

# 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

## WHAT CHAPTER BEGINS . . .

Write number from List 1 beside answer in List 2

### LIST ONE — QUESTIONS

- |                      |                         |                                |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. God Who           | 18. The words of the    | 35. My heart is inditing       |
| 2. O foolish         | 19. How doth the city   | 36. The beginning of the       |
| 3. Comfort ye        | 20. Who hath believed   | 37. Again there was a day      |
| 4. The former        | 21. And Hannah prayed   | 38. From whence come wars      |
| 5. The Lord is       | 22. Forasmuch as many   | 39. Therefore leaving the      |
| 6. Who is this       | 23. Blessed is the man  | 40. The burden of Nineveh      |
| 7. Adam, Sheth       | 24. I am the true Vine  | 41. Behold, I will send My     |
| 8. Now faith is      | 25. The Lord said unto  | 42. And there was given me     |
| 9. Go to now, ye     | 26. Praise ye the Lord  | 43. And Saul, yet breathing    |
| 10. The vision of    | 27. There was a man in  | 44. Therefore thou art inex-   |
| 11. Lord Thou hast   | 28. Why do the heathen  | 45. And seeing the multitudes  |
| 12. My God, my God   | 29. Then was Jesus led  | 46. And I stood upon the sand  |
| 13. Though I speak   | 30. Let brotherly love  | 47. And the 5th angel sounded  |
| 14. And I saw a new  | 31. Behold what manner  | 48. And there appeared a great |
| 15. Now the serpent  | 32. Then 14 years after | 49. The book of the generation |
| 16. Dare any of you  | 33. The heavens declare | 50. Now king David was old     |
| 17. In the beginning | 34. Now after the death |                                |
- 

### LIST TWO — ANSWERS

- |          |         |        |          |         |         |           |
|----------|---------|--------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Obad.    | Lam. 1  | Gen. 3 | Matt. 1  | Psa. 23 | Isa. 40 | 1 Chr. 1  |
| Job 1    | Gal. 3. | Jam. 4 | Acts 9   | Rev. 21 | Heb. 13 | 1 John 3  |
| Job 2    | Nah. 1  | Jam. 5 | 1 Sam. 2 | Isa. 63 | Rev. 12 | Psa. 90   |
| Heb. 1   | Psa. 2  | Heb. 6 | Psa. 45  | Heb. 11 | Matt. 5 | 1 Kings 1 |
| Psa. 1   | Mal. 3  | Luke 1 | Josh. 1  | Psa. 19 | John 15 | 1 Cor. 6  |
| Gal. 2   | Rev. 9  | John 1 | Rev. 11  | Rev. 13 | Isa. 53 | Psa. 110  |
| Acts 1   | Rom. 2  | Mark 1 | Eccl. 1  | Matt. 4 | Psa. 22 | 1 Cor. 13 |
| Psa. 150 |         |        |          |         |         |           |
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### April Answers

1. Luz—Bethel
2. Mark—John
3. Saul—Paul
4. Esau—Edom
5. Sela—Petra
6. Mary—Magdalene
7. Peter—Cephas
8. Judas—Ischriot
9. Herod—Agrippa
10. James—Boanerges
11. Simon—Zelotes
12. Jebus—Jerusalem
13. Javan—Greece
14. Lalsh—Dan
15. Horeb—Sinai
16. Israel—Jacob
17. Benoni—Benjamin

### OTHER NAMES

18. Sirion—Hermon
  19. Uzziah—Azariah
  20. Thebes—No-amon
  21. Didymus—Thomas
  22. Tabitha—Dorcas
  23. Pontius—Pilate
  24. Sergius—Paulus
  25. Porcius—Festus
  26. Azariah—Abednego
  27. Mishael—Meshach
  28. Matthew—Levi
  29. Lebbeus—Thaddeus
  30. Eliakim—Jehoiakim
  31. Calvary—Golgotha
  32. Chittim—Cyprus
  33. Memphis—Noph
  34. Palymra—Tadmor
  35. Jedidiah—Solomon
  36. Barjesus—Elymas
  37. Barnabas—Joses
  38. Barsabas—Justus
  39. Apollyon—Abaddon
  40. Claudius—Lysias
  41. Jerubbaal—Gideon
  42. Mattaniah—Zedekiah
  43. Gennesaret—Chinnereth
  44. Kirjatharba—Hebron
  45. Belteshazzar—Daniel
  46. Kirjathsepher—Debir
  47. Jegarsahadutha—Galeed
  48. Tiglathpileser—Pul
  49. Zaphnathpaaneah—Joseph
  50. Hananiah—Shadrach
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## The Greatest of These Is Love

*"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth"—1 John 3:18*

IN the first chapter of his second letter, Peter speaks of our precious faith, and to show that faith alone is incomplete, we must add virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and, finally, love.

In v. 8, he tells us the reason for these additions to our faith:

*"For if these things be in you, and ABOUND, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

In v. 9, he brings out a sharp contrast—

*"But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."*

It should be carefully noted that Peter is not writing to unbelievers, but to those who have come into covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus by their belief and obedience of the Gospel. This shows us the stern necessity of being on the alert daily because of the dangers that lie in the path of those who are endeavouring to walk in that newness of life to which the Gospel has introduced us.

One of the grave dangers we face is one that some have developed: a narrow conception of our responsibilities to one another as brethren of Christ. They do this by selecting one particular portion of Scripture, and let it become the guiding principle of their lives to the exclusion of other parts that are equally important, and, in many cases, are of far greater determinative value with respect to our eternal welfare. That is particularly true about love. When a certain lawyer asked Jesus—

*"Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"*

Jesus replied—

*"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."*

This shows us that love, in the true scriptural sense, is not a gushing sentimentalism, as the world looks upon it, but a clear, precise and careful adherence to specific divine instructions, based upon a fervent zeal, and affection of God, and His beloved Son Jesus.

There are two sources, in particular, in the Bible to which we can turn for explicit instructions on this elevated subject. These are 1 Cor. 13 and John's first epistle. In 1 Cor. 13:3, Paul says—

*"Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing."*

In the world, giving to the poor is considered as a high type of love, but Paul dispels the idea that it is any substitute for a character of holy, divine love. The point he makes is, we cannot buy salvation by giving to those in need. Our giving must be based upon and rooted in enlightened scriptural love to be efficacious and acceptable to our heavenly Father.

In v. 2, Paul shows the folly of great education without love. We should note carefully the qualifications he specifies—

*"Though I have the gift of prophecy.*

*"Though I understand all mysteries.*

*"Though I understand all knowledge.*

*"Though I have all faith."*

Now note the magnitude of the faith he speaks of—a faith so great that he could remove mountains. With all these, says Paul, still—

*"Without love I am NOTHING."*

Where do we stand in relation to Paul? We do not have the gift of prophecy; we do not understand all mysteries; our knowledge is puny compared to that of Paul; our faith is insignificant; and so is our love. Therefore we have nothing to boast about, nor to glory in over others.

v 4. *"Love suffereth long and is kind."*

That is, it has great patience and sympathy and fellow feeling with others, and endures many things. Is our love kind?

*"Love envieth not."*

It does not worry about what other people have. It rejoices to see them have it, though itself may lack.

*"Love is not puffed up."*

It does not become conceited, and full of foolish pride, and satisfied with itself, and disdainful of others. Does ours?

V. 5: *Doth not behave itself unseemly."*

It has no place for outburst of temper, or rudeness, or irritableness. It is always gentle and courteous.

*"Seeketh not her own."*

—her own desires, or rights, or honour; her own anything. Love is not concerned with self at all, except to be holy and to rejoice in God.

*"Is not easily provoked, and thinketh no evil."*

Where do we stand in relation to these NECESSARY things?

V. 7: *"Love believeth all things."*

Infinite capacity for belief of ultimate good is a thing of great power and beauty. Faith sees the best, and sees to the end.

*"Endureth all things."*

Stands firm and unmoved in the Truth. Holds to the old landmarks. Builds on the old foundation. Does not get tossed around with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

V. 11: *"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."*

Have we imitated Paul, or do we still cling to childish things? There is much that is childish and immature and foolish in the world, and in all of our hearts. Are we constantly searching them to put it all away, and to grow up to the perfect, mature man in Christ Jesus, our hearts filled with spiritual things?

There is much more in this chapter, but let us look briefly into John's first letter. His words throughout are beautiful and sublime; pure and holy and spiritual. If we could lift up our minds to continually live in their atmosphere, we would be indeed new creatures!

*"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God"—*  
1 John 3:1.

What greater honour could we have? But, at the same time, what a great responsibility rests upon us! Does our manner of life reflect the nature of our calling?

*"This is the message (or commandment) that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another"—*  
1 John 3:11.

That takes us back to the day before the crucifixion, when Jesus said to his disciples—

*"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."*

*"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"—*John 13:34-35.

