

The MESSENGER

of TRUTH

"YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND



THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

WHO is to blame for the Hard Times?

WE LIVE today in the most strenuous, anxious, momentous, hours of history.

Today we stand on the threshold of colossal events that will stagger the mind of mortal man.

World statesmen work feverishly to insure Peace, while the nations prepare even more feverishly for War. Unheard of phenomena in nature leave gigantic wreckage in their wake—whole cities wiped out by savage tornadoes—terrific earthquakes such as the world never knew before—millions homeless and thousands drowned in the great Yangtse flood in China. Governments being overthrown and many others tottering! Never has the world known such unrest as now.

Everyone is Affected

But the economic condition—the hard times—is the situation which strikes most closely home to most of us. Millions and millions out of work! More millions working only part time and not altogether certain of that! Still more millions suffering repeated salary and wage cuts! Is there anybody not affected? The average man is just perplexed—bewildered. He wonders what it is all about. He knows he has been hit and hit hard. He knows

Many blame President Hoover. Everywhere men are perplexed, fearful, uneasy. What is the true cause? When will this depression end? God Almighty tells us through Bible prophecy. Will we listen?

things are not right. He sees gross injustices and on what meager knowledge of real facts he possesses, reasons out his particular idea of the causes—and the remedy.

One says President Hoover is to blame. When Hoover leaves the White House and the right man takes the helm at Washington, everything will be all right.

Another says it is the money barons. The rich man has it in for the poor man and is gradually driving him into starvation.

Still another says it is our credit system based upon usury or interest.

Each man appears to know all about it and each has his own pet solution. Get a new president, or give us socialism, or do away with interest or what have you. Yet, when the truth is known, *not one of*

these pet theories ever will, or even could solve our great distress.

What is the Truth? God Almighty says His very Word is Truth, and in it He has given us record, faithful and true, of the foundation of the world, its course of history down through the stream of time, and a true and accurate prophecy of the future. In the Bible are prophecies clearly describing the difficulties of this very hour—revealing to us, direct from

the Mind of God, the causes, which few men even suspect and still more important, plainly outlining for us the one and only solution!

Will we pause for a few moment from our reasonings and prejudices and theories and listen to the counsel of the Most High?

God Foretold These Times!

What is the outstanding condition which marks this time of stress and depression from any previous time? By what signs may we clearly identify this present trouble from any time in the past? How, in other words, may we be sure that any certain Bible prophecies refer to this present specific trouble, and not to some times of the past, or yet future? Certain factors distinguish the present di-

tress from any in the past. They are:

First—the fact that wealth is centered in the hands of a few, and yet that there are more rich men than ever before. A few years ago a millionaire was such a man as to be regarded with awe. Since the world war millionaires have sprung up like mushrooms—one is hardly considered really rich today unless he is a billionaire. At no time in the past has the world known so many really rich men.

Second—the unprecedented wave of unemployment. Partly because the very rich have defrauded the poor, so they could live in wanton luxury and pleasure; partly due to the present system of economic distribution, high-powered advertising and salesmanship and commercialism; partly due to a top-heavy industrial expansion; partly due to other causes; more men are out of employment today than ever before in world history! The great unemployment, then, is a characteristic which distinguishes this particular time.

Third—it is a perilous time in every other sense of the word. Lawlessness and crime, mankind pleasure-mad, forgetting God in the restless whirl of pleasures, war-clouds hovering threateningly over the European and Asiatic skies, children disobedient to parents as never before, a general falling away from God, preachers not preach the truth, a time of general all around trouble and distress. No past time ever fulfilled all these specifications.

Prophecies Which Fit No Other Times

So if we can find these particular conditions foretold in the Bible, we may be certain it refers to the very hour of the present, and not to some other time.

Listen! "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together FOR THE LAST DAYS." (James 5:1-3).

About nineteen hundred years ago, the Almighty Creator through James wrote that in these *last days* there would be rich men, who have heaped treasure or wealth together. Never have there been so many wealthy men. Never have men been so tremendously wealthy. Truly, this is the sign of our very day and time, accurately describing one outstanding characteristic of it which distinguishes it from all past times, and God's word here tells us these are the *last days*.

Let us continue: "Behold, the hire of laborers who reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth; and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the

Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." (Verses 4-6).

Is not that an accurate description of our millionaire capitalists and industrial magnates, how they have lived, and what they have done?

God Foretells Unemployment

Let us turn quickly now to Zechariah the 8th chapter and in the 7th, 8th and 9th verses we read that the prophecy is describing that yet-future time when the Lord will take His people back to Jerusalem, and they shall be His people and He will be their God. Then, beginning with the 10th verse, we read: "For before these days" (there is every sign that we are just before these days), "there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction: for I set all men every one against his neighbor."

So, clearly, the God of heaven knew and declared to us more than two thousand years ago through His prophet Zechariah that in these anxious days just shortly before the re-establishment of His reign over His people at Jerusalem, there would be general and widespread unemployment. Never before has there been such general and world-wide unemployment. It affects every country upon earth.

