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the

SEPTEMBER 1983

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



Behind the Facade of Western Unity

INSIDE: WHAT'S AHEAD FOR MIDDLE EAST

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OUR COVER

Leaders of the Free World's major industrial nations held their annual summit this year in Williamsburg, Virginia. They pledged to promote a "sustainable recovery" in the world's economy and strongly supported the NATO alliance with regard to nuclear weapons deployment. Below the surface, however, differences between the United States and its allies are growing.

COVER PHOTO BY DIANA WALKER—GAMMA/LIAISON

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PERSONAL FROM

Robert A. Armstrong



Christianity Is a Growth Process

How many times have you heard non-Christians, judging one who professes Christ, say in disgust, "Well if that's Christianity, I don't want any of it!"

How many judge God by the way professing Christians live? How many assume that one must live a *perfect* life, before he can become a Christian?

How many say, "If I could give up smoking, I'd become a Christian."

How many think a Christian is supposed to be perfect, never doing anything wrong? Suppose you do see or hear about a Christian doing something *WRONG*. Does that mean he is a hypocrite—that he is *not* really a Christian, after all?

Is it possible for one to actually *SIN*, while he is a Christian, and *still remain* a truly converted Christian?

I suppose many would reply in the negative. But here is a vital point *you need to UNDERSTAND!*

It's hard to believe—but **TRUE!** Few know just what *is* a Christian. Few know **HOW** one is converted—whether suddenly, all at once, or gradually. Does conversion happen *immediately*, or is it a **PROCESS**? It's **HIGH TIME WE UNDERSTAND!**

The **TRUTH** is that there is a sense in which true conversion *does* take place *at a definite time*—all at once. But it is also true that in another sense conversion is *worked out gradually*—a process of development and growth.

NOW NOTICE CAREFULLY!

WHEN does one really become a Christian? It is, when he receives God's Holy Spirit. In Romans 8:9, we read that *unless* we have the Holy Spirit, we are not Christ's—not Christians:

There is a definite **TIME** when God's Spirit enters into one. At the *very moment* he receives the Holy Spirit, he is, in this first sense, *converted*. Yes, *all at once!* If he has Christ's Spirit, he is **CHRIST'S**—he is a Christian! He has been begotten as a child of God.

But does that mean his salvation is complete? Is he now fully and finally "*saved*"? Is that all there is to it? Is he now suddenly *perfect*? Is it now impossible for him to do *WRONG*?

NO! FAR FROM IT! But **WHY?** What's the answer? Why do so many misunderstand?

Here is the **PLAIN TRUTH** you need to know.


First, there are **TWO conditions** to becoming a Christian: **REPENTANCE**, and **FAITH**. These two we, ourselves, must perform. Yet no one can, of himself, say, "Oh now I see—I must repent. All right, I hereby repent." One does not just decide casually, as a matter of routine, to repent. **WHY?**

Jesus Christ said that none can come to him, except the Spirit of the Father draw him. God *grants* repentance. God calls one, and convicts the mind and conscience by his Spirit, working on the mind externally. Usually a real struggle goes on within. The person has been shaken to *know* he has done wrong—he has sinned. He is not only sorry—he abhors himself! He is brought to real **REPENTANCE** not only for what he has done, but for what he now sees that he *is*.

Yet he, himself, must make the decision. If he does repent, surrender to **GOD** and in **FAITH** accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior, then, upon performance of these **TWO conditions**, God *promises* to put within him the **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit. This is the *very life* of God—**SPIRIT** life. It imparts to him the *very divine nature!*

Then *what*, at that stage, *has happened?*

This new convert, has only been *begotten* of God—not yet **BORN**. He has not received the full measure of God's Spirit Christ had—he is only a *spiritual babe in Christ*—he must now **GROW** spiritually, just as a newly conceived fetus in its mother's womb must grow (Continued on page 39)



Behind the Facade of Western Unity

by Gene H. Hogberg

Economic recovery masks deep divisions that must eventually rip asunder the Atlantic Alliance.

TO BORROW the title of the book of World War I vintage, "All's Quiet on the Western Front."

But superficial impressions can be misleading.

The moderate upswing in economic fortunes throughout much of the Western World virtually assured that, from the start, this year's seven-nation Summit of Industrialized Nations in Williamsburg, Virginia, would be a success.

With hopes renewed that the plumpest clouds of the recession were at last lifting, the leaders of the United States, West Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Canada and Italy pledged to keep up the fight against inflation and to back off, for now at least, from the brink of an all-out trade war.

Mr. Reagan "the Winner"

The general consensus among the 3,000 or so journalists gathered at the Williamsburg summit site was

President Reagan, right, welcomes West German Chancellor Kohl to industrial nations' summit conference.

that the "winner," if there was one, was the host head of state, U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The *Times* of London correspondent said that the conference marked the occasion "when President Reagan emerged as an international leader of stature, finally managing to shed his cowboy image."

Widespread predictions that there could be rancorous bickering over continuing high interest rates in the United States—a contributing factor for the strength of the dollar over the other currencies—simply failed to materialize. Not that frictions over this issue have faded. Immediately after the summit, the beleaguered French franc plummeted against the dollar once more. Anticipating this development, U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan repeatedly stressed at the summit his belief that the real problem is not with a strong dollar. He insisted it lies in lack of confidence in the French currency because of French President Francois Mitterrand's



persistence in pursuing costly socialist programs.

It may indeed have been "Mr. Reagan's summit." For the first time, the U.S. chief executive found a healthy majority of support for his policies, on economic issues especially, as well as on the broader range of East-West political and security relations.

Key: Confidence in America

Viewing the activities of this annual "summit of summits" (this writer's fourth such conference), one thing was evident: Just how important *confidence in America* is to the stability of the entire Western World.

This was amply demonstrated by the attempt on the part of the Soviet Union, just as the summit began, to rattle those in attendance. Moscow warned that if the new Pershing II and cruise missiles were indeed deployed in Western Europe beginning at the end of 1983, it might feel compelled to move part of its own Euromissile nuclear force forward into some of its East bloc satellite countries.

The Kremlin threat backfired. In an unprecedented show of solidarity, the eight assembled leaders (the Common Market president also attends) unanimously vowed support for the NATO deployment program. The unanimity was all the more surprising considering it entailed support from non-NATO Japan and from France, which maintains a separate defense structure and partici-

pates with the alliance only on political matters.

Superficial Unity

Behind the smiles and the optimistic joint statements arrived at in Williamsburg, however, are serious and widening differences, only papered over for now in the pastel bloom of economic recovery. A serious rift between the United States and her allies is only a matter of time.

Before the conference, I had the opportunity of talking to several foreign relations experts in three of the many "think tanks" headquartered in Washington, D.C. The upshot of their comments to me: Watch out for the next few months!

The fabric of European-American relations could well be ripped asunder over the issues of missiles in Europe and the deepening U.S. involvement in Central America—an area of the world that most Europeans view with far less alarm than does the administration in Washington.

At the Center of Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), defense analyst Mike Moodie told me that nearly all likely developments in the controversial Euromissile deployment program bode ill for the Western alliance!

A less than unanimous decision on the part of NATO's 16 members to proceed with deployment as scheduled would not set well with the United States. A decision to postpone the deployment—advocated by some Europeans—would be considered even worse.

Leaders of the major industrial democracies convene, in final session, before some of the 3,000 journalists and photographers in William and Mary Hall.

Manfred Hamm, a West German defense expert with the Heritage Foundation, related the overriding *political*, rather than military importance of the 1979 NATO decision to proceed with new U.S.-made weapons stationed



Troops in 18th-century uniform parade before President Reagan and President Francois Mitterrand of France during opening ceremonies.

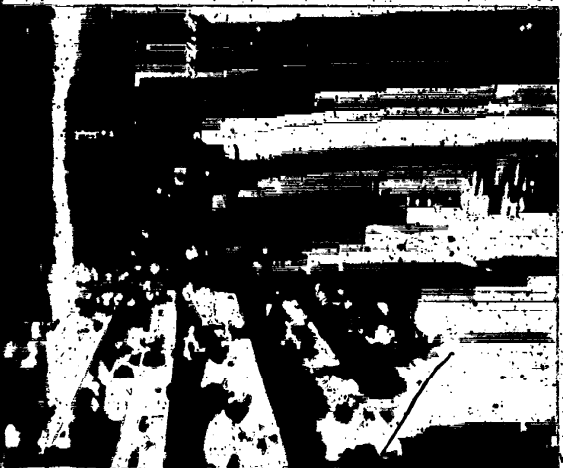
on European soil to counterbalance the growing Soviet Euromissile force.

The West Germans, in particular, are fearful of Europe being "decoupled" from the United States on strategic matters. At first, consideration was given to placing the new weapons aboard submarines offshore of Western Europe. But the Germans felt this plan gave insufficient visibility to the American commitment.

Now, should Europeans waver on implementing the NATO game plan, said Mr. Hamm, the United States would certainly be justified in considering the ultimate removal of its ground forces from Europe, rather than exposing them to greater Soviet risk.

At the same time, observed Mr. Hamm, the Europeans are deeply concerned that the intercontinental strategic (U.S.- rather than European-based) nuclear weapons that

(Continued on page 42)



*"I'm sure I
wouldn't survive a
nuclear
attack—at least I
hope I wouldn't.
There wouldn't be
much to survive
for."*

Monica, age 17

*"[In a nuclear
war] people would
be turned to
ashes. The
fire . . . and
smoke would kill
them!"*

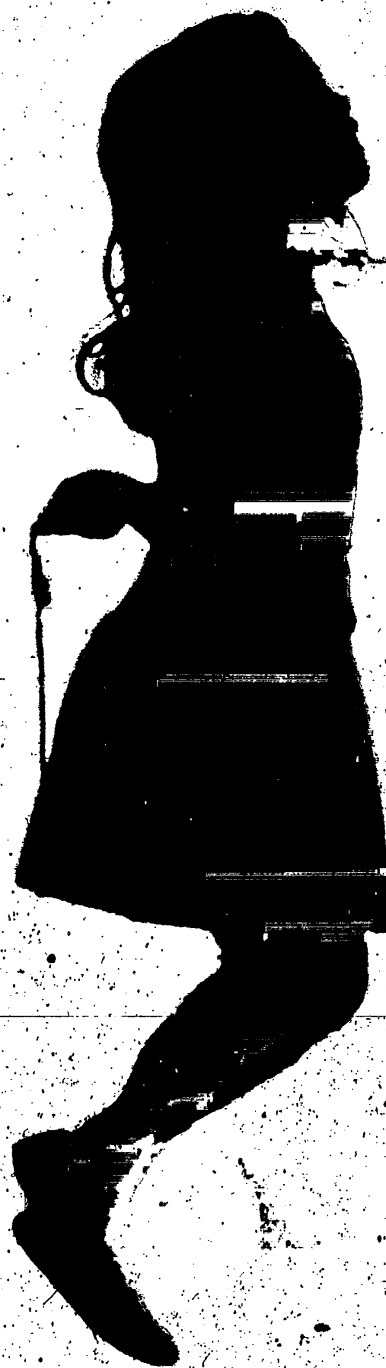
Miraya, age 7

*"We build all
these cities,
people have all
these
children—and
they're all just
going to get
killed. There's no
stopping nuclear
war now. I mean,
they've made the
bombs—they're
going to use
them."*

Derek, age 15

*"It's not healthy
for people not to
talk about
nuclear war, even
though it's not a
nice thing to talk
about."*

Chris, age 12



What Children Think About NUCLEAR WAR

by Michael A. Snyder

It's time we faced the issue most parents avoid!

"NUCLEAR WAR? We don't talk about it in our family. I don't want my children to think about it—they have enough problems growing up as it is."

Maybe you, too, have heard your neighbor say similar words. Maybe you yourself have said them.

We cannot hide the reality from our children, try as some may. Most parents would be shocked to learn how well-acquainted their children already are with the horrors of nuclear warfare.

Would you have expected the following *teenage* view of a possible nuclear exchange?

"I believe I was in high school when I first became aware," wrote one American high school student. "Of course, I found it terrifying, as every human being, in that our whole world, my whole world, could be destroyed by one bomb that our nation had discovered. A bomb that every advanced civilization sought to obtain."

"To destroy our whole race, to destroy people, culture, life and earth is essentially the outcome of the A-bomb."

This remarkable comment, from a special task force study performed under the auspices of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), is typical.

In the same survey, another teenager was asked if he thought he would survive a nuclear attack. His response? "I think about that often. I really don't think they [the citizens of the United States] could survive one. . . . My city would be demolished and the country in big trouble. We really don't know. It hasn't happened yet. Let's hope and pray that it doesn't."

Children and teenagers understand—and are often more honest than adults in facing up to the future.

One Parent's Solution

Thomas Powers is a respected essayist and journalist. He has covered the continuing development of international nuclear policy. He is also a parent. On one occasion, he was startled by his own little daughter's detailed response after asking her what she thought nuclear war would be like. Her answer? "It [nuclear war] would probably be very smoky, and not many people, and lots of things ruined, and dark."

Mr. Powers now admits: "When other people bring up this subject [of nuclear war] when my kids are around . . . I grow acutely uneasy. Don't they realize that there are some things you just don't tell kids?" (*Thinking About the Next War*, page 63).

Mr. Powers asserts, "I don't want to tell my children what nuclear war would do to them. I don't want them dreaming about it. I don't want them burdened with terrifying images that never fade."

His solution? "They need to grow up first, and get some practice in ignoring things they can't do anything about. They need to learn to *hear without hearing*, as adults do" (*ibid.*, page 61, emphasis added).

Yet "hearing without hearing" is the chief problem most adults labor under, especially with respect to the future! While Mr. Powers is expressing his own personal view for his children's mental well-being, he does point up the major obstacle to adult understanding of the problems facing humanity!

Today's Emotional Denial

The time to ignore the awesome problems of nuclear war is *past*. Not telling children—or ourselves—of the horrors of man's scientific ingenuity will only prevent the discovery of the one and only real solution to nuclear catastrophe.

Robert Jay Lifton, a professor of psychiatry at Yale University, coined the phrase



"It scares me because you don't know—it could happen at any time."

Jason, age 7



"I figure if I do get married, and I do have kids, and I'm still living... they're going to have to face the same problems, because if it [nuclear war] doesn't come in my lifetime... it's going to come sooner or later."

Monica, age 17

"psychic numbing" to explain the phenomenon of consciously denying possible death and destruction in nuclear war.

There was a time when parents sought to teach their children how to face reality. Today, it is different. As Dr. Lifton states, "Undermined now [by the ever-present threat of nuclear war] is the fundamental parental responsibility, that of 'family security.' In the face of nuclear extinction, parents must now doubt their ability to see their child safely into... adulthood."

"And," he adds, "the child must also sense, early on, not only those parental doubts but the general inability of the adult world to guarantee the safety of children."

What promise of life does that third of human beings have who are under age 15?

Can these maturing young people continue to accept a radioactive fate?

What Does the Future Hold?

Young people do *not* wish to accept nuclear disaster as their ultimate fate anymore than do adults. On my desk, as I write, are numerous tracts, buttons and other paraphernalia urging peaceful settlements and negotiated arms reductions. Barely concealed anger laces the tone of most of the tracts.

The authors articulate the issues clearly and intelligently. Simply put, they don't want to see nuclear evaporation of their cities and neighborhoods. And they no longer trust authorities—parental and national—to prevent such destruction.

Can humanity, cut off from contact with an all-wise God, solve this nuclear dilemma and provide the children the next generation—with *real* hope?

Turn again to Mr. Powers for his comment: "...until now the world's great armies have *always* [his emphasis] gone to war sooner or later. The great fleet of Darius, the Roman legions, the Spanish Armada and the Wehrmacht were all intended for war and that is what they were used for. Why should the present situation end any differently?"

The qualifier? "Of course we all hope it will end differently," he sadly adds, "but is hope enough?"

That's a realistic, honest question. *Is hope enough?*

Finding REAL Hope

The consensus is widespread among this world's thinkers and it is predicted in another place, unless a change in the thinking of humanity is effected—that nuclear war *will* come. And when it does, it will be "a calamity *unprecedented* in human history," according to the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment (emphasis added).

At the last moment however, when humani-

ty has no other place to turn, an all-wise, all-powerful Creator will *step in*, forcibly *halt* the self-obliteration of human beings and reestablish his government over the nations!

That's the good news that Jesus brought nearly 2,000 years ago! For, "if those days had not been cut short," said Jesus, "*no human being would survive*" (Matt. 24:22, Phillips translation).

But we have the promise, "those days *are* to be shortened" (verse 22).

The carnage will be STOPPED. The Creator God, who has kept hands off the world for almost 6,000 years, will not allow humans to eradicate all life from off this planet.

The fact is that humanity need never suffer the horrors of a future nuclear war. But humanity is going in the opposite direction—away from peace and cooperation—in the kind of competition and greed that produces war.

Perhaps you have not realized that the Bible describes two general ways of life. These two ways were set before the original two humans. They were set before the ancient nation Israel. And today, in your sight, they are set before you.

Listen to these words: "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deut. 30:19, RAV).

The Bible is simply God speaking in print. The command to choose life points humanity to a way of life that, if fully practiced, brings *real* happiness and prosperity.

Unlike the temporary efforts of civil demonstrations, living this revealed way of life would absolutely *guarantee* humanity the avoidance of nuclear extinction. Choosing the way of greed, selfishness and death, on the other hand, virtually guarantees ultimate nuclear war! Why? Because nuclear war is the result of the collective choice of individuals in pursuit of the way of competition.

That's why God himself cries, "As I live," says the Lord God, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way [of competition, greed and self-will] and *live*. Turn, *turn* from your evil ways! For *why* should you die...?" (Ezek. 33:11, RAV).

God's way of life, the way of living free of disaster, is simply summarized in 10 points known today as (Continued on page 39)

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Photo credits on pages 40 and 41 of the July/August issue were inadvertently switched.

Why the Church ?

WHY SHOULD there be a Church? What is its mission—its work? How would you recognize its mission?

A Divided Christianity

Today, many denominations make up the Christian world. Some practice baptism by immersion in water. Others just "sprinkle" or pour water on the head of baptismal candidates. Some churches keep what they call the "Lord's Supper" every Sunday morning. Others observe this custom once a month, some quarterly or only once a year.

They all vary in their forms of church government. They are divided over the questions of creation and theistic evolution.

Most churches observe Sunday as their day of worship. A few observe the Sabbath from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset.

Churches, too, are called by various kinds of names. More important, the various churches of this world have *different concepts of God*.

God, to some, is a fierce autocrat who punishes sinners in an ever-burning hell fire. Others think of

Does God have his Church somewhere on earth today doing his Work? Are there identifying signs by which you may recognize that Work?

by Roderick C. Meredith

God as simply the "divine spark" that somehow started all life but has little to do with everyday events and could care less about our lifestyles. Yet these differing churches all call themselves "Christian"—use the name of Christ.

Is Christ the author of this chaos of denominations?

The Church Jesus Built

Jesus asked his disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" Some said John the Baptist, others Elijah or one of the prophets (see Matthew 16:13-14).

But Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Thereafter Jesus stated: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of

hell shall not prevail against it" (verse 18).

Jesus here said plainly that he *would* build a church—which simply meant in the Greek language a called-out group or crowd of people. Jesus called it "my" Church—not just *any* group or crowd or church.

Throughout the New Testament, God clearly indicates—over and over—that *his* people, *his* Church, would be *small* in number during this age and often persecuted. He said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you. . . . If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:16, 18-19).

Wherever they are, it is obvious that God's true people do NOT fit into this world and its politics. For Jesus continued, "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you . . ." (verse 20). And Jesus called his people the "*little flock*" (Luke 12:32).

Again, Jesus said, "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:

because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:13-14).

Remember, then, only a FEW go in the strait or narrow gate—only a FEW *truly understand* now and are part of God's Church today.

And again, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that *doeth the will of my Father* which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). So Jesus plainly stated that his people are to be *obedient* to the Father's will. They DO what God the Father commands.

I. Often Small and Persecuted

All through the New Testament, the term *woman* is used as a symbol of a church. In II Corinthians 11:1-2, the Church is pictured as the affianced bride of Christ. Nearly all scholars acknowledge that in Revelation 12, the true Church is pictured. She is being persecuted by the "dragon"—described in verse 9 as Satan the devil. In verse 17 the devil goes to make war with the "remnant"—the last generation—of the true Church—"which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

In Revelation 14:12, God describes these same faithful people: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Jesus said *he* would build *his* Church. We have found that the Bible describes it as a *small*, often persecuted Church—one that is certainly not part of this world's politics. It is a Church that does the WILL of God the Father—one that obeys him. And it *KEEPS* the Ten Commandments given as a basic way of life by Almighty God.

Obviously, many differing denominations are small; some are persecuted. Some are persecuted because they seem to deliberately *prvoke others* and so bring undue persecution upon themselves—NOT because of a biblical *message*, but because of thoughtlessly, arrogantly trying to "crain their religion" down the throats of other people.

A few small groups sincerely feel

they are not "part of this world." Perhaps they wear distinctive clothing from another age to prove this to themselves and others.

So what other evidences are there?

II. The Church Has God's Name

It sounds almost too simple. You'd think people would know. But *God names things what they are!*

Before Satan rebelled, he was called by a name that means "light-bringer" (*Lucifer* in Latin). After he tried to dethrone the living God, his name was changed to Satan. This means "enemy" or "adversary"—exactly what this great fallen cherub had become.

