power and effort — by the interposition of the government of God to rule mankind; and the addition of the Spirit of God to change the hearts and minds of mankind. That solution will be achieved within our lifetimes. □

GENOCIDE

Man's Way to Peace!

Untold thousands of human beings have been slaughtered the past two years in a little known area of Africa. The United Nations has not intervened. Could this local bloodbath foreshadow coming worldwide bloodbaths of far greater proportions?

by Arthur W. Dacken



THE PROGRAMMED EXECUTION of multiple tens of thousands of human beings has been reported from the tiny African nation of Burundi.

This suffering country, smaller in area than Switzerland and lies on the eastern borders of the great Congo basin. Its population is approximately 3.5 million.

The ruling group in Burundi is made up for the most part of the Watusi who comprise 15 percent of the total population. The overwhelming majority are Hutus with just a sprinkling of Europeans and Asians. Nearly half of the Burundians are Roman Catholic. An other 40 percent continue in their ancient animistic beliefs. The remainder are mostly Protestant.

When rumors began to seep out that a bloodbath was going on, few people took notice. After all, Burundi isn't an important place in the eyes of the world's big powers because it has little to offer economically. Coffee is its major export. The average Burundian had a cash income of less than \$15 a year in 1969. And there has been little improvement since.

But the stories continued, and some few began to ask questions. Finally, the government issued an explanation of what was happening. According to the official Burundi government account, the majority Hutus were incited by foreign Protestant missionaries to overthrow the Watusi rulers. After the first few skirmishes in which several thousand Tutsis died, the government stepped in and began an orderly decimation of the Hutus in order to put down the insurrection.

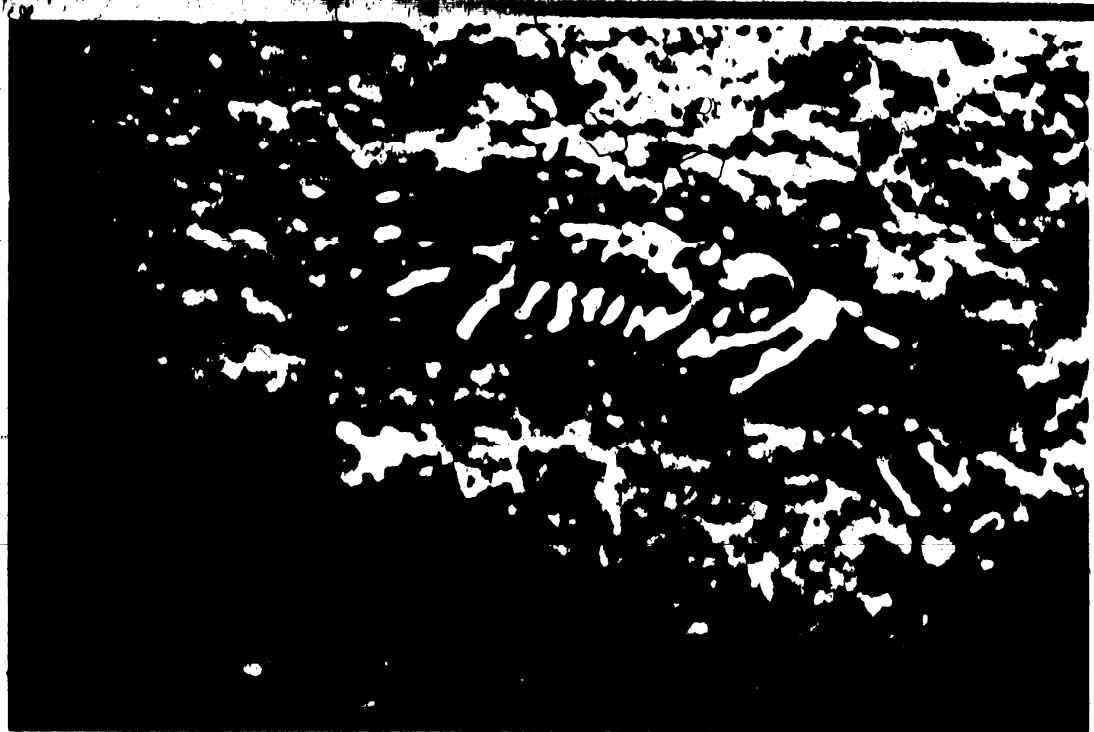
Only a few on-the-spot reports of the struggle in Burundi have reached the outside world.

Some reports indicate that instead of putting down rebellion, the Tutsi rulers have been killing off any Hutus of ability, education and affluence, or those engaged in a business. Anyone exhibiting potential



Photos smuggled out of Burundi on movie film. Upper photo, a Hutu army officer and a Watusi soldier in the service of the Burundi government indicate the struggle in Burundi is not strictly a tribal war where the ruling Watusi are indiscriminately slaughtering Bahutu natives. The bottom photo of Hutu dead, left as yet unburied in a Burundi field, reveals that mass executions of Hutu have been carried out.

ORII Gamma



leadership has been quietly liquidated.

The reports are heartrending. Stories are told of whole families having been wiped out and of teachers being executed before their horrified students. Estimates of the number killed vary between 50,000 and 200,000. Belgian Prime Minister Gaston Eyskens reported in 1972 that Burundi was not dealing with "a tribal war, but with a veritable genocide" (*American Fieldstaff-Reports*, vol. XVI, no. 4).

However, an interesting sidelight to the tragedy is that although the Hutus comprise the vast majority of the population (85%), they appeared helpless against the Tutsi, to whom they feel inferior.

Indications are that Hutus are still in the Burundian army and hold government positions. It is therefore possible that the government action has been taken to suppress revolt rather than to wipe out Hutu leadership in general. The Hutus are not helpless natives. In 1964 news sources in the neighboring country of Rwanda told of the Hutus killing thousands of Tutsi. But whether this was strictly a tribal war or a political expediency, the festering sore of ethnic jealousy has infested Africa for many years.

Genocide Nothing New

Ever since Cain slew Abel in an outburst of jealous rage, men have taken the lives of those who opposed them. The ancient Israelites and Assyrians, the Tartars, and the Mongols exterminated hundreds of thousands. While some of the greatest "civilizations" of ancient history were built on the blood of oppressed peoples, in more recent times, early Australian settlers totally annihilated the aborigines on the island of Tasmania. North American Indians were decimated by the white man, and the Inca leadership and civilization in Peru was destroyed by Spain's conquistadors.

Unfortunately, as man's civ-

ilization evolves, the degree of slaughter increases. In our generation, statisticians have lost count of how many millions of men, women, and children have been killed to assure some despotic ruler supreme control of his country. Hitler's reign resulted in the death of twelve million civilians, including upwards of six million Jews in an attempt to eliminate an entire ethnic group. The tragically efficient atomic bombings of two Japanese cities by the United States is another example of mass slaughter.

Today, massive bloodbaths have become so commonplace that they are hardly recognized as newsworthy. Approximately a million Biafrans died, for example, in their abortive war for independence in 1968-69. An estimated one million people lost their lives in the Congo. Tales of horror were reported of frenzied mass murders during the birth pangs of Bangladesh. But for most people of the world, involved in their own personal problems, these wholesale massacres were soon forgotten.

One does not have to be a member of a minority group to be persecuted. Minorities themselves often spawn reigns of terror. Look at the examples of bloodletting by minority revolutionary groups in Vietnam and Northern Ireland, to name just two.

Human nature, no matter how "civilized" it appears, is actually programmed to destroy what stands in its way. The history of man is punctuated by accounts of man's inhumanity to man. Burundi is just the latest victim of internal strife in need of resolution, but no one seems willing to listen to or help solve the problem.

Who Will Help?

Why doesn't the United Nations exert its power to bring such horror to an end?

Cannot this world organization, dedicated to peace, intervene and

save the lives of the murder victims?

Sadly, the answer is no. The U.N. is totally handicapped. It is prevented by law from interfering in the internal affairs of any country, unless that country has specifically asked it to be involved. Also, any plan to intervene can be easily vetoed by just one U.N. Security Council member sympathetic to the aggressors. These limiting factors negate the action any of the U.N. members might like to take.

Individual nations, even in Africa, refuse to become involved in Burundi's problem. Outside of a few inoffensively worded statements by concerned government officials or committees, nothing constructive has been done to end the strife. Under present laws and governmental policies, man is unable to intervene in such a situation as that in Burundi. Why? Because man does not know the way of peace!

Governments will intervene in the affairs of another country only when it is to their advantage to do so. Burundi offers no such advantage.

Where is God?

If humans won't or can't interfere to help their fellow men, then why doesn't God stop the slaughter? Let's understand. God is not directly responsible for man's inhumanity to man. He does not cause it. He has given man the power of free choice.

God placed man on the earth to rule it. Man has the duty, the God-given right and the God-assigned responsibility to maintain peace on earth. Notice the original instructions God gave in regard to man's relationship to other men.

God told Adam and Eve to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it..." (Genesis 1:28). God intended that his creation be subject to the laws of God - laws which ensure peace and harmony. By the word "subdue" God means for man to control him-

self as well as his environment, not destroy. As God told Cain, "... If you do not do well, sin is couching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it" (Genesis 4:7, RSV). It takes effort and character to avoid sin, and unfortunately, man has not put forth the effort to rule God's way.

Man is responsible to his government and government is — whether it knows it or not — responsible to God. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers [those in authority]. For there is no power but of God..." (Romans 13:1). Man, therefore, is responsible for his own behavior.

The New Testament instructs rulers of nations to keep the peace, "for they are God's agents working for your good. But if you are doing wrong, then you will have cause to fear them; it is not for nothing that they hold the power of the sword, for they are God's agents of punishment, for retribution on the offender" (Romans 13:4, *The New English Bible*).

To maintain peace and happiness and encourage prosperity, man is obligated to rule according to God's laws. But where are the rulers of nations who have followed God's laws? The apostle James pointed out that men all too often rule to satisfy their lusts and greed (James 4:1-3). God gave man a set of perfect laws which, if obeyed, would insure international peace and harmony. But the nations have rejected God's laws and his ways. They prefer to settle disputes their own way and rule by their faulty laws. All too often, as in the case of Burundi, other nations simply ignore a crisis, hoping it will soon pass.

