

The Berean Christadelphian

A monthly magazine devoted wholly to the exposition and defence of the Faith once for all delivered to the Saints, with the object of helping to make ready a People prepared for the coming of the Lord. Opposed to the unscriptural teachings of the papal and protestant churches of the world.

**Edited and Published by:
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“They received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many believed.”—Acts 17: 11.

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We are anxious to send the Berean FREE to any desiring it that way. Please do not hesitate to request it. If you know of any who might like it, please send us their names.

CHRIST IS COMING SOON AND WILL REIGN ON EARTH

Bible Questions

"As yet they knew not the Scriptures"—John 20:9

Rate yourself: 100 pet.—"Your reasonable service"; 95 pet.—Fair; 90 pet.—Poor

Identify the BOOK (1 question for each book of Bible)

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. A virgin shall conceive. | 2 Birth of John Baptist. | 3. Alpha & Omega. |
| 4. Return under Zerubbabel. | 5. Desire of all nations, | 6. My son Onesimus. |
| 7. Thou hast known the Holy Scriptures. | | 8. I will raise them up a prophet. |
| 9. Prepare war, wake the mighty men. | | 10. Dead in Christ shall rise first. |
| 11. Wounds in thine hands. | 12. Feast of Purim. | 13. My Redeemer liveth. |
| 14. Nicodemus by night. | 15. Fairest among women. | 16. I will send Elijah. |
| 17. Come out & be separate. | 18. How love I Thy law! | 19. Rebuilding walls. |
| 20. Jawbone of ass. | 21. Man of Sin. | 22. Baptism doth also now save us. |
| 23. A pure language. | 24. He that scattered Israel shall gather him. | |
| 25. Cretians are slow-bellies. | 26. No more until he come. | 27. Lo-Ammi |
| 28. I am that I am. | 29. Vision will not tarry. | 30. To the elect lady. |
| 31. Remember thy Creator. | 32. Add to your faith virtue. | 33. Scapegoat. |
| 34. We will not serve thy gods. | 35. All died in faith. | 36. God is love. |
| 37. Hezekiah's reforms. | 38. What hath God wrought? | 39. The Elkoshite. |
| 40. He that believeth & is baptized. | 41. Till Shiloh come. | 42. Stephen. |
| 43. To know wisdom. | 44. Wise men from east. | 45. How is gold become dim! |
| 46. Plowman overtake reaper. | 47. Earnestly contend for faith. | 48. Ichabod. |
| 49. Christ our Passover. | 50. Wife of Jeroboam. | 51. To well-beloved Gaius. |
| 52. 24 courses of priesthood. | 53. Whole armour of God. | 54. Mephibosheth. |
| 55. Destruction of Samaria. | 56. Faith without works. | 57. Concerning Edom. |
| 58. Do justly, love mercy. | 59. Sun stood still. | 60. Fruit of the Spirit. |
| 61. I do well to be angry. | | 62. Buried with him in baptism. |
| 63. Law in my members. | 64. One Mediator between God and man. | |
| 65. Abide by my maidens. | 66. God worketh in you both to will and to do. | |

(Write correct question number beside name of each book)

Gen.	2Kgs.	Isa.	Neh.	Rom.	Titus
Exod.	1 Chr.	Jer.	Hab.	1 Cor.	Phlm.
Lev.	2 Chr.	Lam.	Zeph.	2 Cor.	Heb.
Num.	Ezra	Ezek.	Hag.	Gal.	James
Deut.	Neh.	Dan.	Zech.	Eph.	1 Pet.
Josh.	Est.	Hos.	Mal.	Phlp.	2 Pet.
Jdg.	Job	Joel	Matt.	Col.	1 John
Ruth	Psa.	Amos	Mark	1 Thess.	2 John
1 Sam.	Prov.	Obad.	Luke	2 Thess.	3 John
2 Sam.	Eccl.	Jonah	John	1 Tim.	Jude
1 Kgs.	Song	Mic.	Acts	2 Tim.	Rev.

May Answers

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. 1 Cor. 13 | 14. Psa. 19 | 26. Isa. 7 | 40. Rev. 9 | 53. Isa. 22; | 65. John 3 |
| 2. 1 Cor. 15 | 15. Rev. 13 | 27. Dan. 6 | 41. Psa. 22 | Rev. 3 | 66. Rev. 9 |
| 3. Exo. 20 | 16. Ezek. 38-39 | 28. Eph. 6 | 42. Luke 15 | 54. Gen. 11 | 67. Luke 16 |
| 4. Heb. 11 | 17. Rev. 12 | 29. Eze. 40-48 | 43. Dan. 11 | 55. 1 Cor. 14 | 68. Deut. 32 |
| 5. Matt. 5-7 | 18. Eph. 4 | 30. Dan. 3 | 44. Rev. 17 | 56. Rev. 14 | 69. Gen. 10 |
| 6. Eze. 37 | 19. 1 Tim. 3; | 31. 2 Sam. 7 | 45. Eccl. 12 | 57. James 2 | 70. Psa. 90 |
| 7. Rom. 6 | Titus 1 | 32. Psa. 89 | 46. 1 Cor. 1 | 58. Eze. 18 | 71. John 4 |
| 8. Dan. 2 | 20. John 15 | 33. Rev. 11 | 47. Isa. 53 | 59. Psa. 119 | 72. Isa. 14 |
| 9. Eccl. 3 | 21. Psa. 23 | 34. Rev. 2-3 | 48. Dan. 7 | 60. Rev. 21 | 73. Luke 24 |
| 10. John 11 | 22. Acts 7 | 35. Rev. 16 | 49. Psa. 110 | 61. 2 Thess. 2 | 74. Gen. 12 |
| 11. Rom. 7 | 23. Zech. 13 | 36. Luke 10 | 50. Rev. 19 | 62. Dan. 4 | 75. Luke 16 |
| 12. Dan. 5 | 24. Rev. 10 | 37. Dan. 8 | 51. Acts 27 | 63. Rev. 13 | 76. Psa. 72 |
| 13. James 3 | 25. Rev. 18 | 38. Isa. 63 | 52. Psa. 2 | 64. Prov. 31 | 77. Acts 10 |
| 39. Dan. 9 | | | | | |

All That Is in Me, Bless His Name!

"Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS.. In EVERYTHING by prayer with thanksgiving.. and the peace of God shall keep your hearts"—Phil 4:4-7

The last 7 Psalms open with words of praise: "Blessed be the Lord"; "I will extol Thee"; and 5 times the opening injunction—"Praise ye the Lord," culminating in the 13-fold repetition of the final Psalm: "*Praise Him . . .*"

Praise is therefore a basic duty of all of us. Four times in Ps. 107 we read these words:
"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men!"

It is the only frame of mind acceptable to God. A saint who directs his life in the way of Truth, and strives with all the power he possesses to pattern his life after the first commandment, will be filled with a constant urge to praise and glorify God for His marvellous love and wisdom.

As he reads the Word daily—with care and reverence, he will soon become conscious of the fact that to be acceptable of God, his praise must not come from his lips but from the very depths of his being.

The whole purpose of his life will be devoted to the service of God and His beloved Son Jesus. Realizing that God is now taking out of the Gentiles a people for His Name, it will be his strong desire to be associated with the Name, both in this life and in the Age to Come.

That Name is to be *God in manifestation* and to embrace all His attributes. The character that is required to enable one to partake of the Name is of a very high standard. It must embrace great humbleness based upon a recognition of the Majesty of the God of heaven, Whose greatness is unsearchable and He is exalted above all.

A saint who is striving to build up such a character will accept the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus with simplicity of heart and mind. As a steward in the service of Christ, he will understand fully that "*It is required in a steward that a man be found faithful,*" and to complete such a character he will realize that he must be obedient in all things.

A character of that high quality is not easily obtained in this age—an age when the ambitions of the flesh and mind are encouraged and cultivated in all channels of social and political life. But such a character is a treasure in the eyes of the Lord and will form one of His jewels in the Age to Come.

If we are among those who choose to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, then let us come and sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto Him with Psalms. We have a wonderful opportunity to do so with our hymns and songs of praise. Hymn 40:—

"Hallelujah! (praise Yah) raise, oh raise
To our God the song of praise;
All his servants join to sing
Loud the praises of our King!"

And the majestic words of Hymn 42:

"Oh worship the King all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendour, and GIRDED WITH PRAISE.

"O, measureless might, ineffable love;
While angels delight to hymn Thee above,
The humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
With true adoration shall lisp to Thy praise."

And finally, Hymn 138:

"Almighty Maker of my frame,
Short is the measure of my days:
Give me to know how frail I am,
And spend the remnant to Thy praise."

Let us, with all our hearts, enter joyfully into these sentiments. It is through such a medium that we can speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord.

To do this there must be a wholehearted joining in ecclesial singing, for it is an *essential part of worship ordained by God*. It is written—

"Praise waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion."

We should not let our heavenly Father wait for our praise, but we should be there on time and do the best we can. In fact, everything we offer God should be our best. The words and the right notes are necessary, but *enthusiastic singing from the heart* is far more important.

It stirs us with sadness to see some in our assemblies not singing and some only half trying. Do you think God will be pleased with that kind of service? Do you think it glorifies and honours Him?

No, our meetings should produce an inspiring, closely-knit unit of zealous, warm-hearted praise, in order to lift us above the mundane things of this life and bring us near to God. Therefore in the words of our second hymn let—

"All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

"O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto:
Praise, laud and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do."

As we sing such majestic hymns as these, *do we seriously consider the words?* And do they become our own words, which truly express our thoughts and desires?

And not only so but when we entered this room today, did our hearts burn within us and did we really feel that we were "Entering His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise"? And did we bow our heads and give thanks unto the Lord for His great wisdom and mercy?

But you may say, "I have so much sorrow in my life that I cannot rejoice and be glad." Oh, yes we can, for regardless of passing sorrows, the overall picture of God's people is eternal joy. We sing:

"Why should His people now be sad?
None have such reason to be glad."

As Paul expresses it:

"Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation."

And the words of David:

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

If we examine the matter, we will find that sorrow has an essential purpose in preparing character for the joy to be revealed, and so we learn of Jesus, who "for the joy that was set before him endured the cross and despised the shame."

On one occasion Paul declared that he was exceeding *joyful in all his tribulation*, thus showing the glorious power of his faith; and again he says:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution or famine? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

"*But who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when he appeareth?*" Heart-searching words, are they not? David asks a similar question,

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place?"

David answers these questions too, and his answer causes us to think—we pause—we consider the qualifications. He says:

"He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity."

What a standard! As we think upon it, the question of the disciples comes up before us:

"WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED?"

Yes, the standard is high—it *has always been high*. Israel experienced it from the days of Sinai. Let us stop for a moment and listen to Jesus as he answers the scribe who asked him which was the greatest commandment:

"Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart, and with ALL thy soul, and with ALL thy mind, and with ALL thy strength. The 2nd is like: Thou shalt love thy neighbour AS THYSELF."

With such a high standard, who among us is qualified to praise Him and worship Him in the beauty of Holiness? Especially when we consider that—

"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination" (Prov. 28:9).

There is only one way in which we can praise and worship God and that is "in Spirit and Truth." God is the Author of life and man has no authority to worship Him according to the dictates of his own conscience. *We cannot set our own standards.*

If we would find favour of God we must learn what He requires of us, and carry it out in our lives to the very best of our ability.

(Continued next month/ if the Lord will)

The Scroll of the Life

"The victor, he shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not at all obliterate his name from the Scroll of the Life"—Rev. 3:5

BY BROTHER JOHN THOMAS

IN THE English Version this is rendered "book of life" without the definite article, but in my translation I have prefixed it to "life" as in the original. It is 'the Scroll of THE LIFE'—that is, of a special life.

The first place in the New Testament where this phrase occurs is in Phil. 4:3. Here Paul mentions certain—
"Whose names are in A Book of Life."

It next occurs in Rev. 13:8 & 17:8. In the former it is styled "the Scroll of the Life of the Lamb slain," and in the latter simply "the Scroll of the Life." It is next found in 20:12 & 15. In the former of these verses it is termed 'another Scroll which is of the Life; and in the latter as elsewhere.