The name Jacob means "usurper" or "one who supplants another." After the patriarch wrestled with God's Messenger and began to ask God for help, then God changed his name to Israel. This means "overcomer" or "prevailer" with God.

All through the Bible you see this principle. Names are important to God. And God names things what they are!

Many years ago, in 1517, a young priest in the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation became upset at the selling of indulgences. He nailed to a church door 95 theses expressing why he viewed as wrong the practice of selling of indulgences.

Thus, Martin Luther unwittingly started what became the Protestant Reformation. Later, after an ecclesiastical break, his followers were called "Lutheran" after this reformer. Their formal name now is the Lutheran Church.

Years later in England, John Wesley, receiving a feeling of "inner warmth" and peace after a certain religious meeting, set out preaching about a different approach to God and religion. Eventually, his followers came to view their church as Wesleyan. But, although the term *Wesleyan* is still widely used, they formally named their church after Wesley's habit of being organized and methodical in everything he did. So they named their denomination the Methodist Church.

Presbyterians are named after their form of church government.

by the elders, or presbyters. Baptists are named after a distinctive doctrine, baptism.

And so on.

But, does GOD give any indication in the *Bible* what his Church should be called? Surprisingly, perhaps to some, he does.

Direct Proof

When the apostle Paul was instructing the elders of the church in Ephesus, he stated, "Take heed, therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy [Spirit] hath made you overseers, to feed the *church of God*..." (Acts 20:28).

Feed what? "Feed the *church of God*."

Does it seem too obvious that God's Church would be called just that, the Church of God?

Notice I Corinthians 1:1-2. In the official address to the Church, Paul wrote, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth..."

Later in the letter, he tells them, "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God" (I Cor. 10:32).

In I Corinthians 11:16, Paul speaks of the churches collectively as "the churches of God." In verse 22 of this chapter, Paul again refers to them as "the church of God." And in I Corinthians 15:9, he states, "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called *ap* apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

II Corinthians begins with the same official address "unto the church of God which is at Corinth." And in I Thessalonians 2:14, Paul refers to the original Christians as "the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus."

The introductions to both of Paul's letters to the Thessalonians refer to "the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father," for they were his churches and must be in union with him. And in I Timothy 3:5, the evangelist instructed that if an elder does not know how to rule his house, "how shall he take care of the church of God?"

Finally, in I Timothy 3:15, Paul

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tells Timothy that he is writing to tell him how to conduct himself in "the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

Throughout the New Testament, in 12 distinct passages, the true Church is called "the church of God," "the churches of God," "the church of the Thessalonians in God," and, at pagan Ephesus where stood the idol to the goddess Diana, "the church of the living God."

Always, God's name is attached. And as Christ is God (John 1:1), so in one or two passages the appellation "church of Christ" is also applied.

Often, in business or industry, the founder's or owner's name is given to an enterprise as an identification of ownership or control: The Bank of Morgan, Lever Brothers, for example.

One of the absolute prerequisite identifying SIGNS of the true Church is that it *must bear God's name!*

The name *alone* is not absolute proof of identity. There are always those who would seek to use the same name. But, taken together with the other identifying signs that we are now discussing, it is a vital designation. For God names things what they are.

In fact, just before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed for his followers, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are" (John 17:11).

III. **Willing to Acknowledge Error**

The apostle Paul wrote of another evidence of the true Church of God: "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9). And again, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (verse 14).

So to be truly Christian and an heir of God, one must be filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.

Now notice how the Holy Spirit works? Jesus said, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak, and he

will shew you things to come" (John 16:13). Note that the Spirit guides the Church of God into all truth and helps its members understand prophecy—"things to come."

It is a process of growing and changing. A process of becoming more and more like God in character, thoughts and habits. Perhaps the apostle Peter expressed it most clearly: "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18).

The Church of God is made up of *converted* people who are certainly being changed by the power of God's Holy Spirit. As each individual must grow in grace and in

Which Church truly grasps why humans were born and put on this earth? What is the incredible human potential?

knowledge, so the united body of those individuals—the Church—must also grow.

For instance, Daniel was given awesome visions and dreams involving events to take place on earth at the end of man's civilization. He asked, "O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?"

And God's angel answered, "Go thy way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" (Dan. 12:8-9). Now, with the capacity to destroy all life from the planet, we are certainly in the prophesied "time of the end" of man's civilization, a time when God must soon intervene in world affairs to save humanity from nuclear holocaust (Matt. 24:22).

But, at this time, is there a

Church that has such knowledge and understanding of the Bible prophecies? Do you know of any Church that has been willing to admit error and change and grow into increasingly deeper understanding of the master plan God is working out here below? A Church that truly understands where we are headed? And why the United States and Britain are slowly but inexorably sliding from their pinnacle of greatness? And *how* and *why* a powerful union of nations restoring the ancient Roman Empire one last time will soon become *the* force to reckon with?

Which Church truly grasps why humans were born and put on this earth? What is the incredible human potential? And why God has not been trying to "save" the world during these near 6,000 years when, as the *Almighty* God, he clearly has the *POWER* to do so if he wanted to?

Do you know any Church that *understands* these matters and can give *clear biblical answers* to these most basic questions? And a Church that keeps on learning and growing in such vital knowledge and understanding?

Well, there is such a Church! It just happens to be the Church that publishes this magazine. It is called by *God's name*.

Remember, most Christian groups seldom *if ever* change or grow in knowledge. And when they *do* change, it is nearly always in the direction of secularism "watering down" what little bit of biblical truth they may once have had.

But the true Church of God grows continually into a deeper and fuller understanding of the Bible, of the great purpose being worked out here below and of the exciting fulfillments of biblical prophecy now under way on the world scene.

IV. **Commissioned to Do the WORK of GOD**

Jesus announced that one proof that his return would be imminent

his return to reign over this earth and restore the government of God is this: "And this gospel

(Continued on page 34)

Me...



Read the Bible?

by Ronald D. Kelly

Out-of-date in the nuclear age? A collection of ancient superstitions? Or the most up-to-date book available? You need to know!

WHAT a paradox. The Bible is consistently on the best-seller list. Yet for many who have a copy it is one of the least read and most often misunderstood of books.

10

The chances are, if you have a Bible in your home, it primarily occupies space on the bookshelf. Or it sits on a coffee table as part of the living room decor.

Or it's there in the nightstand drawer by your bed. But read it? Understand it? Not many do.

What the Bible is

Why should that be? The Bible is the oldest used book known to man, and at the same time the most up-to-date book available.

So why don't people read the Bible? There are probably as many reasons as there are people.

Few know that in its pages are revealed the purpose of man, the reasons for the course of human history and prophecies of what is to come upon this generation. You would think more people would want to understand these things.

Is it any wonder that the Bible has been viewed as a book you can't understand. Author Bruce Barton referred to it in a book title as *The Book Nobody Knows*. And that has generally been true. Not many people have understood the Bible.

But you can.

I Accepted a Challenge

While listening to *The World Tomorrow* on radio more than 30 years ago, I decided to accept Herbert W. Armstrong's challenge, "Blow the dust off your Bible. Read it. Find out what it really says. You'll be shocked at the truth of your own Bible."

I decided to start reading the Bible. Like many American homes, ours had a Bible or two. But I had not read it. In Sunday school, we sometimes read some verses, but usually we had quarterlies and lesson plans.

During worship services no one took a Bible. The minister usually had a text for the message of the day. It seemed to me the Bible was a book for only ministers to read.

Mr. Armstrong challenged listeners, "Get out your Bibles. Read the scriptures. Prove whether what I say is true or not."

I decided to read the Bible. I didn't know where to start or how to go about it, so I decided to begin at the beginning. That made sense. I started with Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created. . . ." I got through the first four chapters—how God made the heavens and the earth and all life—the account of the first humans in a garden (familiar from Sunday school)—and the story of Cain and Abel.

Then I came to Genesis 5. Here was a whole chapter of hard-to-pronounce names and somebody begetting somebody else who, in turn begat yet another. I couldn't understand why all that was important. But I read on.

The story of the Flood in chapter 6 was a challenge—and the repopulation of the earth in the following chapters. Then came Genesis 10. Another whole chapter of names—even harder to pronounce than those in chapter 5.

"I just don't understand all this," I said to myself. I put the Bible back on the shelf. There it sat for more than three years.

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Maybe you have had a similar experience. If so, it's time to try again. You might find, as I later did, studying the Bible can be very rewarding.

Then I entered Ambassador College. In the academic program the Bible came alive. It started to make sense. I *could* understand it. (I even came to understand Genesis 10 and all those hard-to-pronounce names. Through those names, the history of important nations can be traced to their founders. But the study of Genesis 10 can take hours, so we won't go into detail about that here.)

The Bible became a fascinating book. I discovered one third of the Bible is prophecy—not ancient, dead history—but up-to-date vital information. Most Bible prophecy has not yet happened. So when you read the Bible, you are reading about events soon to occur—probably in the lifetimes of most of you!

First, You Have to Read It

How can you read the Bible with understanding? How can you experience the excitement and meaning for today of ancient history and battles of long ago? How can you understand the times in which you live and understand the meaning of world news in the light of Bible prophecy?

You have to read the Bible.

If you have not read the Bible through at all, or in recent years, you might like to make a special project of reading the entire Bible during the next year.

You will then have an overview of what the Bible is all about.

If you would like to begin such a program, you can complete the Bible in one year by reading about 23 chapters each week. That means reading between three and four chapters each day.

No doubt there will be days when you simply do not find time to read. But it should not be hard to catch up on the weekend or at another convenient time.

Never let yourself fall too far behind, though. Catching up after a long delay will prove too hard for many—there will be a temptation to quit. So stay with it.

As you read, there will no doubt be many questions you will have. Make notes on those questions and look for the answers as you continue to read.

Perhaps you will be encouraged to look up answers by doing further research at the library. Discuss your questions with other members of your family.

Feel free to write us at one of our offices—the addresses are listed on the inside front cover of each issue of *The Plain Truth*. We probably have a booklet or reprint article we can send that will answer many of the most often asked questions our readers have.

But be prepared for a few surprises.

You are going to find the Bible says some things you have not heard before. Things you thought were in the Bible are not in there. For example, you will not find the modern celebrations surrounding Easter, Christmas, Valentine's Day or Halloween in the Bible. You will find instead that the New Testament Church continued to observe days God made holy rather than modern holidays of pagan origin.

You will find the Bible tells you how to have a happy marriage, good health, successful children and how to have a close personal relationship with the Creator God.

The apostle Paul wrote Timothy about the Bible, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16).

Ask for Understanding

This brings us to another way to study the Bible. While it is fine to read the Bible through, it is good to have other methods of Bible study. Above all we should want to understand the Bible.

I am reminded of the story of a young pastor, who with his wife excitedly visited the members of his congregation to become acquainted with them. One elderly gentleman lived way out in the hill country and didn't make it to the services frequently. So they went out to visit him one day.

They drove up to his property and inquired if they might visit. He eyed them up and down and said, "So yer the new preacher, huh?"

"Yes, sir," the pastor replied.

"Kind of a young feller, ain't ya?" he asked. "How many times you read the Bible through?"

"Well . . . ta . . . ta . . . two or three times," he stumbled. (Of course he had studied the Bible hundreds of hours in his academic experience, but had not read it straight through many times.)

"Sonny," he said, "I've read the Bible through from lid to lid nigh unto 40 times. Now what do you think you kin teach me?"

That elderly gentleman had read the Bible over and over—but he didn't understand what it said. He didn't understand that it is a book to *educate* a person spiritually.

Perhaps the most important key of all in Bible reading and study is *understanding*. When you set out on your course to study the Bible, pray for guidance, wisdom and understanding.

Have Your Own Bible

The first step is to have a suitable Bible to read and study. This does not always mean having to purchase a new Bible, but for many, a new Bible provides inspiration to study.

If you plan to purchase a new Bible you will find a host of choices at the bookstore. There are big Bibles, pocket-sized Bibles, old translations, new translations, leather bound, cloth bound, paper bound, inexpensive editions, expensive editions. The choice is almost limitless.

But here are some helpful hints. Spend a little extra to buy a quality binding. It pays off in the long run. If you can afford it, buy an edition with India paper, leather binding and margins wide enough to make some notes as you study. Also be certain the print is large enough to be easily read. An edition with a center reference column can be helpful if you wish to locate scriptures on the same subject.

If you would like to make notes, use a black-ink ball-point pen (red and

(Continued on page 41)

ROME has fallen!

The greatest power the world has ever known is trampled in the dust. The Empire that had conquered the world is herself conquered!

Italy is overrun by Germanic tribes. Odoacer, a chieftain of the Germanic Heruli, has deposed the boy-monarch Romulus Augustulus. The great city is without an emperor!

The long and gradual collapse is now complete. The ancient world is at an end. The Middle Ages have begun.

The stage is now set for momentous events—events that will determine the course of history for centuries to come.

Master of Italy

In the East, the old Roman Empire still lives, protected by the almost impregnable walls of Constantinople. There, Zeno sits on the throne of the Eastern or Byzantine Empire.

In theory, the German Odoacer accepts the overlordship of Emperor Zeno. Zeno considers Italy one of the administrative divisions of his empire.

In reality, Constantinople has little power west of the Adriatic. Odoacer holds the administration of Italy firmly in his own hands. He is master of the peninsula.

Odoacer perpetuates the Roman form of government, which he admires. He initially encounters little serious opposition from the people of Italy.

But Odoacer is an Arian Christian; that is, Christians who follow the teachings of the scholar Arius. (The Italians are Catholics.)

The same is true in North Africa. There, the Germanic Vandals have held sway since A.D. 429. The Vandals, too, continue and maintain the Roman system of administration within their kingdom.

The Vandals are also Arian

THE HISTORY OF EUROPE & THE CHURCH

PART THREE

THE IMPERIAL RESTORATION

by Keith W. Stump

EDITOR'S NOTE: We continue our series of articles examining the historic relationship between Europe and the Church—a centuries-long association that has shaped the history of the Western World. Our first two installments covered the story to the fall of the Western Roman Empire in A.D. 476. Part Three examines the events of the crucial decades that followed.

Christians. They persecute the Catholics within their realm—often fiercely.

The Roman Catholic Church bristles under the feet of the Arian barbarians dominating the West. Since the days of Constantine, the Church had had the wholehearted support of the civil power. Now things have changed radically—for the worst.

Something will have to be done

about these hated Arian heretics.

Italy's New "King"

In A.D. 476—the same year Odoacer deposes the last Roman emperor—a young noble named Theodoric becomes leader of the Ostrogoths (East Goths). Theodoric quickly becomes the most powerful of the barbarian kings in southeastern Europe.

Zeno, the Eastern emperor, fears the ambitious Theodoric. To prevent the troublesome Ostrogoths from invading his Eastern Empire, Zeno recognizes Theodoric as "king of Italy" in 488. Zeno hopes to appease Theodoric, thereby ridding himself of the Ostrogothic menace.

Theodoric immediately leads 100,000 Ostrogoths into Italy to claim his kingdom from Odoacer. By the autumn of 490, Theodoric has captured nearly the entire peninsula.

But throughout Italy, military garrisons still hold towns for Odoacer. These bastions must be eliminated!

Secret Plot

Though Theodoric is himself attached to the Arian creed, he is supported by the Catholic clergy in Italy. The clergymen feel they will fare better under Theodoric than under Odoacer.

Secret orders are sent to the overwhelmingly Catholic citizenry throughout Italy. The Heruli and other soldiers still loyal to Odoacer are to be dealt with once and for all!

The secret of the plot is well kept. It is executed precisely on time. The Heruli are caught completely off guard.

Throughout Italy, Catholic civilians set upon the unsuspecting Heruli at a predetermined hour. At

Mosaic of the imperial retinue in the choir, San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy. Laid prior to A.D. 547, detail shows Emperor Justinian.

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one stroke, the Italian citizenry accomplishes what the Ostrogoths could not.

This "sacrificial massacre" (as one contemporary describes it) puts an end to the Heruli as a military power once and for all.

Ambush!

Beaten in the field, Odoacer has taken refuge behind the strong fortifications of Ravenna, north of Rome. There he is besieged nearly three years.

Early in 493, Odoacer finally surrenders. Theodoric, graciously offers to rule Italy jointly with him.

A few days later—on March 5, 493—Theodoric invites Odoacer to a banquet. Odoacer accepts—with disastrous consequences.

As Odoacer enters the banquet hall, two of Theodoric's men suddenly grasp his arms. Others hidden in ambush rush forward with drawn swords. Apparently they had not been told the identity of their intended victim, for when they see Odoacer standing helpless before them they are panic-stricken!

The soldiers hesitate. Theodoric himself rushes forward to do the job for them. With one powerful blow of his broadsword, Theodoric splits Odoacer in two from his collarbone to his hip!

With this piece of treachery, Theodoric becomes the sole and undisputed master of Rome. He establishes a strong Gothic kingdom in Italy.

Theodoric, too, has great respect for Roman civilization, and continues the traditional Roman system of government.

But Theodoric and his heirs are Arians. And for this reason, they, too, will have to be uprooted.

Theodoric dies in Ravenna on August 30, 526. He has no male issue, so his kingdom is divided among his grandsons. Civil war soon breaks out in Italy—with dire consequences for the Ostrogothic nation.

New Rome

Meanwhile, Constantinople is growing in importance. As the western part of the Roman Empire had gradually succumbed to the barbarians, the star of the eastern

capital had steadily risen.

Emperor Constantine had begun building the magnificent new capital of the Roman Empire in A.D. 327. He had called it *Nova Roma*—"New Rome." It was founded on the site of the ancient Greek city of Byzantium. Before Byzantium became New Rome, it had occupied the favored location on the Bosphorus for more than 1,000 years.

With the fall of Rome, Constantinople and its emperors carry on the traditions of Roman civilization.

Emperor Zeno—who had made Theodoric king of Italy—is followed as emperor by Anastasius (491-518). Anastasius is succeeded by Justin (518-527).

Justinian and Theodora

In August 527—exactly a year after Theodoric died heirless in Ravenna—a new emperor comes to the throne of the Eastern Empire. The childless Justin is succeeded by his nephew and protégé Justinian. He will rule for nearly four decades.

Justinian is 45 years old. He possesses great intelligence and boundless energy. He is popularly called "the man who never sleeps."

Beside Justinian at the helm of state is his beautiful wife and empress, Theodora. Justinian had married her four years earlier, in 523.

Theodora is lowborn. She is a former actress and dancer. Her father had been a bear trainer at the Hippodrome circus. Vicious rumor declares her to have once been a prostitute. The truth of this charge will be debated for centuries.

Despite her past, Theodora becomes a queen in every sense of the word. Her personal morals as empress will never be called into question. For 21 years, until her death from cancer in 548, she will live with Justinian as his faithful spouse and adviser.

Theodora is brilliant, brave and wise. Had she been otherwise, Justinian would not have held his throne. And his historic mission—a mission, as we shall see, of the highest significance to the course of history—would never have been realized.

Justinian's career is almost ended before it begins.

Constantinople is a sports-minded city. Its people are divided in their allegiance to different charioteers. They are called the Greens and the Blues, according to the color of dress of their favorite jockeys.

"Conquer!"

In January 532, a disturbance breaks out between the two factions. The ringleader of each party is punished. In response, the two rival factions unite in armed revolt against the government.

Open violence erupts as the government cracks down on both factions. The city is filled with fire, bloodshed and murder. Thousands are slain in the rioting. The crowd cries out "*Nika!*" (Greek for "Conquer!") History will thus record the event as the "Nika Riots."

Justinian's life stands in jeopardy. He decides to abdicate, and prepares to abandon his capital by ship. But at the last moment he is dissuaded by Empress Theodora.

In a bold speech, Theodora turns the tide of her husband's fear. "I will remain, and like the great men of old, regard my throne as a glorious tomb," she declares.

Her firm stand arouses new determination in Justinian. He decides to stand his ground.

Justinian dispatches Belisarius, his trusted and brilliant general, to the Hippodrome with 3,000 veterans. The riots are decisively suppressed. In one day, Belisarius slaughters 30,000!

Justinian's throne is saved.

Had the Emperor been toppled, history might have taken a much different course.

Burning Ambition

Justinian is now in a position to pursue his one burning ambition: the recovery of the Western provinces that his predecessors had lost to the Barbarians. His dream is to restore the Roman Empire to its full ancient grandeur—under his own scepter! Justinian sees himself as rightful ruler of the whole Roman world.

But Justinian realizes that there

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"AIDS"

Is There a Cure?

by Donald D. Schroeder

No one can afford to ignore the awful social consequences of the sexual revolution!

NO DISEASE has shaken up and frightened the homosexual community like this one! No disease in modern years has proven so elusive for medical sleuths.

Virtually overnight a lethal fast-acting degenerative disease has leaped into the medical headlines. "AIDS"—Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome—is devastating America's homosexual population and threatening to spread by way of bisexuals into heterosexual society. Nearly three quarters of AIDS cases are occurring among homosexuals and bisexuals.

AIDS annihilates the body's immune system, leaving the victim prey to a multitude of infectious agents. Although drugs may limit such opportunistic infections, the victims' severely weakened immunity leaves them vulnerable to one illness after another. Victims of AIDS often die of Kaposi's sarcoma, a type of skin cancer.