Where Will It End?

The stories of national bloodbaths are horrible accounts of man's lack of compassion and love for his fellow man. They are a microcosmic revelation of the violence that human nature is prone to.

But is the Burundi experience a forerunner of an even greater bloodbath to come? Some of the world's leading scientists foresee and warn of such an impending worldwide catastrophe. Such a cataclysm is also predicted in the Bible. Notice Jesus' words in Matthew 24:21-22: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved..."

Of what time was Jesus speaking?

and God places the blame directly on human leaders. Since man wants to make war, God is going to accommodate him. God warns that those who kill with the sword shall die by the sword. All who persist in murdering their fellow humans will in turn perish when God intervenes in human affairs, to enforce peace among men. "The slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth" (Jeremiah 25:33). God is going to intervene in man's affairs and do what man should have done

Many observers consider it intolerable that the international community should permit massacres of 100,000 people. But it remains unclear what might have been done, within international law, to prevent them.

A careful reading of the first few verses of the chapter shows he was describing world conditions just before his second coming to this earth — a time in the near future. Christ foretold the horrifying events which would herald the last days when his disciples asked: "... what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world [this age of man's rule]?" (Matthew 24:3.)

He answered by describing the increasing strife that would precede the end time. Then he said these calamitous events would lead up to a conflagration which would threaten all human life on earth (Matthew 24:22). Man is almost — but not quite — going to annihilate the human race. Millions of innocent people are going to perish. At this precise point when all nations will be on the verge of cosmocide — not just genocide — Jesus Christ will return and save mankind from man's own cruelty and gross violence.

Man is responsible for this horror.

long ago — rid this earth of the evil that prevails upon it.

Describing that day of peace, the prophet Isaiah wrote: "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord... and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem... and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:3-4).

At the United Nations building in New York City, those words of Isaiah 2:4 are emblazoned on a monument depicting a man hammering a sword into a plowshare. Unfortunately, man does not understand how to implement these words, and so we have war and genocide today. Universal peace will be attained, but not through human efforts. It will require the intervention of God! □

THE CARPENTER Who Brought

The greatest single need in every human life is to love and be loved. Almost two thousand years ago, Jesus of Nazareth showed us what love really involves and how each of us could come to express it.

by Paul W. Kroll

YOUNG PEOPLE sing about Jesus in songs: "Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the waters...." Religious campaign slogans are founded on his name: "Christ is the answer!" Motion pictures are based on his life; even many atheists consider him a great teacher.

Who Was This Jesus?

The name of Jesus of Nazareth lives on in spite of a Western world enmeshed in an orgy of earthly pursuits. Who is this unusual individual who lived two thousand years ago and who has had such a profound impact on Western man's religious and social systems?

Even those who avoid any commitment to organized religion find in Jesus' teaching and personality many unusual qualities. Perhaps the most outstanding attribute of his teaching was a new and exciting concept of love which he expounded to the people of his age. That concept lives in the books of the New Testament.

In our day of man's inhumanity to man and general lawlessness, Jesus' message is of central impor-

tance to each one of us. He explained *why* human beings tend to be *inhuman*. He also explained what code of human behavior would bring the joy, happiness and fulfillment we all desire.

Controlling Human Nature

Many outstanding individuals have recognized that the incredible wrongs in various societies are caused, in part, by the influences to which man's nature is susceptible. Many philosophical systems and political ideologies have been constructed to short-circuit the "basest aspects" of man's nature.

The republican form of government was born with the express purpose of circumventing man's inhuman rule over other human beings. Many of the American founding fathers, for example, were deeply concerned with the lacks in human nature. Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804) was particularly suspicious of human nature.

The English philosophers John Locke (1632-1704) and John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) devoted much of their philosophical speculation to the problem of how to have strong

government without despotism. The French Revolution of 1789 was romanticized as a triumph of human reason over governmental despotism. Theoretically, Marxism and its political counterpart, Communism, seek to change human nature for the better.

Many psychologists, sociologists and behaviorists are concerned with the problem of man's nature. B. F. Skinner, American behaviorist, recommends "biological engineering" in order to direct humans into doing that which is beneficent. The late psychologist, Abraham Maslow, talked of the need for "self-actualized" people. In his "Third Force" psychology, he studied "mentally healthy people in order to discover why they behaved as they did. After a lifetime of work, Maslow concluded that love, especially in early life, is a central need of all human beings.

Is Something Missing?

Still, as is quite obvious, humanity has failed to develop love-oriented people on a vast scale. Communism, in practice, has not exactly proven a boon to humanity.

R OF GALILEE t the World LOVE

Representative government is only preserved by *exterior* forces, i.e., the checks and balances which keep groups from acquiring despotic power. Yet within the structure itself, there is confusion, inequality and man's characteristic inhumanity to man. No revolution or new government in all history has produced anything even resembling the kind of utopian conditions man would like to live under.

Today, we are "realists." That is, we accept a condition in which war, bigotry, stealing, mental unhappiness and a host of other ills are very much a part of the fabric of life.

Internally, humans are still by and large human, with all that the word implies. It is as though a vital ingredient was missing from the recipe for love-oriented humans or a piece had vanished from the perfection puzzle. We just don't seem to be able to do much with human *inhumanity*.

At best, human nature appears to be an odd combination of contradictory behavior patterns. A Bahutu tribesman may love *his* children but butcher a Watusi's offspring, because of years of Watusi

suppression. A common citizen may respect his friend's property but pilfer from the local department store. A man may jump into a pool to save his neighbor's drowning wife, even at the risk of his own life, but he might also steal his neighbor's wife by having an affair with her.

All such "non-love" situations have been multiplied by the millions and have resulted in a collective world that kills, steals, hates and is generally filled with man's cruelty to man. In spite of all our efforts, we have been unable to develop loving human beings and a society that is moving steadily into a condition which could broadly be defined as living under a "concept of full love."

This is why the carpenter from Galilee introduced a new concept of love to revolutionize human thinking. He explained why the world exists in an unhealthy condition: *People lack the complete expression of love.* Rulers, for example, lord it over and oppress their subjects. Jesus gave the formula which could result in the formation of a basically love-oriented human being and society.

As a result of the failure of the greatest minds and the most sophisticated political systems to bring us the kind of human beings we want, the event, which occurred almost 2000 years ago looms very important. At that time, this most unusual individual, Jesus, appeared on the scene. Born as a carpenter's son in a town called Bethlehem, Jesus was a scion of the ancient kingly line which had ruled the nation of Judah.

Who Was This Jesus?

Jesus possessed one characteristic which made him the unique figure of history. One of his disciples, John, quoted Jesus' own words, words which describe the essence of this singular characteristic: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34, 35, RSV). (The interested reader should study the entirety of chapters 13 through 17 for Jesus' full exposition of love.)

Jesus showed how the character-

istics of a total and pure love could be understood both by example and through legal principles. The nature of Jesus' function was central to both aspects. As a human, he was an example of what a full-love personality could be. Secondly, he verbally made the love concept clear to his intimate circle of disciples (The Gospels contain the essence of that explanation).

This carpenter from Galilee showed how it was possible for *human* beings to have themselves made over into the same kind of love-personality that he was. On a grand scale, this could create a society, if not "perfect," at least definitely heading into "perfection" rather than always hovering on the abyss of disintegration and chaos.

Jesus expressed in his own life the very personality and nature of total love. For example, he possessed complete concern for others. To make this concept clear, he used the famous example of the prodigal son. It demonstrated the compassion with which the nature of Jesus was endowed. Here is a portion of the account as it appears in the J. B. Phillips translation:

The Prodigal Son Parable

"Once there was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the property that will come to me.' So he divided up his estate between the two of them. Before very long, the younger son collected all his belongings and went off to a distant land, where he squandered his wealth in the wildest extravagance.

"Then he came to his senses and cried aloud, 'Why, dozens of my father's hired men have got more food than they can eat and here am I dying of hunger! I will get up and go back to my father, and I will say to him: "Father, I have done wrong in the sight of Heaven and in your eyes. I don't deserve to be called

your son any more. Please take me on as one of your hired men."

"So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still some distance off, his father saw him and his heart went out to him and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him" (Luke 15:12-20).

Concern which the above example shows is one aspect of the concept of love. There is also another important and related facet of love, restricting one's actions to those acts which will produce the greatest good and happiness for all. Jesus showed that humans would have to restrict their own antisocial actions if they expected others to do so.

A human could not expect to steal, murder, take someone else's mate and still have the victim love him. Though Jesus counseled turning the other cheek, he made it clear that no society could continue to function when true love was absent.

The easiest way to explain the meaning of this vital part of the "way of love" is to point out that there are two broad applications of love. One part has to do with love toward other humans. It is a sort of law against the excesses of human nature - the *very problem* of humanity.

Love Toward Humans

Although love is best understood by action and example, it can be broken down into abstract points and stated legally. In short, love toward humans may be stated as: (1) Honor your parents, (2) Don't murder, (3) Don't steal, (4) Don't commit adultery, (5) Don't lie, (6) Don't covet. Stated positively in one principle, these points mean: *have concern and respect for others in every aspect of their lives*. Or as Jesus put it, the second great commandment is to "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Obviously, if these precepts are kept in their full intent, killing, ha-

tred, war, stealing and a full spectrum of man's baser actions would disappear. No doubt the reader will recognize the above points as the last six of the Ten Commandments found in the Bible in the book of Exodus.

Human Idols and Gods

There is, however, a second broad aspect of love. It has to do with the reference point around which an individual human life is centered. A human must have a goal in order to accomplish. Even the person who accomplishes nothing has a goal, his goal is simply to accomplish nothing. A few examples will explain.

A young girl may have a burning ambition to become a movie actress. This becomes the reference point which determines what she eats, how she dresses, how she acts, who she wants to meet. The word "star" presupposes, at least to some degree, a particular life-style. It may include an almost overwhelming desire for fame and stardom.