Dare we ask ourselves if we measure up to that high standard? Loving our brethren is not just something desirable; it is something that is absolutely essential. John repeats this over and over again.

*"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."*

Surely, there is no more beautiful statement in the Bible. Jesus referred to the last days saying, "all men's hearts failing them for fear." The two greatest powers on earth live constantly in mortal fear of each other.

Even though we are not of the world, yet we are in it, and these things affect us before we realize it, and we too become fearful. We should therefore pray daily for strength and increased faith and deepest, purer love, so that we will be able to cast out fear.

The Spirit's teaching on love should be presented to our minds over and over again, so that we will not lose sight of it. When one adds something to what they already have, it becomes an increase. If we can add to what we already have in faith, hope and love the result will be—

*"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

*"May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

*"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God"—Eph. 3:17-19.*

—Editor

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*Please notify us promptly of address changes.*

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## **He Poured His Vial Into the Air**

*"And the Seventh Angel poured out his Vial into the Air: and there came forth a great Voice from the Nave of the heaven, from the Throne, saying IT IS DONE!"—Rev. 16:17*

**BY BROTHER JOHN THOMAS**

THE Seventh Vial is the concluding period of the Seventh Seal, and of the Seventh Trumpet, In other words, the Vial, Trumpet, and Seal all terminate at the same time. The Seventh Seal began with:

*"Silence in the heaven about the space of half an hour."* (8:1).

—AD 323. The Seventh Trumpet (which is called in 1 Cor. 15:52, "the last trump") began to sound with the issue of the Great Voice, AD 1790. But when, or at what date, the Seventh and last Vial shall begin to pour out its wrath, I am unable to say. This however may be assuredly affirmed: that it will not begin until after the resurrection period, or "time of the dead"; the capture of Jerusalem by Gog's forces; and its recovery by YAHWEH ELOHIM, the "Great King."

The casting out of the enemy from Jerusalem is followed by the establishment of the Nave, or Most Holy, and the Throne of David, therein. This must precede the outpouring of the wrath into the Air, because "a Great Voice" goes forth from the Nave-Throne, saying, "IT IS DONE," which could not be if the Throne had not already been set up.

The crowning events of the Sixth Vial put the Lamb with the 144,000 in possession of the Holy City. Their throne is the "Great White Throne" of the Yahweh Name, "from whose face, the earth and the heaven"—by the judgments of the Seventh Vial—will be caused to "flee away." For when the White Throne receives its full dominion, no place or room "will be found for them" (Rev. 20:11; Jer. 3:17). The Gentile "heaven and earth" will be made to give place to the "New Heavens and New Earth" in which Jerusalem will be a rejoicing, and her people a joy (Isa. 65:17).

The Seventh Angel is the ETERNAL SPIRIT clothed with the white linen and golden-girdled company of "Splendid Ones," Jesus and his Brethren, who—though incorruptible and deathless—do not let themselves out in their brightness, until they have accomplished the work of this Seventh Vial upon the "Air." I am led to affirm this upon the authority of the Spirit of Christ in Zech. 14:5-7, as follows in the original—

*"And 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 known to Yahweh, neither day nor night. But it shall be at the time of evening there shall be brightness."*

At the "Time of evening," the Day of Glory begins. When the judgments of the Seventh Vial are all exhausted, the time of evening will have come. All the—

*"Smoke from the glory of the Deity, and from His power."*

—will have cleared away. And then the Saints, who have been executing the "judgment written," will rest from the labours of the war of the great and terrible day, and no longer drawing themselves in, will (Matt. 13:43)—

*"Shine forth as the Sun in the Kingdom of their Father."*

Or, as Daniel expresses it (12:3)—

*"As the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars for the Olahm and beyond."*

The judgments of the Seventh Vial are all in the future. They are the voices uttered by the Seven Thunders, which succeed the lion-roar of the Rainbow Angel (Rev. 10:3-4), and which issue from the Throne (Rev. 4:5). John was commanded not to write their utterances, but to seal them up.

Apocalyptically, thunders are significant of wars. Hence 7 thunders are 7 wars, which collectively make up—

*"The War of that Great Day of the Omnipotent Deity."*

The details of the Seven Thunders are not given, but the general results are specified in the prophecy of the Seventh Vial. The ecclesiastical and secular constitution of Anti-christendom is the obnoxious subject of divine vengeance.

The Powers-that-be having answered the purpose of their permitted existence, the time has arrived under this vial for their abolition.

This can only be accomplished by divine power. Hence the War of the Deity, by which Babylon the Great (the ecclesiastical constitution of the world), and the "Cities of the Nations" (the "islands" and the "mountains," or kingdoms, empires, and states of all sorts) are transferred to the Saints, so that the wicked who now sit in the heavenlies are hurled from their thrones and sent empty away (Luke 1:51-53).

\* \* \*

*"He poured out his Vial into the Air"—v. 17.*

The Air is the political firmament, or heaven, of the world. That "air" and "heaven" are regarded as synonymous appears from Matt. 13:32, which speaks of the "birds of the air" as equivalent for what both Matthew and Luke style the "birds—or fowls—of the heaven."

But better authority than James' Version informs us that the "firmament" between the clouds and the earth's waters—which is the air or atmosphere—Elohim called "Heaven" (Gen. 1:6-8).

When we look into this expanse, we see the sun, moon, stars, and constellations, which—though far beyond it—appear to be in the air, or heaven. Now, the political world has its air as well as the natural. Like the natural, the political "air," or firmament, "divides the waters," or people who rule, "from the waters," or people ruled.

And whatever constitutes this division is the "Air" or Heaven. If there were no air in the natural world, there would be no clouds, or "waters above the firmament," but simply "darkness upon the face of the deep"—all waters would be commingled without order or distinction.

Such would also be the case in the political world, if there were no political Air or Aerial. This Air divides the ruling class from the common people or "waters"—called also the "sea," and sometimes the "earth." The Air, or Heaven, is therefore that which divides; or in modern phrase, the constitution or constituted order of things among the nations.

When the Saracens made their irruption into the Dragon, or Greco-Roman-Constantinopolitan Empire in the 7th century, the "Sun and the Air were darkened" (Rev. 9:2) in all the countries they subdued. In other words, the political authority and constitution which placed them in subjection to the Byzantine Dynasty in Constantinople were eclipsed; as also the kingdom of the Beast was "darkened" by the judgments of the Fifth Vial (Rev. 16:10), but which afterwards became light again when the darkening power passed away.

Paul refers to the Air or Heaven of the Gentile world, or constitution of things, in Eph. 2:2, where he says—

*"Ye who were dead in trespasses and in sins, in time past walked according to the aion of this kosmos.."*

—or course of this order of things—

*".. according to the chief of the authority of the Air, (which is) the Spirit which now worketh in the children of disobedience."*

The spirit that works in the disobedient is the spirit of the flesh, or King Sin. He is chief, ruler, or prince, of "the authority of the Air." The constituted authority of an empire, kingdom, or republic, is "the authority of the Air" in those several dominions or states. The Powers-that-be are the Sin-Powers of the Air, styled by the apostle:

*"Principalities and authorities, world-rulers of the darkness of the course of things (aion), the spirituals of wickedness in the heavenlies" (Eph. 6:12).*

These all belong to the "authority of the Air." The spirituals of the wickedness in his day were the civil, or secular, and the ecclesiastical, world-rulers, who were either Jewish or pagan. But in our day they are emperors, kings, magistrates, popes, priests, and parsons, called "the clergy," of all orders and degrees of imposture and blasphemy, pretending to be Christian.

These spirituals of wickedness all, as the demons, foul spirits, and unclean and hateful birds (Rev. 18:2), are the ephemera which roost in the branches of the wide-spreading upas which poisons the air of the Great City in which it grows.

This Air of the Seventh Vial is the Air or Heaven of Daniel's Four Beasts, or dominions. In Dan. 7:27 it is styled "kol shemayah" (all the heavens) under which the kingdom, dominion, and greatness exist, which are to be given to the chosen people of the saints. The Air of this vial comprehends all these heavens or aerials.

**It is the same air, or heaven, in which a door is opened, and a new throne established (Rev. 4:1-2).** This door will be opened, and the throne set therein, when the Armageddon victory shall have cast out the enemy from Jerusalem, and have planted the Lamb and the 144,000 on Mt. Zion.

The denouement of the Sixth Vial opens the door and sets up the throne. There is THEN a throne in the Air which the air of heaven does not contain at the present time. All other thrones will continue to exist in the Air contemporaneously with this new throne (which is the Throne of David restored) until they shall be all taken possession of by the Saints of the Most High, when (Rev. 11:15)—

*"The kingdoms of the world become our Lord's and His Christ's."*

The Air of this Seventh Vial is the "Heaven" of Rev. 20:11, which in consequence of the wrath poured out into it, "flies away" with the "earth" that stands related to it. Both earth and heaven, as now constituted in church, state, and general society, will all be broken up and abolished. And a New Air, or firmament, will be constituted in which will shine only the "Splendid Ones"—the Sun of Righteousness and the Kings of his Rising—who obtain—

*"The victory over the Beast, and over his Image, and over his Mark, and over the Number of his Name"*

(Rev. 15:2).