In ch. 21 it is "the Scroll of the Life of the Lamb"; and in ch. 22:19 the phrase is "a Scroll of the Life"—the article "the" being omitted before "Scroll." These are all the places where it occurs in the New Testament.

THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL BOOKS

This Scroll is the most important of all books, for if a man's name have not been inscribed upon it, he cannot be saved, for it is written that whosoever of the dead, small and great, standing before the Deity at the opening of the Scrolls shall not be found written in the Scroll of the Life shall be cast into the lake of fire. These are those who worship the Beast by whom the saints have been overcome.

From these testimonies there would appear to be 2 scrolls: the one styled "A Scroll of the Life" and the other "THE Scroll of the Life." These 2 scrolls are opened at the setting up of the "Great White Throne" of judgment at the epoch of resurrection. Certain things having been written in these scrolls, the resurrected are judged from them. These things are their works.

One of these scrolls will present a very unseemly aspect—a sort of Every-Day Book of Life, in which the names of believers are inscribed with very disreputable mementoes appended to each. These will find no admission to 'the OTHER Scroll which is of the Life'-the Ledger of the Life, to which those names may be supposed to be transferred from the Every-Day Book that are not condemned to obliteration.

ALL (FAITHFUL & UNFAITHFUL) ARE IN THE EVERYDAY BOOK

The dead constituents of the Angel of the ecclesia in Sardis, together with the few undefiled ones there, had all been written in the Every-Day Book of Life, and their works inscribed under their respective names. And the general record of this scroll is read in the writing penned by John. He shows that the works therein recorded resolve themselves into 2 classes: the one signalized by the words "thou art dead" after their names, and the other by the sentence "their garments undefiled."

Now, of these classes, the names of the latter alone will be transferred to the Ledger; while the names of the former will be obliterated, or excluded. The confession of names in the presence of the Father and in the presence of His messengers will be read, not from the Every-Day Book, but from the Ledger of the Lamb's life, which contains the register of names inscribed there "apo katabolees kosmou"—

"From the foundation of the order of things extant."

This is styled "the Scroll of the Life" in allusion probably to the custom of oriental monarchs who, as they had several books for the record of things, so they had a peculiar book in which they entered the names and actions of all those who did them any special service, that they might reward them in due time. See Est. 6:1-3, where it is styled "the Book of Records of Daily Affairs."

MOSES, DAVID & DANIEL MENTION THE SCROLL OF THE LIFE

The Scriptures make very early mention of the existence of such a Book before the Lord. Moses refers to it in Ex. 32:32, saying—

"If Thou wilt, forgive Thou Israel's sin. If not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy Book which Thou hast written."

And Yahweh said unto Moses—

"Whosoever hath sinned against Me, HIM will I blot out of My Book."

The Spirit in David says—

"Are not my tears in Thy Book?"

That is, "Are not my sorrows in Thy remembrance?" Hence "book" and "remembrance" are associated in Mal. 3:16, where it is styled "a Book of Remembrance," as—

"They that feared Yahweh spake often one to another. And Yahweh hearkened and heard it, and a Book of Remembrance was written before Him for them that feared Yahweh and thought on His Name.

"And they shall be Mine, saith Yahweh of armies, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will have compassion upon them as a man hath tender affection for his own son that serveth him."

This is evidently the Book of the Life, or the Ledger, for all written in it are precious with God in a day when the wicked are trodden down. Daniel also refers to the same book in testifying that, in the time of trouble when the books (plural) shall be opened—

"Every one of his people (the Saints) shall be delivered that shall be found written in THE Book" (12:1).

NOT A LITERAL BOOK, BUT A SYMBOL OF GOD'S REMEMBRANCE

The Ledger Book of the Life is styled apocalyptically "the Scroll of the Life of the Lamb slain" (Rev. 13:8; 21:27).

It is contrary to the law of symbol-writing to regard this as a book in the vulgar sense. There is something in the real thing to which a book of record has some resemblance or analogy. Such a book is for remembrance of deeds. Hence the name given to the Book of Life in Malachi (which in the Old Testament includes both the Day-Book and the Ledger) is "a Book of Remembrance."

"Scroll," then, in this relation, is symbolical of remembrance, by whatever system of means it may be compassed. "I will remember their sins no more" is equivalent to "I will blot out the record of their sins from the Book of My Remembrance," or, "I will pardon them."

Hence to pardon is equivalent to inscribing the name of the subject in the Day-Book of the Life, or to placing him in God's remembrance unto life, even for the Life procured by the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, if found to be "worthy."

HOW DOES ONE GET INSCRIBED IN THE SCROLL OF THE LIFE?

But HOW is a man's name inscribed on the memory of God for resurrection? In answer to this, it must be remarked that the Spirit of the Invisible One is the Remembrancer of His dominion. Whatever the Spirit remembers is written, so to speak, in the Book of Remembrance before God—

"God is Spirit: and they who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and Truth" (John 4:24).

Pardon is the result of Spirit-and-Truth worship. Now the relation subsisting between the Spirit and the Truth is one of intellectual and moral identity, so that he who hath the Truth hath in him the mind, the thinking, the teaching of the Spirit: but he that hath not the Truth is destitute of the Spirit, and not a true worshiper. It is the Spirit-Word that quickeneth, and therefore Jesus says—

"It is the Spirit which is life-making: Spirit is and life is the words which I speak to you" (John 6:63).

And again he says (John 15:26)—

"The Spirit of the Truth proceedeth from the Father."

"The Spirit of the Truth shall guide you into all Truth (16:13) .. and bring all things to your remembrance" (14:26).

And John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, adds—

"The Spirit is the Truth" (1 John 5:6).

We are considering things mental, not physical. The Spirit in its PHYSICAL relations is the Divine Power that creates, fashions, and sustains all things; and will raise the dead, and subdue all things to God.

THE TRUTH IS THE AGENCY THAT DOES THE INSCRIBING

But in opening men's eyes, and turning them from ignorance to knowledge and from the service of the adversary to God, it is the Truth believed and obeyed that is the agency employed. The Spirit is the Remembrancer or, symbolically, "the Scroll or Book."

It is by the Truth (called "the Word of the Truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom"—Acts 20:24-25; Col. 1:5) believed and obeyed, that relations are established between men and God. This is the spiritual connecting medium that links them to His throne in their present state.

And though men in general think very little of "the Truth" (because they are natural liars, and ignorant of it), yet His eyes are ever upon it, and He has "magnified it above all His Name."

"Sanctify them BY THY TRUTH: Thy Word is Truth" (John 17:17).

"Ye have purified your souls in the obedience of the Truth through Spirit (1 Pet. 1:22).

Hence, the Truth is sanctifying and purifying. And as the Truth is God's, and precious to Him, and always before His mind, so the sanctified are His peculiar treasure. Their names are therefore inscribed in His Book of Remembrance by their union to the Truth in the obedience it enjoins.

THE CORINTHIANS WERE A WRITTEN EPISTLE OF CHRIST

Paul styles the baptized believers in Corinth—

"An epistle of Christ written with Spirit of the living God."

The writing, he says, was done through him and Timothy, as the instruments. God, Paul, Spirit, and Corinthian hearts held a similar relation to each other in the writing of the epistle (and all similar churches collectively, made as it were a Book of Epistles) that head, pen, ink and paper do to an ordinary letter. The mentality of God was, by the process, stamped upon Corinthian hearts, so that they became part of His thoughts.

And while He is written upon THEIR memory, they are also written upon HIS, Who is the Way, the Truth, the Resurrection, and the Life. Hence to be written in the Scroll of the Life is to be—

"In God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ."

—and they in Him by the Spirit-Truth dwelling in their hearts (2 Cor. 3:3; 1 Thess. 1:1; Eph. 3:17; John 6:54-56).

God, or the Father, manifested through His Sons by the Spirit, which is the one God-manifestation to us (see 1 Cor. 8:5-6), is the Arboretum of the Lives. Wherefore, to be 'in the Book of the Life' is to BE part, and to HAVE part, of the Tree of Life, as it is styled in the English Version.

This understood will account for a various reading in the Greek text of Rev. 22:19. "Book of Life" and "Tree of Life" are different symbols related to the same thing. The oldest manuscripts read—

"God shall take away his part from the Tree of Life."

But more recent ones read— *"Out of the BOOK of Life."*

Worcester Fraternal Gathering

We are making plans to hold a Fraternal Gathering in this area the weekend of Aug. 26-27, if the Lord is willing. It is our desire to obtain a campground area suitable for meetings, food and lodging, so that the entire weekend can be spent in fraternal association separated from the world. Past experience has indicated that October is a little late in the year for this type of accommodation, and also causes problems for brethren and sisters with children in school, hence selection of the weekend before Labour Day.

There will be one talk on Friday evening for those who arrive early, 3 addresses on Saturday, regular Sunday meetings, and an afternoon lecture to conclude. Programs and details will be sent as soon as available.

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Second Voyage to Australia

By BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS

"If thy brother shall trespass, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone. If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother"—Matt. 18:15

PART EIGHTEEN

THE meetings included a tea meeting on the Saturday evening which was not on the program. The brethren considered that the stress of 4 addresses would be sufficient for me. But the sisters took the matter into their own hands, and at their cost, provided the tables and issued the invitations. A very hearty meeting was the result. Seventeen brethren and sisters came from Brisbane and stayed over the Sunday.

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1898: RETURN TO BRISBANE

I returned on the Monday to Brisbane, where I was joined by bro. Watson. We were hoping to sail on Wednesday morning in the Peregrine for Sydney, but there was a degree of uncertainty owing to the flooded state of the river. The advertisement on Monday told us that the boat would sail at "9 a.m." On Tuesday, "9 a.m." had been changed to "early."

WED., MARCH 9: BY STEAMER FOR SYDNEY

On Wednesday, the information was that passengers must be aboard by 5 p.m., and that they must come to some sugar refinery wharf down the river. Bro. Watson and I repaired to the said out-of-the-way spot, but found no steamer at the wharf. However, we had not long to wait. The steamboat was hiding round a corner of the river bend coaling; and by-and-bye she steamed up to her place, where she moored after the usual amount of smoking, and groaning, and straining and shouting.

We were glad to get finally aboard and at rest, but we ascertained that the boat would not really start till 6 next morning! There was nothing for it but to settle down and make the best use of the time. Dinner over, we took to letter writing, and were getting along nicely when 2 voices behind us remarked, "we appeared to be having everything our own way." We looked up and found bre. Butler and Hardgrave standing over us. Their visit was a pleasant surprise.

We did not suppose there was any danger of a visit in that out-of-the-way place at an hour which had not been published, and when so far as Brisbane was concerned the time of our departure was unknown, but when you have sharp men to deal with, there is no calculating probabilities. We had a long and interesting conversation on the fortunes of the Truth in the colonies for the past 20 years, and the wonderful improving prospects on all hands. Sharp men are jewels when their sharpness is of the order prescribed by Christ—

"Wise as serpents, harmless as doves."

There is sharpness enough in the world, but unmixed with the dove element, it turns to diabolism, to man's distress. We reluctantly said farewell to our visitors, and retired to rest.

THURS., MARCH 10: A ROUGH, DISTRESSING VOYAGE

When we awoke, we found ourselves moving out of the river. Outside the sea was rough, and most of the company soon surrendered to that most distressing disturbance of the gastronomic equilibrium, mal de mere—including bro. Watson.

FRI., MARCH 11: ARRIVAL AT SYDNEY, AND A WARM WELCOME

We entered Sydney harbor on Friday evening, and found that well adapted trio—bre. Bell, Jackson and Payne, waiting us. It had been arranged that bro. Watson should go forward to Melbourne in the Peregrine (while I went to Newcastle, 100 miles to the north of Sydney), but the steamer would be 24 hours in Sydney harbor, so the brethren insisted on his landing and spending the night ashore instead of remaining on board all night as he intended. He was conveyed with me to bro. Jackson's, where he had a warm welcome.