In these same identical *last days*, perilous times will be accompanied by self-love and desire for self-gain, pride, profanity and loose speech, disobedience to parents, men being unreliable whose word cannot be trusted and who break their contracts and agreements, and such a love of pleasure that people forget God, according to Timothy: "This know also, that in the *last days* perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." (II Tim. 3:1-5).

Such times never before have existed. They exist today. We are, therefore, in the *last days*.

These Scoffers Are Here

And again, "there shall come in the *last days* scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming?" (II Pet. 3:3-4). Do we have scoffers against real true Christianity today? Scoffers who, when one mentions that Jesus is soon coming to earth again, reply sneeringly, "Aw, where do you get that? Why they were saying the earth was coming to an end in my grandfather's day and it hasn't happened yet." Thus do

such people confirm the word of God and prove the true accuracy of the very word they deny.

These are the identical days when we find "upon earth distress of nations, with perplexity;"—yes, bloody revolutions in China, rebellion in India, governments overthrown in Russia, Germany, Italy—central European nations smashed into fragments—every government in South America overthrown in the year 1930—Spain overthrown this year, and the Communists seriously threatening to overthrow Great Britain, Germany and others—truly distress of nations, with perplexity—"the sea and waves roaring"—gigantic tidal waves, unheard-of storms and cyclones at sea and on sea-shores,— "men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth:"—yes, this is surely foretelling our very day and hour, so let us see what shall happen next—"for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass"—let us heed, for they have begun to come to pass—"then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:25-28).

And there are numerous other scriptures which foretell these very times. But, foretelling them, does God explain to us the real CAUSE—does He tell us WHO IS TO BLAME?

Who Is to Blame?

"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteneth greatly . . . that day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness . . . and I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord. (Ze- phaniah 1:14-17).

There is the real cause. BECAUSE MEN HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD. Because man has forgotten God, and has become sufficient unto himself. Because he has come to think he can get along without God and has advanced beyond His need. Because in his pride and ambition for self-gain and power, he has built up an unstable top-heavy economic commercial and industrial structure in this day of machines and modern invention—a structure of finance, commerce and industry so intricately complex that it has gotten completely beyond the limitation of mortal minds to understand or control.

Is President Hoover to blame? Herbert Hoover is as anxious and perplexed as any man on earth today. This is a universal, world wide time of trouble, and if we read God's prophecies aright, we are (Continued on Page 8)

WAR Clouds gathering for Armageddon!

WHEN asked by the Disciples, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Jesus answered, "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars . . . For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." Matt. 24:6, 7. "And upon the Earth distress of nations, with perplexity . . . Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things that are coming on the Earth . . . And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Luke 21:25-27.

Every intelligent person knows enough about the history of nations since Christ spoke these words, to be convinced that this prophecy has been plentifully fulfilled. The pages of history are peppered with wars and rumors of wars, but never until the late world war has there been such a general uprising as to fulfill this specification, "Nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom." When in 1914 Germany began flinging her ultimatums in every direction, the nations of the world became angry. This is just what the Prophet John said they would do. "And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints." Rev. 11:18.

The above text tells us that when the time comes that nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and when the nations are angry, then we are to know that the time has come for God's wrath to be poured out upon the wicked nations, and for the saints of God to be rewarded. Verse 15 says that "There were great voices in Heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ: and He shall reign forever and ever." All the true saints of Christ who are living now will praise God that the time has about come for this reign of sin and corruption to end, and the glorious reign of Christ and the saints to be ushered in.

But let no one imagine that because the coming of the Lord is very near that there will be no more wars. War clouds are gathering at this very time for the greatest war that the world has ever known, the Battle at Armageddon, when all the nations of the world go up and invade Palestine and the Lord goes forth to fight against them. At this very time there are

Is another war coming soon? Leading observers and foreign correspondents, in largest magazines, say it is. No read what God says about it . . . Here is a special message from the Creator for this very day and time.

evil spirits of jealousy, envy, and hatred who are moving upon all nations of earth and leading them feverishly to make such colossal preparations for war that the effort is draining the treasuries of the world. The money spent in preparing for the late world war is but a drop in the bucket to what they are spending now.

Shall we now listen to the Apostle John prophesy unto us regarding the work of these unclean war spirits? "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs . . . for they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the Earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." Rev. 16:13, 14, 16.

Where Is Armageddon?

Since God's Word states that these spirits gather all the nations of the world, we know that this Armageddon battle will involve all the civilized world, as well as all heathen nations. This word "Armageddon" is a coined word, derived from the proper name "Gideon," and "Hills of Megeddo," which hills overlooked the plain of Esdraelon or valley of Jezreel in North Palestine, where Gideon led the armies of Israel in the overthrow of the Midianites. Judges 6 and 7. This valley was also the scene of Saul's defeat by the Philistines, (1 Sam. 29) and Josiah's defeat by Pharaoh. 2 Kings, 23.