These will all meet together with the Lord "in the Air" (1 Thess. 4:17), as the "New Heavens," styled also "the Heaven" in Rev. 18:20 which rejoices over Babylon in the disaster of her fall. This New Air, I remark again, is the Air in which, and for which, the chosen Saints are convened.

Paul tells us in 1 Thess. 4 that when "the time of the dead that they should be judged" arrives, the living Saints will not anticipate the dead. That is, they will not be gathered together into the presence of Christ before them. When Christ comes, the living will have to wait until the reproduction of the dead Saints is complete. Be the time of this reproduction long or short, the "how long" is not revealed. This however is certain, that—

*"The dead in Christ shall be restored (anastesontai) FIRST."*

He then tells us (v. 17) what is to happen next—

*"After that, we the living who remain, TOGETHER WITH THEM, shall be hurried away in clouds for a convention of the Lord in an Air, and so (in that Air) we shall be always with the Lord."*

Thus the dead are the subjects of "anastasis" or "restoration" to what they once were. And then, in company with their fellow earth-borns in Christ of the generation contemporary with the great anastasis, they go to report themselves for better or worse at the Judgment Seat in Teman. All of them who are approved, or "accounted worthy to obtain that aion" (course of things, or Air) are "clothed with the house from heaven" (2 Cor. 5:2), and henceforth appointed to be with the Lord always in the Air.

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## **Second Voyage to Australia**

**BY BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS**

*"He giveth His beloved sleep"—Psalm 127:2*

**PART TWENTY-NINE**

## **JOURNEY RESUMES: SAILING TO SANDWICH ISLANDS (HAWAII)**

THE Alameda resumed her voyage at noon. We had some days fair sailing in a northerly direction towards the Sandwich Islands—our next place of call. It was now so hot that we had to dismiss underclothing, and ordinary upper garments during the day. And as for the night, there would be no blanket trade with such a temperature all over the world. However, time wore on, especially in my case, as I was fully occupied.

### **SAT., SEP. 10: ASKED TO CONDUCT SUNDAY SERVICES**

On Saturday night, the question of Sunday came up for consideration. There was no clergyman on board, and I was asked if I would conduct a service or preach a sermon. I said there were reasons why I could not do so, but I might be able to give a lecture that would interest them.

“On what subject? You know that we are all sorts here and you must not tread on anyone's toes.”

I said I could say something on prophecies that had been fulfilled. It was agreed that it should be so—young Mr. Strong acting the part Mr. Watson did on board the Oruba—making the arrangements, obtaining the captain's consent, pinning up a notice, etc.

### **SUN., SEP. 11: A LECTURE ON PROPHECY, WELL RECEIVED**

Next day, at 10:30, one of the stewards, by the captain's orders, went around with the dinner gong, announcing the meeting. A considerable company came together in the music saloon. Mr. Strong rose and introduced me without any ceremony.

I said there were many differing views about the Bible. Whatever the present company might think about it, they were bound to recognize that there was that about it which did not characterize any other book. It claimed to be a book of divine authority, employing the phrase "Thus saith the Lord God" at least 2,000 times; and asserting, as one of the proofs of this claim, a knowledge of futurity which man did not possess.

The test of prophecy lay in fulfilment. The Bible was full of prophecy, and we were able to apply this test in a very extensive and thorough manner because of its prophecies covering so extensive a ground, and applying to matters that it was out of human power to foresee. There were prophecies in the Bible not as yet fulfilled. I did not propose to speak of them, but of those whose fulfilment was in the past, and which were notorious to every one having knowledge—from their knowledge of which they ought to be able to draw valuable conclusions concerning those parts of the prophetic word relating to the future. I then proceeded to speak of the Jews, of Babylon, of Egypt, of the four great empires and of Christ—reciting the facts and producing the prophecies.

When I concluded, a number came forward and thanked me heartily, especially a public singer—I think of the name of Durward-Lely. He said he had nearly read through Christendom Astray, which the purser had lent him; and it certainly seemed to him to present the most reasonable view of religion he had ever met with. He hoped I would lecture again. The weather became rough and remained rough for several days—scattering the passengers to their berths.

### **WED., SEP. 14: AT HAWAII (RECENTLY ANNEXED TO U.S.)**

On Wednesday we reached Hawaii, the chief of the Sandwich Islands. The crew of the vessel took special interest in this arrival, as Hawaii had been annexed to the United States since the last visit of the Alameda to Honolulu, the capital of Hawaii. But the people on shore made no demonstration, as another American steamer had been before the Alameda, and received the ovation which the Alameda expected.

The possession of Hawaii will be of great value to the United States as a coaling station on these wide seas so far from her own coast—at least 2,000 miles. A coaling station in the Pacific had become important to her with the development of her naval power within the last 20 years; but now that she has become an Asiatic power with the conquest of the Philippines, it has become a matter of necessity.

The annexation of territory outside the limits of the States is a departure from the policy hitherto recognized, but has been forced on her by the stress of circumstances. There is a greater stress at the door, under the pressure of which—surrender—not annexation will be the new experience of the Stars and Stripes. All Gentile power on sea and land will be swept into Judah's lap. To Shiloh shall the gathering of the people be.

We moored at a wharf in Honolulu about 3:30 a.m. In the harbor, there was a considerable assembly of shipping, including a U.S. battleship Philadelphia, anchored mid-stream. The formidable craft was naturally an object of much interest, at the present time, when the war between America and Spain is just over.

An interesting incident occurred just before we left. An American troopship, the Scandia, sailed for Manila with some troops and treasure on board in succour of Admiral Dewey. As she passed the frowning battleship, the large crew of the latter broke out into loud roars of hearty cheering, to which the crew of the Scandia responded. The effect was quite thrilling.

#### **8 HOURS AT HONOLULU: AN INSPECTION TOUR ASHORE**

The Alameda stayed about 8 hours at Honolulu, which gave the passengers ample time to go ashore. I made a tour of the streets, but did not enjoy it much, as I had a bad night the night before, through excessive motion of the vessel and oppressive heat. I visited the grounds of the palace, or the beautiful building which was the palace of Hawaii when the deposed queen reigned, but is now turned into administrative offices. The surroundings were as lovely as carefully trained tropical vegetation could make them. I exchanged not a single word with anyone, and returned after 4 hours ramble.

As the time of departure grew near, the number of people on the wharf increased greatly, and they were quite an interesting study for a long time. Though there was a large sprinkling of natives, they were mostly European residents come to see friends off. Their gay attire was quite striking. They were mostly dressed in white, which of itself was very pretty, but besides, this, almost everyone was lavishly decked with garlands of brightest hues—yellow, red, green, of the loudest colour. These garlands were thrown around their shoulders and twisted round their hats in the most lavish manner.

I asked if the people always dressed like that.

"Well, yes, pretty much; when they come to see their friends off. There were plenty of flowers and they used them freely."

There was an hour of great and hearty bustle, as 40 new passengers and bands of friends tramped aboard and filled the decks and saloons. The general type was inferior as you came to look at them closely; and the Creole element predominated. How interesting the human race will be, when not only gaudy colour, but grace and excellence bearing the closest inspection will characterise the populations everywhere, blessed with Abraham and his seed.

#### **LEAVING HONOLULU: AN INTERESTING CABIN-MATE**

We steamed out of Honolulu harbor about 5 o'clock in the evening. The ship was much livelier with the addition of over 40 new saloon passengers; but the rough water soon quieted things down. An unwelcome change was the addition of a clergyman, and also the intrusion of a companion into my sleeping cabin. The presence of the former blocked the way on Sunday for any further exhibition of the Truth. The addition of the latter put an end to the privacy which is desirable in travel.

However, the latter disadvantage was compensated by the interest of my companion. I could not imagine when I first saw him who he could be. He was decked up in garlands on hat and coat like the rest of the people, and so were the friends who came to see him off. It seemed to me he might be a native of Hawaii, but I discovered at last that he was an educated Italian from San Francisco, where he practised dentistry. He had come from San Francisco, intending to go forward to Australia for the benefit of his health, but had been so upset by the voyage to Honolulu, that he resolved to go straight back by the first steamer—which happened to be the Alameda, on the very day of his arrival in the Moana.

I found him very interesting company, though compelled to keep his bunk all the time. He had been thoroughly educated, as dentistry in the States requires, and was quite au fait in the scientific theories of the time. While recognizing these theories so far as they rested on demonstrations, he dissented from their dogmatic exclusion of the divine. He said the divine was the ultimate explanation of the evolution of all force. The life-cell might be the material of which all life was organized, but who made the life-cell? Molecular combinations might explain the differentiation of substances, but whence came the combinations? To speak of "force" explained nothing, but only blinded the eye.