Spread to Innocent Victims

The disease is apparently spread from victim to victim by way of infected body fluids. Intimate contact with an infected source seems necessary.

The next largest group of AIDS victims are intravenous drug addicts passing shared needles around. Children and mates of these drug addicts and of bisexuals are another vulnerable group.

Hemophiliacs requiring transfusions of bloodclotting agents are

tragically another category. And for reasons not fully understood, so are Haitian immigrants of both sexes. (Recent evidence indicates a significant number of these Haitians have had homosexual contacts.)

So far, 95 percent of AIDS victims fall into one of these identifiable risk categories. The remainder is a small group of heterosexuals who have picked up the disease for reasons also not yet understood.

A Plague

The terrors of the AIDS epidemic is taking the wind out of the flamboyant homosexual lifestyle, similar to the way herpes virus has deflated the sexual revolution.

However, while herpes infections are embarrassing, frequently painful and incurable (though symptoms are treatable), they are rarely ever fatal. AIDS, however, nearly always is fatal. Fewer than 14 percent of AIDS victims have survived more than three years after being diagnosed, and no victim has recovered fully.

Sexual histories of infected homosexuals reveal an ominous pattern: The incubation period for AIDS (the time between infection and the onset of symptoms) varies from a few months to more than two years. If, like many diseases, AIDS turns out to be con-

tagious during the incubation stage, of the thousands of victims who feel perfectly healthy today, each could be infecting numerous others through intimate or sexual contact.

Some homosexuals are starting to call the killer disease "the new leprosy"; it makes victims outcasts in their own circle and invokes fear



New York AIDS patient, 41 years old, with Kaposi's sarcoma lesions on neck and chest. He wears religious pendant and has undergone chemotherapy.

among medical personnel who must treat them.

What homosexuals have forgotten is that God is the Creator of

human life and sex. God ordained marriage and set laws in motion governing wholesome, faithful marital and sexual relationships between a husband and wife. But humans want to ignore, reject or ridicule God's laws. They can't.

his laws was almost nil. There were not even 10 men of good character in the city (or plain) of Sodom (Gen. 18:32).

Apparently only Lot, a nephew of Abram—the father of the Israelites, Jews and Arabs—was deeply

styles and practices were tolerated. "Do your own thing," was the boast and attraction of Sodom, "and be proud of it."

But the Creator God of heaven, the Judge of all, saw matters differently. As he looked down from the throne of the universe he saw a Sodom that had degenerated in every social responsibility. The Sodomites had utterly perverted everything that was decent and good.

The sexual and social values of Sodom were not bounded by any stable spiritual, legal or social rules. Life-styles and goals could be whatever individuals wanted them to be. Rules and values could be broken as easily as they were made. One did not have to be concerned if his thoughts were base or wrong. After all, who could say what was "right" and what was "wrong"?

In that social atmosphere sex abuse, depersonalization, alienation and lack of responsibility for one's actions were the result.

It was not only the "swinging" or "gay" life, it was the "get" life—"I'll get what I want." Contrast this freewheeling life-style with the laws of God that govern the social, the spiritual, the sexual life of humanity. God's laws give boundaries to right and wrong actions and attitudes. They give direction and protection to the achievement of wholesome human, social and spiritual needs and goals.

End-of-the-Road Society

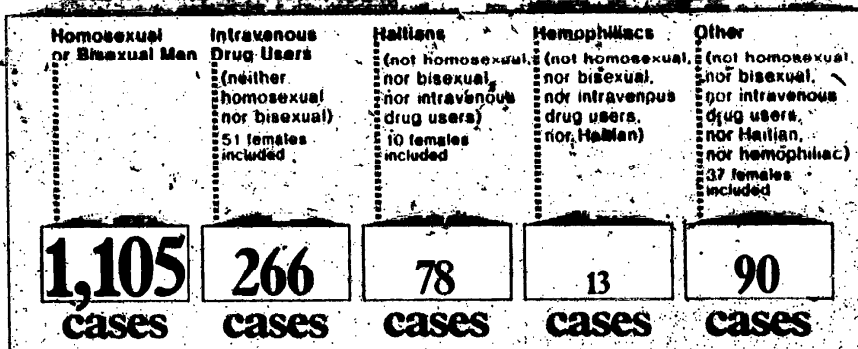
Most noteworthy of Sodom's contribution to human experience was their "code" of sexual ethics. The incident of Lot and his visitors only shows the tip of the social climate prevalent in Sodom.

Promiscuity was so universal and base that the males of Sodom, young and old alike (Gen. 19:4), tried to force perverted sexual relations on total newcomers to their city.

It was not just the refuse and scum of a bad section of town that threatened Lot and his guests.

AIDS Victims in Cases Since 1980

Several cases actually occurred in 1979, but were not reported until 1980. Total deaths—597. All figures as of June 7, 1983.



In addition to the United States, other countries have reported a total of 112 cases of AIDS. Those countries are Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, West Germany, Haiti, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom.

God's laws are not mocked.

In the pages of the Bible, God has left us with examples of societies that have rejected or failed to live by God's laws.

Who hasn't heard of the fiery judgment on the ancient peoples of Sodom and Gomorrah? Yet how many understand that God's judgment on those cities is a warning for today?

Sodom—The Untold Story

The societies of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for far more than their craven sexual morality.

Sodom and Gomorrah were prosperous cities. Their citizens were building, buying and selling—good economic indicators (Luke 17:28-30). Because of the availability of materialism and pleasures, and continuing prosperity, the inhabitants of these cities blinded themselves to grave social sicknesses.

In these two boom towns and other nearby cities, the number of individuals having knowledge of and respect for the true God and

grieved by the social values and practices of Sodom.

The Life-style of Sodom

Sodom was infested with many moral, social and spiritual evils. Ezekiel, a prophet in Israel centuries later, warned his nation against the sins that cost the lives of the inhabitants of Sodom: "Behold, this was the iniquity of . . . Sodom, pride, fulness of bread . . . idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me; therefore I took them away as I saw good" (Ezek. 16:49-50).

There you have it! The whole social fabric of these cities had rotted. In Sodom it was chief to boast of one's life-style, especially if one was involved in the latest absurd fad or practice. It was avant-garde.

It did not shock sensibilities if one was lazy, heedless of the needs of the impoverished or engaged in idolatrous worship of the most licentious type. All of these life-

People from "every quarter" of the city, "small and great," were infected with depraved sexual values and tried to get in on the excitement (verses 4 and 11).

Some, today, try to deny any sexual assault was involved in this incident. They say God was angry over the Sodomites' inhospitality to strangers. The context, however, clearly shows the sexual nature of their assault.

Lot was so appalled by what the Sodomites had in mind that he offered—quite cowardly, but to him a lesser evil—his two daughters, "which have not known man," an expression regularly used in the Bible in the context of sexual relations.

The inhabitants of Sodom had sunk to a low estate of craven, jaded lusts. They did not hesitate to resort to violent, abusive criminal assault against Lot and his guests to fulfill their desires. Not even after they were miraculously blinded!

The Sodomites were not ashamed of their social values and actions. In their smug and self-assured pride the inhabitants of that whole plain of Sodom had accepted what to them was an enlightened and free morality. The Sodomites felt no man was in a position to determine what was right or wrong for all. They became infuriated against Lot when he, a relative newcomer among them, judged their doings as wickedness (Gen. 19:9).

Nothing Left "In the Closet"

This vivid account of Lot and his visitors has given rise to the widespread idea that homosexual practices *alone* were what stirred up God's wrath.

The truth is, all types of perverted sex and corrupt manners were "out of the closet." Such were notoriously common and paraded about everywhere—even in public streets and especially at night. (Lot was concerned about what might happen to God's messengers if they stayed in the streets at night.) There was utter disrespect for any standard of normalcy.

In the New Testament, Jude 7 clearly reveals that the Sodomites were "giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange

flesh." The original Greek word here translated *fornication* is *ekporneuo*. It means to be *utterly sexually unchaste*. It includes all kinds of sexual immorality or unnatural lust.

The Revised Standard Version translates this verse, "Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust." It was a full spectrum of sexual immorality: incest, adultery, wife-swapping, premarital sex, bisexuality, homosexuality, sadomasochism, bestiality and every other kinky sex act the human mind has conjured up.

In other words, Sodom and Gomorrah had pulled off the final coup of their sexual revolution. To use the terminology of today, there was absolutely no discrimination based on affectual or sexual preferences or sexual orientation.

God's laws on sex and marriage were ignored or rejected. And the

ings—perhaps even mixed in with desires to fulfill common human wants such as the need for appreciation, affection, being special to someone and expression of erotic feelings.

The cities of the plain of Sodom chose a path they thought was right in their ignorance of God's laws. But they quickly found that their misdirected and unbounded desires and possessive lusts drove wholesome and lasting relationships away from them. True happiness had vanished.

Because their outlook was perverted, they didn't know why their desires and fantasies met with frequent rejection, abandonment or abuse from others. It was because others were also equally unprincipled. All were seeking to fill the vacuum of their lives in an endless search for new sexual partners or new ultimate sensual experiences to give purpose to their lives. They wanted to excite increasingly jaded emotions.

Selfish interests were of paramount concern. Sex and sensualism became an inordinate focus of concern, the major goal in life, the only thing many could get excited about.

Children increasingly became ensnared with these attitudes. As such attitudes grew in the populace, the Sodomites increasingly were unable to value another individual's personality or feelings. They could not perceive the damages that their perverted desires would have upon their own personality and human development, much less that of others.

Increasingly, humans became impersonal objects to gratify whatever lusts or desires one had—by force if necessary.

As individuals abused each other, it led to further alienation, loneliness, hostility and revengeful sadomasochism. Many victims suffered deep feelings of abandonment, despair, hopelessness and depression. In turn, these feelings fostered high usage of alcohol, drugs and thoughts of suicide.

The result of the Sodomites' way



AIDS disease patient and high risk patient, child and mother, at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey.

inhabitants of Sodom and the surrounding communities were so far from God, his laws and purpose for human life, they were proud and haughty about their debauched and unrestrained morality. That is, until their lives and cities were swept away without a trace.

The Tragic Outcome

Look at the tragic outcome of the values of Sodom, because the process is going on today!

Then, as now, individuals approached others with all kinds of lustful, selfish objectives or feel-

of life plunged the people into increasingly distorted, debased human character. God saw their character. He saw their progeny becoming completely perverted. He had to intervene. If they had gone on, it would have been improbable they could ever achieve God's great purpose for them in a future resurrection. So God, in his mercy, intervened with a catastrophic punishment and cut off their lives.

A Lost Generation?

Were the Sodomites' lives worthless? Did they live in vain? Is there any more help from God for the Sodomites? Is there any hope for any who are caught in similar sins today?

The heartening answer is, Yes! But it is a matter of understanding God's plan for man!

The Sodomites, like the vast majority of mankind who have ever lived, were allowed by God to be blinded to the Creator's laws and great purpose for human life. The Sodomites were cut off from contact with God by their sins (Isa. 59:1-2). God allowed them (as he has most of mankind) to reap the consequences of their own way under Satan's sway of selfishness, lust and self-aggrandizement.

Sin—the breaking of God's law (1 John 3:4)—damages, arrests, limits or prevents full human maturity and godly development. It damages the proper development of values, outlook and goals in life.

Sin, and sexual sin in particular, distorts wholesome feelings to one's own and the opposite sex. It subtly destroys health and minds. It works to destroy respect and appreciation of the God-ordained family unit. It undermines the proper example and teaching adults should be giving to children.

But these evils will all be corrected.

God loves human beings. He recognizes their potential as members of the God Family despite their sins. He is "not willing that any should perish [eternally], but that all should come to repentance" (11 Pet. 3:9). God's great master plan for humanity means all who sinned and died in ignorance will have their opportunity to repent and change the way they think and act.

This is the good news! Even the Sodomites will have their opportunity for salvation in a future day of resurrection and judgment. And they are going to listen. Jesus Christ spoke of this period of time. Verbally chastising a city in his time for having rejected God's message, he said,

"...For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have continued until today. But I tell you, it shall be more endurable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you" (Matt. 11:23-24, The Amplified Bible).

The Sodomites will be shown more mercy because they sinned in ignorance. Whereas many in the time of Jesus professed to know God's laws but did not keep them.

The people of Sodom will come to understand why they sinned as they did. And they will receive from God the gift of the Holy Spirit to overcome their sins.

Yes, the Sodomites will live again—to be resurrected into a world where Satan will not be allowed to tempt them and where sinful cultures will not exist to lure them back into sin at every corner. They will live in a yet future era when God's Spirit will be made freely available to all who want to overcome their sins and go God's way.

This future time of salvation for most of humanity who have lived and died is little understood. But you can understand.

This astounding good news is contained in our free booklet *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?* and in the reprint article "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?"

Coming—Fantastic Era of Learning!

Look at what the Sodomites will yet learn in their day of salvation!

They will learn that God is the author of sex, that he established right and wholesome marital and sexual relationships and laws. They will learn how these laws and ways promote optimum human and spiritual development. They will learn that a proper marriage is a God-plane relationship.

They will understand why God gave laws prohibiting prostitution,

fornication (or whoredom or harlotry), adultery, homosexuality, rape, incest, transvestism, bestiality and other sexual uncleanness.

They will understand why God put humans on the earth. Human experience is a testing ground and ultimate opportunity to develop godlike character.

Finally they will appreciate God's ultimate mercy to them. They will learn why God is so concerned about the direction of all human sexual and social development.

An Example for Today

The societies of Sodom and Gomorrah did not start out as immorally as they ended. They became that way through the increasing acceptance of values and attitudes that did not discriminate between good and evil. It is not exaggerating to say that many cities today are well on the way to becoming new Sodoms and Gomorrah!

The fate of Sodom and Gomorrah should be a warning to all. The events that shattered those cities more than 3,850 years ago, Scripture warns us, are "set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (Jude 7).

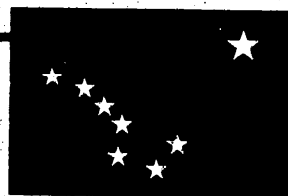
Said the apostle Peter, "And [God, turning] Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample [example] unto those that after should live *ungodly*" (11 Pet. 2:6).

It is time this generation awoke to the curses that have been brought on society by a misguided sexual revolution that promised freedom but has produced a new form of slavery.

Past issues of the *Plain Truth* magazine have kept our readers up to date on a wide variety of new or growing sexually transmissible diseases. An article entitled "How to Avoid the New Sexual Diseases" contains a chart with the top 20 sexually transmissible diseases and their complications. It is available upon request.

You may also write for our free booklet entitled *The Silent Epidemic*. It contains historical information, charts and graphs and modes of transmission of various sexually transmissible diseases. □

INTERNATIONAL DESK



Alaska state flag

The View from the Top of the World

R OY HAS GUIDED his 18-wheeler truck and trailer round the last few hairpin bends of Atigun Pass and down onto the North Slope. Behind us lies 300 miles of one of the most remarkable roads in the world. It connects the oil field at Prudhoe Bay with Fairbanks.

I have been riding with Roy since dawn. It has been several hours since we paused at the world's most northerly truck stop, crossed the Arctic Circle and left far behind the last tree. The temperature here has dropped to minus 39-degrees Fahrenheit—not too bad for these parts. It often goes down to minus 60 degrees.

Roy is one of the drivers who regularly drive the "haul road" as it is called, carrying supplies to the oil fields. His dispatchers had asked him to make a quick trip north with a load of antifreeze and some urgently needed drilling equipment. He'd invited me along, explaining that I could not appreciate this country by flying over it. One has to experience it at ground level, he says.

The North Slope

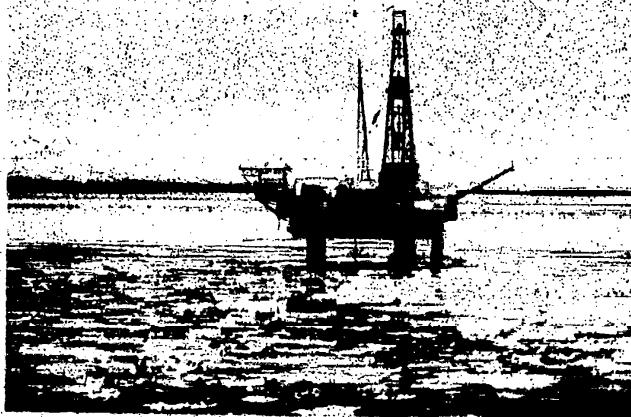
"Look ahead!" Roy shouted suddenly. The North Slope is a great place to look ahead. At the top of the world, the earth's curvature begins to flatten out slightly, and you can literally see farther.

Before us lies a wide snow-covered plain. Only a few low hills off to the right break the vast expanse.

A herd of caribou are grazing in the middle distance. The gray-white ribbon of road stretches out ahead—barely distinguishable from the frozen wilderness on either side. Somewhere out there, a hundred or more miles north, is Prudhoe Bay. Between us and Prudhoe Bay is nothing but frozen snow-covered tundra, the narrow strip of road and the pipeline.

The pipeline has been with us all day—sometimes to the right, then burrowing underground and appearing on the left. The Trans-Alaska pipeline is an engineering success story that has been compared to the space shuttle and the moon landing. Pipelines have been built that are longer and wider, but never before has a pipeline been built through such hostile territory and against such incredible odds.

Consider the challenge: In July 1968, after years of exploration, oil was discovered in commercial quantities at Prudhoe Bay, in the far north of Alaska. It was one of the greatest finds in recent oil exploration history—and promised to go a long way toward making the United States less dependent on imported oil. That is, if the oil could be brought out.



Drilling platform stands among ice flows of Cook Inlet.

The North Slope of Alaska is one of the most inhospitable places imaginable. In winter the sun does not rise above the horizon for months, and the temperature can reach (with the wind chill factor) minus 115 degrees Fahrenheit. At that

temperature diesel fuel will freeze, steel can shatter like glass, and a man cannot live more than a few minutes without special protection. The ground is permanently frozen (permafrost) to a depth of several hundred feet and the sea remains blocked with ice for all but six weeks of the year.

Many schemes were advanced for getting the oil out—including submarines that could cruise beneath the ice and even a fleet of giant aircraft that could fly the crude oil south. But finally the decision was made that the safest and most efficient way was to build a pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez on the south coast of Alaska. The route lay across 800 of the most difficult miles on earth. Three mountain ranges and 800 rivers and streams had to be crossed. Special precautions had to be taken to make sure the oil (which comes out of the earth scalding hot and stays warm on its six-day trip to Valdez) didn't melt the permafrost. If that happened, portions of the pipeline could sink—and eventually break in two.

New materials and techniques had to be developed to solve problems never before encountered. Construction began on April 29, 1974, and by August 1977 the first shipment of North Slope oil left Valdez for the southern markets. The pipeline is one of the most audacious projects that man has accomplished—a triumph of technology and determination over almost insurmountable odds.

But not everyone appreciated that triumph.

Development Versus Conservation

From the beginning the pipeline—and indeed the whole concept of harvesting Alaska's natural resources—has met opposition from those determined to preserve the environment. The pipeline, they said, would disrupt the delicate ecology of the Arctic and cause more harm to already endangered species.

This conflict between the pro-development and the pro-conservation camps continues as a bitter point of contention in Alaska.

Those who want to develop Alaska believe that the world needs more energy. Alaska is one of the earth's last unexploited treasure troves.

"Just look at this," an executive of Alaskan Oil

and Gas Association said to me as he unrolled a map of the state. Superimposed on the map were several areas shaded and crosshatched in bright colors. They represented Alaska's oil and gas reserves.

"And these are just the ones we know about—places that we believe *could* produce," he explained. Most of the state has not been thoroughly



Drilling for oil at -55° F. (-48° C.).

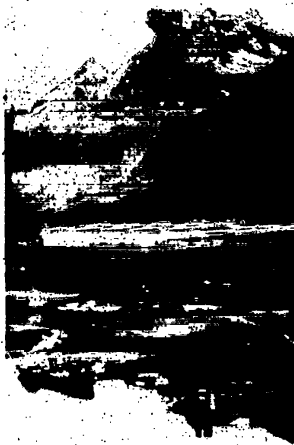
explored for oil and gas yet. Nobody knows for certain exactly how much lies beneath the surface. Some have estimated that Alaska's reserves are comparable to those of Saudi Arabia. But even the most conservative agree that there is much, much more to be found. "And look—we have only just begun," the executive continued. "These are the only areas producing at the moment." He pointed to three tiny circles on the map—two above the Arctic Circle and one in Cook Inlet, just south of Anchorage. The North Slope oil field alone contains 30 percent of the proven North American reserves.

Oil is just the start. With the oil comes natural gas. At the moment there is no way to transport this, so it is pumped back underground.

The northern regions of the world are rich in the strategic minerals without which modern civilization could not survive—copper, nickel, gold, silver, zinc, beryllium, tin, chromium and molybdenum. Canada and Russia mine their Arctic territories extensively. By contrast, there is not one hardrock mining operation of any significance in Alaska, even though the indication is that the territory is as rich or maybe even richer than neighboring countries.

Alaska also has good farmland, millions of acres of virgin forests and trillions of tons of high-grade coal. The 49th state is the greatest untapped storehouse of energy and reserves in the United States—and possibly the world.

