

The Good News of
**TOMORROW'S
WORLD**

June 1971



The "JESUS TRIP"—One-Way Ticket to NOWHERE?

See page 18

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More About Our Cover

This truck is festooned with slogans of the "Jesus People." Is this a new revival of the religion of Jesus Christ? Or are these sincere and searching young people headed for yet another traumatic disappointment from the hypocrisy of counterfeit Christianity? Letters poured in objecting to Mr. Armstrong's article in a recent PLAIN TRUTH magazine on the "Jesus Trip." Read the incisive response to that avalanche of mail in this issue of TOMORROW'S WORLD on page 18.

Ambassador College Photo

The Good News of TOMORROW'S WORLD

June 1971

International magazine of Biblical understanding published by the Graduate School of Theology, Ambassador College, 300 West Green, Pasadena, Calif. 91105.

Volume III Number 6

Circulation 725,000

Published monthly at Pasadena, California, USA. © 1971 Ambassador College for the entire contents of this publication*, all rights reserved.

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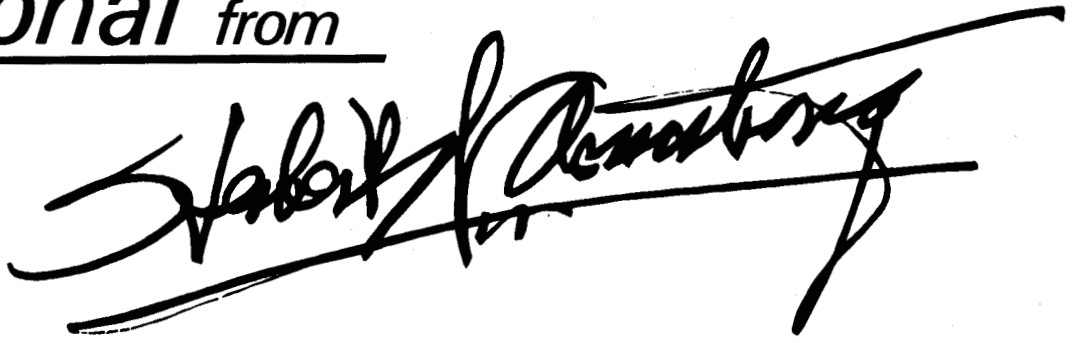
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Personal from



The Blessings of Abundant Living

MR. ALBERT PORTUNE, our Vice-President for Financial Affairs and Planning, and I, have a disagreement. He is a very appreciative man. He's always counting his blessings.

"I'm the most blessed man on earth," he insists.

I flatly disagree with him. I tell him *I* enjoy that status. Like the Apostle Paul, I feel that I have been the chief of sinners — yet God's marvelous grace has so richly abounded that it seems He has simply *lavished* on me every blessing that even the loving GOD can bestow!

Business associates, not quite comprehending the spiritual significance or real reasons, admit and marvel at the really happy and enjoyable life I have been granted. They *seek* the full joys of life. I did, too — once. And as long as I tried to GET and to TAKE them, I somehow never had them.

Back in my pre-conversion days in the magazine and newspaper world, I fought and strove energetically for that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow — the *money* that would buy happiness and all the "good things" of gracious living. I sought and struggled valiantly to attain the vanity-pleasing status of being considered "important" by important business men.

Yet, somehow, I never quite caught up with the end of that rainbow. For a few years — in my middle and late twenties — I enjoyed considerable financial success — for a young chap under thirty. I was making an income equivalent to perhaps \$35,000 a year in today's money-value. Even so, I never seemed to get out of debt. My heart was set on material things and on plain vanity — and they just never seemed to *satisfy*. Neither, incidentally, did the brand of cigarettes whose advertising claims "they satisfy."

You say you couldn't imagine me smoking cigarettes? Well, I couldn't either — NOW 44 years later.

I remember, now, with almost a pang of stomach-sickness, the many times I sat at a banquet table, smoking a fine cigar. Why? Vanity. I was a "sheep." Others did. I followed. But did I ENJOY it? Never! What an idiot I was! In my mouth the saliva flows freely on slightest provocation. A cigar in my mouth started the saliva glands flowing. I was forced to use the napkin for a cuspidor — and even then, it usually made me slightly sick at the stomach. Enjoy it? No!

Those were days of ambition and hustle and striving — but they also were days of frustrations, fears and worries, and an underlying sense of insecurity. Carnality and this world's ways simply *never paid off!*

Then two successive major business depressions, and circumstances beyond my control, brought three successive total business failures. It was then that a Bible-believing woman, neighbor of my parents in Salem, Oregon, convinced my wife that the Bible enforced observance of the seventh-day Sabbath in this New Testament time of grace! The facts of my outraged reaction at this "religious fanaticism" have been published many times.

I was unable to talk, reason, argue, cajole, or threaten her out of her new-found conviction. I was literally angered into my first STUDY of the Bible — to *prove* to her that "all these churches couldn't be wrong" — and that the Bible commanded and enforced the observance of Sunday, in this New Testament period.

I sought, wrote for, and obtained at the public library every book or booklet possible purporting to refute seventh-day Sabbath observance. I searched every nook and cranny of the New Testament to find the sanctification, making holy, or command to observe Sunday. It was like hunting for the needle in the haystack — the needle that isn't there! Like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, I never found it!

Instead, I found that Jesus Christ always kept this day "as His custom was," and the Apostle Paul kept it

“as his manner was.” I found where Jesus gave us an example that we should do as He did, and where we were commanded to walk in His steps — to walk as HE walked. Also that it is “Christ IN us” which gives hope of glory (by His Holy Spirit), and that He is a changeless Christ — the *same* today as when He walked the earth in human flesh. I found that the New Testament *commands* Sabbath observance.

By the way, we have a booklet explaining in detail what I found on this question in the Bible. It is entitled *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* I think you might find it interesting, as well as surprising and eye-opening. It is in addition to our other booklets on the Sabbath. This booklet is profusely illustrated in color. YOUR copy has already been paid for (you *can't* pay for your own) — and it *would* be a shame for your copy to keep on lying unused in our mailing room, wouldn't it? Remember, it's FREE, as Christ's Gospel is free, of course.

Well, Satan may have “opened” the eyes of Adam and Eve to evil — and then BLINDED the eyes of all of us ever since — but in that study the true Creator GOD *opened* my eyes to His TRUTH! There it was, staring at me in the Maker's own INSTRUCTION BOOK!

I didn't like it — at first.

“What would my business associates say?” was the question that came automatically to mind.

That's the question that chains *most* people to the darkness, the curses and frustrations of this world. They seldom give a thought to “What would GOD say?” They *ought* to ask, “What is CHRIST GOING TO SAY, when I have to face Him in the Judgment?”

To me, God's Truth meant GIVING UP! It meant giving up associates and friends — at least, so I supposed. It meant giving up MY OWN WAY! It seemed like GIVING UP everything I had ever held dear or lived for. It was like GIVING UP my very life.

But then, with God's BIBLE before me, I came to realize that Christ had bought and paid for my life — and it wasn't mine, anyway. God had made the giving up easier by repeated defeats — by reduction to economic poverty. I was only a “burned-out hunk o' junk,” anyhow. Finally, I did make the surrender — UNCONDITIONALLY! I told God He could have my life, and if HE could make anything out of it, He could have it — I had made only a failure out of it! And I *did* mean that!

To me, it meant GIVING UP everything I had valued as worth living for. But, you know, we have

to die to LIVE — to LOSE our lives in order to FIND THEM! Perhaps, then, I never expected to really ENJOY LIFE anymore. I had sought hard to ENJOY LIFE — and failed. So now I gave it up!

But, actually, that was precisely when I really FOUND IT!

THAT was when truly ENJOYING LIFE first began!

I remember many a happy, blessed, really ENJOYABLE hour spent in the bare kitchens of financially poor people, studying the Bible with them. It seemed as if the angels were there with us — as, indeed, they were! It was as happy as if the bare, poverty-ridden kitchen had been a gilded king's palace. No — that's wrong, it was *not* just as happy — it was a thousand times more so!

I began to learn that happiness did not consist of material possessions. Happiness is in the MIND. And, somehow, I had found happiness — real, full, abundant, deep-down HAPPINESS! We didn't have money — but we had inherited the TRUE RICHES!

I was literally plunged into the very Work of God. I didn't seek it — God PUT me in, once I yielded wholly to be faithful to His Word. Having a part in God's own Work was the greatest joy I had known.

The *change* came early in 1927. Almost night-and-day Bible study continued. My wife was miraculously healed — even a dumbfounded doctor was forced to admit that. Then I was blessed with my first son. Years later, God tried me to see whether I would be willing to give *him* up. Struggling in prayer, I told God I was willing — not for a moment believing He would require it of me. But He did. But God had given me a second son — Garner Ted!

The first conversions through my preaching came in December 1930. NEVER had I experienced such joy. Talk about THRILLS! I had experienced thrills at football games, and worldly entertainments — but never *anything* like THIS!

Blessings piled up on blessings. God opened the powerful DOOR of radio — and the printing press — in the very smallest manner, at first. But the Work grew, and grew. More and more conversions followed — dozens, then scores, then hundreds, then THOUSANDS! I expect to have a lot of COMPANY in God's Kingdom, where we shall live FOREVER!

After 28 years of economic poverty—21 of which had been spent in the joys of God's true blessings—

(Continued on page 48)

DID GOD CREATE A DEVIL?

The Bible pictures the whole world under the sway of an invisible devil. Where did he come from? Did God create a devil to tempt us and to try to lead us astray? Here are the answers from God's Word!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IS THERE a devil? Many people talk about the devil and Satan. Others scoff and say it's just superstition and imagination.

But *is there a devil?* According to most Christians the Bible is supposed to teach that the devil is "the god of this world."

Did God create a devil? What does the Bible actually teach?

To find out let's look back to the very beginning. Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning God..." God was before all.

The next word is "created." "God created." He created the heaven and the earth.

But the very next verse says this: "The earth was without form and void." The Hebrew words for "without form and void" are *tobu* and *bobu*. Translated into English they mean *chaotic, in confusion, waste, and empty*.

When God created the heaven and the earth, did He create this earth originally in a state of confusion? Did He create it all topsy-turvy and chaotic?

World NOT Created in Chaos

We read in I Corinthians 14:33 that "God is NOT the author of confusion."

God is the author of peace. God is the author of order and of law.

Notice Job 38:4-9. God says there that *the angels* shouted for joy when He created the earth. It must then have been a *perfect creation, not* a creation that was in chaos and confusion!

Why would He create it in disorder and then have to straighten it out? That doesn't make sense! One scholar points out that the Hebrew word for "created," *bara* used in Genesis 1:1, "implies that the creation was a perfect work." That very word "created" implies a perfect and a beautiful order and system, not chaos or confusion!

Then how did it *become* chaotic?

In Genesis 19:26, the same Hebrew word *hayab* is used which is translated "was" in Genesis 1:2. (See also Genesis 2:7 and 9:15.) And there it is translated into the English word "became." In the first three chapters of the Bible, and many other places where you find the Hebrew word *hayab*, in almost every case it denotes a condition that was *different* from a former condition. In other words, the earth "BECAME" chaotic. It had not always been that way.

The Earth BECAME Chaotic

Plainly the word "was" (*hayab*) here has the meaning of "became." The Rotherham translation of Genesis 1:2, out of the original Hebrew language, is this: "Now the earth HAD BECOME waste and empty." It hadn't always been that way.

In Jeremiah 4:23, in Isaiah 24:10, in Isaiah 34:11, and in other places in the Bible, you find the same words, *tobu* and *bobu*, meaning "chaotic" and "in confusion." In every case that condition is *a result of sin*.

No Chaos Originally

Notice Isaiah 45:18. "Thus saith the Eternal that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it *not* in vain." "In vain" is an incorrect translation. In your Bible, if you have the marginal references, you will find in the margin the proper translation, "waste."

The original Hebrew word there is TOHU. This Hebrew word is the identical word used in Genesis 1:2, meaning "confusion," or "emptiness," or "waste" — a result of disorder, a result of violation of law. In Isaiah 45:18 we have

the plain statement that God created the earth NOT *tohu*, that is, *not* in confusion, *not* in disorder. But in Genesis 1:2, the earth was, or *the earth* BECAME — as it ought to be translated — *chaotic and in confusion!*

Then it became that way after it was created. Now, what could have caused that confusion — that disorder? What sin could have wrecked the earth and brought it into the condition in which it was found in Genesis 1:2?

Life Before Adam?

Now, what was the sin then that caused this physical destruction to the earth? It was *not* a sin caused by humanity, because there had been no man on the earth until the sixth day of that re-creation or that remaking. So it was not a sin of man. Adam was the *first* man. We find over in I Corinthians 15:45 that Adam is called the *first* man on this earth. In Genesis, Eve is called the mother of all living human beings. There was no other race prior to Adam and Eve.

So the sin which brought chaos was not caused by man. And yet life must have populated the earth because a sin had occurred on the earth that brought it into a condition of chaos and confusion by breaking the laws of God.

What kind of life could it have been? It wasn't human life. What was it that populated this earth prior to the second verse of Genesis, the first chapter?

In Genesis 1:28, speaking to the man whom He had created, God said this: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and *replenish* the earth."

Immediately after the flood in Genesis 9:1, God spoke to Noah. He blessed Noah and his sons and said unto them: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and *replenish* the earth." Identically the same words that He spoke to Adam!

In Noah's case we know He meant *repopulate* the earth. Then didn't He mean the same thing when He used the identical words to Adam: "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth"? Certainly here is indication that the earth had been populated, and that it was to be populated *once again*. Then what kind of life had populated the earth prior to Adam, prior

to the week called "creation week"?

Next, let's turn to II Peter 2:4: "For if God spared not the angels that sinned . . ." Here is the sin of angels mentioned.

Sin of Angels!

Now read the next verse, "And spared not the old world," between Adam and Noah, "but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." There it mentions the sins from Adam to Noah, and it mentions the *physical destruction* to the earth as a result of the flood, a chaotic, physical condition brought about on the earth by the sins of those men.

Was there a chaotic condition brought about on the earth *as a result of the sins of angels*? The sin of the angels is mentioned first, and *it occurred first!* There was a devil already there in existence by the time Adam was created. So the sin of the angels happened *before* the creation of man.

Now read II Peter 2:6. "Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes [God] condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly."

Universal sin was in those two Canaanite cities. Physical destruction came to the entire part of the surface of the earth which those people occupied as a result of that sin. Then didn't such a destruction come to the earth *as a result of the sins of the angels* which occurred before Adam?

Now quickly turn over to Jude. In the sixth verse, you read this: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation [they had a place where they lived, a habitation, an estate, and they left it], he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Notice! It is the *sinning angels* who are reserved in those chains under darkness, restrained from light, restrained from truth until the judgment of the great day.

Angels Possess the Earth!

How plain! They had an estate which they didn't keep. In Hebrews 2:5

we read this: "For unto the angels hath God not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak." In other words, the World Tomorrow, the Kingdom of God, will not be under subjection to angels. *The present one is under subjection of fallen angels.* The demons, and the devil who is their head, rule this present earth and sway its inhabitants. The Bible everywhere indicates and affirms that very fact.

How did they obtain their dominion? How did they acquire their power? How did they maintain their control? Where did the devil get the power to control and to lead and to rule this world?

The devil is the leader of fallen angels, as you will find in a number of places (John 12:31; John 14:30; John 16:11). In II Corinthians 4:4 the devil is called "the god of this world." He is the king or the prince of the evil world that we live in today. Let's see something about the origin of the devil.

Turn to Isaiah 14, beginning with verse 4, "Thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!"

Here is a king of Babylon.

This account continues to tell how he had disrupted the earth. He was an invader, a conqueror. He was a war-monger, trying to take away from others and trying to acquire all he could. He had just the opposite philosophy from that of God. In other words, he had the philosophy of the devil.

He represented the devil. The king of Babylon was the devil's instrument and tool.

Now we find in verse 12 that this lesser human type *lifts to the great antitype* — the devil — whom he represented and whose tool and instrument he was.

Rebellion of Lucifer

Things are said about the great former cherub, the devil, *that could not be said about a human being.* God says, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer." Lucifer means *shining one*, or *shining star of the dawn.* God names things or people or beings what they

are. Lucifer was originally a shining "star." Stars represent angels (Rev. 1:20). He was a great cherub whose duties were represented by the bright morning star. He was a *light bringer*. In other words, one who had great knowledge and truth and light, and who was *to give* it to those who were placed under him. He was placed in a certain rule and authority over angels.

Continuing in Isaiah 14:12-13: "How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven." Then he must have been **BELOW** heaven. He must have been **ON** THE EARTH.

He said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars [that is, the angels] of God." I want you to notice *he had a throne*, but he wasn't willing to be content with his jurisdiction. He was out to rule the universe.

Now notice what else Lucifer said: "I will ascend above the heights of the CLOUDS. I will be like the most High."

"I'm going to be god myself," he said.

Lucifer Becomes the Devil

So Lucifer became the devil. God changed his name when his character changed. He tried to make himself God. But we find **HE WAS CAST DOWN TO THIS EARTH**.

Now, quickly turn over to Ezekiel 28, verse 2: "Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus..." The prince of Tyre, or Tyrus, was a very evil man. He was an aggressor, an invader, a conqueror.

He was a tool of the devil. Now, as we come to the twelfth verse, just as in Isaiah 14, the lesser type *lifts up to the great antitype*. We find the devil himself pictured. Now we find one that is *not* human at all. For a few verses, it is talking about the devil himself, and not about a human being.

Beginning at verse 12: "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the *king* of Tyrus." Here is the **REAL** king that ruled in and through the prince of Tyrus. "And say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty."

Here was one who sealed up the sum total of perfection, of wisdom, and beauty.

Could that be said about a man? Does God speak like that of any mortal man? Never! He is speaking of some being far greater than man. Notice, "*Thou hast been in Eden* the garden of God." On the earth!

Then he said, "... The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee *in the day that thou wast CREATED*." This was not a human being who was *born*.

The prophet continues to say, "*Thou art the anointed CHERUB that covereth*." If you will refer to Exodus 25, verses 16-22, you will find the type of the throne of God described. Included in the earthly type — the tabernacle in the days of Moses — was the mercy seat which was a picture of the very throne of God. On it two cherubim were placed. They were made of metals, of course, but their wings stretched out and covered the very throne of God. They symbolized the two great cherubs whose wings cover the very throne of God.

Through Ezekiel, God says: "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth." In other words, one of the great cherubs ruling over millions of other angels!

He was a created being. He sealed up the sum total of perfection, of wisdom, and of beauty. Then in verse 14, we read this: "I have set thee so," God said. God had set him in office. "Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God" — Palestine or Eden!

"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that *thou wast created*." Here was a being that was *created perfect UNTIL INIQUITY WAS FOUND IN HIM*.

That iniquity was described in Isaiah 14. He said, "I'm not satisfied with what I have. I'm going to become an invader. I'm going to take God's place and be the God of the universe." That was the devil's *sin* — **INSUBORDINATION**.

How the Earth Became Chaotic

A third of the angels united with Satan in the rebellion. *That is what caused the chaos of this earth*. The sin of angels reached into the heavens and brought chaos on earth. What the geol-

ogists and astronomers see is not an evolving universe, but the wreckage of a titanic battle waged by spirits throughout space — a battle fought before man's creation.

The earth was created perfect and complete. Then it **BECAME** chaotic as a result of rebellion. And in six days, God *remade* the earth, *reshaped*, *refashioned* it, and created human beings upon it.

He gave Adam a chance to take the place of Satan the devil. Remember, Lucifer had been placed *in rulership*.

God placed the great cherub, Lucifer, to carry out His government on the earth, but Lucifer refused to carry out God's will, God's commands, God's government. He wanted to substitute his own. *So he disqualified himself*.

Adam had the chance to supplant him. In the contest to see if Adam would conquer, if he would obey God, he failed. He obeyed the devil instead, and man *became the property of the devil*, and the whole human race has been sold down the river to the devil ever since.

Jesus Christ came 4000 years later and He entered the great contest — the contest of the temptation on the Mount. He **REFUSED to obey the devil**. He quoted scripture correctly. *He obeyed God*.

Finally, He turned to the devil, and *He gave Satan a command*. He said, "Get away from me," and the devil obeyed!

From that time on, the successor of Satan has been qualified to take over the rule of the earth. But Jesus went to heaven for 1900 years. He is soon coming again, and when He does, *the devil will be DISPLACED*. Christ will rule the earth, God's Laws will be restored. Order and peace will come at last!

So God did **NOT** create a devil. He created a cherub, Lucifer — perfect in his ways, but with the power of free choice — and Lucifer transformed himself into a devil by rebellion against the Government of God!

Today, **YOU** face the question: Will **YOU** obey the ways of Satan, or the **LAWS** of GOD? □

WHAT IS SATAN'S FATE?

The Bible warns of a very real devil and many Satanic cohorts. What is their ultimate fate? Here is the truth about Satan, and the startling proof about his final judgment!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

THIS WORLD is totally deceived. In His very first words to His disciples in the Olivet Prophecy, Jesus sternly warned, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For MANY shall come *in my name*, saying, I am Christ; and shall *deceive many*!" (Matt. 24: 4-5.)

Most of you are well aware of the false doctrines circulated in modern "Churchianity" about Satan the devil. The familiar tunes of the "preachy-toned" tent-camp evangelist shouting, "We're sure gonna twist ole Satan's tail tonight!" is just one of many examples.

Some believe he is merely the embodiment of all that is evil, and therefore not a real *being*, but just a BAD "idea" in the minds of men. Others believe Satan appears as a red, dancing monster with wings like a bat, horns, a tail and a pitchfork.

But What Is the Truth?

The Bible reveals that *Satan is the god of this present world*.

Paul expressly calls him that! "In whom the god of *this world* [Greek *aion*, or "age"] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, LEST the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Cor. 4:4).

In trying to overthrow Christ, Satan

boasted, "All this power will I give thee [all the kingdoms of the world], and the glory of them: for that is *delivered unto me*; and to whomsoever I will I give it" (Luke 4:6).

Had Satan made this statement falsely, Christ would certainly have refuted it! And yet, Christ said not one word to contradict Satan's presumptuous remarks about the kingdoms of this world. Jesus *did*, however, rebuke the devil for *tempting Him by means of* the kingdoms of this world.

Jesus warned His disciples that the *majority* would be deceived, and going in the broad, wide, *easy* way — the way of following that which seems *right* to a man — to destruction! (Matt. 7:13.)

The deceiver is called the "prince of the power of the air" in Eph. 2:2. John's vision plainly showed Satan as the deceiver of the **WHOLE WORLD**, who was cast down with his angels, who are now called demons (Rev. 12:9).

How It Happened

God reveals *how* Satan became the god of this world — and why! Perhaps many have falsely assumed the devil is the god of this world *against* the will of God! Many, perhaps, have unknowingly followed another *deception* of Satan by believing the *false* idea of this world of some kind of GREAT

CONTROVERSY between God and Satan! This doctrine represents the devil as being much more powerful than God! After all — the world is totally wrapped up in sin, isn't it? Such religious teachings represent just one more example of the thoroughness with which Satan has done his work of deception.

Your Bible reveals Satan as a **CREATED** being — created of God. For the startling proof, read Mr. Armstrong's article "Did God Create a Devil?" beginning on page 3 of this issue.

Counterfeit Doctrines

Satan began his deception by introducing the doctrine of the "immortality of the soul" to Eve in the Garden of Eden. He told her, "Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4). Since that time, the devil has succeeded in palming off *his own aspirations* and *his ultimate destination* on gullible human beings as their chief religious doctrines — which are **NOT** found in the Bible!

Listen!

Satan (Lucifer) wanted to go to heaven! The churches teach a doctrine of going someday to heaven! Lucifer is a *spirit*, and is therefore *immortal*! The churches believe *man* has an immortal spirit! Christ said an everlasting *fire* awaits Satan and his angels. The

churches teach an everlasting fire awaits all "sinners." Satan FELL from his attempt to overthrow God. The pagan misconception is that man FELL!

These are only a *few* of the more prevalent doctrines that Satan has palmed off as truth to this gullible world.

Satan's Work

God shows that fully one third of all the multiplied millions of the angels followed Lucifer in his rebellion, and were cast down to the earth with him! (Compare Rev. 12:4 with Rev. 1:20.) These fallen angels, remember, are SPIRITS, not human beings! To accomplish his *work* of deception, with the ultimate goal of *destroying* human beings, Satan utilizes these millions of disobedient spirits! He is called the PRINCE of demons (Matt. 12:24).

Satan himself is always concerned with the *top-level* jobs in his attempt to destroy God's plan. Notice how he began — by trying to destroy Adam and Eve — the very FIRST (and therefore a primary aim) humans on the earth. Again, when God sent His own Son, Satan tried by many clever subtleties to cause Christ to SIN against the Law of God. All through Christ's ministry, Satan tried to have Him killed — to thwart His every purpose! Finally, when it was time according to *God's* purpose to ALLOW Christ to be killed, Satan the devil was a DIRECT instrument in executing Christ. He entered *personally* into Judas! (John 13:27.)

It is not at all inconceivable that Satan could personally, individually tempt one of God's people! However, many people attribute many insignificant things to the devil — not realizing that he is concerned with the top-level jobs in his evil plan! Many of these things are nothing more than the pulls of their own human nature!

Since the devil is concerned directly with the *primary targets* in trying to upset God's plan, it also follows that the MOST IMPORTANT TARGET ON EARTH IS GOD'S CHURCH!

