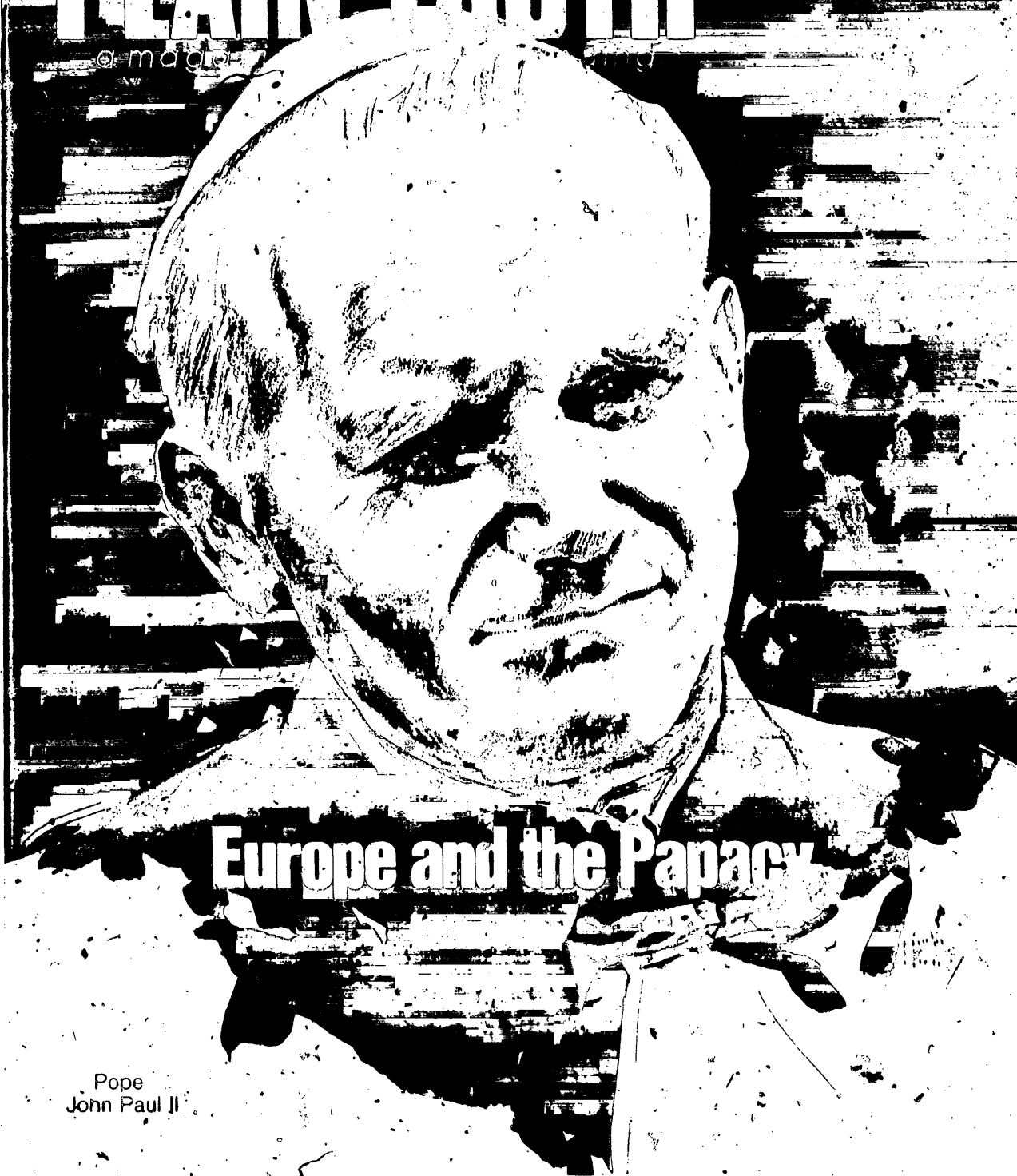


THE
PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine



Europe and the Papacy

Pope
John Paul II

THE PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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ABOUT OUR COVER

The election last October of Poland's Cardinal Karol Wojtyła as pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church came as a complete surprise to many. The first non-Italian pope in over 450 years, he has assumed the name John Paul II in honor of his short-lived predecessor. What role is the papacy destined to play in the future of Europe, and of the world? Read the startling, eye-opening article beginning on page 4.

Illustration by Brian Knowles

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Personal from...

Your Human Potential Is Incredibly Greater Than You Have Realized

Don't sell yourself short! The possibilities that lie ahead for you are transcendently greater than you have ever come to know!

When I was an adolescent of sixteen, as I have said and written many times, AMBITION was aroused in me. It was on my first summer vacation job away from home. I had never thought very seriously before of making something of myself in the world.

I had devoted my time, as most boys do, to "having fun." I had played baseball, football, and spin tops. At age twelve I became interested in wrestling. Those were the days when wrestling was wrestling—not a deceptive comedy show like professional wrestling later became. Those were the days when Frank Gotch was world champion—a real champion—the days of "Farmer Burns," Zbysco, and other superstrong men. The older brother of a neighbor boy I played with had set up a real wrestling mat, and we boys were learning all about half nelsons, arm locks, and toeholds.

Then at sixteen I had a summer vacation job in another town. My employer complimented me on my work, and this caused me to try hard. He began telling me I had abilities to make a real success of my life. I could really accomplish big things, if I applied myself.

Ambition is the DESIRE to accomplish, PLUS the will to apply oneself energetically with determination. I didn't then know what I would do, in what field I would become such a success, but I began to believe in myself, and began to apply myself to studies at the public library, entirely aside from the high school studies.

At age eighteen I put myself through a course of self-analysis, by means of a book I found in the public library, *Choosing a Vocation*. It helped me avoid "fitting the square peg in the round hole." It set forth the requirements for success in the professions, businesses, occupations. This self survey, coupled with a survey of occupations, led me into the advertising profession.

I applied myself vigorously. As I grew into the twenties, I became quite successful. With an office in

Chicago's Loop from age 23 to 30, I was finally earning an income which, on today's dollar value, would amount to \$150,000 per year.

Then, at age 34, I was challenged most seriously, and was led into an intensive, almost night-and-day, in-depth study of evolution and the Bible. My marriage depended upon it, and I did not believe in divorce.

This in-depth research OPENED MY EYES to an entirely NEW HORIZON!

Up until then I had been imbued 1) with self-confidence, and 2) with an horizon limited to mental or physical secular fields.

In other words, I interpreted "human potential" in terms of the physical and the material, as I suppose most everybody does today.

Commonly, people will think of human potential as the possibility of making such a success in life as a Thomas A. Edison, an Einstein, a Paderewski, an Arthur Rubinstein—or, historically, a Napoleon, or an Alexander the Great.

But now a WHOLE NEW HORIZON loomed transcendently before my mind's eye—something immeasurably greater and more wonderful than any physical, material, or mechanical accomplishment.

And now, too, an entirely NEW KIND OF CONFIDENCE began to grip me. I began to exchange SELF-CONFIDENCE for the confidence that is FAITH in the living Jesus Christ. Self-confidence began to disappear. FAITH, which is RELIANCE on God, began to grow.

And a potentiality that is possible for humans now loomed up stupendously greater than anything I had conceived of before.

I had begun to see, in the Bible, something TREMENDOUS that seems hidden from human eyes in this world. I began to realize that the gospel message which GOD sent by Jesus Christ involves a vast comprehension of God's great PURPOSE! I began to discover the missing dimension in knowledge—knowledge undiscovered by science, untaught in higher. (Continued on page 45)

Part Two:

THIS IS THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

Here is the conclusion of the true story of the true Church, founded A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ, the unique and only voice giving a hopeless world its only and sure hope—the soon-coming peaceful and happy world tomorrow!

The real truth is incredibly eye-opening. It is stranger than any fiction. It may be hard to believe—but it is TRUE! Let's go back, for the moment, to the time of Christ—and even to the time of Old Testament prophecies before His appearing. The prophet Isaiah foretold the appearance of Christ; that He would be born as a baby, grow up, and eventually become the RULER and the SAVIOR of humanity. Note this amazing prophecy in which Isaiah was recording a message from God concerning ancient Israel: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the

GOVERNMENT shall be upon his shoulder..." (Isa. 9:6). In other words, Isaiah foretold that Jesus Christ was born to BECOME A KING—A RULER. But continue the prophecy: "...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

So Jesus Christ was to be not only King and Ruler over GOVERNMENT, He also was to be Savior or God. Continue, verse 7: "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. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (See Luke 1:26-33.)

Messenger of the Covenant

Notice one more key prophecy foretelling the coming of Christ. It is in Malachi 3:1: "Behold, I will send my messenger [human], and he shall prepare the way before me [Christ]; and the Lord, whom ye seek [Christ], shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger [Christ] of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."

This is speaking of Christ's coming as "the Messenger of the New Covenant." Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant. That covenant was a MARRIAGE COVENANT, by which Israel became a NATION of this world, "married" to God. Christ came as a Messenger of the New Covenant, which shall establish the coming government and the KINGDOM OF GOD on earth: The true Church, at that time, shall be changed from fleshly material composition to immortal spirit composition. And this Church, then immortal, is to marry the resurrected Christ.

As the Old Covenant under Moses established ancient Israel as one of this world's human kingdoms, so the New Covenant will establish the resurrected saints of Christ, immortal, as the WORLD-RULING KINGDOM, with Christ as Ruler.

But if one reads verses 2-5 of Malachi 3, he will see it refers primarily to the SECOND coming of Christ as King of kings—not merely to His first appearing on earth more than 1900 years ago. John the Baptist was the human messenger who prepared the way before Christ's first coming. But another must prepare the way before His second and now imminent coming in supreme power and glory.

What Was Christ's Gospel?

Now look briefly at the New Testament record of Christ's coming, ministry, and establishment of God's CHURCH.

One summary-in-brief is the book of Mark, chapter 1: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (verse 1). Mark's Gospel begins at a time when Jesus was about thirty years old.

Beginning in verse 2, the account of Jesus' ministry, speaks of John the Baptist preparing the way before Him. Verses 9-10 speak of Jesus being baptized by John and of the Spirit of God descending upon Him. Verses 12-13 record Jesus' 40-day fast and His overcoming of Satan, thus qualifying Him to reestablish the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

Then, in verses 14-15, the actual beginning of His gospel message (of which He was the Messenger—Mal-

achi 3:1) occurs: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching"—WHAT gospel message?—"the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled [since Jesus qualified by overcoming Satan], and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

The word gospel means "good news." His message was prophetic. It was NEWS of the future setting-up of the Kingdom of God to RULE and bring peace and salvation to the world—therefore it was the ANNOUNCEMENT of future GOOD NEWS!

Born Into God's Family

But Jesus was born and came into the world for more than being KING and RULER WORLDWIDE! He came also as spiritual SAVIOR.

This is recorded in brief in John 3: "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God. . . . Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (verses 1-3). Notice, the Kingdom of God will be something that can be SEEN—but not until one is *born again*.

"Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (Verse 4.) Nicodemus could not understand this matter of being "BORN AGAIN," just as almost no one understands it today.

"Jesus answered. . . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh [that is, a mortal HUMAN]; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (verses 5-6). That is, once born again, one is born not of a human father in mortal physical human flesh, but of God, impregnated by God's Spirit, in immortal SPIRIT COMPOSITION, as a God Being! *Born of God!* One may be begotten of God by receiving His Holy Spirit in this life. But he is born again *only* in the immortal SPIRIT life to come—at the time of the resurrection. When BORN AGAIN, he will BE spirit—no longer

mortal flesh and blood. These words of Jesus ought to be plainly understood—and they are further explained in the "resurrection chapter," I Corinthians 15. Yet they are NOT today generally understood, even in theological seminaries!

Jesus came, then, for two primary purposes: to qualify to become, SOON NOW, WORLD RULER; and to become Savior. Humans may, through a resurrection from the dead, become divine immortal spirit beings—as *born* children of God in the GOD FAMILY!

But how little of this is understood today! And how subtly the plain teachings of Jesus and of Scripture have been twisted into a counterfeit meaning!

Jesus' Mission on Earth

Now quickly take a look at what Jesus did during His 33½ years on earth.

He met and conquered Satan (Matt. 4:1-11), thus qualifying to be EARTH'S KING and to set up the KINGDOM OF GOD!

Then He called and chose His disciples, later to become His original apostles, to carry the message of the KINGDOM OF GOD to the world. This is the message of the WAY OF LIFE of that Kingdom—based on the Ten Commandments!

He proclaimed the GOOD NEWS of the future KINGDOM OF GOD to thousands—though He did not come, some 1900 years ago, on a "soul-saving crusade."

Then, although sinless Himself, He was crucified so that His shed lifeblood would pay the death penalty for a repentant and believing humanity.

After three days and three nights in the tomb, He was resurrected by God the Father. And thus was He BORN by a resurrection as a Son of God—as the pioneer, the firstborn (to immortality) of many brethren (Rom. 8:29, Heb. 2:9-10).

Then, having for 3½ years taught and trained His apostles in the truth, He SENT THEM (the word "apostle" means "one sent forth") to proclaim this GOOD NEWS of the future KINGDOM OF GOD!

(Continued on page 42)

Supernatural Forces on a Collision Course!

WHAT NOW?

Two opposing supernatural powers are fast converging toward the supreme crisis of all time. It will drastically affect your life and all humanity! The end of this world is imminent. What's prophesied to happen next?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

It's back to prophecy, now! We need an immediate updating on events fulfilling biblical prophecy! It's now urgent that we pinpoint where we are in prophesied world events, especially in view of two month-apart papal elections and a serious new threat from the Soviet Union. Precisely what do these events portend for the immediate future?

It all started millennia ago. Now it is converging rapidly toward the CATAclysmic CLIMAX of the ages!

YOU are living in this supreme CRISIS-TIME of all eternity! It will severely affect YOUR LIFE and perhaps your eternity!

Origin of the Supernatural Forces

It all began in eternity—farther back than your mind can grasp—and it will lead to a future happy eternity.

Yet we live at the very point of supreme CRISIS!

It all began with the existence from eternity of God and the Word. The Word was much later to become—less than two thousand years ago—the Lord Jesus Christ. But He had always existed, “without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life” (Heb. 7:3). All things were created by Him. God created all things (the UNIVERSE and all therein) by Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9).

First to be created were the angels. Angels are spirit beings, composed of spirit, immortal, with life inherent. Three levels of angels were created: ordinary angels who do not have wings, seraphs and cherubs, both of whom do. Angels are on a higher plane than man, and the supreme creation in angel life

were cherubs, of which only three are mentioned in the Bible.

One of these was the archangel Lucifer. Long before the creation of man, Lucifer had been set by God on earth's THRONE, to administer the GOVERNMENT OF GOD over angels which then inhabited the earth.

This Lucifer was the SUPREME MASTERPIECE of God's creative power—actually next to God in superpower! But Lucifer turned from God's government and led his angels in REBELLION against God. As an invading army they swept up to God's heaven, but were cast back down to earth. Lucifer's name was changed to Satan the devil. His angels became demons.

Adam's Rebellion

Then, in His greatest Master Plan of all, God undertook the actual repro-

duction of Himself, through MAN. God created man in His image—form and shape—for a special relationship with God. But Satan got to Adam through Eve his wife, Adam followed, Satan in rejecting the government of God. Adam had been made, as had Lucifer and the angels, a free moral agent—with independent MIND and ability of free choice.

On Adam's fateful decision and rebellion, Adam's world, descended from him, was sentenced to being CUT OFF from God for 6,000 years, after which God decreed Christ should come to RESTORE the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth, establishing the KINGDOM OF GOD with worldwide RULE.

Satan is an immortal spirit being, next to God in supernatural power. When Adam failed to reject Satan's way, but followed it in defiance of his Maker, it remained for Jesus Christ, the "second Adam," to reject Satan's way, defeat him, and qualify to restore God's government. Those in Christ, who have received the gift of His Holy Spirit and overcome Satan, shall qualify to sit with Christ on earth's throne by a soon-coming resurrection at Christ's imminent return as KING of kings.

God, in sentencing Adam and his world, had said, in effect, "Go, form your own governments, your own religions, your own civilization." Satan has remained to deceive and thus sway all mankind save only those few whom God has specially called to a unique mission, in preparation for the Kingdom of God.

In this world, soon after the Flood, a human despot, Nimrod, formed the world's first city-states. His mother-wife, Semiramis, started a pagan, Satan-influenced religion, from which many world religions have sprung deceived—with Satan the god of this world.

Some six centuries before Christ, one Nebuchadnezzar conquered other nations and established the Chaldean Empire (Babylon) as the world's first empire.

Meanwhile God had called the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob out of Egyptian slavery, 430 years after Abraham, to become

God's nation on earth. Spiritual salvation was not offered them. Their God-established government was based on God's spiritual law. But they rebelled, and were successively conquered and taken as captive slaves—first by Assyria, and later Judah was taken by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon.

Through the prophet Daniel, God revealed Himself to Nebuchadnezzar as supreme Ruler over all. Nebuchadnezzar had a chance to come under God's rule. But as Israel had rejected that, so did Nebuchadnezzar. His empire was following the Babylonian mystery religion.

God gave prophecies of world events from the time of Daniel until our time and immediately beyond. The Persian Empire succeeded the Chaldean, then the Greco-Macedonian of Alexander the Great, followed in 27 B.C. by the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire held world sway during the time of Christ's ministry.

Jesus Christ founded His Church A.D. 31 at Jerusalem. He had trained His original apostles, whom He sent forth with His GOSPEL MESSAGE of the KINGDOM OF GOD, backed up by the Church of God, imbued with God's Holy Spirit.

Counterfeit Christianity

By A.D. 33 the Pater-leader of the Babylonian mystery religion, one Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24), falsely claimed Christianity and applied that name to his religion. It entered into fierce opposition and persecution of the Church of God, and by A.D. 58 a counterfeit gospel was being accepted, and the gospel of Christ was suppressed by Roman power by A.D. 70.

The Babylonian mystery religion (Rev. 17:5) became a Rome-based religion, persecuting true Christian believers. The Roman Empire was overthrown by northern barbarians in 476. There was a semi-Roman rule by the Vandals, Ostrogoths and the Heruli for nearly 200 years—but all three disappeared eventually as if the earth had swallowed them.

Meanwhile the Roman Church, still claiming Christianity, now known primarily as the Roman

Catholic Church, had gained prominence and power. In 554, its pope brought Justinian, who ruled the Roman Empire of the east at Constantinople, to Rome, for a resurrection of the Roman Empire—then known as the Holy Roman Empire—with the popes claiming infallible divine rule over the state. Church and state were united—the Roman religion was enforced.

There were ups and downs in the continuing Holy Roman Empire—reaching peaks in A.D. 800 under the French King Charlemagne, then later another upsurge under the German Otto the Great, still later the Hapsburg Austrian dynasty rising to a peak under Charles V, and finally the Holy Roman Empire coming to its end under Napoleon, who "met his Waterloo" in 1814. Thus, as prophesied (Rev. 13:5), the medieval Holy Roman Empire continued for 1260 years (a day for a year in prophecy).

In 1935 Mussolini had conquered Ethiopia, with Eritrea, Italian Somaliland and Libya. Mussolini—having arranged a concordat with the Vatican—proclaimed the resurrection of the Roman Empire. It was an insignificant "empire," hardly making front-page news. This was the kingdom that "was, and is not, and yet is" of Revelation 17:8.

Verse 10 (Rev. 17) says: "And there are seven kings [kingdoms]: five are fallen [as of 1935], and one is, and the other is not yet come."

Prophesied United Europe

I have been proclaiming and writing, ever since 1935, that the final one of the seven eras of the Holy Roman Empire is coming in our generation—a "United States of Europe," combining ten nations or groups of nations in Europe—with a UNION OF CHURCH AND STATE!