Alaska does not give up its wealth easily. It is a wild and sometimes brutal country, but developers have risen to the challenge. They believe that the continued progress of civilization depends on a



Tanker loads crude at Valdez, Alaska, southern end of pipeline.

steady supply of fuels and minerals: "Just give us the chance, and we will get them out—and everyone will benefit," declare potential developers.

But, say the environmentalists, Alaska is not just a warehouse of fuel and minerals. It is a region of unparalleled natural beauty—one of the last great wilderness areas left. The environmentalists come in all shapes and sizes—moderate and extreme, balanced and fanatical. Many of these groups bitterly opposed the pipeline. They were afraid of the effect on the ecology should a massive oil spill occur. They were also concerned that the pipeline would block the migration routes of the caribou herd, and disturb the breeding grounds of several rare species of birds.

(Some of their concerns have proven to be overly cautious. Some miles back Roy pointed out one of the pumping stations that keeps the oil moving. It had been re-sited at a cost of many millions of dollars to avoid the nesting grounds of an "endangered species." The birds promptly moved their breeding ground nearer to the new site. Some even nested in the pumping station!)

Some groups go as far as to say that no development should be allowed—Alaska should remain undisturbed—a vast national park. Some arguments can be rather shortsighted. One undoubtedly sincere young lady told me that her group was most upset with the "ruthless exploitations" by the oil companies. However, she added that they were generally satisfied with the activities of the military, because they site their installations with a genuine regard for the wildlife and the landscape. I asked her if perhaps facilities for nuclear bombers and missiles don't pose a greater potential threat to the environment than an oil spill. That ended the conversation. I got the feeling that she had not thought of that.

But not all conservationists are fanatics or amateurs, nor their fears unfounded. A massive oil spill could be disastrous, and once a species becomes extinct—it's gone. No amount of biological technology can bring it back. There is still much we don't know about the Arctic, and we must be careful. As the Sierra Club, the leading protectionist group, explains, "We don't stand in blind opposition to progress; but rather, opposition to blind progress." The club has formed a powerful lobby that forces the oil companies and other developers to think long and hard before plunging ahead with a new venture. And then, to proceed with caution.

Because of this, the North Slope oil development has so far had little negative impact on the environment. The pipeline was engineered (some say

over-engineered) to avoid harm to the wildlife and their habitat.

But the consistent wrangling is having an effect on Alaska's future. Developers resent that millions of acres have already been placed off limits to exploration or development. They feel they have quite enough problems with the environment without having to contend with harassment from environmentalists.

In this harsh climate, exploration of any kind is horrendously expensive. Delays cost dearly. To accomplish anything up here you need years of lead time. Some operations can only be carried on a few weeks out of the year, like, for example, bringing in heavy equipment by sea in the brief period when the ice shelf retreats offshore. If you miss that window of opportunity—that's it until next summer. Many organizations who came with money, expertise and enthusiasm to explore have packed up and gone home in frustration.

These, then, are the arguments, and it is hard to spend time in Alaska without being tempted to take sides. The zeal and confidence of the oil men is

contagious, but the voice of caution from moderate environmentalists is hard to ignore.

There is another much more essential aspect to this question, however, that both sides have overlooked. It must be considered if Alaska and Alaskans are ever to realize their full potential.

The Bigger Issues

The survival of civilization does not just depend on the continued availability of energy and raw materials. We are now producing more than ever before, and yet each year we stand in

greater peril of destruction. Science, technology, inventiveness and engineering have not of themselves brought us to this impasse. The most primitive and undeveloped men still find ways to hate and destroy each other. But no scientific breakthrough has ever led us closer to controlling the real cause of man's problems—his human nature. Men just do not know how to live together in peace, whether they live in the Stone Age or the Space Age. Anything we do and everywhere we go ends in envy, hatred, misery and anger. Alaska—the magnificent wilderness—is becoming just another place for men to go and eventually hate, resent, exploit and take from one another.

Alaskan newspapers tell the same dismal tale of crime, suicide, divorce,

(Continued on page 30)



The Alyeska pipeline at Fairbanks, Alaska, midway from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez.

THE MIDDLE EAST IN PROPHECY

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The astounding background to the crisis in the Middle East—and how it will be resolved!

THE MIDDLE EAST is seething with crisis after crisis. Few people realize the true significance of this turmoil. They seem to have no conception of the danger it threatens—eventual danger to the whole world.

It's time we woke up to the facts! It's time we knew what prophecy reveals. It's time we knew the background—the vital factors that have led up to this world danger—the significance of this series of crises!

There is only one way to know the answer. The God who made the world—who makes and unmakes nations—he reveals the future before it happens so we can know and take warning!

The time has now come to reveal a most amazing prophecy!

Unveiling the Future!

What is the real significance of this seething unrest? To understand it, we must study a marvelous prophe-

cy, never before understood—a prophecy that has been closed and sealed until now—a prophecy that foretold, 2,500 years ago, this very series of crises and the war that shall finally draw in all the nations of the world!

It is one of the most amazing prophecies in the Bible. It is most specific, describing historical events, up to the present, in more detail than any other prophecy. It is the longest prophecy in the Bible. It is found in Daniel, chapter 11. It describes the impending war!

The prelude is found in the 10th chapter of the book of Daniel. The prophecy came to Daniel in the third year of the reign of Cyrus, king of the Persian Empire (Dan. 10:1). A "man," apparently the archangel Gabriel (Dan. 9:21), appears before Daniel, to make him understand what shall befall God's people in these present "latter days" (10:14).

The "King of the North" and the "King of the South"

The first verse of the 11th chapter is a continuation from the last verse of the 10th chapter. The angel says to Daniel, "Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all; and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia. And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will" (Dan. 11:2-3).

Actually there were 12



more kings in the Persian Empire, but only the first four following Cyrus were of importance for the purpose of this prophecy. They were Cambyses, pseudo-Smerdis, Darius and Xerxes. It was the last, or Xerxes, who was the richest of all and stirred up war with Greece.

Then King Philip of Macedonia planned a great war to conquer the Persian Empire, with an army made up mostly of Grecians. He died before the plans were completed. But his son, Alexander the Great, took over his plans and invaded Persia. He met the Persian army at the Battle of Issus, 333 B.C. (Dan. 8:2, 5-6). Then he swept down into Egypt, and then to a final crushing defeat of the Persian Empire at the Battle of Arbela, 331 B.C., after which Alexander marched on a conquest clear to India, sweeping all before him.

Notice now verse 4 of the prophecy: "And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those."

How marvelously—how accurately—that came to pass. We quote from one of the authoritative histories, *A Manual of Ancient History* (Student Series) by Rawlinson: "Cut off unexpectedly in the vigor of early manhood [the 33rd year of his age, June, 323 B.C.], he [Alexander] left no inheritor, either of his power or of his projects" (p. 237). The Empire was left leaderless and in confusion, but out of this emerged, by the year 301 B.C., four divisions, just as prophesied, by a division of the Empire into four divisions by Alexander's generals. They were:

1. Ptolemy (Soter), ruling Egypt, part of Syria and Judea.
2. Seleucus (Nicator), ruling Syria, Babylonia and territory east to India.

3. Lysimachus, ruling Asia Minor.

4. Cassander, ruling Greece and Macedonia.

Thus was the prophecy of verse 4 fulfilled to the letter.

Now notice what follows. From here the prophecy foretells the activities only of two of these four divisions: Egypt, called "king of the south," because it is south of Jerusalem; and the Syrian kingdom, the king of the north, just north of Judea. It is because the Holy Land passed back and forth between those two divisions, and because their different wars were principally over possession of Judea, that the prophecy is concerned with them. Here is verse 5:

"And the king of the south [Egypt] shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him: and have dominion: his dominion shall be a great dominion." In history, we learn that the original Ptolemy I, called Soter, became strong and powerful, developing Egypt beyond the greatest dreams of Alexander. One of his princes, or generals, Seleucus

Nicator, also became strong and powerful. And, in 312 B.C., taking advantage of Ptolemy's being tied up in a war, he established himself in Syria, and assumed the diadem as king.

Verse 6 says, "And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement [margin, "rights" or "equitable conditions," or "marriage union"]; but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm; but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times."

Fulfilled to the Letter!

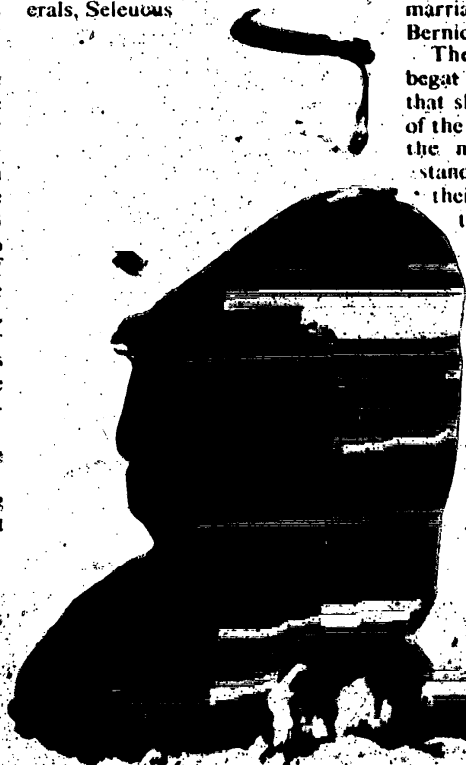
At the end of 50 years, this occurred exactly as described!

Syria's ruler, the king of the north, at this time was Antiochus II, called Theos. His wife was named Laodice. And, says Rawlinson's *Ancient History*, page 251, "Her influence . . . engaged him in a war with Ptolemy Philadelphus [king of the south], B.C. 260, which is terminated, B.C. 252, by a marriage between Antiochus and Bernice, Ptolemy's daughter."

The prophecy says "he that begat her" shall be given up. Also that she shall not retain the power of the arm, neither shall the king of the north, whom she married, stand. All three are to come to their end. Notice how accurately this came to pass.

Says Rawlinson's *History*, pages 251 and 252: "On the death of Philadelphus [he that begat her], B.C. 247, Antiochus repudiated Bernice, and took back his former wife, Laodice, who, however, doubtful of his constancy, murdered him to secure the throne for her son Seleucus (II) B.C. 246 . . . Bernice . . . had been put to death by Laodice."

Nowhere in all the Bible is there so literal a prophecy,



giving so many details of future history. And to read an ancient history of these kingdoms is simply to see unfolded before your eyes, step by step, verse by verse, this marvelous prophecy. There can be no doubt of its right application!

The Holy Land Changes Hands

Next let us notice verse 7: "But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate [margin, "in his office"], which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail."

"Out of a branch," or "shoot," of her roots. Her parents were her roots. Hence, this must be her brother, who next should occupy the throne of king of the south and fulfill this prophecy. Now listen to this accurate fulfillment, quoted word for word from the same page of Rawlinson's work (p. 252):

"Ptolemy Euergetes [the III, eldest son of Philadelphus (p. 272) and therefore, Bernice's brother, a branch of her roots] invaded Syria, B.C. 245, to avenge the murder of his sister, Bernice. . . In the war which followed, he carried everything before him."

The eighth verse of Daniel 11 says this king of the south would carry captives and vessels of silver and gold into Egypt, and continue to reign more years than the king of the north, who at that time was Seleucus II, and verse 9 says he shall return into Egypt. As verse 7 said he should "enter into the fortress of the king of the north," Ptolemy III did seize the fortress of Syria, Seleucia, the port of Antioch, capital of the kingdom! Then he carried back to Egypt immense booty and 2,500 molten images and idolatrous vessels which, in 526 B.C. Cambyes had carried away from Egypt. He continued to rule until 222 B.C., while the king of the north, Seleucus II, died in 226 B.C.

When he died, his two sons took over the kingdom of the north; first Seleucus III, 226-223 B.C., who ruled only three years, and then his brother Antiochus III, called "the Great," 223-187 B.C. Both of these two sons of Seleucus II assembled immense forces to war against

Egypt, avenge their father, and recover their port and fortress, Seleucia.

And this was accurately prophesied in verse 10: "But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces; and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return and be stirred up [margin, "be stirred up again"], even to his fortress."

"And," continues verse 11, "the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north; and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand."

In fulfillment of the latter part of verse 10, Antiochus the Great, after 27 years, recovered his fortress, Seleucia, and he also conquered the territory of Syria, as far as Gaza, including Judea. But the young Egyptian king, now Ptolemy IV (Philopater), was roused, and with an army of 20,000 inflicted severe defeat on Antiochus the Great; and fulfilling verse 12, he killed tens of thousands and again annexed Judea to Egypt. But he was not strengthened, for he made a rash and speedy peace with Antiochus, and returned to dissipation, throwing away the fruits of victory. Says verse 12, "And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands; but he shall not be strengthened by it."

"For," as verse 13 continues, "the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches." It was "after certain years," or 12 years later, 205 B.C., that Ptolemy Philopater died, leaving his throne to an infant son, Ptolemy Epiphanes. Then Antiochus assembled a greater army, and won great victories.

He then made a treaty allying Philip of Macedonia with him, and others, against Egypt, and they wrested Phoenicia and southern Syria from the king of the south. In this they were assisted by some of the Jews: Josephus' Jewish history says many Jews helped Antiochus.

But notice how accurately Almighty God had foretold this, hundreds of years before it happened!

"And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall" (v. 14).

Read It in Your Own Bible!

To save space, the reader is asked from this point to read each verse of the prophecy from his own Bible, thus saving us reprinting the prophecy in full here. We give here only the facts in history.

Verses 15-16—"the glorious land," of course, refers to Judea, the Holy Land. Antiochus the Great besieged and took Sidon from Egypt, ruined the interests of Egypt in Judea at the Battle of Mount Panium, 198 B.C., and then Antiochus took possession of Judea.

Verse 17—"upright ones" (see margin) in Hebrew means "equal conditions, or marriage," but the one he marries will not stand on his side. In 198 B.C., Antiochus arranged a marriage between his daughter, Cleopatra (not the Cleopatra of 31 B.C. in Egypt) and young Ptolemy Epiphanes, king of the south, by which he hoped subtly to gain complete possession of Egypt; but the plan failed.

Says Rawlinson, page 254, "Coele-Syria and Palestine promised as a dowry, but not delivered." Cleopatra did not truly stand on the side of Antiochus, for it was only a trick to gain possession of Egypt.

Verse 18—and so Antiochus turned his attention in another direction and tried to conquer, 197 to 196 B.C., the islands and coasts of Asia Minor. But the Roman general, Lucius Cornelius Scipio Asiaticus, utterly defeated him at the Battle of Magnesia, 190 B.C.

Verse 19—Antiochus next turned his attention to the fortresses of his own land, in the east and west. But, attempting to recruit his dissipated wealth by the plunder of the Oriental Temple of Belus, in Elymais, he was killed, 187 B.C.

Verse 20—Seleucus IV Philopater (187-176), his son, in an effort to raise money, sent a tax collector,

Heliodorus, through Judea. But he reigned only 11 years, when Heliodorus poisoned him.

Verse 21—he left no heir. But his brother, a younger son of Antiochus the Great, named Epiphanes (Antiochus IV), a contemptible reprobate, came by surprise and through flattery took the kingdom. To his aid came his assistant, Eumenes. Rawlinson says, page 255, “Antiochus [Epiphanes], assisted by Eumenes, drives out Heliodorus, and obtains the throne, B.C. 176. He astonishes his subjects by an affectation of Roman manners” and “good-natured profuseness [flattery].”

Antiochus Epiphanes

Verse 22—“the prince of the covenant” does not refer to Christ. This was the attempt of Antiochus to replace the Jewish high priest by another who would be subservient to him.

Verses 23-24—although only a few were with him at first, yet by this “Roman manner,” by deceit and flattery, he crept into power and prospered. He also invaded Galilee and Lower Egypt. His fathers, the former kings of Syria, had favored the Jews, but says Rawlinson, page 255, they “were driven to desperation by the mad project of this self-willed monarch.”

Verse 25—Rawlinson, pages 255-256, says, “Threatened with war by the ministers of Ptolemy Philometor [now king of the south], who claim Coele-Syria and Palestine as the dowry of Cleopatra, the late queen-mother, Antiochus marches against Egypt . . . B.C. 171” (pp. 277-278). But he was met by his nephew, Ptolemy Philometor, king of the south, with another immense army. But the Egyptian king was defeated through the treachery of his own officers and was outwitted by Antiochus.

Verses 26-27—continuing in Rawlinson, page 278: “After his victory at Pelusium, Antiochus advanced to Memphis, and having obtained possession of the young king’s person [Ptolemy Philometor, king of the south], endeavored to use him as a tool for effecting the entire reduction of the country.” In

174 B.C., the uncle of the king of the south sat at a banquet. Antiochus pretended to ally himself with the young Ptolemy, against his brother, Euergetes II, but each was trying to deceive the other.

The Abomination of Desolation

Verse 28—in 168 B.C., returning from Egypt with great plunder, Antiochus set himself against the Jews, massacred many; and then returned to Antioch with golden vessels from the Temple at Jerusalem.

Verse 29—the same year, he again invaded Egypt, but with none of his former success, because Philometor, king of the south, got help from Rome.

Verse 30—the Roman fleet came against Antiochus, he was forced to surrender to the terms of Popilius, commander of the Roman fleet, and retire from Egypt and restore Cyprus to Egypt. Returning through Judea, smarting under the defeat, he vented his exasperation against the Jews, and extended special favors to those Jews who would turn from their religion.

Verse 31—then, 167 B.C., the next year, came the climax of the horror. Antiochus sent troops to the Holy Land, who desecrated the Temple and sanctuary; abolished the daily sacrifice (see also Daniel 8:11, 24) and (Kislev 15, Hebrew calendar) placed the abomination—an image—in the Holy of Holies, making it desolate (Rawlinson, p. 255). Many who claim to teach the Bible try to apply the prophecy of this verse to Moslems in the 7th century A.D., building the Dome of the Rock on the supposed site of the ancient Temple at Jerusalem! But every verse of this prophecy, step by step, verse by verse, unfolded in actual history, just as here recounted, so there can be not the slightest shadow of doubt as to this abomination that “maketh desolate”—it was an idol set in the Holy of Holies, 167 B.C., by Antiochus Epiphanes.

The Prophecy Comes to Christ and the Apostles

Verse 32—Antiochus tried to end the religion of the Jews. He took away the daily sacrifice, forbade

the ministration at the Temple. He perverted by flatteries the Jews who were willing to forsake their religion.

But—right here, the prophecy cuts off from the continuation of events in the history of those ancient north and south kingdoms. Up to this point, the prophecy was unfolded, step by step, in the actual history of the northern kingdom of the Seleucidae, or Syria, and the southern kingdom of Egypt. But, says the *Exposition of the Bible*, “all accurate details seem suddenly to stop short” with this verse.

Now let us notice verse 32 in detail, and particularly the last part:

“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries.” This, Antiochus Epiphanes did do. But now notice the last part of the verse: “but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.”

So our question now is, when, beginning with, and following, 167 B.C., did people begin to know God, and to be spiritually strong, and to do exploits in the Lord’s service? The answer is, at the time of the Maccabees, beginning in 166 B.C., and, two centuries later, at the first appearing of Jesus Christ and in the days of the apostles!

Verse 33—“And they that understand among the people shall instruct many; yet they shall fall by the sword; and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.”

Jesus and the apostles did instruct many. But Jesus was put to death, and history indicates that all the early apostles were martyred, except John. And this continued, many days, even into the Middle Ages, when millions were martyred for their faith.

Verse 34—“Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And [verse 35] some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.”

Here is described in general the whole course of God’s people, from the days of Christ to the present. Compare with such passages as Rev. 12:6, 11, 13-17. And notice

the vision carries on down to this present time of the end.

Verse 36—The king of the north—who is he, now, in the early and middle New Testament times, to which our prophecy has come? In 65 B.C., Syria was swallowed up by the Roman Empire, and became a Roman province. The Roman emperor now controlled Judea, and therefore the king of the north, here referred to, is, at this time, the emperor of the Roman Empire. This verse says he should do according to his will, and he did—exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and he did; for the Roman emperors required all to worship them and sacrifice to them, as a god. He was as a god. He was to speak against the true God, and he did and persecuted all Christians.

Verse 37—his fathers had worshipped idols, but the Roman emperors set themselves up as gods.

Verse 38—the Roman emperors honored the god of forces, or (margin) munitions, and developed the greatest war-making power the world ever knew. "And a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things." After setting themselves up as gods, before A.D. 476, the emperors who followed, beginning with Justinian, A.D. 554, began to honor with gold, silver and power a god in a high religious office never known to their fathers. (Compare this prophecy of Daniel with Revelation 17:4, 5, and 18:3, 16.)

Verse 39—the emperors did acknowledge the supremacy of religion, increased it with material glory and caused it to rule over many.

Prophecy Skips to Present

Now we come to the very present century.

Verse 40—"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him. . . . Who is today the 'king of the south'?"

It cannot be the king of Egypt, for in 31 B.C. Egypt became a province of the Roman Empire, swallowed up by the king of the north. Today Egypt is a republic ruled by native Arabs. It has no king of its own.

But, in the reign of Ptolemy III Euergetes (verse 7), 247-222 B.C., Egypt annexed part of Ethiopia, immediately south of Egypt (Rawlinson, pp. 272, 273). Since that time, the 11th edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* says (article "Ethiopia") Egypt and Ethiopia were two or three times under the same government. Thus, the two were as one land. And the only portion of that land of the "king of the south" that remained independent until the 20th century is Ethiopia!