God thunders a warning at every one of us that the devil *is yet* to come down to this earth in GREAT WRATH — knowing he has but a short time left — to PERSECUTE God's Church. "And the

dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make *war* with the remnant of her seed, which *keep the commandments of God*, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ"! (Rev. 12:17.)

Paul said he was not IGNORANT of Satan's devices (II Cor. 2:11).

Are you?

What About the Everlasting Fire?

The time is rapidly drawing nearer when Satan the devil will no longer be *permitted* to deceive the nations! At this present time, God is directly ALLOWING Satan to be used as His instrument in blinding the world, so the lesson of mankind will be so firmly and completely etched in its own blood that there will never again be a society existing in total rebellion against God's government! *God* is the One who has "concluded [shut up] them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all" (Rom. 11:32). He says He is *not willing* that ANY should perish, but that ALL should finally come to repentance! (II Peter 3:9.)

At the beginning of Christ's millennial rule over the nations, Satan is to be BOUND, and cast into an abyss (Rev. 20:1-3). This condition of restraint will last during the thousand years, and then the devil will be momentarily allowed freedom to deceive the nations again (verse 3)!

But consider what occurs next!

Jesus said He is going to cast unrepentant, carnal-minded HUMANS into "everlasting fire, *prepared for the devil and his angels*" (Matt. 25:41). This parable of the sheep and the goats is another example of a parable of Christ that makes no special reference to the *time element*, but is showing a spiritual lesson and principle to be learned! The *separation* described in verse 32 takes place over a period of 1,100 years! — to the end of the 100-year period after the millennium.

Notice, however, that these wicked HUMAN BEINGS are cast into an everlasting *fire* prepared for the devil and his angels.

Fire is a physical, chemical thing! Fire is the combustion of physical objects with oxygen which *changes* the

physical objects into ashes and gaseous vapor!

Notice that the wicked (the *same* ones Christ referred to) are to be ASHES under the feet of the righteous! (Mal. 4:3.) Therefore, this fire Christ spoke of in Matthew 25 is a fire that CONSUMES human beings! But Satan is a SPIRIT being! And *spirit beings are not affected by fire*! They are not material.

Yes — it may be *possible* that Almighty God could create a fire that would perhaps consume a spirit — since ALL THINGS are possible with God! (Matt. 19:26.) But it is not a question of what God CAN do. It is a question of what God WILLED to do!

Let's continue!

The word "everlasting" in Matthew 25:41 is *aionion* in the Greek language. *Aionion* comes from the root *aion* which often means "age"! In this case, the correct translation into the English language should be "AGE-LASTING fire."

Does the Bible bear this up?

Yes, it does!

The "Age-Lasting" Fire

Next, let's notice carefully some significant facts about the fire Christ will use to destroy His enemies!

When Jesus returns to this earth as KING, His first act will be to destroy, NOT ALL the wicked, but that "wicked ONE" who is going to be working miracles and deceiving the world! (II Thes. 2:8.) Together with this great False Prophet, Christ will lay hold of the Beast who is yet to arise, and throw them *both* into a lake of fire, burning with brimstone! (Rev. 19:20.)

These two are human beings — physical, breathing *men*, who are alive and drawing breath at this instant! The fire will CONSUME them. *This lake of fire is going to be burning all during the millennium!* (Isaiah 66:23-24.)

During Christ's time, the Valley of Hinnom, just outside of Jerusalem, was the place where refuse and the bodies of criminals were thrown — into fires that were kept constantly burning. God uses this as a *type* of the coming lake of fire! My father, mother, brother and I saw this valley, called "Gehenna" in the Bible — and thus were actually looking into HELL, believe it or not!

During the millennial reign of Christ

and His saints, this valley will once more be kept perpetually burning — and the incorrigibly wicked ones who WILL to continue in rebellion against God's laws will be THROWN INTO this "lake of fire" as a stern witness to all the rest of the world! (Isa. 66:24.)

Next, turn to Revelation 20:10. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into *the* lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [WERE CAST]." There is *no* verb "are" in the original Greek, as the King James revisers have added in italics! See an interlinear or any concordance!

Notice that the devil WILL BE CAST into THE (not just "a," but the definite article "the" is in the Greek) lake of fire where the Beast and the False Prophet WERE CAST!

THIS IS THE SAME FIRE!

It was burning at the precise *beginning* of the millennium when the Beast and False Prophet were thrown into its flames; it will be burning at the END of the millennium, when Satan is thrown into the same fire!

That's WHY it is called an AGE-LASTING fire in Matthew 25:41 — because it does, literally, LAST for an age — the millennial age!

What About the Demons?

Christ said the fire was being prepared for the devil AND his angels! So they, *too*, are to be thrown into the lake of fire!

A commonly misunderstood explanation of this is found in I Peter 3:19-20. People have assumed, because they base their religious philosophies on the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, that Christ was busy PREACHING to some supposed "souls" of *men* in hell! What folly! Let's understand what really happened!

Your Bible plainly states the TIME element in these verses. Christ did the preaching, NOT during the three days and nights when He was DEAD in the tomb (I Cor. 15:3 and 20) but "WHEN once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing..." (I Peter 3:20).

But notice to *whom* Christ witnessed about the flood. "By which also he went and preached unto the SPIRITS IN PRISON"! (Verse 19.)

Who were these "spirits"? Certainly not MEN — nor the "souls" of men, since *men do not have* immortal souls!

Turn to II Peter 2:4 for the answer! "For if God spared not the angels [spirits] that *sinned*, but cast them down to hell [PRISON — "hell" is a mistranslation from the Greek *tartaroo* which means a "condition or position of restraint," as an "imprisonment"], and delivered them into CHAINS of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."

The "spirits in prison" are the sinning angels, or the DEMONS that have perverted their ways and followed Satan, and are BOUND to the earth — imprisoned here by the power of God until their day of JUDGMENT.

The final enemy of Christians is death itself. When the plan of God is finally completed, even death is to be completely destroyed! (I Cor. 15:26.) Just before the establishment of the new heavens and new earth, all that is corrupt, all that is physically combustible, will be consumed in a vast, WORLDWIDE lake of fire!

The Lake of Fire

This tremendous conflagration will be so intense, so white-hot, that the surface of the whole earth will literally melt with the fervor of the flames! Peter describes this awesome time as a melting of the very elements, a time when all the works on the earth are burned up — dissolved! (II Peter 3:10-11.)

Christ shows this time occurs *after* the final Great White Throne Judgment when God's plan is complete — and all who have been added to His family are already born of Him. After this final judgment, even death and the grave are destroyed (Rev. 20:13-15).

The surface of the earth will become for a time just as if it were the blazing surface of the sun! This is the great Gehenna fire that Christ talked of, that will destroy the wicked.

It is into this vast, seething lake of fire that Satan and his angels will have been cast.

But remember! This fire is PHYSICAL! It *consumes* the bodies of the wicked, and is so intense it even melts the rocks and elements of the earth until they are liquefied.

But Satan and his angels are spirit beings! Fire is PHYSICAL, and cannot BURN spiritual beings! Spirit is NOT COMBUSTIBLE!

Now notice an important verse!

The New Heavens and New Earth

In the glorious picture of the new heavens and new earth, John wrote a description of the temple, and the beauty of God's new creation. A key scripture is Revelation 21:27! God expressly shows Satan and his angels will not BE in the new heavens and the new earth! "And there shall IN NO WISE ENTER INTO IT any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." Satan will not be there! And the fire will BURN UP the wicked, and the works of the earth (Rev. 20:14; 21:8).

Peter tells us we can look forward to the new heavens and new earth wherein dwells *righteousness!* (II Peter 3:13.) It is evident from God's Word that Satan and his angels will not be anywhere in the new heaven and new earth!

Then where are they to be?

Let's go on — and see what your Bible actually reveals!

Since fire cannot consume spirits — then how can they be punished? Many people fail to realize that *mental* torment is *far worse* than physical torment!

How a Spirit Can Suffer

God created our bodies with a type of "safety device" against too much pain! When the physical human body is subjected to extreme pain, it will reach a certain point and then lapse into unconsciousness! The mind does not continue to register the pain — even though the body continues to suffer! Mothers recognize the truth of this immediately. The thought of seeing their children suffer — having to stand the *mental* agonies of seeing their own children being tortured — would be far worse than having to suffer physical pain themselves.

A *disembodied* spirit — one that cannot any longer physically manifest itself — is an *uncomfortable, miserable*

spirit! Jesus described this condition of mental torment when He said, "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out" (Luke 11:24).

This is further illustrated by the account of Christ's experience with the many demons who had entered the man in the country of the Gadarenes. Jesus commanded the spirits to come out of the man, and they "besought him *much* that he would not send them away out of the country" (Mark 5:10). "And all the devils [demons] besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may *enter into them*" (verse 12).

When Philip was performing miracles at Samaria, he cast out many demons, who came out of people "crying with *loud voice*" (Acts 8:7) showing their frustration and anger at being deprived of their dwelling place! (Luke 8:28.)

God says the demons *know* of His power — they are aware of the great AUTHORITY of God! We are told that willful sinners are going to be left with a certain FEARFUL looking for of *judgment* (Heb. 10:26-27) and that it is a FEARFUL thing to fall into the hands of the living God! (Verse 31.)

James said, "Thou believest that there is one God? Thou doest well: the devils [demons] also believe, and TREMBLE"! (James 2:19.) They FEAR the awesome judgment awaiting them, and are therefore in TORMENT! "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because FEAR HATH TORMENT" (I John 4:18).

When Satan comes down to the earth in great wrath, it is because he knows he has but a SHORT TIME left! (Rev. 12:12.)

His punishment will plainly be *mental, spiritual*, NOT PHYSICAL!

Many have misunderstood verse 16 of Ezekiel 28. Notice that God is speaking of the beginning of the creation in this account of Satan's original rebellion. But, just as the Bible so often uses DUAL meanings, so THIS is history and prophecy at the same time! God refers to the "stones of fire" in verse 13. Notice how these same stones are used in the description of the Holy City!

Compare with Revelation 21:18-21. Remember, the "mountain" (nation, or government) of God is ultimately going to be ON THIS EARTH! God CAST LUCIFER OUT of that mountain, throwing him DOWN from his attempt to be above God's throne! God's throne is then to be ON THIS EARTH! God will *again* cast Satan out of His presence!

"... Therefore I WILL [both past and future] cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, FROM the midst of the stones of fire" (Ezek. 28:16). The word *destroy* is explained by the word FROM! God does NOT say Satan is to be DESTROYED! He DOES say Satan is to be DESTROYED FROM a certain place — the midst of the stones of fire, or the location of God's seat of authority.

Satan Will Not Be Destroyed!

Now, let's notice further proof that Satan is NOT to be destroyed. Turn again to Revelation 20, and verse 10.

Notice that the devil is cast into the lake of fire where the Beast and False Prophet *were cast*, AND Satan and his demons shall be tormented day and night forever and ever!

This expressly states Satan will be tormented for the AGES OF THE AGES! (See *International Critical Commentary*, an interlinear or other such Bible helps.) This expression in the Greek means for all eternity — for time everlasting!

BUT!

Notice carefully the verse states Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire AND tormented forever! It does not say that he will *remain in the fire* forever! The fire is on this earth! The fire is an AGE-LASTING fire, which will *not* be burning after God's new heaven and new earth are established! Since Satan is to be tormented FOREVER, and the fire is to finally *consume* the physical objects it is burning until it burns *out*, Satan does *not* remain in this lake of fire forever!

Satan is a spirit! Fire cannot consume spirit — and A SPIRIT CANNOT DIE!

Jesus Christ said so!

For a clinching proof, turn to Luke the twentieth chapter. In verse 34, Christ begins to explain to the hypocritical Sadducees about the resurrection.

"... The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world [age], and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: NEITHER CAN THEY DIE ANY MORE, for they are equal unto the angels..." (verses 34-36).

Jesus tells us the angels *cannot die!* Satan is a fallen angel! Therefore Satan *cannot die!*

"Reserved Unto Judgment!"

Remember, Peter and Jude both attest to the fact that the sinning demons are reserved unto a time of JUDGMENT! Without realizing it, many people have assumed the "judgment" is a final SENTENCING that is passed in one instant at Christ's coming!

Such is not the case!

A judge must investigate the merits of each case and ARRIVE at a decision based on the facts! God is calling out His children to become kings and PRIESTS with Christ — and to RULE THIS EARTH! (Rev. 5:10.)

A vital part of the job of each of God's children will be JUDGMENT! Believe it or not, the Creator of all that exists is actually permitting us to have an opportunity to become judges of this world! Many have not understood the scriptures already mentioned in I Peter 3:19-20 and II Peter 2:4, simply because they have not understood an important phase of that judgment!

The Apostle Paul gives us the amazing answer in I Corinthians 6:2-3! "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?"

There it is!

We shall judge angels! Remember, the wicked spirits, including Satan, are presently being reserved, being kept in restraint, *unto judgment!* That judging is yet to be done!

Now do you see?

The Bible plainly reveals Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, but the lake of fire will *end* when the new heavens and new earth are established, and Satan is to be tormented unto the *ages*

Pornography stores and movie theaters hawk explicit sex. Sexual intercourse "live" on stage. "Gay-in" happenings and "Gay Power" parades in New York and Los Angeles. Sex change operations in Copenhagen. College yearbooks with nude pictures. Homosexual churches in California. English prelate sanctions homosexual marriages. Sodom and Gomorrah live again. It's like a ghastly resurrection of an old TV series — but it's REAL LIFE — AND IT IS SICK!

by David Jon Hill and J. Orlin Grabbe

GOD said it would be this way today! The Scriptures show social conditions at Christ's return to be "as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven,

and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:28-30).

Ancient Sodom was notorious for vice and corruption. The very word *sodomy* as applied to perverted sex comes from the homosexual way of life of Sodom's inhabitants (Gen. 19:5).

The entire city gathered at Lot's door to perform violent perversion on two strangers — two men.

Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them are mentioned specifically as "giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh" (Jude 7).

This article must of necessity be blunt — just to describe the social sickness that is a modern fulfillment of prophecy! Christ commanded us to *watch* world conditions — to be aware of His imminent return. But this article — in all its bluntness — will only begin to tell the full story of the raw hideousness of modern Sodom's sins!

We have been careful in our selection of vocabulary and phraseology. And we sincerely hope our warning of today

SATAN'S FATE

of the ages! It also shows his torment *while* in that fire is going to be MENTAL, at seeing all he has strived toward, worked for, plotted for, *burned up*. Christ preached to the spirits on this earth *during the time of the flood* as a WITNESS to them! The flood was a type of the yet future destruction of the earth — this time by FIRE! Christ was warning them of the impending destruction of all their works — and their everlasting banishment from this earth! The *exact nature* of their ETERNAL punishment is YET TO BE DECIDED!

YOUR BIBLE REVEALS YOU MAY BE INSTRUMENTAL IN DECIDING THAT PUNISHMENT!

Jude gave a slight indication of the possibility of the *nature* of that punishment when he used the demons as a *type* in warning Christians about false teachers who had crept in unawares. In reading through the book of Jude, you come to verse 6, where the demons are mentioned, to the next few verses,

where these "filthy dreamers" are described. Notice how their error is EXACTLY that of the sinning angels in that they too tried to *usurp* authority! "They . . . ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core . . ." (verse 11). See Numbers 16, where Korah tried to *usurp* the position of God's chosen servants.

Jude continues to describe, "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; *wandering stars* [see Rev. 1:20, where stars are symbols of *angels*], TO WHOM IS RESERVED THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOR EVER"! (Verse 13.)

Notice, in Enoch's prophecy, he spoke of coming *judgment*, "... Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute *judgment* upon all . . ." (verses 14-15).

As has already been proved — the *angels* (demons) are definitely included among those to be judged by the saints! Could this be an indication of their final fate? They are *miserable* when dis-

embodied — wandering through "dry places, seeking rest"! Could this statement in Jude give us a picture of their punishment? "... wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever"! (Jude 13.)

Your Responsibility

Part of our awesome responsibility is going to be the judging of angels! Satan's ultimate destination apparently is yet to be decided — *by the saints!*

Are you preparing yourself for such a job?

Such an overwhelming responsibility demands a tremendous amount of wisdom and knowledge! God Almighty has called you and me to much more than just some inactive, "fluff-fluff" eternity of laziness and ease! We are going to have the responsibility to rule the universe with Christ — to do what the fallen angels were unwilling to accomplish. So great is that responsibility that God says it has not entered into the *heart* of man the things He has prepared for us! (I Cor. 2:9.) □

concerning fulfillment of Biblical prophecy will offend in no way — but fully inform serious-minded people of the state of degeneracy in today's society.

Homosexuality Now Epidemic

Today's society? "Dr. Charles W. Socarides, of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University in New York, warned... that homosexuality has reached *epidemic proportions* in the United States.

"He said its frequency of incidence — 2.5 million to 4 million — surpasses that of the nation's four major illnesses..." (*International Herald Tribune*, May 19, 1970). The 2.5 to 4 million homosexuals, by Dr. Socarides' definition, are those who consistently and from inner necessity *engage* in homosexual acts. He does not include in this category any person who commits an isolated act, or the much greater multitude who are latent homosexuals, effeminate (or not masculine) in personality!

Influence of Affluence

Rising homosexuality is only indicative of society's moral sickness as a whole which in its broad impact affects many more millions than that! In fact, the technological miracles of mass communication — of TV, the printing press, motion pictures, etc. — *arising out of our abundance* are ready to insure that *no one* is safe from the pollutions of *modern Sodom*! "When I had fed them to the full [blessed them with material things], they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses" (Jer. 5:7).

Just like what happened in Sodom — "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of 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" (Ezek. 16:49-50).

Easy abundance preceded adultery, God states. A cornucopia of physical riches misused has led to a perverted "pornocopia." Pornography is, as *Time* magazine stated last year, "wallowing

in pay dirt. The market for erotic books, films and paraphernalia, which are sold mostly to the middle class and middle aged, has increased by an estimated 300% in the past five years. Police experts figure that annual sales of pornography are about \$500 million, and some put the total as high as \$2 billion" (Nov. 16, 1970).

Bookstands are replete with hundreds of current novels whose pages are filled with sex exploits in myriad variety, and described in execrable prose. A plethora of pornographic picture magazines feature color photos of nude men and women — some illustrating the act of sex itself — and some catering to homosexual tastes. Some porno shops feature "peep show" booths and offer a variety of sexual devices — *mainly artificial male and female organs!*

It's Sodom and Gomorrah all over again — but it's called *freedom, broad-mindedness, liberated, modern, progressive.*

Take movies, for example. Statements like this are typical: "We are fighting for your rights! See *Freedom to Love* and *Kama Sutra '71* — together! The exhibition of these films was interfered with by authorities. We firmly believe in the constitutional rights of the American citizen. For freedom of speech! Against censorship!" So goes the pseudo-noble, self-righteously indignant materialistically motivated defense of abject filth.

More of the same hides behind the catch-all term *art*. Even the recent Secretary of the British Board of Film Censors expressed the opinion — in an interview with two of our staff members — "I personally don't mind the most explicit sex in the context which justifies it and done by someone who has been making films of artistic quality. Look at the sex scenes in *Women in Love* by Ken Russell. All right, you can't get more explicit than that. But they were justified in the story and the characterisations arising out of it."

And the traditional bastion of morals, the church, many times goes along with the tide, and sometimes leads the way. One case in point, the report of a UPI release: "[A religious figure] said today two school girls and a boy will appear naked in a film he

made about Adam and Eve which will be shown in church with a scene suggesting lovemaking... 'There is nothing wrong with the film,' [the religious figure] said. 'Even the scene suggesting lovemaking is very, very tame. We have been very careful of what shots we show and what is out of focus.'"

The girl appearing in the film said that her minister "is very artistic. He is planning to do a full-length sculpture of me in the nude. In the play I am raped and murdered" (Jan. 9, 1971).

The Spirit of Sodom

The spirit of Sodom and Gomorrah is the spirit of this age — influencing people everywhere! Said one prominent person in the movie industry, "They'll stop making these films when the public stops buying them... It's a vicious cycle, [he] asserted, because movie goers are flocking to these films, complaining about the lack of decent entertainment and yet 'fine attractions are falling by the wayside' because these same people won't go to them" (*Vancouver Sun*, Jan. 27, 1970).

When the play "Oh, Calcutta" hit the London stage, "the audience [gave] the cast of 10 a standing ovation after a two-hour orgy of make-believe sex, spankings and incest" (*Reuters*, July 18, 1970).

Now some porno-movie housefilms show humans in sex acts with various animals.

God foretold our time 2500 years ago, "They declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not" (Isa. 3:9). The *New York Times* reported last year "a new mood now taking hold among the nation's homosexuals. In growing numbers they are *publicly identifying* themselves as homosexuals, taking a *measure of pride* in that identity and seeking militantly to end what they see as society's persecution of them" (Aug. 24, 1970).

Written in the law of God is the commandment, "There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel" (Deut. 23:17).

Sodomites are many times mentioned in the Bible in conjunction with *religion* — with the infiltration of

(Continued on page 17)

TWO TRILLION Dollars In

Why is the world's RICHEST nation also the world's chief DEBTOR nation? Why are the WELL-PAID Americans DEEPEST in debt? America is seemingly under an economic CURSE, resulting from broken economic LAWS. America, Britain, and other debtor nations need to learn these laws and obey them. This article reveals those basic laws, and shows how YOU can prosper in the midst of a debt-ridden society.

by Herman L. Hoeh

THINK OF IT! — a world filled with peace and *prosperity*, a happy new world in which nobody need have any financial troubles.

That is the coming UTOPIA — the wonderful World of Tomorrow!

But why isn't there a utopia today? Why, instead, do we have the twin evils of inflation and recession, with chronic unemployment and skyrocketing welfare costs?

There is no *one* thing that plagues more people *today* than the constant worry of employment and making ends meet. Let us UNDERSTAND! There is a reason, a CAUSE, for it! [Editor's Note: If you are currently out of a job, we invite you to write for a FREE article "How to Find a Good Job" which discusses several usable, common-sense techniques in obtaining employment.]

Why Stupendous DEBT?

When you stop to think about it, never in the history of the world were any nations so seemingly rich as are the English-speaking and the Western European nations today. Our people possess more developed resources and national wealth than any people *ever* had before. Yet these very nations *owe* public and private debts so HUGE that the next ten generations will not be able to pay them off!

The U. S. alone owes around \$2,000,000,000,000 — that is two trillion dollars — in gross public and private debt! That means every individual American averages about \$10,000 of this gigantic debt. Or, a family of four owes, in public and private debt, \$40,000.

SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! We have lost sense of the value of money. And no wonder. What most people simply don't know, today, about their financial problems is that there are definite LAWS in motion — invisible, yet inexorable laws, which regulate economic conditions and personal finances.

World Ignores These Laws

Let us understand how these FINANCIAL LAWS would operate to bring about a utopia — both national and individual — if we would obey them.

Everything produced — money and the things money will buy — comes from the earth. You didn't produce the earth — GOD produced it! You merely apply energy in thinking and planning and in labor to the earth, which God created and *owns*. Where does the energy you expend really come from? It comes from God. *You* do not create it. You merely *utilize* what GOD supplies.

God even set your thinking processes in motion. You are entirely dependent on Him for your life.

Yes, all has come from God. It is GOD who sustains, preserves in motion, guides and directs all the natural forces and energies. God is not a Creator Emeritus. He is the living DIRECTOR of the universe. It is GOD'S LABOR — His thinking, planning and creating — that *really* produces all. Therefore, God has a *claim* to OWNERSHIP of all you have *taken for granted* that you produced. His claim is VALID. It is PRIOR to yours. Notice what God Almighty says:

"The earth is the Lord's [ETERNAL'S], and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1).

These inspired words are repeated in the New Testament in I Cor. 10:26.

Yes, even the money — the gold and silver — is God's. "*The silver is MINE, and the gold is MINE, saith the ETERNAL of Hosts*" (Haggai 2:8).

Only the foolish DARE to deny this claim of God! Let us admit it then.

Our income BELONGS to God until He releases it to us.

How God's Law Regulates Your Wealth

God is concerned about you. He has your interest and welfare in mind. He therefore set FINANCIAL LAWS in motion regulating, for our benefit, that portion of His WEALTH which *your* thinking and *your* labor extracted from the earth and developed.

God's LAW respecting what you earn is like a contract. He allows you to work on HIS EARTH, to use a part of the earth for food and other materials for your livelihood — to utilize its soil, its timber, its water, its coal and oil, and to manufacture products from it. In turn, God wants you to understand *you are working with Him in partnership* — MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING WHAT HE CREATED.

But God is GENEROUS. In this partnership, He turns over to you as your own not 5% or 20% or even 50% — but 90% of all that you produce! And even the small fraction which He reserves for Himself, He has directed to be used for the purpose of disseminating to the PEOPLE His message. Through that message God reveals His

(Continued on page 15)

Debt-But You Can Prosper

\$2.1 Trillion

U.S. GROSS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DEBT IN TRILLIONS!

- Two Trillion Dollars equals ...
 - A string of one thousand dollar bills going 8 times around the earth.
 - Quarters stacked 8,000,000 miles high — or to the moon and back 16 times.
 - Enough dollar bills to cover the entire states of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware, (or nation of Israel — pre 1967), or State of New Jersey, or State of Massachusetts.
- Total debt increases by \$5,000 per second, nearly half a BILLION daily!
- Per capita debt is over \$10,000, although only \$1,000 of that is PERSONAL debt.
- Debts are 40 times the currency supply and nearly 200 times the gold supply.
- America OWES more than the rest of the world PRODUCES yearly.

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 (est.)

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce

BANKRUPT!