Therefore, in the extreme, all this girl's life activities will center around the concept "actress." The word actress can now easily assume the proportion of "god." The girl does everything for "actress" as an ancient Babylonian might have done for his or her idol. In fact, the word idol has been used in reference to the concept of actor or actress.

On the other side of the spectrum may be the traditional American tramp. His "god" is the cheap wine and the life-style that "tramp" presupposes. The wino would figuratively sell his soul for a bottle. He may or may not be miserable. But he is hooked by his life-style; it has become his "god."

And to varying degrees, every human has a "god." It can be a literal idol as the manifestation of some tribal religion; it can be a nation, a family, money, success or a combination of all of them.

But every human must have a ref-

Jesus explained why the world exists in an unhealthy condition: **PEOPLE LACK THE COMPLETE EXPRESSION OF LOVE.** At best, human nature appears to be an odd combination of contradictory behavior patterns. A man may jump into a pool to save his neighbor's drowning wife, even at the risk of his own life, but he might also steal his neighbor's wife by having an affair with her.

reference point or points in his life that assume proportions of such magnitude that they qualify for the term "god." They come in all shapes and sizes. To some people, "god" may simply be to "do one's own thing." This is the organizing principle around which all of that person's life activities revolve.

Jesus Brings a New Reference Point

Jesus came to reveal a different reference point. He pointed out that it was impossible to be a complete love-centered individual without the right reference point. In order to be a person who possesses the fullest expression of love, Jesus said it is necessary to have contact with the being whose personality is total love. That being is God. Jesus said that God was his Father.

Jesus told his disciples, "... The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise" (John 5:19).

The implication is clear. No human can have true love unless he loves the true God. Jesus at one time said the greatest commandment is to love God with all one's being. This vital part of love is legally summed up in the first four precepts of the Ten Commandments: (1) Have no other gods before the true God, (2) Make no idols, (3) Don't take God's name in vain, (4) Keep God's Sabbath.

It is not the purpose of this article to explain the significance of each of

these laws as they relate to the concept of love. However, some brief explanation regarding one of the four laws will illustrate the concept.

For example, the weekly Sabbath reminds a person of his relationship to his God. Thus, when a person ceases from his labor and normal activities on that day, it stamps into his mind the reality of that God's existence.

"Out of sight, out of mind," is a fact of human psychology. Since God cannot be seen, the very keeping of the Sabbath is a manifestation of his presence in the life of an individual.

The four commandments have one motivating principle: to wed the mind of the human to his God and to keep out any spiritual impurities which would weaken and crack that binding.

Humans Can Find True Love

Jesus of Nazareth expressed love as no individual had ever done before. He was the very personification of love. "If you keep my commandments," Jesus said, "you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love" (John 15:10, RSV).

However, Jesus also accomplished one more very outstanding task. He showed that a love-filled mind is available to every human being. He expressed this idea in the following terms: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with

you for ever; even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you [in the person of Jesus], and will be in you [upon conversion]" (John 14:15-17, RSV).

The commandments Jesus kept came from his Father: who originated them and himself lives by them. In fact, the living laws of human conduct Jesus expounded merely describe and legalize the way his own mind - and his Father's mind - would function in a given situation.

Jesus revealed that the Father is prepared to make available his Holy Spirit to combat the non-love elements of the human mind.

That is why the apostle Paul, one of many human beings who received this spirit, could say, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me [via God's Holy Spirit]; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

That same Holy Spirit is available to any human who desires it and is willing to accept the need to live in accordance with its requirements. If you would like further information on how to become a love-directed human, please send for a free copy of the following literature: *The Real Jesus, What Is the True Gospel? Just What Do You Mean... Conversion?* and *The Ten Commandments*. See inside front cover for address nearest you. □

Heaven, Hell and the Hereafter

Why do millions believe they will go to heaven or hell when they die? Where did this idea come from? What does the Bible say about an afterlife?

by William F. Dankerbring

AN ANCIENT Babylonian legend tells of a young man, Etana, who was challenged by an eagle to soar to the heavenly abodes. Convinced that the eagle had a good idea, Etana, with the eagle, rose higher and higher into the sky until the whole earth looked like a mountain, people like dust specks, and the ocean like a gardener's small irrigation ditch.

As Etana flew higher, he finally reached the dwelling of Anu. The offended god, upset by the presence of a mere mortal in his heavenly abode, hurled Etana and the eagle down to Hades.

So far as human legend is concerned, Etana's flight was certainly one of man's earliest recorded attempts to go to heavenly abodes.

Man's Oldest Quest

The belief in a heaven or a paradise beyond the grave is a recognized tenet of the creeds of virtually all nations and races from the beginnings of recorded human history. The heaven of the Hindu is ab-

sorption into Brahma. Moslems await paradise where they shall enjoy perpetual light and pleasure — including physical pleasures, although the height of happiness will be seeing Allah face to face.

The ideas of various nations and peoples about heaven vary widely. The paradise of some primitive tribes in Australia is called "gum-tree country." There, everything is better than in this world. The path to sky-land, they assert, is by way of the rays of the setting sun or the Milky Way.

Among pre-Christian Polynesians, paradise was sometimes thought of as being in a subterranean world, or inside the moon, or in the west, or on an island — or even underwater. In Raratonga, warriors who died were thought to be living with the god Tiki in an underground region of fragrant shrubs and flowers, with limitless eating, drinking, dancing, and sleeping.

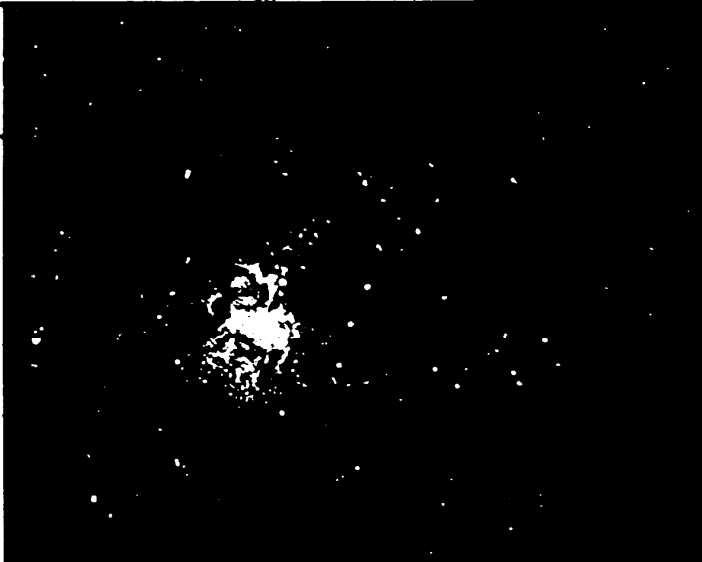
In North America, among the Delaware, Blackfeet, and Ojibwa Indians, those who broke tribal laws

were banished to a gloomy region after death; others entered a happy life of bliss. To the North American Plains Indians, a future life was very real, but their understanding of it was vague and hazy. They believed one who died lived on in the afterlife just as he was in this world — with the same passions, feelings, wishes, needs, and enmities.

Earliest Beliefs

From earliest times, men have wondered about an afterlife. In the caves of earliest man, the presence of objects to accompany the dead reveal a belief in life after death. In Neolithic cultures, evidence from specially constructed tombs provides even more proof of men's continual fascination with death and the hereafter.

Ancient Egyptian religious texts, called the Pyramid Texts, are mainly concerned with the desire of the dead to avoid leading a gloomy existence in the underworld. The august dead, supposedly, could dwell in the sky like the gods, voy-



aging with the sun god in his ship, or dwell in the Field of Iaru, the "fields of the blessed."

The Egyptians believed that the souls of the dead had to traverse a vast wilderness region called the Tuat, which was inhabited by gods, demons, fiends, evil spirits, wicked souls, snakes, monsters, etc. After successfully traversing this nether region, they would reach the presence of Osiris.

The dead were ushered into a Hall of Judgment presided over by Osiris. Those receiving a favorable verdict were, after several purifying ordeals, transported to the fields of Alu to enjoy perennial life under the shadow of the tree of life, the sycamore of Nut. However, the condemned were dismembered, undergoing a "second death," tortured by burning coals, plunged into deep waters, and cut into pieces by sharp swords. Declares Kohler: "We have here the very origin of the Inferno and Paradise" (Kaufmann Kohler, *Heaven and Hell in Comparative Religion*, p. 23).

But if the earliest evidence shows the concept of a heaven and hell after death originating in ancient paganism, where did today's professing Christian world obtain its doctrines of heaven and hell? Are these doctrines pagan myths carried over by theological orthodoxy into mod-

ern times? Does the biblical record affirm these ancient beliefs?

Shocking as it may seem, the Bible says something altogether different from what millions have supposed!

Shocking Scriptures

If the Bible teaches that the righteous go to heaven when they die, then certainly such biblical heroes as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Samuel, David, and Daniel must be in heaven right now. Yet, hundreds of years after all those great men died and when Jesus began his public ministry, he remarked to his disciples, "No man hath ascended up to heaven..." (John 3:13).

After the death and resurrection of Christ, the apostle Peter told a large crowd of people in Jerusalem, on Pentecost, A.D. 31, that David "is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day." He added, so that he would not be misunderstood, "For, David is NOT ascended into the heavens..." (Acts 2:29, 34).

These two scriptures disprove the fond illusions and cherished beliefs of millions of people who assume that the Bible teaches that the righteous go to heaven when they die!

David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). Yet the Scriptures plainly state that he did NOT "go to heaven."

In all this starry universe, where is the Heaven of the hereafter?

Original Art by Sarita Solomon

Then where did he go? What really happened to David and the biblical patriarchs?

The Reward of the Righteous

To begin to answer these questions, the apostle Paul made an important statement in the book of Galatians. He asserted: "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29).

Christians, then, are Abraham's spiritual "children" or "seed." They are to inherit something that was "promised." To learn what Christians are to inherit, then we must see what was promised to Abraham.

The biography of Abraham is recorded in the book of Genesis. Abraham left the sophisticated city of Ur of the Chaldees to journey to the land of Canaan toward the west. He determined to obey God and do the things he commanded.