Zechariah 14, Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, also Rev. 19 all describe in detail this Battle at Armageddon, but the purpose of this article is to show that the nations of the world are now marshaling their forces and preparing supplies and equipment for this last struggle, for they all know it is coming very soon. First we must show what causes these nations to gather at Jerusalem. Why are the jealousies and greed of the nations focused on Palestine and Jerusalem, instead of India or America or some other country?

The answer is easily obtained from Scripture.

The prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel all foretold how that the world would be driven out of their countries dispersed among all nations of the earth because of their continued refusal to obey the commandments of God and to turn from their evil ways. Jer. 25:4-9. 39:29:18. They also prophesied that the Lord would cause the Lord would gather Israel again out of all countries where God had caused them to be scattered and cause them to go back to their own country of Palestine. That God would cause the rains to come again to water the country and make it bring forth fruit and grain in abundance. Jer. 29:11-14. Ezekiel 34:11-16. 39:21-29. 36:17-35.

The last dispersion of the Jews took place in A. D. 70. Since that time the rains have been largely withheld from Palestine, and the country has been desolate and unfruitful. Jesus prophesied that "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Luke 21:24. In A. D. 1917 the Holy Land came into the possession of the cruel Turks, who kept it in a barren and desolate condition. When the time drew near for the times of the Gentiles to be fulfilled, and world war swept Europe in fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus, (Matt. 24:7) General Allenby's armies delivered Palestine from the rule of the Turk, and the Jews began to return in large numbers to Palestine. One hundred and twenty successful colonies of Jews have been established there. The rains have returned to this arid country blossom like the oranges, lemons, and other tropical fruits are being grown with marked success. Three hundred and fifty thousand of oranges have been exported from Palestine. The country is rich in mineral wealth computed as being worth one trillion one hundred ninety billion dollars. Jews are growing wheat and barley in large quantities, exporting Dari se

Belgium and Germany, producing plenty of olive oil and exporting salt crystals to world markets.

Why the Greatest Battle Will Be Fought There

The region of Beer Sheba has 340,000 acres of rich land available for cultivation and the Trans-Jordan district has 4,182,000 acres. The deposits of nitrates and phosphates in Palestine are such that millions of tons of fertilizers are available to fertilize these millions of acres of land. The natural resources of this land are so great that England talks of making Palestine their seventh dominion. The British are now spending ten million dollars to develop the Port of Haifa, so they can get control of the commerce of the Holy Land. Russia, Germany and other countries are jealous and are now preparing with feverish haste for the inevitable war to settle forever the question as to who shall control the commerce of the

east, says, "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to Battle . . . and I will fight against those nations, as when He fought Jerusalem the day of battle." (Zech. 14:2, 3) The Lord himself will settle the controversy, punish those wicked nations for their lust and greed, and give the counsel of His riches to the descendants of Israel as He has promised.

What will be the punishment of those nations who go up to fight against Jerusalem? "Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God." "And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. So the House of Israel shall know that I am the Lord God. Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel. Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land . . . neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God." Ezekiel 39:1, 5, 22-29.

Feverish War Preparations

Let us consider a few facts regarding the preparations the nations are making for this greater world war, the Battle of Armageddon. With a great manifestation of hypocrisy the peace politicians are reaching peace, and signing scraps of paper which they claim will outlaw war and make a future war impossible. When the Kellogg Treaty, outlawing war, was

signed, it was hailed by leading world statesmen as "one of the greatest events since the birth of Christ." "The biggest step yet taken toward the establishment and perpetuation of peace." What does God say about such hypocrisies? "When they shall say peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them . . . and they shall not escape." 1 Thess. 5:3. They will be saying "Peace, peace; when there is no peace." Jer. 6:14.

While all this peace talk has been going on what have the Army and Navy departments of the world actually been doing? Each one has been trying to outdo the others in building and equipping the greatest and the greatest number of fighting machines, and in inventing the most deadly gases and disease germs for quick extermination of cities of the enemy. Our own country is building about 15,000 airplanes per year under supervision of Government experts. These machines are all fully equipped for war. They are also equipped as passenger and freight carriers. Our commercial airplane companies use these ships for passenger and freight service between all our large cities, but our Government may immediately draft any and all of these airships at the first sign of war. On a few minutes notice these planes may be converted from luxurious passenger planes into fully equipped war-time fighting ships of the sky. These may be loaded with poisonous gases and deadly germs and sent across the water to deal out wholesale death and destruction in any enemy country. All the other nations are making similar preparations.

Most of the taxes of our Federal Government go directly or indirectly for war. Only 9% of total appropriations go for the actual expenses of conducting the Government. All the rest goes to pay for old wars and to prepare for new ones. Italy is planning to be able, at a certain time, to mobilize 5,000,000 men, and be able to arm and equip them. Russia and Germany are secretly allied together, and are making unparalleled preparations for war against England and Palestine. Russia's five year program of industrial expansion is only to enable her to build up vast reserves of food and war equipment for Armageddon. Turkey has pledged herself to join Russia and help her in these plans. These three powers are determined to gain control of the world, and in a short time they will be prepared to launch their attack.