The nations of Europe have been striving to become reunited. They desire a common currency, a single combined military force, a single united GOVERNMENT. They have made a start in the Common Market. They are now working toward a common currency. Yet, on a purely political basis, they have been totally UNABLE to unite.

In only one way can this resurrected Holy Roman Empire be brought to fruition—by the “good offices” of the Vatican, uniting church and state once again, with the Vatican astride and ruling (Rev. 17:1-5).

This united Europe is pictured in the prophecy of Daniel 2 (the stupendous dream-image) as the ten toes of an image, which image portrayed and foretold the entire Gentile and Babylonian rule from Nebuchadnezzar's Chaldean Empire, 605 B.C., until the KINGDOM OF GOD (Dan. 2:44). This united Europe will attempt to fight and destroy the glorified Christ, as He returns for WORLD RULE (Rev. 17:13-14).

This new united Europe will be, militarily and economically, as strong, or even more powerful, than either the United States or the U.S.S.R. It will be a third gigantic world power! But, it will be exceedingly short-lived (Rev. 17:10, 12)—as iron and miry clay are not adhesive, and will not stick together (Daniel 2:42-43).

Now let me fill in a few pertinent points. Revelation 13:2, 4 reveals that Satan gave this religious-political combine its power, and seat, and great authority.

Yet that does not imply that the millions of people within it are in themselves any more evil than the rest of humanity in this world, for THIS WHOLE WORLD—all nations—has been DECEIVED by Satan (Rev. 12:9). A deceived person may be ever so sincere, thinking he is right. Those deceived—all but the very minimal “elect”—are simply natural or carnal-minded—and the natural mind of MAN is hostile against God, and not subject to the LAW of God, neither indeed can be (Rom. 8:7), and is “deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9). THAT DESCRIBES ALL OF US, as we were prior to conversion!

Satan has been the god of this world. (II Cor. 4:4).

When God SENTENCED the world (all except the very few, comparatively, that He would call) to be CUT OFF from God, He at the same time ALLOWED Satan to remain.

There were two vital reasons for this: 1) The THRONE OF THE EARTH, on which God placed Lucifer, MUST NOT BE VACATED. Even though Lucifer was disqualified and his name changed to Satan, he must occupy the throne UNTIL his successor, Christ, has qualified (which He did in A.D. 31) and been INDUCTED INTO OFFICE (as He shall be at His second coming in supreme POWER AND GLORY). 2) As Jesus had to QUALIFY by rejecting and overcoming Satan, so must all those, from righteous Abel on to now, ALSO reject and overcome Satan in order to QUALIFY to sit with Christ in His throne when He ousts Satan and Himself sits on that THRONE OVER ALL THE EARTH!

The REAL CULPRIT to blame for all the world's evils is Satan—NOT DECEIVED MAN!

The 6,000-Year Battle

World-famous evangelists have said there is a supreme CONTEST or BATTLE going on between Christ and Satan. They believe that NOW is the ONLY day of salvation; that Christ is engaged in a supreme struggle to get everybody “SAVED,” while Satan is fighting savagely to keep everybody “LOST.” THAT IS AN ENTIRELY FALSE AND ERRONEOUS CONCEPT. Those who proclaim it are themselves DECEIVED by Satan.

The only CONTEST is between those few God has called and Satan, not between CHRIST and Satan. Those called must, it is true, overcome Satan, even as Jesus did, to QUALIFY to sit on Christ's THRONE (a throne NOW OCCUPIED BY SATAN). Therefore, we—we called-out ones—we who are CHRIST'S—are contending not against other people who persecute, accuse and become hostile against us. We are contending against WICKED SPIRITS IN HIGH PLACES; that is, Satan and his demons (Eph. 6:12). It is Satan working in people (Eph. 2:2) who really is antagonizing, accusing, trying to destroy us.

But Jesus Christ has already CONQUERED and OVERCOME Satan. The former Lucifer was “perfect in all his ways” from the day of his creation “UNTIL iniquity was found in

him” (Ezek. 28:15). GOD created Lucifer BY Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9). Christ is his MAKER! Satan has deceived evangelists of this world into putting Satan on an EQUAL FOOTING in power with God his Creator!

UNDERSTAND THIS, once and for all! Satan cannot do a thing except what God ALLOWS him to do! Notice this in the book of Job: “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the ETERNAL, and Satan came also among them” (Job 1:6).

Satan contended against one of God's “CALLED”—Job. Satan wanted PERMISSION from God to destroy all Job possessed. “And the ETERNAL said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath, is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand” (Job. 1:12). Satan can do NO MORE THAN GOD ALLOWS! There is NO CONTEST going on between God and Satan!

But the first man, Adam, MADE THE CHOICE to follow Satan's way. God then sentenced man to be ON HIS OWN, cut off from God. God has ALLOWED Satan to sway and deceive mankind—and GOD HAD A GREAT PURPOSE IN DOING SO!

This world has NOT been God's world. It has been MAN's world, but, for a PURPOSE, God has allowed Satan to tempt, deceive and mislead mankind.

The Dilemma of the Papacy

NOW, in SUCH A WORLD allowed by God—a world deceived and CUT OFF from Him—consider the situation of the Roman Catholic Church. This church has sat astride the governments of Europe through the Middle Ages and up until 1814. For a time after 1814, the popes had gone into virtual exile.

But now, in this twentieth century, a drastic CHANGE has come over all humanity. The so-called “new morality” has swept over the world. This, more than anything else, was a revolt against the Roman Catholic dictum, generally accepted in the Western world, that sex is in itself SINFUL, shameful.

Probably the founder of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, started

(Continued on page 39)

PART THREE:

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY



God promised great wealth and abundance to Abraham's seed—but did they ever inherit those fantastic blessings? Just where are these "Lost Ten Tribes," anyway? Did they simply disappear from the face of the earth, or did they go on to become the richest nations in the world? You would be shocked to know how much the answers to these vital questions have to do with your future and the future of Western civilization!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

After the death of Jacob and his twelve sons in Egypt, their children grew in about two and a quarter centuries to a population probably between two and three million in that land.

But Israel's children became slaves: "And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation. And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. . . . And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: and they made their lives bitter with hard bondage. . ." (Ex. 1:6-14).

Then God raised up Moses and fitted him in a special way to lead these children of Israel out of the bondage that had come to them in Egypt.

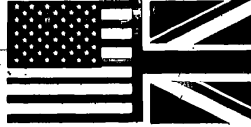
When they reached Mt. Sinai, in the peninsula wilderness, God made a covenant with them establishing them as a NATION—His nation—among the kingdoms of the

world. Their government was theocratic, with the civil as well as the spiritual and religious laws, given directly from God. God Himself was their King and He ruled them by a system of judges.

Israel's First King, Was God

God was Israel's only King! Israel was both church and state. In Acts 7:38 we are told that the Israelites formed the church in the wilderness. The word "congregation" of Israel used throughout the Old Testament has the same meaning exactly as the word "church" in the New. Israel, consequently, had more than one set of laws. God gave Israel a twofold form of government. The congregation, or church, was given ritualistic laws—animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, carnal or fleshly ordinances.

But Israel also was a civil government, thus for it God established civil officers and civil laws—statutes and judgments. The one great central code of law, basis for



both church and civil government—the overall SPIRITUAL CODE—was the TEN COMMANDMENTS, spoken by God directly to all the congregation, written with the very finger of God in tables of stone.

For several generations after leaving Egypt, God was their King! (This history is found through the books of Moses, Joshua and Judges.) Each tribe kept separate by itself, but together they formed one nation in much the same manner as the United States is one nation composed of individual states.

Each tribe occupied its own land, or district. The Levites became the priestly tribe, mingling throughout the other tribes, having no inheritance in the land and no separate territory (except for cities) of their own. To offset this, however, the children of Joseph were divided into two tribes: Ephraim and Manasse—thus leaving twelve distinct and separate tribes, each occupying its own territory or province, *in addition to* the Levites who were sprinkled among the tribes.

All these years the birthright and the sceptre remained within the one nation—the birthright, of course, being handed down through the tribes of Ephraim and Manasse, the sceptre with Judah.

Dissatisfied With God

The children of Israel were human, even as you and I. They continually grumbled and complained. Their carnal minds were hostile to God and His laws, even as human minds today (Rom. 8:7). Soon they became dissatisfied with God as their King and demanded that a man should be their king as in the Gentile nations around them. So today, we want to be like the non-Christians around us instead of conforming strictly to the ways of God as we are instructed in His Word! Human nature has ever been thus.

When the elders of Israel came to Samuel demanding a man be made their king, it naturally displeased Samuel, their prophet. But the Eternal said: "Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee for they have not rejected thee, *but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.* . . . howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them" (I Sam. 8:7-9).

Saul was their first human king. He refused obedience to God and was finally rejected. He was slain in battle. His sole surviving son, Ishbosheth, was slain after a reign of only two years (II Sam. 2:10). However, Ishbosheth never reigned over Judah. With this short reign over part of Israel, Saul's dynasty ceased. That is how God rejected him. His dynasty was cut off!

David's Dynasty Forever

David succeeded Saul. David sat on the *Eternal's throne*. David's son Solomon succeeded him, also sitting on the Eternal's throne. "Then Solomon sat on *the throne of the*



Solomon sat on the Eternal's throne. God promised that Solomon's dynasty would never end; it would be continuous and unbroken through all generations forever.

Eternal as king instead of David his father" (I Chron. 29:23, see also II Chron. 9:8).

I wish here to impress another special point. Before Saul, the Eternal had been King over Israel. These human kings were sitting upon the Eternal's throne. The Eternal "LORD" is Jesus Christ who was with the Father before the world was (John 1:5 and 1:1-2, 14). Jesus is both the "root" and the "offspring" of David (Rev. 22:16). Since He was the "root," the throne was His before David was born. David merely sat upon the Eternal's throne. Secondly, since Jesus was David's lawful fleshly Son, this same throne shall once more become His right by inheritance, continuing David's dynasty. And so, when Christ returns to earth, David's throne will be doubly His right!

Now we come to a seemingly incredible fact—fantastic almost unbelievable, but *true!* While David was



king, God made with him a perpetual covenant, unconditionally, which God cannot and will not break! This covenant is even more amazing, and less understood, than the unconditional covenant with Abraham!

I want you now to plant firmly in mind the specific nature and character of the covenant the Almighty made with David. For it is a vital link in the purpose and mission of Christ—an important KEY to Bible understanding!

In II Samuel 23:1, 5, we find: "Now these be the last words of David. . . . God . . . hath made with me an *everlasting covenant*, ordered in all things, and *sure*." In other words, a covenant that shall endure forever and *cannot fail*!

Turn back to the seventh chapter of II Samuel for more specific details. God gave David this covenant promise at a time when David was much concerned over the Ark of the Covenant dwelling in a tent. David wanted to build a great temple at Jerusalem.

"And it came to pass that night, that the word of the Lord came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the Lord, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? When thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels [Solomon], and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men. But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. *And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee. THY THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVER*" (II Sam 7 4-5, 12-16)

Points to Notice

Notice carefully these points

- 1) David's throne was set up and established with Solomon David's son
- 2) The throne David's throne (verse 16) was established FOREVER in Solomon (verse 13) Observe that this nowhere says that when Christ comes, God will establish it in Him forever. It says it was to be established forever in Solomon
- 3) What if Solomon or the children of Israel, disobey? Would that cancel this covenant? Verses 14, 15 plainly say that if they commit iniquity, God will chasten them with the rod of men but will not break this covenant. The throne shall be established forever just the same!
- 4) Notice particularly, in case of disobedience, God will not take the throne away as He took it from Saul. How did He take it from Saul? Saul's dynasty ended! No son of Saul ever sat on the throne. But Solomon's dynasty would not end! The punishment for disobedience would be chastening at the hands of men

5) Since God did firmly establish this throne with David and with Solomon, if David's throne ceased from existence, even for the length of one generation, could we say it had been established forever as God here promised?

Here is the fact as little realized as any in the Bible! Almighty God made an absolutely binding—just how binding we shall see!—covenant with David, *unconditionally* guaranteeing that there should never be a single generation from that time forward when there would not be a descendant of David in UNBROKEN DYNASTY sitting on David's throne, ruling over children of Israel! It was the promise of a continuous, unbroken dynasty—all generations forever—that was guaranteed.

This is hard to believe! Yet God promised and *unalterably guaranteed* just that! There were no conditions. Nothing that would happen could prevent it. The sins of the people were not to change it. The promise stood immutable!

The End of the Record

But where is that throne today?

The history of the Bible records a line of kings, all descendants of David in continuous dynasty, down to King Zedekiah. But in the year 585 B.C. this last recorded king ever to sit on this throne was captured by the armies of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, his eyes were put out, he was taken to Babylon, and there died in a dungeon!

Moreover, all his sons were slain! All the nobles of Judah who were not already imprisoned or enslaved at Babylon at that time were killed, so that none could remain to sit on the throne of David! The Chaldeans destroyed Jerusalem, burned the Temple and the king's houses, took the Jews, a captive, slave people to Babylon. There is certainly no record of any king of the line of David ruling over Judah from that day to this. However, the line of Jehoiakin to Jesus survived in Babylonish captivity so Jesus was a descendant of David

Some will say, however, that this throne is established today in Christ. But Christ has not yet taken over this throne! He pictured Himself as the nobleman (Luke 19 12) who went to a far country (heaven) to get for Himself a Kingdom, and, who, after receiving the right to the Kingdom, would return. Jesus Christ will not sit upon the throne of David until His second coming to earth, yet in the future!

But what of the nearly 600 years between King Zedekiah and the birth of Christ? Who was reigning over the Israelites and sitting on David's throne during those generations? If no one, then we must conclude God broke His Word, or the Scripture has been broken!

The answer is a mystery more astounding than any tale of fiction! The Bible reveals it, step by step.

But, then again, some will point to the expression "I will establish" (II Sam 7.13) and conclude that possibly



God meant *at the second coming of Christ* He would establish that throne forever. And still that will not do. From whom would Christ take over David's throne if that throne has ceased these centuries to exist? But God plainly promised He would establish that throne *in Solomon*: "And I will establish the throne of his [Solomon's] kingdom FOR EVER." He was not speaking of establishing it many centuries later in Christ—at His second coming. The "he" referred to is Solomon—not Christ, for God said: "If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him" (II Sam. 7:14).

But now I give you a scripture that ends all speculation as to *when* this throne was established: "Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel; ought ye not to KNOW that the Eternal God of Israel GAVE the kingdom over to Israel to David FOR EVER, even to him and to *his sons* by a covenant of salt?" (II Chron. 13:4-5.) The margin says "PERPETUAL covenant." This shows the establishing of the throne was then *in the past!* God gave, did give, this kingdom to David and his *sons*—not his *Son*, Christ, but his sons, plural—continuously forever.

Established for All Generations

"I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed [dynasty—Moffatt] will I establish for ever, and build up *thy throne to all genera-*

If the throne of David ceased with Zedekiah, then it does not exist today. And if it does not exist, how shall Christ sit upon a nonexistent throne?

tions" (Ps. 89:3-4). Note it! This throne, established forever, was built up to *all generations*. God *did* establish that throne, beginning with David and Solomon. We have a record of it for a number of generations—as far as King Zedekiah, 585 B.C.

It was established to *all generations*, continuously, perpetually, FOREVER! That term "all generations" certainly must include those generations from Zedekiah to the birth of Christ. Who occupied that throne during those generations?

Christ is not sitting on that throne now, but on the throne of Almighty God in heaven (Rev. 3:21).

So, what about *this present generation?* Where is there a descendant of David today sitting in unbroken line of kings on the throne of David, ruling over *children of Israel?*

Can one wonder that men like Thomas Paine and Robert Ingersoll lost faith in the Bible? They saw these unconditional promises, but they could not see how they had been kept. Yet, if we have patience, we shall see!

But to continue, in the 89th Psalm, with the 28th verse: "My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed [dynasty—Moffatt] also will I make to endure for ever, and *his throne as the days of heaven.*"

Consider a moment the meaning of the word "seed" in this sense. Moffatt's translation in modern English properly translates it "dynasty." The Revised Standard Version translates it "his [David's] *line*"—that is, continuous line or succession of sons, generation after generation. This "seed" is not the general population of the children of Israel. This is speaking of David's seed, or David's sons. His sons were to be *kings*. David was of the tribe of Judah, possessor of the sceptre, not the birthright, promise. His "seed," therefore, was the *kingly line*. So, literally, it means his *dynasty*, his *line* of successive sons.

Now while his throne is enduring through all generations, as the days of heaven, consider the next verse: "If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. *My covenant will I not break*, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His SEED [dynasty] shall endure FOR EVER, and *his throne as the sun* before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven" (Ps. 89:30-37).

This is speaking of those generations when his children may disobey and forsake God's law. Some today are excusing their inability to locate this throne, by saying the covenant was *conditional*—that because the children of Israel disobeyed God, the covenant was broken. But what does the Almighty say? If the children disobey and transgress, they shall be *punished* for their transgression—but *not* by the breaking of God's unconditional covenant with David!

Some say Christ took over the throne. But He didn't. Instead He was crucified, resurrected, and ascended to heaven. He *shall* come, and soon now, to sit upon that throne as the King of kings and Lord of lords. But how could Jesus Christ, when He returns again to earth, take over and sit upon a throne that long ago ceased to exist?

Will Christ Come to a Nonexistent Throne?

If the throne of David ceased with Zedekiah: they it does not exist today. And if it does not exist, *how shall Christ sit upon a nonexistent throne?* (See Luke 1:31-32.) And, since it was to continue through *all generations*, how about those many generations between Zedekiah and the birth of Jesus?

The very important *fact* that the glorified King of kings is coming to sit on an *existing throne* is further affirmed by the prophet Jeremiah. In the 33rd chapter is



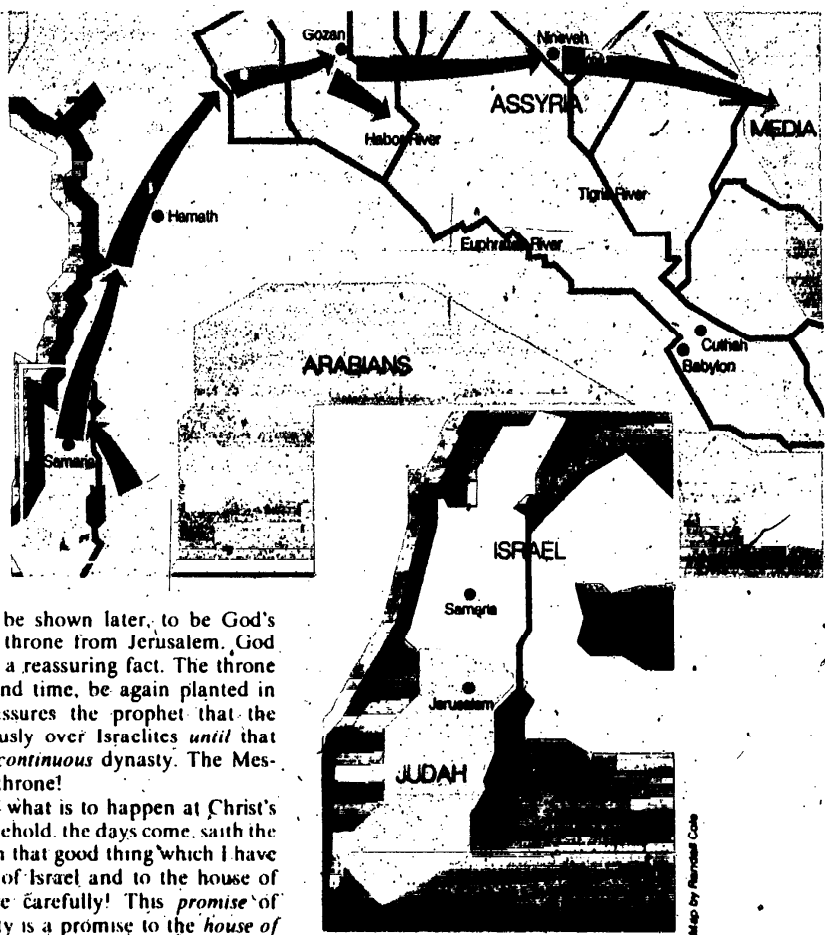
a prophecy of events to occur at the time of Christ's coming in supreme power and glory! At the time of writing this prophecy, the prophet was imprisoned in Jerusalem. The armies from Babylon were taking the Jews captive. God said to Jeremiah, "I will show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not... concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down..." (verses 3-4).