SAT., MAR. 12: NEWCASTLE: A DISTURBING DILEMMA

Next day, bro. Watson rejoined the ship, and I went forward to Newcastle as appointed. When I arrived here, I found a state of things which took me by surprise and placed me in a dilemma. Besides the ecclesia in Newcastle (numbering about 20 brethren and sisters), there is an ecclesia of about 50 or 60 at a place called Lambton, only 4 miles off. I had supposed I was coming on the joint invitation of both bodies, which was true in the moral sense only. I found both ecclesias had been out of fellowship, one with another, for some months, and condemn the other.

What was to be done? Why, refrain from both. Yes, that would have been the easiest way, but what miserable character it would have imparted to a public effort for the Truth, which ought to be not only based in unity but conducted in the spirit of cordial and loving co-operation. I was advertised to give 3 lectures, and how could I even give one with any satisfaction with discord among the brethren?

I concluded the best thing to do was to ask the brethren to allow me an opportunity of conferring with both sides face to face before breaking bread. To make such a conference possible, it was needful that the Newcastle brethren should attend at Lambton next morning, but it was difficult to bring this about, as it was 11 o'clock on Saturday night when I arrived, and there only lacked 12 hours to the meeting next morning and those mostly hours of rest.

EARLY MORNING ACTIVITY: THE CONFLICT IS RECONCILED

However, with the enterprising co-operation of bro. and sis. Harvey, who got up very early and notified all the brethren in time, the difficulty was got over. The Lambton brethren were, of course, taken aback at the arrival of the Newcastle ecclesia bodily. I begged pardon for such a departure from ordinary routine, but explained the object and requested a joint conference before the breaking of bread should be proceeded with.

My request was granted, and I at once proceeded to put questions to each side, which in half-an-hour or three-quarters, elicited the state of the case, and enabled me to see clearly and press home strongly the initial mistake that has led to the unhappy state of things so long prevailing. I now saw clearly which side to take in case the division should be continued; but I appealed to them whether it ought not to cease, and allow all to become one in a united and harmonious breaking of bread.

Both sides responded to this appeal, and I then submitted a resolution ending the controversy and regaining unity—after which bro. Shore, the presiding brother for the day, took the chair and the meeting took its natural course.

LESSONS FROM THE INCIDENT: PROPER PROCEDURE ESSENTIAL

The mistake that had been made was one that is often made elsewhere; and it is almost invariably calamitous in its results. For this reason, it may be well to make it the subject of remark without mentioning names or entering upon any personal particulars.

The matter that had separated the Newcastle and Lambton ecclesias concerned 2 brethren from whom the latter had withdrawn. The 2 brethren considered themselves unjustifiably withdrawn from, not only as to the reason of withdrawal, but as to the absence of Scriptural method.

They therefore applied for the fellowship of the Newcastle ecclesia—about 4 miles away. The Newcastle ecclesia did not at once receive the 2 brethren, but notified the Lambton ecclesia of their application, and requested the opportunity of examining conjointly with themselves the reason of their withdrawal.

After some correspondence, the Lambton ecclesia refused this. The Newcastle ecclesia then received the 2 brethren and informed the Lambton ecclesia of the fact. The Lambton ecclesia then withdrew from the Newcastle ecclesia, and the 2 ecclesias had remained separated ever since.

Having elicited these facts by questioning, and having moreover ascertained that the Lambton ecclesia did really withdraw from the 2 brethren without summoning them to answer for themselves at a general meeting of the ecclesia, I had no difficulty in coming to a decision as to which section had put itself in the wrong (by an error of judgment).

But my object was not to put either in the wrong but to bring both into union and harmony if possible. I therefore asked whether the original cause of withdrawal from the 2 brethren was such as could be overlooked, or whether it was of so serious a nature that it must be pressed, even if it had to be done over again in the right way?

MATT. 18 MUST BE OBEYED IN CASES OF CONFLICT

The answer was, it could be overlooked. This opened up a promising prospect of agreement. The only question to be considered was the method of procedure that had been observed. I said this was more important than it might seem. It was not a mere matter of form. It was a matter in which if the right thing were not done, great injustice might be done and the seeds of much future trouble sown; besides which, every brother's character might easily be placed at the mercy of malice.

It ought not to be in the power of any ecclesia to pass judgment on an accused brother in his absence, unless that absence was wilful. This was an elementary principle recognized in every system of law, ancient or modern, human or divine. It was a feature of British law all over the world—that no man should be condemned without the opportunity and invitation to answer the charge made against him. It used to be the same with Roman law, as casually comes out in Acts 25:16—

"It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die before that he that is accused have the accusers face to face and have license to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him."

The Jews observed the same practice—

"Doth our law judge any man before it hear him?" (John 7:51).

Lastly, Christ enjoined the same thing in the law of Matt. 18 for dealing with an offending brother, only that he added the merciful requirement (absent from all human laws), that public accusation should not be made until the accused had been approached personally and privately by the accuser, and a second time with one or two others in case of failure.

Reflection would show that this law was based on the most primitive requirements of justice; for if it were in the power of any human authority to condemn a man unheard, no man would be safe from the slanderer. Every active man had to put up with a good deal of slander as it was; but private slander was a powerless thing compared with liberty to act on it—whether on private conviction or private information or private rumour which might arise from private animosity.

Our only protection lay in the imperative obligation to grant every man the opportunity of answering accusations that might be made against him, before acting on it to his condemnation.

Of course there might be accusations that were too frivolous to be treated in this serious way—accusations to be passed by, and left to the Lord's judgment at his coming. In that case, there was no danger. But where there must be condemnation, there must be a hearing of the accused before condemnation, or at least the opportunity of it offered to him. And in the case of the law of Christ, there must be no public hearing until preliminary private interview required by that law has taken place.

MUCH TROUBLE CAUSED BY NOT OBEYING MATT. 18

The maintenance of this law was of very great importance to the peace and well-being of ecclesias. I had known much trouble come from its violation. Men easily get into differences sometimes, and under the impulse of hot feelings, they sinned by backbiting with the tongue—or mentioning their grievance to third persons, instead of either

seeing the accused for the making of peace, or letting the descending sun extinguish their wrath. By this, the trouble was spread, and then, sometimes, the matter was made worse by an inflamed majority acting against the accused without any compliance with the requirements of the law of Christ—that he should first be heard.

A matter between 2 persons spread in this way to many, to their hurt. For how can people espouse the quarrels of others without being hurt? Sometimes whole ecclesias are involved in a miserable private quarrel, through the wrong course being followed in its treatment. I recollected a case in which for many months, the ecclesias of a whole district were distracted and blighted by the discussion of an affair of this sort which never ought to have been heard of beyond the walls of the house where it originated.

The next mistake was where one ecclesia refused another the opportunity of investigation in a case where withdrawal was resented as unjust. It only required a moment's reflection to see the serious nature of this mistake. An ecclesia might make a mistake. If their decision was to be binding on all others without challenge, there could be no remedy, and a brother must necessarily remain under a perhaps undeserved slur.

As a rule, an act of withdrawal by one ecclesia would be respected by another; but if there was objection and appeal to another ecclesia by the brother withdrawn from, there might be reasonable ground for the appeal, and the ecclesia appealed to certainly ought to have the opportunity of judging the matter for themselves if there should appear *prima facie* ground of demur.

NOT "OUR OWN BUSINESS" IF OTHERS ARE AFFECTED

No ecclesia could say that an act of withdrawal was "their own business" only; because we were all members one of another. An ecclesia withdrawing from one of its members withdrew from one who was in fellowship with brethren elsewhere. Therefore in a measure, it was the business of the brethren elsewhere as well. Their claims in the case, where serious demur arose, could only be met by granting the right of reconsidering the reason that had led to the withdrawal.

It might be inconvenient to have the matter overhauled again. It would not often occur. It was better to have this occasional inconvenience than to have an aggrieved brother disturbing other ecclesias with the ventilation of his complaints; or to have our liberties exposed to the danger of an irrevocable decision at the hands of a few men who might make a mistake.

Appeal to the whole congregation is a very ancient right, which we have no alternative but to submit to when it is seriously invoked. If the accused is guilty, it will be easy to show it in the case of such appeal; in that case, the appeal will place the decision beyond question. If the accused is not guilty, the liberty of appeal will save from injustice.

The brethren in the present case had meant well, but had acted wrongly. I recommended them to retreat from an untenable position by ignoring the past, and inviting the brethren who had been withdrawn from, including the Newcastle ecclesia, to return to fellowship. A resolution was unanimously adopted to this effect after which, we all broke bread together, and partook of lunch together on specially spread tables in the same room after the meeting. Hearty expressions on all sides declared the joy caused by the ending of the division.

The Last Terrible Forty Years

"Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe"—Rev. 14:18

IN this particular subject, even more than in others, we are completely indebted to bro. Thomas. We are truly indebted to him for all our knowledge of the Truth, but especially so as to prophecy and the last days. Though he wrote over 100 years ago, his writings are still right to the point, and there is NOTHING produced since to compare with them.

Current speculations emphasize value of bro. Thomas' sound teaching.

The long intervening time that has passed since he wrote has served to put Eureka to the acid test where most human works fail: in this case the passage of time has infinitely added to and strengthened our confidence in bro. Thomas' scriptural teaching. The various strange and piecemeal current speculations that keep sprouting up only serve by contrast to give added force and power to bro. Thomas' balanced and consistent picture.

In the preparation of these notes I have again read much from Eureka, and found it more satisfying than ever. All the following is either from Eureka or Elpis Israel, or thoughts derived from reading them. Bro. Thomas does not dogmatize on details, but he has woven together a picture of the developments of the last terrible 40 years of man's rule that no one has been able to come remotely near to improving on.

Bro. Thomas was successful in understanding and interpreting prophecy because he gave weight to EVERY WORD of Scripture, and always fitted in the literal as well as the symbolic whenever possible. The results he achieved, which time has so marvellously confirmed, are a complete vindication of his method. No other writings outside of Scripture have the life and warmth and power and depth of bro. Thomas' exposition.

Vast changes in 100 years, but bro. Thomas wonderfully vindicated

Vast and unforeseen changes have occurred in the earth since bro. Thomas' day. Two tremendous worldwide conflicts have torn the world's political maps to shreds, over and over. Most of the great nations of bro. Thomas' day are no longer major factors on the world scene, but the line-up of nations is more and more as he foresaw from prophecy that it must be: Britain, US, France, Russia, Israel, Arabs, etc., are all falling into line for the last great scene that will climax and end the play.

Some details are not yet worked out, and this adds deep interest and suspense. Some parts of the puzzle do not yet fit into place, but the great sweep of events in the century since bro. Thomas fell asleep is all in the right direction.

Some of bro. Thomas' applications of prophecy strike us at first as strained and far-fetched, but if we examine the context we shall find that in most places it greatly strengthens bro. Thomas' exposition, for often, when he points it out, we find the context is inescapably Millennial. And this MUST be all through the prophets, for Peter declares in Acts 3:21 that God has spoken of these times by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. This is the great common focus of all their prophecy, and no one has brought this out so beautifully as bro. Thomas.

Eureka an inseparable part of the Truth in these last days

Eureka is an inseparable part of the Truth in these last days. Truly some parts are not first principles, but it is impossible to separate its general teachings from the Gospel. It is impossible to reject Eureka and still retain the Gospel in its fulness and depth, as many have tried to do, and made shipwreck. Bro. Roberts used to print over and over on the covers of the magazine: "Read Eureka! Read Eureka! Read Eureka!"

Eureka, by tracing the 6000-year war of the Seed of the Serpent and the Seed of the Woman right down through the ages to the great culmination in the Battle of the Great Day of God Almighty, shows us our true relation to the world and to Christendom: the embodiment of the enmity and the flesh. It is sad to note that the modernists who set bro. Thomas aside because of his clear delineation of the Enemy, become more and more confused in this relationship. They cannot see the issue clearly of the deadly Rome vs. Zion enmity, and therefore they partake in various ways of the intoxicating Roman wine.

Bro. Thomas was the root of the Truth's latter-day revival

We must never forget that bro. Thomas was, in the providence of God, the root of the current revival of the Truth in the earth. However we may endeavour to twist or obscure it, this is a basic, immovable fact in the development of God's purpose in the earth.