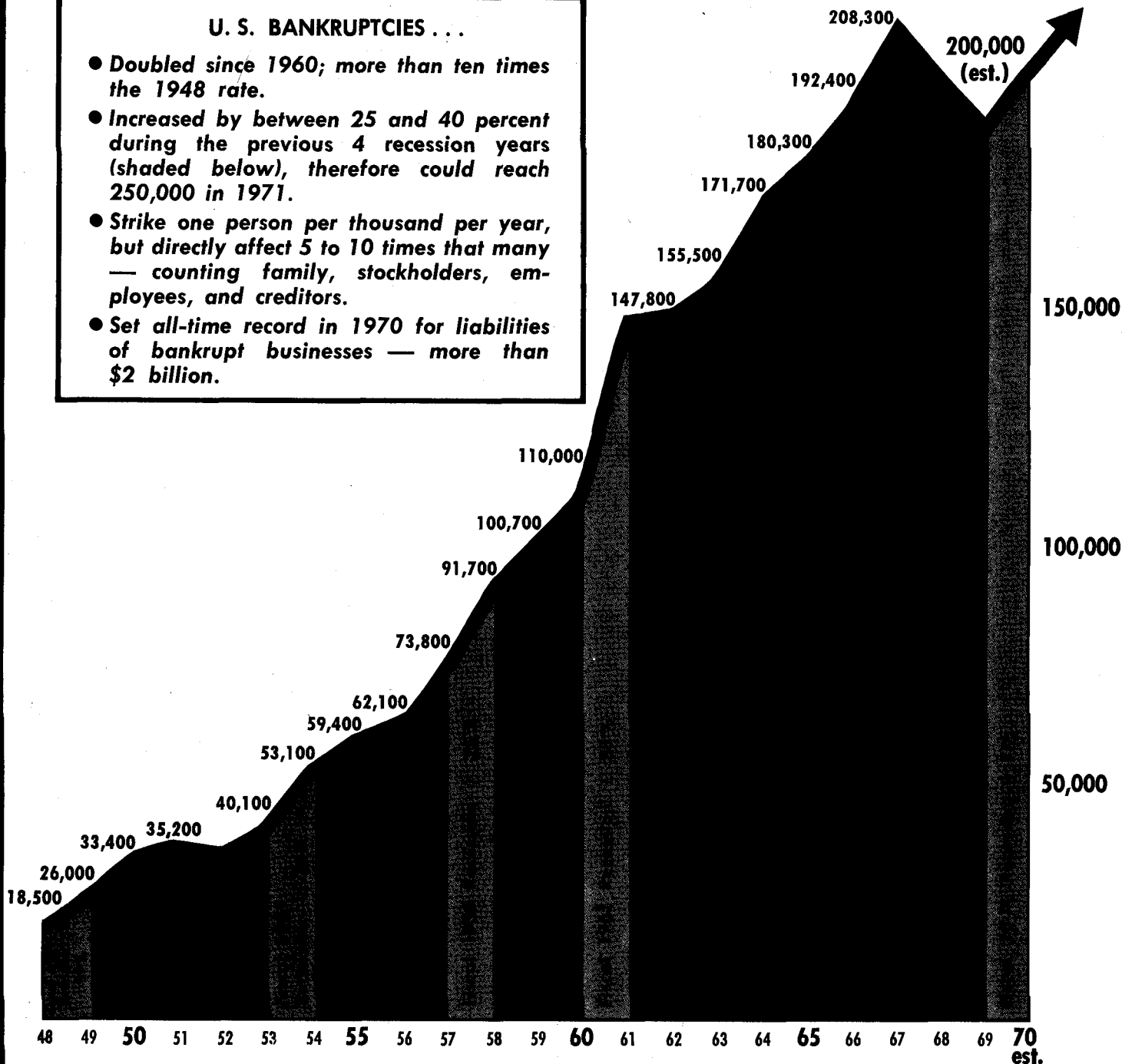
ASAGE Negro economist once said, "We've boiled it down to this — if your outgo exceeds your income, your upkeep will be your downfall."

We couldn't have said it better! Bankruptcy strikes over 200,000 individuals and corporations yearly in the wealthiest of all nations — the United States. Bankruptcy is as "American as cherry pie." Here's the rundown:

PERSONAL: Over 178,000 American individuals — a record — filed for bankruptcy in 1970. What happened to these hapless individuals? Most merely filed the appropriate forms, then went right on living and working as usual. The bankruptcy court handled their paycheck and debts until the two balanced. Last year's bankruptcies ranged from \$65-a-week welfare cases all the way up to the heir of the DuPont fortune,

U. S. BANKRUPTCIES . . .

- Doubled since 1960; more than ten times the 1948 rate.
- Increased by between 25 and 40 percent during the previous 4 recession years (shaded below), therefore could reach 250,000 in 1971.
- Strike one person per thousand per year, but directly affect 5 to 10 times that many — counting family, stockholders, employees, and creditors.
- Set all-time record in 1970 for liabilities of bankrupt businesses — more than \$2 billion.



Source: Ambassador College Statistical Research; Administrative Office of the United States Courts

who listed assets at a mere \$26 million, and debts at \$63 million!

BUSINESS: A record 10,750 businesses failed in 1970, over one fourth of them owing debts of over \$100,000. Combined debts of these companies totaled a record \$2 billion, not even counting multi-billion dollar Penn Central, the world's largest transportation company. As in personal bankruptcies, businesses may continue service, while court-appointed managers straighten the books, under so-called "Chapter 11" proceedings.

STATE and LOCAL GOVERNMENTS are virtually on the brink of bankruptcy, due largely to multiplying welfare loads. If such a governmental failure finally occurred, you could count on a superior power, "the lender of last resort," the Federal Government, to attempt to balance their books.

NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL: What if a nation goes bankrupt? Impossible, say most economists, since a national debt is mostly "internal" — for instance, Americans owing other Americans two trillion dollars. Only the "external" debt of some \$50 billion balance of payments deficit is worrisome.

But wait! To back up such "external" liabilities, the United States has only about \$11 billion in gold and \$3 billion in foreign currencies, Special Drawing Rights, and other financial assets accepted by foreigners.

Is the United States then "externally" bankrupt? Yes! The only difference is that the "collection agency," or court-appointed referee has virtually no power to collect. The debtor (the U.S.) is presently stronger than the creditor — mainly Europe.

But could it be that the \$75 billion in the annual U. S. direct investments abroad (or, more vitally, the \$170 billion in United States *assets* abroad) could be rightfully "nationalized" (confiscated by Europeans) as payment for America's 50 billion in external debts? The Europeans are especially upset at the "dollar glut," and the U.S. pursuing a policy of "benign neglect" toward its chronic balance of payments deficit. Could "bankruptcy proceedings" against the United States be Europe's only answer?

— Gary Alexander

(Continued from page 12)

laws of life that if we follow, free us from financial fears and worries and give us peace of mind and enduring happiness, abundant joy and LIFE ETERNAL!

Think of it! *God* uses the ONE tenth of all that we produce to *help improve us* materially and spiritually, and to reveal to this UNHAPPY, spiritually bankrupt WORLD THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS LAWS WHICH, IF OBEYED, WOULD PRODUCE UTOPIA! *God* keeps NOTHING for Himself.

God's financial laws are for MAN'S GOOD. Obedience to His laws brings BLESSINGS. "Prove me [by returning to *God* His tenth] now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a BLESSING, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).

When the nation violates His laws, that nation brings CURSES upon itself — fears, worries, frustration, and ultimate national suicide! "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have ROBBED me, even this whole nation." "Wherein have we robbed thee?" "In tithes and offerings" (Malachi 3:8, 9).

But *God* has ordained that if He receives His rightful 10%, as a partner, of what is produced from the earth, the 90% which He gives us will soon grow bigger and accomplish more for us than we alone could ever have done with the entire 100%.

God actually pays us for keeping our part of the CONTRACT! "And all nations shall call you BLESSED: for you shall be a delightful LAND, saith the Eternal of hosts" (Malachi 3:12).

It is time we understood the duties we owe our Creator. The nations today have robbed *God*. They are withholding from Him what is His. They are under a curse. No wonder world leaders find no lasting solution to their recurrent financial woes. BUT *you*, individually, can prosper by tithing, no matter what the nation does.

Why Abraham Prospered

Abraham was prosperous. He knew the laws which bring financial prosperity. He tithed!

Abraham paid his tenth, or tithe, to

God's representative. That representative who collected the tithe was the High Priest Melchizedek (Heb. 7:1-2 and Genesis 14:18-20).

Tithing was known from the earliest times — centuries *before* the time of Moses.

The King of Sodom was present with Abraham when he paid Melchizedek the tithes. The Bible would not have termed the Sodomites wicked sinners unless they had a knowledge of *God's* Law as a result of Melchizedek's ministry. Sin would not have been imputed to them if they had not heard and known the Law — (Rom. 5:13).

Abraham obeyed *God's* Law — including the law of tithing (Gen. 26:3, 5).

That's why Abraham prospered!

Remember, tithes belong to Melchizedek. The tithes were paid *directly* to Him in patriarchal times for the purpose of carrying on *God's* ministry which was then centered at Salem, or Jerusalem.

But in Moses' day a change took place. Melchizedek ordered the establishment of a covenant — the Old Covenant. As long as that covenant lasted, a change had to be made in the law regulating tithing. Tithes were still to be paid to Him, but through MEN acting as His representatives. *God's* ministry through the Levites became a material, ritualistic ministry of reminding an entire nation of their failure to obey His laws.

The Levites used the tithes to minister to the people in the manner *God* had commanded for that time. Melchizedek, High Priest in heaven, still supervised — but stepped into the background, letting men perform rituals that reminded the people of sin and of the plan of *God*. The Levites did not preach the spiritual message of the Kingdom of *God*.

Melchizedek Ministry Reappears!

Melchizedek of the Old Testament again appeared as the High Priest of the New Testament. As High Priest, He came as the Lamb of *God* to *sacrifice Himself* for the sins of all those who had lived before His coming and for the sins of those who would live after

Him, so they could enter the coming Kingdom of God.

He came to qualify as world ruler. He came to train messengers who would proclaim to an unbelieving and slumbering world His imminent return to establish God's government here on earth. He is Christ — OUR PRESENT HIGH PRIEST!

Let's compare the Old Testament Levitical priesthood with the New Testament ministry established by Jesus Christ for carrying out His Work *today*.

IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES — between the time of Moses and Jesus — under the Old Covenant, God's ministry was purely *national*, for Israel alone. Its blessings were purely *material* — promises of *earthly* wealth and power in return for obedience. There were no *spiritual* promises for salvation. A constant round of animal sacrifices were required as a reminder of sin. The people had no promise whatever of salvation, for the Holy Spirit, which makes a change of nature and salvation possible, was not promised to the people until *after* Christ came and ascended (John 14:26; 16:7; Acts 2:38).

Melchizedek (the One who became Christ), selected the Levites under the Old Covenant as His ministers. MELCHIZEDEK ALSO ORDAINED A TEMPORARY CHANGE IN THE TITHING LAW — HE TURNED THE TENTH HE HAD ALWAYS PERSONALLY RECEIVED IN PATRIARCHAL DAYS OVER TO THE LEVITES FOR ADMINISTERING HIS WORK.

He thereby supported the LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD. There was *no* spreading of the Gospel. God's PLAN *then* called for the LEVITES to teach the people the *law* in the LETTER. *And the people were commanded to support them.*

TODAY, under the New Covenant, there is no need of the Levitical priesthood.

Jesus Christ — the Melchizedek of the Old Testament — came to this earth to inaugurate a NEW KIND OF MINISTRY — A SPIRITUAL MINISTRY — a ministry of SALVATION, a ministry of WARNING, of PROPHECYING of His imminent return as world ruler!

Melchizedek, "who abides high priest continually," assumed the form of

a mortal man, which no Levite could do, and paid for the sins of all mankind, as the Lamb of God. As a result, the Father has made available His own Holy Spirit to us. It is the *power* which makes possible the keeping of God's LAW IN THE RIGHT SPIRIT or *attitude*.

Jesus Christ also chose His original twelve disciples, or ministers, while He was on earth. Today all true ministers of Jesus Christ are *called* by special spiritual call from God through His Holy Spirit. Christ, commissioning His ministers today, says: "THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the END [of this age] come" (Matt. 24:14).

That Gospel is reaching millions, worldwide, today through this very magazine — and *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast, *The PLAIN TRUTH* and the colorfully illustrated booklets. The lives of thousands are being changed. It is making possible, for hundreds of thousands, the more abundant life Jesus preached (John 10:10). That Gospel message includes the laws that bring financial prosperity — the tithing law.

We are subsidized by no one! Our work is made possible only through tithes and offerings received from those who, as Co-Workers, are interested in furthering the Work God has commanded to be done at this time — through the ones He has chosen to do it! We do not ask the public for contributions. Jesus didn't. But we are commanded by God to tell the people His laws just as Jesus did. It is up to the people to obey God!

God has commanded that *we* carry His warning-witness message to all the world. *We cannot charge for it. God has commanded that His Gospel go free to all:* "Preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand... freely ye have received, *freely* give" (Matt. 10:7-8). God places the *financial responsibility* of furthering His Gospel work upon those who understand His way. And God will prosper them for it.

What Happens When God's Laws Are Broken

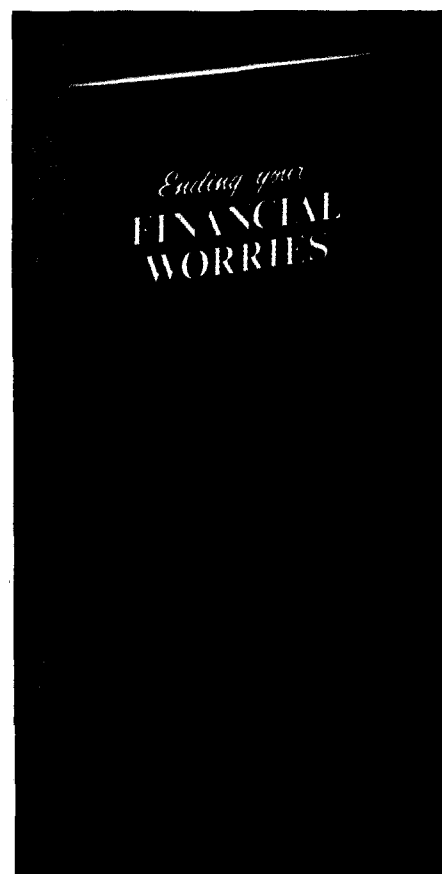
Soon, the United States and Britain — descendants of the ancient House of Israel — are to suffer national calamity

— just prior to Christ's second coming. Why?

Malachi 3 gives the answer. This prophecy can be for no other time — look at the date! It can be for no other time than *today*, and for no other people than modern-day Israel — Britain and America today — for God addresses it to the people living in the day of Christ's second coming (verse 2). *Always* we have erred (verse 7). God says to those in our land today — *you*, if you are guilty — "Ye are cursed with a *curse*: for ye have *robbed* me, even this *whole nation*... in *tithes and offerings*" (verses 9, 8).

What do you think God will do? Something different than He has *always* done for disobedience? No! Listen! Joel 1 says He will weaken the nations with famine, then Ezekiel 5:5, 12 shows He will raise a foe against us who will *remove us from our land*. Our nations haven't paid God His rent, so our people will be removed from their land!

THIS IS A SERIOUS THING — *and the time is fast approaching*. BUT *you*, individually, can *escape* IF you study God's revealed Word, repent, believe and obey Him. □



(Continued from page 11)

paganism and Baal worship into the true religion of ancient Israel. It's recorded that King Josiah "brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the Lord, where the women wove hangings for the grove" (II Kings 23:7).

These were "holy sodomites" who sold themselves as an "act of worship."

And today? Last year — 1970 — saw the creation of the first homosexual church denomination in the United States, with congregations in Hollywood, San Francisco, San Diego, Chicago and small "mission" churches in Dallas, Miami and Phoenix. The pastor of the headquarters Hollywood congregation became convinced that "the lord" wanted him to found a "gay church."

The question is, which "lord"? It wasn't Jesus Christ, who — as God of the Old Testament — destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah in a furious foretaste of hellfire! (Jude 7.) It wasn't the Lord Jesus Christ who said the time at His return would be as rank in manners and morals as in the time of Sodom and Gomorrah!

States the Hollywood pastor, "As far as Christ is concerned, love in any form is permissible."

What is "love"? Homosexuality cannot be — and never will be — love. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments" (I John 5:3). The Bible warns, "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind... shall inherit the kingdom of God"! (I Cor. 6:9-10.)

A recent paperback on homosexuality by a Cambridge theologian urges the following, in the words of a newspaper columnist, "Homosexuals should never be shunned, certainly not by the churches. They ought to be welcomed and made to feel that they belong... [the theologian's] opinion is that a permanent, stable loving relationship between two people of the same sex... should be accepted and not con-

demned by the community... [as] these acts are good if they really contribute to a mutual fulfillment in love" (*Watford Observer*, May 15, 1970).

A leader of the Lavender Menace, a lesbian organization in New York, said that "homosexuality is not an illness, it's a way of expressing love for someone of the same sex, and any form of love is beautiful and valid."

The Apostle Paul declares in answer, "There is... no possible defense for their conduct... God has given them up to shameful passions. Their women have exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, and their men in turn, giving up natural relations with women, burn with lust for one another, males behave indecently with males, and are paid in their own persons the fitting wage of such perversion... They know well enough the just decree of God, that those who behave like this deserve to die, and yet they do it, not only so, they actually applaud such practices" (Rom. 1:21-32, *New English Bible*).

More and more, as present society approaches the apex of Sodom's sins, society condones sodomy. Recently the National Association for Mental Health "called for an end to criminal punishment for homosexual acts committed in private between consenting adults... In a statement entitled 'Homosexuality and Mental Illness,' the association said, 'There is no evidence either in empirical research or in the experience of other countries that homosexual behavior in itself endangers the health of the individual or of society'" (*Reuters*, Feb. 16, 1971).

Just this year, a man calling himself the "first publicly declared homosexual ever to run for Congress" filed nominating papers as an independent candidate.

The total and openly flagrant abandonment of all moral norms is rapidly nearing that point where God will say, "As I live... Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters" (Ezek. 16:48).

Unless our society repents, and turns to God, the moral corruption of modern society will surpass that of Sodom! Unless our nations give heed to God's warning message, they will go beyond

the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah! And if they refuse to take advantage of the prolonged period of God's mercy as He awaits to see whether our peoples will repent — then prophecy will irrevocably come to pass: "For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater [because our sins were greater] than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her" (Lam. 4:6).

The Alternative

Everyone needs to love, and to be loved, without fear, guilt, and shame — to feel wanted, and not rejected.

But REAL love is impossible without God, and APART FROM God's Law. Genuine love is unselfish — outgoing concern — away from self. Sure, you can call lust "love" — but it's still lust. Lust is selfish and inward. It is inconsiderate of another's feelings or needs.

Sex CAN BE beautiful, between man and woman, WITHIN A MARRIAGE relationship. But you can take sex and smear it all over the movie screen, and put it in the porno-books, and call it "love." But it's not. And in the end, it only leaves a gnawing void.

The relationship of man and woman in marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:22-28) — the true Christ, and the true Church. Why be foul, pollute, and pervert that relationship? Why not enjoy the full, rich, and happy life — just as God gave it?

The way of Sodom and Gomorrah can be repented of. Homosexuality and sodomy can be forgiven. Christ's sacrifice is big enough to wash away all of that — if a person is willing to give up his sin, and live the life God wants him to live.

God "... turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly... [But] the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations..." (II Peter 2:6, 9).

God will do the same, today.

For the ungodly.

For the godly.

Choose.



The name, Jesus, doesn't make it
the real Jesus' way!



... but it does matter — if you
are sincerely WRONG! Would you
believe, DEAD wrong?



Jesus People hold rally, gesture indicates
professed belief in "one way."



Ambassador Collage Photos

THE "JESUS TRIP" ONE-WAY TICKET TO NOWHERE?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

A furor of protest came flooding in over my recent article in *The PLAIN TRUTH* concerning the new "trip" among many of America's youth: "The 'Jesus Trip.'" Many were angry. But WHY? In the article, I challenged everyone to FIND THE TRUE JESUS CHRIST! Why should this make professing Christians angry? Some few DID discover they had been following after "another Jesus"! They were those who carefully CHECKED the scriptures, and took up the challenge to FIND the true Christ. Most merely read the first portion of the article, found something with which to violently disagree, then scanned hurriedly the remainder with emotional bias. In writing the lengthy article necessary to ANSWER the many arguments I received, I find it is impossible to publish in *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, under its present format. So, each person who wrote, complaining, will receive *this single issue* of TOMORROW'S WORLD magazine. They will receive no more issues, unless they specifically request them. Read, then, in this article, of the TRUE Jesus Christ: how He *paid taxes, slept in homes, at least one of which was His own, DID NOT come "head to head" with the "establishment," and DID NOT have long hair.* Read of the TRUE CHRIST for a change — and turn from *fables* to the *living Jesus!*

THE INDIGNANT screams still echo in my ears . . .

With snorts of indignation, I have been roundly cursed, maligned, criticized, or summarily banished to the nether regions — all because I dared to become iconoclastically involved in shattering a popular idol: the "pusillanamous pansy" of a false, long-haired, effeminate, soft-spoken vagabond called "Jesus," who never existed.

Oh, the REAL Jesus Christ existed all right.

The REAL Christ whom I serve, worship, and strive to *obey* (through *His* power, not mine), THAT Christ is alive, and very REAL!

But the "other Jesus" (II Cor. 11:4) is *not* real — but totally false. I had been guilty, it seems, of a terrible, unforgivable desecration. I was often reminded not to *judge*, and was summarily threatened with terrible consequences.

I had called Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer a common drunk.

Santa Claus is a commie.

Mickey Mouse is a Nazi.

Ducks don't talk, and wear trousers. Benedict Arnold was the first President. George Washington was a corporal.

Still, for all the derisive snorts of rage, I noticed NONE of the writers of the letters had taken issue with any of the plain SCRIPTURES I quoted in the "Jesus Trip" article. Those few who checked the scriptures were pleasantly surprised — even inspired, and wrote to tell me so.

I *did*, after all, challenge young people to FIND THE TRUE CHRIST, remember? (If you didn't read the "Jesus People" article, a reprint copy is available upon request — FREE of charge, of course. Just ask for "The Jesus Trip.")

With mob-like unanimity, the emotional outburst continues. The kids are *sincere*, I'm told. I've been invited to countless youthful "Jesus People" rallies to SEE for myself how utterly SINCERE these young people are.

I have been reminded that God looks on the *heart*, and not the outward appearance. I have been warned not to judge. I have been bitingly accused, or gently and forgivingly warned.

Suddenly, quitting smoking deserves

the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Going "cold turkey" off drugs makes you a first-century disciple.

I was reminded, time and time again, that ex-pot-heads, acid-droppers, speed-freaks, and dropouts had found something *real*, something *meaningful*, in this insane world of population, pollution, the bomb, and Vietnam.

And then here comes Garner Ted Armstrong (some used other names than my own) to *tear down*, and to *destroy* everything.

But I challenged them to FIND THE TRUE CHRIST, didn't I?

Why should such a challenge make people angry? And especially, why make the very people who claim to have the *love* of Christ angry? Atheists, evolutionists, or pagans may be angered at being challenged to find the *true* Jesus. But why professing Christians?

But They're SINCERE!

Of *course* they're sincere.

Hitler was sincere. He sincerely wanted to rule the world, and with grim, sincere dedication began a policy of genocidal madness calculated to eradicate an entire race. No one ever doubted (with the conceivable exception of isolationist Americans and Neville Chamberlain) Hitler's extreme sincerity.

But since when is *sincerity* the major criterion for *truth*? *Accuracy* — or *legitimacy* — and sincerity no more naturally associate themselves than oil and water. I once read of a frustrated, distraught young Puerto Rican who committed suicide in New York. The newspaper clipping told how an autopsy revealed the man had first gulped a huge dose of lethal pills, then slashed both wrists, then doused himself with lighter fluid, and then, poised on a ledge below a window many stories up, struck a match, and leapt.

That's determination. That's dedication. That's *sincerity*.

It's also hugely sickening.

I would not doubt for a moment the sincerity of ancient priests whose victims had their hearts ripped from their bodies in human sacrifice; nor the parents who advanced toward the jungle pools of imagined rain gods in the forests of Central America with their own

little children in their arms, to be thrown into the pools alive.

But I would deeply doubt either their rationality, or their *knowledge*.

Little children are terribly *sincere* as they crawl into the street after a pretty ball, or try to reach the whirring blades of a fan, or gurgle with delight at discovering the pretty bottle in the medicine chest.

A loving parent would be *just* as sincere in trying to PREVENT their destruction.

It seems the young people who reacted so strongly to my earlier article did not realize I was taking issue neither with their *intent*, nor with their *sincerity*.

I was most definitely taking issue with their *knowledge*, their *accuracy*, their *research-ability*, and their IDOL.

Picture yourself an emancipator of the pagans of the South Seas.

You hear the strange incantations of the priest as he offers a human sacrifice

before the fat, stone lips of a leering god of volcanic rock.

To prove the idol has no power, and is only a piece of inanimate rock, you rush through the palmetto grove swinging an ax and smash the idol on its ugly nose, breaking the hideous thing off.

You've proved your point.

And you were right. The idol can't hurt you — since it's only an inanimate, humanly devised, imaginary thing of no force, or power.

But will the worshippers congratulate you?

I would think the thing to do would be to run — fast. Idol-smashing has never been an entirely safe occupation, even if God's own servants were called upon to do so.