We had many interesting conversations, and at last got deeply into the Truth; I gave him a copy of Christendom Astray. Whether anything will come of it time will show. Though an Italian, he was a native of San Francisco, born of Italian parents, who emigrated from Genoa in the troublous times of 1849.

#### **THURS., SEP. 15: THE STEWARD IS CONVINCED OF THE TRUTH**

On Thursday, Sept. 15, I found a note pushed under my cabin door, signed by the captain's steward, saying that with surprise he had just discovered the author of Christendom Astray was on board, and he had read that book

(though not under that name) 4 years ago, and was convinced it set forth the Truth, but had not followed it up for one or two reasons, as to which, he desired some conversation.

I replied by note, and an interview came off in the saloon at a convenient hour two nights afterwards. I found him an earnest young man of about 30, who had taken to a steward's life for the benefit of his health, but found ship life unfavourable to spiritual wellbeing, and had resolved to give it up in due course and return to business in Sydney, to which he belonged. His people were Wesleyans, and strongly opposed to the Truth, but he felt sure it was right and was desirous of getting into the right association. We had a long and interesting conversation, which ended in my giving him a note of introduction to bro. Bell and bro. Jackson.

About the same time, the bath steward asked me if I was not Mr. Roberts of the Christadelphians. He said he had met our people in South Africa and was impressed by the strength of their arguments. But for himself, he had been inclined to accept the Theosophic view. Life seemed a great mystery, and it was a rather pleasing thought that we were passing through this evil state merely to gain experience.

I replied in brief that a view might be pleasing, but not true. The great question should be, What is Truth? On such a matter as God's purpose with human life upon the earth, we could know nothing apart from information God might be pleased to communicate. He had communicated His mind freely. The record was in the Scriptures, and our only hope in the question lay in familiarity with them.

The Theosophist and every other class started with a speculation with which the Bible was at war—to the effect that man was an immortal being and continued to live after he was dead. The Bible doctrine was that man was mortal because of sin and that hope lay through Christ by resurrection. I advised him to look into it.

#### **SUN., SEP. 18: THE LAST SUNDAY: CLERGY BLOCKS LECTURE**

Sunday, Sept. 18, was our last Sunday at sea. I would have been asked to lecture again, but a clergyman blocked the way morning and evening—not to the satisfaction of the passengers, who used very disrespectful, but not untrue words, in describing his sermonic performances.

#### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1898**

Next day, the passengers were all bright and cheerful at the prospect of landing. Passed the Coptic, a large steamer outward bound from San Francisco for Honolulu and Hong Kong—the first vessel we have seen on the wide waste of waters for 3 weeks.

When we left Auckland, we had a flock of sheep penned away on deck at the stern—in the very worst position—just over the screw and where there is the greatest heave of the vessel. I spoke to them frequently during the voyage. They were quietly responsive with ear and eye to the voice of sympathy. They thinned in number as the time wore on. Yesterday, they were all gone. I asked what had become of them.

"We have eaten them," was the answer of a gentleman, who suggested early in the voyage that perhaps they had souls.

In that case, I remarked, we are cannibals.

He gave the kind of squirm that signifies a nonplussed state of the intellect.

#### **"GOD WILL REDEEM MY SOUL FROM THE POWER OF THE GRAVE"**

But on the serious side, I thought to myself, the men around us will all disappear as completely, though not in the same way. The very figure is used by the Spirit of God—

*"Like sheep are they laid in the grave: death shall feed on them."*

It may be retorted, "So will you." It might have been so said to David. What would have been his rejoinder?—

*"GOD WILL REDEEM MY SOUL FROM THE POWER OF THE GRAVE."*

*"THE UPRIGHT SHALL HAVE DOMINION OVER THEM IN THE MORNING!"*

*This is the end of bro. Roberts' account of his travels and labours. He died suddenly four days later in a hotel in San Francisco. His life was wholly devoted to just one purpose, and he laboured fervently in that purpose right to the end. He had a very deep and balanced knowledge of the Truth and its spirit, far greater than any living today. He was undoubted a man raised up by God for a purpose—to lay a sound foundation. May we be given the wisdom to fully appreciate the value of his labours and writings, and to thankfully learn from them, and to follow his example.*

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## Continually Praising & Blessing God

*"Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?"*  
—Luke 24:32

### LUKE CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

WE are ever grateful and thankful to our Heavenly Father for providing us opportunity to reverently worship Him and to partake of the emblems in remembrance of the death, burial and resurrection of our beloved Saviour "until he come."

Christ's great ordeal of suffering, persecution and severe trial is now past. He has risen, having cast off the shackles of the grave, and is soon to appear in great glory, honour and power. Repeating the words of our beloved bro. Roberts: "How sweet is the calm of the bright and tranquil morning that comes after a night of tempest and suffering!"

Christ surely did suffer; nevertheless, he patiently endured the cross, looking forward steadfastly to the joy set before him (Heb. 12) :

*"Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."*

"Despising," that is, looking upon it as a light thing, disregarding or paying no heed to the shame he had to endure. The bright and tranquil morning of resurrection will soon be experienced by the saints, raised to honour and glory after a night of tempest, suffering and death. The long period of Gentile night, full of sorrow, sighing and suffering, will then be passed. As it is written, "the former things are passed away."

Let us consider the circumstances surrounding Christ's resurrection. Very early in the morning just before sunrise, a little company of women make their journey toward the tomb.

They are very special and peculiar. Why? Because they are different from all other women around them. They were faithful to Christ in his lifetime, and were eager and attentive to hear every word which dropped from the Master's lips. They followed Jesus wherever he went before his death and resurrection. Remember the words, "Ye are a peculiar people, a chosen generation" is applicable to us too, brethren and sisters.

Among this little company was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, whom we find in Luke 8:3 was the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Mary the mother of James. Mark makes mention (16:1) of Salome being with the number, the same apparently being the mother of James and John, Zebedee's children. It would seem there were others with them (v.1)—

*"Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them."*

Verse 10—

*"It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles."*

This little band of women came prepared with spices and ointments to anoint the body of Jesus. They loved him even as he loved them. Never did they suspect what had happened. So they were bewildered and astonished to find the stone removed and the body of Jesus absent from the sepulchre. Their fear was increased when two men stood before them in shining garments (vs. 5-6)—

*"And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them.*

*"Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen; remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee."*

This is the way he spoke to them while he was yet in Galilee—

*"From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed, and be raised again the third day"*

(Matt. 16:21).

Verse 8, the beginning of a great awakening—

"AND THEY REMEMBERED HIS WORDS."

So these few women returned to inform the apostles. Hearing these words, Peter and John had to see for themselves and hastened to the sepulchre. John 20:4—

*"So they ran both together; and the other disciple did outrun Peter and came first to the sepulchre."*

Here we catch a glimpse of the difference in these two men. John is apparently younger and more agile.

At this point, Luke tells us (v. 13) that two of them walk to Emmaus (about 7 or 8 miles from Jerusalem). And now Jesus joins them, although their eyes were held that they should not know him. Just imagine the delightful feeling of Jesus, breaking in upon their conversation and knowing they were talking of him, and prepared to make himself known at the right moment.

So he asks them, "Why are ye so sad?" To this they inquire if he is a stranger. He was by no means a stranger, yet they were not aware of this. Thus, they relate to him the things which had taken place.

*"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:*

*"Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?"*

*"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (vs. 25-27).*

Sometimes certain quotations seem a trifle confusing and need searching out in order to understand them correctly, for we know God is not the author of confusion. It may appear in v. 25 that Jesus is chiding them for believing all that the prophets have spoken. Such is not the case. He is chiding them for being slow of heart to believe, not very quick to grasp, understand or accept what was written. A similar case is Prov. 4:14-15—

*"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, PASS NOT BY IT, turn from it, and pass away."*

"Pass not by it" in some cases would imply to stay with it or hold fast to it. Yet in this case the direct opposite is meant. Many times will require a verse or two before and after to be read in order to get the proper meaning. The words preceding and following this phrase make it self-explanatory: "Avoid it, turn from it, from all that is evil, pass nowhere near it."

*"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (v. 27).*

Now what did Moses write concerning the Messiah? Deut. 18:15—

*"The Lord Thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him shall ye hearken."*

Israel refused to hearken unto Moses, neither would they listen to the Greater Prophet. But they SHALL do so in the very near future!

During such a pleasant journey and conversation they almost reach their destination, whereupon Jesus begs to take leave of them (v. 28). But they would not hear of it, and as it is reaching toward evening, he consented unto them. A meal is prepared and all sit down together. So comes the joyous occasion and most pleasant surprise of all (vs. 31-32)—

*"And their eyes were opened, and they knew him. And he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another,*

*"Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?"*

Note the words, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us." Yes, they knew he talked in a different strain from that of ordinary man: "never man spake like this man." Still they were held from recognizing him. How pleasant it is to converse with those of a spiritual mind who talk of nothing but the Truth!