There is a great host of separate prophecies on this subject of the events of the last days. We are nowhere given a complete chronological or consecutive outline—this has been divinely concealed for the faithful to endeavour in zeal and interest to work out. From an examination of Eureka, we shall try to present bro. Thomas' suggested outline of the 40 years that transforms the earth from its present manmade hell of war and wickedness to God's Paradise of righteousness and peace.

Israel's history is the key to prophecy: the 40 years

Israel's history is typical in very many respects. It is the key to prophecy. And when we consider the 40 years of travail that marked their birth as a nation—the complete destruction of a wicked generation so that a new generation might enter God's Kingdom, we are more and more impressed with its significance and importance in the prophetic scheme. In dealing with Israel, God was always typically dealing with mankind.

Bro. Thomas, who from much study was saturated with the spirit of prophecy, builds the events of the last days (the setting up of the worldwide Kingdom) on the type of Israel's 40 years (the setting up of the typical Mosaic nucleus of the Kingdom). This foundation he puts together from several converging lines of evidence. First the words of God to Israel through Micah (7:15-16)—

"According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I show unto him marvellous things.

"The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might."

Then the "hour"—the 30 years— of the kings of the earth giving their power to the Beast to make war with the Lamb (Rev. 17:12-14), preceded by the necessity of a reasonable and practical period for the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel to all nations of the earth (Rev. 14:6).

Then the fact that so often in Scripture 40 marks a period of trial, transition, testing and judgment.

The necessity of a long time to accomplish the transition

And then the actual fitness and necessity of things. God truly could set up the Kingdom overnight if He chose: consider the vastness of Creation in 6 days. But He is dealing with men, and adjusts Himself to their limitations, and He has revealed a sequence of events, and purposes to be accomplished, that will require time as far as man is concerned.

The purpose basically is to offer salvation to all, to call for individual submission, to present opportunity, to gradually thresh out the wicked and rebellious while extracting the potential wheat as the human nucleus of the subjects of the Kingdom. This, in dealing on apparently natural principles with the earth's enslaved and drugged and benighted billions, will take time.

The more we consider the magnitude of the undertaking, the more we are impressed that 40 years—a generation—is a suitable and fitting time to accomplish these things, and God's ways are always suitable and fitting. We come, in fact, to wonder if 40 years is enough, and we conclude that only the almighty power of God could accomplish this purpose in 40 years, considering the present state of mankind. If it were just destruction, that would take no time, but it is not: it is transition, education, orderly reorganization, complete renovation.

The present corrupt, debauched, benighted population of the earth cannot be just ushered into the Millennium just because they happen to be alive when Christ comes. We know that character and development must be formed in childhood. We know, as prophesied of the last days and as we see before our eyes, that the present population of the earth is increasingly violent, self-willed, rebellious, animalistic and pleasure-seeking.

The present population is mentally, morally and physically unfit for the blessings and peace of the Millennium—too immoral, too high in their own esteem, in the pride and glory of man. Surely 40 years is not too long to prepare a population fit for God's Kingdom.

The complete destruction of all man's rubbishy, ungodly works

Think of what is involved in pulling down all man's ugly buildings, demolishing to the ground all his crowded and vice-ridden cities, cleaning off the face of God's earth all man's rubbishy edifices and constructions, and building an entirely new, permanent, sound social fabric in harmony with nature and with the mind of God.

Even ignorant man himself is suddenly realizing that he is approaching the dead end of environmental disaster in all the destructively blind "progress" and "civilization" that he has been so obsessed in and so proud of. Think of the pollution problem—can this be taken into the Millennium?

ALL the works of ignorant and foolish man must be swept away— demolished—scraped to the foundation. The Kingdom in its transitional, millennial form is to be built for cleanliness and health and 1000 years' duration. How could any of man's flimsy, rickety, tinker-toy productions have a place in that?—for even now man's proudest works are so quickly obsolete and superseded.

And the earth is full of idols—human memorials, churches, temples, mosques, synagogues—how could all these polluted things stand in God's glorious Kingdom of purity and wisdom and holiness? There must be a thorough and drastic cleansing and purging of the earth itself and of the whole human race.

The vine of the earth is fully ripe: great impending judgments

The harvest of the earth is ripe. The angel cried to him that had the sharp sickle (Rev. 14:18)—
"Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe."

"Her grapes are FULLY ripe"! This is very significant as to worldly conditions at the return of Christ—
"The iniquity of the Amorites is FULL."

There must be a universal destruction (Psa. 46:8)—

"Come, behold the works of the Lord, WHAT DESOLATIONS HE HATH MADE IN THE EARTH."

The context of the whole psalm make it clear that this is in the last days at the setting up of the Kingdom, especially the next 2 verses—

"He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth.

"He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder. He burneth the chariot in the fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

The 7th Vial poured out in the Air is the last 40 years of the kingdom of men—a judicial period—the most important and most terrible time of all the earth's long dark human history. This 40 years is foreshadowed in the reign of David—preparing for Solomon, for the era of peace, for the building of the Temple, the "House of Prayer for All Nations."

We are told that at this time Israel will be God's threshing instrument, to thresh the nations (Isa. 41:15). Here is a picture of a processing operation that will take time—a separating of the wheat from the chaff. The whole population of the world must be progressively threshed in such a way as to give individual opportunity and choice. Otherwise there is no scope for the proclamation to every nation and kindred and tongue and people—

"Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come" (Rev. 14:6-7).

The conflict and destruction will largely appear natural

The 40-year process of subduing the earth will largely appear to be natural. Truly there will be adequate evidence for those with eyes to see, as there was when Christ was among men the first time, but it will be all done in an apparently natural way to the extent that those who, like the Pharisees, CHOOSE not to see, will be able to deceive themselves. Bro. Thomas refers us to Zech. 14:6-7, which he translates (Eur. 11:319) as follows—

"Yahweh my Elohim shall come in; all the Saints with Thee.

"And it shall be in that day there shall be no brightness» the splendid ones drawing in.

"And it shall be one day that shall be made known by Yahweh: not day nor night but it shall be in time of evening there shall be brightness (Ur)."

And bro. Thomas' comments on this are (Eur. II :319-20)—

"From this we learn that when the Lamb and 144,000 enter upon their work of judgment at eventide, they will not "shine as the brightness of the firmament and as the stars" (Dan. 12:3).

"They will not be manifested as URIM; but, though capable of so doing, they will draw in their brightness, and appear as men.

"But when the judgment is over, and the Kingdom established, and the time is come for them to rest from their labours, then they will no longer draw in their splendour, but "shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father" (Matt. 13:43).

Similarly he says, speaking of the Little Open Scroll (Eur. 11:543)—

"The supernatural element is now introduced, which wonderfully quickens and consummates the end. But the infusion of this into the situation does not supersede the free action of the enemy, and the counteraction of him by the symbolic angel upon SEEMINGLY ORDINARY PRINCIPLES.

"The 4th Beast, or Nebuchadnezzar's Image, which covers the whole area, will contend against them, as if they were a Zinghis or Tamerlane, until defeat and destruction on every side give mankind a practical understanding of the opening of the 7-Sealed Scroll"

Wicked mankind, self-deceived, will resist Christ and the Saints

So mankind will resist and contend against Christ and the Saints under the impression that they are a natural human power arisen in the Mideast to seek control of the world (though the supernatural "Antichrist" concept will be part of the delusion). Two factors will help the enemy to deceive themselves—

1. Christendom's false theory that the prophesied Antichrist is a latter day Jew who rises up against the Pope (instead of as it really is—the Pope himself). The essence of Christendom's age-old traditions of "Antichrist" are that: he is a Jew, he arises at the last day, he appears in Jerusalem, he demands worship and submission, and that the Roman Church is the great defender of the world against him.

2. Man's scientific developments. For their own destruction, God has so allowed them to increase knowledge and develop such awesome weapons of mass murder that they will easily believe that Christ is merely a human impostor who has developed some new "secret weapons." We read with increasing frequency today of many fantastic weapons at present in vision or development—deadly laser beams like controlled bolts of lightning, and increasingly dehumanized electronic, computerized, push-button warfare (see Current Events, pg. 187).

The Jews are the natural means used: the "battle-ax" & "warhorse"

The Jews will provide the natural means. This is prophesied in many places (Mic. 5:8; Jer. 51:20-23; Isa. 41:15; Zech. 9:13; 12:6; Num. 23:24; Deut. 33:17, etc.). All will look very natural. During Gentile times, the Jews have always been a strange, feared, separate people, hated by mankind. And they have been disproportionately prominent in scientific and nuclear development in these last days: we have only to consider such names as Einstein, Oppenheimer, Teller, etc. It will look like the Jews are trying to take over the world.

Both horns of the Beast—Gog and the Papacy—are viciously anti-Jewish. The Pope has fawned on the Arabs and has never recognized Israel. He demands, with Russia and the Arabs, that they get out of Jerusalem.

The latter day development of nuclear warfare fits perfectly into the world's fatal self-deception about Christ when he comes. We are told that he will cause them to use their own weapons against each other, as Zech. 14:12-13. Consider these verses (and the whole context of the chapter) in the light of nuclear war and the real and terrible example of Hiroshima (the present sufferers still 10's of 1000's).

When the judgments on the earth are exhausted and have done their work, when the earth is fully purged and the wicked and rebellious destroyed, when the smoke of divine wrath and retribution has at last cleared from the Temple (Rev. 15:8), then the Saints no longer "draw in," or withhold their glory (Matt. 13:40-43)—

"So shall it be in the END OF THIS WORLD. The Son of man shall send forth his angels (messengers) and they shall gather out of his Kingdom all things that offend and them which do iniquity, and shall cast them into a furnace of fire..

"THEN shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, LET HIM HEAR!"

And Daniel gives the same picture (12:1-3)—

"At that time shall Michael (Christ) stand up for the children of thy people, and there shall be a TIME OF TROUBLE such as never was .

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."

(Continued next month, if the Lord will)

Fraternal Gatherings

If the Lord Will

LAMPASAS, TEXAS: FRIDAY to SUNDAY, JUNE 9 to 11

Bro. Ross Wolfe, 1802 Rumley Rd., Lampasas, Tex. 76550; (512) 556-5249

HYE, TEXAS: SUNDAY to SUNDAY, JULY 30 to AUGUST 6

Bro. John Packer, 210 E. 3rd St., Deer Park, Tex. 77536; (713) 479-4292

WORCESTER, MASS.: SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 26-27

Bro. Edgar Sargent, 8 Proctor St., Box 296, Ashburnham, Mass. 01430

Called Unto Eternal Glory

"Do ALL to the glory of God"—1 Corinthians 10:31

THIS is a grand word: GLORY! Glory is essentially that which glows with power and heat, that which has brightness and brilliance above and beyond other objects that may be of similar character but do not have the same greatness or distinction. Hence for a thing to be glorious it must be a thing of heat, a thing of light, a thing of brightness and power.

God has used one outstanding symbol of it in the natural world— that which is the root of all light and power for the earth—that which makes all natural life possible: the sun. When the sky is cloudy, and the sun fails to shine in a particular vicinity for a day, none of us would say that the sun has not been shining, for it has—it has been shining

steadily all day long with undiminished brilliance and power. But between us and the sun clouds have been interposed, which have prevented us from seeing the shining.

But perhaps the next day we may speak of with joy and delight as "glorious": why? Because we have the warm glow of the sun on that day, and the brightness that beautifies and glorifies all the scene around us.

So the sun glows, and we see that glow and appreciate it all the more because we have some dark days. After a few days of cold and darkness, by heavy, angry, overcast clouds, and then we see the glorious sun in his full strength in the heavens glowing all day long—how much better and lifted up we feel that the sun has shone upon us again!

Surely all this has great lessons for us—great spiritual significance for our meditation and contemplation and quiet, confident thanksgiving and praise to our glorious Heavenly Father Who has created and planned all things in His love and wisdom.

And so here essentially is the idea of GLORY: that which shall glow upon us, be of resplendent brightness and warmth, and which shall bless and uplift and make joyful those upon which it shines, as well as those who possess it. Now let us look at one or 2 passages of Scripture with this conception in mind, and this is the great central thought to be emphasized—

That just to the extent we contribute to the glory of God NOW, so shall we reach up to and obtain and enjoy the glory of the Age to Come.