Jeremiah knew the kings' houses in Jerusalem were being destroyed—the throne of David removed from Jerusalem. He was, as will be shown later, to be God's agent in rooting out that throne from Jerusalem. God was now revealing to him a reassuring fact. The throne of David would, in this end time, be again planted in Jerusalem. God now reassures the prophet that the throne will rule continuously over Israelites until that time. It will be the same continuous dynasty. The Messiah will sit on an existing throne!

Here is the prophecy of what is to happen at Christ's glorious coming to rule. "Behold, the days come, saith the Eternal, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah" (verse 14). Notice carefully! This promise of David's continuous dynasty is a promise to the house of Israel, as well as to Judah. Since the division into two nations, that throne had not been connected with Israel—only with Judah. But the promise to be fulfilled at Christ's coming connects it with Israel as well as Judah!

Continue: "In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness (the Messiah) to grow up unto David, and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land" (verse 15). This speaks of Christ's rule as King of kings. Jesus, a descendant of David by human birth (Rom. 1:3), was the righteous Branch, or offshoot of David.

Continue: "In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely. . . . For thus saith the Eternal: David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel" (verses 16-17). Note it! It does not say David shall not, finally, after 2,500 years without a



THE LARGE MAP ABOVE shows the various locations to which the ten tribes of Israel were carried captive by Assyria. Smaller map (inset) distinguishes the separate kingdoms of Judah and Israel.

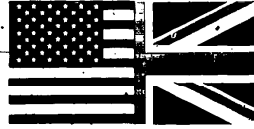
man on the throne, want for one. It says David shall NEVER—at any time—through all generations—want for a descendant to remain sitting on his throne!

And over whom?

Throne Not Over Jews

Not Judah! Read it in your own Bible! During these more than 2,500 years, David shall not want for a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel—not Judah!

The throne was, at the time God revealed this proph-



ecy to Jeremiah, being rooted out of Judah. During these 2,500 years between then and Christ's coming, it was to be the throne of the house of ISRAEL!

After the coming of Christ to rule, it is evident that Israel is again to offer sacrifices, burnt offerings and meat offerings. In Ezekiel's prophecy, from the 40th chapter to the end of the book, covering this period after Christ's coming, these sacrifices are mentioned. But, after Christ's return, when they are again to be offered, the tribe of Levi will not have been destroyed—descendants of the priestly tribe will still be living. Notice verse 18 of Jeremiah 33: "Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually." This does *not* say they shall have, all these years prior to Christ's coming, continually offered sacrifices. Other scriptures show plainly sacrifices should *not* have been offered by Christians after Christ's own sacrifice, and they were not offered by Jews after the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70. But other prophecies already quoted show just as plainly that David's descendants should be ruling on David's throne through all generations, beginning with Solomon.

Since many of the Levites undoubtedly remained among the Ten Tribes—although we know many continued among the Jews—and since those remaining among the Ten Tribes have *lost their identity* along with all Ten Tribes, it is entirely possible that many, if not most, of the called true ministry of Jesus Christ through the centuries have been of the tribe of Levi.

Notice, now, how *binding* is God's covenant with David. "Thus saith the Eternal; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; then may also, my covenant be broken with David my

servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne . . ." (verses 20-21).

What People Say

Continue: "Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the Eternal hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? Thus they have despised my people; that they should be no more a nation before them" (verse 24).

That is what the *people* have been saying, as they were prophesied to say! They say the Jews were scattered among many, if not all, nations—scattered *individuals*—but no longer a nation having its own government! And the Ten Tribes were supposed to have been "lost," or to have gone out of existence, or to be just part of the scattered individual Jews! Yes, so the Jews themselves have said—and so the world has said! But what does God say?

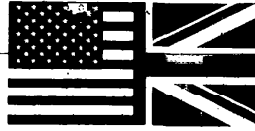
Continue, next verse: "Thus saith the Eternal; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant; so that I will not take any of his seed [dynasty] to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them" (verses 25-26).

The Test of Bible Truth

Strong words, those! Unless you can stop this old earth from turning on its axis—unless you can remove the sun and the moon and stars from heaven, says the Almighty, you cannot prevent Him from keeping His covenant to maintain *continuously, through all generations, FOREVER*, from the time of David and Solomon, a descendant of David in one continuous dynasty on that throne!



JERUSALEM (left) and Samaria (right) were the capital cities of the two separate nations, Judah and Israel.



He would not necessarily rule over *all* the house of Israel, or the Jews—but at least some of them, and enough to form a nation.

This *cannot* be applied to mean that there would not have been a continuous throne, or that it applies only to the "one seed"—Christ—finally coming to rule. Notice, it says specifically, "... So that I will not take any of his seed to be RULERS [more than one] over" Israelites. It is speaking of continuous, multiple rulers—not one Ruler coming to sit on a throne that 2,500 years before had ceased to exist!

THE COVENANT PROMISE to David is plain and definite. Either his dynasty has continued and exists today, ruling over the house of ISRAEL (not the Jews), or God's Word fails!

Remember again the sceptre promise, which includes this line of kings until it culminates in CHRIST at His second coming: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver [margin, ruler's staff] from between his feet, UNTIL SHILOH [Christ] COME; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be" (Gen. 49:10).

Has the sceptre departed from Judah? Has the throne ceased? Or does it, as God so bindingly promised, exist today so that Christ can take over and sit upon a functioning, continuous throne when He comes?

The infallibility of the Bible is at stake! God's Word is at stake!

Children of Israel Become Two Nations

The house of Israel is *not Jewish!* Those who constitute it are *not Jews*, and never were! That fact we shall now see conclusively, beyond refutation.

After David's death, his son Solomon succeeded him to the throne over Israel. Solomon taxed the people excessively and reigned in a gorgeous splendor probably never equalled before or since.

He also married Gentile wives from outside nations. Because of them, he burned incense and sacrificed to Moloch and other idols. As a result of this, "the Eternal said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast *not* kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake; but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away ALL the kingdom; but will give *one* tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen" (1 Kings 11:11-13).

Israel Separated from David's Throne

Note it! It is *the kingdom*, not part of it, which is to be rent away. It is the *part*, one tribe, which is to remain. And note—for right here is expressed the great WHY of this whole question—though Solomon himself deserved to have it rent away, God will leave *one* tribe, not

because of leniency toward Solomon, but "FOR DAVID'S SAKE"!

God has made a perpetual covenant with David, unconditionally, which He cannot and will not break. David's dynasty cannot be broken! That is the reason the sceptre promise is not destroyed, but the ruler is to be permitted to rule on, without a single generation's gap, over at least a part of the children of Israel.

In 1 Kings 11:26 you read of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite, or Ephraimite, Solomon's servant. He was made ruler over the "house of Joseph"—or Ephraim and Manasseh.

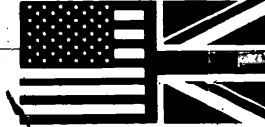
Speaking to Jeroboam through Ahijah the prophet, the Eternal says: "Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give *ten* tribes to thee. ... Howbeit I will not take the *whole* kingdom out of his hand. ... for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because HE kept my commandments and my statutes. But I will take THE KINGDOM out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even *ten* tribes. And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant [remember why] may have a light always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there. And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel" (1 Kings 11:31-37).

These words make plain two facts: The nation Israel is to be taken away from Solomon's son and given to Jeroboam. It is not just a tribe, or a few tribes, but *the nation* called by the title *Israel* which this Jeroboam, of the tribe of Ephraim, is to rule.

The ten-tribed kingdom was the one to which the national title "Israel" was given. For truly, the name "Israel" was named on the sons of Joseph! (Gen. 48:16.) Wherever they are, the Bible calls them by the national name ISRAEL. To the world, their identity today is lost. But, in biblical prophecy, it is *they*—not the Jews—who are called ISRAEL! And they were in, and headed, the ten-tribed nation ISRAEL.

On the other hand, because of His promise to David, the Eternal left one tribe, Judah, in Jerusalem under the sons of Solomon, so that a son of David might continue to sit on the throne of David over children of Israel. God had promised David, unconditionally, that the time would never come when he would not have a son or descendant sitting on the throne ruling over children of Israel.

Now, in later actual history, we see that promise being carried out—that covenant made *binding!* The children of Judah, though they do not constitute *all* the children of Israel and though they are not called by that national title, nevertheless *are* children of Israel, and thus God can keep His promise to David; can avoid abolishing the sceptre promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And, at the same time God can visit punishment upon Solomon by taking away the NATION Israel and leaving a son of the sceptre promise sitting on the throne over only one tribe. Note the very important point that, though a



punishment must be inflicted, *God does not break any of His promises.*

David's Dynasty Rules Over Judah

God had promised that "the sceptre SHALL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH." He did not break that promise. Now note carefully that the ten tribes, rent away, are called by the title "Israel," and that the one tribe remaining under Rehoboam, Solomon's son, is merely called "Judah" or the "house of Judah." They go by their tribal name, while the ten-tribed kingdom continues to carry the national name "Israel."

Actually, Israel rejected its king and set a new king, Jeroboam, on Israel's throne. The tribe of Judah seceded from the nation Israel in order to retain Rehoboam as their king. But now Rehoboam, David's grandson, became king of a new nation. That new nation was *not* the kingdom of Israel. It was the kingdom of *Judah!* Now see how it happened.

When Solomon's son, Rehoboam, succeeded to the throne, the people at once demanded that the heavy taxes imposed by Solomon be reduced. They sent their leader, Jeroboam, as spokesman, to Rehoboam.

Pleaded Jeroboam: "Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee" (I Kings 12:4).

The reply was: "My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions" (verse 11).

Israel rebelled. The command to the people was: "To your tents, O Israel!" The challenge to the royal family was "Now see to thine own house!" (Verse 16.)

"So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day [the day this was written]. And it came to pass, when *all Israel* heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over ALL ISRAEL: there was none that followed the house of David, *but the tribe of JUDAH only!*" (I Kings 12:19-20).

Then "Rehoboam . . . assembled all the HOUSE OF JUDAH, with the tribe of Benjamin" (verse 21). Rehoboam commenced to fight to subdue and bring back the house of Israel, but God said, "Ye shall not . . . fight against your brethren the *children of Israel* . . . for this thing is from me" (verse 24).

Israel Divided Into Two Nations

Did you notice that it is now the ten-tribed kingdom (headed by the Ephraim-Manasseh tribes with an Ephraimite as their king), the inheritor of the birthright promises, which is called the HOUSE OF ISRAEL?

The tribe of Judah left to Rehoboam, along with the Benjamites and later, after Jeroboam kicked them out of office in Israel, the priestly tribe of Levi, is called in Scripture, *not* Israel, but *the house of Judah!* They are all actually children of Israel but are no longer called by

that national title. This is emphasized so much because the common conception is exactly the opposite.

The average conception today seems to be that the tribe of Judah which remained carried the title "Israel." Most people seem to think of the Ten Tribes as merely certain tribes driven out from the nation Israel.

But it is ISRAEL which now sets up its kingdom under the Ephraimite Jeroboam, in the land of Samaria, north of Jerusalem. It is not Israel, but *Judah*—a mere three tribes broken off from Israel—which is left behind in Jerusalem.

The Ten Tribes were not broken off from Israel. Israel did not remain in Jerusalem. Instead, *Judah was broken off from Israel.*

Israel at War with the Jews

Notice it carefully! The house of Judah, now including the tribe of Benjamin under King Rehoboam of David's dynasty, was about to fight against the nation Israel—with its ten tribes headed by Ephraim and Manasseh.

Now let us have scriptural *proof* that the ten-tribed people called Israel, often prophetically spoken of as Ephraim, are not Jews and *never were Jews!* Remember that the term "Jew" is merely a nickname for "Judah." Hence, it applies to the one nation, or house of Judah *only*—never to the house of Israel.

From any exhaustive concordance you can learn that the first time in all the Bible that the word "Jew" occurs is in II Kings 16:6. Nowhere in all the Bible before this does the name "Jew" appear. Notice it!

Ahaz began to reign as king of Judah (verse 1). He sat on David's throne (verse 2). At this time, a man named Pekah was king of Israel. King Pekah of Israel formed an alliance with Rezin, king of Syria, *against* Judah, and together the armies of *Israel* and Syria, allied, came up against Jerusalem. They besieged King Ahaz of Judah, but could not overcome him (verse 5). "At that time," says verse 6, "Rezin king of Syria [the ally of Israel, fighting with Israel against Judah] recovered Elath to Syria, and drove the Jews from Elath" (verse 6). The first place in the Bible where the word "Jew" is used, we find *Israel at war against the Jews!*

Who drove the *Jews* out of Elath? The ally of King Pekah of Israel! The army fighting with *Israel against* Judah. And the children of Judah who resided in the town of Elath are called Jews in a manner which distinguished them from the house of Israel, with whom these Jews were at war! Observe the significance of that!

The first place in Scripture where the name Jew appears, the *Jews were at war against* ISRAEL! They are of a different nation altogether. They are, individually, children of Israel. But they do not have that *national* title—house of Israel.

It is wrong to call the Jews of today "Israel." They are not the nation Israel—they are *Judah!* And wherever Israel is today, remember that Israel (Continued on page 36)



STEP BY STEP

by Stanley R. Rader

The Times (London) hailed the talks at Camp David as "a big step toward peace." And indeed they were! But it must never be forgotten that they were only one step in an agonizing step-by-step process on the long road to peace in the Middle East.

Writer's Note: *The value of an account written so soon after the events may be arguable. Unlike World Wars I and II, both of which were brought to a successful climax by the Western powers, peace efforts in the Middle East are an ongoing saga interspersed with an occasional major conflagration and piecemeal acts of terrorism. Any article written under the stress of events and with the knowledge available at the moment will no doubt show some shortcomings in the long term. Nevertheless, there are also advantages in writing with the atmosphere of a major breakthrough fresh in mind before events begin to dim and mythmaking tends to take over.*

(Article begins on next page)

Much has been made of the so-called "intransigence" of Menachem Begin. The world press has viewed him as the "main obstacle" to peace. Few men in the free world have such a reputation for inflexibility. As one major American newsweekly declared in anticipation of the results at Camp David: "It will depend in large part on the stern and cantankerous figure of Menachem Begin and on whether any mixture of pressure and persuasion can induce the onetime guerrilla leader to lessen his intransigency and make at least some concessions for the sake of a settlement."

Had Camp David failed, the Israeli prime minister undoubtedly would have been saddled with the lion's share of the blame. No other Israeli leader has been simultaneously attacked on so many fronts.

He has been under continual fire from Washington. President Carter previously told a group of congressmen that Mr. Begin "had peace within his grasp and he let it get away." Obviously President Sadat would have preferred to deal with a more pliant personality like Defense Minister Ezer Weizman.

Almost from the onset of his administration, the Israeli intelligentsia has been very critical of Mr. Begin's hard-line stance. On the other hand, he has been far too moderate for Likud Party extremists like Geula Cohen. Labor leaders have cast aspersions on Mr. Begin's judgment and his ability to lead. At one point in time even his sanity appeared to be questioned.

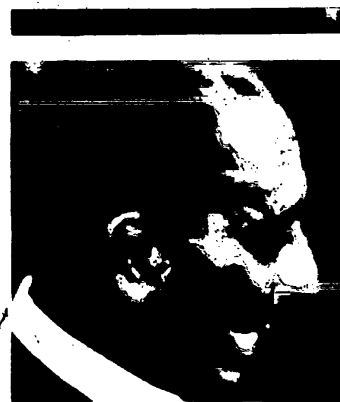
Such were some of the attitudes that preceded Mr. Begin into Camp David. However, none of these viewpoints was ever fully shared by this observer.

More than a year ago, on October 18, 1977, I wrote the following report from Tokyo:

"It is this writer's opinion . . . that he [Mr. Begin] may stand in a very unique position to bring about peace in the Middle East. . . ."

"His coming to power bears a striking similarity to General

Charles de Gaulle's return to power at the time that the Algerian question almost tore France apart. With civil war threatening and the bloody conflict in Algeria accelerating every day, de Gaulle was asked to lead the nation once again by those who were convinced that he would save Algeria for France and was the only man who would be able to do so. But within a very short period of time it was the same General de Gaulle who was able to extricate



In retrospect, Sadat's epic journey to Jerusalem (in November of 1977) must be viewed as a most important preparatory step to Camp David.

France from Algeria and to end the bloody conflict and bring about the real postwar recovery of his nation. Only he had the personal stature to make the kind of decision that was required at the time. . . ."

Begin is known to be, among other things, an ideologue, as well as a firm believer in Israel's destiny to reclaim those lands which it controlled in biblical times. He has been described as a "hawk" and as uncompromising in his dealings with the opposition party in Israel and

with any who are inclined to take a soft line vis-à-vis any of the Arab nations, particularly with respect to the return of the occupied territories commonly referred to as the West Bank.

"However, because of his political posture in the past, and his genuine credentials as a hawk, he stands, in this writer's view, as the one man who might be able to make the kind of a deal with the Arab nations that would bring about a return of much of the occupied territory in return for the Arab nations' recognition of Israel as a state, which recognition alone is the only real basis for peace in the area, notwithstanding United States guarantees of any permanent cease-fire armistice or peace treaty" ("In Brief," *The Plain Truth*, December 1977).

Needless to say, Prime Minister Begin may eventually enter history as the one man who finally brought the State of Israel an honorable peace with security.

Why Peace May Now Be Possible

But no reader should view Camp David as the only real breakthrough on the path to peace in the Middle East. The talks there must not be viewed as an isolated step forward. The favorable results would not have been possible had a whole series of preceding steps not been taken, not the least of which have been the efforts of men of goodwill in all the countries of that region working behind the scenes for real peace.

By way of a brief background, at least four major wars have been waged since the formation of modern Israel in 1948. The politics of confrontation began with the very inception of the State of Israel. However, it successfully defended itself against attacks from small, basically uncoordinated forces in 1948. Next came the Suez Canal crisis in 1956, followed by the famous Six-Day War eleven years later.

Aside from the thorny question of the occupied territories emanating from the Six-Day War, these three unfortunate configurations may be viewed as local wars, vastly important for the participants, but somewhat restricted in their effect on the outside world. No so with the Yom

Kippur War of 1973. As Professor Walter Laqueur (Chairman of the Research Council of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington) observed, "The fourth Arab-Israeli war was nicknamed 'Operation Spark' by President Sadat. It sparked off a crisis in detente, the eclipse, temporary or permanent, of Western Europe, a world energy shortage, and it also opened up a new phase in the struggle for the Middle East" (*Confrontation: The Middle East War and World Politics*, page vii).

The Yom Kippur War was both militarily hurtful and economically damaging to both sides. And beyond that, this costly conflict had nearly spilled over into a nuclear confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. Clearly effective international steps had to be taken to prevent another possibly fatal outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East.