Ethiopia, the King of the South

Ethiopia was the only country in all East Africa that continued independent, and had a government and kingdom dating back before the Roman Empire. It was the southern part of the kingdom of the south. So it is the only possible government that could be the king of the south.

At the time of the end—our time—this king of the south was to push at the king of the north, now at Rome!

In 1895 King Menelik, of Ethiopia, sent an army of 9,000 to 10,000 men against General Baratieri's Italian army.

North of Ethiopia was Eritrea, belonging to Italy. And southeast was Italian Somaliland.

In 1896 General Baratieri with 13,000 men tried to defend Eritrea against the Ethiopians. They lost 4,600 whites and 3,000 native troops, and more than 3,500 were taken prisoner.

In a later engagement the Italians were cut to pieces because of their inexperience in fighting in mountainous country and because they were greatly outnumbered. This defeat was disastrous to Italian expansion in Africa.

Ever since, Italy demanded revenge! In 1927 Mussolini set the time, at just 40 years from that defeat, or 1935, when he would be ready "finally to make our voice heard, and see our rights recognized!"

1935 came. The hour struck! Mussolini attacked! Now notice verse 40: "... and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the coun-

tries, and shall overflow and pass over."

A whirlwind comes in the air, sweeping all before it. Mussolini did send a great air force into Africa! Also many modern "chariots"—trucks, tanks, etc.—and ships, loaded with soldiers. More than 100,000 sailed to Ethiopia.

And, notice it, Mussolini's forces were to pass over—in the air! It is at this precise point in this astounding prophecy that Mussolini's struggle in Ethiopia and in World War II ended. Mussolini did not finish the prophecy. There is yet another leader to arise in Europe! Notice what will next happen!

Verse 41—"He shall enter also into the glorious land. . . ."—the Holy Land. This is yet to be fulfilled.

When the coming revival of the Roman Empire takes the Holy Land, then the nations will be plunged into the initial phase of the great, last and final crisis at the close of this age! Other prophecies reveal that this revival of the Roman Empire will bring into subjection the U.S. and Britain! (Request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

"And," continues verse 41, "many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon"—the modern land of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The coming dictator will unite many others with him—10 in all (Rev. 17:12)—reviving the ancient Roman Empire.

Verse 42 says Egypt shall not escape, proving Egypt is not now the "king of the south."

Verse 43 says the Libyans and Ethiopians (observe that after its conquest by Mussolini, Ethiopia is not again referred to as the king of the south) shall be at his steps—and he will then control them. Italy lost control of Libya and Ethiopia after the war.

Verse 44—but news out of the east and out of the north—Russia and the Orient—shall trouble the revived Roman Empire. Russia will enter the war!

Verse 45—the coming Roman Empire shall establish its palace, as

(Continued on page 30)



SMOKING

It's More Than Just a Habit!

by Donald D. Schroeder

IT'S TAKEN a long time for an agency of the United States government to officially state what's really been known about smoking.

For years smoking was thought of as just a habit, though a particularly bad habit, for many.

The latest U.S. government view, shared by many health officials and supported by extensive evidence, is clear. Cigarette smoking is "the most widespread example of drug dependence in the United States."

A pamphlet released by the Office on Smoking and Health entitled, "Why People Smoke Cigarettes" calls cigarette smoking America's worst drug addiction problem. It involves addiction to the drug nicotine in tobacco and possibly other tobacco substances.

Governments in other nations have also been warning their citizens about the addictive nature of smoking in recent years.

An Australian government report of 1977 called *Drug Problems in Australia—An Intoxicated Society*, says, "It is important to recognize that smoking is a form of drug dependence, but one with especially insidious characteristics."

Also, an authoritative British report stated: "Tobacco smoking is a form of drug dependence different from but no less strong than that of other addictive drugs. . . . The most stable and well-adjusted person will,

if he smokes at all, almost inevitably become 'dependent on the habit'" (The Royal College of Physicians, *Smoking or Health*, Third Report, 1977, page 98).

The substances in cigarettes, like many other drugs, affect the chemistry of the brain and nervous system, and "create dependence and lead to compulsive use," the American pamphlet says.

Addictive

Many of the 56 million Americans—and multiple scores of millions more in other nations—are hooked on cigarettes in the same way heroin addicts are hooked on heroin or other persons are on other drugs. The addictive nature of cigarettes is a major reason sales continue at high levels despite widespread public knowledge about the health hazards.

Most people start smoking to conform to peer or social pressures. They find smoking (more specifically, nicotine) at first acts as a stimulant. Later they find they need to smoke as a tranquilizer. What's happened to these smokers is they have developed a level of tolerance and bodily adjustment to nicotine. They must maintain that level in their blood or they will experience uncomfortable physical-psychological problems. In reality,

these uncomfortable feelings, which occur when denied usual tobacco intake for some reason, are classic drug withdrawal symptoms.

Common characteristics of addictive drugs are that they are psychoactive. They create brain and nervous system dependence and lead to compulsive use. They are associated with physiological and psychological distress in users who abruptly are deprived of them. Such withdrawal symptoms often include headache, stomach discomfort, nervousness, irritability, sweating, change in heart and blood pressure and lower excretion of some hormones affecting the nervous system.

Major Public Health Crisis

A little more than a year ago, the U.S. Surgeon General, C. Everett Coop, warned, "Cigarette smoking is clearly identified as the chief preventable cause of death in our society and the most important public health issue of our times" (emphasis ours). Dr. Coop estimates smoking is responsible for 340,000 deaths annually in the U.S. It is a major factor in the development of many cases of cancer, heart trouble, chronic lung and respiratory diseases and other ailments. Smoking "causes more illness and death than all the other drugs," adds the pamphlet issued by the Surgeon General's office.

Smoking has been demonstrated to be a serious health threat to more than smokers. Specific studies indicate even nonsmokers who are forced to breathe others' smoke can also suffer damaging health consequences. Such facts should be a powerful motivation to stop.

Smokers can break themselves of the addictive smoking habit. Every year hundreds of thousands do, but this can be difficult.

The tough new U.S. antismoking government pamphlet offers hints on quitting the nation's most widespread type of drug dependence. It suggests:

- Recognize smoking is a drug dependence that compromises your freedom of choice by its effects on the brain and nervous system.

- Realize quitting for most smokers is rarely an easy accomplishment, but a long-term effort.

- Consider help from a clinic or stop-smoking group.

You will, however, need to evaluate approaches among various stop-smoking systems offered. Help is listed in many telephone books or from health agencies. Detailed plans to help individuals stop smoking are available in virtually every country, many of them free.

You CAN Overcome

Here are additional suggestions to help those who want to free themselves of this obnoxious and enslaving smoking habit:

- Clearly define and write down your objectives for not smoking. List health, family, financial and

**Even though you're
a smoker, a life free from
the taste of tar
residue, a life of reduced
cancer and coronary
risk and improved
physical vitality
can lie before you.**

other reasons. Keep your eyes on your objectives; never let your goal disappear or become hazy. Try to look beyond the initial difficult days of fighting the habit to the time you will be happily unshackled from nicotine addiction.

- Stop all smoking completely. Tapering off, on the amount you smoke doesn't work for most people. It's not easy to quit suddenly, but it's presently the most successful way. Find someone to help you and to be a positive support. Commit yourself—throw away and destroy all pipes and tobacco stock. As the Bible says: "make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires" (Rom. 13:14, RSV).

- Avoid compromising situations. Don't let friends, relatives or stressful situations cause you to give in. Experience shows that many former smokers quickly relapse into their former habits after "just one little puff."

Avoid situations where you would previously have lit up, such as large parties or long trips in a car. If you must attend social occasions where many smoke, announce to people that you've quit. Put a little positive pressure on yourself to toe the line of your commitment.

- Don't be discouraged or fearful of failure. If you happen to slip, don't give up. The actual unpleasantness of nicotine withdrawal usually subsides within 72 hours of your last cigarette (depends on the person), but the psychological temptations remain much longer. You may initially experience tension, hunger, some constipation and symptoms of restlessness, but be assured—they will subside shortly.

- Utilize the power available to you from God! God promises help to those who humble themselves and seek him in prayer (Ps. 103:11-14; Isa. 55:7-8). If you'd like to know how to fully utilize this awesome source of real power, write for our free reprint articles "How to Be an Overcomer" and "How You Can Be Imbued with the Power of God." (See inside cover for address nearest you.)

Even though you're a smoker, a life free from the taste of tar residue, a life of reduced cancer and coronary risk and improved physical vitality can lie before you. There's a price to pay, but it's worth it.

Editor-in-chief Herbert W. Armstrong, once a light smoker, squarely confronted the question over 50 years ago, approaching the smoking issue with unique insight. He has put it this way to readers:

"I then asked myself: 'Why do I smoke? Is it to express outgoing love to God?' Most assuredly not! Am I smoking to express outgoing love and concern for the welfare of other humans?' I had to answer in the negative."

- He rightly concluded that smoking is "a form of self-desire" that is damaging socially and spiritually. This self-desire pulls millions of people into what many authorities call the number one drug addiction problem. We have shown our readers here a way out of this problem. Smoking can be overcome. You can replace this dirty old habit with a new, clean life-style! □

HELP WANTED!

Make a Job Out of Getting a Job

by Dan C. Taylor

DEALING with unemployment is a job in and of itself.

If you are unemployed, the first step you must take is not to allow your confidence to be seriously eroded.

When the Shock Wears Off

Confidence is the key to getting yourself back into the working sector.

Typically, those who have just been laid off or dismissed find it difficult to believe that they no longer have work to do. Then, as the shock wears off, a certain complacent numbness sets in.

Some few see their new state as a temporary "extended holiday" from work. Most others experience the helplessness and frustration of standing in long lines at government employment offices. Many begin to despair that they may never find work again. Others turn to destructive behavior—drunkenness or verbal, even physical abuse of their spouses or children.

In one U.S. study covering a 34-year period, Johns Hopkins University sociologist M. Harvey Brenner observed that for every 1 percent increase in the national unemployment rate, across the country there was a 4.1 percent increase in suicide, a 3.4 percent increase in state prison admissions and a 5.7 percent increase in the homicide rate.

Some societies are less sympathetic to the prob-

lem of unemployment than others. In Italy, for instance, someone who is unemployed is viewed as simply waiting for the right economic opportunity. In Japan unemployment is a disgrace.

If you are recently unemployed, here are some steps you can take to avoid many of the pitfalls being jobless can cause.

Eight Steps to Take

- Immediately assess your financial situation. Work out a new budget that is painfully realistic. Talk with a public credit counseling service if you can't work out a budget for yourself. Notify your creditors and see if arrangements can be made to lower some payments.

- Prepare for at least six months of unemployment. In many nations it isn't unusual to be unemployed for more than a year. This has been the case with nearly one out of every four members of the French work force.

- Make a job of getting a job. Set goals and objectives. Know what kind of job you want. This will narrow your job search. Public libraries or government employment agencies can help you out with pamphlets or other information detailing job descriptions and requirements.

- Get out of the house at the appropriate times. Keep in a routine of getting up early. Don't sit around watching television all day. Meet people. Make it known that you want a job. Expand your informal connections to various job sectors through friends and acquaintances. If these people can't offer you a job, ask them for leads or introductions to those who might be able to help. Don't be afraid to ask.

In many cases, private recommendations go further than those from government employment agencies. And many businesses would rather turn to a bit of nepotism than be swamped by the masses of individuals answering a job advertisement for a single position. Often, it is "who you know" that counts.

- Knock on some doors. Bypass the common first step—Personnel



Office—if possible. Try to get in to see those who do the hiring. Leave a neatly prepared summary of your qualifications, experience, education and personal information with each manager.

If you live in the United States or Canada, you can determine who the managers are by going to your library and asking the reference librarian for listings such as *Poor's Register of Corporations, Directors and Executives* or some other such list of who runs what firm. If you live in other lands, ask for equivalent lists. Or call the company directly and ask, "Who is the manager of this firm?"

By being your own employment agency, you will more quickly be employed in one of those 4 out of 5 vacancies that traditionally are usually only known by employers and who fill them by word of mouth.

- Accept the possibility that you may have more than one career in your lifetime. Employment studies indicate that in the future, one may have as many as three or four careers in a lifetime. Make the most of your time by reading about those fields that are up and coming. Where are they located? If available, seek to get into job training programs in those fields. Be prepared to relocate if absolutely necessary.

- Take advantage of government job training programs and seminars. Look upon your situation as a time for self-assessment and education in new skills.

- Above all, do not underestimate the power of prayer. Many look upon God as a last resort. When all else has failed and there is nowhere else to turn, we seek the help of the one whom we should have turned to first. Be persistent. God knows your needs before you ask. But you must ask (Matt. 6:8, Jas. 4:2). Then step out in faith and with knowledge into the new job opening. □



PROPHECY

(Continued from page 26)

capital of the revived Roman Empire, and eventually its religious headquarters, at Jerusalem! Zechariah 14:2 says the city shall be taken! "Yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him!" This language signifies the end of the "beast" and the "false prophet" at the hand of God! You will find this end described in Revelation 19:19-20 and Zechariah 14:12.

And now what is the time of this end, at the close of this marvelous prophecy? The next verse, Daniel

INTERNATIONAL DESK

(Continued from page 21)

alcoholism, child pornography, unemployment and the disenchantment that characterizes life in most of the so-called civilized world.

A longtime resident of the state told me, "Since the oil came and we became prosperous, our life-style has changed for the worse. Why can't we have it both ways—prosperity and peace?"

Because man does not know how to have peace, that's why.

The apostle Paul told us that 2,000 years ago and nothing that has happened since has proved him wrong.

The Alaskan pipeline has shown once again that when man puts his mind to it he seems to be able to conquer any physical obstacle. That is why God put a brake on progress at the building of the tower of Babel by confusing man's ability to communicate easily. Otherwise, God said, "Nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Gen. 11:6). Now, 4,000 years later, man once again is doing anything he imagines to do. But the increase in knowledge brings us no closer to peace. Instead, we use what we learn to bring our world ever closer to ultimate disaster.

If we could only understand that the energy man needs to solve his problems does not lie beneath the Arctic ice—or anywhere else on earth. And, likewise, that in order to save endangered species it is not necessary to halt progress. God told man not only to replenish the earth,

12:1, says at the time of the resurrection of the just—at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

This prophecy begins with the kingdoms of Syria and Egypt, soon after the death of Alexander the Great—2,300 years ago. But it ends at the time of the resurrection and the Second Coming of Christ to bring peace at last to the region—and to the entire world! It is so plain, there can be no doubt of its right application!

Are you ready for that event? It is fast approaching. Now is the time to get ready, for Jesus said, "Be ye also ready!" □

but also to "subdue it" (Gen. 1:28). The Creator would have taught us how to do that without wrecking the creation. He would have given us the spiritual insight we need for our well-being. But man thought he knew better—and chose to try to discover those things for himself apart from God. (A free booklet, *Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*, explains this subject in detail. Write for it to the office in your area.)

And so the search goes on. We probe the uttermost parts of the earth, desperately hoping to replenish our energy before the available stocks run out. And wherever we go we take our way of life—fighting, bickering, vanity, greed, self-righteousness—our inability to get along with each other. And that is by far the greatest threat to the well-being of the caribou, the arctic fox, the peregrine falcon, the short-tailed albatross and every other living creature!

In spite of (and because of) his inventive genius, mankind is about to produce a catastrophe that could destroy everything. As Jesus said, "Unless those days be shortened, there should no flesh be saved"—man or beast. Because human beings cannot find a way to peace all life must now be considered an "endangered species"! Thank God these days will be shortened.

Our greatest need today is not more oil—or less development. We need a better way of life. That will only come with the restoration of the government of God. Even here—at the top of the world.

—John Hallford

THE PLAIN TRUTH

The Greatest Love Story Ever Told

by Ronald D. Kelly

The one most important attribute of a successful marriage has escaped millions. This story illustrates how that important facet can be in your marriage.

MOST of us are romantics at heart. We all enjoy a good love story. But have you ever stopped to ask what is the greatest love story of all time?

Perhaps you think of the classical love story of Antony and Cleopatra in the glorious days of the beginning of the Roman Empire.

Cleopatra had become queen of Egypt at age 17. But she was soon deposed of all authority and banished. When Julius Caesar obtained victory over the Ptolemies, he placed Cleopatra back on the throne and took her to Rome as his mistress. All the empire seemed to lie at her feet.

But after the assassination of Caesar, she fled back to Egypt. Allying herself with Mark Antony, she then became his mistress. The Roman triumvirate soon was dominated by Octavius who was to become Augustus Caesar. In 31 B.C. Augustus defeated Antony in the battle of Actium—establishing himself as the first great emperor of a kingdom that would last almost 500 years.

Under pretext of granting Cleopatra power in Egypt, Augustus persuaded her to assassinate Antony. Believing the love Cleopatra had for him was genuine, Antony

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yielded to Cleopatra's desire to commit suicide in a grand mausoleum she had constructed that "they might die together." Only Cleopatra had no plan to commit suicide. The unsuspecting Antony died, leaving Cleopatra to seek power from Augustus.

Augustus, however, refused to yield to the charms of the beautiful Cleopatra. He ended her life by putting a poisonous viper to her bosom—at least that's how the story goes.

Ah, the pathos of ancient love stories!

Or maybe you recall the story of Helen of Troy. She was so alluring, she is remembered as "the face that launched a thousand ships."

As the story is told, the beautiful Helen ran off with the king of Sparta. The jealous and enraged Greek king led an expedition to recapture his wife.

You probably well remember the final battle of that famous Trojan war. It seemed to have come to an end when the Greeks withdrew leaving behind a crude wooden horse. Inside the horse were concealed Greek warriors who, after the horse was brought within the city walls, opened the horse late at night. The unsuspecting Trojans were routed.

No clear tradition explains what became of beautiful Helen over whom the war was fought.

Then there is the mythological story of Venus, who fell in love with the handsome young Adonis. But Mars, the god of war, was in love with Venus. He sent a wild boar to kill Adonis.

Pathos and tragedy accompany so many of these love stories from so long ago.

A Different Kind of Love Story

Or maybe you think of one of the biblical love stories. One of the best known is the story of Isaac and Rebekah. Abraham sent his servant back to his own people to find a wife for his son, Isaac. Then follows the beautiful story of Rebekah—her total willingness to leave her family and come to be a bride of a man she had not met. The love these two shared and their marriage is one of the most unusual recorded in the Bible.

And who could ever forget the touching story of Ruth? This beautiful young Moabitess married into a family of Judah, but after a short time, her husband died. As a family in a strange land, Ruth's mother-in-law, then a widow herself, decided to return to her homeland.

Ruth normally would have remained in her own country, remarried and had a family. But her love for her mother-in-law, for the people she had come to love and for the God of the Hebrew people was so great she made the momentous decision: "Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried" (Ruth 1:16-17).

Later, Ruth married into a wealthy family in Judea. Three generations later, her great-grandson, David, became king of Israel.

Another inspiring story is the life of Esther. She was one of the most beautiful women in the days of the Persian king Xerxes. Xerxes searched the land for not only the most beautiful, but the most respectful woman in the kingdom. Esther was selected to be the wife of the great king. No one of the king's closest advisers knew that she was a Jewess. Meanwhile one of the leading commanders under Xerxes, Haman, had been devising a plot to destroy the Jews.

But God used Esther and her uncle, Mordecai, to turn the plot against Haman—he was hanged on the same gallows he had constructed for the purpose of hanging Mordecai.

All because of the love, beauty and respectful attitude of a truly great woman in the king's court.

To this day the Jewish people celebrate the Feast of Purim as a memorial to God's intervention through Esther more than 24 centuries ago.

But of all these stories, you have not yet heard the greatest of all love stories. It, too, comes from the Bible.

The Greatest Love Story

The story starts with a young girl who had been abandoned. Alone, unloved, hovering at death's door, she was rescued by a compassionate

man who took her in. He began to care and provide for her.

As the years went by she matured into a lovely young lady. One day the man realized he had fallen in love with her. The love he had previously was only compassion and concern. Now he had fallen hopelessly in love—romantically.

They were married.

He could not have been a better husband. Desiring the best for his lovely bride, he provided the finest quality clothing, furs, imported silks. He gave her gorgeous jewelry, fine gold necklaces and rings. They enjoyed the best in food and drink. It was simply the most fantastic love and marriage possible.

But our story doesn't end here with the proverbial "they lived happily ever after."

Tragedy struck the marriage.

As is too often the case, unsurpassed beauty can result in vanity. An abundance of material possessions can result in greed. This once abandoned and forsaken young lady began to seek other lovers.

Shocked and heartsick, her husband tried every way possible to help change her ways. But having tasted the forbidden fruit, she forsook the safety and love of her home and became nothing more than a common prostitute. She sank to the lowest depths. Who would have thought one could have been so high, had so much and thrown it all away?

Normally a prostitute is paid for her services. This beautiful woman sank so low and became so immoral she was paying her lovers instead.

There was no course of action possible except divorce.

You may be wondering how this story is "the greatest love story ever told." It seems so sorrowful—so tragic. Well, the story is not over.