We can never have that glory that is in store for the Children of God unless we have today faithfully developed WITHIN US that which shall be the means of its bestowal upon us. We contribute to the glory of God at this present time if we do those things we have been exhorted to do.

Only if we dedicate our whole lives to the purpose of contributing to the glory of God in that way—in the way of obedience and submission and the manifestation of the divine character and characteristics—will that glory be with us and for us in the day of glory that is soon coming to dissipate all the cold and darkness of this present time.

First let us look at the beautiful picture presented to us of the Holy City, in Rev. 21:22-27—

"And I saw no temple therein, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it, for the GLORY OF GOD did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

"And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it.. and the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day, for there shall be NO NIGHT there . . .

"And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." (Rev. 21:22-27).

Here is the climax of the glory: here is the City of God, the Lamb's Wife, made up of all those who in this present time have had the wisdom to give themselves wholly to him, and to purify themselves, presenting their bodies a living sacrifice, dedicated to the glory of God. Here is the attainment of the perfect glory of God, and that glory we are called to by God's wonderful love and grace upon us.

Surely if we keep this picture brightly before our minds it will enable us to put aside all the things of the present and run with patience the race set before us. Paul says (1 Cor. 10:31)—

"DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD."

We have many commands and counsels put before us in the Word which we can draw upon for guidance in all the actions of our daily life, that we may find approval before God. This one, perhaps, is the most powerful of all.

Let us ask the question, when any particular line of thought or action is presented to the mind, either from within or from without: "Can I do this, can I say this, TO THE GLORY OF GOD?"

If the question can be answered in the affirmative, and the thing can be done to the glory of God, then do it joyfully with all your might. But in all our present troubles and difficulties let us remember that that one question is the best solution to every problem: Can you do it to the glory of God?

Never mind about present pleasure, or advantage, or desire. Never mind about the "rights" of man, the glory of man, the satisfaction of man. Can you do this or that to the glory of God?

Suppose we ask this question about this present assembly together: is it to God's glory? Undoubtedly there are no two ways of answering this question IF our minds are centred on what we are doing and our hearts and motives are pure and clear.

We are contributing to the glory of God by coming aside from the world and thinking about our privileges and duties and responsibilities. And strengthening and comforting one another. And drawing closer the bonds of love and fellowship. And thinking about the joy that is to be unfolded when the glory of God shall fill the earth as the waters now cover the sea. And that is the glory that is attained from the tribulation we now endure. We are being thus purified and made ready for the glory that is to be revealed.

We turn to the solemn but deeply confident and joyful words of the Lord Jesus Christ the night he was betrayed. Judas had just gone out into the night to consummate his evil work, and Jesus said—

"Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him,

"If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in Himself, and shall straightway glorify him."

(John 13:31-32).

There did not outwardly appear to be much glory about the terrible thing that happened on Calvary, but rather humiliation and shame. There did not outwardly appear much glory in the matter when Jesus cried out—

"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me ?"

But the glory was there. The glory that is to be unfolded in the Coming Age required that sacrifice, that suffering, and that perfection of character and obedience that was attained thereby. And if it was required for Christ, it is required for us too. "The servant is not above his Lord."

Later, on this same occasion, after he had said many things to his disciples to comfort their hearts and prepare them for the great work that lay before them, Jesus lifted up his voice in prayer—

"This is life eternal, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.

"I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do.

"And now, O Father, glorify Thou me with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."

(John 17:3-5).

In those beautiful words there is the whole matter: the glory of God to be revealed in the Coming Age in Jesus Christ.

But that glory had to be made sure. It had to be worked out in travail. It had to be developed by those means which God adopted in the case of His only begotten and beloved Son: bitter suffering, and the laying down of his life for his sheep. This was all necessary in order that the brightness and the greatness and the effulgence of the rays of God's mercy in the days to come might be fully revealed to and upon all mankind.

We lay up glory now for the Age to Come: the glory that we have with God and which was with Him before the world was—we lay it up now if we are enlightened by the Truth and walk faithfully in it, if we do those things that please God and which contribute to His glory now, and if we GLORY in it—if we are zealous and joyful and ENTHUSIASTIC about it.

Where there are brethren and sisters of enthusiasm and of strength in those things which they have put their hands to, you will find that they have NO TIME to be bothered with those things that would lead them away from the Way of Truth. So that enthusiasm is the glow—the GLORY—which we display in the Master's work, of which we shall see more in the day that is coming.

A light is not of much use or comfort that glows intermittently or erratically. It must be one that glows steadily and consistently and dependably if it is to be of a perfect character. Hence the steadfastness that is necessary to attain the great prize of eternal life.

We will suppose then that we have reached at last the right hand side of the Judgment Seat, and that we hear the voice of the Master : "Well done." You know that we shall feel we have not done well, or at least not done nearly as well as we would have liked to do. None who have the right perspective of their puny accomplishments and the great prize will be as satisfied with themselves as we hope Christ will be with us. This is clear from his gracious words in Matt. 25:34-40.

But then the past with all its difficulties and its clouds will be all gone, and we shall enter into the joy that awaits the accepted. We shall, if we are among that happy throng, be made like our Lord, "after the pattern of an endless life." Receiving the divine nature because we have "escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Pet. 1:4), our bodies will no longer be bodies of disease and difficulty, but will reflect the glory of God, "all glorious within."

And then what next? We then have to shine as Lights, and as Stars in the glorious new Firmament wherein dwelleth righteousness (Dan. 12:3). We shall shine forth in the Age to Come in the brightness that belongs to that glory which is Christ's and God's.

That means to enlighten and purify the people of the world in the 1000 years reign of Christ. It means that we shall be "workers together with God," to display His glory—to display the brightness of His sunshine in the spiritual sense, to dispense His blessings in the spiritual sense, as He does not in the natural.

The "leaves of the trees for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:2) are developed by the life-giving power of the spiritual "Sun of Righteousness" who rises with healing in his wings. As in the natural cycle, we have the Sun of God developing the leaves on the trees, so it will be then in an eternal and a spiritual way. And this is the work that God has given to those who shall be found faithful.

How can we be concerned very much about the trials and difficulties of the present if we keep our minds centred on the JOY that is set before us?—the glory that is to be revealed in the Sons of God? If you constantly visualize the Glory of the Age to Come, the wonderful and rewarding work that awaits the children of God, the tremendous height of effort and attainment that we are called to at this present time—if you visualize what lays before us, to be made mighty Kings & Priests in the earth to lead men to God, then how very little, how very small, present difficulties and trials appear!—

"Our LIGHT affliction, which is BUT FOR A MOMENT, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of GLORY."

"I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY which shall be revealed in us."

So said that wonderful man, the apostle Paul, who laboured and endured infinitely more than we are ever called upon to do. Let us then, beloved brethren and sisters, always keep brightly in mind the glory that is to be revealed in us, when we shall be in that position of freedom and redemption from all present weaknesses and trials.

And we shall, if worthy, be the strong people of God's right hand to bring the world into subjection to Him, to bring mankind to know and to appreciate and to LOVE Him and to bring men and women in the Coming Age into such relationship to God through our ministrations upon them, that at the end of the 1000 years there may be a vast multitude who have learned God's way, to whom we have been as instruments of redemption and life, and who will then enter with us into the fulness of the realization of the purpose of God, when God at last will be ""All in All"—

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, & be their God."

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away."

And, assembled together in one great multitude, as one glorious Holy City, the whole host of those who have sought to minister to the glory of God by service and sacrifice, having undertaken all His commands, having GLOWED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND ZEAL, then it will be at last, forever and ever—

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE AMONG MEN."

—W.J.P.

Worldly Entertainment

"They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit"

—Romans 8:5

SOMETIMES the question is heard, doubtfully, out of the mouths of people who in the abstract wish to be in the right way—

"Is it wrong to go to the theatre?"

To those who live in a scriptural atmosphere, it must seem impossible for servants of God to put such a question. The scriptural representation of the present position of such servants is that they are pilgrims walking through a desert of sin to a land of holiness and worship beyond, for which they are now being prepared by trouble: that they are to—

"Pray without ceasing";

"Pass the time of their sojourning here in fear";

"Walk not in the counsel of the ungodly, stand not in the way of sinners, sit not in the seat of the scorner";

*"Have no fellowship with the works of darkness";
"Come out from among them and be separate";
"Touch not the unclean thing";
"Hate even the garment spotted by the flesh."*

THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL FLESHLINESS

If there is an institution upon earth that has all the characteristics proscribed in these injunctions to saints, it is the theatre. To be convinced of this, one has only to consider the character of the people most prone to theatre-going, and the character of the feelings excited by theatrical performances.

In a theatre, you are in the company of the vilest of mankind; and at the close of the performance, God and Christ and duty and the future have been driven far off. Life has been presented to you in a false light, and the effect is to impart false views of the life that has actually to be lived on the earth: to interest you in people and things that have no existence: to undermine your interest in the earnest principles of actual life: and to stir up feelings that require no stimulus, but which saints are busy striving to keep under in response to the invitations and demands of the Gospel.

"THE WORLD LIETH IN WICKEDNESS"

"The world lieth in wickedness," and its rewards are for those who deal gently with its favourite vices. It is not possible for men and women whose minds are conformed to the standard of Christ's teaching to sympathize with compromises. The Bible and the theatre don't run together at all. Paul's test of where a man is, is simple and sensible and practical—

"They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, and they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."

Which do YOU mind, like, or care for? Nothing is easier to settle. The "things of the flesh" are the things for which flesh, unenlightened in the law of God, has a liking, by reason of their affinity with its propensities, desires and sentiments. Men of the flesh are found clustered thick around them, like flies round a honey pot. For the "things of the Spirit" they have no relish.

Men of the flesh, of all tints, schools, occupations and complexions, are at home in the theatre—which is decisive as to the status of that institution. "They that are after the Spirit" are shocked, jarred and degraded by contact with an institution which violates every principle of divine wisdom.

ALL TRUE "TEACHING" IS IN THE WAY OF GOD

The suggestion about the theatre being a "great teacher" will only be entertained by such as do not know what "teaching" is. Teaching that is of any value is—

"Teaching the way of God in truth."

Teaching that does not teach God's existence, as revealed in His dealings with Israel; and that does not teach His fear as the principle of wisdom; nor the doing of His will as the first obligation of life; nor faith in His covenanted purpose in the future as the only hope of the human heart—is no teaching of wisdom at all.

People who apologize for the theatre on the plea of its being a "great teacher" are presumably fond of said teaching. What is the fit comment? One that was often upon the Lord's lips when he was upon the earth: "Thou hypocrite!"—Bro. Roberts, 1898.

(And surely the above applies with equal or even greater truth to at least 99 percent of what appears on television in this greatly more corrupt and degenerate generation!)

Texas Fraternal Gathering

IF the Lord wills, the Texas brethren plan on having the Hye Fraternal Gathering beginning Sun. morning, July 30 and ending with Memorial meeting on Aug. 6.

As in the past, the accommodations will consist of a few cabins on the grounds, motels at nearby Stonewall or Johnson City, or your own camper or trailer if preferred. Electricity is available, Meals will be served in the dining room on the grounds (\$1.00 a day for those who can and wish to pay). Rest rooms with showers are on the grounds.

Please let us know as soon as possible who plan to come, and accommodations preferred. Also brethren in fellowship who will speak please let it be known what subjects, as soon as possible, so program may be prepared. For further information, write or phone:

Bro. John Packer, 210 E. 3rd St., Deer Park, Tx. 77536, (713) 479-4292

(Bro. Chas. Banta, the Gathering Secretary, is ill and unable to handle this business at present. We pray for his recovery).

Current Events Fulfilling Prophecy

"The whole world lieth in wickedness"—1 John 5:19

COMMUNIST STRENGTH IN EUROPE. Cyprus, a British base, in a growing crisis of world interest. Greek Govt, increasingly friendly with Turkey, wants Cypriot Pres. Makarios to give more power to Turkish minority, or quit. Turkey wants Makarios out.