Enter Secretary Kissinger

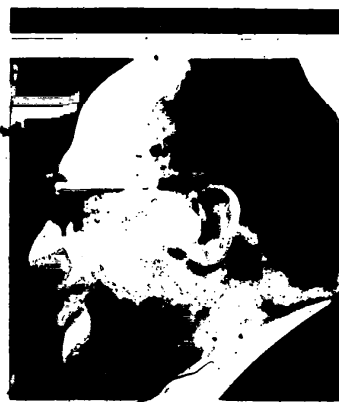
President Sadat took a big step himself when he expelled the Soviet technical advisers from Egypt in 1972. Then, in the wake of the Yom Kippur War, American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger capitalized on this eventuality by drawing Egypt much further into the American camp. Besides the obvious Western concerns surrounding the price and availability of Arab oil, Secretary Kissinger was particularly interested in saving the Middle Eastern area from Soviet domination.

A climate had now been created for the interim peace accord separating opposing military forces in the Sinai. But an even more important event was to follow.

Success seemed to be halted after the Sinai disengagement pacts. And although the Israelis were very appreciative of the United States in its role as intermediary, it seemed to this observer that there was a feeling that perhaps the United States role (and that of Mr. Kissinger) had done much to prevent the Egyptians from sitting down face to face with the Israelis and settling their differences more quickly and perhaps more effectively.

In August of 1975, I wrote: "Now is the time for President Sadat to boldly take the lead of the Arab world: to bring hostilities to an end with Israel once and for all and to lead all of the Arab nations, rich and poor alike, into a cooperative effort ultimately even with Israel to make the entire Middle East flourish as it did some 2,000 years ago" ("In Brief," *The Plain Truth*, September 1975).

But it was not until November of



Prime Minister Begin may eventually enter history as the one man who finally brought the state of Israel an honorable peace with security.

1977 that Anwar Sadat finally took his bold gamble for peace. In retrospect, his epic journey to Jerusalem must be viewed as a most important preparatory step to Camp David. The Israeli P.M. and the Egyptian leader were now talking face to face, and no longer through an American intermediary. And de facto Egyptian recognition of the State of Israel was now an accomplished reality. You do not visit someone unless you recognize his right to exist.

Such were the vital steps that preceded President Carter's bold initiative in calling Messrs. Sadat and Begin to Camp David.

In the Aftermath of Camp David

Negotiations were not easy at Camp David. At one point President Sadat was prepared to abandon further discussions. And obtaining real concessions from Mr. Begin took patient and skillful negotiating. Jimmy Carter must be given every credit for bringing the two Middle Eastern leaders together and helping them construct a viable framework for peace.

The road ahead will not be an easy one. There are many knotty problems yet to be resolved. At some point, King Hussein of Jordan the Arab world's perennial "man in the middle" must be actively brought into the negotiating process. The problem of the West Bank will never be permanently resolved without his full participation. And, of course, Old Jerusalem will sooner or later have to come into the foreground of negotiations. Control of the sacred city is the most emotional and potentially explosive issue in Palestine.

And yet, we have to be thankful for the Camp David accords. Once good faith has been established between two former enemies, nothing is impossible in the long run.

Many observers were very concerned about the chemistry at Camp David. There were fears that a personality clash between the two principals would prevent any meaningful progress. Had not the good will fostered by President Sadat's journey to Jerusalem already been severely damaged by demeaning statements to the press from both sides?

Clearly it was expecting too much for Messrs. Sadat and Begin to get together again on their own. Sometimes, in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount, a third party is required to restore trust and good faith.

Man's normal inclinations tend toward competition and strife. People do not love each other instinctively. Love is an art that must be learned. □



THE WORLD TOMORROW: WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?

God's government is coming to this earth soon! What will it be like? What is the real future for which you should be preparing?

by Roderick C. Meredith

Something is drastically wrong with the world today! Our entire society is dissatisfied, unhappy, discouraged. For many, life no longer seems bearable. There seems to be no future!

As a result, there has been a dramatic increase in suicides and suicide attempts, especially among the young, those in their teens and early twenties. Comments Dr. Bruce L. Danto, president of the American Association of Suicidology: "Kids feel confused and frightened about the future. If you go to school, it doesn't mean you'll get a job. If you get a job, it may not be a meaningful one. If you get married, it may not last."

What's wrong? Is there really no hope? Is there nothing to live for? Is life so full of despair that suicide seems an intelligent alternative?

There is hope. Our human governments have failed us—that is the heart of the trouble. But the Bible speaks of another world—a soon-coming world—with a different form of world government which will set right the ills of today. It will provide the real solution to the present large and growing problems of mental torment, fear and self-annihilation, and will show the way to peace and joy. The Bible also tells of your place in that world.

The Reinstitution of the Government of God

Jesus proclaimed the soon-coming Kingdom of God—the rule of God—and showed how we must prepare for it. He revealed that it is to be a world-ruling government set up on this earth, and that we must over-

come and learn to obey God now if we are to be a part of it.

This most tremendous future event in earth's history was pre-recorded in Revelation 11:15 in your Bible. Here the last of the seven trumpets of Revelation is sounding and voices in heaven are saying, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

The living Christ is soon going to take over the governments of this war-torn world! The nations of this earth may initially resist His perfect government. But He is coming this second time in all the power of God to enforce peace on this earth: "And he shall rule them with a rod of iron" (Rev. 19:15). He is coming as supreme Ruler over all other governors and kings of this earth: "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords" (verse 16).

In a prophecy about Christ written hundreds of years before His human birth, God foretold what His job would eventually be: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, 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" (Isa. 9:6-7).

Notice that here Christ is called the "Prince of peace." That is be-

cause He alone has the power to really bring peace! God also says: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end." Under Christ as world Ruler—after the terrible destruction which precedes His second coming—people will again multiply and replenish the earth, and the laws and ways of His government will spread throughout the world.

Then, as the people gradually learn to obey the Ten Commandments and all the laws of God, there will also be an actual increase in peace, happiness, and joy on this earth, all of which will continue to grow among nations and individuals as they learn more and more to obey God's ways and perfect laws, which are the only way to peace.

Organization of God's Kingdom

The form and organization of God's government on this earth is already prophesied in the Bible!

Christ, of course, will be King over all. He is to occupy a definite throne upon this earth when He returns. For before His human birth, an angel prophesied: "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 1:32-33).

Christ will rule more directly over the people of Israel because His headquarters will be at Jerusalem. Notice the scripture says specifically that He will rule over the "house of Jacob." The house of Israel, or Jacob, was called as God's chosen

people to be a light to the rest of the world. They were chosen—not as favorites—but with a job to perform which they have utterly failed to accomplish. During the coming thousand-year reign of Christ, however, all of Israel will be reunited with the house of Judah and together they will be the chief nations of the earth, under Christ: to help set the example and carry His government to all the earth.

In Ezekiel 37:15-28, God shows His purpose is to reunite Israel and Judah. Speaking of these two separate nations, who separated nearly a thousand years before the birth of Christ, He says: "And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be a king to them all; and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all" (verse 22).

Under Christ as King of kings, the resurrected David will again be the direct king over the reunited house of Israel. "And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd; they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them" (verse 24).

Rulers Under David

Under David, each of the twelve tribes of Israel will have its own individual governor, one of the twelve apostles. Jesus Himself designated them for this office before He died: "Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom; and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Luke 22:28-30).

The apostle John foresaw this in vision and recorded it in Revelation 20:3-4, in a prophecy of Christ's coming thousand-year reign—the millennium: "I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them."

Perhaps Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles (Gal. 2:8)—will be given a position of rule over the Gentile nations in this millennial kingdom. In

fact, he may be given a very high position since, compared to the other apostles, he "laboured more abundantly than they all" (1 Cor. 15:10).

Those Christians who grow in grace and in knowledge now in this life will also be given positions of rule under Christ during the millennium: "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" (Rev. 2:26-27). Again, in Revelation 5:10, we find that Christ has "made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

Jesus gave the parable of the pounds to show Christians that in this life we must overcome our human nature, make good use of our time and talents according to God's laws, and prepare for a position of rule and responsibility in the soon-coming government of God on this earth. Notice Jesus' statement to the man who overcame most and gained ten pounds: "Well, thou good servant, because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities" (Luke 19:17). To the man who was zealous enough to gain five pounds, Jesus said: "Be thou also over five cities" (verse 19).

True Christians are called to serve, under Christ, in ruling that new world! Why isn't that message being preached in all the churches today? It used to be.

The Real Purpose of the Christian Life

As the well-known secular historian Edward Gibbon stated in the fifteenth chapter of his famous book, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, the early Christians believed in God's coming world government: "The ancient and popular doctrine of the millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed at six thousand years. By the same analogy, it was inferred that

this long period of labor and contention which was now almost elapsed would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand years; and that Christ, with a triumphant band of the saints and the elect that escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would reign upon earth until the time appointed for the last and general resurrection."

Yes, the early Christians understood the purpose of God and the reason that He calls some out of each age into His Church: to prepare for the world tomorrow.

True Christians should learn to obey and live by God's laws and ways now so that they will be able to teach and train others to live the way of peace during the soon-coming millennium when the government of God will hold sway over this earth!

The saints will serve under the apostles, prophets, and kings, such as David. For example, in each tribe, headed by one of the apostles, will be some of the saints who have overcome and learned to submit to God's government here and now. As the parable of the pounds illustrates, some will be governors over territories including several cities. Some may occupy an office similar to that of mayor under these governors.

Other Spirit-born saints will have other jobs to do. No matter what the particular office to be inherited, the attitude of the begotten children of God should be that of David: "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (Ps. 84:10).

In the Kingdom of God, under Christ and the Spirit-born saints, will be those human leaders who will help guide the physical peoples. They shall all be taught and instructed in God's laws which alone bring peace: "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; 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" (Isa. 2:3).

Even though they are taught God's laws, many people will at first have to be forced to obey them! "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: 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" (verse 4).

Israel Blessed Under God's Government

God's dealing with Israel is often used as a type of the way He will deal with all nations. Many of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the millennium have particular reference to Israel. Yet, since God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), this may be viewed as a type of what God will do, in principle, for all nations as they serve and obey Christ.

Speaking of the final regathering of Israel, God says: "And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God" (Amos 9:14-15).

The fulfillment of this prophecy is yet in the future, for God says Israel shall "no more" be pulled out of her land at that time. This is speaking of the great physical blessings God is going to shower upon His people of Israel when He brings them back from captivity after Christ's return. (If you do not yet understand the true identity of America, Britain and the democratic peoples of northwestern Europe, please write for our free booklet entitled *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.)

In a prophecy written over one hundred years after the first and only captivity of non-Jewish Israel so far, God prophesied through Jeremiah of a future captivity of Israel—our people—and their restoration back to Palestine after

Christ's return (Jer. 30:1-11). The time of our national captivity is called "the time of Jacob's trouble" (verse 7). But we will be rescued out of this national punishment and captivity at the second coming of Jesus Christ: "For it shall come to pass, in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke [our yoke of captivity] from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their King, whom I will raise up unto them" (verses 8-9). At Christ's coming, Israel will be delivered from their captivity, and David and all the saints will be resurrected from the dead to take their places as kings and priests in God's government to rule this earth under Christ.

"Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the Lord; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid" (verse 10). At last peace shall come to this war-torn world—and Israel shall no more be made afraid by any nation!

Joy Under God's Government

Referring to the entire prophecy, God says: "... in the latter days ye shall consider it" (verse 24). Jeremiah 31 continues with the same prophecy (verse 1), and God tells of His blessings to Israel at that time: "Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry. Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things" (Jer. 31:4-5).

Dancing, singing, happiness and joy will overflow in abundance as Israel is blessed by God after Christ brings them back to Palestine to be the chief nation of the world and to set a pattern for all nations of His government.

After their national punishment and captivity, they will come back repentant and contrite. "They shall

come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them" (verse 9).

But as they return, God will begin to bless them in every possible way—spiritually and physically. "Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow" (verses 12-13).

Through obedience to God's ways, there will be an abundance of good things to eat and drink—and there will be overflowing happiness in the human heart at last!

The entire 11th chapter of Isaiah is a description of the coming thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. Here Christ is described as the "branch" or offspring of Jesse. He will be totally motivated by God's Spirit to become the perfect world Ruler!

As a divine Being, "he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes," but will be able to read the thoughts and hearts of men everywhere. He will judge the poor and downtrodden "with righteousness" and will punish the wicked with the death penalty, which will put fear into the hearts of evildoers (verses 3-4).

After Christ's return, the wild and vicious nature shall be removed even from the wild animals such as the wolf, the lion, and the poisonous snakes! "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatted together; and a little child shall lead them" (verse 6).

Most important of all, human beings everywhere will at last learn God's way which alone can bring peace. "They shall not hurt, nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (verse 9).

This is the wonderful time spoken

of by the apostle Peter as "the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21). Indeed, God has described this blessed reign of Jesus Christ on earth in literally scores of prophecies throughout the Bible.

This was the message of Jesus Christ! This is the only real way to find true utopia!

Conditions During the Millennium

In order to humble them and teach them God's ways more fully, Christ will force some of the peoples who have helped spoil His people Israel to become their servants in the land of Palestine during the early years of the millennium. "For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land [Palestine] and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the Lord for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were, and they shall rule over their oppressors" (Isa. 14:1-2).

As the Lord of lords, Christ will begin to convert and save the entire world during His reign. To do this He will have to heal the spiritual blindness that has come on all people of the earth as a result of Satan's deceptions (Rev. 12:9).

Isaiah says: "And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory..." (Isa. 25:7-8).

All peoples will then come to know God. Their blindness and religious confusion will be removed and they will finally be converted.

The resurrected saints will teach the people God's ways and they will be blessed by God as they obey. "For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more, he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee. And though the Lord give you the

bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers. And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isa. 30:19-21).

It will be a startling experience for some to have a voice behind them suddenly boom out and warn them not to break one of God's commandments! But the saints of God, now born of the Spirit, having become spirit at the resurrection will be able to be invisible or visible at will.

There will be no "cheating" on God's law!

Through the restoration of real contact with Almighty God, millions of deaf, blind, dumb and crippled people all over the earth will be supernaturally healed. "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert" (Isa. 35:5-6).

Notice that not only the people, but the land, shall be healed and the earth shall receive proper rainfall again with God's blessing. "And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water" (verse 7).

The Way to Blessings

The world could have peace and happiness now, but it refuses to have it God's way.

Speaking of all humanity, Jews and Gentiles alike, the apostle Paul was inspired to write: "Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known" (Rom. 3:16-17).

The reason the world cannot have peace is because it refuses to obey the commandments of God as a way of life! As we have seen, when Christ comes to set up His government, the law of God shall go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Those who yield themselves most

to obey all of God's commandments now will be best qualified for the highest positions in God's government during the coming millennial reign of Christ. For He said: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven, but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:19).

This is because Christ is going to have peace in His Kingdom, and so all lawbreakers are going to be kept outside!

This same principle holds true in the New Jerusalem, the Holy City which will come down out of heaven to this earth after the millennium. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Rev. 22:14).

Yes, we will have real utopia when we learn to obey God's commandments! Then the world will be blessed with physical abundance. The sick and crippled will be healed. The spiritually blinded millions will come to really know God!

The human beings on earth under God's government during Christ's millennial reign are pictured as learning to sing, dance and shout for joy at the wonderful way of life they will experience under the perfect government of God!

Under God's government and His perfect laws, people will learn that Jesus meant fully what He said "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

This is what the happy, joyous world tomorrow will be like! □

ADDITIONAL READING

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HORRENDOUS

Over nine hundred dead in Guyana. How to explain it? Never before

by Herbert W. Armstrong

We have reached the time of frightening, NEVER-BEFORE happenings. How can we explain such world-shaking evils? In those more than 900 people was the

first law of human nature—SELF-PRESERVATION. If in humans there is an instinct at all, it is that of self-preservation. God's Word says, "no man ever yet hated his own flesh" (1st John 3:15).



SUICIDE SCENE at Peoples Temple compound in Jonestown, Guyana, shows some of the more than 900 persons who took their own lives by drinking deadly cyanide poison.

Pool picture by Frank Johnson of The Washington Post via Wide World Photos

MASS SUICIDE

Such a ghastly, weird, unthinkable nightmare! What does it portend?

How, then, explain a ritualistic "religious" ceremony, preceded by rehearsal drills, wherein parents fed the deadly cyanide potion to their children? Then as the children writhed in piercing

agony, frothing in convulsions, unable to catch their breath, calmly administer the suicidal drink to themselves. UNTHINKABLE! How explain it? I will come to that. It is extremely

important that we come to UNDERSTAND what this bizarre and shocking event, along with many other NEVER-BEFORE evils, portends—as a warning to a heedless and spiritually dying world! For civilization itself is dying!

Yet this is only one more of many world-shaking events literally rocking the earth FOR THE FIRST TIME! The time of NEVER-BEFORE evils is here.

We are experiencing the FIRST RUMBLINGS of the unprecedented "Great Tribulation."

NEVER BEFORE were the governments of nations being overthrown at the approximate rate of one a month. God warned that in this end-time "I will shake all nations... and I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms" (Haggai 2:7, 22).

Biblical prophecy says this will be followed by a worldwide earthquake such as NEVER BEFORE: "And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great" (Rev. 16:18).

NEVER BEFORE was there a time when the weapons of MASS DESTRUCTION existed, capable of erasing *all life* from the planet Earth.

NEVER BEFORE was the very foundation of civilization—family and home life—crumbling down along with divorce, immorality, injustice, crime, corruption, violence, and repeated wars, all in a rumbling crescendo!

And yet, the worst is yet to come! These are but the first rumblings of the world-shaking GREAT TRIBULATION—the most catastrophic worldwide trouble ever to be experienced by human beings!

Prophecy of Doom? Emphatically Not!

The unprecedented worldwide earthquake will mark the time of the RESURRECTION of the saints of God in GLORY! They will meet the returning glorified and mighty CHRIST, coming as KING of kings, and LORD of lords, ruling over—and saving—ALL NATIONS!

Then will follow a thousand years of world PEACE, abundance, happi-

ness and joy, and eternal life offered to ALL!

Two Vital Questions

Two supremely vital questions need now to be answered.

1) WHY, and HOW it could have been done, and 2) WHAT it portends—the WARNING it shouts to a deceived and dying world.

How could this cult leader Jim Jones have induced so many hundreds, against the strongest human instinct, to rehearse, then at his word, calmly and obediently kill their children and themselves? What could have motivated such a weird, revolting, bizarre tragedy—an unbelievable thing with no precedent known to man?

These people were not illiterate, totally uneducated savages. They probably could not have been led to such a horror.

The cult leader, James Warren Jones, was said to be a dynamic preacher, endowed with personality and charisma, somewhat flamboyant. He built the "Peoples Temple" in San Francisco, said to be the largest church congregation in California, during the late 1960s.

Jones, at various times, is reported to have called himself "God," "Father," and "The Rev. Jim Jones." He was neither "reverend," nor "God," nor, in a religious sense, "Father." He was 46, and professed to have raised more than 40 people from the dead.

He attended Indiana University, graduated from Butler University in Indianapolis, and attended Cleveland Bible College. He is said to have been ordained as a minister of the Disciples of Christ.

But he mixed in politics, too, as a stout advocate of civil rights. He had been pastor of a few smaller churches in the vicinity of Indianapolis.

He is reported to have been excessively sex minded, having mistresses, and inducing both female and male followers to submit to his violent sexual advances.

He attracted a multiracial following, with blacks dominating, and whites next. People began deeding their property over to him.

Jones knew the "Father Divine,"

who claimed to be "God incarnate." Jones is reported as saying he was the reincarnation of Jesus Christ, and of Lenin, and claimed "Father Divine" had entered his soul.

He built a big congregation in San Francisco. A major doctrine of his was his claim to be a faith healer. The public press has described details of many deliberately designed fake healings.