I just must publish, in full, the letter below. It hits the nail *perfectly* on the head — judging from the

Dear Ted,

I just read "The Jesus Trip," and would like to place my order early for your picture when you get tarred and feathered.

It isn't that I disagree; on the contrary, I couldn't agree more. I felt that the article was fascinating and timely and even humorous. There is one point, however, that confused me somewhat. Either you erred in your judgment or else you have strong suicidal tendencies. I tend to feel that it is the latter.

What I am driving at is that the more I read, the more I was reminded of a statement of yours, which paraphrased is: "Man, you can't get away with telling people the truth."

As a rule your comments can be taken in such a way as to leave the reader or the listener the luxury of redirecting them and saying yes, yes, yes I know the kind of person he is talking about, but this time you hit the main stream of professing Christianity right in its treasure chest of beddy-bye stories.

Keep up the good work. In the meantime I'll try to find some good tar remover or if I'm unable to find that I'll see if I can find some nice ostrich plumes and pterodactyl wings for decoration.

Sincerely,
William C., Portland, Oregon

furious batch of protests I received for destroying a popular idol.

Please believe me; I do not doubt for one moment the *sincerity* of young or old alike who feel they have found an "experience" with a "Jesus." Their "experience" and what they "feel" is very REAL to them. Their imaginary picture of a "Jesus," as it has been presented to them through history, theology, past teaching, and by present religious leaders, religious tracts, pamphlets, booklets, or wildly garish T-shirts and pictures is equally "real."

But it is only as real as Santa Claus, or Mickey Mouse, or Rudolph. It may be cherished. And they may be sincere. But they are sincerely wrong.

There *is*, after all, a REAL Jesus Christ of Nazareth — who is ALIVE today. Why should it make people *angry* to be challenged to DISCOVER HIM?

The Excitement of a Counterfeit

I told, on the broadcast, of the story of the young hip-types who discovered a sack of money lying in the street. With alacrity, they unwrapped the thick sheafs of bills, their eyes lighting up with delight.

They had an excited, urgent conversation in the back of their Volkswagen van. They decided to *change* their way of life. They decided to go to the bank, and deposit the money, then buy a home, then set themselves up in some small business, and *quit* drugs and wasted days of wandering.

They were excited! They even had time to wonder, "But what will all my *friends* think?" if they cut their hair, and wore "straight" clothing.

They went to the bank, filled with expectancy, excitement, and SINCERITY.

The vice-president of the bank looked at the piles of money, carefully examined many of them and then called the police. The money was counterfeit.

"I'm *sorry*," said the bank officer, "but this money is all useless — it's counterfeit!"

With whom will the youngsters be angry? The bank vice-president, or the unknown, anonymous counterfeiters who printed the false notes?

The bank official, likely — or the police.

Strange, indeed. But human nature is generally true to form — irrational, selfish, lustful, vanity-filled, self-righteous, jealous, greedy, and deeply resentful of criticism. The nature which the true Christ can impart is *none* of these, but is patient, longsuffering, kind, gentle, always eager to believe the best, yet piercingly accurate, direct, unhampered by traditional fables, and it cuts through false doctrines and false attitudes like the biting edge of a swift sword.

The bank official pleads innocent. *He* didn't produce, or spread abroad into the streets, the counterfeit money. He may earnestly appeal to the youths, "But . . . why not go out and earn some REAL money?"

I wonder . . . would his advice be sound? Would it make sense? Would it be practical? Yes — certainly, yes to all of those. But would it be well received? Probably not!

But, let's get into cases. Remember, it was *asked-for* information. I fully intended arousing people into whatever reaction would be dictated by their own past religious upbringing, or recent religious "experience." And react they did.

Does It Really Make Any DIFFERENCE?

I have been challenged time and time again by the petulant plea: "But, if these young people have discovered Him (since His universality is evident, etc., etc.), then, whatever He means to them, in whatever manner they choose to worship Him, why would you *knock* their newfound faith? Jesus means many different things to many different people, etc.," ad nauseam.

All that sounds reasonable to carnal human minds. Comfortably logical. And it would be so — *if there were no God*. But since there IS a God and since that God plainly COMMANDS His people, "LEARN NOT THE WAY OF THE HEATHEN," then it DOES make a *great deal* of difference! (Jeremiah 10:2.)

Jesus Christ is the "Word" of God. (Notice John 1:1 — "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the WORD WAS GOD." See also I John 1:1.) As such, He is the Revelator, the One who embodies the TRUTH.

Christ said you are *not* relegated to eternal searching and never finding. He said, "Ye shall know the *truth*, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Jesus said, "... I am the way, the *truth*, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

So, since the letters were all written, NOT by angry atheists who resented my mentioning the shabby, vagabond, false-image of a traditional "Jesus," but by various and sundry RELIGIOUSLY inclined people who claim they WANT to understand about Jesus — I repeat again, WHY GET ANGRY WHEN THEY'RE ASKED TO DISCOVER THE TRUE CHRIST?

It wouldn't make any difference whatever, if there were no God. If each of us *could* "worship God according to his own conscience" and have everything turn out just fine at that nebulous "end of the road," and then all would be well.

But if your Bible specifically says there is only ONE WAY to inherit eternal life, and if it talks of ONE Lord who is true, and not several, or various human-devised interpretations and distortions, then you had better be *very certain* you have found that ONE WAY! Read it, with your own eyes, in your own Bible! (Why not *do* that, this time, with ALL the references I include, instead of leaping to conclusions, and letting glandular reactions rule the mind?) "There is ONE body, and ONE Spirit, even as ye are called in ONE hope of your calling; ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, ONE God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:4-6).

"Is Christ divided?" asked Paul (I Cor. 1:13).

Is there anything WRONG with Christ — so far as you youthful "Jesus people" are concerned? Anything WRONG with the REAL Jesus? *What if* you could PROVE, and PROVE that you've proved, that the REAL Jesus *did not* have long hair, did NOT come "head to head" with the "establishment" of His time, DID pay taxes, DID submit to the laws of the land, DID live in a HOME, DID take baths, DID NOT *try* to "convert" people THEN,

and DID teach *obedience* and *respect* toward the powers that be?

What if you could PROVE, from the Bible, these shocking statements?

If you saw it *proved*, would you then TURN TO THE REAL CHRIST? Would you then realize you had been thinking of a *different* Christ than the One revealed in the Scriptures, that you had vainly "imagined" a personal talisman for *yourself*, or blindly swallowed a traditional and historical hoax, and *repent*? *Would* you?

Remember, your Bible warns against accepting "another Jesus" and "another gospel." Read the first chapter of Galatians and see the curse Paul calls down on those who have "another gospel." If your Jesus and your gospel differ from the clear simple message of the Bible — YOU ARE IN TROUBLE!

Surely, if *finding Jesus* is your deepest and most heartfelt goal — your earnest desire, then you're not going to REJECT the true Christ when you *do* finally "find Him," are you?

We'll see.

Jesus Did NOT Have Long Hair

[Editor's Note: See the adjacent article for the historical proof that Jesus did NOT wear his hair long. The Biblical proof follows.]

Christ INSPIRED Paul to write the words concerning long hair in I Corinthians 11. Christ had neither a halo, nor a long-haired, effeminate look! Your Bible explains (I Cor. 11:1-11) that a woman's *hair* is given her for a "covering" and a sign of being under *authority*. A woman's long *hair* gives her a softer, feminine appearance, which is pleasing in God's sight. I Corinthians 11 never mentions anything other than HAIR in discussing "coverings" of the human head, and obviously shows women should have longer hair, for a "covering," and men *should not*.

Remember, the Creator says, "... to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and TREMBLETH AT MY WORD!" (Isa. 66:2.) Do you *tremble* before the Word of God (Christ is the "Word," remember, PERSONIFIED!), or do you

(Continued on page 24)

In a recent number of TOMORROW'S WORLD (March, 1971 issue), we ran an article absolutely proving that short hair was the accepted mode in Roman-occupied Judaea. That article — profusely illustrated with pictures of the busts of Roman Emperors — is reprinted here.

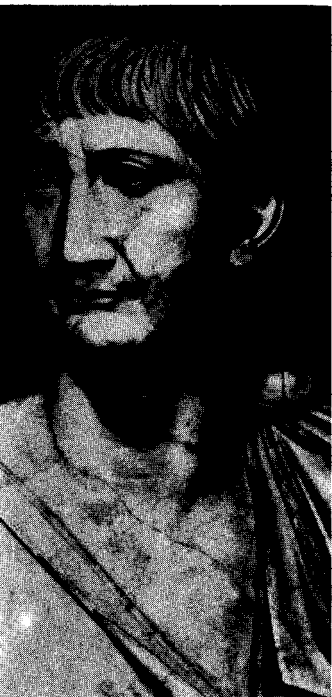
DID JESUS WEAR LONG HAIR?

Short hair was the dominant, accepted mode for men in the time of Christ. Pick up any good, illustrated history book on the period and you will see the evidence before your eyes. Two good books in this area are *A History of the Holy Land*, Michael Avi-Yonah, editor, and *Daniel to Paul*, Gaalyahu Cornfeld, editor. Now notice the busts and statues of various Greeks and Romans of the time of Christ. The men are wearing their hair short on every one of them in a manner similar to that generally accepted today.

For example, on pages 126-7 of Avi-Yonah's work are found busts of Pompey, Augustus, and one believed to be Herod — all with short hair. All statues and carvings of Roman legionnaires show them with closely cropped hair. A Roman with long hair was an oddity as is . . . er . . . used to be the case for men in our society. In fact, ALL the Roman emperors before, during, and after the time of Christ, from Julius Caesar to Trajan, wore short hair. *And the emperor was the individual who set the pattern in style and mode of dress for the whole empire.*

Prior to the coming of the Romans, it was the Hellenistic Greek culture which dominated the Eastern Mediterranean, and Judaea by no means escaped. Even in Christ's day, a large segment of the Jewish population was Greek-speaking and Hellenistic in outlook.

(See John 12:20; Acts 6:1.) The Greek, Hellenistic style for men was to wear the hair short (Cornfeld, pp. 15, 146). On page 146 of *Daniel to Paul* is a picture of a "marble statuette of an unidentified man of the hellenistic period — a time of close contacts between the Jewish and hellenistic civilizations in thought, art, and everyday life. Whether Jewish or Gentile, he evokes his age and environment." The man had short hair. But notice that the author, a learned historian and archaeologist, COULD NOT TELL whether the man was Gentile or Jewish. Why? Because the styles of the day were the same

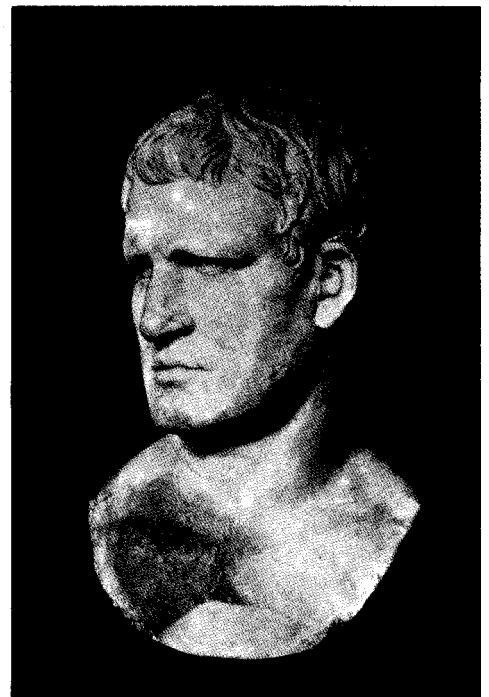
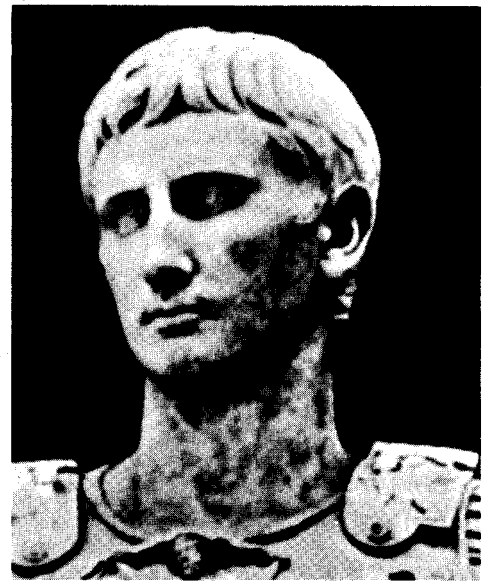


Historical Pictures Service



Ambassador College

Roman emperors set the style for the entire empire before, during and after the time of Christ. Neither General Pompey (upper left) nor the Emperor Trajan (left) wore long hair, nor did Julius Caesar nor Caesar Augustus (upper right). King Herod Agrippa I of Judaea (lower right), a Jew by religion, ruled shortly after the time of Christ.



University Prints

throughout the Near-Eastern region, and that included short hair!

What about the non-Hellenistic Jews? The Jewish *Talmud*, which is anti-Hellenistic, states that all priests should have their hair cut once every thirty days (Ta'anith 17a). These Jews were aware of the statement in Ezekiel 44:20, "Neither shall they shave their heads, nor suffer their locks to grow long." The *Talmud* further tells us exactly what hair style — the "Julian," or what we would call "a Caesar cut" (*Sanhedrin* 22b). And the priests were the religious leaders whom God intended to set the example for the community

(Malachi 2:7). There are numerous other references to *cutting hair* in the *Talmud*.

Statues and other reproductions of the Jewish men from Christ's period are few because many Jews objected to them on religious grounds. But those few we do have again point to short hair as the style for men of the period (Cornfeld, p. 287).

Also, the following are sources in which you can find ancient pictures of known Jews having *short hair*:

1) Nathan Ausubel, *The Book of Jewish Knowledge*, Crown Publishers, New York, 1964, pp. 25-26. This shows

Jewish conceptions of both David and Ezra — with short hair. They date from 250 A. D.

2) *The Standard Jewish Encyclopedia*, Cecil Roth, editor, Doubleday and Co., Garden City, New York, 1966, article "Art," p. 167. This shows Jews of the third century A.D. with short hair.

Additionally, pictures are available in many encyclopedias of both the bust and the coins of King Herod Agrippa I. This king, contemporary with the early apostles, is regarded by scholars as having been an observant Jew by religion. He, too, wore his hair short.

— Harry Eisenberg

(Continued from page 22)

wish to *argue* with it, placing your own personal interpretations on it, to suit your *own* human convictions?

Jesus NOT a Nazarite

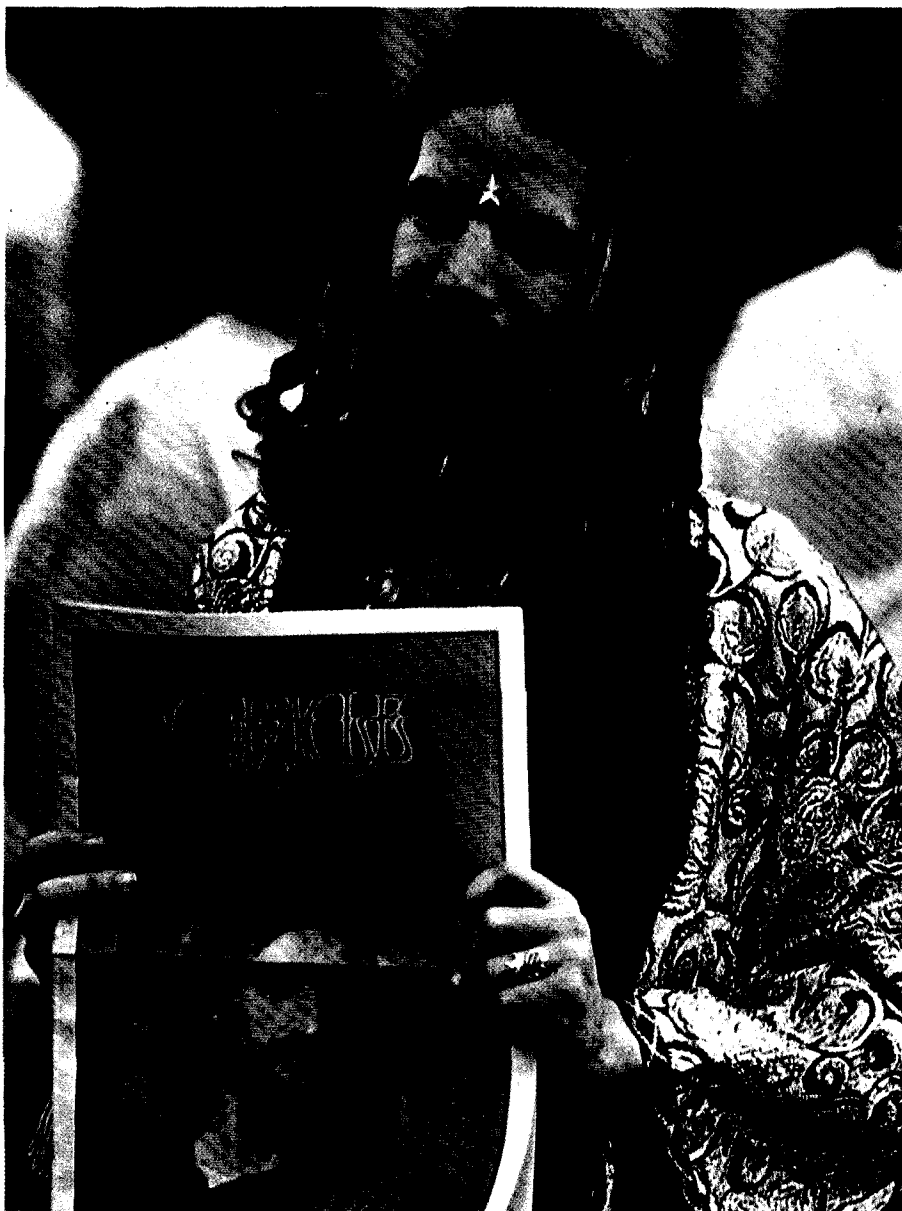
Don't deceive yourself into believing for one moment Christ had taken any "Nazaritic vow" of sorts. He superseded the Nazarite, and the Levite. He became the High Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews, 7th chapter), and *did not* fulfill any of the Scriptural obligations laid upon a "Nazarite" (Numbers 6:3, 6).

For example, He on occasion touched a dead body (Matt. 9:25). And shocking as it may be to many who believe in *total abstinence* from all alcoholic bev-

erages, Jesus drank WINE from time to time (Matt. 11:19), and His *first miracle* involved creating fine WINE, MORE THAN A HUNDRED GALLONS OF IT, from water. For a full explanation of this subject, write for the free article "Is Drinking a Sin?" Furthermore, those under a Nazarite vow let their hair grow long as a token of humiliation. It was a sign of shame. Notice, too, that as soon as the time period of the Nazarite vow was over, the one who undertook the vow was to shave his head! (Numbers 6:18.)

Bizarrely dressed man claims to emulate the personal appearance of his own concept of Jesus. The Bible does not substantiate his ideas.

Ambassador College Photo



Frankly Jesus Christ — as a human being — was of quite ordinary appearance. It was His message, not His looks, that was striking. We are told, "He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" (Isa. 53:2).

Jesus looked like any other normal Jew of His day! On a number of occasions He was able to pass through crowds because He looked just like anyone else (John 8:59; 10:39). Judas had to use a special sign, a kiss, to point out to Jesus' enemies which one He was. Judas would not have had to do this if Jesus had long hair.

The Jesus Christ of the Bible was a medium-built, dynamic and rugged individual. Jesus, remember, was a carpenter, a builder in the hard and stony hill country of Galilee. He had worked with heavy stones and timbers all His life.

Jesus DID NOT Break the Laws of the Land

Continually, people cite the case of Jesus chasing the cattle and money changers out of the Temple, believing it to be an example of LAW-breaking on Christ's part. Apparently, they have never READ the Scriptural account, or if they did, they read it only cursorily, and without real *understanding*.

Read it, in your own Bible. You'll find the account in Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-47, and John 2:14-17.

Actually, Jesus drove out the cattle, and overturned the various money-changing booths and ordered their owners and proprietors out of the Temple TWICE. John's Gospel illustrates the first occasion, during an earlier Passover season, and the other three speak of the later occasion, at Christ's final trip to Jerusalem.

Here, Jesus appears, NOT as a "vagabond" or "wayfarer" who is creating a disturbance *against* established authority, but as the PROPRIETOR of the Temple, and the direct Representative of its ultimate Owner, God the Father. He said, "It is *written*," thus citing the greatest LAW common to them all, that of the *Word of God*, "My house shall

be called the house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."

Christ was *in authority* here, not a casual visitor. Not ONCE did the money changers (Roman money had to be changed into Jewish, in which Temple contributions were collected, and no doubt shortchanging occurred, considering the differences in value of the two types of coins and the general tendency of human greed!) nor the owners of the cattle, *nor* the Jewish religious leaders, SAY ONE WORD about anything "unlawful"!

If He broke the law, why not *arrest* Him? But no LAW was broken, it was being UPHELD! Christ CITED the law, when He quoted Isaiah 56:7! *He*, then, was a representative, BOTH of the PROPERTY (the Temple), *and* the LAW!

Remember, too, that even when false witnesses were being *bribed* to bring false charges against Him during His trial, NOT ONCE did anyone bring up the issue of Christ chasing the cattle and money changers out of the Temple, even though He did so TWICE, about two years apart!

Some have assumed Christ's plucking of the corn (wheat) in a field, or healing on the Sabbath, were ILLEGAL ACTS.

Not so! There were laws requiring the *landowner* to *leave* some produce on the stalk or the vine for the hungry traveller (Lev. 19:9-10; Lev. 23:22), laws which were stringently *enforced*, even by the Pharisees themselves.

What about healing? Some have contended Jesus' healing of a deformity on the Sabbath was a breaking of some LAW. But notice the example, found in Mark 3:1-6.

Jesus was in a local synagogue, confronted by a man with a horribly deformed hand. The Pharisees "watched him, *whether* he would heal him on the Sabbath day, that they might accuse him."

Notice, they were not enforcing or interpreting any duly constituted LAW, but were "watching" suspiciously to see whether they could *accuse* Him of having violated any of their humanly devised *traditions*. After the healing, Jesus asked them, "Is it **LAWFUL** to *do good* on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill?"

Jesus knew what He did was **LAWFUL**.

He knew that their own *laws*, even *including* their religious traditions, *allowed* an act of mercy on the Sabbath day (pulling a helpless animal out of a ditch was lawful!). Nothing **UNLAWFUL** about this healing, was there?

They, too, knew it was *lawful*, and that's precisely why they didn't answer but went out silently.

One protester claimed Jesus "insulted" the High Priest on the occasion of Jesus' questioning prior to His murder.

But why not *read* the account, for yourself?

You'll find it in John 18:21-23. Jesus had said, "Why askest thou *me*? Ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said. And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by **STRUCK** Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?"

Jesus then said, "If I have spoken **EVIL**, bear witness of the evil: but **IF WELL**, why smitest thou me?"

Not *one word* from the High Priest! He, himself, did not answer Jesus' truthful statement. The High Priest's question, itself, was hypocritical.

Jesus gave a straightforward, truthful answer to a misleading question. A pompous officer then **STRUCK** Jesus. This was an insult. This most certainly was illegal. But what was Christ's reaction upon being struck, *illegally*, by an officer? Just calm, studious, patient *truth*. He said, "If I have told the *truth*, then why do you strike me?"

No, Jesus **DID NOT** break the laws. He urged His own disciples to **OBEY THEM**, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that observe and do*; but do **NOT** ye after their works: for they *say*, and do *not*" (Matt. 23:2-3). Plenty of hypocrisy around, even in Jesus' day.

The "establishment" of His time, remember, constituted a captive, mostly irreligious populace, ruled by a puppet king, and the Roman Governor. The religious leaders (Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, Essenes, etc.) were various **MINORITY** groups, and, even though the

masses generally *feared* the Pharisees because they were in charge of the synagogues and therefore leaders in the community; and the Sanhedrin because of its legislative and punitive powers. the **MAJORITY** of the people were *not* really "religious" in a devout sense.

Thousands of them were shocked by what Jesus *said* and *did*. They **FOLLOWED AFTER HIM**; He **DID NOT** seek *them* out!

Christ Subject to Civil Authorities?

Christ broke no laws, and never urged anyone else to do so. *Had* there been a *conflict* between the laws of the land, and the higher laws of God, which were believed and **OBEYED** by Jesus, *here* is the *Bible* teaching on what Christ would have done.

"We ought to obey *God* rather than *men*," said the Apostle Peter, answering religious persecutors (Acts 5:29). "Let every soul *be subject* unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God," said the Apostle Paul (Romans 13:1-7), urging Christians in Rome to **OBEY** the civil government insofar as it did not conflict with **GOD'S** laws.

"Whosoever therefore *resists* the power [civil authority], *resists* the ordinance of *God*: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to *good* works, but to the evil."

How does *this* square with the nebulous personal ideas and interpretations of various "spiritual" leaders who urge upon their followers **RESISTANCE** toward society? Paul, remember, was talking to Christians, *inspired* by the very Jesus Christ who lived in Paul (Gal. 2:20), and was urging Christians who lived right in the capital city of the greatest totalitarian, tyrannical police state to *ever exist* that they should remain **OBDIENT**!

Read on in Romans 13: "Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be *afraid*; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to exe-

cute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be *subject*, not only for wrath, but also for *conscience* sake. For for this cause PAY YE TRIBUTE [taxes!] also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute [taxes] to whom tribute is due; *custom* [duty, or import taxes — Greek *telos*, meaning an "impost" or "levy"] to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour" (verses 3-7).