But Russia likes Archbishop Makarios. On Cyprus, Russia counts, for the Communists are not only the strongest party on Cyprus, they are proportionately the strongest Communist party in the non-Communist world: in last election they took 40 pet. of vote.

In a showdown they could win control of Cyprus in free elections, but at present, on Moscow's orders, they are supporting Makarios. But they follow every twist of Moscow's line. One day, perhaps soon, Moscow may want the naval & air bases on Cyprus.

Remember too that the most powerful Communist parties of West Europe are those in France & Italy—both Mediterranean powers. In France, Communists are surpassed only by the governing Gaullists. They are loyal to Moscow; they purged members who criticized the Czech invasion; their leader was hand-picked by Moscow.

Italian Communists act independent—that wins votes—but they do not deviate one inch from Moscow line on foreign policy, not even Soviet Mediterranean policy.

An Italian admiral, recent Commander of NATO Naval Forces in South Europe, says present Soviet power in Mediterranean is equivalent in danger to 10 Soviet ground divisions in Holland. Such land forces would worry all Europe: so should the Mediterranean forces. (USN 4:10)

NOTE: It is clear that everything is steadily going Russia's way, and especially in the Mediterranean area, where it is most important. France & Italy must "give their power to the Beast." and Cyprus (Chittim) is very, very close to Israel. The final picture is shaping rapidly.

DOLLAR DIPLOMACY: THE BIG STICK. Maj.-Gen. Smedley Butler of the US Marines said in 1931, "I helped make Mexico safe for US oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti & Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank. I helped purify Nicaragua for the banking house of Brown Bros. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for US sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras "right" for US fruit companies in 1903. Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone (the famous US gangster) a few hints."

By the time Butler pridefully described his role in Latin America, economic colonialism by the world's prosperous nations had come to be regarded as a matter of course. For nearly 2½ centuries, Britain's East India Co. had provided stunning evidence of just how far the practice could go by ruling 1/5 of the world's population, maintaining its own army, & producing revenues that actually exceeded its homeland's.

But if US was a late comer, it quickly made up for lost time. US spent the first 30 yrs. of this century wielding its big stick on behalf of US business interests, intervening in Latin America alone an astounding 60 times. The bullyboy tactics proved wildly successful: so much so that one company alone—United Fruit—was able to buy and sell govts. & build a banana empire that controlled 4 million acres from Cuba to Ecuador. In Latin American minds the US giants were "el pulpo," the octopus.

There's evidence that, for all their low profile & talk of corporate good citizenship, multinational corporations of '72 may operate just as cynically as United Fruit of 1928. The oil giants clash head-on with US Govt. over foreign policy toward Israel. "We carry the enemy flag in the Mideast," an Aramco executive admitted. (Nwk 4:10)

NOTE: This is the background of mistrust & resentment created by British & US imperialistic bullying on which Russia is cleverly building her own new ruthless empire. We find Russia & the Papacy, 2 of history's most bloodthirsty dictatorships, today joining their voices in hypocritical harping on the evils of Western "imperialism" & "capitalism."

PERSIAN GULF: US-SOVIET RIVALRY HEATING UP. Oil is name of game here. Under the 100,000 sq. mi. of the Gulf & along its shores lies 2/3 of all known world petroleum reserves. By '80 US may have to import 50 pet. of its oil from Mideast. Already, much or rest of industrialized world depends on Gulf for fuel: Europe gets 60 pet. of its oil from there; Japan 90 pet.

Rising instability, & increased activity by Russia create grave doubts about who will control the vast riches in the future. Russia is moving into Gulf as never before. They were quick & eager to recognize the United Arab Emirates formed last yr. The Russian Embassy in Kuwait is one of largest in region. British influence, long a stabilizing factor, is declining now its troops have been withdrawn.

In Kuwait, smaller than New Jersey, lies 1/5 of world's known oil reserves. Without Kuwait oil, Europe, particularly Britain, would face a fuel crisis. Kuwait is militarily weak, & especially afraid of their big northern neighbour Iraq. They know the Iraq Army could walk in & take over any time it wants to, as Iraq at times has threatened to do. Half the population are foreigners, working in Kuwait, including 150,000 Palestinians. Add it up: there are the ingredients for an East-West confrontation one day. (USN 4:10)

NOTE: US foresees a domestic fuel shortage looming & greater dependence on Mideast oil. Russia is manoeuvring more & more into position to control that oil. Iraq is Assyria, the ancient enemy & persecutor. Russia is the latter-day Assyria (Mic. 5:5), the modern enemy & persecutor. These 2 must confederate against Israel & Tarshish.

US CITIES DECAY. Spreading sections of older cities becoming empty: people & businesses leaving. Since '60, 160 billions poured into schemes to reverse flow: nothing seems to work. Present stream of aid from Washington is over \$27 billion per yr. & rising, yet Romney, US Sec. of Housing, says none of this has made a dent in the problem.

In most big US cities, vacant, vandalized homes by the 1000s wait to be swept away by the bulldozer. Cost of public services rises; quality worse: streets dirtier, schools less effective, violent crime increases, taxes higher.

Romney says, "Whole neighbourhoods & vast central-city areas in such blight that whole human social web is breaking down into a veritable jungle. Truth is, none of us know what to do." (USN 4:10)

NOTE: How true! No one knows what to do, because they will not listen to the voice of God. The more money poured in, more it breeds corruption.

LIBYA: RICH & ANTI-ISRAEL. Gaddafi is lavish with money. Libya's annual oil income is \$2½ billion. One beneficiary is fellow-Moslem Gen. Amin, ruler of Uganda whose army & air force were trained by Israeli advisors & who received \$25 million Israel aid & credits. After receiving a promise of \$26 million from Libya once Israel was out of his country, Amin ordered Israel to leave, terminate the aid programs, & close their embassy.

Libya is arming & training rebels in Chad & Ethiopia. It supplies guns and/or money to Guinea, upper Volta, Mauritania, & Niger; & large subsidies to Egypt & Syria. Another admirer of Gaddafi: Pakistan's Bhutto.

Gaddafi gave Catholic Dom Mintoff of Malta \$12 million to strengthen his hand against Britain in recent base negotiations. (Tm. 4:10)

NOTE: Libya, for ages just an insignificant desert country, has suddenly come into prominence in the last few years due to the discovery of vast oil riches. It is clear from Eze. 38:5 that she has an important part to play in the anti-Israel federation of Gog.

WHY REDS OPENED BERLIN WALL: to promote the long-range goals of Moscow. Unless W. Germany ratifies the non-aggression pacts with Russia & Poland, recognizing Germany's territorial losses in WW II, it's warned there will be no more visits across the Wall. Wall was opened for 8 days at Easter to give W. Germans a preview of what they might expect if they do what Kremlin wants. (USN 4:10)

NOTE: Increasingly, with carrot & stick, the Kremlin has all Europe dancing to its tune. What a change from a few years ago, when Germany was a mighty world power and Russia was nothing!

WAR GOING PUSH-BUTTON. Future wars to be truly push-button. "Electronic battlefield" no longer just science fiction. Automated & computerized warfare that can be waged in all kinds of weather & in dark of night. Planes now able to drop devices that detect vibrations or people. They are sensitive to metallic objects, heat, even chemical signals produced by human body. This information is channelled to a central computer.

One new system now being used enables a pilot to pick a target, punch necessary information on a small computer at his side, & computer takes over, steers plane over target and releases bomb, which is guided to target by radar. A 2nd plane, flying at a safe level, drops a laser bomb with a TV camera in its nose: this takes a picture of target from a safe distance & relays it to other plane. Neither plane is in danger from ground fire.

Planes are equipped with see-in-the-dark TV & devices so sensitive they can pick up the electrical signal of a vehicle's ignition system miles away. Unmanned aerial gunships with rapid-fire cannons are directed over the target entirely by computer & radar. (DbnGd 4:13)

NOTE: Isn't man wonderfully clever! What marvels could be accomplished if all this talent and energy and effort were directed to godliness and holiness and goodness to others! God has turned man's talents and ingenuity loose in these last days that man may manifest his evilness.

FLEETS: US DOWN, RUSSIANS UP. US Pacific Fleet down from 516 ships in '68 to 307. Russian Pacific Fleet has increased. In past 10 yrs. whole Soviet Navy has had a tremendous increase. They have a major & modern naval force in the Pacific, including 110 subs. They are replacing the older subs with new nuclear ones.

Last summer, for first time, they made an excursion that brought them close to US. They went up into Gulf of Alaska, then down to Hawaii, right in between the islands, for several days.

They are building 15 nuclear subs a yr. Their Navy is spread out, showing the flag. Their merchant marine operates all over the world. They are expanding the operations of their ocean research vessels & their fishing fleet. They have 3 times as many subs as US. (USN 4:17)

NOTE: What a tremendous change from the time, just a few years ago as many of us remember, when "Britannia ruled the waves"—supreme & undisputed on all the wide seas of the world! The King of the North's "many ships"—Dan. 11:40 (for long a matter of wonderment to the brethren in the light of land-locked Russia) are truly an ominous reality today.

RISING CRIME: NOW IT'S SUBURBS' TURN. Americans, fleeing cities, are finding it hard to flee crime, now a big & growing danger in suburbs—doubled 10 yrs. Crime, like the population, is becoming increasingly mobile. The growing superhighway system provides easy access & quick getaways. Expressways make it easy for criminals & difficult for lawmen. (USN 4:17)

N. VIETS ATTACK. In a devastating attack, N. Viets smashed thru many S. Viet defences from one end of the country to the other. Tho US had been confidently claiming it was ready & waiting for a Communist offensive, the attacks caught it off-guard, despite the fact that N. Viets had tipped their hand rather openly. Pentagon & commanders in Saigon guessed wrong on virtually everything, including place & timing.

Within 72 hours, the entire S. Viet line in north part had crumbled. Missile & antiaircraft fire in lower N. Vietnam was as heavy as it once was over capital of Hanoi. As result, US began to take air losses almost immediately.

The mounting threat from Communist air defences is causing US serious concern. Their radar equipment is Russia's best. And the aggressiveness & sophistication with which N. Viets are beginning to defend the skies above their advancing troop columns are alarming US officials. The enemy isn't "primitive" any more. (Nwk 4:17)

NOTE: The Viet War is the current battlefield between Russia & US for world dominion & prestige. Nixon obviously knows it, & realizes its vital nature, but many leading & popular politicians in US are for pulling out & giving the victory & SE Asia to Russia. God puts in their hearts to fulfil His will, & destroy themselves.

RUSSIA, VIETNAM, & US ELECTIONS. Moscow not only made possible the massive N. Viet invasion—but must have actively encouraged it. If it is, or seems, successful, it will be disaster for Nixon.

To launch their all-out assault, N. Viets had to have tank force well up in 100s, very long-range artillery, & mobile anti-aircraft missiles. Obliging Russia supplied all 3, & in generous quantities. A high-level Soviet mission, visited Hanoi & left less than a wk. before the invasion.

A N. Viet success would gravely weaken US's world position, Russia's only real rival as a world power. US will look like a "pitiful, helpless giant," & Germany in that case seems likely to snuggle up to a neighbouring giant who is neither pitiful nor helpless.

If N. Viets fail, Russia loses little, while success would make Russia the dominant power in SE Asia, as it already is on the Indian subcontinent. It was the same Marshall Batitsky who has just visited Hanoi that visited India just before the Indian invasion of Pakistan.

There is another, even greater prize a N. Viet success would bring. All the main Democratic candidates are in basic agreement on the abandonment of S. Vietnam, heavy cutbacks in US defence spending & foreign aid, & reduction of US commitments in Europe & rest of world. A political disaster for Nixon would cause no tears in the Kremlin. (Nwk 4:24)

NOTE: Russia is cleverly & patiently playing her cards so that she usually has much to gain & little to lose; & is thus able, if one effort fails, to wait & try again. Twice before, in '65 & '68, she has armed the N. Viets & sent them to take over S. Vietnam. This current attempt is the most powerful of all. Truly as the article mentions, there is much feeling in US in favour of a policy that would be greatly to Russia's advantage in Europe, the Far East, & the rest of the world—pulling back US effort & leave a vacuum for Russia to fill.