From thence, returning to Jerusalem, they were again terrified to see him standing in their midst, supposing him to be an apparition, a phantom or ghost of some sort. However, Jesus immediately proves to them otherwise (vs. 38-39)—

*"And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?"*

*"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have."*

This at once destroys the theory that the redeemed are bodiless phantoms, or "spirits" in the popular sense—

*"There is a natural BODY, & there is a spiritual BODY" (1 Cor.15:44).*

*"Jesus shall change our vile BODY that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious BODY" (Phil. 3:21).*

Yet this is not enough. Jesus impresses the point further—

*"Have ye here any meat?" (v. 41).*

And he proceeds to partake of food before them manifesting that a spiritual body may eat (though not, of course, requiring food).

Then (v. 44) he explains to them that all things must be fulfilled concerning him that were written in the Law of Moses, which was a type and shadow of better things to come, a pattern of the heavenly things.

*". . . and in the Prophets . . ."*

It would take considerable time and many pages to make reference to all the Prophets. Isaiah alone is full of prophecies relating to Christ, and devotes all his 53rd chapter to his great offering for sin. We do well to read it over and over again, thanking God with burning hearts for the great love and wisdom so manifested on our behalf "while we were yet sinners."

And so all the prophets. Jeremiah says (23:5)—

*"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice IN THE EARTH."*

What outstanding words: "judgment" and "justice"! Something that sadly cannot be found in the earth today, with all its wars and oppressions and corruptions. But soon it will be different, when, in the glorious words of another prophet (Mal. 4:2)—

*"Unto you that fear (reverence) My Name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings"*  
(Mal. 4:2).

Surely there will be a great and sorely needed "healing," both to the saints of God and to the troubled world around us!

*". . . and in the Psalms, concerning me."*

The Psalms are full of Christ, both in suffering and in glory, and they are repeatedly so quoted in the New Testament, by Jesus himself and the apostles whom he is here instructing, as Psa. 45:7.

*"Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness. Therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."*

Then (v. 45), in preparation for their great work—

*"He opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures . . ."*

Let us fervently pray and study that he may likewise open ours!—

*"And he said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:*

*"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his Name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

*"AND YE ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS."*

Many lay claim to the title of "Witnesses," yet they are not, for they do not proclaim the Truth of the Gospel. It is quite obvious from these verses who his true witnesses are.

From this time forward Jesus instructs them (v. 49) to—

*"Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high."*

Now sadness would be their lot as he was parted from them (v. 51):

*"And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven."*

Nevertheless, they were not left comfortless, they were assured of his return. Our attention is directed to Acts 1:9-11—

*"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

*"And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;*

*"Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."*

The same Jesus shall return in the same manner as he ascended. This is the day we have waited for, we shall be glad and rejoice in it—

*"This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."*

We too, brethren and sisters, hold this Hope firmly within us, and now every sign is that it is very near—the soon return of our great Redeemer to deliver us from the ungodliness and corruption that is fast increasing on all sides. Finally (vs. 52-53)—

*"And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And were continually in the Temple, praising and blessing God. Amen."*

Paul says—

*"Know ye not that ye are the Temple of God?"*

If such be the case, then we too—like the prophets, the apostles, and all the faithful of old—must continually be in that Temple, our every thought, word and act "praising and blessing God," even unto the end. Amen. —F.P.

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## **Written for Our Instruction**

*"His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His Law doth he meditate DAY AND NIGHT"—Psalm 1:2*

### **THE BENEFIT OF DAILY BIBLE READING**

WAITING for the appearance of Jesus in this evil age is a severe trial of our faith, when all we have to guide us is the written Word, and the power of prayer. It was Jesus who said—

*"When the Son of man cometh, shall he find the Faith on the earth?"*

Therefore, we must accept this challenge. We know what the Faith is. We know what the commandments are. And we know what it means to walk in the Truth. May we then give absorbed attention to this divine purpose that has brought us together, that our love for God and our love for each other may be strengthened. If we do, it will help us greatly towards being rooted and grounded in the Faith, and will bring us closer together in fellowship with each other, and with God and His beloved Son. We believe, as bro. Roberts said—

*"SALVATION DEPENDS UPON THE ASSIMILATION OF THE MIND TO THE DIVINE IDEAS, PRINCIPLES AND AFFECTIONS EXHIBITED IN THE SCRIPTURES."*

And that is the key to, and vital importance of, this subject: "Daily Bible Reading." But why should we read the Bible daily? In what way will we benefit by it? If we have read the Bible through several times, why should we keep on doing so? Can we not depend upon our memory to retain sufficient information, and not have to spend so much time reading the same things over and over again?

We think these are serious questions, in the light of the many warnings that are given in the Scriptures, and the earnestness and force with which they are stated. Therefore, let us examine the matter, in order to satisfy ourselves that the reasons submitted are sound, and that we will truly benefit, in more ways than one, by systematic daily reading of the Bible. That, in fact, such a course IS vital to our salvation.

In the first place, we ask another question: What is the Bible? To this question we receive a prompt and authoritative answer, because the Bible PROVES itself to be a revelation of God. It reveals the character of God: infinitely good and beautiful and holy and wise. It reveals what He has done in the past, and the reason for it. It

informs us concerning what He plans to do in the future. In fact, if we pay strict attention to its message, there is only one conclusion that we can come to, and that is: "The Bible is the Word of God."

In the New Testament, we feel sure that we will all agree that Paul is the greatest authority next to Christ. With this fact believed, we open his 2nd letter to Timothy, and read vs. 15 & 16 of ch. 3—

*"From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee WISE UNTO SALVATION thru faith in Christ Jesus.*

*"All Scripture is God-inspired, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

For what purpose? Verse 17 tells us—

*"That the man of God may be perfect (complete, whole, entire)."*

Are WE "perfect" or complete? We know we are not—yet. But this is that to which we constantly strive. This is the whole purpose of our present probation. Nothing else matters. And it is the Word of God that must accomplish this in us.

One of the strong cords that holds us together as a Body, and forms the basis of our Hope, is our unshakable belief in the divine inspiration of the Bible. Although we are willing to accept Paul's declaration that "the Bible is wholly God-inspired," nevertheless we must individually satisfy ourselves that his statement is true. This cannot be done by merely acknowledging the Bible to be the Word of God. There must be a vigorous determination to know WHY we believe it so.

The only way this can be determined with unwavering conviction is to READ THE SCRIPTURES, and KEEP ON reading the Scriptures, keeping them ever fresh and powerful in our minds. Our minds are fleshly, and the Scriptures are spiritual. For mental transformation, the one must be forcefully and constantly subjected to the influence of the other.

One of the foremost reasons why we should constantly read the Word is given in Ps. 138:2, where the psalmist declares—

*"Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy Name."*

The magnification of God's Word could not be better illustrated than it has been in John 1:14—

*"The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth."*

This helps to better understand Paul's statement to Timothy that—

*"God was manifested in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16).*

And further, it helps us greatly to understand the relationship between the Father and the Son, and the SUPREME IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD.

Now, if Jesus were to come into your home, how would you feel? Just stop and think of that question... remembering that Jesus is the Word made flesh, and a direct manifestation of the Father. Therefore, to have God's Word in our home is to have God there, and His beloved Son Jesus.

Now that we have them there, where are we going to place them? Are we going to leave them on the bookshelf, or are we going to place them in our hearts? Do not forget that where you place your Bible, you place Jesus and the Father. Therefore, if we neglect the Bible, we neglect them. That is an impressive thought, is it not?

The place God demands of us is to be foremost and always in our hearts and minds. Jesus brings that forcibly to us when he quotes from the Law, saying—

*"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart, and ALL thy strength, and ALL thy mind"*

(Mark 12:30).

It is only fit and reasonable that God should demand the first and highest place in all our affairs for, as Paul said in Athens—

*"In Him we live, and move, and have our being."*

When Samuel was a child—

*"The Word of God was precious in those days: There was no open vision" (1 Sam. 3:1).*

Should it not be just as precious now, in this dark Gentile day, when there is no "open vision"? One of our brethren has said—

*"When we are thinking of God, we are drawing closer to Him, but when we're thinking of our own affairs we're getting farther away."*

That well expresses the thought emphasized in James 4:8—

*"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you."*

Having, then, become convinced that the Scriptures are the Word of God, and wholly inspired by Him, we will want to know HOW they are "able to make us wise unto salvation." We introduce this part of our consideration with another statement by Paul, in Rom. 15:4—

*"Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our instruction, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."*

It is evident, then that the Scriptures that were written for our instruction are the Scriptures that will make us wise unto salvation. And Paul says "whatsoever"—that is, everything so written was for our instruction. For wholesome, balanced development of the spiritual mind, that the "man of God may be complete," it is evident that no portion of Scripture can be ignored, as some do according to their own preference or fancy.