God, in return for Abraham's obedience and submission to his way, made a specific promise to Abraham and his descendants. "And the Lord said unto Abram... Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever" (Genesis 13:14-15).

God later confirmed the promises to Abraham (Genesis 21:1-3; 22:15-18) and made the same promise to Isaac, Abraham's son (Genesis 26:2-5). Notice that this promise primarily included an inheritance of land forever. In order to inherit this land forever, eternal life also must have been part of the promise!

The promise made to Abraham, then, was the land of Canaan, which he and his "seed" would inherit for all eternity. Later, however, God expanded this promise to include the



MEDIEVAL concept of sinners tormented in Dante's Inferno — ruled over by the devil and his demons according to popular belief (left). A Chinese concept of paradise — a lovely tropical garden (right).
Culbert Pictures, Inc.

whole world. The apostle Paul in Romans 4:13 called Abraham "the heir of the world," not just of the land of Canaan.

This, then, is the promise which all Christians, as the seed of Abraham, are to inherit!

New Testament Evidence

This same promise is reaffirmed in the New Testament. Jesus Christ plainly told his disciples: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).

In the book of Revelation, we read the crystal clear statement: "thou [Chris.] wast slain and by thy blood, didst ransom men for God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and hast made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on earth" (Revelation 5:9-10, RSV).

The Psalms of David also make this truth clear. David wrote: "For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth" (Psalm 37:9). This entire psalm is full of similar references. Verse 29 adds: "The right-

eous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever."

Not Yet Fulfilled

"However, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and all the rest of the patriarchs are still waiting to receive what was promised to them. To this very day, they have not yet inherited the earth.

In the book of Hebrews we read: "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed . . . By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise . . ." (Hebrews 11:8-9).

Notice further that these all "died in faith, not having received the promises" (verse 13). Also: "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise . . ." (verse 39).

So when will the patriarchs, along with true Christians — those who truly follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, repent of their sins, and ac-

cept him as Savior — receive the promises?

At the Resurrection

Jesus himself gave the answer: "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment" (John 5:28-29, RSV).

The promises will be inherited at the time of the resurrection of the righteous. The apostle Paul declared: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

When Christ returns to this earth, the patriarchs and truly converted Christians will be raised from their graves. At that time, Jesus will re-

ward the righteous, and they will then assist him in ruling over the entire earth for 1,000 years (see Revelation 20:4; Daniel 2:44 and 7:27).

Clearly, then, the idea of the righteous going to heaven when they die is not biblical. But what about the belief that evildoers are cast into an ever-burning hell?

Jesus alluded to them and their ultimate fate when he told his disciples: "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him" (Luke 12:4-5).

So What is "Hell"?

In this verse, Jesus mentioned "hell." The original Greek word used is *gehenna*, derived from the Hebrew word for the "valley of Hinnom" to the south of Jerusalem where, during ancient times, garbage was dumped and fires burned continually to consume the debris and trash. This was a place of early apostasy, where the god Molech was worshipped. It was converted by King Josiah into a place of abomination where corpses were thrown and burnt up (II Kings 23:10, 13-14). It became symbolical of the final fate of the wicked.

The word "hell" has been confused and misunderstood by millions. The Bible uses three other words that are sometimes translated "hell." Two of them, the Hebrew *sheol* and the Greek *hades*, are synonymous and simply mean "the place of the dead" or "grave." *Sheol* is translated "grave" 31 times in the Old Testament. *Hades*, in the New Testament, also refers to the "grave" (I Corinthians 15:55), although it is often rendered "hell" in the King James Version.

The third word translated "hell" is the Greek *tartaroo* and only oc-

curs once in the Bible (II Peter 2:4). It simply means to incarcerate or imprison, and refers to the restrained condition of fallen angels, now known as demons.

The only biblical word rendered "hell" which clearly and provably refers to the final fate of the wicked is the ultimate destruction of the incorrigible - is the word *gehenna*. This is the only word translated "hell" which has the connotation of "fire" or "fiery destruction."

The apostle John in the book of Revelation described this final "hell fire" or Gehenna fire as a seething, flaming lake. John wrote: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).

The fire will utterly destroy the wicked. This destruction is called the "second death" because it is not the same as the death which occurs at the end of one's natural life. Only those who deliberately rebel against God and refuse to obey him, despite understanding his will, must die a second time. This second death will be forever - there will never be a resurrection from it.

Tormented Forever?

The Bible states that the wages of sin is *death* (Romans 6:23) - not eternal life in a different geographical location. The book of Malachi makes this clear. The prophet recorded: "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. . . . And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet. . . . saith the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 4:1, 3).

The biblical hell fire will be much

hotter than the mythological hell of pagan legend. It will totally consume the bodies of the wicked until nothing is left but ashes.

David described the ultimate fate of the wicked this way: "But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume, into smoke shall they consume away" (Psalm 37:20). If you have seen fat sizzling and burning up in a hot skillet, then you have an idea of what the final fate of the incorrigibly wicked will be like.

Is this a "cruel" fate? No. The wicked will experience eternal death because death is the most merciful fate a loving God could impose on those who insist on breaking his law and reaping the resulting unhappiness. They will be put out of their misery and not make others miserable, either.

God's way is much better than the horrible concept of sinners being doomed to sizzle and fry forever. It's much more merciful and final!

Whatever your background, the straightforward statements in the Bible probably come as a shock to you - for very few understand what the Bible really says about heaven, hell, and the hereafter.

There are many aspects of this vast subject which we cannot cover in a single article. However, we have free booklets which go into greater depth in analyzing this issue. If you are interested in further reading on this subject, then write for the following free booklets: *What Is the Reward of the Saved?*, *Where Are Enoch and Elijah?*, *Lazarus and the Rich Man*, and *Is There a Real Hell Fire?*

Also, write for the *Ambassador College Correspondence Course* which also covers these topics and which explores many other astonishing biblical teachings that theologians have misunderstood or neglected. It will help make the full plan and purpose of God come alive with meaning and interest. □

Personal from

Shelby J. Armstrong

(Continued from page 1)

diet and hear ~~not~~ all preachers telling you *about* Christ — urging you to believe on Christ — to accept Christ — telling you what a wonderful person he was. They will be called "gospel programs." They will talk about getting out the gospel. But Christ the person is not the gospel! I know that sounds incredible because they call what they are saying "the gospel."

Millions of viewers and listeners have ASSUMED they were hearing the gospel. People have heard all their lives the preaching about Jesus Christ the person which has been called "the gospel." People have simply taken it for granted that they were hearing the gospel. So they accept what they have heard as the gospel when, in actual fact, they have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ — the message — the news announcement.

Believers Wanted to Kill Christ

What they have accepted without question as the gospel offers no solution to humanity's sufferings, frustrations and indescribable evils! The true gospel Jesus brought proclaims the solution to the world's troubles, but men rejected that gospel and crucified Jesus for preaching it!

There were those who BELIEVED on Christ, just as millions do today — millions who have not heard his gospel!

Notice! Read it fully in the Bible. It's an eye-opener — for the Bible doesn't say what you've supposed. Jesus was speaking in the Temple at Jerusalem: "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31). Understand it! Jesus' word was

his message — the gospel he was teaching. He was saying, in other words: "If you continue DOING what the gospel teaches, you will be my disciples."

But they refused to believe what he taught — his gospel — or to do what he taught. They believed on him — they believed in his identity — they believed he was the Messiah — the Christ — but they did not BELIEVE HIM — what he said!

Continuing, "... but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father..." (verses 37-38). These very people who BELIEVED ON HIM sought to kill him because they hated what he said — his gospel — the very solution to mankind's troubles — the way that will usher in peace, prosperity, happiness and every good state.

These who believed on him continued to argue. Then he said: "But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God..." (verse 40). Jesus continued: "... I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me" (verse 42). Further: "And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not" (verse 45). Millions today believe on Christ, but do NOT believe his gospel in most cases because they have never heard it. They have heard of him — of what he did — but not his message of the solution to all man's troubles and how to gain eternal life in joyful happiness, abundance and accomplishment.

A Messenger and His Message

You will have noticed, above, how Jesus stressed the fact that God, his father, had sent him. What he taught, he had received from God.

Notice now this prophecy in Malachi: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me..." (Malachi 3:1). He is speaking here of John the Baptist (Mark 1:2), but primarily as a type of another to prepare the way be-

fore his second coming (Malachi 4:5-6).

Continuing, "... and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in..." (Malachi 3:1). Jesus came as a messenger — the messenger of the COVENANT. This is speaking of the New Covenant. Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant, an agreement between God and the people of Israel, which set them up as one of the kingdoms on earth named after their earthly father, Israel (Jacob).

This prophecy leads us directly to the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in Mark 1:1: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mark 1:1-4).

This shows John preparing the way before the beginning of Jesus' announcement of his gospel. The next nine verses describe John's baptizing and his announcing of the coming of the Messiah, the baptism of Jesus and Jesus' head-on confrontation with and conquering of Satan, by which he qualified to restore on earth the government of God.

Then, verses 14-15: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching..." What? What gospel? "... preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled..." How fulfilled? Jesus had just qualified to restore and rule that government. It could not have been announced sooner — "... the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Believe what? He said we must believe the gospel — the good news of the Kingdom of God.

But since late in the first century, that gospel has not been preached to

the world! Almost nobody today knows what the Kingdom of God is! Millions think it is a church! Other millions think it is some ethereal nothing "set up in men's hearts." Some have even thought it was the British Empire. (For a full explanation, write for the free, eye-opening booklet, *Just What Do You Mean... the Kingdom of God?*)

The word, "gospel" means "good news." It was an advance NEWS announcement. It was tremendous, wonderful news - the biggest, most important news ever announced to mankind! Yet it has been suppressed! Your Bible says ALL NATIONS have been deceived.