All the nations are doing just what the prophet Joel said they would do. "Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near . . . Beat your plowshares into swords, . . . let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves and come, all ye heathen . . . Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat (Megiddo Armageddon). For there will I sit to

judge all the heathen round about." Joel 3:9-12.

Verses 13 and 14 tell us that when we see these war preparations, and the heathen nations (like China, Japan and India) being awakened, and the nations of the world gathering for a world-wide struggle (verse 12), we are to know that the time has about come for the harvest of the world to be reaped. "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe . . . for their wickedness is great . . . For the day of the Lord is near." It is at the coming of the Lord that the harvest is to be reaped.

What Shall We Do?

The Gospel or Gentile age is about to end, when Jesus, the rightful heir to world dominion, will come and establish His reign of righteousness over all the kingdoms of the world. "And the Lord shall be King over all the Earth." Zech. 14:9. This is the time when "The Saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever;" when "The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High." Dan. 7:18, 27.

Reader, are you ready for this great event to take place? The Scriptures tell us that when this battle of Armageddon comes, the "Lord will give them that are wicked to the sword." Isa. 66:16. Jeremiah 25:31. There will be a terrible time of trouble, worse than there ever has been before (Dan. 12:1) "And at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Is your name written in the book of life in Heaven? Have you confessed and forsaken your sins and let Jesus cleanse your heart and clothe you with His robe of righteousness? Thus only will you be able to stand before Him at His coming. All who flee to Jesus now for salvation and cleansing will be protected in that time of awful trouble. "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." Psalms 91:7, 8.

A friend made this discerning observation: "Willingness to know the truth about one's self is the mark of a brave character; eagerness to hear opinions about one's self is the mark of a weak character."

Those who deliberately choose for themselves the part of a supplicator and intercessor will study to meet all the conditions of a true channel of blessing, removing all known obstacles either to the inflow or the outflow of the Spirit's fulness. All privileges have their price. --A. T. PIERSON.

Does it Make any DIFFERENCE what we Believe?

"AS I see it," reasoned a prominent attorney, "All there is to religion is just treating your fellow-man right and going on about your own business. It's like going to California. One party goes by train, another by stage, another by boat; they all reach the same destination."

This attorney sees no further than man's relation to man. That is morality. The Devil himself has set up a standard of morals and ethics with which he is deceiving the whole world today.

Religion has to do with man's relation to his God and Creator. The very first duty of a created being is to be under subjection to, and in yielded harmony with his Creator. O, how blind the world has become in this age of materialistic science, invention, convenience, luxury and humanism. All we can see or conceive of is our own selves and the material world that surrounds us. Either we have lost all concept of Almighty God, or we have Him removed so far off as to be impossible of access or approach.

How true are God's words where He says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." God is not a cold, indifferent Being so far removed that He knows nothing and cares less about His created beings upon this earth. He is above all a God of love and desires to bring us into a closer knowledge of Himself and of communion with Him.

Where Are We Trying to Go?

Where is this place we are all trying to reach? Some will say Heaven, but perhaps we will be nearer the truth if we say eternal life in the Kingdom of God, and happiness, joy and peace during this present life. Happiness—*peace—joy!* Not hereafter, but here and now! Do you have it, in its fullness? Be honest—do you? Are you *happy*? Is your mind and soul at rest—at peace with yourself, your fellow-man and your God? Your Creator gave you the very breath of life. He loves you so much He sent His only Son—His All—to die for you that you might have LIFE and have it more ABUNDANTLY. If you do not have it—if your heart is light, free from all trouble and worry—if you are not experiencing that JOY which passeth all understanding, then you are cheating yourself. God freely offers it to you as a gift.

And after death—then what? God has revealed the *truth*, but a heedless, foolish world interested only in the restless strife for self-gain has not listened. You think you are immortal? That you will live forever? That, whatever road you may be

Some say, "We are all trying to get to the same place—some by one route, others by a different one—it makes no difference which road we take." So some take the road of pleasure and amusement; some the road of accumulating money; others that of a living, painful penance—living a life of gloom and morbid unhappiness: some the road of utter indifference. Where do these roads lead? Which is the right one?

traveling now will lead into eternal life and peace?

O friend, do not be deceived. Do not take chances lightly on this most serious question you ever did or ever will have to face. You didn't put yourself here. You cannot determine your eternal fate by your own reasoning. You did not give yourself the life you now possess. You had nothing to do with it. You cannot give eternal life in the Kingdom to come, or have one whit more to do with it, of yourself, than you had with giving yourself the life you now have. The same God who gave you the life that is in you today offers you freely eternal life in His Kingdom to come—and He plainly tells you how you may inherit it. The question for you to decide is, will you listen to God and heed what He says?