Now one thing is certain: if we leave our Bibles on the book-shelf, we will not learn anything that has been written for us—for our guidance, for our comfort, and for our welfare. Therefore, we must READ, in order to learn. If we have a genuine desire to—

*"Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour."*

—we must first realize that we are mortal creatures subject to sin, disease and death. We must know what we are: what is our hopeless, joyless natural condition and destiny. We must face this maturely, not ignore it like the giddy, thoughtless world around us.

And as a strong incentive to read for instruction and direction, we must have a good understanding and awareness of the salvation that God has offered through the Gospel. These must be real, living things to us, absorbing our hearts and desires. When we reach that stage of intelligence and maturity, we should be so grateful that an intense thirst for the joyful wisdom of God will develop within us, such as David, the "man after God's Own heart," expressed—

*"My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth, for the courts of the Lord, My heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God" (Psa. 84:2).*

This WILL come, yea, MUST come, if we will apply ourselves to the Word as diligently and faithfully as the world applies itself to its desires and ambitions. What vast efforts the flesh puts forth for such miserable little perishing goals! Are they "wiser in their generation" than we?

The voice of wisdom speaks in the book of Proverbs (another precious portion "for our instruction"), and tells us about an orderly and systematic way that we must follow if we are to find the knowledge of God—

*"IF thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding . .*

*"Yea, IF thou CRIEST after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding . .*

*"IF thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures..*

*"THEN shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God" (Prov. 2:2-5).*

The effect of this agonizing effort is shown in vs. 10-11—

*"When wisdom entereth into thine heart and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul, discretion shall preserve thee and understanding shall keep thee."*

In ch. 3, we are carried a step further, and shown "the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God" (13-15)—

*"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.*

*"She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her" (Prov. 3:13-15).*

O, that this could be stamped upon our minds with a fire that would never grow cold, and cause our hearts to swell with grateful emotion as we contemplate the infinite goodness of God!

If we must search for wisdom "as for hid treasure," does it not signify that the wisdom of God is hidden in the Scriptures, and is only obtainable by those who study the Word ploddingly and prayerfully? For Paul said—

*"He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of them that DILIGENTLY SEEK Him" (Heb. 11:6).*

—not only "seek" but "DILIGENTLY seek"—indicating a determined and dedicated and full-hearted search, above all else in life. The same thought comes to us in Psa. 111 :2-4—

*"The works of the Lord are great, SOUGHT OUT of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and His righteousness endureth forever.*

*"He hath made His wonderful works to BE REMEMBERED. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion" (vs. 2-4).*

It is intensely interesting and instructive to note the meaning of the word "sought" in v. 2. The prime meaning is—

*"To tread or frequent, usually for pursuit or search; to diligently inquire; to search and seek out."*

For any hope of eternal life, we MUST realize that the Truth of God cannot be a part-time hobby, but must involve the complete dedication of every fibre of our being and every aspect of our activities. It is a far greater, more absorbing thing than many realize. And this is a great tragedy.

The reason for the diligent searching of v. 2 is stated in v. 4—

*"He hath made His wonderful works to be REMEMBERED."*

Remembrance of God is not an occasional and periodic recalling to mind: rather it is a constant and continuous awareness of Him in all we do: a doing of everything as unto Him, in pure and joyful sacrifice of thanksgiving. We have God's Own words given by Isaiah:

*"To this man will I look, even to him that is poor (humble and meek), & of a contrite spirit, & trembleth at My Word" (Isa. 66:2).*

Could any instruction be plainer? Is that not sufficient to show us that our Bible reading should be done daily? And not only so, but it shows us that it must be done in a spirit of self-searching reverence and "trembling." Do we tremble at the Word of God, constantly searching it for guidance, fearful of any displeasing of the One we love, anxious to avoid the slightest semblance of any infraction of the divine will?

Let us face these questions. We are wasting our time, deceiving ourselves, and mocking God, if we do not face them and bring ourselves into line with them, whatever the flesh wants us to do.

You will recall that when the children of Israel gathered manna (the heavenly bread), they did it SYSTEMATICALLY—a certain amount each day. This was enforced by God. Infractions were punished. It was not to be left over to the next day. The prescribed quantity gathered was to be eaten the same day.

Is that not marvellously typical of our system of Bible reading as regulated by the Bible Companion? If we follow it faithfully, we will become familiarly and lovingly acquainted with every part of God's precious Word, and will therefore be guided by—

*"The WHOLE COUNSEL of God."*

It has been said by some that they are so "busy" they do not have the time to read every day. To such, we suggest they sit down for a few minutes and make a list of the things they do each day, and the time involved—the things they DO have "time" for. Such a form of self-examination will be a great surprise, because they will discover (if they are honest) that they spend time on things that could much better and more profitably be devoted to the Word of God. Let us decide what we are here for, what our ultimate goal and ambition is, and what we are doing to reach that goal.

If these "busy" ones would read the Word daily, there would come a day when they would read the first chapter of Proverbs, where Wisdom speaks in vs. 24-28. This is a call to those who have been "too busy," who have neglected the loving counsels that were written for our eternal wellbeing—

*"Because I have called, and ye refused: I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded, but ye have set at nought all my counsel and would none of my reproof . . .*

*"I also will laugh at your calamity: I will mock when your fear cometh. When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish come upon you:*

*"Then shall they call me, but I will not answer: they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me."*

What a sad and unnecessary tragedy! And how graphically Jesus depicted this in the parable of the 10 virgins. According to Jesus, there are but 2 classes of saints: the wise and the foolish. He speaks of "oil in their lamps." What is that but the Scripture of Truth, for—

*"The entrance of Thy words giveth light" (Psa. 119:130).*

All of the virgins had oil in their lamps at one time. But when the bridegroom came, the foolish found their supply was low so they said to the wise—

*"Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out!"*

They were going out because they had failed to replenish them. They had presumed that what they had once had was enough. They had felt no urgency, no desire, to get more. What a picture to contemplate! The Master in the earth again—and some of us unable to greet him, because our lamps are going out!

The foolish will then turn to the wise, and look upon their lamps as they burn brightly before the Lord, and will cry out in despair. But it will be too late. As they turn to their flickering lamps, they will watch them sorrowfully as the light grows dimmer, and finally goes out—forever.

My beloved brethren and sisters, IF we love the Lord as we PROFESS to, we will love His Word. And if we love His Word, we will read it eagerly and joyfully and constantly, and meditate upon it, watching daily at the gates of Wisdom—

*"For whoso findeth wisdom findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord" (Prov. 8:35).*

'When shall I read,' is a question that has been asked many times; but it is one that must be answered individually by each one of us, because our circumstances differ.

Whatever we do, let us not sit down to read the Bible late in the day when we are tired and sleepy. It is much better to arrange our daily course of action so that we can give our best time and attention to God's Word with a clear mind, and meditate profitably upon what we read.

We must always read in a self-searching spirit: How do I stand in the light of these instructions, examples, promises, and warnings?

Said Paul to Timothy—

*"Meditate upon these things: give thyself WHOLLY to them."*

That "wholly" is the key to success in this endeavour.

*"Open Thou mine eyes" (prayed the Psalmist), "that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy Law."*

It is God that opens the eyes of our understanding, and reveals Himself to those who seek Him with all the heart. There is a rich blessing in store for those whose delight is in the Law of God after the inward man, for we read in Psa. 1—

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*"But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and in His Law doth he meditate DAY AND NIGHT.*

*"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season. His leaf also shall not fade, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psa. 1:1-3).*

Some have asked WHY we have to read so much. A good answer comes from Paul, and we do well to realize its searching truth—

*"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth NO GOOD THING."*

Ponder that well. Accept it frankly and unreservedly, and you are on the way to life. Paul declares further (Rom. 8:7-8)—

*"The carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the Law of God, NEITHER INDEED CAN BE.*

*"So then they that are in the flesh CANNOT please God."*

This indicates that we are in mortal peril if we rely, like the world, on the natural mind, on our own natural thoughts and desires. This is seriously emphasized in Jer. 10:23—

*"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."*

Brethren and sisters, THAT is why it is essential that we read and meditate upon God's Word DAILY. We MUST overcome the mind of the flesh—our own natural mind—by the efforts of the mind of the Spirit. It is an internal warfare that must be waged daily, and THIS is our greatest and most urgent concern. It is written that—

*"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE."*

Therefore it is the purifying, cleansing, transforming influence of the Word of God that dispels the darkness of the natural evil mind. Said Paul (Col. 3:16)—

*"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you RICHLY."*

But it cannot dwell in the mind of the flesh. Therefore we have to overcome that mind by the sword of the Spirit, "which is the Word of God" (Eph. 6:17).