Remember! Paul was *personally* taught of Jesus Christ! (I Cor. 9:1; 15:8; Gal. 1:12-18.) He was not expressing some human-oriented "ideas" of his *own* (write for our free article "Do We Have the Complete Bible?" which explains whether Paul's writings are truly on a par with SCRIPTURE!), but the directly inspired WILL OF GOD, and teaching of Jesus Christ!

Not only did Christ and all the New Testament leaders urge OBEDIENCE to civil authority, but they urged Christians to PRAY for guidance for their civil leaders. Notice I Timothy 2:1 and 2: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for *kings*, and for ALL THAT ARE IN AUTHORITY; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty!"

No, the Christ of the Bible was *not* a lawbreaker — but the greatest example of OBEDIENCE TO LAW in all history! Are you willing to *accept* the *true* Christ — the LAW-abiding Christ of the Bible?

Jesus Was NOT "Anti-Establishment"

Jesus Christ was *followed*, sought after, looked for, eagerly listened to, by the *general public*, the "silent majority" of *His* day!

Read these scriptures: "When he [Jesus] was come down from the mountain, *great multitudes followed him*" (Matt. 8:1). "The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. And *great multitudes were gathered together unto him*, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. And *he spake many things unto them in para-*

bles, saying . . ." (Matt. 13:1-3). So you see that Jesus taught the general public as well as His own disciples. (See also Matt. 23:1.)

Now, notice His nationwide following. "And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a *great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem*, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, *which came to hear him*, and to be healed of their diseases" (Luke 6:17). Also read the account where Jesus was welcomed with great ceremony by a large group of Jerusalem's citizens. You read of it in Matthew 21:1-11.

The Pharisees were afraid — deeply worried — about Christ's nationwide support. Notice it in John 12:19—"The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, *the world is gone after him*." That is why He was tried and *crucified*.

Notice the example of Christ's personal feeling toward soldiers, even "enemy" soldiers, of an occupying army! Read the account for yourself in Luke 7:1-10. Here Jesus gladly healed the servant of a Roman centurion in Capernaum. Further, Jesus' teaching, even in the Sermon on the Mount, was humble COMPLIANCE with *harsh mistreatment from the military*. The example of "compelling" a person to "go a mile" was DIRECTLY related to the practice of Roman mail carriers requiring persons along their route to CARRY A BURDEN a certain distance (Matt. 5:41). Christ said NOT TO RESIST this harsh and *illegal* practice, but to humbly acquiesce.

No, Jesus was NOT coming "head to head" with the "establishment."

Rather, He was busily performing that great JOB He had been given to do: "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). He was calling and training His disciples to carry on after His death and resurrection (Matt. 28:19, 20; 4:18-22; 10:1-16; Luke 10:1-11; Mark 16:15), and was continually setting an EXAMPLE of perfect mannerisms, culture, language, habits, speech, and outgoing LOVE toward all men (I Peter 2:21-24;

Luke 4:16-21) and was KEEPING OUT of "politics" and heated local issues!

Notice Jesus' answer to Pilate's questioning: "My kingdom is *not* of this world . . ." (John 18:36).

Christ plainly urged His disciples to COME OUT of this world (John 17:6, 8, 14, 16; I John 2:15; Rev. 18:4; II Cor. 6:14-17; I Cor. 5:11) and NOT to become "political activists" or to attempt to INFLUENCE in politics!

Jesus was *widely accepted* by the general populace. It was the *minority religious leaders* who persecuted Him! Even the Roman Government remained largely aloof, including Pilate's infamous "washing of the hands" during Jesus' trial.

Again, the FALSE claim that Jesus was an "activist" type of *vagabond* who sponsored "street rallies" is TOTALLY erroneous! God prophesied of Him, "He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street" (Isa. 42:2). Time and time again, when Jesus' remarkable teachings resulted in the gradual *gathering* of a crowd, even about a house which very definitely appears to have been *His own*, Jesus attempted to ESCAPE such large crowds by either taking a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee, by going into a different part of the country, or, even as in the case of the "Sermon on the Mount," by climbing a high mountain nearby, where the majority of the crowd could not follow.

Jesus Didn't Disturb Spiritual Blindness

It comes as a profound shock to most to realize that Jesus did NOT attempt to "convert" people *then* — and He *explained* this principle to His disciples.

Read Matthew 13:10-15 — "And the disciples came, and said unto him, *Why speakest thou unto them* in parables? He answered and said unto them, *Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given*. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing

they hear not, *neither do they understand*. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias [Isaiah], which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

You see, Christ in His day did not try to disturb the spiritual blindness that was over their minds. Here is Mark's account: "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but *unto them* [the vast majority] *that are without*, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand" (Mark 4:11-12).

Parables were spoken to hide the truth, not to make the meaning clearer.

In the earlier "Jesus Trip" article, I mentioned Jesus did not come to save the world THEN, and received many angry letters informing me of various scriptures in the Bible concerned with Jesus' death for our sins and transgressions, and statements concerning His position as Saviour of the world!

But I deeply and devotedly RECOGNIZE Jesus Christ as my own personal Saviour, and the eventual Saviour of *all the world!* But I also deeply recognize the plain, clear, written Word of God that Jesus Christ deliberately *concealed* His meaning during that time to the general populace, and explained to his disciples that the general public COULD NOT understand. (You need to write for our free article "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?")

Jesus Hobnobbed with Upper Crust

Many took very excitable issue with my statements concerning Christ's *house* in the "Jesus Trip" article.

One letter asserted, "If Jesus wasn't a hippie, He had the earmarks of one; travelling up and down dusty roads, living on handouts and what He could find in fields or trees; having no facilities for bathing or clean clothes; being

locked up in prison for vagrancy."

The same person said "Nowhere in my Bible is Jesus identified with the 'respectables.' Their gripe was that He hobnobbed and ate with the poor and wretched class, avoiding the upper crust — the scribes, the Pharisees, and elders."

Yet, like so many others, this person read only certain portions of the Gospels, and then came to certain opinions and conclusions of his own, largely influenced by false tradition and past religious teaching!

The Bible plainly speaks of Jesus entering into the homes of some of the greatest and most respected Pharisaic leaders. He also was personally acquainted with tax collectors and many rich men of His day!

Notice Luke 7:36-39 — "And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him, And *he* [Jesus] *went into the Pharisee's house*, and sat down to meat [to eat a meal]. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when *the Pharisee which had bidden* [invited] *him* saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner." (You can read the rest of the story for the ensuing conversation and the lesson Jesus taught this leading Pharisee.)

Tax collectors (although understandably not very popular with the Pharisees or the common people because they collected taxes for the Romans) were part of the wealthy intelligentsia or upper class of that day. Read Luke 5:27-29 — "And after these things he [Jesus] went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at *the receipt of custom*: and he said unto him, follow me. . . . And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was *a great company of publicans* [tax

collectors] and *of others* that sat down with them."

Notice the narrative of Jesus' visit in Jericho. "And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named *Zacchaeus*, *which was the chief among the publicans*, and *he was rich*. And he sought to see Jesus who he was. . . . And when Jesus came to the place. . . and said unto him, *Zacchaeus. . . today I must abide at thy house. . .* And he [Zacchaeus] received him joyfully" (Luke 19:1-6).

Joseph of Arimathaea

Jesus was well acquainted with Joseph of Arimathaea, who obtained Jesus' dead body from Pilate and buried Him. Look at what the Bible tells us of this man. "When the even was come, there came a *rich man* of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself *was Jesus' disciple*" (Matt. 27:57). Now notice Luke's account, "And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, *a counsellor* [of the great Sanhedrin or Jewish legislative body — see *Clarke's Commentary* by Adam Clarke, Vol. V, p. 279]; and he was a good man, and a just: (the same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God" (Luke 23:50-51). Also read for yourself of Jesus' conversation and association with Nicodemus, *a Pharisee and leader of the Jews* (John 3:1-12; 7:50-53; 19:39).

The wedding feast at Cana in Galilee (John 2:1-11) was a case where Jesus was "hobnobbing" with the "upper crust." Such a great feast was obviously given by wealthy people. The occasion of the healing of a centurion's servant (Luke 7:1-10) was another case. A centurion was a leader over 100 men, which in all likelihood meant the head of the garrison at Capernaum and the leading Roman officer for the area.

This is not to say that Jesus showed these people any more SPECIAL attention than He did the masses and the "poor and wretched class." But neither should anyone assume that He deliberately rejected or ignored the "upper crust," and went out of His way to ensure that He "identified" only with

the "poor and wretched class." Jesus Christ "was all things to *all men*," and was never a "respector of persons." Some of the same people who wrote very bitterly complaining letters to me concerning the earlier article in *The PLAIN TRUTH*, attempted to remind me of the scriptural facts concerning Christ's ability to "look on the inward heart," not on the outward person. Yet, some of these same people seem to ACCUSE Christ of BEING a "respector of persons," alleging to me continually that Jesus ignored and avoided the "upper crust," and those in any official capacity, and "hobnobbed" ONLY with the weak, poor, and downtrodden of society.

Neither extreme is true — as a careful study of the Scriptures proves.

Christ Was a "Family" Man

Even though it is very obvious Christ was not married, He was, nevertheless, a member of a fairly *large family*.

After the enunciation of Jesus' conception and virgin birth, Joseph, already the *husband* of Mary, bound by the "espousal" though not yet having consummated the marriage, reacted in a manner which is incomprehensible for a very young man.

Turn to Matthew 1 and verse 19, "Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily."

To a younger man, such an enormous announcement would have been met with a great deal of righteous indignation, petulance, jealousy, and weird imaginings.

Almighty God chose, for the prospective legal father and the mother of His own Son, Jesus Christ, the very *best* conceivable parental examples. Not only was Joseph of the direct line (explained in the preceding verses of Matt. 1) of David and from David back to Abraham, and thence to Adam, but he was also a righteous man, and a prosperous one.

Both Joseph and Mary were obedient to the laws of God, and when you understand the laws of God as magnified in Old and New Testaments alike, including even the laws of *success*, of physical cleanliness, and of husband and

wife relationships, you have a much clearer picture of the *circumstances* under which Christ was reared as a young child.

In Luke 2:51 you read of how Jesus, after the incident of being found teaching in the temple at age 12, returned to the home of His parents, and "*was subject unto them*."

Christ's antagonists said, "Isn't this the carpenter's son?" And this is mentioned more than once. Joseph, then, was a "carpenter." In our specialized societies, carpenters are thought of as those who work with sawn and hewn lumber, and primarily work only at pounding nails into boards.

Ask a modern carpenter if this is "all he does," and he will very likely give you a lengthy lecture about the *many* skills required to become a good carpenter.

Complex Carpentry

However, during the day of Jesus Christ, "carpentry," included much more than just the fabrication of wooden dwellings. Most of the homes were a combination of stone, mud and clay, *and* hewn beams and "lumber."

The city where Jesus spent much of His early ministry around the Galilean area was Capernaum. I have been to Capernaum several times, and have seen the remnants of the porches, the arches, the mosaics, and the walls of the buildings which were there during the time of Christ.

Capernaum, at that time, was a beaming, modern, beautifully sculptured Grecian-type city. It was filled with beautiful homes, multi-leveled, with large central gardens, mosaic walks, fountains and even, believe it or not, indoor bathrooms and steam baths!

The homes of the wealthier class during that time were marvels of architecture, and a far cry from the stone and adobe hovels imagined by many as being the general domicile of the time.

A "carpenter" would have to know a certain amount of mathematics, engineering principles (working with block and tackle, levers, and knowing how to construct arches and cantilever overhanging balconies, etc.) and especially would have to be skillful in *finishing work*, such as interior surfaces, mosaic

hallways and walkways, and would even have to know a certain amount about *plumbing*.

Believe it or not, all during that day and in the first two or three centuries thereafter, home plumbing included *indoor water*, which was delivered via a system of *pipes* and could be cut off by *valves* just as in a modern home today.

This may seem astounding to many people who have not familiarized themselves with the degree to which architecture and the science of home building had advanced during Jesus' day. It was not uncommon, especially around areas where subterranean "hot springs" were abundant, for large central buildings to be constructed with Roman "baths," which usually featured several levels of open, running water around niches in the walls and underneath stones in the floors, through which would be ducted hot, boiling spring water. Wealthy Romans could then sit in this common "steam room" and enjoy a steam bath.

It is essential to get somewhat of a picture of the cities of Christ's day (remember — He spoke of Capernaum as being "exalted unto heaven") in order to really comprehend the *way of life* lived by the common people, and by Christ Himself and His own family.

Generally, a boy of about twelve years of age could be thought of as entering into "adult society." This is obvious, too, when you consider the account of Jesus with the doctors and the lawyers of the Temple at age twelve.

However, Christ's ministry did not begin until he was "about thirty." That means that at least from age twelve or a little later on up to age thirty, Jesus remained with Joseph (or if Joseph died sometime earlier, Jesus remained with the family), as a "carpenter," laboring and working all over the hill country of Galilee — no doubt principally in the cities of Nazareth and Capernaum.

Jesus Had Brothers and Sisters

Remember, too, that Joseph and Mary went on to have a large family! His brothers were named James, Joses, Simon and Judas (Matt. 13:55).

[Editor's Note: Refer to the April issue of TOMORROW'S WORLD for the article "What Was It Like to Be the Brother of Jesus?"] There were "sisters" (verse 56) implying more than one — though how many is not stated. So, by the very *least* reckoning, there were five sons, and two daughters. Remember, this is a *conservative* number, since there *could have been* more than two girls. Mary, then, was eventually the mother of at least seven children! And it requires a man of some substance — a family obeying the laws and the precepts of God, including the laws of *success*, to properly provide for a family of this size!

Joseph was obviously a prosperous businessman — more like a "general contractor," than just a hammer-wielding one-man carpenter. It would have been contrary to God's laws to have brought into the world so many youngsters if Joseph had not been amply able to provide for them.

Jesus, then, while He was not married, did grow up as a young man with brothers and sisters, and was very definitely a "family man" in the sense that He, as the elder brother, became the *leader* of the family, and directly responsible for it.

Not one more word is heard of Joseph after the time of the mentioning of the word "parents" in Luke the second chapter. From that time on, wherever Mary and the other children are mentioned, they are *alone*. Obviously, though the Bible does not record the event, Joseph had *died* sometime after Christ's twelfth birthday and prior to His thirtieth. Joseph is never mentioned, and is nowhere on the scene, during the entirety of Christ's ministry, or even at His death.

Yet, Mary and the brothers and sisters are mentioned on several occasions.

Many have reasoned that, because Jesus spoke to His disciples of *all* His "brothers and sisters" meaning any other human being, that He did NOT have REAL brothers and sisters. Not so! The account of Matthew 13, verses 55 and 56 is very clear in this regard. The brothers are specifically NAMED in that account, and Jesus had no disciple called Joses, and certainly He had no female apostles!

John 2:12 is very plain. "After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his BRETHREN, *AND his disciples*: and they continued there not many days." Here, the Biblical account written by John, that "disciple whom Jesus loved," very clearly shows that His disciples and His "brethren" were two different *groups of people*. Some have misunderstood Christ's lesson given upon the event of the arrival of His brothers and sisters concerning the "brotherhood" of all mankind, and *assumed*, without checking these scriptures carefully, that Jesus had no earthly kin.

However, notice the account in Mark the 6th chapter. As Jesus was teaching in the synagogue, some of His persecutors began to say, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his *own kin*, and in his own house."

Notice! Jesus plainly said, "Among his OWN KIN"!

He plainly admitted, then, that He, the prophet who was being dishonored, was, at that time, in His own country, and AMONG HIS OWN KIN!

He also plainly stated that He was IN HIS OWN HOUSE!

Did Jesus Have a House?

Time and time again, in the account of Christ's early ministry around the Galilean area, it shows He was in a house. From time to time it was the house of Peter, or the house of one of the other disciples, or Christ's *own*.

Notice a few of the more outstanding examples. "And when Jesus was come into *Peter's house*, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever" (Matt. 8:14). Here, you see *Peter had a house* in Capernaum, and also you can understand by the scripture that Peter *had a wife*. Again, though it is so plain in the scriptures, MILLIONS do not know or understand that Peter either owned a home, or that he was a married man! (See also I Cor. 9:5.) Yet the Bible is very clear on these points.

There are many such examples in the Scriptures. Notice a few more.

"While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood *WITHOUT*" (Matt. 12:46). Though I referred to this scripture earlier, most of you probably failed to notice that Jesus was *indoors* on this occasion, and because of the large group inside, His own family could not enter, but had to wait "without."

Notice! "The same day went Jesus *out of the house*, and sat by the seaside" (Matt. 13:1). Again, Christ was in a home, where He no doubt had opportunity to sleep when He was tired, and to *bathe* when He needed it — which was fairly often! And to have opportunity for privacy just as ANY human being would require! Notice! "Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went *into the house*: and his disciples came *unto him*, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field" (Matt. 13:36).

Again, Jesus sent the crowds away and entered into a house. Very likely, this was His OWN since it was in Capernaum, and Jesus continually went in and out of Capernaum, remaining in the area of Capernaum for much of His Galilean ministry.

Later, Jesus went up to Nazareth. The Bible says, "And when he was come into his *own country*, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished . . ." (Matt. 13:53-54).

Then follows the account of their questioning, and their statements concerning Christ's family. Jesus said, "A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his OWN HOUSE"! (Matt. 13:57.)

Obviously, Jesus said He was in His own country, and IN HIS OWN HOUSE when He was being disrespectfully spoken of. The earlier scripture on the same subject proves that "house" is not synonymous with "kin."

It is true that Jesus, on many occasions, "went up into a mountain to pray" (Matt. 14:23), or was in a "desert place" (Matt. 14:15), and that He slept on occasions out-of-doors.

Jesus Not a Vagabond

But to assume Jesus lived the life of a dirty, grubby vagabond who never

had opportunity to wash or to bathe, and that He lived on "hand-outs" or what He could glean from the fields as He traveled, is utterly ridiculous and without basis in scriptural fact!

During the account of the first New Testament Passover (commonly called the "Lord's Supper"), Jesus washed His disciples' feet, setting a deeply spiritual example for all Christians (read John 13:1-17). When it was Peter's turn, he protested first, and then went to the other extreme of wanting his whole body to be washed. In verse 10, Jesus said, "HE THAT IS WASHED [BATHED] NEEDETH NOT SAVE TO WASH HIS FEET, BUT IS CLEAN EVERY WHIT. . . ." Here it is obvious that Jesus and His disciples had bathed prior to the meal, and only their feet were dirty, since they wore sandals in that day.

Did Jesus Pay Taxes?

Jesus not only stayed in a home much of the time, but He was also a taxpayer! In Matthew 22:15-22 Christ plainly said that it was lawful to pay tribute [taxes] and to "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. . . ."

And why would one pay taxes? For several reasons: Either He had an *income*, or He owned property, or both, or he had to pay a poll or head tax.

Notice the example, "And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money [taxes] came to Peter, and said, doth not your master pay tribute? He sayeth *yes*" (Matt. 17:24-25).

The plain statement is Jesus *DID* pay taxes!

But notice the rest of the verse.

"And when he was come *into the house*, Jesus prevented [preceded] him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon?" (Verse 25.)

Again, Jesus entered into a *house* on this occasion.

Even when Jesus traveled, He usually made arrangements to stay in another home, at an inn, or to provide for some suitable lodgings.

Notice this example in Luke 9:51-56: "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, *and sent messengers before his face: and they went, and*

entered into a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him [to arrange for a place to stay]. And they [the residents of the village] did *not* receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem."

The Samaritans in this village did not allow Him to stay there because He was going to Jerusalem, while the Samaritans maintained a rival "holy site" on Mount Gerizim. The location of the temple was a bone of contention between the Jews and the Samaritans (John 4:20).

"And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. *And they went to another village.*"

Then notice another example, "And he left them, and went out of the city unto Bethany; and he *lodged there*" (Matt. 21:17).

Jesus had gone out of Jerusalem to the town of Bethany, which is very close by. He "lodged there" rather than sleeping out-of-doors on this occasion.

How many of the hippies and the "Jesus People" *KNOW* and *understand* many of these scriptures which absolutely *PROVE* Jesus Christ dwelt in a home more often than He slept out-of-doors, that He payed taxes, that He bathed and washed, and that He did not have long hair?

Notice some more examples:

"And again *he entered into Capernaum* after some days; and it was noised that he was *in the house*" (Mark 2:1 — The expression "in the house" can be rendered "*at home.*" See original Greek and also *New English Bible* and *The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ* — John Broadus, *et al.*)

Jesus freely entered into the homes of the *leaders* of the society, usually at their own request! Still, many people who totally *misunderstand* the truth of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, assume He was only a vagabond, someone who associated with "street people," and who

continually scorned or spurned any contact with the "upper crust" of society!

But read the account in Mark the 5th chapter of how Jairus (Mark 5:22-43), *the ruler of the synagogue*, besought Jesus to come to his home and pray for his daughter.

"And he cometh to the house of the ruler of that synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. And when he was *come in*, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep?" (Verses 38-39.) Here, Jesus freely entered into the home of the ruler of the synagogue, in order to heal his daughter.

Notice yet another example, "And when he was *entered into the house* from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable. . . (Mark 7:17).

Time and time again, when the crowds became too large and too unmanageable, Christ either "entered into the house," or perhaps got into a ship and *LEFT* the multitudes in an attempt to avoid overly large crowds.

The people came to HIM, remember. He did not *go to them*.

Why Jesus Had No Place to Stay

Some dissidents quote one scripture to prove that Jesus had no place to live. All right, let's look at Luke 9:57-58, "And it came to pass, that, *as they went in the way*, a certain man saith unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

Remember, I have *already* explained verses 51 through 56, which come *just before* this account. So, how do we understand Luke 9:57-58 *in context*? Again remember Jesus had wanted to arrange to stay in a Samaritan village on His way to Jerusalem. The citizenry wouldn't allow it. Therefore, Jesus — in the light of their denying Him overnight lodging — exclaims, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." In other words, *at that particular time* ("as they went in the way" [verse 57] on the way to the next village [see verse 56]), Jesus was

having difficulty finding a place to *stay overnight* on His journey to Jerusalem.

This is one reason Jesus told the young man that He had no place to stay at the moment. It was exemplary of His — at times — difficult ministry.

Now does this example, *also* having directly to do with forsaking all physical properties, family, and facilities for the sake of the Kingdom of God, then utterly DESTROY every other plain scripture about the many, many times Jesus dwelt in a home, or visited in someone else's home, or ate a meal in a home, or was part of a large banquet party (as at Cana, in Galilee), or deliberately arranged lodgings?

Obviously, the Bible does not contradict the Bible (John 10:35; II Peter 1:20); and one scripture which is rather vague, or capable of two or three meanings, does not knock in the head several plain and clear scriptures which cannot be misinterpreted!

In this account, Christ was telling the young man of His utter *lack of dependency* on material goods, properties, and possessions. While Christ did dwell in a house the major portion of His life, He placed no importance — He didn't set His heart—on those material possessions. He was ready at any instant to drop whatever He was doing in a house, and to LEAVE that house, in order to serve and to help the people. He traveled a good deal of His ministry, and was always ready at an instant's notice to leave a home, and go into a desert place, or to leave the larger city for a smaller one, or, failing to find lodgings in one town, to go on to another.

On this one occasion, Christ gave those in His hearing an example of not placing their heart on material possessions.

Nevertheless, Jesus did, continually, enter into a home, which very likely was His own home, in Capernaum, as well as the home of which He spoke in the city of Nazareth, the city of His birth.

What More Can Be Said?

This article has grown very lengthy. Still, it was necessary to answer the many, many erroneous assumptions con-



Ambassador College Photo

Guru-like, this "Jesus Person" gives his own impression of the "universality of Christ." An impression that is **WRONG!**

tained in the many letters of protest I received.

I have gone to these lengths to PROVE what I said in order that those *few* who really DO have a "love of the truth" and are TRULY sincere may DISCOVER THE TRUE JESUS CHRIST!

He was all *man*, just as HUMAN as YOU are human — yet He was very GOD! He was murdered, and He rose after THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS in the tomb. And, most important of all, He is ALIVE, today!

How does He look NOW?

You'll see, if you read the account in Revelation 1:12-18.

That is the picture that SHOULD come into people's minds when they think of Jesus Christ TODAY! He is a LIVING Saviour — a LIVING Christ — a GLORIFIED, DIVINE, ALL-POWERFUL KING!

To parade about with grotesque, bearded, scraggly-haired faces on grubby T-shirts, or to scream "Gimme a 'J,' Gimme an 'E,'" in "cheers for Jesus," or to use the name of Jesus to

cloak hippieism, demonstrations, unkempt clothing and dirty bodies is BLASPHEMY against the Son of God!

To those who sternly warned me "not to judge" I say GOD IS JUDGING YOU! Are you, then, *really* sincere? The measure of your sincerity is determined by how eagerly you accept NEW TRUTH when it is revealed to you!

I have placed this article in TOMORROW'S WORLD because I wanted to take sufficient space to really PROVE the points I made, and leave no one with an EXCUSE to reject the TRUE Jesus Christ!

To "spiritualize away" the TRUE Christ by mumbling about His "universality" is merely an attempt to condone the IDOLATRY of people who like to "create god in their own image." Personal talismans, choice idols, beddy-bye stories, and childish dreams are no substitute for the divinely revealed Word of your Creator God!