God has laid down the terms and conditions. We have no power to alter them. Unless we get on the road the great Road-builder has laid out, and follow faithfully the sign boards along the way which point out the true destination, we are certain to be led astray on some attractive looking by-road which comes to a dead-end. There is but one road that leads to life. Every other road leads to destruction.

God is a God of love, who "so loved the world," including you and me, "that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Will you listen to the fables of deluded men, who tell you that you are immortal and shall live forever? Or will you believe God when He tells you that you are only MORTAL (Rom. 6:12; Job 4:17; Ezek. 18:4; James 5:20). God says, "The wages of sin is death—DEATH—not life (Rom. 6:23), and the time is soon coming when millions of guilty,

unforgiven sinners will be PAID their justly deserved wages.

Have YOU Sinned?

So often we hear people say, "I haven't sinned much. I've always tried to do what was right. I really haven't anything to repent of." But if you say that, God says you are a liar. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8). "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). The death sentence hangs as surely over your head as the rising and setting of the sun. You have sinned. You have brought upon yourself the penalty, eternal death, damnation and destruction. There is no escaping the penalty. *It must always be paid.* That is the law of the Universe, instituted by God. God cannot compromise with sin. Yet God loves you and me; so, in His infinitely tender love and mercy He Himself gave His All that the penalty might be paid for us—that He might spare us from paying it—that He might, instead, give us the GIFT of eternal joyous life. His Son Jesus paid the penalty for us. He came to give us life—more abundant life. In Him we have redemption from sin. He, Jesus, is OUR LIFE. Christ "only hath immortality" (1 Tim. 6:16).

You must choose. Either you shall soon perish, or receive the gift of eternal life. There is no middle ground. God freely offers you the latter. He wants you to choose life, not death—but YOU must decide. God wants to save every guilty sinner, but He cannot save us without our consent.

Are there several roads to happiness and eternal life? Turn from foolish fables and listen to God!

"Repent ye, therefore, and BE CONVERTED, that your sins may be blotted out." "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin . . . neither is there salvation in any other; FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED." (Acts 3:9; 16:31; 1 John 1:7; Acts 4:12). God says only this one road leads to life and joy.

Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the DOOR into the sheep-fold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a THIEF and a ROBBER." (John 10:1). Do thieves and robbers inherit eternal life? If we are to enter eternal life, we must enter in by the

DOOR. There is but one door, and Jesus said, I AM THE DOOR." (John 10:7).

Again Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the straight gate; for wide is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth to destruction, AND MANY THERE BE WHO GO IN THEREAT: because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, AND FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT." (Matt. 7:13, 14).

When will we listen to God? When will we open our eyes and quit deceiving ourselves into eternal damnation? In the very next verse Jesus warns us, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

Whom Can We Believe?

But you ask, "How can I know who to believe? One preacher has it one way and another a different way. Whom shall I believe?"

Believe God, my friend. Quit listening to man and BELIEVE GOD. The Bible is God's Word and revelation to man. (1 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21). When anyone tells you what to believe, you go to your Bible and see whether or not he tells the truth. Do that when you read "The Messenger." Do it no matter who claims to be giving you truth. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." What is truth? Jesus, praying to His Father in Heaven said, "Thy WORD IS TRUTH."

"But I can't understand it," you say. Oh yes; you can, if you want to understand and will trust God to help you. If you lack wisdom to understand, turn to James 1:5. ASK GOD to open your understanding. He has promised to do it. But you must first be WILLING to receive what He reveals. The WORD of God is a sharp, two-edged sword. It gives reproof and correction, it convicts of sin. Most people are not willing to understand and receive such a message.

The time has come when people will not endure sound doctrine and truth. "After their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Tim. 4:3, 4). That time has come. This is the day foretold by Isaiah, when he said our church congregations would be saying to their preachers, "Preach not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, preach deceits: get you out of THE WAY. TURN ASIDE OUT OF THE PATH, cause the Holy One shall cease from before us." (Isaiah 30:10, 11).

Today men are doing and saying these very things that God foretold through Isaiah some 2,500 years ago. They have done away with the need of the blood of Christ for salvation from sin, thus turning aside out of the only path or road to salvation. They have rejected many of the fundamental truths of the gospel, sub-

FUNDAMENTALS of Belief

OF THE
MESSENGER PUBLISHING ASS'N.

1. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; a personal God of supreme mind, power, knowledge and authority, who created the Heavens and the Earth and all that in them is.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are God's revelation and complete expressed will to man inspired in thought and word, and infallible in the original writings; that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and in life, and the source of truth. We believe that all teachings contrary to the Holy Bible are false and spurious. We accept the Bible *alone*, and not the Bible and something else.

3. We believe Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, the Christ, the divine Son of God, come in human flesh, begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the human Virgin Mary, and that He is true God and true man, existing in and since the beginning with God the Father; and that all things came into being through Him.