Victims in Right Minds?

So far as this incredible mass suicide horror is concerned, the BIG QUESTION is *how* can such a thing be explained?

No man can teach, influence, or induce 900 people to destroy themselves and their children together at that man's command—NOT IN THEIR NORMAL RIGHT MINDS!

I do not believe one man can hypnotize 900 people into such an unnatural act. I do not believe Jim Jones could have brainwashed so many people, acting together in unison, to commit such an unnatural weird act.

But what the public press of this world could not understand is the fact of the literal existence of Satan the devil, and his myriad demons. These are spirit beings with supernatural powers.

God's Word says regarding them, in Ephesians 6, concerning the problems, troubles, disputes, and incidents we humans have to wrestle with: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood [humans], but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). The last phrase could be translated "wicked spirits in high places." Notice the word "RULERS" of this world's darkness, or EVILS.

This world seems to know nothing of demon possession. Jesus Christ gave His apostles power to cast out demons. In this world, law officials, doctors, psychologists, the public press, always pronounce such a case as insanity or some physical or mental problem. The problem is not PHYSICAL. It is SPIRITUAL—and there are evil and wicked spirits, as well as holy angels, and the Holy Spirit of God, the supreme power over all.

But consider again, the more than 900. This tragedy was not the hysterical act of one in a traumatic, frustrated situation. It was not the act of one frustrated with life, perhaps remorse, or fear of the law, seeking "a way out"—seeking to "end it all." (Incidentally, death DOES NOT END IT ALL. Few know what happens at death, or the TRUTH of the life AFTER life!)

But what entered their minds must, of necessity, be responsible for what their minds directed to be fed into their mouths!

Jim Jones is reported to have been somewhat concerned with the false belief in "the transmigration of souls." Sometimes this belief leads to expecting to appear, in the next life, in a far more desirable form.

Demons would naturally believe that DEATH is a "welcome friend." Yet God reveals that death is an ENEMY, and, in fact, the last enemy that Christ shall destroy (1 Cor. 15:26).

But consider death as a demon would view it. Satan is the most miserable, frustrated, unhappy being in existence, filled with resentment, bitterness, rebellion, hate. His demons share this attitude. And they know they are immortal beings,

composed of spirit so they CANNOT CHANGE, and are consigned to wander in outer darkness of space forever—suffering their self-imposed penalty of such a diabolical attitude. To a demon, DEATH would be a most welcome friend. The demonic mind is perverted, twisted, warped.

Consider, in this light, an incident in the life of Jesus. He had just land-

ed on the Galilee side of the Sea of Galilee and encountered a man possessed of a number of demons. When Jesus commanded the demons to come out, they begged to be allowed to enter a herd of swine feeding nearby. Entering the swine, the swine ran violently down the cliff to their deaths in the sea below,

is said to have undergone a total change in attitude and action in the last few years.

The Bible shows that Satan—or the individual he possesses—shall, in our living generation, produce signs and lying wonders, working with great power, deceiving the many (1 Thess. 2:9). The individual referred to in the prophecy could not be Jim Jones, but perhaps Satan could perform this in more than one man, at different times, in these latter days.

What It Portends

Regardless of how it was brought about, it was a NEVER-BEFORE event that shocked the whole world. God did not cause it. But God did allow it, for it did happen.

Undoubtedly it is one of the NEVER-BEFORE world-shaking events giving those who will heed WARNING of what is to come all these worldwide troubles and evils escalating until we find ourselves literally into the NEVER-BEFORE GREAT TRIBULATION, during which not a single human would be left alive EXCEPT Jesus Christ intervenes and cuts it short. Then Christ will take over the world RULE—with the supernatural RULE OF GOD bringing PEACE, JOY, and

ETERNAL LIFE to this earth!

As the chosen apostle of the living Jesus Christ, I say to our readers, "GOD IS NOT NOW KIDDING! Take the warnings all around you lightly, and you will be taken in this NEVER BEFORE time of trouble, followed by the FURY of the WRATH OF GOD followed in turn by the utopian wonderful WORLD TOMORROW!" □



CULT LEADER JIM JONES, who at various times styled himself "The Prophet of God," "Father," and the "Reincarnation of Jesus Christ" led hundreds of unquestioning followers in a shocking mass suicide in Guyana. The tragedy highlights the disastrous consequences of blindly following a man rather than the divine leadership of Jesus Christ.

Did not these demons, with distorted minds, think that if the swine which they possessed died, they would die also?

Is it possible that, with this man Jones dealing in magic or sorcery, as has been reported, he could have himself become demon possessed, and, under his influence, his followers could have opened their minds to demon possession? Jones himself

WHAT IS THE DEVIL'S RELIGION?

by David Jon Hill

Have you ever heard of a church called "the Devil's Congregation"? Have you ever seen a sign labeling a building "Satan's Synagogue"? Have you ever heard a radio program called *The Devil's Endeavor*?

Of course, not! The god of this present evil world who holds sway over the darkened minds of poor deceived mankind is not so ignorant as to label his churches with their true names.

But does the devil have a religion? Does he have churches? And if he does not call them by his name, how can you tell where they are? What would the doctrines of these churches be—what does the devil believe—or at least what does he try to palm off on others for them to believe?

Does the Bible have anything to say about the devil's religion?

What the Bible Says

The only real source of truth to which we can go to find the answers to these questions is God's own Word (John 17:17). Many people today consider belief in a devil as ignorant and mythological. They consider Satan to be a mere concept held by primitive people to explain away the presence of evil in the world.

But then these same people also believe God is a mere concept—a myth to explain away the presence of the creation and good. If you would like to understand more fully, and prove to yourself beyond any shadow of doubt that there is both a real God and a real devil, then write immediately for the booklets *Does God Exist?* and *Did God Create a Devil?* Both are completely free of charge or obligation, and we will be glad to send them to you.

Surprisingly enough, there is a

great deal of information concerning Satan the devil, his religion, his way of thinking, his way of doing—and also the sure prophecy of God of what will become of his efforts. And there is more information concerning this very real devil in the last book of the Bible than there is in the first.

Jesus Describes True Church

Just before Jesus Christ was crucified, He said, referring to Satan the devil: "Hereafter I will not talk much with you; for the *prince of this world* cometh, and hath nothing in me" (John 14:30). Jesus went on to explain to His disciples that if the world persecuted Him (which it certainly had), it would persecute them also (John 15:19-21). He explained to His disciples that they and all those after them would be rejected by the churches of this world: "Yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service" (John 16:2).

Jesus explained to His followers that they would be a little flock, disparaged and despised by the majority of the peoples of the world, downtrodden and persecuted right up until the time of His return as King of kings and Lord of lords. But He also encouraged them by letting them know that they were not to fear this persecution because it was God's will to give these persecuted few His Kingdom. "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Christ Gave Prophetic Warning About False Churches

When His disciples asked Him concerning future events and what would happen between their time and the coming of the end of the world, Jesus' first and continued

warning was about individuals who would come claiming to be His representatives, using His name, but deceiving the world and actually being the servants of Satan the devil. "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For *many shall come in my name* [using the name of Christ, calling themselves Christian], saying I am Christ; and *shall deceive many*" (Matt. 24:4-5). And again He repeated His warning concerning false prophets saying, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" (Matt. 24:11).

Jesus Christ continued His warning, showing that because of this great false religious system which would claim His name but really belong to Satan the devil; that because of this deception the whole world will be thrown into such chaotic confusion and war that "except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved" (Matt. 24:22). Jesus Christ predicted what all of us in today's world fear: cosmocide, the suicide of the entire human race!

Not satisfied with having pointed out two times that the cause of this chaotic tribulation was the great religious deception, Jesus Christ again firmly stated: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew *great signs and wonders*; inasmuch that, *if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore, if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not*" (Matt. 24:24-26).

Yes, Jesus Christ's warning to His disciples of all times was that His Church—the Church of God—would always be a little flock, a despised congregation; a persecuted church—

not the generally accepted organizations of the masses which merely appropriated His name, calling themselves Christian.

Satan's Job

Satan the devil, originally called Lucifer, was given charge of this earth along with a number of other angels. (Jude 6) but he was not satisfied with the earth as his domain. He rebelled against God's way of doing things and tried to take over the throne of God in heaven by violence but did not succeed! "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! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven [notice that it is Satan's idea to get to heaven], I will exalt my throne above the stars of God... I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14:12-14).

This being, who had been charged by God with the care of the earth, sinned against his Creator, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee" (Ezek. 28:15). By this act of rebellion against the Kingdom of God, Satan the devil became the "father" of all those who are guilty of sin he was the original sinner (John 8:44). Jesus Christ gives a personal, eyewitness account of this particular time of Satan's rebellion when He tells us: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:18). You will notice that by biblical definition it was Satan who "fell."

Despite the fact that Satan had rebelled against God's Kingdom, His government and authority, he nevertheless still held the office of responsibility over this earth given to him by God in the first place. In the temptation on the mount, Jesus Christ qualified to take over this rule from Satan the devil. By His victory over death He is able to take over the rulership of this world at any time. But there is a plan being worked out here below, and as yet the God of heaven has not intervened to strip Satan's authority from him. Satan is still the god of

this world: "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" (II Cor. 4:4).

Satan does not appear to this world in the clothing that he has deceived this world into thinking he would appear in; he does not appear with a pitchfork and horns and an evil look on his face.

Appears as Angel of Light

Just as Jesus Christ prophesied in Matthew 24, Satan claims his converts are spiritual Jews-Christians. But Christ in a whole series of personal letters to His Church in all of its eras warns about these congregations: "...and I know the blas-

"For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness."

phemy of them which say they are Jews [claim to be spiritual Jews, or Christians], and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan" (Rev. 2:9). And again, "...the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie" (Rev. 3:9).

Satan looks like a light-bringer to the deceived eyes of a deceived world. His ministers look like and sound like what deceived people think the ministers of Christ should look and sound like that's the very meaning of the word deception! "For such are false apostles, *deceitful workers*, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for *Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light*. Therefore it is no great thing if *his ministers* [Satan the devil does have ministers] also be transformed [ap-

parently changed from what they really are] as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works [even though these ministers preach that there are no works, they are going to be judged by the Creator according to their works]" (II Cor. 11:13-15).

Whole World Deceived

Satan has done his job well. "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world" (Rev. 12:9). This great false deceiver has sent out his messengers with soft and oily words to soothe the troubled people on earth into thinking that they can do what they want to and still escape God's punishment of sin-death. Jesus Christ warned about this: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat... Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:13,15).

In order to deceive the whole world, Satan has used every means available to him. There are many areas on this earth where deceived and ignorant human beings openly worship the devil. Other hundreds of millions ignorantly worship pieces of rock and wood-big-bellied Buddhas in the Oriental East and dead men's bones in deepest Africa!

These great numbers of the peoples of the earth are easy for Satan to keep in subjection because of such long-standing ignorance and the fact that Jesus Christ and His gospel have not been preached to them. His name has not even so much as been mentioned to many millions of these unfortunate human beings.

But in the areas of the world where the name of Christ has been mentioned, where even the Word of God, the Bible, is circulated, and where from time to time people even read that Bible, Satan is very hard pressed and has to be very subtle and clever—he has to use the name of Christ, even use the Bible, but still deceive people.

Since Satan feels that he has been unjustly judged by God, he wants the people of this world to feel that they are unjustly judged by God. So he has his ministers tell them that they do not need to obey God; that the harsh, cruel God of the Old Testament has now been superseded by the new, loving and kind God of the New Testament. Yet God's Word says: "While they [Satan's ministers] promise them [their converts] liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man as overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage" (II Peter 2:19). Satan deceives mankind into thinking that they can continue to do as they please and get away with it.

Satan's Doctrines

The devil believes in God. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: *the devils also believe, and tremble*." (James 2:19) Isn't that amazing—the devil himself is not even as deceived as some of those whom he has blinded into thinking that there is no God—poor foolish atheists who like to ponder their evolutionary descent from pre-historic warm ocean slime.

We can plainly see from this scripture that believing in God is not enough. Satan himself believes in God. Using the name of Christ is not enough either, because Jesus Himself prophesied that many would use His name, but that these many would be false prophets—servants of the devil!

Using the name of Jesus Christ is a very dangerous thing—you must be sure that you are using it the way Christ would use it Himself (Col. 3:17). One historic record God preserves for us is almost humorous if it did not carry the sober realization that the name of Jesus Christ can only be used with extreme caution and according to the will of God:

"Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief

of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know (no evil spirit is ignorant of the fact that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God), and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." (Acts 19:13-16).

The devil has many doctrines (I Tim. 4:1-4), but his chief doctrine is that of rebellion—disobedience to the laws of God—because he is a rebel. His is a system of confusion, and he has caused this so-called Christian world to be so confused that there are over 400 different interpretations of what Christianity is. This cannot be God's Christianity! Write for our free

Satan knows that he now has just a short time. He is hard at work laying the groundwork for the greatest deceptions that mankind has ever seen.

booklet *Where Is God's True Church Today?*

The Devil Also Quotes Scripture

Satan the devil is not opposed to quoting Scripture—he even had the gall to quote Scripture to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Author of Scripture: "Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Matt. 4:5-6; Luke 4:9-11).

Satan is eager to quote Scripture—but he twists and turns it so that it is applied in the wrong way. Let's notice the first example in the Bible of how

Satan twists the Word of God. This will be a good example to show how Satan's ministers, those who copy him, also twist the Scriptures today.

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman [Eve], Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Gen. 3:1.) Notice how he begins by asking a clever and subtle question, stressing the negative side, trying to put God in a bad light or make it appear that God is evil if He has done what Satan suggests that He probably did.

"And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said [this is God's word quoted from Genesis 2:17]: Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Gen. 3:2-3). Eve knew what God had said. God had very plainly said that if she ate of the fruit of this tree she would die—a very simple statement which God makes all the way through His Bible, explaining that if a man commits sin, death is the automatic penalty (Rom. 6:23). Also when God says death, He means death, not eternal life in hellfire.

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall *not* surely die." In effect, Satan was saying: "I know that God said 'Thou shalt surely die'—but He didn't really mean that you would die. What God meant when He said 'Thou shalt surely die' was 'Thou shalt *not* surely die!'"

To this day Satan's ministers preach this same doctrine of error.

The only way that Satan is able to deceive people is to make them believe that God does not mean what He says. Satan substitutes for the doctrine of God the lust and desires of mankind. He offers to mankind what the carnal mind wants, instead of what God knows mankind needs. Then, in order to give it a "godly and Christian" flavor, he quotes a few scriptures out of context—explains that God doesn't mean what He says after all.

The pitiful thing about it is that so far mankind has gullibly swallowed the doctrines of Satan the

devil. Mankind, since Eve, has been hoodwinked into believing the devil, despite the fact that the devil says exactly the opposite of what God says. It has been this way from the beginning. God said: "Thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17). Satan said: "Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4).

Which do you choose to believe?

Satan Performs Miracles Also

Since the devil has counterfeited as many of the things of God as he can in order to deceive mankind into thinking his way is God's way, he has also used miracles. Satan has appropriated the name of Christ. He appropriated the titles of the servants of God and called his chief leader an apostle—but God labels this individual as a false apostle. Since Jesus Christ performed miracles and since He prophesied that certain signs (miracles) would follow His believers (Mark 16:15-18), Satan the devil has also counterfeited miracles!

This need be no surprise to the true Christian. Jesus Christ forewarned through His Bible in many places that this would take place. Satan has worked this way before, and Jesus forewarned: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; inasmuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24). The only ones who will not be deceived by the great miracles that Satan the devil will perform through the agency of his church will be those whom God is calling out of this world now—the "very elect."

Satan's Power

The apostle Paul talks about the individual whom Satan the devil is going to use in this end time to deceive the whole world: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that are perishing [correct Greek rendering]" (II Thess. 2:9-10).

Satan knows that he now has just a short time (Rev. 12:12). Therefore he is hard at work, even at this moment as you read this article, laying the groundwork for the greatest decep-

tions that mankind has ever seen, laying the groundwork for the greatest miracles he has ever performed in order to deceive mankind. Let's read that verse again in the Moffatt translation: "One whose arrival is due to Satan's activity, with the full power, the miracles and portents, of falsehood, and with the full deceitfulness of evil for those who are doomed to perish, since they refuse to love the Truth that would save them" (II Thess. 2:9-10).

There are going to come, through Satan's agency and his churches, miracles and wonders that would cause anyone to believe—except the very elect (Matt. 24:24). Such outstanding miracles will be performed through his agents, that the whole world will reel and gasp in open-

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world"
(I John 4:1).

mouthed wonder—and they will be real miracles!

The term "lying wonder" does not refer to the fact that the wonder itself is a lie. The miracle is real enough, but the miracle causes those who see it to believe a lie—that is, the miracle causes those who see it to believe that the agent Satan the devil uses is the agent of God.

Are Miracles Proof of God?

Almighty God specifically warns us about one particularly outstanding miracle that this false prophet urged forward by Satan will perform. "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those

miracles" (Rev. 13:13-14). This is the false prophet—the ultimate leader of Satan's religious movement who will even defy the living God at His return.

What would you do if you were standing in a crowd of men and women and you saw a fellow human being dressed in ecclesiastical vestments—looking as if he were a servant of God—calling down fire from heaven, consuming somebody standing next to you who denied that this miracle-maker was a servant of God?

What would you do?

What would you believe?

How are you going to know what is the counterfeit and what is the truth?

Would you be deceived? We just read in the verse above that all who dwell on the earth are going to be deceived by these miracles. Or will you remember this article that you have read in *The Plain Truth*, and other articles that you have read in this magazine, warning you of these very things to come?

Jesus Christ not only prophesied through John in the book of Revelation that this will come to pass, but He also left a record of just such a thing having happened in the past.

"Fire from God"

In the opening chapter in the book of Job, Satan was talking to God. God brought up the subject of Job. He asked Satan if he didn't think that Job was quite a righteous man, and Satan answered God by saying that he was not righteous for nothing, that God had blessed him with everything. So God allowed Satan to take everything away from Job—but let's notice exactly what happened.

As Satan began to destroy all of the things that Job possessed, he allowed one servant to escape from each devastation that he wrought. That servant would come and report to Job the horrible things that had happened.

Now when one of these servants saw a great ball of fire coming down out of heaven and consuming Job's sheep, he automatically assumed that only God could cause such a

great miracle, and so he reported to Job: "The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee." (Job 1:16)

Satan is the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). He is still in the office of control over this world and its affairs insofar as God allows him to exercise that control. You will remember when Moses was calling the children of Israel out of Egypt, under the direct supervision of God, that the Egyptian sorcerers, the servants of the devil of that day, were able to perform great miracles by the power that Satan gave them.

Miracles alone are not a proof of the presence and authority of God!

Deuteronomy 13 very plainly explains this to any who would have a question: "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign, or a wonder [prophecies something to come to pass, or performs some great miracle], and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice; and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him." (Deut. 13:1-4). Isaiah backs this up by saying: "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isa. 8:20).

God warns through His Bible from Genesis to Revelation that there have been, that there are and that there are going to be lying, false, miracle-performing prophets deceiving mankind. But God gives you and me the key of how to know who serves God and who does not.

Whom to Believe?

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of

God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). God's plain warning to you is not to be gullible. Don't assume somebody is right because he has a pious face, because he has a soft and smooth voice, or because he dresses differently from you.

Don't assume somebody is God's messenger even if he brings fire out of heaven. Don't assume somebody is God's messenger—and not Satan the devil's tool—because he says, "The Bible says."

Satan, the devil and all his henchmen have been quoting the Bible since time immemorial. They have been and still are quoting it out of context and adding on Satan's favorite expression that God does not really mean what He says—and then adding their own interpretation.