Again, I challenge you to FIND THE TRUE JESUS CHRIST! And when you are *willing* to REALLY come to "see" Him — you will be led to REPENT of what *you* are, and strive, through His power and energy, to become MORE LIKE HIM! □

YOUNG PEOPLE —

Fill the Character Gap

Character is relevant to the 1970's! For teen-agers and young adults — for the NOW generation! Find out how you can acquire, develop and exercise character in REAL LIFE situations!

by Brian Knowles

THIS is the age of “instant coffee” — “instant-on,” “easy-off,” and vending machine convenience. Realize right now, *there is no easy road to character development!* It cannot be handed to a person on a silver platter. Character is not given or purchased. It *must be developed!* And *you* must do it *yourself*. Nor can it be developed under “ideal” conditions! Reliable, steadfast and enduring character can only be acquired in the face of *adversity* and *tests*. There must be *obstacles* — something to *push against* and *resist*. Young people about to embark on a program of character development need to realize this.

A champion miler cannot develop the necessary stamina and speed to shatter records by walking around the block once a week as conditioning! He must practice running the mile again and again, *pushing himself to the limit*.

A great swimmer cannot hope to conquer the English Channel by flopping around in a backyard wading pool fifteen minutes daily! It takes months of dedicated training under adverse weather conditions, swimming in ice-cold, choppy water sometimes against strong winds. The *weak-willed don't make it!*

So it is with character development.

Only those young men and women who *set their will to finish* the course will ever achieve success in the area of character acquisition. Those who take only the path of least resistance will “flake out” and fall by the roadside. Character is not developed by those who

persist in conducting their lives in a timid, fearful and reticent manner. It takes *intestinal fortitude* to make it! Only those willing to accept the challenge and exercise some GUMPTION will emerge successful. It will take real determination and “stick-to-it-iveness.” Will YOU meet the challenge?

Guidelines Necessary

As in most courses of instruction, a textbook is required. In the case of character development, however, *man has not shown himself qualified to originate such a text*. Humanity has demonstrated for nearly 6,000 years its utter reluctance or inability to exercise character in the course of human events.

It remains for the all-wise Creator of the human kind to bestow on man such a textbook. And He has done just that. It is known as the Bible. It is the *Maker's Instruction Book*. The Bible contains all the necessary guidelines to the development of character in the young person.

Why Man Has Wars

The young generation protests the ever-present *wars* of mankind. But WHY has mankind never been able to solve the problem of war? Simply because “...the WAY of peace they know not...” (Isa. 59:8). Man does not know the *cause* of peace. He does not realize that war is caused by *character deficiencies* on the part of those who engage in it! Notice the words of Christ's literal brother James. “From whence come wars and fightings among

you? come they not hence, even of your *lusts* that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye *kill*, and desire to have... ye *fight* and *war*...” (James 4:1-2).

One nation covets and desires something another nation has. Disputes result over borders and the possession of territories. A certain nation wants other countries to follow its national religion or political ideology. Clashes result and blood is spilled. The clang of swords or the pounding of guns is a centuries old sound. But still the world is at war.

And wars and rumors of wars will *continue* to be an integral part of the human chronicle until man learns the vital lesson that war is the result of human *character deficiency*. Today's young generation will be the “Establishment” of tomorrow. They, too, will continue to bathe the earth in the blood of combat unless they *now* learn to develop the necessary *character* to avert such wars.

Of course no one *involved* in a war — pulling the trigger — would ever admit to a lack of character. They would claim all kinds of patriotic and altruistic motivations for engaging in the wholesale destruction of human life.

Youth vehemently protest the violent international conflicts the older generation has involved the human race in. Such protestations are often extremely *violent* in nature! How can youth violently demonstrate against violence and expect anyone to regard such hypocritical demonstrations seriously?

Youth must, *on their own part*, DO

SOMETHING ABOUT VIOLENCE! If they practice it as youths demonstrating against violence, they will also practice it as adults and will wage "wars to end all wars." War is not the way to end war.

A young person of character has learned to *rule* his own drives and passions. Notice what our textbook has to say about it. "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that *ruleth his spirit* [is better] than he that *taketh a city*" (Prov. 16:32). If individuals can learn to rule their drives and passions, then so can the *nations*. It takes *character* to "keep your cool" in a provocative situation.

Character in Sex

Today's world is suffering from an unprecedented *venereal disease epidemic*. In fact, it has been called "pandemic." That means *everywhere* epidemic. The World Health Organization has stated that VD is "out of control" especially in Scandinavia, America and Britain. The *National Observer* March 22, 1971 stated, "...VD has jumped all the old social barriers to become the country's most acute public health problem. IT'S PARTICULARLY BAD AMONG TEEN-AGERS... YOUTH IS NOW THE PRIMARY VICTIM. *One out of every four* VD cases reported in 1970 involved someone *under 20 years old*." *Pageant* magazine, November 1970 pointed out that "...an American teen-ager gets VD *every two minutes*." VD bacteria are almost always spread by physical contact and principally by *sexual intercourse*.

Of course, venereal diseases with all their accompanying symptoms are only one of the results of illegitimate sexual activity. *Unwanted children* are being born at an ever-increasing rate also. Adoption agencies and orphanages are full of children without the loving and vital care of two interested and attentive parents. *Abortions* are becoming an increasingly evident fact of American and European life. A substantial number of teen-agers have paid for a few moments of pleasure with their *lives*, due to abortions performed by unskilled or unqualified surgeons or even lay people.

What causes venereal disease? What

causes unwanted pregnancies? Obviously both are the result of sexual contact. Is sex wrong? Not at all! *God* created sex differences. And when He did, He pointed out that it was *very good!* (Gen. 1:27, 31.) In fact, God actually *commanded* the first man and woman to have sexual relations that would produce children (verse 28).

Sex *itself* is not intrinsically wrong. It is the *wrong use* of sex that results in heartaches and unhappiness. It is the *misuse* of a God-ordained function that produces body-wasting venereal diseases. When God created the sexual anatomy He also gave *definite instructions* and guidelines on the right use of sex. Of course to live within such guidelines would take *character*. But that's what so many young people lack in this world. *Character!*

Well, "*What are the guidelines?*" you say! Let's consult our textbook.

Originally at the creation of the first male and female God said, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his *WIFE*: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). In Genesis 3:6, 16 God also referred to the *HUSBAND*. The terms husband and wife indicate a *MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP*. It was *within* the relationship of *marriage* (a physical union, but a divine institution), that God instructed Adam and Eve to multiply. It is *ONLY* within the marriage relationship that *sex* activity is permissible! Of that union God says, "Marriage is *HONORABLE IN ALL, AND THE BED* [sex relations] *undefiled*..." (Heb. 13:4).

Sex was intended not only to produce offspring, but to bind a marriage together, as a means of expressing love one for another. Sex outside of marriage defeats this purpose and cheapens what was originally intended to be an *exclusive relationship* between two people within a marriage union. Outside of marriage, sex (fornication) results in frustration, unhappiness, unwanted pregnancies, venereal disease, abortions and leaves psychological scars that will last a lifetime and hinder a marriage from being as successful as it could be. Is it worth it? Not really.

It is better to exercise *character* and "flee fornication" as young Joseph did!

(Gen. 39:7-15; I Cor. 6:18.) Learning to rule over youthful sex drives and waiting until marriage to indulge in sexual activity build character that will enable one to maintain right sexual standards within marriage later, and thus bind the marriage together and avoid adultery, which tears marriages apart.

"But that's square and Victorian," protest the young! "Everyone" does it, they assert. Let's check the text again.

"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil..." (Ex. 23:2). Just because "everyone is doing it" does not mean YOU should. All that means is that the majority is often in *ERROR*. It means that perhaps *millions* instead of a few individuals are hurting themselves and their chances for a happy and successful marriage. It means that many are deceived (Rev. 12:9).

It takes *character* and *courage* to be different and not conform to the crowd like a blating sheep. Do *you* have such mettle?

If you want to develop and exercise character in the area of sex and morality then DO what the textbook says. "Flee fornication!" Wait until marriage. Avoid fornication. Then enjoy a long, happy, productive and successful marriage because you had the character to do so!

Drug Users Lack Character

Another area in which the "Pepsi generation" seems to lack character is in the use of drugs. It's "in" to "turn on" in many circles. But drug usage is an *escape*. But why should anyone need to escape? Why should anyone *want* to? Because they lack the character to face the issues of life head on — that's why! You'll never solve the problems of life by burying your head in the psychedelic sands of an LSD trip! When you "come down" the problems will still be there. Reality always asserts itself sooner or later. But it takes *CHARACTER* to face reality. It takes *GUTS* to face the issues of life head on and grapple with them. The drug scene is a mind-destroying "cop out." Drugs are for *weaklings* who can't stand on their own cognitive feet!

Your brain is your most precious possession. A person of real character

controls his mind and his thoughts personally and needs no artificial or drug-induced escapes. A young person of character should be "... bringing into captivity [ruling over, controlling] every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Cor. 10:5). When the young Jesus Christ walked this earth as a human being, He ruled and controlled His thoughts. He would never need the artificial stimulus of drugs to expand His mind. He fed His mind constructive, upbuilding thoughts — the kind of thoughts He could build on. You should, too. Our textbook tells us how to expand your mind without drugs and develop character in the process: "... whatsoever things are true . . . just . . . pure . . . lovely . . . of good report . . . virtue . . . praise . . . THINK ON THESE THINGS!" (Phil. 4:8.) You can only get out of your mind what you first put into it! If you fill it with psychedelic phlegm and drug-driven delusions, that's all you'll ever get out of it.

To Smoke or Not to Smoke . . .

Smoking has been conclusively proven harmful to the body. Yet many persist in practicing a foul, dirty, disease-causing habit! Smoking befouls the breath, stains the teeth and fingers, costs a great deal of money and jeopardizes a person's health and well-being. It is a factor in producing short windedness, heart ailments, circulatory problems, lung cancer, emphysema and a host of other ailments.

Yet surprisingly, "... by the time they are 18, half of the nation's teenagers are smoking" (*International Herald Tribune*, Sept. 13, 1967). The recent Surgeon General's report showed that "... the increase in new smokers is largest at the younger ages — 13, 14 and 15" (*National Observer*, Jan. 18, 1971). One report estimated that up to 5,000 new teen-agers begin smoking every day!

Today's youthful cigarette smokers are in many cases tomorrow's cancer and heart patients!

But why should anyone adopt such a habit?

Usually to be "in" with the peer group. Because "everyone" does it. Because of psychological pressure extended by one's contemporaries. These are all

factors. Sometimes it is a relaxing habit — an escape — a moment's distraction from the problems of life. Besides it looks good! Don't the cigarette advertisements depict outdoorsmen, masculine "with it" types, chic modern jet set girls with flying hair in sports cars smoking? There are all kinds of reasons why people smoke.

It requires character to avoid the pressure to begin smoking in the first place and even greater willpower to cease smoking once you have started. You can develop character by resisting the influence of others who would entice you to take up smoking for whatever reason. You can do yourself a favor by quitting if you already have the tobacco "monkey" on your back.

Youthful Crime Soaring

An associated press writer, John Chadwick, wrote on March 1 of this year that "... HALF OF THE NATION'S SERIOUS CRIMES ARE BEING COMMITTED BY JUVENILES... YOUTH CRIME IS CLIMBING AT A RATE ALMOST FOUR TIMES FASTER THAN THE YOUTH POPULATION."

Youthful shoplifting has soared 134 percent since 1960! One writer on the subject of juvenile crime called "Robbin' the fourth R." Juvenile crime is an intensely serious problem in the United States today.

As a young person or a teen-ager you can have a part in changing statistics about youthful crime. The Textbook on character counsels us to be subject to the laws of the land we live in. We are to obey civil laws and the laws of the Creator. Of course it takes considerable character to drive at 30 miles per hour when you'd really like to "wind her up" to 50 or more and feel that surge of power from the "big eight!"

"Civil Disobedience" tears down order and the structure of society. It creates chaos and confusion. God is not the source of confusion! (I Cor. 14:33.) God wants all changes to be made "decently and in order" (verse 40).

Ten Commandments Best Guide

In short, the most valuable guide you can use for your program of character development is the Ten Command-

ments of your Bible! There is nothing wrong with those laws. They are perfect laws which produce real liberty. "Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a DOER of the work, this man shall be BLESSED IN HIS DEED" (James 1:25). It pays off to keep God's laws! Not only does it produce immediate blessings but it also develops sterling CHARACTER in all who set their will to keep those principles without compromise. So there is a double dividend.

You can secure the immeasurable benefits of a great rapport with your parents if you will commit yourself to obeying the fifth commandment, "Honour your father and your mother." By exercising the character to avoid stealing you can help protect other's property and make society a more honest and pleasant environment for all concerned. It takes a person of real character to avoid telling "little white lies." To be utterly honest is a rare commodity in an increasingly dishonest and unreliable generation. True candor and trustworthiness is a rare and refreshing commodity in today's world. We could use much more of it!

If you are not keeping the commandments of God seriously and have not really studied them, it is difficult to see why they would produce such bountiful benefits. But after you have been keeping them for a while you will come to grasp their real significance. You will begin to reap the dividends of keeping a great law originated by a Master Law-Giver who knew what He was doing!

It is God's will that we prosper and be healthy (III John 2). The way to a happy, healthy and satisfying life is by holding up the standard of the Ten Commandments and all the laws and principles of living God has provided us with in His textbook on character development. "... a good understanding have all they that do his commandments . . . (Psalms 111:10). "... if thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS" (Matt. 19:17).

If you would like to see these laws expounded and amplified in a greater way, be sure to write for our FREE booklet, *The Ten Commandments*. You'll thank yourself for doing so! □

YOUR DESTINY—

THE GOD FAMILY

Human potential is higher than most people think. God created man to enter His divine Family! Read this article and see the PROOF!

by Robert L. Kuhn

THE FACT that *the express purpose of every human life is literally to become a full-fledged member of the God Family* astounds many readers.

Why?

Because the idea doesn't agree with long-cherished beliefs!

But it shouldn't be surprising. Most "long-cherished beliefs" of churchianity have little or nothing to do with the Bible. Most "traditional" doctrines cannot be found in God's Word, but are far more likely to be *ancient pagan myths*. (And all the while "theologians" and philosophers have been meticulously popularizing these heathen holdovers, the Bible has utterly condemned them.)

Whatever the Bible *does* teach, people ignore. Or ridicule. Or change. Perhaps the very "best" example of this travesty may be seen from what follows.

Put Every Doctrine to the Test!

The Bible plainly states that God created every human being to join Him eventually in the "very family circle of God" (Rom. 8:15, Phillips translation). *This is the great mystery* alluded to in the New Testament (I Corinthians 2:7). And this is precisely what we intend to prove: that *your destiny IS the God Family*. That individual human beings can and will become members of the actual Family of Almighty God!

But don't just "believe" what you have just read. We haven't yet proven this is true. *Make us prove it*. Open your Bible. Pore over each scripture. Check up on us. Read. Think. Reason. Put us to the test. Prove that your *Bible*

teaches that your destiny is the God Family.

A God Family into which each individual human being who qualifies will have been instantaneously resurrected (if then dead) or changed (if still alive) into a *literal* God Being himself, as much God as God the Father and Jesus Christ are God, in the broad, rich, full, expansive meaning of this overused and most-misunderstood word.

A point of clarification here: We are *not* saying that human beings will *become* God the Father or *become* Jesus Christ. That would be utterly ridiculous. God the Father *is* God the Father and Jesus Christ *is* Jesus Christ. And nobody else can "become" them. Furthermore, we are also *not* saying that those who will be born into God's Family will *ever* have the same power or authority as the Father or Christ does. Of course *not*. What we *are* saying, indeed what *the Bible* is saying, is that human beings will become members of *the same God Family* — composed of the same Spirit, doing the same Work and living the same life as are God the Father and Jesus Christ. We will all exist on the same supreme God level.

Individuality Not Lost

Yet, with all this "sameness" we will assuredly *not* be "assembly-line robots" or "diffused love essence in a universal spiritual cloud." Far from it. We will be *individuals* — as individually distinct from one another as God the Father is individually distinct from Jesus Christ.

We will have our own particular personalities, maintain our own special

characteristics, generate our own unique ideas, create our own original thoughts, enjoy our own preferential activities, fulfill our own personal responsibilities, and on and on. And we will always be tightly united in the God Family. We will always be ruled by the Father and by Christ, fulfilling God's overall purpose, spreading the love of God throughout the universe, united in the Family of God.

And this may make some people angry. Why? Simply because self-appointed philosophers and self-ordained theologians have long ago replaced the *true* God of the Bible with an incomprehensible "God image" — a mythical Fuzzy Being who is "too perfect," "too righteous," "too pious," "too holy" and "too downright religious" to be approached by human beings.

Bible Proof

The Bible itself, for those who are interested, tells a different story. God is *not* unapproachable. His *easy* approachability is inherent in the very reason why He created human beings in the first place — so that all mankind could be able to grow up spiritually into His Family.

Now let's irrefutably prove this fundamental doctrine *directly* from the Bible.

Many Biblical sections are relevant. But we want to be quite specific. We want scriptures which *directly* demonstrate and prove that man's ultimate goal — his only reason for being created as a species and his only reason for being born as an individual — is to

become a full-fledged member of the Family of Almighty God.

Now these Biblical sections themselves are not "lost verses" recently discovered in some archaeological investigation. Nor are they part of some esoteric "forgotten book" recently rescued from some dusty museum warehouse by a muttering graduate student. These verses have been in the Bible all the while. They are not even the difficult scriptures. They are remarkably straightforward.

As a matter of fact, for the most part, the scriptures which prove the point are the "old favorites." And that's been the problem: They are "old" and "favorite" — but therefore much misunderstood.

So as you read the rest of this article, simply *read also the words* of the following verses from your own Bible — with an open mind and a fresh outlook — and watch the Bible clearly state in plain English that man's purpose in life is literally to become God!

Genesis 1:1

"*Elohim*" — the Hebrew word that should be translated "the God Family" — is a uniplural word. This demonstrates that there are *multiple members* in the one God-Family unit. (For a more complete discussion of this fundamental point, see "The God Family" in last month's TOMORROW'S WORLD.)

Genesis 1:26

In one short, most remarkable statement, the God Family sums up the whole purpose of human life — the *primary, underlying reason* which motivated the God Family to create all physical reality. This declaration gives the all-encompassing reason: "LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE AND AFTER OUR LIKENESS." This is the very first Biblical reference to man — and with it the God Family announces the firm intention to begin to reproduce "after its kind."

Prior to this verse, the basic life-principle "after its kind" (literally from the Hebrew "to, or for, its appointed division") is repeatedly stressed as God's guiding design for the reproduction and purpose of all life. And so, just as God had created the plants and the animals "after their kind," He cre-

ated man after *His own kind* — after the God kind.

Why is the phrase "after its kind" never applied to man — even though it is consistently applied to all other life? The answer is fundamental: Because the primary purpose of human life is *not* to physically reproduce after the *human* kind — but to be *spiritually* reproduced after the *God kind*!

In the same manner as a newborn spider, bird or whale was designed to grow up to become exactly like its family and parents, every human being was designed to grow up to become exactly like his Family and Parent — *exactly like God*, exactly like the Father and exactly like Christ. Because just as the animals had begun to reproduce themselves, God had begun to reproduce Himself.

Many have heard Genesis 1:26 recited often — and, as usual, familiarity has bred contempt. So, quite unintentionally, we water it down — so that "Let us make man in our image and after our likeness" is *interpreted* as "representational," or as poetry, or as a metaphor, or figure of speech, or some other literary device, or a simile, or an analogy, or a figure of anything — anything *but* the simple meaning of the words themselves.

Men have devoted multiple tens of thousands of volumes over the centuries in search of "the plan," "the purpose" and "the answer" to mankind's existence. To no avail. In striking contrast, *God reveals all three* — He spells out in precise detail the *exact* plan, the *full* purpose, and the *ultimate* answer for each human life — and He does it in just four original Hebrew words (11 in English): "Let us [*the God Family*] make man in our [*the God Family's*] image and after our [*the God Family's*] likeness."

How much clearer could one state that the God Family — comprising, at the present time, only two Persons, God the Father and God the Son — created man for the purpose of joining them *IN* the God Family, to become literal, additional God Persons, just as they themselves (God the Father and God the Son) are and always will be, literal members of that eternally ruling God Family.

Genesis 17:8

Leviticus 25:23

Romans 4:13, 17

Hebrews 11:13

Genesis 17:8 shows that Abraham was promised the land of Canaan for an *everlasting* possession. Romans 4:13 extends this promise to the entire earth.

Yet Abraham died *not* having received the promise (Hebrews 11:13).

Is something wrong? No — Romans 4:17 proves that God calls things which have not yet happened as though they had already happened — and furthermore that He will resurrect the dead to bring His promises to pass: So we can be sure that Abraham will be resurrected.

Now, in this context, Leviticus 25:23 adds the critical complication: God states that "*the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.*" This means that Canaan and the whole earth belong to the God Family — and only the God Family can *permanently* own any land at all. Consequently, in order for God to make good on His promise to give Abraham the possession of Canaan and the whole earth as an *everlasting* possession — and God *must* do this — simple logic dictates that Abraham must eventually become a co-member of the God Family. There is no other alternative.

Leviticus 11:44-45

"Ye shall be holy, for I am holy." God commands human beings to attain the same level of holiness that God Himself reflects. But obviously we can't.

Is God a sadist? No — He is trying to make us realize the crucial point: that we should be striving to become like God in holiness as in every other way, so that at some point in the future we can be given the *full* measure of God's holiness and be actually changed into Spirit Beings in God's Family.

Job 14:14

"If a man die shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." Change? To what? To a GOD-LEVEL of existence.

Psalms 17:15

David looked forward to the time when he would awake from his death — and bear the likeness of God. (This

will take place in the yet future *resurrection* — David is dead in his grave [Acts 2:29].)

The Hebrew word here translated "likeness" — *timoonab* — is elsewhere used to directly represent God Himself (Num. 12:8; Deut. 4:12, 15, where "similitude" is the translation) but it is a completely different Hebrew word from the fleshly (Gen. 1:26) "likeness" of God in which human beings were created. How then can David bear the *likeness* (*timoonab*) of God without

God," "Heavenly appointed princes," "sons of the Covenant," etc.

Anything but what the text actually says!

It says, "You are Gods."

The highly reputable *Soncino Commentary* on the book of Psalms introduces Psalm 82 with this highly circumspect appraisal: "The interpretation of this Psalm depends upon the meaning attached to the word *Elohim*." We heartily concur. Simply "consider" this same word in the first verse

3:9; Heb. 1:2), states that the purpose of human life is to become God. He then quickly establishes this fundamental point — for those who thought that perhaps they didn't hear quite right — that *the scripture cannot be broken!*

Isaiah 58:8

"The glory of the Lord shall gather thee up" [the literal Hebrew meaning]. This intimates that human beings can eventually have exactly the same glory now possessed by God.

Malachi 3:17

"And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, *in that day when I make up my jewels* [special treasures], and I will spare them, ["they that feared the Lord and thought upon his name," verse 16] as a man spareth HIS OWN SON that serveth him."

Matthew 5:48

Genesis 17:1

"Be ye therefore perfect, *even as* your Father which is in heaven is perfect." God our Father is perfect. We know that. But Matthew 5:48 insists that we human beings must become *just as perfect* — perfect at the *same level* of perfection at which God Himself is perfect!

How is that possible? How can we fulfill that requirement?

Only by being resurrected into the God Family. There is no other way. If we are to become a spiritual creature with a plane of existence anywhere below the God Family, then we can never be perfect *even as* God is perfect, and therefore these scriptures would be in error.

This call to perfection is not restricted to the New Testament. The very same demand "be thou perfect" was made of Abraham as the one, all-important condition of the everlasting covenant with God described in Genesis 17.

Matthew 6:9

John 6:27

Matthew 6:9 is one of the multitude of scriptures which mentions *the Father*: "OUR Father which art in heaven." John 6:27 states His full name, *God the Father*.

This theme of God being called the

THE GOD FAMILY — IN BOTH TESTAMENTS

	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
God is a Family	Genesis 1:26	Ephesians 3:14-15 John 17:11 1 John 3:1
Man now in God's image	Genesis 1:26	Romans 1:20
Man to become perfect	Genesis 17:1	Matthew 5:48 Colossians 1:28 Philippians 3:15 James 1:4
Man to be changed	Job 14:14	1 Corinthians 15:49-54
Man to have God's likeness	Psalms 17:5	Philippians 3:21 1 John 3:2
Man presently is a little lower than spirit beings — but eventually will rule over all things	Psalms 8:4-6	Hebrews 2:6-8
Man can be God's own Son	Malachi 3:17	Romans 8:14-16 1 John 3:1
"Ye are gods."	Psalms 82:6	John 10:34-35

being in God's Family? The answer is, he can't.

Psalms 82:6

John 10:34

"*Ye are Gods [Elohim]*; and all of you are children of the most High." Can anything be clearer? Or easier to understand? Or more obvious? *You are Gods!* Plain and simple.

Of course, *people have interpreted* this basic three-word statement (just two words in the Hebrew) as they have wished. They have transformed the meaning of "You are Gods" into *everything but* what it really says. Here are a few choice examples: "You are righteous judges," "holy people," "Godlike beings," "angels," "men invested with a Divine prerogative," "representatives of

of Genesis: "In the beginning, God [*Elohim*] created the heaven and the earth." What is the "interpretation" of *Elohim* here? Why should it be any different in Psalm 82?

Certainly it ought to be clear when "*Elohim*" creates mankind in *Elohim's* "likeness" (Gen. 1:26) and then says to His creation "You are *Elohim*."

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ quotes Psalm 82:6 and corroborates its obvious meaning. Read John 10:34, "Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?" — and then notice the declaration which immediately follows in verse 35: "The scripture cannot be broken." In other words, the Creator Himself, Jesus Christ of Nazareth (John 1:10; Eph.