The leaders in Judaea and Galilee in Jesus' day, rejected that wonderful news. Many of those who BELIEVED ON CHRIST rejected it, sought to kill him for teaching it, as shown above, and finally did have him killed. The apostles who went out proclaiming that wonderful news were martyred for preaching it with the possible exception of John. After 3½ years of Jesus' ministry and preaching to as many as five thousand men at a time, only 120 were still accepting the gospel and continuing in it by the time of his ascension to heaven - forty days after his resurrection (Acts 1:3, 14-15). Soon a great persecution set in during the time of the apostles' preaching (Acts 8:1). After the Romans took Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Roman persecution virtually snuffed out all true gospel preaching. For the next 18½ centuries, Christ was preached to the world, but NOT HIS GOSPEL!

What is That Kingdom?

Just what is a kingdom? If I tell you that King Hussein is the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, you understand what I mean. It is not some nonexistent, ethereal nothing in Hussein's heart.

A kingdom is a government. It is ruled by laws. The function of government is to administer and enforce those laws.

Did you ever hear of a nation or its government without laws? Of course not! The Kingdom of God once ruled this earth. It ruled with the laws of the Creator God. As long as it ruled, the whole earth was filled with peace, with HAPPINESS and JOY. Then that government was taken away, and I do not mean in the time of ancient Israel - but all that's another story.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is a NEWS announcement about GOVERNMENT! The heavens have received Christ until the time of RESTORATION of that government (Acts 3:19-21).

Who is to Be King?

A kingdom consists of (1) a king, or chief ruler with all his officers who rule over (2) people within (3) certain boundaries in which the ruler has jurisdiction, with (4) a system of laws and government.

First, then, notice WHO is to be the king of the Kingdom of God. Look at the prophecy in Isaiah 9:6-7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the govern-

ment shall be upon his shoulder; her, Fear not, Mary: for thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:30-33).

When Jesus was on trial for his life Pilate asked: "Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world..." (John 18:37). But in the preceding verse Jesus had explained, "My kingdom is not of this world..."

A World-Ruling Government

The prophet Daniel foretold the Kingdom of God. In the second chapter, speaking of the kings over governments in this, our generation, he prophesied: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall

Jesus brought big news - the most important news announcement ever reported to man. It is the advance news of how world peace will come!

ment shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever."

Next, in the New Testament, just prior to Jesus' birth, an angel spoke to Mary, who was to become Jesus' mother: "And the angel said unto

not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

In the seventh chapter is a prophecy of the succession of world empires, beginning with King Nebuchadnezzar's Chaldean Empire, called Babylon, through the Persian Empire, the Greco-Macedonian Empire and its four divisions, followed by the Roman Empire, the Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages, and its final revival in Europe now forming. Then, speaking of this

soon-coming "United States of Europe" - a revived "Holy Roman Empire": "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:27).

How the sects and denominations of the Christian religion can overlook these basic, pivotal scriptures about WHAT GOSPEL Christ brought is indeed hard to understand!

Next, consider the people who will constitute the Kingdom of God. I have shown you Jesus said it was a future Kingdom - not of this present world or age. Daniel's prophecy shows the government will be given over to "the saints," yet Christ is to be the King.

The Future Rulers

There will be *two classes* of people when the Kingdom of God is set up. One, those whom Daniel called saints, resurrected to immortality, organized into the executive branch of the government, who shall rule under Christ. The other, those mortal humans left alive on earth. Both are referred to in many scriptures.

But Jesus explained to the Pharisee Nicodemus about those who shall bear rule in the government. It's in the third chapter of John. Yet it is misinterpreted by almost every denomination in the Christian religion, in spite of the fact it NEEDS NO INTERPRETATION. It is clear and plain in the Bible - especially when considered along with many other passages on the same subject.

Jesus said: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:3, 6). A mortal human cannot enter into or see the Kingdom of God. Only those born of the Spirit (which is God), and who are no longer material human flesh from the ground, but who *are spirit* - composed of

spirit, not of matter - can enter that kingdom.

Yet, because Christ's gospel is not preached (except on our programs and in our publications), this birth is commonly either rejected or represented as an "experience" when one "accepts" or "receives" Christ. Space does not permit a thorough explanation with all the pertinent scriptures here, but the reader is invited to request our free booklet *Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?* and also the free booklet, *Why Were You Born?* They cover thoroughly, intriguingly, the most important thing in your life - the purpose for which you were put here on earth, why you are, where you are going and the way. It's the missing dimension in knowledge!

But let me cite just two more brief verses of Scripture that show who will be ruling, under Christ, in the government of God over this earth. In Revelation 3:21, Christ is speaking, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

And it is Christ speaking also in Revelation 2:26-27: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."

The Gospel Relation to Government

This has been a very condensed summary of precisely WHAT Christ's gospel is. Christ came with a tremendous ANNOUNCEMENT - wonderful news of a world-ruling GOVERNMENT to come and solve all of humanity's seemingly unsolvable problems.

It is the message of how we may qualify, now, to be a king or priest (Revelation 5:10) then made immortal and composed of spirit, in God's Kingdom. It is the message that God *is* the divine, creating, uni-

verse-ruling family into which we may be born by repenting of the way of sin that has CAUSED all the terrible EVILS and unsolvable problems in this world, and, through a *living faith in Christ*, turning to the way of God's law - the way that will CAUSE the peace and joy of the happy world tomorrow. It points out the true and *only* way to eternal life.

Christ's gospel is a message about government. Christ's gospel is concerned with the evils confronting the world's peoples which the governments of the nations are trying to cope with.

When I discuss with heads of governments today THEIR PROBLEMS, and WORLD PROBLEMS, I am discussing precisely what the gospel *is all about*.

The gospel is concerned with the CAUSE of all these problems and troubles. The gospel Christ brought is concerned with humans turning NOW *from* the way that is CAUSING all their troubles to the way that will CAUSE peace, happiness and plenty.

The gospel is concerned with (1) how we may solve our troubles NOW, and (2) how God is GOING to solve them FOR US - and IN SPITE OF US if we refuse to change our way NOW. To heads of state, I make these ways clear by designating them as the WAY OF GIVE, as opposed to the WAY OF GET. It's a language they understand - and it makes sense to them!

Moses was reared in Pharaoh's palace. Abraham met with kings. Joseph was used in Egypt's government. He virtually became the prime minister. David was a king. God sent Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah and others to kings. Paul went before kings. When God opens doors to government heads for me, I walk through them. When he gives me great favor in their sight, I go again. I am merely the servant of the living Christ, and he knows what he is doing and what use he will make of these trips.

World Leaders Frightened

The time for kidding ourselves is past. This world is in a very critically serious condition. Even after some thirty years of the world-effort to develop the poor nations of the world, they are poorer today than ever before. Millions upon millions face starvation, live in ignorance, utter poverty, filth and squalor, wracked with disease and ill health. In the affluent nations, crime is rampant — even in residential neighborhoods, morals have sunk to the gutter, divorces are breaking up a third of the homes, youths are

That is the light that Jesus Christ brought to the world, but, (John 3:19) men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. The world REJECTED that wonderful good news and crucified their very Maker for bringing it. And while they were sinning so abominably, Christ died for them, to pay the penalty they have incurred in their stead — if and when they repent and turn to the way that brings them happiness! What a commentary on human nature!

Anyway, the restoration of the Kingdom of God does not depend on how much the NEWS is pro-

gospel would be withheld and the people would be deceived.

When his disciples asked *when* he would come again to earth to set up God's Kingdom and of the END of this present world, Jesus said: "Take heed that no man deceive you. For MANY shall come in my name" — many would profess to be his ministers, representing him — "saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:4-5). Untold thousands, ordained ministers in the Christian religion, have PREACHED CHRIST! They have said Jesus of Nazareth was Christ. But Christ's gospel has been withheld. The many have been deceived.

Remember, a deceived person does not *know* he is deceived. Otherwise he would not be deceived. Millions have been deceived into accepting a FALSE gospel — a false salvation.

But, in Jesus' answer to their question as to his return to earth and the END of this present world or age, the only sign he gave was: "And *this* gospel OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

Stop and think! If Christ's gospel had been preached to all the world during those 18½ centuries, it could not be the sign today of the soon-coming end of this present world, and of Christ's imminent return as King of kings and Lord of lords, to restore the Kingdom of God and the peaceful and happy world tomorrow! That one statement is absolute advance PROOF from Christ's own lips that his gospel would be withheld.

It has been!

But beginning January 1934, Christ's very gospel began going out. By the end of 1952 it was being thundered to the United States and Canada coast to coast via radio. January 1953 it began going to Europe and Britain — and soon, world-

When I discuss with heads of governments today their problems and world problems, I am discussing precisely what the gospel is all about.

taking to drugs and alcohol, staring a hopeless future in the face.

The weapons now exist to erase all humanity from the face of the earth in very short order. The world is sick, and the sickness is rapidly nearing the acute stage.

World-famous scientists and heads of state are saying the world's ONLY HOPE is a single WORLD GOVERNMENT in control of all arms and military force, to insure WORLD PEACE. Man can't bring it about. But Christ's gospel — the most tremendous ANNOUNCEMENT of the most wonderful GOOD NEWS ever given to the world, announces to humanity just that — a supreme world government with TOTAL POWER over ALL nations, ushering in world peace, prosperity for ALL, good health for all — a world filled with happiness and joy!

Jesus' gospel taught the way of life that will produce this utopia — a way true Christians must live NOW — a way that would solve all of today's problems and evils.

claimed. It does not depend on mankind believing it. IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN — as surely as the rising of tomorrow's sun!

Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God to many thousands. All but 120 individuals rejected it. The so-called "Sermon on the Mount" outlined the way of God's government. His many parables described the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God was his gospel!

Peter, John and the other original apostles proclaimed the Kingdom of God. It was the gospel the apostle Paul preached to the Gentiles. But men rejected it.

For 18½ centuries IT WAS NOT PROCLAIMED TO THE WORLD — only to a very few — and that generally under cover, lest those preaching it be put to death!

Jesus Said It Would Happen

Jesus said plainly that although he, as a person, as the Messiah, would be preached to the world, his

wide. Also, as in Jesus' prophecy of Matthew 24, the world is fast approaching the supreme time of world trouble - the very CLIMAX of civilization called "the GREAT TRIBULATION" (verses 21-22).

This is a frightening and terrifying hour - unless one hides his eyes and ears from the state of the world and its trends!