SADAT'S TRUMP CARD. Last wk., Sadat abruptly declared an end to diplomatic relations between Egypt & Jordan. At first glance, the effect seemed negligible. But Sadat holds one trump card: he could refuse to let Jordan commercial planes fly over Egypt, & thus cut Jordan off from all direct air contact with the Mediterranean & Europe.

If Egypt closes the air space, Sadat's move could be very serious, & a severe blow to Jordan economically & psychologically. It would be isolated on all sides except thru Saudi Arabia to the south. (Nwk 4:17)

NOTE: An interesting point, & illustration of Egypt's strategic importance.

EGYPT: NO DESIRE FOR WAR. Travel thru Egypt, talk with its people, & impression is strong that war with Israel is last thing anybody wants. Very few signs that nation is girding for conflict, even less that anyone is willing to make personal sacrifices for war. Tourist boom contributes to feeling war is far off. Foreigners pack Cairo's hotels in unprecedented numbers; without reservations it's impossible to get rooms.

Egypt's military weakness creates major dilemma for Sadat. To keep support of his people, he must go on promising to get lost lands back, tho he realizes he's powerless to back up his talk with action.

Nearly ½ national budget goes to arms & army, so there's neglect & gradual deterioration of services: power, water, telephone. Ambitious plans to reclaim arid lands are suffering: desert again creeping over large areas.

Adding to economic woes is soaring population, especially serious in country where only 4 percent of land is habitable, & even that must be irrigated, as it virtually never rains. In this narrow green belt along the Nile most of Egypt's 33 million live. A million more are added each yr.

A steady stream of Russian weapons has turned Egypt into one of world's most formidable anti-aircraft zones. The country seems awash with Russian missile sites. Over 15,000 Russian troops are in Egypt. Since June '67 Russia has sent 500 combat planes, plus tanks & artillery. Russia itself uses 3 air bases & 2 naval bases. (USN 4:24)

NOTE: We believe the Egypt-Russia alliance must collapse, & that Russia must centre its interest & activity more in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Persia, Libya & Sudan, as prophecy requires. We watch daily for every sign in this direction, & at present the trend is encouraging.

"NEXT YR. IN JERUSALEM!" For 2000 yrs. that cry has been the Jews' link to the homeland & each other. For most of those 2000 yrs., the cry was only a dream, a burning reason to stay alive in the midst of the Diaspora (Exile) & often malicious vilification & persecution. In recent yrs. the real possibility has been realized.

The Jews had to endure the Babylonian captivity, the levelling of Jerusalem by Rome, & 19 centuries of exile. That exile was exacerbated by enforced conversions & expulsions from one country after another, capped by crime that beggars imagination: Nazis' methodical murder of 6 million. German Jews had wanted to assimilate more fervently than anyone else.

Jews found common cause in their response to the '67 challenge from the Arab world that Israel must be destroyed. The 6-Day War tapped Jewish feelings among people who did not know they had any: it also tapped a flood of Jewish cash, which crested to a new high. Emigration from US to Israel soared—twice as many from '67 to '71 as whole period from '48 to '67.

What is taken for granted in the surrounding Gentile culture may make a Jew feel like an alien. "You can feel just like any other American on the 4th of July," notes one, "but you are vividly reminded that you are different amid ubiquitous Christmas decorations festooning US streets in December."

A Jewish writer says: "Jewishness becomes stronger when you realize that your people have known what it is to live as pariahs in the universe, with the shadow of total annihilation a constant reality. The lesson of Jewish survival is "hope against hope": hope when it makes no sense; hope when you have known the seamy, brutal underside of the Church that stirs the hearts of millions, or when you have begun to understand the claim of a Jew dying in the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto that he would be the oppressed rather than the oppressor if the choice were to be made." (Tm 4:10)

NOTE: Truly, as the article says, God's ancient people have known to their suffering & sorrow the "seamy, brutal underside of the Church that stirs the hearts of millions," & sadly they are destined to know more of its seamy brutality before their final redemption & the destruction of the Roman persecutor.

KOSYGIN VISITS IRAQ. Trip was to mark start of production at rich N. Rumeila oilfield, developed with \$200 million Soviet aid. The field was expropriated from West companies: expected to produce 40 million tons a yr.

Kosygin signed a 15-yr. "treaty of friendship & cooperation" with Iraq. Till recently, Kremlin signed such only with Communist countries. May be followed shortly with another with Syria. Both are departure from former Soviet practice of dealing with Arab states thru Cairo.

Pact gives Russia a window on Persian Gulf. Kosygin had scarcely taken off for home when a Russian naval flotilla dropped anchor on a goodwill visit to an Iraqi port on the Gulf. (Tm 4: 24)

NOTE: Good news, indeed! Ancient Assyria & modern Assyria must join hands in recreating Nebuchadnezzar's Image—to be crushed by Christ.

WELFARE CHAOS. A Govt. study says US assistance programs entangled in intricate maze of overlapping, conflicting benefits, often achieving effects just the opposite of what was intended. Report says 25 to 30 million are receiving welfare, twice the number usually quoted.

John Veneman, Under-sec, of HUD, says it's "impossible to control a welfare program operated through 1150 counties & cities, each with own rules, records & standards. It is a chaotic system cheating whole nation."

Welfare regulations often discourage recipients trying to support themselves. In Chicago, an unemployed woman with 3 children can get benefits equivalent to a \$5300 earned income, just \$200 less than if she worked full time. An unemployed man with a wife & 2 children would get \$5300 a yr. in NY City, but only \$475 in Atlanta, Ga. But an unemployed woman with 3 children would get \$2700 in Atlanta—5 times as much as the jobless man with a wife & 2 children.(USN 4:24)

NOTE: US seems to be sinking helplessly into a complete morass of bumbling bureaucracy, with the men at the top openly wringing their hands in helplessness. Money flows in billions, with higher & higher taxes, but it drains away in corruption & ineptitude, & problems worsen.

PALESTINE GUERRILLAS FADE. In 1½ yrs. since their mauling at hands of Jordan army, the once-potent Palestine guerrillas have fallen on hard times. Driven from Jordan, & restricted in Syria & Iraq, only Lebanon was a safe haven from which to harass Israel.

Concentrating their forces in the 50 sq. mi. Arkub area of rocky land on the north border of Israel, they established their own little principality from which to thrust at Israel, & Lebanon dared do nothing to stop them.

Last wk., however, in the wake of devastating Israel reprisals, the battered guerrillas seemed to have lost their last front-line redoubt. In the largest land & air assault since '67 War, Israel rolled in. The offensive lasted 4 days, & when Israel withdrew, the Lebanon army moved in & took over, saying, "This time we're here to stay." (Nwk 3:13)

NOTE: There must be major changes in the Mideast line-up. Certainly the guerrilla problem in Jordan had to be solved first. Jordan (Moab, Amman, Edom—Dan. 11:41) must be the refuge from the King of the North.

THE VIOLENT VETERANS. Psychological disorientation suffered by many GIs long after returning from Vietnam. A common tendency to carry into civilian life the unbridled violence that served them well in combat. They've learned to react violently, spontaneously & without premeditation. It keeps them alive over there, but gets them in prison back here.

Vets of other US wars were also trained to be killers, but the readjustment problem seems greater among Viet vets. Once back home, some vets still treat allies like enemies. Relatives & friends often are targets for hostility. "My mother said something to me one night," one said, & I threw a portable TV at her. It makes you an animal. You can't reason." (Tm 3:13)

NOTE: What else can be expected? Examine the horrible, dehumanizing training for jungle & guerrilla warfare. The whole true essence of life is to overcome & restrain the flesh, which is wholly evil (Rom. 7:18)—not to encourage & train & develop its most vicious propensities as instant reflexes.

US DRUG PROBLEM GROWING BY LEAPS & BOUNDS. In '60, 55,000 heroin addicts; in '70 it was 300,000; now ½ million at least. Over 8 million using marijuana. Also a tremendous increase in cocaine use—a hard drug with tremendous deteriorating possibilities on a human being.

Now in US a considerable mixture of usage of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, hashish, amphetamines, barbiturates & LSD.

Drug addiction costs \$30 to \$40 a day on average. An addict has to steal \$150 to \$200 in goods per day to support the habit. (USN 4:3)

NOTE: Drug abuse: what a tragic manifestation of human stupidity in self-destruction—& the horrible, callous, inhuman viciousness of this life destroying traffic for profit! Twice in the last century Britain fought China to force the drug trade upon her, & China in weakness then had to agree to cooperate in its own self-destruction & enslavement Such was the stuff that the glory of the Empire was built on.

BRITAIN & MKT. If you thought Britain was moving safely into Mkt., look again. Parliament making entry difficult & dangerous. (USN 3:20;

NY: US's BIGGEST CITY. Conditions, if anything, have worsened. The population density of SE Bronx—½ million people crammed into 5 sq. mi.—is among nation's highest.

Housing, health care, employment & education woefully substandard. Half of children under 6 have never been immunized against polio. Forty percent on welfare. Over 10 per. 15 & 44 are heroin addicts. (Tm 4:3)

US RUNS LOW ON OIL & GAS. Like it or not, US is going to have to turn to the Mideast for more of its oil. This oil won't be cheap: prices have shot up in past 2 yrs. Mideast nations intend to get still higher prices & to become part owners in the oil companies. Over ¾ of free world's known oil reserves is in Mideast & N. Africa. Mideast nations hold trump card. (USN 3:27)

NOTE: Russia is rapidly manoeuvring to be able to close the trap on Mideast oil, & thus strangle the economies of US, Europe & Japan, unless they consent to play Russia's game.

CHINA AFTER 20 YRS. OF "COMMUNISM." China is healthier & more prosperous, & far more orderly than the China I left in '49 after the Communists had seized the mainland. The people are better fed, bigger & huskier than the generation that had fought—or sat out—8 yrs. of Jap occupation & 4 yrs. of brutal civil war. Medical services are incomparably improved & reach far more families than ever before. Housing is better; food supplies seem satisfactory. The stores are amply supplied with consumer goods & people seem to have some money to spend.

The Chinese as an individual seems to have paid a heavy price for these economic gains. His life is regimented. The Govt. tells him where to work—often far from his home & family. He has access only to what the Govt. wants him to know. Young people get higher education only if they are children of peasants, workers or soldiers & are "recommended" by the all-powerful "revolutionary committee" of their commune or factory.

Could another type of govt. have done so well? Yes, if it had been sufficiently ruthless. The Communists introduced an effective & extremely disciplined, mostly incorruptible, govt. They also introduced thought control. A continuing & pervasive propaganda campaign that relentlessly strikes at everyone, day after day, has turned a normally turbulent people into an obedient, well-disciplined mass.

China is a highly moral & law-&-order society, as far as I could see.

There is a cleanliness in the cities & agricultural communes strikingly different from pre-Communist China. Back alleys & side streets that had once been ankle-deep in filth are all clean. The streets are swept daily—even the alleys, far from the main thoroughfares. Block wardens assign the task to individual households. (USN 3:13)

NOTE: The Communists plan a world-wide "millennium/" ruled by the flesh for fleshly purposes. It would be clean, efficient, & ruthless. It would doubtless accomplish much material 'good'. There would probably be less crime & corruption & inequity & injustice than under what is called "democracy," & probably much less suffering than is in the world today. Tho possibly not at present so planned (or perhaps it is), it would have a "form of godliness," & the Pope would be its High Priest, for we learn from prophecy than when Russia feels ready to make her final drive for world power, Europe & the Papacy are with her. It would glorify man & the flesh, & would be the deadly enemy of God & the Truth.

WELFARE: FRAUD & BAD MANAGEMENT. Welfare rolls & costs jumping again. The welfare system is being manipulated & abused by cheats & frauds to the detriment not only of the taxpayer but of the truly needy.

There's no question in anyone's mind that the present welfare program is a mess. Cheating is nationwide. Welfare fraud is cheaper than bank robbery, it's easier to get away with, & less penalty if you're caught. (USN 4:3)

WHY SOVIET ARMS WORRY US. Defence Sec. Laird says, "Russia is trying for military superiority over US by late 70s. We are not matching this effort. They are going forward at a tremendous rate with their naval construction. They have, built or under construction, 43 nuclear-missile subs. We have 41. At their present rate, if we started right now to construct more, they would have No. 70 by time we add No. 42.