Father and His people being called *children* or *Sons* is one of the fundamental characteristics of the Bible.

But we know that — well. Perhaps *too* well. We have heard "Father in heaven" and "God the Father" so many times that the breathtaking meaning has become smothered by familiarity. God is *OUR Father*.

Now, rather than lampooning the Father-child relationship with sick religious overtones, let's focus upon the fact that in such a relationship, both the Father and the child are composed of, and enjoy, the same quality of life. We're surely not that way today. So we must *become* that way eventually.

Matthew 13:43

Revelation 1:16

Matthew 13:43 states that in the resurrection, the righteous (those Christians who overcome the world and themselves) "shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

Revelation 1:16 shows that Jesus Christ's "countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength."

In other words, converted human beings will eventually be exactly like Christ — and shine like the sun. And since Christ is God (John 1:1) and equal with God (Phil. 2:6), likewise, in the same manner, so will every converted human being eventually be.

John 6:46

Revelation 22:4

John 6:46 states that *no man can see God except He who is OF God*. "He" refers to Christ who was actually God Himself — a co-member of the God Family (John 1:1-3; Heb. 1:8) the God of Israel (I Cor. 10:4). Yet, Revelation 22:4 states that many will eventually *see God*. These individuals will have God's name written in their foreheads (same verse). Who are they? Revelation 3:12 and 14:1 prove that these same individuals were once *physical* human beings.

Now since no man can see God except he is *of* God, and many who were once physical human beings will eventually *see* God, then a simple logical deduction *demand*s that many *physical human beings will eventually be OF God*. And not "OF God" in some sanc-

tionously generalized manner. But "OF God" in precisely the same manner that Jesus Christ was (and is) exactly *OF* God — which means that when all is said and done, when the present plan of God is completed, "*all nations*" (Rev. 21:24) *will have literally BECOME God!* Because Christ *is* literally God.

If this is *not* true — if many are *not* to become members of the God Family — then either John 6:46 or Revelation 22:4 is wrong. Which would make the whole Bible wrong. Which would make God a myth. Which would doom mankind to a rapidly approaching extinction.

John 17:5, 22

Christ knew He had had — before His human birth — identically the same glorious level of God-plane existence as had God the Father. "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was" (John 17:5).

Consequently, Christ knew full well both what He was saying — and what He was doing — when He gave *precisely this same glory* to His human followers. *He was adding NEW members to God's growing Family*. "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:22).

Romans 6:5

John 17:5

Romans 6:5 shows that "we shall be also in the likeness of his [Christ's] resurrection." What *is* Christ's likeness in His resurrected condition?

John 17:5 gives the answer: After He was resurrected, Christ was glorified with God the Father's "own self" — this was the same glory which Christ had had "before the world was." Now add John 1:1: Christ was literally *God* "before the world was." Putting John 17:5 together with John 1:1, we quickly see that Christ was again a full-fledged member of the God Family after His resurrection.

Returning to Romans 6:3, we can reach no conclusion other than that human beings in the resurrection will be of exactly the same essence as the resur-

rected Christ *is* now. Which means that all of us who will have qualified will become brothers of Jesus Christ in the God Family.

Romans 8:14-16

Genesis 32:32

In three powerful and all-encompassing verses in the eighth chapter of Romans, Paul states that converted Christians — those in whom God's Holy Spirit dwells (Rom. 8:9) — are literally "*sons of God*" and "*children of God*," having received "the Spirit of *Sonship* [which is the proper translation] whereby we cry, *Abba, Father*."

To appreciate more fully the intimate and profound family relationship between God and His children, let's refer back to the directly analogous relationship between the man Israel and his children.

Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel) had 12 sons. And here's the point: They were just as human as he was, even though they were the children and he was the father. Jacob's sons were in no way inferior to him with respect to the fundamentally and uniquely human qualities of body, mind, work and life. Only in overall authority and responsibility within the family structure was there any difference between the father and his sons.

And so it will be in the God Family between the Father and His Sons.

Continuing the analogy, history has recorded the incredible geometric expansion of the children of Israel. From a dozen to millions in a few hundred years. How much more for the Family of *God!*

Romans 8:17

John 5:18

Philippians 2:6

"If we are his children, we share his treasures, and all that Christ claims as his will belong to all of us as well! Yes, if we share in his sufferings we shall certainly share in his glory" (Rom. 8:17, Phillips translation).

What *did* Christ claim as His? Both John 5:18 and Philippians 2:6 give the same answer: Christ said, "that God was his Father, *making himself equal with God*." "Who [Christ], being in

the form of God, thought it not robbery *to be equal with God.*" No robbery. He owns the universe!

I Corinthians 15:49

"As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." Previous verses show that "the earthy" refers to Adam specifically and man in general, and "the heavenly" refers to Christ specifically and the God Family in general.

Now read that crucial verse again: It states that in *exactly* the same manner — and *just* as surely — as we now "bear the image" of our physical parents and resemble the members of the human family (the earthy), we shall likewise in the future "bear the image" of our spiritual Parent and resemble the members of God's Family (the heavenly).

How have we "borne the image" of the earthy? *We are* earthy. How do we *resemble* human beings? *We are* human beings. So how will we *resemble* the members of God's Family? *We will be* members of God's Family.

II Corinthians 3:18

Philippians 3:21

"We are being transformed into the same likeness as himself [God]" (Moffatt translation). Christ will change our present vile bodies "and give it a form like that of his own resplendent [God-Family] body" (*The New English Bible*). Direct and to the point.

Ephesians 4:13

Revelation 1:13-17

Ephesians 4:13 gives us the life-goal for every human being: to attain "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

What is "the stature of the fulness of Christ"? Revelation 1:13-17 tells us — it describes Christ as He is today. Read it — it is a vividly personal picture of *God*. And that is precisely what human beings were created to attain.

Philippians 2:5-6

"Let this *mind* be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God."

Christ was equal with God — Christ's mind *was* God's mind. And we human beings are implored to allow that very same mind — the mental capacity of God — to become our minds. When this *fully* occurs, when we have the *full* range of God's mental capacity in our minds, we must at that point be in God's Family ourselves.

I Peter 1:23

"For you are sons of God now [in the process of being born again]: the live, permanent Word of *the living God has given you his own indestructible HEREDITY*" (Phillips translation). *Heredity!* That's the key word. We are promised *God's* heredity.

To begin to appreciate the concept of *God's* heredity, we must first understand *human* heredity. The fundamental differences between the DNA (heredity) molecules of animals and humans exemplify the far-reaching realities and implications of heredity. The heredity of a human being is *distinctly of the human kind*. Likewise the heredity of God is *distinctly of the God-kind*.

And that indestructible and distinct heredity of God *is* His *Holy Spirit* — which is given to every true Christian (Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:13-14).

II Peter 1:4

"We have exceedingly great and precious promises — *that we may be partakers of, and share, the essential Divine Nature*" (King James Version and Phillips). How can it be possible to partake of, and share, the *essential* divine nature and yet not be God? It can't.

I John 2:24-25

"You will be living in fellowship with both the Father and the Son. And that means *sharing his [God's] own life forever, as he has promised*" (Phillips). Again, how can it be possible to share God's own life *forever* and still not be God? It can't.

I John 3:1-2

And now two remarkable verses. They do not need any explanation. They *can't* be "interpreted"!

"Consider the incredible love that the Father has shown us in allowing us to

be called 'children of God' — and that is not just what we are called, but what we *are*. Our heredity on the Godward side is no mere figure of speech. . . . Here and now we are God's children. We don't know what we shall become [we cannot yet comprehend how we shall appear] in the future. We only know that, if reality were to break through, we should reflect his likeness [*"we shall be like him"* — King James Version], for we should see him as he really is" (Phillips).

Just read these words. Each one. And one following another. Literally. We can't make any comment to strengthen them. They plainly say what they say: Christians — humans — will become members of the God Family.

Revelation 3:9

Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9

Revelation 3:9 states that physical human beings in Tomorrow's World — living under the soon-coming Government of God — will *worship* before the feet of God's present-day human servants.

But Revelation 19:10 and 22:8-9 state that human beings must not worship before the feet of even the greatest *angelic* beings (and *certainly not* before other human beings). We are commanded to *worship God alone*.

Now there is *only one logical way* for these two statements not to be in diametric contradiction of one another — there is only one way to make sense out of these scriptures — that is *if God's human servants of today will literally be changed into individual members of the God Family in the World Tomorrow*.

Revelation 3:12

Revelation 21:22

Revelation 3:12 shows that when converted Christians are changed into Spirit Beings at the resurrection they will be *pillars* in the *temple* of God and shall "go no more out."

Yet, in the light of this fact, Revelation 21:22 seems contradictory: "And I saw *no temple* therein [in the New Jerusalem]: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."

How can Christians become "pillars

in the temple" if God the Father and Jesus Christ are the temple? And the *only* temple! Is this a contradiction? Of course not. These verses are in perfect harmony — but only when we come to realize that the God Family (God the Father and Jesus Christ up to now) *IS* the "temple" — and that converted Christians will be resurrected into the "temple of the God Family" as "*pillars*." Which means that converted Christians will be resurrected into the God Family as *literally God*, just like God the Father and Jesus Christ are literally God already in the "God-Family temple." (See also I Cor. 3:16-17 and Rev. 7:15.)

Revelation 21:7

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be MY SON."

How could one "get around" this verse? How does one try to "prove" that human beings will *not* become God? Only by making the assumption that God's *Son* does *not really mean* God's *literal* Son.

But by making such an assumption, the careless "assumer" accuses God of not being able to generate as close a family relationship between Himself and His Sons as exists between a physical human father and his sons.

Genesis 3:5

Finally, we go back to the beginning. To Genesis. To the crucial third chapter. We do this for two reasons:

1) Some have tried to use Genesis 3:5 to refute the Biblical doctrine that man was created to enter the God Family — and we must now expose the fallacies in their logic.

2) This verse reveals the truth about what is perhaps the most pivotal and crucial period of human history — and is thereby appropriate to complete this entire presentation.

First of all, let's summarize the critic's argument. It goes something like this: "In Genesis 3:5 Satan is quoted as saying 'ye shall be as gods' — and since Satan is a liar, this statement *cannot* be correct. Therefore, because Satan asserted it, God could *not* possibly have created human beings to be 'as Gods.'"

Now let's analyze the "reasoning"

employed. To begin with, the "logic" is either absent or incredibly naïve. True, Satan is a liar, but to assume that *every* statement he makes is a lie is a false and dangerous premise. Satan makes many *true* statements, his *facts* are often correct — it's his *intent, motivation, aims and goals which are diabolical*.

Notice in Genesis 3:5 that Satan *also* said, "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof [of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil], then your eyes shall be opened." And that remark was 100 percent true. You can prove it by Genesis 3:6-7. Adam and Eve *did* eat of the forbidden tree (verse 6) and indeed "the eyes of them both *were* opened" (verse 7) — *precisely as Satan had stated*. So just because Satan states something in no way means that "that something" must be 100 percent wrong.

Satan is clever. If he made statements which were obviously wrong, nobody would ever believe him. Or look at it this way: If Satan *always* tells a lie, then the listener could always be sure of at least one aspect of the truth (what the truth is *not*).

Consequently, in order to destroy as many human beings — as many potential God Beings — as possible, most of Satan's words *are* correct — he just adds a perverted twist to them, just enough to fool the individual and send him on his "merry" way to eternal death.

Now, let's evaluate Genesis 3:5 in its proper perspective. We are going to discover that the very verse which supposedly disproves the fact that man was designed to become God could well be one of its strongest proofs! Because we will see that the very fact that Satan mentioned to Eve "ye shall be as gods" in his first "sermon" suggests that God had *already* told Adam and Eve precisely that same truth sometime before.

Because this *is* the overall purpose of human life — to become a member of the God Family. This was the only reason why God started the human race through Adam and Eve in the first place — to begin to reproduce Himself. So it is wholly logical that God *immediately* instructed our first parents about this most basic, trunk-of-the-tree doctrine when He taught them *all* the fundamentals of human life on the first Sab-

bath, the day after they were created. For God to have commanded Adam and Eve to blindly obey His Law *without* having first explained to them *why* they should do so — in other words, *what the ultimate goal of their law-abiding lives* would be — would have degraded the human mind to the level of a mere robot. Sure, God desires obedience. But He also wants us to know *why*. Because God is creating *Sons*, not robots.

So the Creator God spoke face-to-face with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Most likely, God (the Person who became Jesus Christ) made it abundantly clear to them that they were created to eventually become exactly like He Himself was — a full-fledged member of the eternally ruling God Family. Indeed, only this would explain why neither Adam nor Eve expressed any surprise when Satan stated later they could immediately become "as God." Most of what Satan said was nothing new — God Himself had already told them almost exactly that.

However, God had also revealed *how* Adam and Eve were to become members of His God Family. It was going to be a long haul — it was going to be a struggle. They would have to live hundreds of years — rising early, working late, rearing children, fighting sin, continuously obeying God.

Sure, God was offering His personal help. Adam and Eve could have received the gift of God's Holy Spirit, but it would *still* require a long life of hard work and struggle.

And so it was in *this* context — the context of hard work and struggle — that Satan came along and offered Adam and Eve "the easy way out."

Satan was going to appeal to their human vanity.

Of course, Satan had to entice them with exactly the same reward that God had offered. Because nothing else could possibly compare with such a prize. Satan had to offer Adam and Eve the prospect of literally becoming God — as mentioned in Genesis 3:5. Only Satan added a "new twist."

In Satan's way there was no wait, no work, no struggling against sin, and, of course, no obedience to God. They could use their own powers of intellect

(Continued on page 48)

The STORY of MAN

for children five to one hundred five

by Basil Wolverton

JEREMIAH WARNS JUDAH

CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX

According to Josiah's wish, his grandson, then eight years old, was to succeed him. But he was removed from any opportunity to reign after ten days' time. Neither did Josiah's eldest son, Eliakim, succeed his father because the people of Judah believed he would regard the king of Egypt as their master. Instead, they put Eliakim's younger half-brother Jehoahaz on the throne.

Meanwhile, the Egyptians were not victorious over the Babylonian king as they had hoped to be.

The Chaldeans pursued the Egyptians southwestward for hundreds of miles. Later, with the Chaldeans on their way back home, Necho had freedom to demand of Jerusalem that Eliakim should be made king. Jehoahaz was therefore king only three months because King Necho of Egypt considered Judah his vassal nation and thought only he should have the right to decide who should be king. As a gesture to prove that his will should be carried out in every respect, the king of Egypt decreed that from then on Eliakim should be known as Jehoiakim.

Jehoiakim continued to rule Judah for the next eleven years, even though he wasn't the choice of the people who followed God. During those years, there was an unhappy return to idolatry and a constant heavy tribute, mostly in gold and silver, to the king of Egypt.

A Reluctant Prophet

As for Jehoahaz, he was taken by the Egyptians to their country, where he died. (II Kings 23:31-34; II Chronicles 36:1-4.)

As a result of allowing his nation to fall back into idolatry, Jehoiakim had his share of troubles.

One of his sources of worry was the Prophet Jeremiah, who had been around in Josiah's time, but who because of his youth didn't earn much respect until he had spoken at Josiah's funeral.

Jeremiah was probably only in his late teens when God first contacted him, telling him that long before he was born God had chosen him to be a prophet to warn many nations of their wrong ways and what would come to pass unless they turned to observing God's laws.

"But how can I speak to nations?" Jeremiah asked. "I would have to talk to kings, and kings wouldn't listen to me because I am only a boy."

"You shall grow in wisdom," God told him. "Besides, I shall tell you what to say in every situation. You are not to fear anyone, regardless of his rank or his fierce or scornful expressions. I won't allow harm to come to you."

Obviously in a vision, Jeremiah felt his lips being touched by God's hand.

"This day I have put words in your mouth," the Creator said. "I am setting you over the nations and kingdoms with the power to root out and destroy, but I shall also give you the power to plant and build."

This meant that Jeremiah was to do far more than warn Judah and other nations of calamities to come. God would also reveal, through Jeremiah, where the captive and scattered House of Israel would again be started as nations, eventually, in other parts of the world. (Jeremiah 1:1-19.)

In time, with the passing of generations, many Israelites forgot their identity. Migrating among other nations, ever-increasing numbers came to regard themselves as Gentiles. Most of them, as this is written, still do. Through Jeremiah and others of God's servants who would be born much later, the

Creator planned that the Israelites of the ten-tribed House of Israel would eventually recognize themselves and no longer be lost, and would remember the commission their ancient ancestors had been given and the covenant between their people and God.

Jeremiah spent his early years in the priests' town of Anathoth, only a few miles north of Jerusalem. Because of being bothered by people who despised and troubled him, he moved to Jerusalem. There he could be lost in the nonreligious capital crowd instead of being conspicuous in a small ministerial town where many priests were growing lukewarm and didn't like to have a zealous prophet around. Jeremiah became respected in Jerusalem after having much to say at Josiah's funeral and having already gained the friendship of some of the more upright men of King Josiah's acquaintance.

Jeremiah's first major trouble during Jehoiakim's reign came about when he was told by God to go to the temple and warn all who came there that unless they would live by God's laws, God would cause Jerusalem to become as ravaged as the ancient town of Shiloh, the town where the tabernacle was set up when Israel first came into the land of Canaan. (Joshua 18:1; Psalm 78:60; Jeremiah 26:6.) Shiloh had been destroyed by the Philistines hundreds of years before Jeremiah's time. (I Samuel 4:10-12.)

"God has told me that unless the people of Judah repent of their evil ways and wholeheartedly return to obeying Him, this city will soon become a place that will be spoken of only with scorn, ridicule and contempt!" Jeremiah shouted to the crowds who came to the temple to try to make themselves right with God by making token offerings and pausing for what would appear to be periods of prayer or religious reflection.

Who Believes a Prophet?

This was too much for many in authority who had long tired of what they called "Jeremiah's prophecies of doom." Self-styled prophets of God and many of the people, and even priests at the temple, joined in seizing Jeremiah and accusing him before the multitude.

"You have uttered curses against Jerusalem and the temple of God!" they shouted angrily. "For this you deserve to die!"

When the king's counsellors heard about Jeremiah being held by the priests and others, they immediately arranged for a quick trial. (Jeremiah 26:1-10.)

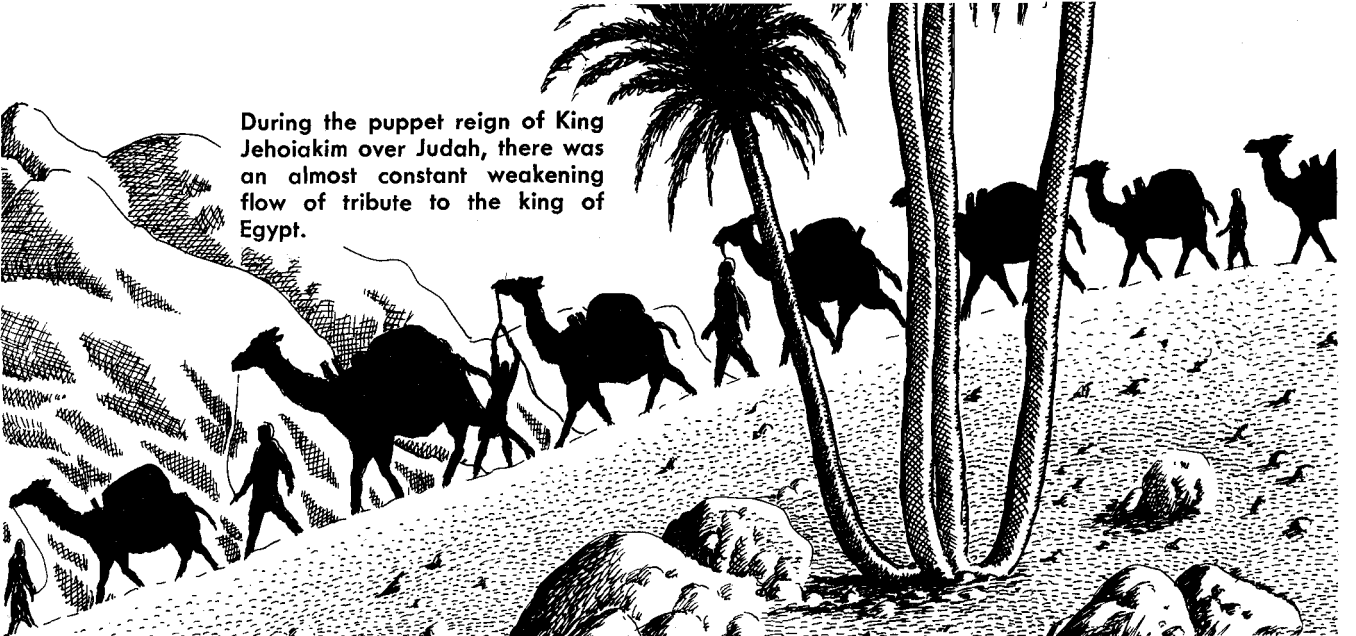
"Why should we delay what should be done by holding an unnecessary trial?" Jeremiah's accusers heatedly asked. "It's plainly evident what he has done and what the penalty should be!"

"Why should any of you speak against God?" Jeremiah asked in his own defense. "It was God who sent me to the temple to warn of trouble to come. Why not obey God and thus avoid the evil things that will otherwise come to you? Do what you will with me, but if you kill me you will bring greater calamity on yourselves and the people of Jerusalem because of unjust treatment of one of God's chosen servants."

There was a noisy babble of voices as the priests and their supporters derided Jeremiah's remarks. Some were still demanding the prophet's life. Hastily the princes and the king's counsellors conferred with the representatives of the people, the chiefs of the clans.

"We can't agree with you that this man should be punished by death because of prophesying," the king's counsellors and the princes told the prophets and the priests. Then certain respected older men reminded the crowd: "Other prophets have made dire predictions and they weren't executed for their remarks. Why should Jeremiah be the exception? When King Hezekiah heeded the warning of the Prophet Micah, and called on God, remember how God spared Hezekiah and the nation? Wouldn't it be wise for us to do as Hezekiah did?" The most influential man speaking for Jeremiah was Ahikam, the son of Shaphan who was a friend of Hilkiah, Jeremiah's father. (Jeremiah 26:11-19, 24.) Reluctantly the envious priests and self-appointed prophets bowed to the will of the counsellors, and Jeremiah was released.

At the same time a prophet named Urijah had publicly declared essentially the same things Jeremiah had stated. He, too, was being sought to be punished by death for making gloomy remarks about what would happen to Jerusalem and the temple. Having heard that Jeremiah had been arrested, and that he would share Jeremiah's fate, Urijah lacked faith that God would protect him, and managed to



During the puppet reign of King Jehoiakim over Judah, there was an almost constant weakening flow of tribute to the king of Egypt.

escape from Jerusalem and reach Egypt, where he succeeded in hiding for a time. Jehoiakim, king of Judah, was so angered that a prophet he disliked should evade a trial that he sent men to Egypt to ask King Necho to find Urijah and turn him over to the emissaries from Judah. Necho cooperated. Urijah was found, given over to the men of Judah, and slain as soon as he was brought back to Jerusalem. If he had joined Jeremiah to face his accusers, probably his life would have been spared. (Jeremiah 26:20-23.)

In those days King Jehoiakim heavily taxed his people to enable him to pay the high tribute demanded regularly by the king of Egypt. (II Kings 23:31-35.) Meanwhile, Jeremiah continued his warnings. Some people considered him a traitor to his country because he spoke of Babylon as a greater power than Egypt, and therefore a greater menace to Judah. This greatly irritated the king, who owed his office to the ruler of Egypt, whom the Jews were expected to look up to as the most powerful of rulers.

In the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign, God told Jeremiah that he should write down all the warnings He had given Jeremiah to speak to the public and declare them all again at one time to the people at the temple. Jeremiah dictated them to his secretary, a man named Baruch, who wrote them on a heavy scroll.

"Perhaps when people hear at one time all of the calamity I plan to bring on them, they will be sobered," God observed to Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 36:1-3.)

God didn't require that Jeremiah should be the one to again warn the people at the temple. The

prophet was relieved. He knew that the scheming priests and false prophets, especially those from Anathoth, his home town, would seek his life if he appeared again at the temple. (Jeremiah 11:21.) God had told Jeremiah not to fear anyone, but he had been staying out of sight, knowing it would be unwise to deliberately go about and tempt his enemies.

A Crisis Approaches

"If I again proclaim all that is on your scroll," Jeremiah told his secretary, "the priests and prophets will again try to have me killed. You they probably would ignore just because you aren't me. Be my spokesman. Go to the temple on the special fast day that has been set for a few days from now, and read aloud all you have written. On such a solemn day some might repent and be spared from the misery God is going to bring on Judah."

Baruch was at first uneasy at carrying out the prophet's wishes, but he complied without complaining. He faced a large audience on the day when people were fasting because they believed that might appease God and cause Him to protect them from their enemies. Many concerned people listened attentively, but there was no way for Baruch to determine how much they were affected.

One young man, Michaiah, a grandson of Shaphan, who had been King Josiah's secretary, and was friendly toward Jeremiah, was greatly impressed. He ran to the king's house, where there was a meeting of Judah's princes and counsellors of Jehoiakim. Michaiah excitedly told them about the terrible things Baruch had said would come on the nation.

(To be continued next issue)

ANSWERS to your Questions

● “I greatly enjoyed ‘Who Wrote the Law?’ in the February issue of *Tomorrow's World*. However, one thing bothers me. Who wrote the last chapter of Deuteronomy which tells of the death of Moses?”