The devil has many doctrines, but his chief doctrine is that of rebellion—disobedience to the laws of God—because he is a rebel.

their own tradition, the commandments of men that they have received from Satan.

"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is coming [correct Greek rendering] in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is coming in the flesh is not of God" (1 John 4:2-3). This is the one doctrine that Satan will not proclaim.

This is the one doctrine that Satan the devil will not allow any of his ministers to preach. This is the one doctrine that *The World Tomorrow* program and *The Plain Truth* magazine dogmatically and absolutely preach.

This is the doctrine that Jesus Christ—the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8)—is presently living His life, by the

power of the Holy Spirit of God, in the fleshly bodies and minds of the called-out individuals that He has added to the collective Body of Christ—the Church of God. This doctrine proves that Jesus Christ, living in those who are true Christians, will live exactly as He lived when He was in the flesh 1900 years ago—keeping the same laws, observing the same days, living the same life apart from the world around Him. This doctrine is denied by those false prophets, the instruments of Satan the devil, those who belong to the devil's religion.

To understand this doctrine, write immediately for the booklet *Why Were You Born?* This booklet explains thoroughly the purpose being worked out here below, the reason for human existence, the true doctrine of Jesus Christ.

Find Out—Check Up

Don't just read this article and forget about it. Apply and obey the injunction that Jesus Christ gives to you through His servant John to "try the spirits" (1 John 4:1). Find out, check up!

Do as the Bereans did in Paul's day when he was explaining to them the truths of the gospel of God (Acts 17:11)—receive this understanding with all readiness of mind but check every last scripture and find out if it's according to God's Word and do the same thing with any other religious instruction you receive.

You know that this confused world standing on the brink of nuclear cosmocide cannot be God's world. It is a world turned over to Satan the devil, but Almighty God is returning soon to restore order, to set up His Kingdom, to bring peace and happiness and safety and truth to this Satan-deceived world.

Elijah, the servant of God, faced a similar situation in the world of his day: "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word" (1 Kings 18:21).

What answer will you give? □

THE CRISIS AT THE CLOSE

"More than three out of five Americans will live to see the twenty-first century," said a recent striking insurance advertisement. Undoubtedly such an optimistic estimate is based on accurate actuarial tables. But insurance company predictions do not consider the missing dimension of Bible prophecy. Biblical revelation shows that there is a worldwide age-ending crisis coming upon this chaotic earth. James Moffatt termed it "the crisis at the close." It may very well interfere with the best-laid plans of even the most competent and successful businessmen and statesmen.

by John R. Schroeder

Today the earth is churning with crises. One past article in *The Plain Truth* was titled: "What's Behind the Energy Crisis?"; another, "The Philippines, a Nation in Crisis"; still another, "The Continuing Crisis in the Catholic Church."

That last title tells us something about the changing nature of today's troubles in a crisis-charged world. One former U.S. President wrote: "The nature of crisis has changed. The remarkable characteristic of the crises of today is their continuity—they have moved in, it seems, to stay" (Richard M. Nixon, *Six Crises*, p. 18).

The very term "crisis" should imply an end to whatever the particular problem may be. We used to say: "Well, the crisis has passed."

But not anymore. The crime crisis continues; the energy and resource crises are an everyday fact of life; the population explosion grows unabated; the Mideast crisis has been with us since the formation of the modern state of Israel; nuclear overkill is an ever present reality.

And these telltale crises coincide with scriptural warnings for the future described in Matthew 24. Jesus was asked what events would signal the end of this present age of man. He answered by listing a number of similar types of worldwide problems that would intensify into crises at the time of the end. Then He said of these signposts: "All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matt. 24:8).

And so it is with the energy crisis, the crime crisis, and all the other current crises. They merely mark the beginning rumblings of a worldwide catastrophe to finally intensify into "the crisis at the close."

Biblical prophecy warns us that this great time of trouble is coming upon planet Earth—most likely in this last quarter of the twentieth century. This unprecedented period of world chaos is spoken of in several different books of your Bible. These books—both Old Testament and New—were written in different periods of history by different writers, who in many cases did not, and could not, know each other.

Consider the book of Daniel, written by a great prophet of God, who was in effect the prime minister of two successive world-ruling governments. He wrote his prophecy around 600 B.C.

Daniel 11 begins the longest, most detailed prophecy

in all of the Bible. It commences with the first year of Darius the Mede (first king of the Medo-Persian Empire) and comes right on down to "the time of the end" (verses 1 and 40). Verses 40 through 45 center on an impending power struggle in the Middle East (possibly over oil?).

Verse one of chapter twelve brings us to a crucial scripture in this long prophecy: "And at that time shall Michael [one of three archangels] stand up . . . for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time. . . ."

This time of trouble is to occur in what is commonly called in the Bible "the time of the end." Daniel sought understanding of the prophecy he had written, but was told, ". . . Go thy way, Daniel; for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." It was not until our day—this twentieth century—that world events began to plainly point in the direction of a grand smash climax of all the negative forces at work in the world.

Until the thermonuclear age, humans could never have properly understood another similar prophecy recorded in Matthew's Gospel: "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 [alive, Moffatt]; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:21-22).

Compare these prophetic verses to those previously quoted in Daniel. Notice the striking similarity in the wording. There can be little doubt that these two scriptures—written hundreds of years apart—are talking about one and the same time in future world history.

These prophetic predictions herald an utterly unique time in the future of this crisis-charged world—a time when we may not be able to keep from polluting ourselves off the face of the earth; a time when statesmen may not be able to avoid a death-dealing nuclear war. The world is hurtling toward a "crisis at the close" that cannot be postponed until Century 21.

But there is good news beyond the bad news just ahead. A wonderful world tomorrow is coming! Why not get this good news in advance? Request our free booklet entitled *Coming—A New Age*. □

'THE WORLD TOMORROW' RADIO AND TV LOGS

'THE WORLD TOMORROW' RADIO LOG

Listed by state are the station's call letters, location and frequency and the time *The World Tomorrow* is aired.

ALABAMA

WYDE, Birmingham — 850, 7 p.m. Mon-Fri, 10:30 a.m. Sun

ARIZONA

KFMM-FM, Tucson — 99.5, 6 p.m. Mon-Fri

KIKX, Tucson — 580, 9:35 a.m. Sun

KTUC, Tucson — 1400, 1 p.m. Mon-Fri

CALIFORNIA

KINS, Eureka — 980, 11 p.m. Mon-Fri

KFRE, Fresno — 940, 5 a.m. Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. Sun

KIEV, Glendale — 870, 6:30 p.m. Mon-Fri

KCMS-FM, Indio — 103.1, 8:30 a.m. Mon-Fri, Sun

KLAC, Los Angeles — 570, 11 p.m. Mon-Fri, 7 a.m. Sun

KGAB-FM, Oxnard-Ventura — 95.5, 8:30 a.m. Mon-Fri, 9:30 a.m. Sun

KGUY, Palm Desert — 1270, 6:15 a.m. Sun

KFBK, Sacramento — 1500, 11:05 p.m. Mon-Fri, 8:30 p.m. Sun

KTOM, Salinas — 1380, 11 p.m. Mon-Fri

KDIG, San Bernardino — 1240, 10:30 a.m. Mon-Fri

KCKC, San Bernardino — 1350, 10:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, Sun

KNBR, San Francisco — 630, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 9 p.m. Sun

KUNA-FM, San Luis Obispo — 96.1, 5:30 a.m. Mon-Fri

CONNECTICUT

WRCC, Hartford — 910, 5:25 a.m. Mon-Fri, 6:30 a.m. Sun

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WRC, Washington — 980, 9 a.m. Sun

WTOP, Washington — 1500, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri

FLORIDA

WAPE, Jacksonville — 690, 8:30 a.m. Sun

WQW, Jacksonville — 1000, 12:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, Sun

WINZ, Miami — 940, 12:05 a.m. Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. Sun

WJOD, Miami — 610, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri

WKMB, Orlando — 740, 7:30 a.m. Sun

GEORGIA

WPLO, Atlanta — 590, 11:36 p.m. Mon-Fri, 6:30 a.m. Sun

HAWAII

KKQN, Kealahou — 790, 6 p.m. Mon-Fri

ILLINOIS

WMAO, Chicago — 670, 5 a.m. Mon-Fri, 6 a.m., 10 p.m. Sun

WMBD, Peoria — 1470, 10:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 10:30 a.m. Sun

INDIANA

WNTS, Indianapolis — 1590, 10 a.m. Mon-Fri, 6:30 a.m. Sun

WSBT, South Bend — 960, 11:15 p.m. Mon-Fri, 4:30 p.m. Sun

IOWA

KIOA, Des Moines — 940, 7:30 a.m. Sun

KXEL, Waterloo — 1540, 11:45 p.m. Mon-Fri, 5 a.m. Sun

KANSAS

WIBW, Topeka — 580, 5 a.m. Mon-Fri

KENTUCKY

WHAS, Louisville — 940, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri

WKLO, Louisville — 1080, 9 a.m. Sun

LOUISIANA

WGO, New Orleans — 1260, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 9:30 a.m. Sun

MARYLAND

WPOC-FM, Baltimore — 93.1, 5 a.m. Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. Sun

MASSACHUSETTS

WITS, Boston — 1510, 5 a.m. Mon-Fri, 7 a.m. Sun

WSPR, Springfield — 1270, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. Sun

MICHIGAN

WDEE, Detroit — 1500, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. Sun

WTRX, Flint — 1330, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 7 a.m. Sun

MINNESOTA

KTCR-FM, Minneapolis — 97.1, 6 a.m. Mon-Fri

MISSOURI

KMBZ, Kansas City — 980, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 10:30 p.m. Sun

KGBX, Springfield — 1260, 11 p.m. Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. Sun

KIRL, St. Louis — 1460, 6 a.m. Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. Sun

NEBRASKA

KRNY, Kearney — 1460, 10 a.m. Sun

NEW MEXICO

KOB, Albuquerque — 770, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri

KBCO, Roswell — 1020, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. Sun

NEW YORK

WBEN, Buffalo — 930, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. Sun

WOR, New York — 710, 10:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 6:30 a.m., 11:30 p.m. Sun

WHAM, Rochester — 1180, 11 p.m. Mon-Fri, Sun

WSOO, Syracuse — 1220, 9 a.m. Mon-Fri, 11:15 a.m. Sun

NORTH CAROLINA

WWNC, Asheville — 570, 11 p.m. Mon-Fri

WSB, Charlotte — 1110, 9 a.m. Sun

WSOC, Charlotte — 930, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri

WNCT, Greenville — 1070, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 10:30 a.m. Sun

OHIO

WGLR, Akron — 1350, 10:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 8:30 p.m. Sun

WCKY, Cincinnati — 1500, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 8:15 p.m. Sun

WBBQ, Cleveland — 1260, 11 p.m. Mon-Fri, 9:30 a.m. Sun

WMNI, Columbus — 920, 5:15 a.m. Mon-Fri

WONE, Dayton — 980, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri

WCWA, Toledo — 1230, 11 p.m. Mon-Fri, 10 a.m. Sun

OKLAHOMA

KVOO, Tulsa — 1170, 11:30 p.m. Mon-Fri, 10:30 a.m. Sun

KXKO, Tulsa — 1300, 9:30 a.m. Sun

OREGON

KLIQ, Portland — 1290, 12:30 p.m. Mon-Fri

KWJJ, Portland — 1080, 9 p.m. Mon-Fri, 9:30 p.m. Sun

PENNSYLVANIA

WHP, Harrisburg — 580, 9:30 p.m. Mon-Fri

WBSA, Harrisburg — 910, 9 a.m. Sun

WRCP, Philadelphia — 1540, 6 a.m., Mon-Fri., 11 a.m., Sun
KOV, Pittsburgh — 1410, 11:30 p.m., Mon-Fri., 7 a.m., Sun
WOSU-FM, Selinsgrove — 88.9, 7 p.m., Sun
WARM, Wilkes Barre — 590, 7 a.m., Sun

RHODE ISLAND

WEAN, Providence — 790, 11:30 p.m., Mon-Fri.
WGNG, Providence — 550, 9 a.m., Sun
WJAR, Providence — 920, 11:30 p.m., Mon-Fri.

SOUTH CAROLINA

WKSC, Kershaw — 1300, 1:15 p.m., Sun
WSPA, Spartanburg — 950, 11:30 p.m., Mon-Fri., 6:30 a.m., Sun

TENNESSEE

WDEF, Chattanooga — 1370, 11:30 p.m., Mon-Fri., 10:30 p.m., Sun
WMPS, Memphis — 680, 6 p.m., Sun
WREC, Memphis — 600, 11:06 p.m., Mon-Fri.
WSIX, Nashville — 980, 11 p.m., Mon-Fri., Sun

TEXAS

KRLD, Dallas — 1080, 11:30 p.m., Mon-Sun
KPRC, Houston — 950, 10:30 p.m., Mon-Fri., Sun
KTLU, Rusk — 1580, 10 a.m., Sun
WOAI, San Antonio — 1200, 10:15 p.m., Mon-Fri., 10 a.m., 7:30 p.m., Sun

UTAH

KSL, Salt Lake City — 1160, 11:30 p.m., Mon-Fri., 5:30 a.m., Sun

VIRGINIA

WCPC, Chesapeake — 1600, 12:30 p.m., Mon-Fri., Sun
WHNE, Norfolk — 1300, 5:30 a.m., Mon-Fri.
WZAM, Norfolk — 1110, 8 a.m., Sun
WRVA, Richmond — 1140, 11:05 p.m., Mon-Fri., 10 p.m., Sat., Sun

WASHINGTON

KGRG, Auburn — 89.9, 12 noon, Sun
KAYO, Seattle — 1150, 9:30 p.m., Mon-Fri., Sun

WEST VIRGINIA

WCAW, Charleston — 680, 5:30 a.m., Mon-Fri., 10 a.m., Sun
WKEE, Huntington — 800, 5:30 a.m., Mon-Fri.
WKEE-FM, Huntington — 100.5, 5:30 a.m., Mon-Fri.
WWVA, Wheeling — 1170, 5:30 a.m., Mon-Fri., 10:30 a.m., Sun

WYOMING

KTWO, Casper — 1030, 9:30 p.m., Mon-Fri., 9 p.m., Sun
KYCN, Wheatland — 1340, 9:30 a.m., Sun

'THE WORLD TOMORROW' TELEVISION LOG

Listed by state are the station's call letters, location and channel number and the time *The World Tomorrow* is aired.

ALABAMA

WAPI, Birmingham — 13, 7 a.m., Sun

ARIZONA

KGUN, Tucson — 9, 9:30 a.m., Sun

ARKANSAS

KARK, Little Rock — 4, 10 a.m., Sun

CALIFORNIA

KMJ, Fresno — 24, 7 a.m., Sun
KTTV, Los Angeles — 11, 7:30 a.m., Sun
KTVU, Oakland — 2, 10:30 a.m., Sat

COLORADO

KKTV, Colorado Springs — 11, 8:30 a.m., Sun

CONNECTICUT

WATR, Hartford — 20, 10:30 a.m., Sun

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WTTG, Washington — 5, 7 a.m., Sun

FLORIDA

WKID, Ft. Lauderdale — 51, 10:30 a.m., Sun
WCIX, Miami — 6, 7 a.m., Sun

ILLINOIS

WCIU, Chicago — 26, 7:30 a.m., Sun
WFLD, Chicago — 32, 7:30 a.m., Sat
WRAU, Peoria — 19, 10:30 a.m., Sun

INDIANA

WKJG, Ft. Wayne — 33, 9:30 a.m., Sun
WISH, Indianapolis — 8, 8:30 a.m., Sun
WSBT, South Bend — 22, 10 p.m., Sun

IOWA

KWWL, Waterloo — 7, 10:30 a.m., Sun

KANSAS

KGDA, Garden City — 11, 4:30 p.m., Sun
KARD, Wichita — 3, 4:30 p.m., Sun

KENTUCKY

WLEX, Lexington — 18, 9:30 a.m., Sun
WHAS, Louisville — 11, 10:30 a.m., Sun
WLKY, Louisville — 32, 9:30 a.m., Sun

LOUISIANA

WAFB, Baton Rouge — 9, 9:30 a.m., Sun
WWL, New Orleans — 7, 7 a.m., Sun

MAINE

WGAN, Portland — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun

MARYLAND

WBFF, Baltimore — 45, 12 noon, Sun

MASSACHUSETTS

WHYN, Springfield — 40, 9 a.m., Sun

MICHIGAN

WUMQ, Battle Creek — 41, 7:30 a.m., Sun
WXON, Detroit — 20, 10:30 p.m., Sun
WJRT, Flint — 12, 8 a.m., Sun
WILX, Lansing — 10, 10:30 a.m., Sun

MINNESOTA

WTCN, Minneapolis — 11, 7:30 a.m., Sun

MISSOURI

WDAF, Kansas City — 4, 12 noon, Sat
KMTC, Springfield — 27, 1 p.m., Sun
KNDL, St. Louis — 30, 9 a.m., Sun

NEBRASKA

KCNA, Albion — 8, 8 a.m., Sun
KWNB, Hayes Center — 6, 8 a.m., Sun
KHGI, Kearney — 13, 8 a.m., Sun
KSNB, Superior — 4, 8 a.m., Sun

NEW MEXICO

KGGM, Albuquerque — 13, 7 a.m., Sun

NEW YORK

WTEN, Albany — 10, 8:30 a.m., Sun
WUTV, Buffalo — 29, 9:30 a.m., Sun
WOR, New York — 9, 10 p.m., Sun
WROC, Rochester — 8, 9:30 a.m., Sun

NORTH CAROLINA

WRET, Charlotte — 36, 7:30 a.m., Sun
WNCT, Greenville — 9, 11:30 a.m., Sun

OHIO

WAKR, Akron — 23, 11 p.m., Sun
WLWT, Cincinnati — 5, 11:30 a.m., Sun
WSPD, Toledo — 13, 10:30 a.m., Sun

OREGON

KPTV, Portland — 12, 11 a.m., Sat

PENNSYLVANIA

WSBA, Harrisburg — 43, 7:30 a.m., Sun

RHODE ISLAND

WPRI, Providence — 12, 11:30 a.m., Sun

TENNESSEE

WRCB, Chattanooga — 3, 12:30 p.m., Sun
WKPT, Kingsport — 19, 12 noon, Sun

TEXAS

KTVV, Austin — 36, 9:30 a.m., Sun

WASHINGTON

KXLY, Spokane — 2, 11 a.m., Sun

WEST VIRGINIA

WOWK, Huntington — 13, 10:30 a.m., Sun

WISCONSIN

WVTV, Milwaukee — 18, 10 p.m., Sun



PROPHECY

(Continued from page 1)

as a national name does not mean JEW! Whoever the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel are today, they are not the Jews! Wherever you see the name "Israel," or "house of Israel," or "Samaria," or "Ephraim" used in prophecy, remember this: IT NEVER REFERS TO THE JEWS, but to Israel, which was at war against the Jews!

House of Israel Not Jews

No place in all the Bible does the term "Israel" refer to the Jews exclusively. When the sense is not national but individual, the term "Israel" alone, or "children of Israel," or "men of Israel," may, and sometimes does, refer to or include the Jews. Such an expression, for instance, as "ye men of Israel," which frequently occurs in the New Testament, refers to Israelites as individuals in a collective sense, not a national sense. It usually refers to Jews as individual descendants of the patriarch Israel (Jacob).

Moses may not, scripturally, be called a Jew. He was a Levite. Abraham was not a Jew. Neither was Isaac nor Jacob nor Adam or Noah for that matter. The descendants of the patriarch Judah are racially Jews and also all who joined themselves nationally to the tribe of Judah—those of the tribes of Benjamin and Levi.