In spite of all the unfaithful wife had done, the husband could not help loving her. She meant everything to him. He did not choose to seek another wife. He hoped against hope she could turn from her evil ways. There were few signs she ever would. In fact, she went from bad to worse.

Years went by.

Years and years.

Then one day she began to real-

ize what she had been doing. She had a total change of heart. It was like a horrible nightmare had been happening.

Was it too late? Would her once loving husband be able to forgive such a wretched and wasted lifetime? If only she could convince him she was truly, deeply sorry for all the hurt and pain she had caused. It was a real and genuine repentance.

The Commitment

How many would ever be able to forgive a mate who had lived such a life? In the course of human history there have not been many.

But this man was unique. It was what he had patiently hoped for all those years. For when he had first married, he was COMMITTED.

Here is the key—the vital ingredient so necessary to all successful marriages. COMMITMENT.

The man in our story vowed he would love forever—and he did. He proved it. The wasted years. The loneliness. The hurt. All passed when his beloved bride and love of his life returned.

A new marriage was then planned. Perhaps because of what had happened, this marriage was to be even more majestic than the first time around. Nothing was to be spared to make this the most memorable wedding possible.

This time they would live happily ever after.

To those who are married—and to those who ever will be married—this example of total love and commitment should provide the firm basis for your comparison. It should serve as a perpetual example for both you and your mate to love with total commitment till death do you part, in sickness and health, in poverty and wealth.

With that commitment you can solve the problems that will come your way. Even the best of marriages will have a few rocky moments. But if both partners are committed to love, forgiveness and solving those problems, you can have a happy marriage.

Who Are They?

But back to our story. The characters in the story are unique. The loving, caring, forgiving husband is

the God of the ancient Israelites. The forsaken and abandoned girl who grew up to be so beautiful, only to depart so far from her, caring husband, was the ancient nation of Israel.

The story is told in the 16th chapter of Ezekiel. Perhaps you would like to take this occasion to read it completely through.

Ancient Israel started her young life as a slave people in the land of Egypt. But God, in the days of Moses, freed her from slavery and led Israel to the land he had promised Abraham. When ancient Israel settled into the promised land, she was provided with the best crops, livestock and natural resources.

From a fledgling start under Joshua, ancient Israel slowly developed into one of the leading nations of the Middle East in the days of David. Under Solomon she reached a zenith. The fabulous Temple and the wisdom of the king brought people from distant lands to see the glory of God's nation.

But as the woman in our story, ancient Israel began to rely on her beauty. She lusted after the idols of the surrounding nations. Even wise king Solomon spent his last years rejecting the God who had given him everything.

After Solomon, ancient Israel divided into two nations. The northern 10 tribes first fell into gross idolatry—immorality as God viewed it—for he had taken her as his wife. She rejected her divine husband and sought "lovers" (other nations). God put her away with a bill of divorcement and sent the nation into Assyrian captivity more than 700 years before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

About 100 years later the southern two tribes—the Jews—went into Babylonian captivity. But some of them repented and a remnant returned to the promised land under the Persian kings.

The Husband Was Jesus Christ!

We should briefly explain here an all-important doctrine. Most everyone has assumed—without proof—that the God of the Hebrews who was married to ancient Israel was the one whom people call the Father.

The one whom we call the

Father was not the one who "married" ancient Israel. THE Bible reveals two personages in the Godhead. The one whom we now call the Father and the one we now know as the Son. We read of both in John's gospel account, chapter 1. There we read of the Word. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. . . ." (John 1:1, 14).

The Greek for "Word" is *Logos*. It means the "Word" or "Spokesman."

The God who *spoke* to ancient Israel was the "Word" or "Spokesman" for the Father. He was not the Father. The God of the ancient Hebrews was the one who emptied himself of divinity to become the physical human being, Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:6-8). He came to earth in human form as Jesus of Nazareth, died for the sins of the world and is now alive in heaven at the Father's right hand.

The God whom we call the Father was not known to most of mankind till Jesus Christ came to reveal him. Read it for yourself in Matthew 11:27.

It's important to understand *whom* ancient Israel married—it has great meaning for the happy ending to the story.

The Coming Wedding

When Jesus Christ returns to restore the government of God, one of the first great events will be the most exciting wedding of all time. It will pale into insignificance his marriage with ancient Israel at Mount Sinai.

The story of this coming marriage is told in Revelation 19: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready" (verse 7).

This time the Church—made up of repentant Israelites and converted gentiles whom God has specially called to salvation—is ready for marriage. She has "made herself ready." She has thoroughly repented. Changed. She is committed.

Continuing in Revelation 19: "And to her was granted that she

should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb" (verses 8-9).

So the greatest love story ever told is not Romeo and Juliet, Antony and Cleopatra, not even Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, Ruth or Esther. It is not any of the marriages of Henry VIII or of Napoleon and Josephine.

The greatest of all love stories started so very long ago and is continuing today. The true Church of God is still in the process of preparing herself for that glorious wedding.

On a charging white horse the Son of God will descend in the most magnificent wedding procession of all time.

Commitment the Key

The purpose of this article is not just to tell a nice love story. It's much deeper than that.

It is to show you by Jesus Christ's personal example, the most important key to your happiness in marriage—COMMITMENT.

In today's "modern" world, thousands enter into marriage with the philosophy "if it doesn't work, we'll divorce and try again with someone else."

The results of this philosophy have been disastrous. In the United States more than one marriage in three ends in divorce. In most major U.S. cities there are as many divorce cases filed as applications for marriage. And other nations are rapidly copying the U.S. example.

In many cases those who divorce and remarry turn and divorce again in a constant cycle of "marriage-go-rounds."

As a minister on a college campus I have counseled with many hundreds of students and have performed more than a hundred marriages over the past 23 years. I would like to say not one single marriage I performed has ended in divorce—but that wouldn't be true.

Many of those couples have kept in touch over the years. They send pictures of their babies and share

their joys and sometimes their sorrows in letters or phone calls. A large percentage of them have happy marriages.

But not all.

I have helped a few through the shock and sadness of divorce. On rare occasions, a couple on the verge of divorce, have seen how to forgive and love again and have successfully put a marriage back together.

The one common ingredient I have found in every successful marriage has proved to be commitment.

Successful marriage requires hard work—from both partners—faithfulness, love, forgiveness and commitment.

Every marriage counselor would love to find the magic formula that would solve all marriage problems. But alas, there is no such magic available.

In this life none of us will ever achieve the total love and commitment Jesus Christ has for the Church. But with his example to follow we can come a close second.

Jesus Christ has known the hurt and sorrow of divorce. And he has shown the patience, commitment and love necessary to have a happy marriage.

The opposite example is often found among the rich and famous of this world. Very few of them have anything to offer as examples of happy marriages. Instead, many popular personalities have only sorrow and divorce to hold up as illustrations of their life-styles.

Oil billionaire J. Paul Getty once said after several unsuccessful and unhappy marriages: "I would trade all my wealth for just one happy marriage." His money could not buy commitment and happiness. There is no greater joy possible in this physical life than the love and sharing of a happy marriage.

Perhaps the greatest love story ever told can serve as a personal example for you to be as committed in your marriage as Jesus Christ was, is and always will be in his marriage relationship.

Maybe the second greatest love story ever told will be—YOURS! ☐

Why the Church?

(Continued from page 9)

of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

Somewhere on earth, just before Jesus' Second Coming, his servants are going to be announcing with increasing power the message of the coming world-ruling kingdom of God! A kingdom is a government—and from one end of the Bible to the other the message of God is about his coming government that will replace the governments of this world and will rule forever (Dan. 2:44; Rev. 11:15, etc.).

Jesus tells those in his Church, "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, where spirit-being elders in heaven rejoice in song concerning the future role of Christians, they say, "And hast made them [Christians] unto our God kings and priests: and they shall REIGN on the earth" (Rev. 5:10, original Greek text). Notice that Christ and those in this age whom he has called to spiritual understanding will rule "on the earth"—NOT, up in "heaven!"

This vibrant message of God's soon-coming world ruling GOVERNMENT is NOT announced to convert everyone now, but as a witness so that men will understand when it does occur.

And through his Church, God is training thousands of men and women in lessons of character and obedience so they may be ready to serve under the living Christ when he returns as King of kings. "Do ye not know that the saints shall JUDGE the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall JUDGE ANGELS? how much more things that pertain to this life?" (1 Cor. 6:2-3.).

To rule others, one must first learn to rule oneself. God's government is based upon his spiritual law—the Ten Commandments. So that is why God says of the true

THE PLAIN TRUTH

saints. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that *keep the COMMANDMENTS of God, and the faith of Jesus*" (Rev. 14:12).

The Church which God governs, which has his government, is proclaiming—worldwide and with increasing power—the *coming government of God on earth* through Jesus Christ and the resurrected saints, based on God's law and his Commandments.

This Church is small and often persecuted. It has God's name. It is called simply the Church of God. To carry out its work it is legally incorporated as The Worldwide Church of God because a few others do have understanding of the correct name and each is required by human law to incorporate differently.

This Church does GROW in grace and knowledge. It goes deeper and deeper into the Bible revelation of God's great PURPOSE that he is working out. It grasps why God is not calling the world to salvation now, *when* God will do that, and *what* the incredible potential for man really is.

Finally, this Church does the WORK of proclaiming as a witness the coming *government of God* based on his law. With a college on two campuses, offices around the globe, hundreds of local congregations with resident ministers, worldwide radio and television and a massive publishing work, including this very magazine, that message is *going out with increasing POWER*.

Perhaps it is merely helpful to you to consider these biblical evidences of where God is working—where his Church is today.

But if your interest goes beyond that—if we can serve you personally—don't hesitate to write. See inside the front cover for the address of our office nearest you.

As world events move inexorably toward the END of this age, you owe it to yourself to be sure of where you are headed. Take the bull by the horns. *Prove these things* to yourself from the pages of your Bible. If God is opening your mind now, then *act* on this precious knowledge, and begin to really prepare for your job in the soon-coming world tomorrow. □

HISTORY

(Continued from page 14)

cannot be unity of empire without unity of religion.

Throughout the Empire—West and East—Christianity is established. But the form of Christianity is not the same everywhere. Quarrels over basic articles of faith tear at the unity of Christendom.

Justinian believes that a theological rapprochement will prepare the way for the eventual political reunion of Byzantium and Italy. He views political and ecclesiastical policy as inextricably linked. They are the two major aspects of his envisioned Christian Empire.

One of the most divisive religious controversies centers around the old argument about the union of the human and the divine in Jesus Christ.

Some believe that Christ had only one nature—a divine one—rather than a combined human and divine nature, as Catholics believe. They are called "Monophysites"—believers in one nature.

The West—led by the Pope in Rome—rejects the Monophysite doctrine, charging that it over-stresses the divine in Christ at the expense of the human. In A.D. 451, the Council of Chalcedon (held in what is now modern Turkey) condemns Monophysitism as heresy, just as the Council of Nicaea had condemned Arianism in 325.

But Monophysitism persists. The Eastern Church is torn between Catholic orthodoxy and the Monophysite doctrine.

Zeno and his successor Anastasius sympathize with the Monophysites, triggering a schism between Constantinople and Rome. The Monophysites are powerful in the Eastern provinces of Egypt and Syria. The Eastern emperors do not want to endanger their control of these provinces by condemning the doctrine.

Ecclesiastical Dilemma

Upon the accession of Justin in 518, good relations are renewed with the Papacy. Communion is reestablished with Rome. The Eastern prelates sign a letter of reconciliation proclaiming the decision of Chalcedon as binding on all

Christians and stressing the primacy of the Roman See as the final arbiter of what constitutes the faith.

The authority of Chalcedon is thus renewed. The Eastern and Western churches are, for a time, reconciled, albeit tenuously.

But this does not end the problem. Monophysitism still thrives in many areas.

Personally, Justinian is a most zealous supporter of the Council of Chalcedon and the cause of orthodoxy. But he would like to somehow unite the die-hard Monophysites with the Church. He seeks to placate the Monophysites without offending Rome—a difficult task. He will have but slight success.

Justinian's efforts are hampered by the sympathies of Empress Theodora. She leans toward the Monophysite position.

In 536, Theodora intrigues with Vigilius, a Roman deacon. Succumbing to an impulse of ambition, he agrees to modify Western intransigence toward the Monophysites in exchange for her helping him become Pope. It is said he gives Theodora a secret guarantee that he will use his papal influence to abolish the Council of Chalcedon.

The next year, Vigilius is installed as Pope. But Theodora's hopes of manipulating the Roman See are disappointed. Under many opposing pressures, Vigilius vacillates and fails to offer clear concessions to the Monophysites.

For years the problem continues to plague the religious world. The situation grows so acute that Justinian is finally prompted to convocate a general church council.

In May 553, the Second Council of Constantinople (the Fifth Ecumenical Council) opens. It has been called in yet another attempt to reconcile the Monophysites.

The issues are complex. The Council finally settles on an interpretation that is technically orthodox but leans a bit toward the Monophysite position.

Few are satisfied with this compromise formula. To the Monophysites, the new interpretation is just as unacceptable as the old. Pope Vigilius initially refuses to accept

the decrees of the Council. But under pressure he later signs a formal statement (February 554) giving pontifical approbation to the Council's verdict.

In return, Justinian grants Vigilius an imperial document known as the Pragmatic Sanction and permits him to return from Constantinople to Rome. Vigilius dies on the way back. A new Pope, Pelagius, is elected—with Justinian's insistence.

Justinian's Pragmatic Sanction confirms and increases the Papacy's temporal power, and gives guidelines for regulating civil and ecclesiastical affairs in Rome and Italy. It is issued on August 13, 554. The year 554 will become a decisive date in history for yet another reason—the result of events in the military arena.

For the moment, the Papacy is under the Eastern Emperor's thumb. But it is not destined to remain so.

Ultimately, Justinian's efforts in the religious sphere prove fruitless. At his death, the Empire will still be badly divided in its religious belief. The unhealed wounds of religious strife, between the churches of East and West will continue to fester—coming to a head, as we shall see, in the Great Schism of 1054.

Barbarians Smashed

While the aforementioned ecclesiastical maneuverings are underway, events are moving swiftly ahead in the political sphere.

The persecuted Catholics in North Africa appeal to Justinian to send troops against their Arian Vandal oppressors. This marks the short-lived Vandalic Wars.

Justinian sends Belisarius—the greatest general of his age—to do the job. In 533-34, imperial armies move against the Vandals. Belisarius makes short work of the barbarians. He receives the submission of the Vandal king Gelimer, and North Africa is reincorporated into the Empire.

Phase Two of Justinian's Grand Design follows immediately: the military reconquest of Italy, the heart and mother province of the Western Empire.

The Ostrogoths have played into

Justinian's hands. In his latter years, Theodoric had begun to persecute the Catholic Italians. Following his death, Ostrogothic cruelty toward non-Arians intensifies. Italians look for a deliverer to uproot Arianism.

Justinian now has an excuse for invading Italy. He sees himself as God's agent in destroying the barbarian heretics and winning back the lost provinces of the West. If he succeeds in toppling the barbarian usurper from the Western throne, his dream of restoring the Roman Empire will become reality!

Italy Regained

In 535, Belisarius—fresh from victory in North Africa—arrives in Italy to take on the Ostrogoths. Italy is plunged into war. The fighting will continue for nearly two decades.

In 540, Belisarius captures Ravenna and announces the end of the war. But the Goths soon regroup under a new king, Totila, and again take the offensive. City after city falls to Totila, including Rome in 546. (Totila holds the last chariot races in Rome's Circus Maximus in 549.)

In 549, Belisarius is recalled to Constantinople. In 552, Justinian sends a strong force against Totila under the command of General Narses. Totila is defeated and mortally wounded in the summer of 552. His body is placed at the feet of Justinian in Constantinople.

By 554, the Gothic hold is completely broken. The reconquest of the peninsula is complete. *Italy is regained!*

Italy is now firmly in Justinian's hands. His Pragmatic Sanction of 554 (mentioned previously) officially restores the Italian lands taken by the Ostrogoths. Italy is again an integral part of the Empire.

Three barbarian Arian kingdoms have been uprooted and swept away! The deadly wound of A.D. 476 is healed! The ancient Roman Empire is revived—restored under the scepter of Justinian. Both "legs" of the Empire—East and West—are now under his personal control.

History will memorialize his great achievement as the "Imperial

Restoration." It is a milestone in the story of mankind.

Heir of the Caesars

Many territories have been regained. During his reign, Justinian has doubled the Empire's extent!

The great Emperor dies on November 14, 565. He has lived 83 years and reigned 38.

At his death, his restoration is ready to crumble. The resources of the Empire are not sufficient to maintain those territories that have been recovered.

The treasury is empty. The army is scattered and ill paid. Within a century after his death, the Empire will have lost more territory than Justinian had gained!

Just three years after his death, the Longobardi, or Lombards—a Germanic tribe—invade and conquer half of Italy. Again the Eastern Empire is deprived of the greater portion of the Italian peninsula.

The continuing threat of the Empire's traditional enemy to the east—Persia—further saps Byzantium's strength. And soon, the forces unleashed by Mohammed in Arabia will introduce yet another peril. In the meantime, the Roman court of the East will lose much of its Western character.

For these and other reasons, the focus of events will now shift to the West. As the Eastern Empire founders, Papal Rome will turn its eyes toward Western Europe, where the powerful Frankish kingdom is on the rise. Subsequent revivals of the ancient Roman Empire will surface in France, Germany and Austria. The center will shift away from the Mediterranean to the heart of Europe.

But Justinian's efforts are not to be slighted. His reign has signaled a rebirth of imperial greatness. He has been a true Roman emperor, an heir of the Roman Caesars!

Much of what will be envisioned and accomplished by later conquerors who build upon the ruins of the Roman Empire will be owed to the memory of the Grand Design of Justinian.

The historical consequences will be major.

(NEXT MONTH: "Charlemagne—and the New Europe.")

"THE WORLD TOMORROW"

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of *The World Tomorrow* on TELEVISION and RADIO.



TELEVISION LOG

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

U.S.

ALABAMA

WBRC, Birmingham — 6, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WOWL, Florence — 15, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WHNT, Huntsville — 19, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WCOV, Montgomery — 20, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

ALASKA

KTVA, Anchorage — 11, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KTVE, Fairbanks — 11, 11:00 p.m., Sun.

ARIZONA

KNAZ, Flagstaff — 2, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
KTVK, Phoenix — 3, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KVOA, Tucson — 4, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

ARKANSAS

KTVE, El Dorado — 10, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KTVP, Fayetteville — 29, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
KHBS, Ft. Smith — 40, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
KARK, Little Rock — 4, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

CALIFORNIA

KBAK, Bakersfield — 29, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
KJEO, Eureka — 47, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KHJ, Los Angeles — 9, 8:30 p.m., Sun.
KTVF, Los Angeles — 11, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KTVU, Oakland — 2, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
KQVR, Sacramento — 13, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KSBW, Salinas — 8, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KCST, San Diego — 39, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KSBV, San Luis Obispo — 6, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

COLORADO

KOA, Denver — 4, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KWGN, Denver — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sat.
KOA, Pueblo — 5, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KTVS, Sterling — 3, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

CONNECTICUT

WYTH, Hartford — 30, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WDVM, Washington — 9, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

FLORIDA

WBBH, Ft. Myers — 20, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WTLV, Jacksonville — 12, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WTVJ, Miami — 4, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WEAR, Pensacola — 3, 12:30 p.m., Sun.
WCTV, Tallahassee — 6, 12:00 noon, Sun.
WPX, W. Palm Beach — 12, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WKFL, Tampa — 8, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
WESH, Winter Park — 2, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

GEORGIA

WTSG, Albany — 31, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WATL, Atlanta — 36, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WTBS, Atlanta — 17, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WAGT, Augusta — 26, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WRBL, Columbus — 3, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WMAZ, Macon — 13, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WTOG, Savannah — 11, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WVGA, Valdosta — 44, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

HAWAII

KIKU, Honolulu — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

IDAHO

KBCI, Boise — 2, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

ILLINOIS

WICD, Chicago — 15, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WCTU, Chicago — 26, 10:30 p.m., Sat.
WFLD, Chicago — 32, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WGN, Chicago — 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
WSIL, Harrisburg — 3, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WQAD, Moline — 8, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WEEK, Peoria — 25, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KHQA, Quincy — 7, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WTVO, Rockford — 17, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
WICS, Springfield — 20, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

INDIANA

WTVW, Evansville — 7, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WKJC, Ft. Wayne — 33, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WTHR, Indianapolis — 13, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WSBT, South Bend — 22, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
WBAK, Terre Haute — 38, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

IOWA

WOI, Des Moines — 5, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KIMT, Mason City — 3, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KWWL, Waterloo — 7, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

KANSAS

KUPK, Garden City — 13, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KCMO, Kansas City — 5, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KAKE, Wichita — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

KENTUCKY

WLEX, Lexington — 18, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WAVE, Louisville — 3, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

LOUISIANA

WAFB, Baton Rouge — 9, 11:30 a.m., Sat.
KATC, Lafayette — 3, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WWL, New Orleans — 4, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KTAL, Shreveport — 6, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

MAINE

WVIL, Bangor — 7, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WGAN, Portland — 13, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

MARYLAND

BFE, Baltimore — 45, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WHAG, Hagerstown — 25, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

MASSACHUSETTS

WCDC, Adams — 19, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WSBK, Boston — 38, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WGBB, Springfield — 40, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
WSMW, Worcester — 27, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

MICHIGAN

WTOM, Cheboygan — 4, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WJRT, Flint — 12, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WZZM, Grand Rapids — 13, 12:00 noon, Sun.
WILX, Lansing — 10, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WJBN, Southfield — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WPRN, Troy — 7, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

MINNESOTA

KDLH, Duluth — 3, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KMSP, Minneapolis — 9, 7:00 a.m., Sat.
WCCO-TV, Minneapolis — 41, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KSTP, St. Paul — 5, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

MISSISSIPPI

WAPT, Jackson — 16, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

MISSOURI

KRCG, Jefferson City — 13, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
KODE, Joplin — 12, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KROB, Poplar Bluff — 15, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KOLR, Springfield — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KRLR, St. Louis — 11, 10:30 p.m., Sun.