"In land-based missiles, they have 1500; we have 1050—the number Congress authorized in mid '60s. Theirs are bigger, more & bigger warheads.

"They outnumber us in nuclear-powered attack type subs. They are also moving ahead vigorously in major surface combat-ship construction, including a very large cruiser with multiple missile systems.

"On land, Soviet & Warsaw Pact forces continue their growth in quality & quantity, including new tanks, airlift forces, & several new types of aircraft.

"Their warships have increased their steaming days in the Mediterranean from 750 days a yr. in early '60s to 20,000 days a yr. now. They are operating there to a much greater extent than we are." (USN 3:27)

NOTE: In 10 more years, at present rates, Russia—tightly organized & disciplined, strongly united & zealously motivated for world conquest & rejuvenation—will be far more powerful than rich, flabby, divided, pleasure seeking US.

BANGLADESH: TRAGEDY LOOMS. For centuries, famine, disease, & civil strife have visited the land as regularly as the monsoons that lash its coast. But nothing in this ancient & bitter legacy prepared the Bengalis for the calamities that have befallen them in recent months. Now another tragedy looms: spectre of internal collapse that could lead to revolution, anarchy, & destruction of the nation. Virtually entire transportation & communication systems were destroyed: 500 road & rail bridges blown up.

Russia has wasted no time & spared no effort moving into Bangladesh. 129 sunken ships block the 2 ports of Chittagong & Chalna. Russia is clearing the harbours, obviously hoping to pave the way for long-term berthing facilities in these ports—& thus have an eastern anchor for their Indian Ocean fleet.

Everywhere in Bangladesh the Russian presence is visible. Communist propaganda films abound on TV, the "Moscow News" fills Dacca newsstands, & symposiums on Communism are held in outlying cities. The Soviets believe, & have said, that the real revolution in Bangladesh is yet to come. And they want to make sure it is oriented toward them. (Nwk 3:27)

NOTE: Another tremendous advance for Russian power and ambition Another utterly disorganized & strategically-located nation looking gratefully to Russia for salvation. And so Russia is firmly entrenched on the vital Indian Ocean. Another terrible blunder for US.

RELIGION & POLITICS IN ZAIRE. Vatican embroiled in a dangerous dispute in Zaire (the former Belgian Congo). Trouble came to head 2 wks. ago when, in obvious attempt to seize control over Catholic clergy, Pres. Mobutu ordered Catholic hierarchy to set up "youth committees" & cells of his ruling party, the People's Revolutionary Movement, in each of the Church's 91 seminaries: or he'd close seminaries & prosecute Bishops.

The conflict began as a personal war between Mobutu & Cardinal Malula, Zaire's highest ranking Catholic. Both are Catholics & both rose to prominence during the long power struggle climaxed by Mobutu's overthrow of Pres. Kasavubu in 65.

Nearly ½ of Zaire's 16 million people are Catholics. Mobutu seemingly has decided to make an all-out bid for control of the Church. (Nwk 3:27)

NOTE: The Cross followed the Flag in all the imperial conquests of the Catholic European powers in Africa, S. America, E. Asia, etc., & Catholicism consequently has a stranglehold in many former colonies.

DEEP CHINESE CONCERN OVER US MIGHT IN ASIA. Looking outward, China sees a heavily armed force of 300,000, manning an arc of 119 US bases stretching around China from Japan to Thailand, & a series of US treaties & military commitments to 11 surrounding nations with a total of more than 3 million men under arms. China claims US built this military barricade solely to prevent China from playing a leading role in Asia.

China still backs anti-govt. guerrillas in the jungles of Burma, Thailand & Malaysia, & gives aid to rebels in India. And Chinese-oriented subversives are active in Indonesia & Philippines. (USN 3:27)

NOTE: Reverse the picture: 300,000 heavily-armed Chinese, with nuclear bombs, in bases closely surrounding US, & with a powerful fleet & air force— how would US feel? Human peace is impossible, because only a fool would trust evil man..

MANY US ELDERLY BEING PUSHED TO POVERTY. Number of elderly that govt. regards as poverty-stricken climbing rapidly. Yrs. of steadily rising prices have forced many into desperate straits. About ½ of aged widows are considered poor: figure is 80 pet. among elderly Negro women living alone. Six million aged are living in inadequate housing.

In parts of cities with high crime rates, many elderly residents are prisoners in homes & apts. because they're afraid to venture into streets.

Elderly persons with incomes below \$5000 a yr. are paying \$1½ billion in property taxes. A retired couple in Birmingham, Mich, paid \$190 yrly. in taxes when they bought their home in'43: today taxes are \$1700. (USN 3:27)

NOTE: Wisely & justly & compassionately used, US's vast wealth could provide security & plenty for all her people. But that can never be under man's evil, fleshly rule.

THE VIET AIR WAR. One of the most dramatic examples of increased Soviet help during the current N. Viet offensive is seen in anti-aircraft defence. N. Viets are making efficient use of both fixed & mobile missiles, plus improved performance of conventional anti-aircraft weapons. Just about any time a pilot is over enemy territory these days he runs the risk of being shot down, either by missile, anti-aircraft, or MIG jet. (USN 4:17)

NOTE: How cleverly Russia has kept this conflict going, at such little risk & cost to herself, always providing just what is needed & in the right amounts to maintain the N. Viet activities.

RISING MURDER TOLL. "Violence is as American as apple pie." In 70, 16,000 murders in US, 1 every ½ hr., up 8 pet. in yr., 76 pet. in 10 yrs. This murderous pre-eminence, fostered by US's longstanding habit of violence, occurs against a background of street crime, political assassination, & an almost obsessive violence in movies & TV.

Behavioural scientists talk of a national "crisis of violence." Man has become so dangerous to himself that his continued existence is in doubt.

Tho murder is part of the fabric of history, it has assumed an alarming quality today. Violence has become the object of morbid fascination—an incomprehensible glorification of death & destruction. The impulse to murder seems to be universal.

A clear & important link has been shown between TV violence & aggressive behaviour. Even more ominous is the trend toward the philosophical & artistic glorification of violence & death. Many young people believe that violence is man re-creating himself, & that savagery is a kind of purifying force, bearing "the promise of redemption."

The movie "Godfather" is a chronicle of corruption, savage death, & malignant sentimentality that wreaks harm by forcing the viewer to take sides in a situation that is totally without moral substance. It is chilling to hear the audience roar its approval when a young gangster on "our" side blows the brains out of 2 gangsters on "their" side.

That easy empathy with screen slayings, together with a growing tolerance of real-life brutality, suggests a dismaying conclusion: Beneath the surface, Americans may be less alarmed by murder—& more attracted to it—than they care to admit. (Tm 4:24)

NOTE: "Ye are of your father the diabolos. He was a murderer from the beginning, and the works of your father ye do." This is the divine verdict on natural, animal mankind, & it is increasingly manifest in these last days!

MOSCOW USES RUSSIAN CHURCH. Moscow exploring new avenue for contact with Israel—Orthodox Church. For first time since '67 (when diplomatic relations were broken) Church sent "best wishes" to Israel on its Independence Day. And next month the head of the Church & also Moscow's Primate will visit Israel. (Nwk 5:1)

NOTE: Moscow must discover—doubtless has discovered—that the Church is an essential ally in maintaining its dominion over the "bodies & souls of men." The Greek Orthodox Church, now a Kremlin puppet, has a prominent interest & 'right' in much of the idolatrous shrines abominations that infest Jerusalem and make it the centre of world religious rivalry.

A "LEISURE BOOM" that has grown to phenomenal proportions will push \$105 billion into the US economy this yr. US spending more on spare-time activities than on new homes. Most spectacular splurge is in products used in pursuit of pleasure. Sales of leisure equipment nearly doubled since '67.

The public is demanding the better life. They want all the conveniences, & they're willing to pay for them. The search for fun: worry about inflation, politics, taxes, etc., have little effect on "escape" spending. (USN 4:17)

NOTE: \$100-billion for a shallow, juvenile pursuit of "pleasure," while life & all its real meaning slips rapidly away, & while millions suffer & starve. What a sad & sordid picture of mankind! The more this country is blessed, the more it makes a mockery of its blessings in infantile folly.

MOSCOW WOOS IRAQ. As relations cool with Egypt, Moscow is intensifying its attentions to Iraq with a state visit by Kosygin & a "secret" trip by another high-ranking Russian. (Nwk 4:17)

THE MONEY MACHINE. Few institutions have a stronger hold on the heartstrings—& purse strings—of US as Boys Town (the Catholic home for boys in Nebraska). The touching appeals that pour out of Boys Town each Christmas & Easter still give the impression that the wolf is at the door.

Actually, its net worth is over \$200 million. Investments bring in over \$8 million yrly., more than enough to cover operating expenses. But it still sends out 10s of millions of fund-raising letters each yr., & in '70 these produced a staggering—& superfluous—\$18 million in income. Despite the huge financial surplus, enrolment at Boys Town has fallen in recent years from 900 to 700. (Nwk 4:10)

NOTE: What comment can be made? Brethren & sisters of Christ, as stewards of the grace of God who must give an account of how they have used ALL His goods, would do well to take the time & effort to help the less fortunate (as is their solemn DUTY) on an individual basis, & stay faithfully clear of all organized worldly charities & community funds, where so much goes to organized worldly religion or sticks to the fingers of the collectors. The above revelation is a great warning.

THE KILLING GOES ON UNABATED. The killing has gone on for years. Last wk., by US estimates, the total count of military dead in Vietnam since '61 passed 1 million. Yet the war is as bloody as ever. Any fit & rational relationship between the death & suffering and the gains to be made, seem irretrievably lost. Vietnam has long since reached the point that no future win, lose or stalemate—can redeem the present.

Vietnam has been at blazing war for 27 yrs. There is hardly a person anywhere in Indochina who has not been touched directly by the fighting. Yet it does not end, or show signs of ending. A map of Indochina in '54, with shaded areas marking Communist control, is so remarkably similar to a map of Indochina today that one is overwhelmed by the futility of it, the unspeakable inhumanity of it on both sides—or rather on all sides, for many different factions & forces are at work here.

Such tragedy is part of all wars, of course. But this conflict has lasted so long, & Vietnam is after all such a tiny place, such an insignificant place in any grand scale of things. (Tm 5:1)

NOTE: What a sad & futile picture! A small nation crushed to death & ground to powder just because it happens to be the current battlefield of the giants for control of the world. But it can be no different until the Prince of Peace comes. There can be no peace, no happiness, no real living at all, without righteousness & holiness & spiritual mindedness & submission to the commands of God—and of this the world of the flesh knows nothing.

"HEARTS FAILING FOR FEAR." Over a million heart attacks in US each yr. A frightening new trend: for last 20 yrs. a steadily growing number of young men being stricken. All medical innovations have had little impact on growing death toll from coronaries. Heart attacks take more lives each yr. than cancer, strokes, & accidents combined.

Clearly the coronary epidemic will not be curbed (as infectious diseases were) by the simple development of drugs or vaccines. Nothing less than a restructuring of the way of life may be required.

100,000 times each day, the heart contracts with sufficient force to pump blood thru 60,000 miles of blood vessels. (Nwk 5:1)

NOTE: Surely there was never such a time of human pride & folly! We hear sickening boasts from outer-space moon flights that now great & glorious man can do anything he can envision, that his power & ability has no limits—while the whole earth is in such a shambles of wickedness, violence, immorality & oppression, & on every front man is rushing to the precipice of destruction.

US TRADE BALANCE STILL SLIPPING. The once-reliable US trade surplus shrank steadily during the late '60's, finally culminating in a \$3 billion deficit last yr.—first deficit since 1888. This Feb. it was \$600 million—2nd largest monthly deficit on record. (Nwk 4:10)

NOTE: US. the only major barrier to Russia's world-wide ambitions, must be weakened, discredited & isolated. The world must flock to the Beast.

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