In such a sobering time, YOU HAVE JUST READ THE TRUTH that ought to arouse you out of the sleep of complacency and indifference! It is, I know, a shocking, staggering FACT to realize that this work - *The PLAIN TRUTH, The World Tomorrow* program on radio worldwide and on daily TV in the U.S. (and Canada weekly) - the work going out from Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God, is the ONLY WORK ON EARTH proclaiming the very gospel of Jesus Christ to the world in great power!

* * * * *

Tokyo, Japan

YESTERDAY the government of Japan conferred a very high honor on me. In a ceremony at the Foreign Office, on behalf of Emperor Hirohito, the Chief of Protocol, Ambassador Chikaraishi, conferred on me the Order of the Sacred Treasure. I understand this is the highest honor the Japanese government can confer on a private alien. And so far as I know, I am the only non-Japanese being awarded the honor decorations at this annual time for such awards.

A number of prominent Japanese are on the list, announced in today's *Daily Yomiuri*, to be decorated today. To give you a clearer understanding of these honors, there are seven classes of the Order of the Sacred Treasure.

First Class is not awarded to non-Japanese. It is being awarded to a former Minister of Health and Welfare and a former Director General

of the Economic Planning Agency of the government.

Second Class includes former presidents of large Japanese universities. My decoration was in this class - the highest ever given private aliens. A member of the Japan Olympic Committee, an official of the Imperial Household Agency and a president of a school received the Third Class Order of the Sacred Treasure. Fourth Class is being awarded to 482 persons; Fifth Class to 1,212; Sixth Class to 935; Seventh Class to 445. And even these are a very coveted honor in Japan.

I was accompanied to the Foreign Office by Mr. Bunsei Sato, member of the Diet and also Vice Minister of Transportation. Mr. Sato accompanied Mr. Eisaku Sato, then Prime Minister, to the meeting with President Nixon at San Clemente in January of last year. At that time, he visited the Ambassador College campus in Texas. Also accompanying was Congressman Kazuo Shionoya, who ranks high in the Diet (Japanese Congress). His son is a graduate of Ambassador College, Pasadena campus. And also accompanying were Mr. Stanley R. Rader, our chief counsel, and Mr. Osamu Gotoh, chairman of our Asian Studies department.

Leaving the Foreign Office building, we were driven to the official residence of the Prime Minister. There, we paid our respects briefly to Mr. Nikaido, secretary-general of the Cabinet. I received his congratulations on the decoration. He arranged for a brief meeting with Prime Minister Tanaka, to pay our respects. This was the third time I have seen Mr. Tanaka - once was before he became Prime Minister and twice since.

He remembered our first meeting in a conference room in the Diet building (Japan's Capitol building), when he insisted jokingly that I sit in the Prime Minister's chair. We had a good laugh over the incident. He congratulated me warmly for the decoration. He, along with the Em-

peror, had signed the diploma that was presented with it.

The Prime Minister explained that the decoration conferred on me was very high and was granted to Japanese only after 20 years of Diet membership plus holding a cabinet post - or equivalent. He laughingly said he had only an "eighth class order" - this, evidently, facetiously. The Prime Minister appeared extremely fit, vigorous and active, and greeted us very warmly.

Then we were driven to Mr. Bunsei Sato's new office in the Ministry of Transportation building. He has a large and impressive office, with drawings and plans of the new airport on a wall and a sketch of a proposed new floating landing-strip airport at Osaka - actually floating on the water a short distance offshore. It's a novel idea in landing strips - to be three miles long. Mr. Sato's department has charge of all the government-owned railway system, the subway (or underground) system in Tokyo, the airports and Japan Airlines. That's a very big business! It's a fairly recent promotion for Mr. Sato and a very large responsibility. We also met the Minister of Transportation, below whom Mr. Sato is now second in command. Mr. Sato also joined us at dinner the night before, along with our friend Mr. Okuda (who also visited the Texas campus in January 1972) and Congressman Shionoya and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kiyoshi Mizuno.

Then last night, I was co-host with Prince Mikasa, brother of the Emperor, at a dinner attended by some 40 guests. The Prince planned the dinner and sent out the printed invitations, which read:

The Prince Mikasa and Ms. Herbert W. Armstrong, celebrating the resumption of the archaeological excavation at Tel Zeror, request the pleasure of the company of...

At last night's dinner, I met for the first time the senior member of



IN A SPECIAL CEREMONY, at the Foreign Office in Tokyo on the behalf of Emperor Hirohito, the Chief of Protocol, Ambassador Chikaraishi, confers on Herbert W. Armstrong the Order of the Sacred Treasure — the highest honor the Japanese government can bestow on a private citizen of another country.

the Cabinet, Minister of Finance Aichi and Mrs. Aichi. Minister Aichi and I sat together at dinner and had a nice chat. He is a former Minister of Education and was negotiator of the Okinawa reversion treaty.

Also present were some 35 Japanese university professors and scholars in the field of archaeology, including the leading archaeologists, Dr. Ohata and Dr. Goto of the University of Tokyo. Dr. Goto will supervise this summer's archaeological dig at Tel Zeror in Israel.

Also present were Israeli Ambassador Ron and Mrs. Ron. Ambassador Ron is especially happy with the participation of Ambassador Col-

lege in this Japanese archaeological project. Ambassador College thus has a hand in bringing the two nations, Japan and Israel, together in a constructive mission of peace. Among the ladies present were Princess Mikasa, my daughter Beverly Gott and Mrs. Rader.

Prince Mikasa acted as master of ceremonies, congratulating me on the government decoration, to which I responded with thanks and great appreciation for so high an honor. Dr. Ohata gave the main speech on the archaeological project in Israel.

Tonight, we are having dinner with our good friends Dr. and Mrs. Ohama. Dr. Ohama is the leading

educator of Japan, and they are officially Japan's number one couple as private citizens. They have visited the Ambassador campuses at Pasadena and Texas.

Before leaving Japan this trip, we have another meeting coming up with former Prime Minister Sato. Then, on a long, one-day two-stop flight, we fly across the magnetic north pole to Amsterdam.

At The Hague, we shall be guests of Dr. Nagendra Singh, now justice on the World Court at The Hague. A meeting is planned with Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, and then a visit to Afghanistan and a meeting with that nation's King Mohammed Zahir Shah. □

What Our Readers Say

Is Sex Sin?

Referring to *The PLAIN TRUTH* (January 1973): After reading your article on "Sex Begins at Home," I was struck by the simple, but true statement of "Parental Supervision."

To get further guidance on this important subject, I'd like to request your book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. I am sure that as a father-to-be, I will find many of the answers in this book, seeing that a lack of "parental supervision" might also have been the cause of my trouble. Also, if possible, send the booklet on *Modern Dating*.

H. P.,
Port Elizabeth,
Republic of South Africa

In *The PLAIN TRUTH* you asked: "Is Sex Sin?" Let me tell you it is - because God never gave us sex, that was the Devil. You are wrong! God gave us physical laws - God is love. He talks about sex sin all through the Bible. Jesus sure did too, adultery, etc.

Mrs. Richard D.,
Canton, New York

• Ever read in the Bible about who created us "male and female"? It wasn't the devil!

Map Error

I just wanted to point out what I think was an oversight by the part of the staff of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. In the March issue was shown a map of the nine member nations of the European Economic Community. However, Sicily and Sardinia were not shown as belonging to Italy, and Corsica as belonging to France, as they do. More importantly, Greenland is officially a province of Denmark and is thereby part of the EEC. (This island, I'm sure, would be of great importance militarily, strategically, should war break out between Europe and the United States.) I'm sure your people have already spotted the error by now. Thank you.

Dominic V.,
Vancouver, B. C.

• The oversight was caught during our press run and corrected for most European readers.

Broadcast

I feel very concerned about the serious problems in the world today, and I would like to know more about them. When I am listening to your programme on 4XO (Radio Otago), I feel like turning the radio off. This is not because I don't like you or your programme. It's because the things you say are not very pleasant. But I always listen right to the end. Anyone can shut the ears to something one doesn't like, but this will never help the sad situation the earth is in. I am only 14 years old, but it is my future that's hanging on the line.

Stephanie W.,
Dunedin, New Zealand

Success Begins by Age One

The article on the importance of a child's first year states exactly the things I have been trying to point out to people who have asked why my teen-age boys are the kind of people they are. We now have a motherhood class, and this really would put backbone in my contentions.

Marion T. D.,
Santa Maria, California

Thank you so much for your article "Success Begins by Age One." We've made positive lists and negative lists as reminders of the do's and don'ts in raising our child, who just became one year old. We intend to follow up on the additional reading you suggest in your article. We asked our pediatrician for helpful booklets to read, but he had only one to suggest, and we didn't find it completely comprehensive. I'm sure that when we finish all of the reading, we will be much more inclined to be "A" parents. At least, we will strongly make the attempt!

Mrs. James C. H.,
Kansas City, Missouri

The article "Success Begins by Age One" is one of the best I've read in a while - and it is so very true, when we see the lack of child rearing in even five- or six-month-old children. It really shows. I sat with one a couple of weeks ago, and her parents said they wouldn't try to train her by spanking her until she is eighteen months old. So I don't think I'll sit with her again. She screams to get what she wants, and they walk the floor with her. I was a nervous wreck.

Verona C.,
Evansville, Indiana

Easter

I just finished reading the March issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and the article on Easter was an eye-opener. My friends and myself never realized it was a pagan custom. How little we know what the Bible teaches. Thank you for a fine magazine and will look forward to your correspondence course.

Robert R. M.,
Willow Street, Pennsylvania

We have been readers of *The PLAIN TRUTH* for several years now. I was particularly drawn to and intrigued by the Easter article by William Dankenbring in the March issue. While I am a Bible School graduate and a student of Church History, somehow the detailed information as given in this article was omitted from our curriculum(?)

I would be most appreciative to receive the booklet you offer at the end of the article entitled *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday*. Perhaps it will help to fill in some of the "blanks" I didn't get in school.

Arthur W.,
El Cajon, California

I am perplexed. I have always been impressed by your scriptural and historical accuracy, and now you say that Christ did not arise on Sunday. He was surely crucified on Friday, and he rose on the third day. Would that not be Sunday?