Before the Old Testament canon was closed, a final editing was needed to complete certain genealogies, update geographical names and tell of Moses' death and humility. Notice the parenthetical statement about Moses in Numbers 12:3 — “(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)” Moses would not have written that about himself. Moses' contemporary, Joshua, according to Jewish commentaries, probably wrote those ORIGINAL comments. Ezra the priest and scribe was the one God used to do the final editing. Several historical sources and commentaries verify this. Here are just a few:

Humphrey Prideaux, *An Historical Connection of the Old and New Testament*, vol. 1, pp. 318, 319. *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 1, p. 452; vol. 2, p. 334; vol. 4, pp. 15-16.

And as the *Adam Clarke Commentary* quoted one Jewish scholar — the author of *Alexander's Hebrew and English Pentateuch* — “Most commentators are of the opinion that Ezra was the author of the last chapter of Deuteronomy” (vol. 1, p. 840).

It is important to realize that Ezra's additions were written to clarify or complete — not contradict — what Moses actually said. Most of Ezra's editing simply concerned itself with the updating of geographical sites that had been renamed between the time of Moses and his day. (A good example is Genesis 14:14, which mentions Dan. The area of northern Canaan was later settled by the tribe of Dan. Yet Dan

was *not* yet born when the events in Genesis 14 occurred.) References to the footnotes of Ferrar Fenton's translation or to Biblical handbooks will give the majority of these editorial remarks.

● “Is it true that the early Christians practiced Communism? I have heard some make this claim.”

There are two scriptures — when taken out of context — which are sometimes thought to condone Communism. The first is: “And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” (Acts 2:44, 45). The second: “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” (Acts 4:32).

These Christians had come from distant lands to observe God's festival of Pentecost at Jerusalem (Acts 2:5-11; Lev. 23:2, 15-21). Many stayed in Jerusalem longer than originally intended and had to sell part of their possessions to pay the extra expenses. As stated in Acts 4:32, there was such a spirit of unity that no man reckoned that his possessions (*which he personally owned*) were solely his. Rather he voluntarily used or sold his goods to help fill the needs of the group.

Those Christians believed in God and were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31). Communists reject God, the Bible, and religion in general. Other scriptures show that Christians owned private property (see Acts 5:4 and II Thes. 3:12). Also the New Testament makes frequent references to the rich and poor in the Church (see especially I Tim. 6:17-19 and James 1:9-10).

Such distinctions would have been impossible if all property were held in common.

Actually Communism is in diametric opposition to the Ten Commandments, which Christ commands us to keep (Matt. 19:17). And the Ten Commandments presuppose private property. Communism is also at loggerheads with the statutes and judgments, which are based on the Ten Commandments. The judgments found in chapters 21 through 23 of the book of Exodus are chock-full of laws involving private property.

● “Why do you seem to judge people in your *Tomorrow's World* magazine, when Jesus told us not to judge one another?”

The scripture you undoubtedly have in mind is found in Matthew 7:1-2. “Judge not, that ye be not judged . . .” The word “judge” as used in this passage should be rendered “condemn” or “damn.” We are never to condemn or damn anyone. That is God's prerogative — and He only exercises it as a last resort in dealing with incorrigible, unrepentant humans after giving them every opportunity.

Jesus Himself commands us to “judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24). We are to judge and discern between right and wrong, using the Bible as our guide and authority. The Apostle Paul said, “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?*” (I Cor. 6:2-3.) We have to learn to judge *now* — *in this life* — in order to properly prepare for *Tomorrow's World*.

Our objective in using certain anonymous, general, and sometimes specific human examples (usually cast in Biblical times) in this magazine is *not* to condemn or damn individuals, but to help all of our readers rightly judge between right and wrong using the perfect standard of God's Word.

● “Please explain the apparent contradiction between Matthew 27:5 and Acts 1:18. Did Judas Iscariot, after betraying Christ, hang

himself, or just swell up and burst open?"

By putting together the two accounts of Judas' death, we get the whole picture. Both events are true — both happened. In Matthew's inspired account, God states that Judas "went and hanged himself" (Matt. 27:5). Luke — the author of the book of Acts — explains what happened AFTER THAT. After Judas' body began to decompose, the corpse slipped from the rope and burst open when it fell.

● "What happened to Joseph and Mary after Christ's resurrection?"

Apparently Joseph died sometime before Christ's public ministry, as he is not mentioned in Scripture again after Jesus was 12 years old. This would also explain one reason why Jesus told John to take care of Mary just before His death (John 19:25-27). John was probably the only apostle of the twelve to die of old age. Biblical and historical sources account for the martyrdom of all the others. John lived over 60 years after Christ's resurrection and evidently took care of Mary until her death. No details of her death are given either in the Bible or in reliable historical sources.

● "You constantly say Jesus was a Jew. Many claim this is not true. How can I know for sure?"

It's all a matter of who or what is your source. If it is the writings of small *politically oriented* groups, one may believe Jesus was not a Jew. But, what is the real source of truth? Jesus said, "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). The Bible is the actual source of spiritual truth.

Notice what Scripture says. "For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah" (Hebrews 7:14). The word "Jew" is just a shortened form of "Judah."

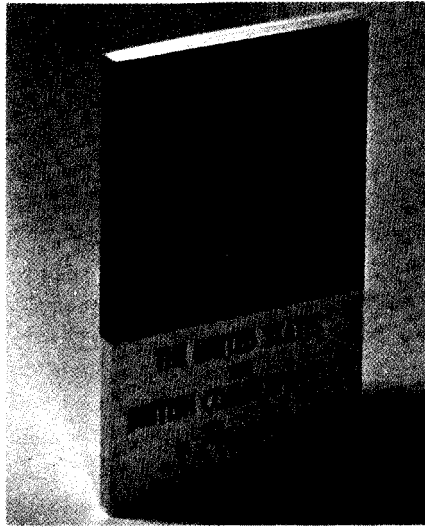
There are numerous other Biblical proofs. Notice just two: Recall that the Samaritan woman said to Christ, "How is it that thou, *being a Jew . . .*" (John 4:9). Look at the genealogy of Mary in Luke 3. It shows that she was

a descendant of Judah, and therefore a Jew.

● "Are we headed for a time of worldwide national catastrophes? Is this what Jesus meant in Matthew 24, when he said, 'All these are the beginning of sorrows? Is the worst yet to come?'"

The answer is an emphatic "YES." Bible prophecy speaks of a time of worsening worldwide national conditions affecting all nations, but specifically singling out the peoples of the English-speaking world.

God, through the pen of the Prophet Ezekiel, forewarned that fully two thirds of our people were to perish by warfare, catastrophic weather calamities, famines, and resultant disease epidemics (read Ezekiel 5:12). However, the prophet never reached ancient Israel with this prophecy. Those people had gone into captivity well over a hundred years before his time. Ezekiel 5:12 is



for us today. The clear, unmistakable proof of our national identity may be obtained by writing for our FREE book *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.

Most Bible prophecy is dual. The horrible penalties for disobedience listed in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 — as well as the first chapter of Joel — not only were inflicted upon ancient Israel, but are prophetic for the near future. These punishments are to fall on our peoples around the world today — barring a much-needed national repentance.

But, even if the nations as a whole refuse to repent, you as an individual can be spared. Write also for our FREE article "What Is Real Repentance?"

● "In the March *Tomorrow's World*, you printed an article on the question of whether Jesus had long hair. But you did not mention the Report of Publius Lentulus to the Emperor Tiberius, which describes Jesus as having long hair. Would you please discuss?"

The "Report of Publius Lentulus" was supposedly written by the Roman governor of Judaea to the Emperor Tiberius. But accurate historical records of the Roman governors at that time are still in existence. There was no governor of Judaea by the name Publius Lentulus during the time of Jesus Christ (the governor was, of course, Pontius Pilate).

Professor Edgar J. Goodspeed, well-known Biblical scholar writes:

The 'Letter of Lentulus' is evidently a fiction, designed to give currency to the description contained in the painters' manuals about the personal appearance of Jesus. . . . It is probably as old as the thirteenth century; but it was unknown to Christian antiquity, and has no claims to serious attention as throwing any light upon the personal appearance of Jesus (*Modern Apocrypha*, p. 91).

Similar reports are still being widely circulated. All which claim to give eyewitness descriptions of Jesus are completely spurious.

● "Jesus says in John 5:37 that at no time has anyone heard the voice of God. Didn't Peter, James and John hear it in Matthew 17:5?"

Notice carefully: "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." It was not THE voice of God, but merely a voice. It did not come from the heights of heaven but from the cloud which overshadowed them. This was the voice of an angel acting as a spokesman for God.



KARL MARX would not have believed it!

That a Communist leader professing atheism and looking upon religion as the “opiate of the masses” should journey to Rome for an *official* visit with the head of the world’s largest *religious* body!

Paving the Way

The historic meeting between Pope Paul VI and Marshal Josip Broz Tito came about as a result of the warming relations between the Vatican and Yugoslavia ever since the two established formal diplomatic ties last August. This was a first for a Communist nation. In fact, the one and one-half hour conference was one of the longest audiences the Pontiff has ever granted.

Marshal Tito has been known as a maverick in the Communist world from the moment he broke with Stalin in 1948. Economically he has been pursuing an evermore liberal policy both at home and with regard to foreign trade. Politically, he was one of the first to become a champion of the cause of the nonaligned nations, readily accepting aid from both East and West.

Inasmuch as Pope Paul has likewise been attempting to steer a nonaligned

course in his dealings with the nations, the two have a mutual interest on common ground. Of late, headlines such as “The Pope, the Undeclared Ally of the Nonaligned” have appeared often in the Yugoslav press. The articles that followed were full of praise for the Pope, his foreign secretary Archbishop Casaroli and in general, the Vatican’s role in international politics.

According to the Zagreb *Vjesnik*, the two hold identical views on such key problems as the Middle East, Vietnam, the role of the U.N., nonalignment and world peace. In fact, as the Catholic magazine *Commonweal* puts it, “. . . It is certain that nowhere, except perhaps in the Vatican’s own *Osservatore Romano*, are Pope Paul and the Vatican Curia more wholeheartedly endorsed than they are in Yugoslavia’s ‘Communist’ press” (*Commonweal*, October 9, 1970, p. 36).

Although Yugoslavia is a Communist state, the Catholic Church is still an important force *within* the country itself. Constituting 32 percent of the population, Roman Catholics are nonetheless the great majority in the northern republics of Croatia and Slovenia — which are the richest and most industrialized parts of the nation. President

Tito himself was born to a Catholic Croatian family.

In recent years persecution of the Roman Catholic Church in Yugoslavia has entirely ceased — and in fact precisely the opposite has been transpiring: for example, in Croatia, the Communist Central Committee is now working in harmony with the local bishops. At the present time the Catholic clergy enjoys freedom of movement and expression including use of mass media — as do other Christian religious denominations and also the Moslem and Jewish communities.

Thus a harmonious ring was in the air for the historic meeting between Marshal Tito and Pope Paul on March 29th.

Looking Into the Meeting

At the entrance to Vatican City, President Tito and his wife were met by an escort of the Papal Swiss Guard. After greetings by Vatican officials, Marshal Tito was ushered alone into the Pontiff’s study for the private audience.

In their meeting the Pope praised Tito for his efforts to promote world peace and for his appreciation of Vatican efforts in this area.

But the two leaders did far more than just exchange niceties. Grave problems, religion and world affairs were dis-

cussed, as the official communique related to the world. This harmonious meeting might portend the beginning of a new era of cooperation between Church and State.

The Pontiff assured President Tito he need not fear Church interference in the affairs of the state. "For itself," he said, "the Church only asks the legitimate freedom of carrying out its spiritual ministry and of offering its loyal services to man . . . without any personal interest foreign to its religious and moral mission."

Marshal Tito for his part, concentrated more on world affairs. He expressed concern about problems in both Southeast Asia and Africa, noting that the views of Yugoslavia and the Vatican on the major problems confronting the world were "close or identical." He expressed a hope that this harmony would continue.

President Tito gave major emphasis, however, to the problems of the Middle East. This is quite logical inasmuch as Yugoslavia is an important Mediterranean power and is greatly concerned with peace in this area. "It is therefore understandable that we devote special attention to the crisis in the Middle East and to the grave dangers inherent in it," he said.

In the Middle East, Yugoslavia is a staunch ally of the Arab States, particularly the United Arab Republic (Egypt). In fact, neither the Vatican nor Yugoslavia formally recognizes Israel, although there has been a Yugoslav consulate in Jaffa-Tel Aviv and commercial relations do exist. The *New York Times* reported that in his talks with the Pontiff, President Tito "made a strong presentation of the Arab cause in the Middle East conflict" (March 30, 1971 issue).

Finding Common Ground — in Jerusalem

The *Times* went on to say that "Pope Paul reportedly restated the Vatican's request for an internationally guaranteed special status of Jerusalem and other holy places in Palestine."

The status of Jerusalem has in fact been a recurrent theme in recent Vatican

pronouncements. On March 24, the *Vatican Weekly*, *L'Osservatore della Domenica* advised that there could be no true peace in the Middle East without respect for the special status of Jerusalem as a universal religious shrine (Reuters). The Pontiff prior to this had called for recognition of the very unique conditions in Jerusalem as a city sacred to three major religions.

Even more pronounced was the Vatican statement in its daily *Osservatore Romano* that Israel was "suffocating" Christian and Moslem communities in Jerusalem. The paper particularly denounced taxation and new town planning as injurious to these communities.

Finally, on March 14 Pope Paul stated that the Vatican favors international protection for the holy places of Jerusalem and the rest of Palestine. Pope Paul called for some "international institution" to guarantee freedom of cult and access to the holy places and their maintenance (AP, March 25, 1971).

Immediately the question comes to mind as to *whom* or *what* would be the "international institution" to which Pope Paul is referring. The United Nations has no power other than whatever its constituent members might agree — if it is possible for them to agree — to give it. Could it be this is where Yugoslavia would enter the picture?

The Israeli Response

In Israel, where using the term "Palestine" alone is enough to evoke an emotional and negative response, the reaction to all this in the press was rather angry.

Israelis are quick to point out that they fully allow each religion control of its own holy places, with free access to religious sites for all. Furthermore, they point out that when the Old City of Jerusalem was ruled by Jordan, and Jews and Israeli Christians were barred from their own holy places, Rome all the while kept silent.

Practically to a man, the Israelis reject internationalization of the city. They say that when the United Nations approved this concept back in 1947, it was the Jordanians who rejected it by annexing the Old City. Israel insists that

Jerusalem will never again be divided. Nor will Israel give up her age-old capital — which is now united under sovereign Jewish auspices for the first time in over 2000 years — under *any* conditions.

So there is obviously a problem — a serious problem. Can these differences be resolved peacefully and quietly by men of good will, each considering the needs of the other side as well as their own? We certainly hope so.

But we can do *more* than hope. We can read the Bible. We can know for certain the major political trends now developing in the Middle East. Bible prophecy clearly indicates that Jerusalem is destined to remain in the headlines for a long time to come. Zechariah 12:2-3 shows that many nations will concern themselves more and more with the fate of Jerusalem.

"City of Peace?"

Jerusalem means "city of peace," and yet it has been fought over as often as any site on earth. And if mankind refuses to acknowledge the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, it will be fought over once again. Only after that will men all over the world learn how to live with one another at peace. At *that* time Jerusalem's warfare shall be accomplished (Isa. 40:2) and the city shall become the "joy of all the earth." That will begin *Tomorrow's World*. David was inspired to write: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6) looking forward to this time of lasting peace.

Jerusalem is the most important religious site on earth. And organized religions of every shade are today making their weight felt in the dealings between the nations. History shows that more wars have been fought in the name of religion than over anything else. So we must now ask, will Tito continue his active interest in the Middle East? And, what will his next move be in cementing relations with the Vatican? What will happen when the 79-year-old Communist leader passes from the scene?

Keep your eyes focused on the outcome of the unprecedented developments now taking shape in Europe and the Near East. □

Personal

(Continued from page 2)

God allowed even a measure of material blessings!

I have very little money in my own name in the bank — yet God enables me to enjoy all the material blessings today that are good for me. This, however, came only after I had learned NOT to set my heart on economic prosperity.

Best of all, we in this great Work have the matchless knowledge that we are HEIRS of GOD — and joint-heirs with CHRIST — to be BORN INTO GOD'S OWN FAMILY and share His honor and GLORY forever!

But meanwhile, our minds are free from fears and worries. There are never any frustrations! We have been given abiding FAITH, which never fails — and never will! We have ABSOLUTE SECURITY! We are allowed high position and authority in GOD'S Work, directed personally by the *living* Jesus Christ. I am privileged to work directly UNDER HIM!

We are kept BUSY. We are privileged to enjoy the physical BEAUTY of (we believe) the three most beautiful college campuses in the world! We are privileged to ENJOY seeing the almost incredible transformation and character-development spiritually, mentally, morally, emotionally, and physically, in hundreds of purposeful college students. We are privileged to lead them, counsel with them in their problems, serve them in many ways.

I am PRIVILEGED to have my son, Garner Ted, second in authority, in these colleges, and all God's Great Work — a son IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED!

I am privileged to write this GOOD NEWS for perhaps more than two million of you to read.

Say! Just what do you mean, Mr. Portune — *you* are "the most blessed man on earth"? Well, after all — that's the kind of "competition" where I can say I'm rejoicing in the knowledge we SHARE the rich blessings of the benevolent GOD!

I wish men of position, and growing

success in the world, could realize the REAL SOURCE of true happiness — of real, enjoyable, interesting, happy and abundant LIVING!

Yes, I wish ALL PEOPLE, *everywhere*, could really *enjoy* life as much as we do.

I'm *glad* Albert Portune is privileged to enjoy life so abundantly. I'm *glad* — and supremely grateful — that my son Garner Ted is so blessed, with a dear and lovely wife, three fine and properly trained sons, a beautiful home — every material blessing, beside all the lavish spiritual blessings. I rejoice that Dr. Roderick Meredith, Dr. Herman Hoeh, and many others and their families are equally blessed. I'm grateful beyond words that scores, hundreds, and *thousands*, are now sharing in these same blessings, and will really *know* what I'm talking about!

And I rejoice in the sure knowledge that, in the very imminent future, Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth in all the supreme POWER and GLORY of the Great GOD, and literally *force* this whole world to see the TRUE VALUES, and learn the way to all we enjoy now — and MORE!

SURE I'm happy — just brimful and running over with it. I've tried to share a little of it with our readers.

Speaking of BLESSINGS which God showers on those who obey and trust Him, all this reminds me of the first chapter of Ephesians — Moffatt translation. I will have this ended by reproducing some of that for you — and I sincerely hope it applies to YOU, as it surely does to me.

Here it is:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who in Christ has blessed us with every spiritual blessing within the heavenly sphere! He chose us in him ere the world was founded, to be consecrated and unblemished in his sight, destining us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ. . . . So richly has God lavished upon us his grace, granting us complete insight and understanding of the open secret of his will. . . . May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, grant you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation

for the knowledge of himself, illuminating the eyes of your heart so that you can understand the hope to which He calls us, the wealth of his glorious heritage in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of his power over us believers — a power which operates with the strength of the might which he exerted in raising Christ from the dead and *seating him at his right hand* in the heavenly sphere, above all the angelic Rulers, Authorities, Powers, and Lords, above every Name that is to be named not only in this age but in the age to come — *he has put everything under his feet* and set him as head over everything for the church, the church which is his Body, filled by Him who fills the universe entirely." □

THE GOD FAMILY

(Continued from page 40)

and reasoning. They could conduct their own "scientific" experiments. They could determine for themselves what was right and what was wrong. They could start producing knowledge by themselves. They could aggrandize themselves with all of God's prerogatives. They had allowed their minds to think that since they already possessed such great intellectual powers, they would therefore assume for themselves anything that God had reserved for Himself.

Adam and Eve could become God immediately — without any strain. Or so they were told. All that was required was one quick bite of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Or so Satan said. Adam and Eve wanted to become God — just as God Himself had promised. Only they wanted to become God the "easy way" — Satan's way.

What better proof than Genesis 3:5 that God Himself taught Adam and Eve — our progenitors — that the very purpose of human life was literally to become born again into God's Family!

What better proof than the entire Bible that *your* personal destiny is in the God Family! □

Letters to the Editor

Personal from the Editor

I wish I could think of a better word than thank you for your excellent Personal in *Tomorrow's World* — "The Key to Radiant Health." I have lived along these lines so I thoroughly enjoyed it. I'm 72 years young and have good health. I have walked miles all my life and am still at it. I especially appreciated your reference to Elbert Hubbard and what he stood for. I too remember the Lusitania. My uncle was a very dear friend of his. He has passed away but we both used to enjoy some of his fine works. Reading your fine article brought back very fine memories. He too visited him at East Aurora.

Miss Mary Mc.,
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Is God Composed of Light?

I have just read the article "God — Is He Composed of Light?" It is the type of article today's world (mostly youth — and I am just 20) needs! Such an article ended all my doubts about the existence of God Himself. Our world is too much in a hurry to think about God, whereas everything reminds a healthy mind of the great Creator and Sustainer.

George F.,
Paola, Malta

David of Israel

Thanks much for your article in April's *Tomorrow's World* entitled "David of Israel — One Teen-ager Who Dared to Be Different." You are quite right when you say if you try to follow the right way, you will be ridiculed. I have been called straitlaced and informed that I'm going to have to bend (compromise) my high ideals if I'm going to have any friends, because there are not many people with "my ideas." And then along came your beautiful article that inspired me with the *courage* and *confidence* to remain *steadfast* to my convictions — to be different.

Miss Linda S.,
Torrance, Calif.

• *Linda, courageous teens like yourself are desperately — even critically needed in today's troubled world. We're behind you. Don't compromise your ideals — but remember you can disagree without being disagreeable.*

Personal Representatives

Your February issue of *Tomorrow's World* has prompted me to act — to take a stand — so to speak. I want to repent. I sincerely desire to speak to one of your representatives. Please honor me with a visit from one of God's ministers.

Anita C.,
Union, New Jersey

It's taken the last six years for my eyes to be opened to my wretched state. To realize how dreadfully wrong I've been. How I neatly packed and folded up my

god in some remote corner only to be shaken out when I needed a scapegoat.

My religion never satisfied me, but I couldn't find anything better. Every day I thank God I found the truth and needed it desperately enough to follow it.

We've been contacted by your representatives here in this area, and have profited greatly by their visits. They really impressed us with their straight-forwardness, truthfulness, and knowledge of the Bible.

Mrs. H. L. B.,
Rayville, La.

News of the Work

In the *Tomorrow's World* magazine the News of the Work section is a real blessing. The account of the baptising and visiting tour in Africa and Southern Europe was most inspiring. This news is much needed to keep all of us informed and make us realise that God's Work is not a little local or tribal or one nation affair, but massively and mightily **WORLDWIDE!**

C. Frazer K.,
Roxburgh, New Zealand

Regrettably, space limitations did not allow us to publish the News of the Work section in this issue. Next month, the Ambassador College Press is featured.

Testing of Bible by Computer

I have been most impressed by the recent issues of *Tomorrow's World*. I admire the historical research into the early Church and appreciate your temerity in standing up to the "proof" given by computers against Paul's authorship of some of the epistles attributed to him. I have always felt from my own experience that almost anyone can, and does, write in different styles to different audiences; but when the computer argument was put up I would shrug my shoulders and withdraw from combat — for who, I thought, could stand up against a computer and be counted? *Tomorrow's World* can and does, and I applaud. I will even go further, and enclose \$10 to further the good work.

Mrs. E. D. E.,
South Yarra, Victoria
Australia

• *We appreciate the comment and the contribution. However, the TOMORROW'S WORLD staff values the marvelous benefits of computers — especially as instruments of service in this worldwide Work of God. Unfortunately, some human beings either put computers to a wrong use or misunderstand what a computer's capability is. Last month TOMORROW'S WORLD featured one arti-*

cle on the amazingly rapid history of computer development (see page 18 of May issue) and still another about the computer services of the Ambassador College Data Processing Center (see page 13). Read these two articles for a proper perspective about computers.

The Real Jesus

For months now, it has been bothering me greatly that in my mind's eye I have continually "seen" Jesus Christ in the weak and effeminate, and most sickly portrayals as does the majority of the people in this world in spite of all the literature that I have received from you. In the near future I was going to write to the Personal Correspondence Department seeking help and guidance in this matter. I won't have to now! For only tonight I sat down and read and studied with an open Bible the article in the latest issue of *Tomorrow's World* entitled "The Real Jesus." Truly sir, it drove to the heart of my problem.

Ken. K.,
Duffield, Alberta, Canada

I am a Nazarene Pastor, 27, and I deeply enjoy and appreciate the penetrating articles and programs you offer. An unteachable spirit is deadly to true wisdom so I intend with God's help to keep an open mind. Your article on "The Real Jesus" is one of the best you have ever written — wish all Christians in the world would read it.

David H.
White Springs, Florida

• *For an even more penetrating article, read "The Jesus Trip — One Way Ticket to Nowhere?" beginning on page 18 of this issue.*

Letters to the Editor Valid?

I speak in reference to a letter of mine you printed in the January *Tomorrow's World*. When I first began receiving *The Plain Truth* and *Tomorrow's World*, I guess I was of the suspicious age. I wondered if all those "Letters to the Editor" were valid. Of course, I had discarded my doubt before noting my own letter. I also wondered if your staff actually read each piece of mail as I know you get vast amounts each day. Well, I guess I got an answer without asking.

Glen S.,
Ava, Missouri

• *Every letter is read with personal concern. Simple literature requests are entered into our computer by highly trained terminal operators. Letters asking questions are carefully and thoughtfully read by our growing staff of Personal Correspondents.*

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