4. We believe man was created, originally in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby brought upon himself and all the human family not only mortality and physical death, but that, as a result of Adam's fall through disobedience to God, all are born with a sinful nature. Therefore all, upon reaching moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word and deed, thus bringing upon themselves the penalty for sin, which is that second and final death in which they perish.

5. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, though in all points tempted as we are, lived without sin, and died on the cross as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; thus making it legally possible for man's sins to be forgiven, and for God to release him from their penalty, since Jesus, whose life was of greater value than the sum-total of all the human family (because it was He who brought them into being) has thus paid the penalty for all sin in man's stead.

6. We believe the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was raised from the dead after His body reposed three full days and three full nights (72 hours) in the grave; thus making immortality possible for mortal man; (Matt. 12:40) and that He ascended into Heaven where He now sits at the right hand of God as our High Priest and Advocate.

7. We believe in the personal, premillennial, imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ to rule the nations as King of Kings, sit upon the throne of David, and establish the Kingdom of God upon earth forever.

8. We believe that all who truly repent, surrender to God in a willing spirit of obedience, accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, and His shed blood as the all-sufficient atonement for their sins, in faith believing, are forgiven their sins by an act of divine grace, justified, pardoned from the death penalty, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, thus being baptized by the Spirit into the Body of Christ, the true Church of God; that those who have surrendered the old natural "self" and received the Holy Spirit are "born again," given a new nature, and are new creatures in Christ Jesus; that, so long as they continue in a surrendered, yielded, humble spirit of obedience to God and in the faith of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit continues to abide within them; that the presence of God's Holy Spirit within is the Presence, conditionally during this life, of immortal life.

9. We believe God freely bestows certain "benefits" upon His children; that He hears, and literally answers the earnest and believing prayers of those who keep His commandments, according to His expressed will and written promises (1 John 3:22); that He is able and always willing to perform that which He has promised in His Word, including physical healing, providing the way for actual needs, deliverance from trouble, distress, temptations, etc.

10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; the just to receive the gift of immortality and eternal life in the Kingdom of God; the unjust to receive the penalty of the second and final death, in which they perish.

We invite any of our readers to ask questions regarding any of these ten points, which we will gladly answer, giving abundance of Scriptural proof.

stituting smooth things to lull the people to sleep. Will you listen to these corrupt fables, or will you listen to God?

Jesus says you cannot see eternal life unless you are "born again." (John 3:3). Born of the Holy Spirit of God, verse 5. Unless you have received God's Holy Spirit, and He dwells and abides within

you, you are lost and you do not have eternal life, (Romans 8:9) no matter what men please to *think* or say or teach.

And God's Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, (John 14:17) who is to guide us into all Truth. This Spirit of Life, and of Truth, God promises if we repent, accept Christ, are baptized and ask for the Spirit. (Acts 2: 38, 39; Luke 11:13). If we thus conform to God's terms and conditions, He promises to bestow upon us the most blessed and precious gift in all the universe. If not we shall be damned. (Mark 16:15, 16).

The Guide Posts Which Keep Us on the One Road

If saved we must be washed by the Word—by the words of the Bible. (Eph. 5:26). If we are to *live*, we must live by every word of God—not part of the words of Scripture. (Luke 4:4). The Truth—the Words of Scripture—are to make us free, and any teaching contrary to the Scriptures is not Truth but fables and lies. We must be sanctified and purified by the Word (Eph. 5:26; John 17:17; 1 Pet. 1:22) and it is these same words of God which shall judge us in the last day (John 12:48; John 8: 47). "He that is of God heareth God's Words."

Is it enough to just treat your fellow man right and ignore God? Another lawyer once came to Jesus and asked Him what he must do to gain eternal life. Jesus told him his very *first duty* if he would inherit eternal life, is to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind." And then, following that, to treat his neighbor right.

God loved you and me enough to give His All to save us. Do we love Him enough to get out our Bibles, blow off the dust, and spend a little more of our time studying God's Words?

There is but *one road*—but *one way*—that leads to eternal life. Most of humanity is not going that way. Most human beings are fluttering heedlessly around the bright lights of modern amusements, entertainments and sports like millions of insects fluttering heedlessly tonight around a street lamp, but gone and destroyed tomorrow. Lovers of pleasure more than of God. (II Tim. 3:1-5). Lovers of the world and all its false, cheap, tawdry, perishable allurements. And whosoever loves the world is the *enemy of God*. (Jas. 4:4; John 2:15).

There is but *one way*—and Jesus Christ said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." (John 14:6). These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11).

"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me." What better sustenance can we have?

DEDICATED



Volume 1 Number 1

September, 1931

Published monthly as the Lord provides
at Eugene, Oregon
by the
MESSENGER PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

Editor, Robert Louis Taylor
Associate Editor
Herbert W. Armstrong

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

50 cents per year (12 copies). Single copy, 5 cents.
25 copies for \$1.00; 100 copies, \$3.00; 1000 copies
for missionary distribution, \$20.00.