Henry O.,
Farmington, Washington

• Jesus crucified on Friday? Jesus died and was buried just before sunset (Matthew 27:57-60). Jesus plainly said he would be buried for three days and three nights, the length of time Jonah was in the belly of the great fish (Matthew 12:40). Sunday morning isn't three days and three nights from Friday evening. If you want to know on which day the crucifixion occurred, we invite you to write for the free literature on the subject.

In reading your article on the resurrection of "Christ," I think you are very wrong about the days he was in the tomb. In Hebrew usage, parts of the days at the beginning and end of a period were counted as days. Three days and three nights in Matthew 12:40 was a long way of saying three days. What difference does it make whether it was three days or one day?

Mary R.,
Salem, New Hampshire

• It does make a difference to God. A "day," in biblical usage, is counted from sunset to sunset (Leviticus 23:32; Exodus 12:18). Jesus himself explained that the daylight portion of this period is twelve hours (John 11:9). A "night and a day" refers to a 24-hour period (11 Corinthians 11:25). Therefore, when Jesus specifically stated that he would be in the grave three days and three nights, he was speaking of three complete 24-hour days. When the number of nights is stated as well as the number of days, the expression "three days" cannot be an idiom. It is a literal fact.

I read that article on Easter, and I disagree with you. Why spoil the fun and joy the small children get out of Easter Sunday? Maybe all you said is true, but who will change? I think God and Jesus would let things go if he was on this earth in 1973.

John L.,
Port Jervis, New York

• God says, "I change not" (Malachi 3:6). Jesus, stated Paul, is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). To obey God, we must be willing to change when we are proven wrong!

In the caption on page 38 of the June issue two names should be corrected: Dr. Ohno, presently the President and General Manager of the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo and the former Ambassador to the Court of St. James - rather than Dr. Ohata. And former Israeli Ambassador to Japan: Mr. Bartur - rather than Ambassador Ron.

what you can do...

TIMELY Tips and Helpful Suggestions for YOU and YOUR FAMILY

● Shopping Pitfalls

Because of today's high cost of living, it pays to be a wise shopper. Here are some supermarket shopping tips to help you be a wise shopper and avoid costly shopping pitfalls!

Impulse Buying This is a major shopping pitfall. Market experts know that 70 percent of all retail sales are impulse sales. In other words, the casual shopper buys 70 percent of his goods unintentionally, on the spur of the moment. Don't be a casual shopper. Buy what you really need. Have a shopping list and stick to it. Pass up those small, tantalizing items like candy, soft drinks, packaged snacks and sundry "goodies" which are placed so "conveniently" around the store, especially near the check-out stands. You will save money and have better health, too.

Convenience Foods. Another shopping pitfall to avoid is the buying of "convenience foods." Some few convenience foods are a good buy. They are convenient, relatively inexpensive, and fairly nutritious. But the majority of today's "convenience foods" can't begin to compare price wise or health wise with natural, cook-it-yourself foods, even considering the time it takes in preparation. In some cases, "convenience foods" will cost 7 to 10 times more than it will cost to buy and cook the ingredients yourself. Also, a significant amount of the nutritional value of the original whole foods used in "convenience foods" is lost in the processing. A wise shopper avoids buying "convenience foods" as much as possible.

Bargains. A bargain can become a shopping pitfall. Make good use of bargains, but don't let the word "bargain" influence you to buy unnecessary items. Remember too that "bargains" are often gimmicks to get consumers into the store. Market men know that more often than not, a consumer will end up buying added items on impulse. Real bargains may never be advertised. For instance, you can save a large amount if you buy supermarket-chain-labeled products rather than nationally advertised products. A nationally advertised brand of shaving cream might cost \$0.95. The same product made by the same manufacturer, with only a

different label, the label of the local supermarket chain, will cost only \$0.59.

For more information about how to save money through better management of your finances, write for our free booklet, *Managing Your Personal Finances*.

● Purse Snatchers

It is a deplorable age we live in, always having to watch out for criminal acts such as rape, car theft, house burglary, etc. The list is endless. Sadly, there is another contemptible crime all women should be aware of: purse snatching.

Purse snatchers come in all sizes and ages. Most often, the purse snatcher is a young man. But there are women purse snatchers too. They like to pick on elderly women because they can easily knock them down, grab the purse, and run. But they will snatch a purse anywhere, from any woman, if the opportunity arises. Favorite haunts of purse snatchers are theaters, trains, buses, restaurants, department stores, and other places where women are apt to be careless about where and how they set their purses down.

If you're ever confronted by a purse snatcher, let him have your purse. Resisting may only get you beaten up, stabbed, or shot. The contents of your purse are not worth it. Don't be like the forty-three-year-old woman in Dallas, Texas, who was confronted by a male purse snatcher in a hospital parking lot.

"Lady, I want that purse," he said.

"No, I need my purse," she replied. "I have all my personal belongings in it and need it. If you get my purse, you are going to have to kill me."

He then backed away, pulled out a gun, and shot the woman three times in the head, took her purse, and ran.

Eliminate the urge to resist giving up your purse if you're in such a circumstance. Do not carry a lot of money and valuables in it when you go out.

— Patrick A. Parnell

Speaking of the DEVIL...

If the devil is merely a manufactured religious myth designed to frighten the ignorant into submission, then there is really no cause for concern. But, on the other hand, if he is not a myth. . . .

by Charles F. Vinson

THE DEVIL does not exist... at least not the devil most of us have come to recognize as the butt of magazine cartoons and standup comic routines. That devil is the rather silly looking character in a crimson body suit, having a long pointed tail and a pair of wicked little horns. He holds a tapered pitchfork and is surrounded by nasty little demons, each, like as not, carrying his own bucket of glowing coals to remind him of home.

That devil seems at worst to be no more than a harmless bit of quaint religious tradition. Many people, however, are beginning to take him more seriously. This trend is the result of a growing awareness in all parts of the world of occurrences which cannot be explained scientifically or logically — occurrences which fall into the category of the occult.

Taking the Devil Seriously

Included in the popular new realization of things darkly spiritual is a

fringe element of Satan-worship and demonism. These two subjects have lately formed the basis of several best selling novels and much prime-time television and have drawn a considerable audience. Many people, of course, still consider the existence of the devil as little more than preposterous, but for others, the uncomfortable seeds of doubt are beginning to grow. With those doubts comes the inevitable question: Could there *really* be a devil?

It is a widely touted truism that nearly every myth has its origins in some fact or truth — even myths about Santa Claus or the heroes and gods of ancient Greece. What many haven't realized is that the devil "myth" is little different. Unfortunately, traditional theology has only served to create a huge credibility gap between the contrived, laughable cartoon character in the red body suit and the literal being who is actually one of the most important, fascinating and frightening figures in the entire history of the world.

Where to Find the Story

Organized Christianity claims to derive its basic tenets from the Bible. Due to a long history of disputes and disagreements in that fragmented religion, however, most rational people have tended to automatically discard the Bible as a source of information, rather than analyzing it objectively. Had this reaction not been so widespread, more people would be aware of the true story of the powerful spirit being riding the crest of popularity in today's neo-medieval occult resurgence.

The story into which the devil is later introduced begins in the very first chapter of Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament. You've undoubtedly read it before: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." That part is simple enough. But the very next sentence states, "And the earth was without form, and void. . . ."

On the surface, that statement appears quite innocent — but when the original Hebrew words are exam-



MEDIEVAL CONCEPT of Satan the devil, glowering as he fiendishly devours poor sinners condemned to a glowing cauldron of hell. Adapted from Fraim's fresco at Pisa about 1350.

ined, it takes on a much different meaning. The original Hebrew words for "without form" and "void" are *tohu* and *bohu*. When translated literally into English, they mean "in confusion, chaotic, waste and empty."

Even if you don't believe in divine creation, the idea of a newly created world, fresh off the drawing board, so to speak, in such a wretched condition, is illogical — even ludicrous.

There is, moreover, a scripture in the Bible which explicitly says that "God is not the author of confusion..." (I Corinthians 14:33). Why the discrepancy? Did God bungle his job? Or is there a better explanation? If there is, what does it have to do with the existence of a devil?

Paleontology vs. Theology

The overwhelming majority of the scientific world, since the seventeenth century, has never been able to stomach the obnoxiously adamant religious assertion that the earth is 6,000 years old — and no more. There is simply too much fossil evidence to the contrary.

These facts of nature have long been a stumbling block to traditional religion and have greatly weakened its position. But they needn't have. The idea that the earth is only a few thousand years old is an imagination of uninformed theologians, not a biblical truth.

But what does this have to do with the question of the existence of a devil? Notice the book of Job, chapter 38:4-9. We read that the "sons of God" — meaning angels — "shouted for joy" when God created the earth. The earth was a perfect and beautiful creation, not a place of darkness and confusion. Isaiah 45:18 reads "... he [God] created it [the earth] not in vain." "In vain" is a rather obscure translation of the Hebrew word *tohu*, meaning "confusion, disorder, chaos" — the same word used in Genesis 1:2.

Clearly, God did not create the earth in a state of disorder or chaos. It *became* that way.

Evidence of this is found in Genesis 1:2, a scripture commonly translated (in the King James translation and many others): "The earth was without form, and void..." In other verses in the Bible, notably Genesis 19:26, the same Hebrew word translated "was" in Genesis 1:2 is translated as "became." More accurately, the second sentence in the Bible reads, "The earth *became* without form and void."

That simple correction of the English wording in Genesis 1:2 changes the entire picture. For some reason the original, beautiful, perfect creation fell into complete chaos, disorder and ultimate destruction, necessitating its re-creation. That re-creation of the surface of the earth is actually the second recorded creation — the one described in the "creation week" of Genesis 1 and 2.

The big question remains: who, or what, could have caused that great destruction on the earth's surface?

Broken Laws

God caused that first world to function according to natural and spiritual laws. Only if those laws were broken could the earth have been wrecked so completely.