NEBRASKA

KCNB, Alliance — 8, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KWNB, Hayes Center — 6, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KHGI, Kearney — 13, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KMTV, Omaha — 3, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KDUH, Scottsbluff — 4, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KSTF, Scottsbluff — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KSNB, Superior — 4, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

NEVADA

KLAS, Las Vegas — 8, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
KRLL, Reno — 4, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

WMUR, Manchester — 9, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

NEW MEXICO

KGCM, Albuquerque — 13, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KSWS, Roswell — 8, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

NEW YORK

WTEN, Albany — 10, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WBNG, Binghamton — 12, 11:00 a.m., Sun.
WCRZ, Buffalo — 2, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WENY, Elmira — 36, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WNEW, New York — 5, 7:00 a.m., Sat.
WOR, New York — 9, 9:30 p.m., Sun.
WOKR, Rochester — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WXTV, Syracuse — 9, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

NORTH CAROLINA

WPCN, Charlotte — 36, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WRAL, Raleigh — 5, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WITN, Washington — 2, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WWAY, Wilmington — 3, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WXM, Winston-Salem — 12, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

NORTH DAKOTA

WDAZ, Devils Lake — 8, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WDAY, Fargo — 6, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

OHIO

WAKR, Akron — 23, 11:13 p.m., Sun.
WLWT, Cincinnati — 5, 11:00 a.m., Sun.
WUAB, Cleveland — 43, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
WTVN, Columbus — 6, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WDTN, Dayton — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WDHO, Toledo — 24, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
WYTV, Youngstown — 33, 11:00 a.m., Sun.

OKLAHOMA

KTEN, Ada — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KOHU, Oklahoma City — 25, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KOKI, Tulsa — 23, 11:00 p.m., Sun.

OREGON

KOIN, Portland — 6, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KMTR, Springfield — 16, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

PENNSYLVANIA

WTAJ, Altoona — 10, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WSEE, Erie — 35, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WLYH, Lebanon — 15, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WPHL, Philadelphia — 17, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WPXI, Pittsburgh — 11, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WNEP, Wilkes-Barre — 16, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

RHODE ISLAND
WPRI, Providence — 12, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
SOUTH CAROLINA
WCBD, Charleston — 2, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
WIS, Columbia — 10, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WPDE, Florence — 15, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
WYFF, Greenville — 4, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

SOUTH DAKOTA
KNSD, Lead — 11, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KOTA, Rapid City — 3, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KDLT, Sioux Falls — 5, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

TENNESSEE
WDEF, Chattanooga — 12, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WKPT, Kingsport — 19, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WTVK, Knoxville — 26, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WPTY, Memphis — 24, 9:30 p.m., Sun.
WNGE, Nashville — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

TEXAS
KAMR, Amarillo — 4, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
KTXX, Arlington — 21, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KTTV, Austin — 36, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KWAB, Big Springs — 9, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KRIS, Corpus Christi — 6, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KGBT, Harlingen — 4, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KPRC, Houston — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KCRD, Lubbock — 11, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KTRF, Dallas — 9, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KTPX, Midland — 9, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KJAC, Port Arthur — 4, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KENS, San Antonio — 5, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KLTV, Tyler — 7, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KFDX, Wichita Falls — 3, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

UTAH
KUTV, Salt Lake — 2, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

VERMONT
WVNY, Burlington — 22, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

VIRGINIA
WVIR, Charlottesville — 29, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
WVEC, Norfolk — 13, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
WXEX, Richmond — 8, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WSLS, Roanoke — 10, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

WASHINGTON
KNDU, Richland — 25, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KIRO, Seattle — 7, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KXLY, Spokane — 4, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KCPO, Tacoma — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KNDA, Yakima — 23, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

WEST VIRGINIA
WOWK, Huntington — 13, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

WISCONSIN
WQOW, Eau Claire — 18, 6:30 a.m., Sat.
WLWK, Green Bay — 11, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WKOW, La Crosse — 19, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WKOW, Madison — 27, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WITI, Milwaukee — 6, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WAED, Rhinelander — 12, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WAOW, Wausau — 9, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

WYOMING
KCWY, Casper — 14, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
KYCU, Cheyenne — 5, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KSGW, Sheridan — 12, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

CANADA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
CHBC, Dawson Creek — 5, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
CFJC, Kamloops — 4, 9:00 a.m., Sat.
CHBC, Okanagan — 2, 9:00 a.m., Sat.
CHFG, Prince George — 2, 8:00 a.m., Sat.
CFHK, Terrace-Klamath — 3, 8:00 a.m., Sat.
CHAN, Vancouver — 8, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
CHEK, Victoria — 12, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

ALBERTA
CFAC, Calgary — 2, 5:30 a.m., Wed.
CHAT, Medicine Hat — 6, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
CKRD, Red Deer — 6, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KXLY, Spokane — 4, 11 a.m., Sun.

SASKATCHEWAN
CKSA, Lloydminster — 2, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
CKTV, Regina — 12, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
CFQC, Saskatoon — 8, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
CJFB, Swift Current — 5, 10:30 a.m., Sat.
CKQS, Yorkton — 5, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

MANITOBA
CKX, Brandon — 5, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
CKND, Winnipeg — 9, 7:00 a.m., Sat.
ONTARIO
CKVR, Barrie — 3, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WGRZ, Buffalo — 2, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
CKNY, North Bay — 9, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
CJOH, Ottawa — 6, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
CJIC, Saint Ste. Marie — 13, 11:30 a.m., Sat.
GLOBAL, Southern Ontario — 8:30 a.m., Sat.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.

CKI, Sudbury — 5, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
CKPR, Thunder Bay — 2, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
CTTO, Timmins — 6, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

QUEBEC
CFCF, Montreal — 12, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

ATLANTIC CANADA
WVH, Bangor — 7, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
CJCH, Halifax, N.S. — 5, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
CKCW, Moncton, N.B. — 2, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
CHSJ, St. John, N.B. — 4, 12:00 noon, Sun.
CKLT, St. John, N.B. — 9, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
CAON, St. John's, Nfld. — 6, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
CJCB, Sydney, N.S. — 4, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

AUSTRALIA
A.C.T.
CTC7, Canberra — 7:30 a.m., every second Sun.

NEW SOUTH WALES
AMV4, Albany — 10:20 a.m., Sun.
WIN11, Boteman's Bay — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WIN6, Bega — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WIN3, Broken's Nose — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
CTC10, Cooma — 7:30 a.m., every second Sun.
CMV10, Deniliquin — 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WIN3, Eden — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
CTC10, Goulburn — 7:30 a.m., every second Sun.
GMV8, Jerilderie — 9:30 a.m., Sun.
AMV4, Koonswilla — 10:20 a.m., Sun.
NBN10, Merriwa — 6:25 a.m., Sun.
NBN1, Murrumbidgee — 6:25 a.m., Sun.
WIN11, Narooma — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
NBN3, Newcastle — 6:25 a.m., Sun.
NBN10, Rosedale — 6:25 a.m., Sun.
TEN10, Sydney — 6:30 a.m., Sun.
CTC10, Tuggerah — 7:30 a.m., every second Sun.

RVN2, Wagga Wagga — 10:20 a.m., Sun.
WIN4, Wollongong — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
RNV6, Young — 10:20 a.m., Sun.

NORTHERN TERRITORY
NTD8, Darwin — 10:00 a.m., Sun.

QUEENSLAND
QTQ9, Brisbane — 6:00 a.m., Wed.
SEQ1, Gympie — 11:30 a.m., Sun.
DDQ10, Kingaroy — 11:30 a.m., Sun.
SEQ8, Maitland — 11:30 a.m., Sun.
SEQ5, Monte — 11:30 a.m., Sun.
SEQ10, Nambour — 11:30 a.m., Sun.
DDQ5A, Tawonga — 11:30 a.m., Sun.
SDQ4, Warwick — 11:30 a.m., Sun.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
SAS10, Adelaide — 8:00 a.m., Sun.

TASMANIA
TNT10, Burnie — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TNT11, Derby — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TNT48, Devonport — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TVT6, Hobart — 10:00 a.m., Tues.
TNT9, Launceston — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TNT4, Lileah — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TVT8, Maydon — 10:00 a.m., Tues.
TNT11, Prospect — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TVT8, Queenstown — 10:00 a.m., Tues.
TVT8, Rosberry — 10:00 a.m., Tues.
TNT7, St. Helens — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TNT11, St. Marys — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TNT7, Savage River — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TNT11, Smithton — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TVT8, Strathgordon — 10:00 a.m., Tues.
TVT8, Swansea — 10:00 a.m., Tues.
TVT8, Taroom — 10:00 a.m., Tues.
TNT11, Waratah — 10:30 a.m., Tues.
TNT5A, Wyndham — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

VICTORIA
GMV10, Alexandra — 9:30 a.m., Sun.
BTV6, Ballarat — 8:00 a.m., Sun.
AMV11, Bright — 10:20 a.m., Sun.
GMV3, Eildon — 9:30 a.m., Sun.
ATV10, Melbourne — 6:00 a.m., Sun.
AMV9, Myrtleford — 10:20 a.m., Sun.
BTV7, Nhill — 8:00 a.m., Sun.
BTV11, Portland — 8:00 a.m., Sun.
GMV6, Shepparton — 9:30 a.m., Sun.
BTV9, Warrnambool — 8:00 a.m., Sun.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
GSW9, Albany — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
BTW3, Bunbury — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
VEW6, Katanning — 5:00 p.m., Sun.
VEW3, Kalamunda — 5:00 p.m., Sun.
BTW10, Katanning — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
VEW4, Merredin — 5:00 p.m., Sun.
BTW6, Narrogin — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
BTW6, Quairading — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
VEW6, Tainia — 5:00 p.m., Sun.
BTW11, Wagin — 8:30 a.m., Sun.
VEW47, York — 5:00 p.m., Sun.

PHILIPPINES
LUZON
Baguio — RPN Chan. 12, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Baysang — RPN Chan. 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Iriga — RPN Chan. 10, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Legazpi — GMA Chan. 12, 9:30 a.m., Sat. and Sun.
Legazpi — RPN Chan. 2, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Metro-Manila — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Metro-Manila — GMA Chan. 7, 8:30 a.m., Sat.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.
Palawan — RPN Chan. 5, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

MINDANAO
Butuan — RPN Chan. 12, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Cagayan de Oro — GMA Chan. 12, 9:30 a.m., Sat. and Sun.
Cagayan de Oro — RPN Chan. 5, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Cotabato — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Davao — GMA Chan. 7, 9:30 a.m., Sat. and Sun.
Davao — RPN Chan. 4, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Iligan — GMA Chan. 2, 9:30 a.m., Sat. and Sun.
Jolo — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Marbel — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Oroquieta — RPN Chan. 13, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Orman — RPN Chan. 13, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Pagadian — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Surigao — RPN Chan. 13, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Zamboanga — GMA Chan. 3, 8:30 a.m., Sat.; 8:00 a.m., Sun.
Zamboanga — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

VISAYAS
Antique — RPN Chan. 6, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Bacolod — RPN Chan. 8, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Bacolod — RPN Chan. 4, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Cebu — GMA Chan. 7, 8:30 a.m., Sat.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.
Cebu — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Digos — RPN Chan. 5, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
Tarlagon — RPN Chan. 5, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

CARIBBEAN
Bermuda, ZFR-TV (Eng) Hamilton — 8, 7:30 p.m., Wed.
Bahamas, ZNS-TV, Nassau — 13, 2:00 p.m., Sun.
Jamaica, JBC-TV, Kingston — 11, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
Virgin Is. (U.S.), WSVI, Christiansburg, St. Croix — Ch. 8, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

OTHER AREAS
Central America, TVTV, Belize — Ch. 7, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
Guam, KUAM, Agaña, 8, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
Luxembourg, RTL Radio/Television 11:05 p.m., Fri.
Monaco, TMC, Monte-Carlo — 10, 5:15 p.m., Sun.
Puerto Rico — San Juan Cable TV WGN, Chicago — 5, 8:30 a.m., Sat.; WOR, New York 9, 9:30 p.m., Sun.; WTBS, Atlanta, 13, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
See next issue for radio log.

NUCLEAR WAR

(Continued from page 6)

the Ten Commandments. As Jesus himself stated, "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17, RAV).

It's that simple. The Ten Commandments explain *why* humanity is in such an unsolvable mess.

But, some may say, what if I obey these commandments and the people living in the nation next to us don't? What's to stop them?

Simply, God makes promises in the Bible to those who obey. What kind of hope can a person who obeys God have?

Note these words! "Thus God, determining to show more abundantly . . . the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable [not changeable] things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation. . . . This hope we have as an anchor . . . both sure and steadfast. . . ." (Heb. 6:17-19, RAV).

Now what is one of God's many promises to those who obey? "You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

"A thousand may fall at your side, and

ten thousand at your right hand; but it [including nuclear war] shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked" (Ps. 91:5-8, RAV).

Why? "Because you have made the Lord . . . your habitation" (verse 9).

Even if there be nuclear war, even if humanity as a whole doesn't embrace the way, there remain promises for the children of the obedient. "There is hope in your future," says the Lord, "That your children shall come back to their own border," that is, their own homes, their own land (Jer. 31:17, RAV).

If you'd like to learn of *real*, exciting knowledge that reveals *your* personal ultimate potential and gives hope to today's fear-ridden children, write for our free booklets *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like and Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*. They're free to you and carry no future obligations (see inside cover for addresses).

You can chase the fear of nuclear extinction out of both your and your children's lives. But to do so, you must cease the practice of "psychic numbing" and begin to really discern the signs of the times. (Matt. 24:32-33). □



"I wish it wouldn't be this way . . . because it shouldn't. Men shouldn't be killing themselves."

Chris, age 12

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

physically large enough to be BORN as a human.

This new convert has now REPENTED, in his mind, from the depths of his heart. HE MEANS IT, too! In all sincerity, in his mind and heart he has turned around to go the other way—to live a different life. He is now a CHRISTIAN—he has received God's Holy Spirit. He really *wants* to do what is right—to obey God—to live GOD'S WAY.

YET HE FINDS HE DOES NOT DO THIS PERFECTLY! Many, at this stage, become discouraged. Some give up even trying to live a Christian life. And WHY? Because of the false notion that a Christian is one who becomes PERFECT at one fell swoop—or that one cannot become a Christian until he has broken all wrong habits, and made himself righteous.

It's vital to UNDERSTAND how true Christianity REALLY WORKS!

The newly begotten Christian must grow up, spiritually. What would you think of a human baby,

who became 6 feet tall all at once, without growing up? The growing up process requires TIME. There is an instant when a person receives the impregnating Holy Spirit of God—when he first becomes a Christian. But he is only a spiritual infant. He must grow up spiritually.

The newly converted person, in his mind and heart, sincerely has ABOUT-FACED! He has actually gained control with GOD and received God's Holy Spirit. God's own divine NATURE has now been conceived within him. BUT THAT'S ALL. It is merely conceived—not yet full grown! And his HUMAN NATURE is still there. It has not been killed or removed!

GOD'S PURPOSE in having created humanity—in having caused YOU to be born—is to reproduce himself. And God, above all things, is PERFECT, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER! God is able to create character within us—but it must be done as a result of our independent free choice. We, as individual separate entities, have our part in the process.

What is perfect character? It is

the ability, in a separate entity, to come to the KNOWLEDGE of the right from the wrong—the true from the false—and to CHOOSE the right, and possess the WILL to enforce self-discipline to DO the right and resist the wrong.

GOD'S CHARACTER travels in the direction of his law—the way of LOVE. It is an outgoing CONCERN for others. GOD has that character! He has an outgoing concern for you and for me. He gave his only begotten Son to reconcile us to him, and make the joys of his character and everlasting life possible for us. He showers on us every good and precious gift. He even puts within us his DIVINE NATURE—when we repent and turn from the WRONG way of THIS WORLD, begin to resist it and turn to him through faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior!

GOD's divine nature is the nature of love—of giving, serving, helping—of outgoing concern. It is the nature of humility.

Now when one is converted—has repented, and turned from Satan's and this world's false way and has

at once received God's Holy Spirit—his HUMAN nature, as I said before, does not flee. It, too, remains. It still exerts a pull. We still live in THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD, and it exerts a pull. God still allows Satan to be around—and HE exerts a pull.

So we now have THREE PULLS to RESIST—to OVERCOME! We must now overcome these three—Satan, this world and our own SELVES. We have to battle against these three, in order to develop and strengthen RIGHT CHARACTER within us. God says plainly it is THE OVERCOMERS who shall be saved—who shall REIGN with Christ!

No human being is strong enough to do this BY HIMSELF! He must seek, and IN FAITH receive, the help and power of GOD. Even with God's power he will not overcome such forces easily, or all at once. IT IS NOT EASY! Christ plainly said the way to ultimate salvation is hard, difficult. It's a constant BATTLE—a struggle against self, the world and the devil. The creation of CHARACTER comes through EXPERIENCE—it takes TIME!

THIS development is a PROCESS. It is a matter of GROWTH—DEVELOPMENT. It requires, to become PERFECT, full and right KNOWLEDGE of the very Word of God—because Jesus taught that we must live by EVERY WORD OF GOD.

The natural, unconverted mind cannot fully and rightly UNDERSTAND the Scriptures of God. The acquisition of this KNOWLEDGE, in itself, is a procedure requiring TIME. It is the DOERS of this Word, the hearers only, who shall be saved.

But can any man do, immediately and all at once, this new WAY he now learns about? Can any man, all at once, break all HABITS he now sees are wrong? No, he finds he has a FIGHT against acquired former habits.

He still has this PULL of human nature to overcome. This nature is A LAW working within him. The apostle Paul calls it the law of sin and death.

Paul was converted. Paul was a real Christian. He had repented, accepted Christ and received the Holy Spirit. With his MIND, he wanted with all his heart, and in real intense sincerity, to DO God's WAY! But did Paul do it perfectly?

Let him tell. LISTEN!

"For we know that the law is spiritual," he wrote, "but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. . . . Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." He is speaking of human nature within him. He continues, ". . . for to WILL is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. . . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom. 7:14-15, 18-19, 24.) Then he thanks God that GOD WILL—through Jesus Christ, and by the power of his HOLY SPIRIT. BUT IT TAKES TIME!

The truly converted Christian will find that he often stumbles, under temptation, and falls down—even as a physical child, learning to walk, often falls down. But the year-old child does not get discouraged and give up. He gets up and starts out again.

THE TRULY CONVERTED CHRISTIAN IS NOT YET PERFECT!

God LOOKS ON THE HEART—the inner MOTIVE—the real intent! If someone is trying—if he or she gets up whenever he or she falls down, and in repentance asks God's forgiveness, and sets out to do the very best NOT TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN—and to persevere with renewed effort to OVERCOME, God is rich in mercy toward that person, in his or her striving to overcome.

Speaking to CONVERTED CHRISTIANS, John writes, ". . . These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin . . ." (even though he ought not) ". . . we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for OUR sins . . ." (1 John 2:1-2). Yes, for the SINS of converted CHRISTIANS. Such people often are under heavier temptation than before conversion. They are STRIVING against sin—STRIVING to overcome. But they are not yet perfect. Sometimes they are caught off guard. They may actually sin. Then they WAKE UP, as it were, and realize what they have done. They REPENT. They are filled

with remorse—truly sorry—disgusted with themselves. They go to God, and CRY OUT for HELP—for more power and strength from God to OVERCOME!

This is the WAY of the Christian!

It is the way of a constant BATTLE—a striving against SIN—a seeking God in earnest prayer for help and spiritual POWER to overcome. They are constantly GAINING GROUND. They are constantly GROWING in God's KNOWLEDGE, from the BIBLE. They are constantly rooting out wrong habits, driving themselves into RIGHT habits. They are constantly growing closer to God through Bible study and prayer. They are constantly growing in CHARACTER, toward perfection, even though not yet perfect.

With Paul, they say, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I FOLLOW AFTER. . . . Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, FORGETTING those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS!" (Phil. 3:12-14.)

But, someone may ask, what if one's life is cut off, and he dies before he has attained this perfection? Is he saved, or lost? The answer is that we shall never obtain absolute perfection in this life.

I said, earlier, that a person who is converted does receive the Holy Spirit at a definite time—all at once! Not the full measure Christ had—he is not at once full grown spiritually—only a spiritual babe in Christ. Yet he is then a changed, converted man—changed in mind, in attitude, in the direction he has set himself to strive to travel. Even though he has not yet reached perfection—even though he may have stumbled under temptation and taken a spiritual fall—as long as, in his mind and heart, he is earnestly striving to travel GOD'S WAY, to overcome and grow spiritually—as long as God's Spirit is in him—as long as he is being led by the Spirit of God, he is a begotten SON of God.