FOREWORD

We believe that the Messenger of Truth and its editorial and business policies are different from that of any other religious publication on the Earth, for the following reasons:

We propose to make it a medium for preaching the righteousness and truth of a soul winner and missionary, and include everything else from its pages.

We purpose to keep human personalities and personal photographs out of it, and to use its columns solely to reveal the personality and power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God, and the truth as revealed by them. We desire that Jesus, the Head of the Church, shall be the real editor, and the Guide in all matters pertaining to policy and administration; the inspiration of all the articles published: the business Manager and the One in charge of its circulation.

We ask all of our readers everywhere to assist in the publishing and circulation of this paper in the following ways: pray earnestly for the Editors, that the Lord will inspire them in writing and preparing the articles, and direct them in all matters of business administration. Write a list of names and addresses of all the people you know who might be benefited by the Messenger, and those whom you think would be interested in helping us to circulate it, then mail this list to us. Send for as many copies as you can afford, and hand them out to those who will read them. If you wish to give

copies to interested people, but can not afford to pay for them, tell us how many copies you will promise to carefully distribute, and we will send them to you free of charge, trusting the Lord to provide the means to pay the printer. Get as many people as you can to subscribe for the paper for one year. In any or all of these ways you can be used of God in preaching the gospel to thousands of people through the printed page.

THE MESSENGER OF TRUTH is devoted to the poor of the earth; all who are discouraged and disgusted with the cold formality and hypocrisy of these times and long for the real PRESENCE and POWER of Jesus in their lives; to all who are tired of sin and would really like to have a clean heart full of love, peace and joy; to all who are sick and suffering in body and would like to have Jesus touch their bodies and make them every whit whole; all who are lame, crippled, blind, deaf or dumb and want that touch from above that will restore them to perfect soundness; to every man or woman who is bound to evil habits and is willing to let Jesus set them free; to every child of God who longs for the real baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire to enable them to bear much fruit unto God and to glorify Him who saved and called them.

To all these this paper, its editors and co-workers are consecrated. We are ready to work and pray night and day for your salvation, sanctification, healing, or baptism with the Holy Spirit. We invite all the true saints of Christ to pray for us, and co-operate with us in seeking to save the lost and help the needy. We invite all who need help or healing to write to us so that we may have opportunity to be of service to you, for the Lord's sake and for His glory.

This paper brings to all of you this message from Heaven, that Jesus longs to supply the needs of every one of you. You have robbed yourself of many blessings and deliverances because you have failed to lay hold of the promises of God in LIVING FAITH. We are starting with this issue another wave of intercessory prayer that God wants to go from heart to heart, from city to city, from nation to nation, from church to church till it touches every needy soul in the world.

This prayer movement has been under way for several years, but Jesus, the Head of all the true churches, inspires us now with this urgent message: "WE HAVE NOT BEEN EARNEST ENOUGH. WE HAVE SLOWED UP. WE HAVE NOT BEEN AS FAITHFUL AS HE EXPECTS US TO BE. HE IS COMING SOON. AND HE CALLS UPON US NOW TO AWAKE, AND BE STRONG IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD."

We have failed to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the TRUTH, as fast as He expects us to. Jesus calls upon us now to "STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH."

Jesus will supply all the needs of your soul and body, if you will call upon Him now in living faith. He longs to save and to heal, bless, comfort, cleanse, renew and baptize every one of you. He wants to convince you of His tender love for you and of how He is still standing at your heart's door begging for admittance, so that His indwelling PRESENCE may supply you with real joy, peace and power. Won't you come, Dear Ones, to Jesus? How is grieves His Spirit when you keep Him waiting on the outside. Cannot you hear Him saying to you just now, "COME UNTO ME: I WILL GIVE YOU REST"? He is able AND WILLING to do more for you than you can ask or think of. He knows your needs better than you do.

In the Name of Jesus we appeal to every one of you, surrender all now and be reconciled to God. If you are saved, then lay all on the altar and let Jesus have His way in your life. JESUS IS COMING SOON, and He longs to have every one of us get ready now to meet Him with joy, and not with grief. "The Spirit and the Bride say, COME! . . . WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM COME AND TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY." (Rev. 22:17). "He which testifieth these things (Jesus) saith, SURELY I COME QUICKLY." (Verse 20).

WHO is to blame?

(Continued from Page 2)

but yet in the earlier stages of it. MAN-ND is to blame, not any one man. Man deserted his Maker! He sneers, and and scoffs. God's words recorded in the Holy Bible have become foolishness to him—and God prophesied that, too. (1 Cor. 2:14). This time of trouble man has brought upon himself. It is the inevitable consequence of man's rebellion against his Maker!

What, then, is the laboring man to do? Shall he organize and fight back? Suppose that, instead of trying to solve his difficulty ourselves, we learn the lesson and depend upon God for guidance and direction.