If, then, we do our daily Bible readings faithfully, and meditate on them, we will soon discover that the application of the mind to the divine ideas, principles and affections that we will find richly stored in the Scriptures, will give us the necessary strength to overcome the Old Man of the flesh. If we PERSIST in it, the principles and affections, the desires and interests, of the natural mind of the flesh become weakened, as we fill our minds with those—

*"Things that are pure, and lovely, and of good report."*

As a result of this, we will be able to "set our affections on things above," so that our speech and conduct will always be gracious, and seasoned with salt. There is no secret about the salting process, says bro. Roberts—

*"Those who are salt are so for one reason only. And that which makes them salt will make others salt also."*

They are salt because they are steeped in salt. The continual reading of the Word saturates their minds with the Spirit Word, and changes the insipid, purposeless, Old Man of the flesh into a New Man, full of interest, and beauty, and noble, godly qualities.

An attentive reading of the Bible keeps in play a class of mental forces which enables us to overcome, and to live as—

*"Good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*

Therefore, says Paul in Heb. 2:1—

*"We ought to give the MORE EARNEST HEED to the things which we have learned lest at any time we let them slip (RV: lest we drift away)."*

If we forget, or neglect, what we have learned, we shall (imperceptibly to ourselves) "drift away," and when the Lord Jesus appears, we shall suddenly find that our lamps have gone out. Then, it will be too late. NOW is the day of opportunity, to lay strong hold on the promise of an eternity of joyful life. It is written that—

*"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Deut. 8:3).*

We MAY live—like the animals and like natural man—by "bread alone." But it requires the daily eating of the "Bread of Life" and drinking from the "Fountain of the Water of Life" to enable us to store up in the heart an abundance of good treasure that has been extracted from the Word of God.

The wisdom of faithful and prayerful daily Bible reading cannot be too highly rated. It is the difference between death and life, for by it we will be able to keep in remembrance the things that were written for our instruction, and so render a good account, having, like our Master, "overcome the world."

To sum up then: The Scriptures, being wholly God-inspired, come before us as a revelation from the Deity. If He had not given us such a revelation, we would know nothing of His great power, and what He requires of us. By reading the Bible daily, and meditating upon the things we read, our minds are kept occupied wholesomely and constructively; they do not sink to the corruption and insipidness of the natural man.

As our knowledge and understanding increase, we find ourselves revelling in the past work of God in the earth. Then we come to observe and understand the present, and joyfully anticipate the future. The things of the Kingdom and the Name of Jesus are kept constantly before the daily reader: therefore his mind is healthy and vigorous.

We soon discover that the purpose of God began to unfold with the covenant made in Eden, where a Seed of the Woman is promised that ultimately would overcome the power of sin, and finally conquer death. This great purpose comes to light again in the promises made to Abraham, who is informed that his Seed should overcome the world, and bring blessing to all families of the earth.

Again, the golden thread of the Gospel appears as God informs Moses of a Prophet and Deliverer who would appear in Israel. At Sinai, the people had just been formed into a nation, and given a code of laws that have never been equalled in all the earth. Incorporated in this law was an elaborate system of worship which included a tabernacle, priesthood, sacrifices and offerings.

All these typified and foreshadowed that which should be revealed in substance. The New Testament shows, beyond all doubt, that the substance is Christ; that his life was a wonderful fulfilment of the types of the Law in every detail; and that these types reveal doctrinal truth and lessons which form the foundation of true religion.

As we look back upon the Mosaic constitution, we realize that these things are not apparent on the surface: they have to be searched for as for hid treasure. That is the lofty purpose of daily Bible reading: to search for the hidden treasures of the mind of God. By it, we come to understand God's plan of redemption, as our minds become attuned to divine things. The wisdom that comes from above takes away the veil of darkness and superstition that covers the faces of men and women.

As the wisdom of God is daily impressed upon our minds, we get understanding. And as we look beneath the surface, we discover the "unsearchable riches of Christ." A faithful student of God's Word, who reads it daily, systematically and prayerfully, will come to know more about the Bible than any other book in the world, and will be able to say with David (Psa. 119)—

*"Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST THEE. I will meditate in Thy precepts, & have respect to Thy ways.*

*"At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments.*

*"Through Thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Great peace have they who love Thy Law, and nothing shall offend them" (Psa. 119).*

What a great salvation is revealed in the Bible! In our joy we cry out With Paul (Rom. 11:33)—

*"O, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His ways past finding out!"*

Yes, our Bible is a book of Wisdom—the divine Wisdom that gives life and joy for evermore. Therefore, says Solomon—

*"Get Wisdom! Get Understanding! Forget it not.. Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get Wisdom, and with all thy getting get Understanding" (Prov. 4:5-7).*

Paul's solemn instruction to Timothy was (1 Tim. 4:13)—

*"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."*

It is important we look at this word "attendance." The word means:

*"To hold the mind, to pay attention to, to be cautious about, to beware, to give heed, to have regard."*

We must discipline our minds; we must "gird up the loins of our minds", we must "bring every thought into captivity to Christ; we must school our minds constantly in divine things. That is the essence of our message. The Lord Jesus sums it up in this manner—

*"Whoso readeth, LET HIM UNDERSTAND."*

If we are to understand the teaching of Jesus, we must adjust our way of thinking to his: perfect purity, perfect justice, perfect mercy, perfect kindness. We make a fatal mistake if we try to force his message into our own pattern of thought.

—G.A.G.

## Current Events Fulfilling Prophecy

*"The people of the earth grope in the dark without light, and God maketh them to stagger like a drunken man"*  
—Job 12:25

**CAMBODIA'S CAPITAL UNDER SIEGE.** Night after night, 100s of B-52s & fighter-bombers from Guam & Thailand drop their enormous loads; 3000 tons every 24 hrs. The intensive bombing campaign is measure of US concern for survival of pro-US Cambodia Govt. If Cambodia falls to Reds, they can bring in military supplies by sea, greatly reducing reliance on Ho Chi Minn Trail, & building immense military pressure on S. Vietnam. (Tm 4:16)

*NOTE: Cambodia's situation seems hopeless, especially with the handcuffs Congress has now put on Nixon to stop the bombing.*

**RED NAVY: AIMING TO BE No. 1.** Already potent in subs, Russia beginning to build aircraft carriers: giant stride in Russian sea challenge. US defence experts convinced Russia has master plan to control world's major sea lanes. Red Navy now positioned to isolate US from trading partners & allies in both Pacific & Atlantic: establishing powerful presence along vital oil routes to Japan & Europe in Indian Ocean & Mediterranean.

At start of WWII, Germany had only 57 subs: Russia has 380 modern subs, & 193 missile-firing surface ships. Russia has 42 nuclear-powered subs, each with 16 missiles that can be fired from under the sea; building 9 to 12 more per year. (US has 41).

Russia is launching one new missile cruiser each year: began constructing present fleet 12 yrs. ago, after Suez crisis & Cuban missile crisis.

They have 160 subs & 40 surface ships stationed in Barents Sea, from which they can sweep through Norwegian Sea & into Atlantic east & west of Iceland to sever the Atlantic sea routes. (USN 3:12)

*NOTE: Who rules the seas controls the activities of the world. In 12 brief yrs., Russia has risen to a close 2<sup>nd</sup> place, & is straining every muscle to become supreme. Only a faltering, divided, insolvent US stands in her way.*

**MONETARY PANIC.** Less than 3 wks. after it was put together, the patchwork agreement to realign major currencies came unglued. Once again, massive run on US \$ as billions were exchanged for European currencies. The new crisis hit Europe with lightning speed. In one frantic day, 3½ billion \$s were exchanged for European currencies stronger than \$. (Nwk 3:12)

*NOTE: God is showing man his hopeless condition, & the need for a powerful worldwide reign of righteousness & wisdom. The wise will get the message.*

**WORLD TRADE WAR?** Out of troubles buffeting \$ is emerging a menace the free world has been dreading for years: all-out trade war. Deteriorating US trade picture: turn for worse everywhere. US threatening to raise barriers against foreign goods.

In Europe & Japan, fears growing that such action by US would provoke retaliation & counter-retaliation—setting off crescendo of hostility, & shattering many commercial ties. There are no winners in a trade war.

Political & economic alliances that have held non-Communist powers together since WW II are at stake. In French view, US & Europe are on a collision course toward a trade war. (USN 3:5)

*With wisdom & self-restraint, US today could still have been the sound financial rock on which a stable monetary world could be built, & Russia would not have a chance. But it is not God's will that the world build on US, but on Russia. So God causes US to weaken & discredit itself, & alienate its allies.*

**MILESTONES IN \$'s DECLINE.** In '50s: US shifts from surplus to deficit in financial dealings with world: first warning crack.

In '63: Gold reserves shrinking, international debts soaring.

In '70: US running deficit of \$10 billion a yr. in world finance dealings.

Spring, '71: First US world trade deficit since 1888. \$10 billion.

Summer, '71: Run on \$; US won't redeem \$s in gold; gold reserve below

Winter, '71: US devalues \$ 8 pct.