If, anywhere along this life's journey, that life is cut short, such a man will be resurrected. It is only

the foolish one who deliberately QUILTS and GIVES UP—who REJECTS God, and God's way, and rejects Christ as his Savior—who turns FROM this direction of GOD'S WAY in his mind and heart—in his inner INTENT—who deliberately and intentionally in his mind TURNS FROM Christ, who is lost. If, once having been converted, having received God's Spirit, and TASTED of the joys of GOD'S WAY, one deliberately rejects that way, makes the DECISION, not under stress of tempta-

tion, but deliberately, and finally, NOT to go God's way, then God says it is IMPOSSIBLE to renew such a one to repentance. He would have to REPENT of that decision. But if he WILLFULLY made it, not in a time of temptation, but calmly, deliberately, willfully, then he just WILL NOT ever repent of it.

But anyone who FEARS he may have committed the "unpardonable sin"—is perhaps worried about it and HOPES he has not committed it and still WANTS to have God's sal-

vation—no such has committed it. Such a person MAY repent and go right on to salvation IF HE WANTS TO!

If YOU have stumbled and fallen down, **DON'T BE DISCOURAGED!** Get up and press on ahead!

If you see a Christian do something wrong, **DON'T SIT IN JUDGMENT AND CONDEMN**—that's God's business to judge, not yours! Let's have compassion and mercy—we don't know the inner heart of others—only GOD does! □

Read the Bible

(Continued from page 17)

blue ink tend to soak through the papers. A set of colored pencils can aid in underlining and marking words and passages of interest. Some people develop their own special marking system using colors to signify different subjects. The main point is to develop a plan that will help you read, remember and understand the Bible. Do whatever is necessary to help you.

The physical surface of the pages of the Bible is not holy or sacred. The living Word of God is. So use what will help you in your study of God's Word. A well read and well marked Bible is invaluable.

Useful Study Aids

Another way to read and study the Bible is by subject. Perhaps you would like to study about specific subjects such as you read of in the advertisements in the pages of *The Plain Truth*. This is where study aids come into play.

First in importance is a concordance. A concordance is a book that lists most of the words in the Bible and tells where they are used. Let's say you want to look up the word *understanding*. In the concordance you would look up the word just as you would in a dictionary. There will be a list showing every time the word *understanding* is used in the Bible. You can look up each scriptural reference if you want—or select a few to read. When you do look up *understanding*, pay attention to what is revealed in what you read. You will be surprised at what the Bible says is the basis of a good understanding.

Once you have mastered the con-

cordance, you might want to purchase a one-volume Bible dictionary. In such a reference work you will find a short explanation of historical events and background information on personalities of the Bible. For example you might like to read about Jezebel, the infamous wife of King Ahab of ancient Israel. In a Bible dictionary you could read a short sketch about her colorful life.

If you want more detailed information, there are encyclopedias available at public and other libraries where you can go for certain detailed study. In fact, it's not a bad idea as you study at a library to spend a little time and read up on subjects such as "Christmas," "Easter" and "Halloween."

A question many people ask about Bible reading and study is, "Do I need to understand Greek and Hebrew to understand the Bible?" The answer is no. The Bible has been translated into more than 1,400 modern languages and dialects. While there are a few places in which translation problems exist, they are most often corrected by checking a different translation of the Bible or a commentary, dictionary or encyclopedia. As you become more and more familiar with the various study aids, you will see which ones will help you most.

Modern Translations Help

Another important aid is a modern translation of the Bible. In the English-speaking world, the traditional Bible has been the King James edition of 1611. But a more modern language translation can be helpful. And there are many available. Again, a public library is a good place to start to see which ones you enjoy most. I have found three

modern English-language editions suitable for basic reading Bibles—the Revised Standard Version (RSV), the New International Version (NIV) and the Revised Authorized Version (RAV), which is called in the United States the New King James Version. There are other translations also that you might find to your liking.

The Bible is a book that tells you not to accept what you hear preached just because you heard a preacher preach it. God says through the apostle Paul, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21). And Paul told Timothy, "Study [give diligence] to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Follow the examples of the Bereans in ancient Greece who "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

There is nothing more rewarding than reading and studying God's revealed Word. All the adventure and intrigue of history, the instruction of how to live your daily life, all the news of prophecies to come are found in the Bible. It's a thriller such that when you start to read with understanding you will not be able to put down.

Why not get started on a Bible reading program right away? To help you understand the Bible as you read it, write in for the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. It's a helpful Bible study program to guide you in a systematic study of the Bible. It will take you through history, prophecy and how to live a Christian life. It's free of charge, too. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. □

Western Unity

(Continued from page 3)

protect them are in danger of being "frozen" into disuse because of the mushrooming nuclear freeze movement in the United States. Particularly alarming to Europeans is the virtual pro-freeze position taken by America's liberal Roman Catholic bishops. West German and French bishops, interestingly enough, have publicly stated their opposition to the thrust of the position taken by their counterparts in America.

Central American Turmoil

Western Europeans are worried, too, that the United States is becoming mired in a "new Vietnam" in Central America. Mr. Reagan confirmed their fears during the summit when he removed two key officials from his Central American policy structure, replacing them with individuals considered to be more hard line.

According to Mr. Moodie, Central America, along with perhaps the nuclear freeze question, promises to be the most critical foreign policy issue of the 1984 U.S. presidential campaign. "Over the next 18 months," he said, "Central America has the potential to rip us apart again."

Logically, said fellow CSIS member William Perry, the United States should seriously consider

sending its own troops in. It would take probably no more than 25,000 to do the job, to eliminate the small number of guerrillas in El Salvador. However, in the wake of Vietnam, U.S. public opinion simply will not permit such action at this time. "The real battleground is this country," Dr. Perry said.

There is a definite domino effect possible in Central America, noted Dr. Perry, but it doesn't necessarily include Mexico. Mexico would certainly become more vulnerable should every country below it succumb to Marxist revolution. But he felt that "to go after Mexico," as he put it, would require a deliberate and unlikely decision on the part of Moscow and Havana.

"Feet People" Coming North

One wonders whether North Americans have any inkling of the likely consequences of political turmoil in the unstable region immediately to their south.

The fall of South Vietnam led to a few hundred thousand boat people coming to America's shores. Since trouble has erupted in Central America about a million "feet people" have traveled north from Nicaragua and El Salvador. Already one tenth of El Salvador's population—roughly 500,000—is in the United States.

Millions upon millions more feet people are destined for the refugee

trail—tens of millions if Mexico were involved—if U.S. policy in the region collapses. The strains upon U.S. society would be severe.

The European Tie-in

The controversy over Central America, Mr. Moodie added, "feeds into European relations"—and from two opposite angles.

Many younger generation Europeans, feeling more sympathy for leftist causes, believe that the U.S. approach to the spreading crisis in Central America is dead wrong. This adds to the impression the majority of young Europeans have about America; namely, that the United States represents a greater threat to world peace than does the Soviet Union.

Conservative Europeans, on the other hand, wonder whether the United States any longer has the will to stand up to a threat from Moscow, this time right in America's "front yard." If America can't defend its own interests close to home, reason these Europeans, how can the United States be depended upon to continue to defend Western Europe thousands of miles across the Atlantic?

Mr. Moodie recounted a conference in Washington, D.C., dealing with the future of the Atlantic Alliance, at which some European delegates argued very strongly for



an independent nuclear capability for Western Europe!

Mr. Moodie's remarks brought to mind a letter I received not long ago from an acquaintance in Bonn, West Germany, Eric Sontag.

Mr. Sontag is an expert on East-West relations, and especially Eastern propagandist influences on West Germany's youths. He is a great friend of the United States but is greatly disturbed over developments at high levels in the country.

In his letter, Mr. Sontag enclosed a copy of a telegram he sent to the U.S. House of Representatives. His telegram read: "IF YOU CANNOT BOX YOUR WAY OUT OF PAPERBAG NICARAGUA AND YOUR BISHOPS FREEZE NUKES, WEST GERMANS BETTER GET THEIR OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. . . ."

Mr. Sontag appended his copy to me with the additional words: "May sound crazy, but reflects changing attitude of even conservatives here."

Atlantic Rift Coming

The lack of confidence in American leadership must ultimately lead to a parting of the ways between the United States and Western Europe.

This development might be welcomed by some, especially those active in the antinuclear weapons movements. But the truth is, the prospects of a more unified Europe detached from the United States will

lead to a proliferation of nuclear weapons, rather than a reduction. Michael Mandelbaum observed in the May 25 *New York Times*:

"Severing the United States connection might well mean more European weapons, not fewer. It would probably mean that nuclear weapons would be more widely distributed than they are at present. Without American nuclear protection, the countries of Western Europe that do not now have such weapons—notably the Federal Republic of Germany—would have strong incentives to get them."

"Once the Western Europeans got the bomb," Mr. Mandelbaum continued, "others—the Japanese, for instance—might decide to follow suit. . . . The world might become much more dangerous, chaotic and bloody than it has been since 1945. As the debate about nuclear weapons in Europe proceeds, the chance that such a change might make the world a radically worse place to live is something that we and the Western Europeans—and the Russians—ought to bear in mind."

The Key—Germany

The one nation most concerned about the upset in the nearly four-decade-long balance of power in Europe is West Germany. The Federal Republic, up till now, has been content to rely upon the

United States for its security. But Germans, observes Luigi Barzini in his latest book, *The Europeans*, are capable of great swings in national temperament. His chapter dealing with German national character is entitled "The Mutable Germans."

Mr. Barzini concludes his book by stating: "The future . . . will probably be decided, once again, by Germany's decisions. And Germany is, as it always was, a mutable, Proteuslike, unpredictable country, particularly dangerous when it is unhappy."

Interestingly enough, the title of Mr. Barzini's book in the German language is translated as *The Future of Europe Is in the Hands of Germany*.

Thus, behind the facade of Western unity evident at the Williamsburg summit lies the prospect of tumultuous political change ahead in U.S.-European relations. □

President Reagan, as host at this year's industrial nations conference, delivered the concluding joint declaration, center photo. Some sessions, photo right, included top aides such as foreign and finance ministers. In photo left, Mr. Reagan is joined, clockwise, by leaders of Canada, the Common Market (President Gaston Thorn), West Germany, France, Japan, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Summit of Nations



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Japan's Uncertain Future

With keen interest, I have finished reading "Japan: Asia's Economic Superpower Faces Uncertain Future," March issue of *The Plain Truth*. Astute and prudent Japanese businessmen feel that we still have much more that we should learn from the U.S. technologically. Computer and controls system technology, aviation and offshore oil are still ahead for Japan. Sorry I can't use a typewriter, as I am physically handicapped.

Timothy Hashizume
Urawa, Saitama

The article on Japanese Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan with his photo on the cover of the March issue is very captivating.

Ed Kuruha
Hilo, Hawaii

Rewarded According to Works

I was really impressed with the recent article entitled "Rewarded According to Your Works." To be frank, I have read and re-read it with increasing interest. It is shocking to learn how people, when harassed by everyday worries, forget the presence of the Almighty God and seek refuge in drinking alcohol and smoking. They forget that they will be rewarded according to their works!

Victor Neube
Mkoba Township,
Gweru, Zimbabwe

Cameroon

Thank you so much for your April article "Cameroon—Not Just Another Country." My 20-year-old daughter is traveling now in Central Africa for one year. She was in Cameroon recently for 15 days. In her letter she says that country is a safe and friendly country to be in. I did not know much about it. Why

don't other countries follow Cameroon's example? Most of them expect handouts from richer and established countries, then fritter funds away on unneeded projects. Pure extravaganza. Your article was so informative. I am keeping this particular issue for my daughter to read when she comes home again.

Nina Kivi
Don Mills, Ontario

Jerusalem

How can Mr. [Ronald] Kelly say that every stone was thrown down (in reference to Matthew 24) during the time of Titus? The Wailing Wall is part of the temple and there are stones still on top of one another.

Gennie B.
Fort Worth, Texas

• The wall is part of the mount on which the temple was built. It is not part of the temple structure.

Avoiding Financial Pitfalls

Dan C. Taylor's article, "Help Your Child Avoid Financial Pitfalls," should be required reading for young parents.

Young children can grow up with a consciousness of the value of money, how far it will go and how to budget their allowance. If this is presented to them step by step from early age through the teens they will grow into adults knowing how to handle money and not always be wondering how it can disappear so fast.

Harriet Lee
Turlock, California

An Agnostic Comments

Your magazine is wonderful! I'm an agnostic but your articles impress me highly. I'm enclosing a small contribution. Sorry that it isn't larger.

John B. Pudas
Chassell, Michigan

Suicide

I have just read your article "Suicide: Its Causes and Cure" and one point disturbs me. The use of a handgun in your illustration seems to me irresponsible since it makes the assumption that firearms are a common item in the average household and their use in suicide attempts is to be expected rather than abhorred. Indeed the death toll by suicide among men may well be lowered if firearms were not so readily available.

I am sure that a publication which can present such a good article condemning terrorism cannot condone the free availability and use of firearms, and the social acceptance of this, in most parts of this country today.

R. Brittain
Ithaca, New York

• We don't condone this use of firearms. The photo is meant to highlight the tragic misuse of handguns in suicides.

Family Togetherness

The article "Build Strong Family Ties" brought back many memories. How true, if only families did some of the things we did many years ago. It certainly does help for togetherness and holding families together strongly. I can remember the reunions on an uncle's farm, cousins, aunts, uncles, having a big dinner, all playing together. It was great.

Mildred I. LeVan
Hummelstown, Pennsylvania

I am the official court interpreter for the three counties in our Judicial District and *The Plain Truth* serves as an inspiration for me. I daily come in contact with delinquent juveniles, criminals who are on trial for one crime

or another, people fighting for land, for other material things. The inspiration, knowledge and insight that I derive from your magazine and from listening to WOAI, which comes into New Mexico from San Antonio, Texas, is something which is precious to me.

Maria A. Padilla
Las Vegas, New Mexico

Feeding the Hungry

Although I do not agree with all your articles in *The Plain Truth*, I think it is a remarkable publication. The April issue is especially worthy in regard to making people self-sufficient through better agriculture. Don't send food (most goes to the black market); send plows and seed, and teach modern methods of raising food crops.

Guy M. Everett, M.D.
San Francisco, California

New Subscriber

I used to be lonely. Well, no more. Ever since I asked for a subscription to *The Plain Truth*, a whole new world exploded in full view before my eyes. Each day I feel like I am improving and changing for the better.

Dirck V. Daesch
Freeburg, Illinois

Educational Television

I am assistant producer of a television series entitled "The Arms Race," which will air over the educational Detroit College Cable Channel. We have organized several study groups which will meet each week to view the program and discuss pertinent topics on the nuclear weapons issue. Additionally, the study groups will analyze assigned readings. Here is where *The Plain Truth* fits into our plans. We would like to use the article "World Hunger vs. Arms Buildup" in conjunction with

a segment on economic aspects of the arms race.

Michael Small
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan

Fresh Look at Czechoslovakia

I always enjoy reading *The Plain Truth* but I found the information in the article about Czechoslovakia (May 1983) inconsistent and inaccurate.

If there were a "free" election in Czechoslovakia, I doubt that many would vote for a communist government, including the man who asked your reporter to "write something positive about Czechoslovakia."

Joseph J. Paulauski
Matsudo-shi, Chiba-ken

I do not understand why there was no mention of what happened in 1948, and more importantly, 1968 with Alexander Dubcek. It is not a carbon copy of what has gone on in Poland recently—but the occupation of Czechoslovakia, which filled the press in the West for months and months, didn't even get a nod from you.

Rudd Zedrik
Saco, Maine

In general I have found your information correct. Your recent "Fresh Look at Czechoslovakia" unfortunately does not meet these standards. All you report is correct—but you have not mentioned the role of the Germans at all!!! For a country with this history, including the kick-out of 3.5 millions of Germans within few weeks (death rate, immediately, 15 percent!). This is a serious mistake which must not happen at all!

Dr. W. Steffanides
Vienna

What is entirely absent from [John] Halford's article is a reference to the atrocities committed by nationalist and communist Czechs in 1945 and after. He does not even mention the fact that three million German-speaking Bohemians and Moravians (so-called Sudeten Germans) were forcefully and mercilessly expelled after the war. This

expulsion of the Germans was not the spontaneous reaction of the Czech nation to the occupation by the Nazis of Bohemia and Moravia from 1939 to 1945. What is so surprising and shocking is that the plan for the expulsion was carefully and coldheartedly prepared by Czech politicians in exile, namely the same Dr. Benes who was first premier of the young Czechoslovak Republic.

K. Knechtel
Ottawa, Ontario

"We received many letters similar to these: While appreciating the interest shown, The Plain Truth asks readers to remember that the understanding is not increased, nor the truth best served by rubbing salt in old wounds—nor needlessly exposing new ones. We neither condemn nor condone the present or past regimes that have ruled the land that is now called Czechoslovakia."

The Plain Truth does not take political sides. We are not oblivious to the centuries of suffering—nor the catalog of aggression and revenge that has been the hallmark of European history. The problems of Czechoslovakia—or any other nation—can never be resolved by the harboring of old grievances or the fostering of new ones. But mankind will not learn this lesson—that is why all nations need the government and kingdom of God, which we announce."

Weather

Can't say I always agree with you, but your timing is the ultimate—especially when you come out with articles on the destructive weather in times like this! Wow. Everybody's all ears.

R. Davids
Vista, California

How Financed

I first saw your magazine at a local doughnut shop in Columbus, Ohio. The title caught my eye and I picked the issue up. I read it and was very impressed. Since then, I have become a loyal subscriber and am still impressed with

the magazine. The articles are very informative and present the right amount of correlation between the Bible and the daily news. Also, I have noted that there have not been any requests for monetary support from the readers, unlike many so-called ministers of God. Therefore, I am enclosing a spiritually inspired donation to help with the costs of publishing this fine magazine.

Kent Taylor
Columbus, Ohio

Please accept this check along with my thanks for the many copies of *The Plain Truth* which I have received over the past several years.

The article on fitting in the March 1983 issue convinced me to do what I have wanted to for some time. I am committing 10 percent of my business income towards this program. Keep up the good work.

Howard Austin
KalisPELL, Montana

Change Others?

What a fabulous article! Thank you ever so much for relieving what has become a worrisome burden to me and turning what once was a negative into a positive.

I am referring to your article "Should You Try to Change Others?" in the February 1983 issue. You have just given me the authoritative answer I needed by showing how we can successfully sidestep head-on collisions with people over religion.

M. France
Calgary, Alberta

I am a casual reader of your magazine *The Plain Truth* and enjoy the few articles I take time to read. This letter is a response to an article entitled "Should You Try to Change Others?"

I enjoyed the article very much for it was like a startling slap across my face. After reading the article I sat back for a moment and pondered all that I had just read. I came to the conclusion that I am and have been a faithful follower of this

destructive, bad habit. I realize that I do neglect others' views, antagonize beyond a reasonable border, and persuade others constantly to adopt my opinions, ideas and life-style. I also realize that I have had several misfortunes due to my ignorance in practising this bad habit.

Now that you have provided the spark, I will follow through in breaking this long-life habit of mine. Your article "You Can Break That Bad Habit" featured in the same issue will be a great help.

Roger Bouthillier Jr.
Huntingdon, Quebec

So many so-called converts condemn others in an attempt to "change" them! They behave exactly like that woman in the article who had more zeal than wisdom. Such "converts" often forget the Bible's admonition: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS," rather than hear your "good" arguments.

Tony O. Durotolu
Offa, Kwara State, Nigeria

Far Corners

Since I have been a *Plain Truth* subscriber, I have often wondered if your organization had representatives in local areas with whom I could personally speak. I was most happy to learn that you do have people stationed in many areas around the world.

Although I have learned much from your literature, there are some spiritual matters I wish to discuss.

Charles W. Drake Jr.
Toledo, Ohio

I found "The War to End All War" very informative. It really amazed me to read about the end of the age. If all this information that I never even knew about has been in the Bible all the time, then surely I should enroll in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. There are many, many things I have missed while reading the Bible.

K. Gey van Pittius
Margate, R.S.A.

WHY WERE YOU BORN?

What is your destiny? Why are you here?

What does the answer to the question "Why were you born?" have to do with mankind's future survival? Is human existence a freak accident in a meaningless universe, or does your life have a solid, identifiable purpose?

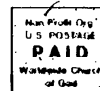
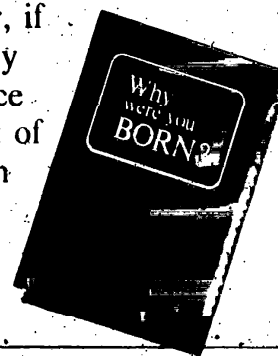
The answer is incredibly positive: Mankind was created—yes, created—to fulfill a great goal—to rule the universe on the very God-plane!



Impossible? Our free booklet *Why Were You Born?* reveals the truth about this much-misunderstood subject, with startling and irrefutable proof.

You may have a copy of this

important booklet by simply mailing the literature request card inside this issue or, if there is no card, by writing to our office nearest you. A list of our addresses is on the inside front cover.



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