Turn with me now back to the 5th chapter of James, and let us begin where we left off reading of the injustices suffered by the weak at the hands of the rich and strong, at verse 7: "*Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*"

Organize? Fight back? Put your own ideas and schemes into execution? Try to solve this thing in our own strength? No! If you do, it will come to naught

PATIENT. Look up, lift up your heads, call upon God to deliver you, for these things have *begun* to come to pass. Your deliverance soon will come. Trust God for it, my friend. He is able to protect and to deliver you. Look to Jesus for your salvation, both here and hereafter. He PROMISES to protect you through the time of trouble (1 Thes. 5:23-24). He PROMISES to supply all your needs. Read the 91st Psalm. Place yourself fully, wholly and completely into God's hands, and NO PLAGUE SHALL COME TO THY DWELLING! God's PROMISES are as certain and sure as His prophecies! He loved you enough to give His all for you. His Son Jesus loved you enough to die for you. Can you trust the Man who died for you, to preserve and protect you—spirit, soul and body—through all trouble and difficulty "unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"? Will you trust Him?

He promises if you will surrender and yield your whole self to Him to sanctify you wholly. How? Through the Truth. What is Truth? God's Word is Truth. It is through this Word you may be spared and protected and saved for eternity.

God commands you, "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.*" (II Tim. 2:15). Herein lies your hope. Will you do it? We send you this Messenger of Truth to study with you that which is Truth.

Christ is ALL

WE PREACH Jesus Christ as our Saving *Jour, Sanctifier, Baptizer, Healer and Coming King.*

The trouble with a great many professed ministers of our Lord today is, that they often preach something else—politics, fables of men, their own theories and ideas, civic righteousness, doctrines of devils—anything beside the wonderful story of the Cross, and that is why they have so little power. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." (2 Tim. 3:5; 2 Tim. 4:3, 4; Isaiah 30:10). One of the secrets of the mighty power that attended the preaching of Paul was that he was "determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2).

Wherever the Apostles went they preached Jesus as the crucified and risen Lord, and when the multitudes asked the way of salvation the Apostles answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." They preached the five-fold gospel mentioned above, claim-

ing that Christ is ALL AND IN ALL, and that He "is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: that, according as it is written, he that glorieth, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD." (1 Cor. 1:30, 31).

They taught that "in everything ye are enriched by Him," verse 5, and that all things that pertain unto life and godliness are given to us in Christ. (Eph. 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:3). In the mighty name of Jesus they healed all that were sick, cast out devils and even raised the dead unto life. We of this generation have lost most of this power because we fail to preach Christ and to believe as they did back there. Let us now return to the preaching of the simple but powerful story of the Cross. Let us exalt Jesus and preach HIM and do everything that we do in the name of Jesus and for His sake, and we will find that the OLD TIME POWER of the gospel will be manifested. "RETURN UNTO ME AND I WILL RETURN UNTO YOU," saith the Lord.

How often do you pray?

GOD tells us to "pray without ceasing."

(1 Thess. 5:17). Pray not only every day, but several times a day. Be continually in a spirit of prayer. Pray as you walk down the street, as you drive your car, as you go about your housework, as you work on your farm. You can keep in close communion with God in no other way. You can keep the "CONTACT" only by constant prayer. Your real troubles and difficulties are not the problems of the material world you see and feel and hear, not those of dealing with other people.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS (Margin, wicked spirits) in

high places." (Ephesians 6:12).

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand . . . *praying always*" (verse 13, 18). Alone you can no more cope with the unseen spiritual powers of evil that bear down upon you than a little ant could cope with a giant. But none need be overcome. Man is not left alone to conquer the powers of evil by his own feeble efforts. Jesus conquered the enemy and He says: "Come unto me and I will give you rest" Matt 11:28. The Bible is filled with thousands of promises of deliverance and help. These promises cannot be broken. Satan cannot break them and he stands helpless when you stand upon the promises of God, claimed in the prayer of faith.

TO OUR READERS

THE "MESSENGER OF TRUTH" is purely a work of faith. It is not published for profit or self-gain. It has no source of income. It accepts no advertising. It carries the full Gospel message *freely* to all whose names are sent in. But few of these pay for their own subscriptions. They must therefore be paid by the free-will offerings of others. There are no funds on hand as we go to press, for the next issue. All must come, quickly, in answer to believing prayer.

Reader, do you want to see this work continue? Do you want to have a part in getting out, promptly on time, the next

issue, to carry a Spirit-filled message with power thru the printed page to thousands in the closing days of this age? Many can be reached in this way who can be reached in no other. It means souls for eternity.

If you want to have a part in this work, read Philippians 4:19, then read Matthew 18:19, and pray earnestly the prayer of faith, agreeing with us and the many others who will respond to this request, that God will move upon minds and hearts to send in free-will offerings for the continuance of this work. Do it now, before you lay this paper down.