Jews are Israelites, just as Californians are Americans. But most Israelites are not Jews, just as most Americans are not Californians. The Jews are the house of Judah only, a part of the Israelites. But when these people are spoken of as nations, rather than as collective individuals, the term "Israel" never refers to the Jews. "House of Israel" never means "Jews." The three tribes at Jerusalem under the Davidic king are called, merely, the house of Judah.

But of Ephraim and Manasseh, sons of Joseph, the dying Israel had said, "Let my name be named on them" (Gen. 48:16). And truly they now bear the name of Israel.

From here on, the tribe of Judah, with Benjamin and the tribe of Levi, is called "JUDAH" not ISRAEL. The ten tribes, headed by Ephraim and Manasseh, from this time on are called "Israel." They are not Jews and never were called Jews! From this time on, the children of Israel, twelve tribes in all, are divided into two nations!

And now, for the first time, the birthright goes into one nation, Israel, headed by Ephraim-Manasseh while the sceptre remains in another nation, called the "house of Judah." The two phases of the promises to Abraham now are divided between two entirely separate nations!

For many generations Israel and Judah remained as separate nations, in adjoining territories, having their own separate kings. Why should ministers and professed Bible students be in ignorance of this, when four whole books of the Bible, I and II Kings and I and II Chronicles, are devoted to explaining it and recording the

history of these separate, rival kingdoms? Look at the maps in the back of your Bible. There you will see the territory of each nation plainly shown.

Judah retained the city of Jerusalem, its capital, and the territory known as Judea. Israel occupied the territory north of Judea. Samaria became its capital city, and the house of Israel often is called "Samaria" in prophecy. This, too, is a vital "key" to understanding prophecy. "Samaria" never refers to the Jews in prophecy, but always the ten tribes, the house of Israel.

We want to impress, here, that Israel and Judah are not two names for the same nation. They were, and still are, and shall be till the second coming of Christ, two SEPARATE NATIONS. The "house of Judah" always means "Jew." This distinction is vital, if we are to understand prophecy. Because most so-called Bible students are in ignorance of this basic distinction, they are unable to rightly understand prophecy!

The next place where the term "Jew" is mentioned in the Bible, the house of Israel had been driven out into captivity, lost from view, and the term applies only to those of the house of Judah.

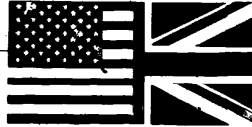
Israel Rejects God's Rule

Immediately on becoming king over the house of Israel, Jeroboam (tribe of Ephraim) set up two golden calves, introducing idol worship in the kingdom (I Kings 12:28-33). Jeroboam was afraid lest his subjects, in going once a year to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, should return to Rehoboam and he should lose his new throne. The introduction of idolatry was to prevent this and to keep the people home.

This idolatry with Sabbath-breaking (Ezek. 20:10-24) was the great national sin which became such a curse to Israel. Generation after generation God pleaded with the house of Israel to turn from tradition from their fathers' ways and to return to keeping God's commandments. But through nine different dynasties under 19 kings, Israel continued these national sins—sins so great in God's sight that finally God caused them to become a conquered, captive nation.

Now let us note a passage which has been consistently misinterpreted. In I Kings 14:15-16 we find, "The Eternal shall smite Israel [not Judah], as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them [not Judah] beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the Eternal to anger. And he shall give Israel [not Judah] up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin."

This is dealing specifically with the result of Jeroboam's idol worship in Israel—in the northern ten-tribed kingdom which possessed the birthright promises. It is these people who were to be rooted up and scattered beyond the river. Not the Jews. Yet this passage is quoted by nearly all students of prophecy as pertaining



to the scattered condition of the Jews today—the very people to whom it does *not* apply. This is one example of the fact that what we are here covering is a veritable KEY to an understanding of many long-hidden prophecies. Unless this is kept firmly in mind, prophecy can never be correctly understood.

The people which this passage says shall be rooted up and scattered beyond the river never were called Jews. They were the people headed by Ephraim and Manasseh, possessors of the unconditional promises of becoming a great nation and a company of nations—becoming so numerous they would number into the hundreds of millions, possessing the gates of enemy nations, becoming a colonizing people, spreading out till their colonies spread around the globe.

Yet many who come to see this distinction between Israel and Judah—between Jews and the other tribes—after having seen it as a great new light, will, by force of

The covenant promise to David is plain and definite. Either his dynasty has continued and exists today, ruling over the house of Israel, or God's Word fails!

years of habit, fall right back into the old rut and apply texts referring to Israel to the Jews!

The terms "house of Israel" or "all Israel," when the meaning is national, or the terms "Jacob," or "Rachel," or "Ephraim," or "house of Joseph," or "Samaria," often used in the Bible in prophecy, RELATE TO THE TENTRIBED BIRTHRIGHT PEOPLE, NOT TO THE JEWS. This is a KEY, and a master key, to Bible understanding!

Israel Driven Out and Lost

In the years 721-718 B.C., the house of Israel was conquered and its people were soon driven out of their own land—out of their homes and cities—and carried captives to Assyria, on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea! And then . . . LOST FROM VIEW!

"Therefore the Eternal was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: *there was none left but the tribe of Judah only*" (II Kings 17:18).

The Eternal removed whom? Israel! It is *Israel* which was removed and driven from the Eternal's sight until they became lost from view.

Who was left? Judah ~~ONLY~~—only the Jews! Israel was now gone! They became known as the Lost Ten Tribes and are so designated today.

Gentiles Replace the House of Israel

Now notice II Kings 17:22-23: "For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did,

they departed not from them; until the Lord *removed Israel out of his sight*, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel [not Judah—not the Jews] carried away out of their own land to ASSYRIA unto this day [written about 620 B.C.]" Observe that the people who had the national title "Israel" and the birthright promises, who were not the Jews, were *carried away out of their own land*—Samaria. They left that land—never yet to return!

Now note the following verse of this same passage: "And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed THEM in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof" (II Kings 17:24).

It is these foreigners who were living in the land of Samaria in the time of Christ and who were called Samaritans in the Gospel records. It is well to keep that in mind. For the Samaritans of the New Testament were not in any sense a racial mixture with the Israelites. Only *one* individual—a priest—returned from among the captive Israelites to teach the newly planted Gentiles the corrupted religion of Israel (II Kings 17:27-28).

These people from the land of Babylon, however, did not follow God, nor God's ways, nor His religion. The very next verse shows this: But "every nation [still] made gods of their own . . ." (II Kings 17:29).

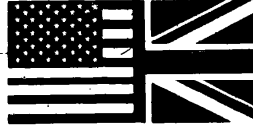
The general state religion of the Assyrians and Babylonians was the Chaldean mystery religion. This was the religion of Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8) who believed Philip's miracles, appropriated the name "Christian," and started a *new* counterfeit "Christianity" after the apostle Peter rejected him as being bound in "iniquity"—i.e., "lawlessness." He took the *name* of Christ, rejected God's law, and added licentious false "grace" to the Babylonian mystery religion, calling it "Christianity." This false "Christianity" has deceived millions, down to this present evil generation!

A more detailed account of the captivity of Israel is found in II Kings 18:9-12 and 17:5-18. The house of Israel began to "abide many days without a king" (Hosea 3:4). Since they were the people who carried the title "Israel," it is they, not Judah, who must become *lost* in identity!

Israel, Not Judah, Lost

The Scriptures plainly tell us that *Israel* was to lose its *identity*, its *language*, its *religion*, its *land*, and its *name*.

In Deuteronomy 32:26, God had warned them through Moses: "I said, I would scatter them into corners. I would MAKE THE REMEMBRANCE OF THEM TO CEASE FROM AMONG MEN." That warning *cannot* be applied to the *Jew*! The remembrance of the Jews has not ceased. The remembrance of them could not cease un-



less their identity and name were lost. This applies to the LOST tribes, not to the Jews.

Now notice Isaiah 8:17: "And I will wait upon the Lord, THAT HIDETH HIS FACE FROM THE HOUSE OF JACOB." Jacob's name was changed to Israel. In other words, this applies to the house of Israel—the ten-tribed kingdom who were cut off from the presence of God. They consequently lost the knowledge of the true God, and the true religion.

The Eternal would cease speaking to them in their own Hebrew tongue, but with "another tongue will he speak to *this people*" (Isa. 28:11). This cannot apply to the Jews, who still read their Bibles in the Hebrew tongue.

Isaiah 62:2: "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory [after Christ returns]; and thou shalt be called by a NEW NAME, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." While this prophecy refers directly to the future, after Christ's return, it has also been fulfilled, *typically*, foreshadowing that time, by the fact that Israel is known by a different name today: That cannot apply to the Jews. They were known then, and today, as Jews.

Israel Never Returned

The house of Israel did *not* return to Palestine with the Jews in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, as some erroneously believe. Those who returned to rebuild the Temple and restore worship in Jerusalem at that time, 70 years after Judah's captivity, were only those of the house of Judah whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried to Babylon.

Note well these facts.

1) In 721-718 B.C. ISRAEL began to be "carried away out of their own land to Assyria" (II Kings 17:23). They were soon all removed completely. "There was none left but the tribe of Judah only" (II Kings 17:18). JUDAH, *only*, remained.

2) More than 130 years later, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon carried the Jews—Judah—who only remained in Palestine away to Babylon. So *none* of the house of Israel dwelt in Palestine at the time of this captivity of Judah.

3) Those who returned to Palestine to rebuild the Temple and restore worship 70 years after Judah's captivity were *ALL* of the house of Judah—*all* Jews—all of those whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away. They returned again "unto Jerusalem and Judah, *every one unto his city*" (Ezra 2:1).

Only those of the tribe of Judah, together with remnants of Benjamin and Levi, who constituted the house of Judah, returned at that time. "Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites" (Ezra 1:5).

There are, of course, those who reject this truth God has seen fit now, in our time, to reveal—and who falsely represent that ALL Israelites, including the ten-tribed

house of Israel, returned to Jerusalem at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.

They will sift out instances where the word "Israel" is used in connection with individuals or people of the HOUSE OF JUDAH, and misrepresent that they are the HOUSE OF ISRAEL. Let it be repeated for emphasis: Jews *are* Israelites—but only *part* of the Israelites are Jews. The term "Jew" is a nickname for the *national* name JUDAH. Jews are, truly, *men of Israel or people of Israel*. But they are not of the NATION called the HOUSE OF ISRAEL, or KINGDOM OF ISRAEL.

Those who refuse this truth turn to such a passage as this: "And the residue of Israel; of the priests, and the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, every one in his inheritance" (Neh. 11:20). Because the word "Israel" is used, they will claim these are all twelve tribes. But it is specifically speaking of priests and Levites—and they are of the *house of Judah*, but not of the ten-tribed house of Israel. They were truly the "residue of Israel"—the "residue" of the twelve tribes; they were Israelites, but they were not of the nation called the house of Israel. They returned to their inheritance in the land of Judah.

Nehemiah says plainly: "These are the children of the province, that went up out of the captivity [the captivity to Babylon—captivity of JUDAH, *not* the house of Israel], of those that had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away..." (Neh. 7:6). And *none* of the Ten Tribes had been left in Palestine after the Assyrian captivity more than 100 years before (II Kings 17:18).

Ezra says: "And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication..." (Ezra 6:16). These were people of the kingdom of Judah—*not* the kingdom of Israel—but they were "children of Israel."

Names and genealogies are given in Ezra and Nehemiah of those who went back to Palestine from Babylon—and there was *none* from any of the Ten Tribes! Consequently those in Jerusalem at the time of Christ were of these three tribes, *not* of the house of Israel. And most, if not all, of those converted were of the tribe of Benjamin, as Paul said he was.

The house of Israel became known as the LOST Ten Tribes! Now known by *another* name, speaking a different language!

By what name are they known today? Whoever they are, wherever they are, it is *they*, and not the Jews, who are the birthright possessors. It is *they*, not the Jews, who, after the ending of their punishment in A.D. 1800-1803, must inherit the UNBREAKABLE promises to Abraham of national greatness, resources, wealth and power. It is Manasseh who was to become the world's greatest single nation, Ephraim a great *commonwealth* of nations! Who can they be today?

(To Be Continued)

Collision Course!

(Continued from page 6)

this wave of liberalism toward sex. But it led to a liberalism in morality in all forms.

Parental discipline all but disappeared. Women began to take jobs and become self-supporting; family and home life was breaking up; divorces were skyrocketing. Crime was increasingly frightful; violence was becoming general. The motion picture, followed by television after World War II, brought illicit sex and violence into family living rooms.

After 1917, Communism became a vital world factor, spewing out its propaganda of atheism and rebellion against formerly established authority. Communist military might burst into world prominence, making the Soviet Union, with the United States, the two major world military powers.

Communism was making alarming gains in such solidly Catholic countries as Italy, Spain, Portugal, and France. Communism had taken over, as "satellite" countries, such former Roman Catholic nations as Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary—all Eastern Europe.

Meanwhile, within the Catholic Church, morals were relaxing; families were turning to means of birth control forbidden by the church; divorce was increasing; more and more priests and nuns began demanding the right to marry, and indeed many did!

Also meanwhile, once war-torn Europe, now rebuilt and economically prosperous, was dependent upon United States military force to protect them from Communist encroachment—since the Communists were right on their borders! The nations of Europe, especially those in NATO, more and more were losing confidence in the ability of the United States to protect them from the growing might of the Soviet Union. The United States took beatings in the wars in Korea and in South Vietnam. Communist propaganda in the United States turned the mood of America against send-

ing soldiers to fight wars in faraway countries.

The nations of Western Europe had formed the Common Market, solely an economic union. But there was a growing FEAR of Russia; a growing DOUBT of U.S. protection from Communist military might; a growing and desperate desire among European leaders to UNITE politically, to provide their own military force, which would make them a third gigantic world military power, perhaps stronger than either the U.S. or the U.S.S.R.

Now WHERE DOES ALL THIS LEAVE US?

The new pope is Polish, and he has walked the tightrope for years as a Roman cardinal in a Communist satellite state. He knows the danger of the threat of Soviet military invasion better than any Italian pope could. He knows the desire of Europe to reunite politically and militarily. He knows the problems within the Catholic Church—coming to be divided against itself. There was heated division between conservatives and liberals in the cardinal conclaves which elected the last two popes.

Division from Within

Now consider a few things that have not been widely known about Roman Catholic internal politics.

Here are excerpts from an article in the *Los Angeles Times*, by Andrew Greeley from Rome. The headline of the story: "The Entrance of Catholicism Back Into the World Is Now Inevitable." The medieval alliance between the church and the world was virtually destroyed, in the 14th century—and finally again in the early 19th. Yet prior to that the Catholic Church had been the leader and guardian of the European world.

Then Greeley listed three crucial points:

1) The world had come to view democracy as human progress—but to the church it was "an assault on Christian truth and ecclesiastical rights."

2) The ascendancy of modern science and scholarship. The church looked on science as an attack on

religious truth and the foundations of religion.

3) It had always been the belief of the church that the pope should RULE with ABSOLUTE POWER, while the world was coming to view papal power as a relic of the Dark Ages.

Many high in the church had continued to urge that the church must REJOIN THE WORLD. In the Second Vatican Council, it was decided the time had come "to deal openly with the modern world."

After the death of Paul VI, as a result of his administration, on the election of John Paul I, "it became clear that the church and the world were in dialogue once again—an historic turning point after centuries" (emphasis added).

Pope Paul had found his "balance of power in a 'mini-Curia,'" created by the energetic Vatican Secretary of State (virtually a prime minister) Cardinal Giovanni Benelli.

It is my understanding that Cardinal Benelli had been assigned by Paul VI to work on plans toward the resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire to rule Europe.

Now put all these facts together. The Catholic Church is in trouble—coming to be divided from within. They must know that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

The nations of Europe WANT TO UNITE POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY.

How did the Catholic Church settle its internal problems while it ruled supreme? By the PHYSICAL FORCE of the civil government, over which the popes RULED!

Revelation 17

It may not sound pretty, at this point, but I quote from the prophecy of Revelation 17. The time prophesied is now and the immediate future, though this prophecy also records some of the past: "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials [the seven last plagues which are to strike at the time of Christ's second coming], and talked with me, saying unto me. Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication. . . . The

waters where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. . . . So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman [church] sit upon a scarlet coloured beast [civil government], full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns" (verses 1-2, 15, 3).

This prophecy continues, and ties in with Daniel 2, Daniel 7, and Revelation 13. The seven heads symbolize the seven dynasties or historic peaks of the Holy Roman Empire. The ten horns are ten kings or nations comprising this empire at the time of its seventh stage. Continue the prophecy: "And the woman was arrayed in purple [color symbolic of royalty] and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her [in vision], I wondered with great admiration" (Rev. 17:4-6).

The name might be translated "the BABYLONIAN MYSTERY RELIGION," HAVING GROWN GREAT, ruling over many nations speaking different languages.

This prophecy, written in the 90s A.D., has since become history. This Babylonian mystery religion became great and ruled over the nations of Europe in the Holy Roman Empire, ruling by the physical force of the state civil governments, causing the martyrdom of saints who did not accept her doctrines and rule, but were loyal to Christ.

The TIME of the events of this prophecy is approximately 1935. The prophecy continues to say that this Holy Roman Empire was, but "is not" (at approximately 1935)—"and yet is." It was about 1935 that Mussolini boasted of the revival of the Roman Empire—a revival so insignificant that, as I remember, it

did not even make front-page news in most American newspapers. At that time "it was not, and yet is" (verse 8).

The prophecy continues to explain that the seven heads are seven mountains (or peaks of the kingdom) on which the church sat. At the time of the prophecy, approximately 1935, this Holy Roman Empire had been in "the bottomless pit" (a condition of virtual nonexistence) out of which it was to ascend in one last seventh peak, and cause WONDERMENT in the world (verse 8).

And when finally resurrected in this seventh phase, this Roman union of church and state will continue ONLY A VERY SHORT TIME.

It is pictured in Daniel 2 as the ten toes—a mixture of iron and clay which will not stick together.

It will become a MILITARY kingdom (Rev. 17:13-14) and will actually fight against Christ at His second coming! But the ten kings that give their power to the head king (symbolized as "the beast") will hate the church, and shall put an end to her existence (verses 16-17).

Resurrected Holy Roman Empire

This shows 1) that the means the church has used to whip people into line, into professing her religion, has been the physical power of the military and the police of the state. Will she now once again turn to this means? And 2) this forthcoming resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire will last but a VERY SHORT time, and will END with the second coming of Christ to RULE the earth. Therefore, when this union does happen in Europe, we may know we are VERY CLOSE to Christ's second coming.

However, other prophecies, such as Matthew 24:21-22, Daniel 12:1, and Jeremiah 30:7, show that there will be the "great tribulation"—the most terrible time of trouble in all earth's history—brought on by this Roman resurrection to last 3½ years OR LESS; then Communist hordes, with an army of 200 MILLION, will permanently destroy Roman Catholic Europe! Yet certain divisions of the European army will

be fighting at Armageddon, as Christ comes.

WILL the new Pope John Paul II launch this world-shaking Holy Roman Empire resurrection? The Catholic Church is IN DANGER OF DESTRUCTION FROM WITHIN, unless it can find a way to restore HARMONY and UNITY in its traditional practices and teachings. John Paul II is 58 years old. It is said he could reign before his death for perhaps the next 30 years.

BUT WITH COMMUNIST ENCROACHMENTS, with European distrust of U.S. military protection and their desire for political union, and with trouble within the Catholic Church, it would seem that John Paul II *will act!* Cardinal Benelli has prepared the way. Franz Joseph Strauss of Germany, "the strong man of Europe," has a plan for such a union; as has Prince Otto of Hapsburg (Austria).

Gene H. Hogberg's article in the November 1978 *Plain Truth*, "How the Dollar Crisis is Forging a United Europe," adds another vital factor—the decline of the U.S. dollar—to the forces converging on a COLLISION COURSE!