God defines the breaking of any of his laws as sin (I John 3:4). Someone or somebody must have committed great sin — but who? There were no people on the earth at that time. The Bible makes it plain that human beings are a product of the later re-creation of the world. Humanity simply wasn't around at that time, to sin or do anything else. Even the fossil record proves that. No accepted anthropologist has ever placed or found evidence of the age of man in conjunction with the earlier geological deposits.

A clue to the enigma can be found in II Peter 2:4: "... God

spared not the angels that sinned..." That scripture is included in a section analyzing the results of sin. In succeeding verses, Noah is mentioned in conjunction with a physical destruction of most life on the earth by a flood. That flood came as a punishment for the universal sins of the human population at that time (II Peter 2:5). Also mentioned are the infamous cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. But the "sin" of angels is mentioned before the sins of man in this section — and for a definite reason. It occurred first. That "sin of angels" took place in a world which existed before the creation of man. There were already "fallen angels" — angels who had sinned — before the creation of man.

Another supporting scripture is found in verse 6 of Jude: "And the angels which kept not their first estate [the earth], but left their own habitation, he [God] hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." This scripture refers to a final punishment those sinning angels of II Peter 2:4 will receive for their rebellion. It also defines their sin — they did not keep "their first estate," but left their own habitation.

An even further amplification is found in Hebrews 2:5. It says that the "world to come" — the world under the government of God mentioned so often in the New Testament — will not be under the rulership of angels: Read it for yourself: "For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak." That "world to come" has not yet been established on earth. The earth still suffers under the various warring human governments.

That statement in Hebrews, however, implies something further — that this present world of human governments is really under the spiritual subjection of angels! Those angels are the same ones who have sinned and are now opposed to God and everything he stands for. The

biblical term for those angels who rejected God's way is *demons*.

Those three scriptures combined (II Peter 2:4, Jude 6 and Hebrews 2:5) tell us that the destruction of that first creation was brought about by the sin of the rulers of the earth at that time — spirit beings called angels, created by God. But this raises other questions. Why did those angels leave their own habitation in the first place? What was their motive for sin?

Enter the Devil

Demons, or fallen angels, follow a very powerful leader, the one who is ultimately responsible for encouraging their sin in the first place. He is described in various places as "the prince of this world" (John 12:31, 14:30 and 16:11) and is also called the "god of this world" (II Corinthians 4:4).

Who was — or is — this spirit being? There are two accounts in the Bible which show how a very powerful and talented spirit being, very close to the throne of God, deliberately threw away his responsibility and ruined his future.

One of the two accounts is found in Ezekiel 28. This chapter is constructed in the form of a prophecy against a man called the prince of Tyrus. (Tyrus or Tyre, a city located on the east coast of the Mediterranean, was a rich and powerful commercial center.) Historically, this prince of Tyre was an evil man, an aggressor and oppressor of other people. He imagined himself to be somewhat of a religious ruler, because he announced to the people that he was God and sat in the seat of God (Ezekiel 28:2). The true God warns the prince in this chapter of his coming destruction.

Halfway through the chapter, however, the prophecy changes subjects. In verse 12, God inspired Ezekiel to speak of a different being — one quite similar to the prince of Tyre in attitude, but obviously not a human.

"Thou wast Perfect"

God calls this being the "king" of Tyrus or Tyre — not the "prince." This king has much the same problem the prince had, only on an immensely larger scale. This king of Tyre is described by God: "Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God, every precious stone was thy covering... the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created" (Ezekiel 28:12-13).

Obviously, this passage is not referring to a mere human king or even a human being! No man except Jesus Christ has approached perfection in God's eyes. Furthermore, this personage was created, not born! This mysterious being spoken of here in Ezekiel must be a nonhuman, a spirit being. But who is this spirit of such exquisite beauty?

The account continues: "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire" (verse 14).

Here is a being of great beauty, but even more than that, he held a very important position in the government of God. He was a "covering cherub" who ruled over millions of other lesser angels. In Exodus 25:16-22 is a description of the throne of God, symbolized by an "ark" and a "mercy seat" in the tabernacle built by ancient Israel. On the mercy seat of that symbolic throne were placed two hand-carved cherubim, symbolizing the two great cherubs whose wings cover the throne of God. Cherubs, or more properly, cherubim, are not, as most people assume, chubby little baby boys with wings. A cherub is a powerful and intelligent spirit being created by God to occupy a top position in his spiritual government.

Continuing in Ezekiel 28:15: "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." What was that iniquity?

Verse 17 tells us: "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee." Here is a great spirit being, a cherub, a ruler over multitudes of angels, who is guilty of iniquity — sin. That great cherub was smitten knowingly, with his own self-importance, his intelligence and beauty. This being is none other than the one who, through sin, became the devil! He became a devil when he thought he should take the place of Almighty God as ruler of the universe.

From Lucifer to Satan

The 14th chapter of Isaiah is similar to the 28th chapter of Ezekiel. It, too, pictures an evil king — this time the king of Babylon — an oppressor of the people and an unmerciful conqueror. God warns this ruler of impending punishment for his wretched misdeeds. That punishment included the destruction of the city of Babylon and ultimately, the death of that wicked king.

Like the prince of Tyre described in Ezekiel, the king of Babylon was a human being with many of the very same character attributes as the devil. And, just as in the 28th chapter of Ezekiel, the devil himself is also described in Isaiah 14. This time he is called by his original name. Verse 12 reads, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"

Lucifer's name in its Hebrew form means "shining one" or "shining star of the dawn." (Symbolically, the Bible refers to angelic beings as stars, particularly in pro-

phetic passages — Revelation 1:20.) To continue: "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."

Lucifer was given a throne on earth (Isaiah 14:13). He spoke of ascending above the clouds. He wanted to exalt his throne above the "stars of God," a passing reference to other angels. Ultimately, he wanted to rule the universe. Lucifer had determined to take the place of God. He rebelled against the authority of God and completely disregarded the wisdom he had been given when he was created. In his vanity, he forgot that no one can be more powerful than his Creator.

Because of Lucifer's rebellion, his name was changed to Satan, a Hebrew word meaning "adversary."

The word "devil," also used commonly to describe the fallen Lucifer, comes from the Greek *diabolos* and means accuser — one who slanders another — because the devil is continually accusing God's chosen people (Revelation 12:10).

The Great Rebellion

The devil was not created evil. He became evil. He possessed free moral agency. He could choose to obey God, or to rebel. He chose to rebel. That rebellion fomented by Satan was not an isolated event involving only himself and God. Revelation 12:4 describes a "great red dragon," symbolic of the devil, drawing a "third part of the stars of heaven" and casting "them to the earth." This third part of the stars of heaven is, apparently, that third of all the angels who followed Satan in his rebellion, though there are no actual population figures given for that army of rebelling angels.

The effects of that war between spirits are still visible, geologically, today. But, happily, the earth is

presently able to support life because God completely remade the earth's surface after that ancient rebellion. The re-creation of the earth is detailed in the first few chapters of Genesis. The Bible does not say how long a period of time elapsed between the destruction of the original creation and the restoration of the earth as we know it.

Where is Satan Now?

After the original conflict between God and the devil, Satan was "cast down" to the earth (Luke, 10:18) along with his coterie of angels, now become demons. Demons are frustrated beings, incapable of properly fulfilling the jobs for which they were originally created.

The activities of Satan on the earth have been documented in several places in the Bible. When the first two human beings were placed on the earth, Satan was there. He was instrumental in engineering their rejection of God's way.

In addition, though Satan has been shorn of his former glory, he is not totally cut off from all communication with the one against whom he rebelled. Chapters one and two of the book of Job describe one of his later encounters with God.

Other scriptures picture Satan as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour (Peter 5:8). He is called "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2).

But perhaps the most important scripture relating to the activities of Satan on this earth today is II Corinthians 4:3-4: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Satan's primary effort in the world today is the continuation of the original rebellion he fomented

against God. He is seeking to accomplish that task by permeating the world with his own attitude of rebellion toward and open hostility to God's way of life, which would bring peace, happiness, prosperity and a better world. It is that attitude which, when expressed through uncontrolled human nature, is directly responsible for the miserable condition of the world today. Because Satan has an unseen but direct influence upon the religions and the governments of nations today, he is not called the "god of this world" and the "prince of this world" pointlessly. The devil has been allowed to guide world affairs down the path toward the ultimate destruction of all human life. That is Satan's goal, because to him, destroying humanity means thwarting God's plan to bring many sons to birth and give them control over the universe (Hebrews 2:5-10).

How Successful?

The ultimate downfall of Satan and the failure of his program is prophesied in the Bible. At the present time, however, God is allowing Satan to continue to do a work of deception on the earth, and that work has been very successful, at least on the surface. In fact, it has been so successful that the devil can now act in almost total anonymity. Because of Satan's successful campaign to blot out his true identity and to substitute instead the silly looking character in the crimson body suit with a pointed tail and horns, the truth about the real origin and power of the devil has become, for most people, an unbelievable fable.

Anyone can, of course, choose to reject what the Bible contains about the origin of the devil; and so remain as ignorant on the subject as the rest of the world. After all, if there really is no devil, then there is no cause for concern.

But, there is a devil . . . and there is cause for concern! □

Garner Ted Armstrong

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In This Issue

★ **A NEW LOOK AT THE ENERGY CRISIS**

See page 2.

★ **THE DILEMMA OF PROSTITUTION**

See page 10.

★ **GENOCIDE — MAN'S WAY TO PEACE!**

Up to thousands of human beings have been slaughtered the past two years in a little known area of Africa. The United Nations has not intervened. Here's why. See page 16.

★ **THE CARPENTER OF GALILEE WHO BROUGHT THE WORLD LOVE**

The greatest single need in every human life is to love and be loved. See page 20.

★ **HEAVEN, HELL AND THE HEREAFTER**

Why do millions believe we humans go either to heaven or to hell when we die? Where did this idea originate? See page 24.

★ **SPEAKING OF THE DEVIL . . .**

If the devil is merely a manufactured religious myth, a theological bogeyman designed to frighten the ignorant into submission, then there is really no cause for concern. But, on the other hand, if he is not a myth . . . See page 36.

THE PLAIN TALKER
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