And the *U.S. News & World Report* of October 30 adds that the present John Paul II was selected as pope for his "unusual mastery of skills in dealing . . . with affairs of state," adding that he will approach the problems "with forcefulness," "is capable of springing surprises," and will "take vigorous stands."

Truly, we are living in THE LAST DAYS, when mighty forces are indeed CONVERGING ON A COLLISION COURSE!

The "Great Tribulation"

Jesus' prophecy of Matthew 24 shows the whole world being deceived by false religion, claiming to be "Christian"—saying Jesus is CHRIST—yet deceiving the MANY of the world! Then, verse 14, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; AND THEN SHALL THE END [of this age] COME." After the beginning of the proclamation world-wide of the gospel of the Kingdom shall come the "great tribulation"—more terrible than any time of trouble

ever. The supernatural intervention of CHRIST will cut short that tribulation (verses 21-22).

But where will the great tribulation be felt the most, strike hardest? The prophecy of Jeremiah 30 says it will be the time of Britain's and America's trouble. (Write for our booklet *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.)

It's time for those in America and the British nations to **LAMEN WARNINGS!** I have forewarned of this very thing for 44 years.

The "Mark of the Beast"

For years I have said little or nothing about "the mark of the beast" of Revelation 13:17, although I spoke and wrote a great deal 30 or 44 years ago on that and other prophecies to occur about the same time.

But it seemed as if God were supernaturally holding up the march of prophesied events. In Revelation 7, the time sequence of the prophecies had come to the phrase of the "day of the Lord," when there were frightening signs in the sun, moon and stars, time for the seven trumpet plagues. Then, in Revelation 7:1, four angels at the four corners of the earth were holding up the winds that they should not loose the trumpet plagues. "And we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads" (verse 3). This shows that, when there is a reason, God will hold prophesied events up for a while. I have wondered if He were not holding up world events till we have completed the GREAT COMMISSION.

On the other hand, God may suddenly speed things up. He is going to cut short the great tribulation. Again, "He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness, because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth" (Rom. 9:28).

But we may now be coming very near a sudden CRASH ENDING of things in this world! Right now, so far as God allows world events to take their own course, a lot depends on what Pope John Paul II and the Roman Curia decide to do, and they may be pressured by government leaders in Europe. TIME IS SHORT! □



This picture, taken several years ago, shows Masayoshi Ohira (now the new Japanese Prime Minister) accepting a copy of *The Plain Truth* magazine from Stanley R. Rader, Ambassador Foundation Executive Vice-President and traveling companion of Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong (who has been given the Order of the Sacred Treasure by the Japanese government). Cover picture shows the then recently elected Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka.

CHURCH

(Continued from page 3)

However, before sending forth the apostles with this message, He ascended to heaven to be seated at the right hand of God, on His Father's throne over the entire UNIVERSE.

Christ, in His resurrected state, had spent some 40 days on earth with His apostles. On the annual day of Pentecost, some ten days after His ascension, He sent from heaven His Holy Spirit to enter into the 120 disciples (Acts 1:15) who had followed Him and believed—thus founding the CHURCH of GOD (Acts 2). That same day about 3,000 were baptized and added to the 120 (Acts 2:41).

True Gospel Suppressed

Almost immediately a great persecution was aroused against the Church and the gospel message (Acts 8:1). The apostle Paul was converted and made the chief apostle to the Gentiles.

The Church had been founded on the day of Pentecost, June A.D. 31. But by A.D. 59 or 60 the opposition already had suppressed Christ's true gospel of the Kingdom. People had been turned to another gospel (Gal. 1:6).

It is difficult to believe, I know. But what the world *supposes*, falsely, is the "gospel of Jesus Christ" is not the gospel of Christ—not the message He taught, but the message of uncalled and deceived men ABOUT Christ about the PERSON of the Messenger. But the message God sent by Christ as the divine Messenger they have not heard.

But, though Christ's gospel message was after a few years suppressed, the apostles went forth with that message—infused with dynamic power by the Holy Spirit. They, with the Church backing them with their prayers, encouragement and tithes, started out imbued with vitality and strength.

God's Church Endures Persecution

But it must be realized that the fierce persecution had a discour-

aging effect. One example of this—and of the primary function of the Church—is found in Acts, chapters 3 and 4. For healing a cripple and preaching to the crowd the miracle attracted, the apostles Peter and John were thrown overnight in prison and severely threatened.

But these apostles went immediately to the Church brethren for encouragement. They prayed fervently, asking God to grant divine power, that the gospel might continue to go out. Result? And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they [the apostles] spake the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

However, as the persecution intensified and as the true gospel message was suppressed by the power of the Roman government and the false church started in A.D. 33 by Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24)—the work of proclaiming the true gospel had to go underground. It was no longer proclaimed to the world. The work of the Church had ebbed through the centuries to a mere trickle.

But Christ had said the gates of the grave would not prevail against His Church. It continued, often an underground Church, meeting in secret, through every generation. By the beginning of the twentieth century that vital power which had worked dynamically in Christ and the original apostles had waned, until Christ's prophecy of Revelation 3:1-6, they had "a name that they lived"—the Church of God—but were dead, spiritually, and they lacked the vitality to go forth with Christ's message! A number of small isolated groups in Chile, Argentina, Mexico, and Central America, as well as in the United States, were still kept in the NAME Church of God.

New Leadership and Vitality Infused

In 1927 the United States members consisted of very small local groups of from five to one hundred.

At that time Christ raised up a new leader imbued with God's Spirit, vitality, inspired UNDER-

STANDING and perseverance—Herbert W. Armstrong.

He had been a successful businessman in the advertising, newspaper and magazine field.

In the fall of 1926 he was shaken by two emotion-stirring challenges—one on the validity of God's spiritual law, the Ten Commandments; the second on the theory of evolution—then rapidly gaining complete acceptance by higher education.

Mr. Armstrong was somewhat familiar with the evolutionary doctrine, but he had not pursued an intensive in-depth study and research into the question. He delved immediately into the writings of Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley, Spencer, Vogt and other advocates of the hypothesis. He PROVED, to his own satisfaction, the falsity of the theory.

He had believed, in common with the Protestant teaching in which he had been reared, that God's spiritual law had been abrogated by Christ and the early apostles.

"All these churches," he had argued with his wife, "can't be wrong—and they teach the abrogation of God's law." But to his utter amazement and chagrin, Herbert Armstrong began to learn that "all these churches" indeed were in error! "Why," he exclaimed on his first real examination of the Bible, "the churches of organized traditional Christianity are teaching the diametric opposite of what I see plainly in the Bible!"

His intensive, almost night-and-day study, although frustrating at the time, swept his mind clean of teachings from his Sunday school and church upbringing! God caused him to now seriously and earnestly study the Bible ABRESH—as if he had never allowed previous teachings to have a place in his mind. No world religious leader, in all probability, has ever been brought to revealed TRUTH in this unprejudiced manner.

The experience of the apostle Paul seemed to parallel his own. Mr. Armstrong later wrote: "But I, certify to you, brethren, that the gospel preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, nor was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. . . . But when it

pleased God... to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him to the world. I conferred not with flesh and blood [humans], neither went I to any theological seminary, but, as the original apostles and Paul were taught by CHRIST IN PERSON, so was I taught by the SAME CHRIST, through His WRITTEN WORD" (cf. Gal. 1:11, 15-17).

"But," Mr. Armstrong said at the time, "IF all these churches ARE wrong—and IF, as Jesus said, His Church would never die but continue to exist—where is the one true Church today?"

Mr. Armstrong and his wife began fellowshipping with people of the Church of God in the Willamette Valley and Oregon City, in Oregon. They were living then in Portland. These humble but sincere people, it soon became clear, had MORE BIBLICAL TRUTH than any other church—though they constituted one of the smallest and most scattered churches. But until the summer of 1928 he had refused to speak before these small local church groups, because he felt the ministry was a profession no man ought to choose himself. Finally he was virtually drafted into doing so.

Realizing that he had the training and unusual experience in the business world, the education, the know-how, the vision, the initiative and experience in utilizing modern methods necessary to get the Work of God going out in a complex modern world, they looked more and more to Mr. Armstrong for leadership. And finally it became evident to all that the call to the ministry was genuinely from God, and not a self-imposed one. In June 1931, Mr. Armstrong was ordained by the Oregon Conference and entered the Work of God full time.

New Era—New Life

It was under his leadership that a new era of the Church of God was begun. The Church was revitalized and injected with new life and vigor by the Spirit of God, so that Christ's gospel, HIS ORIGINAL MESSAGE—could go out in power to the whole world. Much more than human experience and know-how was re-

quired. Once again God was sending forth and infusing into His Church His Spirit of POWER.

The time had come for the final message of God for this present world to go out with great impact. The time had come for God's Work to prepare the way for the soon-coming wonderful WORLD TOMORROW—the time when, by act of God, His government will be restored on earth. It will be a world of PEACE, OF HAPPINESS, OF JOY, with abundance and plenty, under the worldwide government of the great God through the living Jesus Christ!

In the summer and autumn of 1933, Mr. Armstrong gave a series of lectures in and around Eugene, Oregon, on the original gospel message taught by Christ which produces peace, true success, and real happiness. The response was spontaneous and beyond expectation. An invitation followed to speak on radio station KORE, then Eugene's only radio outlet. Frank Hill, owner, suggested, a weekly half-hour program to give this missing dimension in God's TRUE exposure to a wider audience. He, himself, contributed substantially to its cost.

Phenomenal Growth

God now began opening doors for a Spirit-empowered Work to leap forth (Rev. 3:7-8). The Work from this point grew in power and scope at the rate of 30 percent a year over the next 35 years.

The first week in 1934, *The World Tomorrow* program went on the air. It met with an immediate response, considering the small power and limited coverage of the station. KORE was then of the very smallest wattage for commercial broadcasting—100 watts. Gradually the program went on more and more stations. By 1943 the program had gained national coverage in the United States, and by 1945 it became a daily program.

Finally, the broadcast had the largest wattage of any radio program worldwide—more than 50 million watts of power weekly—reaching an estimated 100 million listeners, besides many additional millions reached by other media.

On February 1, 1934, *The Plain Truth* magazine made its most humble bow. That Volume I, Number 1 had a circulation of approximately 250 copies. *The Plain Truth* was offered radio listeners gratis, but subscriptions were entered only on personal request. It has never been our policy to put a price on the magazine, nor to request financial support in its columns or on the air.

Today *The Plain Truth* is one of the finest quality magazines in the world, but it still contains the same vital message, and it is still offered free of charge!

Why a College?

As the Church and its work expanded, the establishment of a college became imperative. There were a number of reasons for this.

The Church of God had never been a proselyting church. Jesus, Christ set the example. He never urged people to "get saved" or "be converted." When the woman at Jacob's well in Samaria asked Him to give her of God's Spirit, which He had referred to as "living water," He made no effort to convert her.

He did proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, saying, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). He chose His disciples and simply said, "Follow me." They followed unquestioningly. He made no emotional appeals, for converts. He made no pleading "altar calls" accompanied by sentimental hymns. Nor did the apostles. The Church of God follows the example they set.

Therefore it has no evangelistic program or missionary activities in the modern sense of the words. Instead, its commission is to proclaim the good news of the coming Kingdom of God—not to convert the world, but merely "as a witness" to all nations.

This is actually an EDUCATIONAL message of the WAY OF LIFE to be lived in the Kingdom of God—THE WAY that leads to success, to peace, happiness, to the full, enjoyable, abundant life. It involves the KNOWLEDGE of the PURPOSE of human life on this planet—the real meaning of life; the knowledge of the TRUE VALUES in a world pur-

suating the false; the knowledge of what man is, why he is, and the way to his transcendent potential.

This is not a sentimental, emotional message *about* Christ as a Person—it is *not* a message of pleading with people to "give their hearts to the Lord"—but a message showing people what they need to turn from and teaching them THE WAY that will CAUSE the results they really want here and now, as well as throughout eternity.

An adjunct of the Church's commission is to feed those who do become converted—converted means "changed to a different attitude and way made possible by receiving God's Spirit"—to feed them the spiritual food of practical commonsense Christian LIVING by God's WAY OF LIFE.

Ambassador College Founded

Therefore the Church of God found the establishment of an educational institution imperative. It was needed to provide an educated ministry. It was needed to provide trained personnel for administrative needs in God's Work of proclaiming this good news worldwide—by radio, by television, in print.

Pasadena, California, was chosen as the locale for the college. Ambassador College swung open its doors to students October 8, 1947. It was separately incorporated in 1951.

Since the commission of the Church is actually an educational, not an evangelistic one, this entire operation became for some years the activity of Ambassador College. Therefore Ambassador College has remained Church associated. It is largely Church financed. The Church of God has always been a tithing church. It knows God has promised, scripturally, to prosper the tithing-payer. This practice has caused members to be more careful in budgeting personal finances. These members have prospered financially and, consequently, so has the Church.

Nonproselyting, Nonpolitical, Nonmilitant

As stated above, the Church of God from A.D. 31 has been nonproselyt-

ing and entirely noncompetitive, in accordance with biblical principles. In no sense is it militant, nor has it ever participated in any agitating movement to bring about any objectives by action. It participates in no group or mass action, political or otherwise. The Church of God, in all its history, has had only an attitude of love for all races and peoples, regardless of color, creed, or nationality.

Always its teaching has been submission to whatever AUTHORITY is over one—whether human government or the authority of God.

The Worldwide Church of God, while not activist or militant, does nevertheless believe in and offers practical solutions to the many human problems.

Through its continued teaching over radio, television, and in its magazines and special booklets, it has profound impact upon society in many ways.

More than a million people have received our booklet concerning crime, its causes, and how people can protect themselves, their children, and their property from criminal.

Millions have experienced changes in their marital lives through our broadcasts and through reading the instructional booklets and magazine articles they have received. From New Zealand to Africa, and from the Swiss Alps to Puget Sound, tens of thousands write of the deep and far-reaching changes effected in their homes and families through a better understanding of God-revealed ways of right, clean, wholesome living.

Tens of thousands write of their newfound ability to properly rear their children; of the immediate rewards in greater love and obedience shown them by their children after they have read and applied the information they have requested.

Millions of Lives Changed

Millions have read literature which changed their personal lives in many constructive, useful ways. The television and radio broadcasts and booklets about pollution, famine, the population explosion, and the space race

deal with big worldwide issues. And our literature about drugs, alcohol, marriage, managing personal finances and the laws of success deals with daily, practical, personal information that literally *changes lives*.

The members of the Worldwide Church of God are so genuinely concerned for OTHERS, and with the problems of the world at large, that they GIVE of their own substance to aid in this worldwide effort to APPLY THE SOLUTIONS to the problems suffered in common by all mankind.

The divine commission to the Worldwide Church of God is to proclaim the coming world of peace under the soon-coming divine Messiah. The Church is merely in the role of a reporter, reporting prophecies as ADVANCE NEWS REPORTS.

It is giving hopeless nations with their masses the ONLY hope for the future—the hope never heard in those nations before!

And THAT is the Worldwide Church of God! □

Have We Won Our Last War?

For years America had it all going her way—but now we seem to find ourselves in an ever-weakening international position. First Vietnam, then Panama—what's next? To find out, write for your free copy of *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. This full-color booklet traces the origins of our peoples and focuses in on the fundamental causes of our national decline. Send for your free copy today.



THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH IN PROPHECY

Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

education, glossed over entirely by religion.

Actually, I began to realize that the biblical revelation, and the message Jesus proclaimed, is in fact such STUPENDOUS knowledge that what is being disseminated at higher education is dwarfed into insignificance!

But that monumental message, which was Christ's gospel—His glorious GOD news—was soon suppressed, in the very first century!

It is concerned with the Creator, all-encompassing, overwhelming, overall purpose, involving not only man, but the entire vast and limitless UNIVERSE, to be made over by man, when man comes into his projected GLORY!

This is no imaginary, illusory play on words—it is REAL!

It means that the great majestic GOD is, literally, reproducing Himself in MAN; that mortal MAN has the transcendent potential of being born into the very GOD FAMILY as an immortal SPIRIT being in superlative GLORY and with creative power, under God and under Christ, to literally make over and re-tew the face of planets throughout the vastness of endless SPACE!

It is true that hardly one in a thousand humans ever realizes, even partly, his purely human potential as a human. The average human never utilizes even five percent of his mental powers. On the purely human level, man has the potential—if an American, of becoming President of the United States. Or of becoming a Thomas A. Edison, or an Einstein.

But that potential is as nothing compared to the spiritual and transcendent potential of being born into the very GOD FAMILY—and inheriting the very capabilities of GOD!

Actually most of these exciting, inspiring, mind-expanding TRUTHS are never even remotely considered in the religious teachings of this world!

Some time in the spring of 1979, my new book, *The Incredible Human Potential*, will appear in bookstores all over the English-

speaking world. It's a story, too comprehensive to even begin to condense in this "Personal" in *The Plain Truth*.

Actually, I feel, with deep conviction that I myself really did not author this book—that the living Jesus Christ is its real author. I was

It is true that hardly one in a thousand humans ever realizes, even partly, his purely human potential as a human. The average human never utilizes five percent of his mental powers.

merely like a stenographer writing it down. And with that understanding, I feel I may say that this is the most important—the most tremendously revealing—book since the Bible! Although it will be sold in bookstores, interested readers may reserve a copy now by mail.

Meanwhile, I might announce now that by next spring also will appear in bookstores everywhere another new book, *Seven Proofs of the True Church*. This, too, will be a surprising, eye-opening work. Can you believe that of all the religions in the world, including Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, Hinduism, the Moslem and the Christian religions, *not one* (save the one original, true Church of God, pictured in the twelfth chapter of Revelation as persecuted, small, hated by Satan) knows who and what God is. Could you believe that only this one true Church knows what and why man is; why humanity was put on the earth; where we are going; and what is the way? Or that only this one knows the real purpose and meaning of Old Testament Israel, why God called them, even though He gave spiritual salvation *only* to their prophets? Further, do you realize

that no other church or religion knows what was the gospel Jesus proclaimed and taught—a gospel suppressed near the middle of the first century, and not proclaimed to the world until our present generation? This book will prove astounding to the reader.

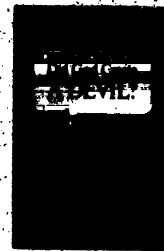
Other books to be found in the bookstores beginning next spring authored by Herbert W. Armstrong are *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, *Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, and a new, updated and enlarged book, *The Seven Laws of Success*.

And still others, God willing, I hope shall be published by our own Everest House, and be available also in bookstores by the fall of 1979.

If God will give me the strength and time, I hope to complete *The Autobiography*. Half of this was published in one 540-page volume in 1957, with other editions in 1958, 1959, and 1975. I hope to have the entire two volumes complete, available in bookstores everywhere, by the fall of 1979. □

Is the Devil Making Us Do It?

Why does humanity suffer in a world full of violence and hate? Are we bringing it all on ourselves, or are outside influences shaping our destiny? For the answer to these and other questions affecting our very survival, send for your free copy of the booklet *Did God Create a Devil?* (See the inside front cover for the address of our office nearest you.)



THE WORLD TOMORROW- WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?



Where will you be ten years from now? Today, the world is in chaos—the threat of human extinction looms on the horizon. But what about tomorrow? Will it be as apocalyptic as the doomsayers predict? Incredibly enough, the answer is no. And the advance news of a world utopia is available to you, free of charge, in the booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It*

Will Be Like. Send your request to our office nearest you. You may also request this booklet by calling this toll-free number 1-800-423-4444 (Residents of California, Alaska and Hawaii may dial 213-577-5225 collect.)

THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW

What It Will Be Like



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