In Feb., '73: After another massive US trade deficit in '72, another massive run on \$; another 10 pct. devaluation of \$. (USN 3:5)

*NOTE: 20 yrs. of warning & danger signals, but US & its pleasure-mad people preferred the siren-song of the "good life"—wallowing in debt & childish baubles.*

**LATEST TEEN DRUG: ALCOHOL.** In recent yrs., increasing numbers of teen-agers have been experimenting with dangerous drugs: LSD, Speed, barbiturates, heroin. Perhaps most frightening aspect: age of experimenters steadily drops: heroin addiction cases in elementary schools.

Latest fad in juvenile drug abuse has familiar ring: alcohol. Now spreading to lower grades: in Boston, 36 pet. of 8th grade have been drunk, 14 pet. of 6th grade. Older students are pushing booze for younger kids. One reason for the proliferation of young drinkers is widespread tolerance by parents, themselves drinkers.

Alcohol is a drug with high potential of addiction. One teen ager of every 20 in S. Calif. has a drinking problem. National Alcohol Council reports that in '72, age of youngest alcoholics dropped from 14 to 12. For those who add alcohol to an existing drug habit, result can be tragic.

But despite risks, teen-agers taking to bottle in growing numbers. And because teen-age use is patterned after adult use, there's no way kids will stop drinking till adults do. (Nwk 3:5)

*NOTE: It is utter hypocrisy to pretend to be concerned about children & drugs while there are 2 or 3 or more saloons on every business block, & the whole nation worships Lord Alcohol as the great socializer.*

**SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT MAN.** There's impending sense of change in world of ideas. The reigning wisdom that informed or impelled the past few decades is under attack. Man's confidence in his power to control his world is at low ebb. Technology seen as a dangerous ally; progress is suspect. Optimism had bred false enthusiasm that this method or that system was somehow the answer. Now growing scepticism questions any system can ever surmount recalcitrance & perversity of man. (Tm 4:2)

*NOTE: One year's "wisdom" is next year's folly. Man must be brought to realize his own ignorance and helplessness and the folly of his natural thoughts, that he may in humility accept the unchanging wisdom of God.*

**ARMY COUP IN URUGUAY.** Until last wk., Uruguay—alone in Latin America—could boast that not in this century had a democratically elected govt. been taken over by military: Now it has happened there too.

Few Uruguayans would disagree with Army that enemies were the "profiteers, usurers, speculators & govt. swindlers." Once most prosperous nation in Latin America, with most advanced social system, it has been slowly sinking into economic & political quagmire.

Cost of living up 4000 pet. in 15 yrs. Over 1/5 of the million-man work force is employed by govt.; 400,000 more live on govt. pensions. (Tm 2:26)

*NOTE: It's same story everywhere. "Democracy" is failing, corruption & confusion multiplying. The Army sees the evil &, having, power, seizes control. But, being human, it cannot solve the problems, but is itself corrupt.*

**US-CHINA FORGE CLOSER TIES.** Each govt. will open office in other's capital—first step toward full diplomatic recognition. Contacts in all fields to be broadened; a concrete program to expand trade has been agreed on; and mutual exchanges in science & culture fields. Negotiations to start for air transportation links. Trade levels already higher than expected.

To negotiate settlement of money claims against each other. Americans & Chinese in growing numbers criss-crossing Pacific on business. It was China's fear of Russia that gave US leverage in China. And China accord increases US's leverage with Russia. (USN 3:5)

*NOTE: For 25 yrs., US did everything in its power to block & hinder & isolate China. Now it's suddenly falling over itself to build it up. The secret, of course, is their mutual fear of Russia. But how changeable is man!*

**WHITE-COLLAR CRIME.** On rise: fraud, bribery, tax evasion, shady business dealings. Losses in billions: costing US many times more than loot taken by all robbers, burglars & muggers. Illegal business growing rapidly.

A little man steals a bottle of milk from a doorstep & goes to jail in a hurry; a business tycoon steals millions & probably won't ever see inside a jail.

Arrests for fraud & embezzlement up 86 pet. from '60 to 71.

A Georgian bank president was convicted a few wks. ago of stealing \$4½ million; he got 10 yrs. jail. Same day in same court, 3 youths convicted of stealing \$14,000 from a bank got 16 yrs. jail each. (USN 3:12)

*NOTE: We each know from our own experience that the general moral & integrity standards of most people—"nice" people—are very low when measured by true righteousness. Where is the workman or businessman who is morally concerned about always giving good & full measure in labour & goods? Rather all seek all they can get by any means, for as little as possible in return.*

**CHILDREN WITH GUNS.** All over US, more & more children carrying guns. So far this yr., 15 handguns have been confiscated in Detroit schools; 3 children wounded in gunplay. (USN 2:26)

**ASIA'S TROUBLE:** Too many babies, too little food. Prospects grim. Spectre of famine hangs over Asia. Deepening food shortages. Population bomb ticking away faster than ever. Bureaucracy, corruption & inefficiency as much responsible as bad weather for present food shortages. In India, no incentive to produce more because consumers haven't money to buy.

Asian food production declined in '72; population increased over 5 pct. between '70 & '72, no sign of slowing. Asia's population will nearly double to 3.8 billion by yr. 2000. (USN 3:5)

*NOTE: Truly with self-restraint in breeding, & wise, efficient management of world resources, & fair, Christlike distribution according to need & reason, the world could be a joyful & harmonious paradise for all. But this is not to be until Christ rules the world in righteousness & wisdom & infinite power.*

**ARAB WORLD: OIL, POWER, VIOLENCE.** World oil consumption rising 8 pct. a yr.; US consumption (40 pct. of total) rising 9 pct. a year. Mideast (all are Arab states except Iran) control 60 pct. of world's known reserves, & are bargaining with increasing skill. Their yrly. oil income was \$4½ billion 5 yrs. ago; now over \$10 billion; by '80 probably \$40 billion a year.

If that holds true, Arab income will then exceed combined earnings of US's 500 largest corporations. Richest of all, Saudi Arabia, will then have greater monetary reserves than US & Japan combined.

In many respect, age of Arab oil wealth & power already here. Arab oil money was major element in monetary crisis that led to 2nd \$ devaluation last month. Suddenly the Arabs, 100 million strong—backward, neglected, abused for centuries—have begun to realize the weapon they hold.

The recent thrust toward Arab control of Mideast oil began in '70; man who started it was Libya's Gaddafi. Because world's appetite for oil is insatiable, he was able to force oil companies to increase Libya's royalties by 120 pct. in 2 yrs., & 10 pct. more each yr. till '75. He has \$3 billion reserves.

Most belligerent of Arab leaders, he's spending \$200 million on French Mirage fighter-bombers, which inevitably stand as a threat to Israel, the Arab world's frustrating obsession. Gaddafi also spends millions to buy allegiance of African countries.

The 11 major oil producing countries have increased prices 72 pct. since '70. Money's not only issue, however; it's control. By '83, Saudi Arabia will control 51 pct. of Aramco, world's biggest producer. Similar deals have been made by other Mideast producers. Last wk., Iran took over operations of US, British, French & Dutch oil companies.

By '80s, US will be relying on Mideast for 50 pct. of its oil. Most important new element in Arab world—for Arabs themselves, for Israel, & for world—is the revolution being wrought by oil. Arab policy is to see that good share of oil revenue is channelled into struggle against Israel—to punish Israel's friends & to benefit Arabs' friends. (Tm 4:2)

*NOTE: Oil is slowly tightening the vice on the US, and drawing all eyes to the Mideast. How wonderfully, & interestingly, the picture is shaping: oil power, money power, & hatred of the Jew.*

**SADAT'S UNCERTAIN TRUMPET.** In '71, he declared "yr. of decision" at hand. He marked '72 as yr. for "inevitable" battle. Last wk., Sadat rattling his sabres again, & proclaimed "era of total confrontation" with Israel.

He is in serious trouble at home & abroad, & may be desperate enough to go to war against Israel. In event of war, he might encourage Palestine guerrillas to blow up Persian Gulf oil lines, shutting off flow of oil to Europe & Japan. He has apparently been laying such plans for past 16 months.

Israel has made it clear its air force will not hesitate to devastate the Egyptians if they start even limited war: they'd have little trouble doing it.

Sadat is under increasing pressure from Libya's Gaddafi, whose oil money helps keep Egypt afloat. He's also being urged by Army officers, Palestine commandos, & a wide range of domestic hawks to "do something" to recover territories from Israel. A desperate, frustrated Sadat could succumb to those pressures & give order to attack. (Nwk 4:9)

*NOTE: A new & ominous element has been added: the threat of oil cut off. The Arab producers are now sufficiently strong & united to make this possible. Something must happen to put Egypt on Tarshish's side. Another round of war could destroy Sadat, & bring a new man to the top in Egypt.*

**BRITAIN'S DECLINE.** In '58, Britain led Europe in per capita GNP (gross national product). In '70, it lagged behind Holland, Belgium, France, Germany & Denmark, & exceeded only Ireland & Italy. (Tm 3:12)

*NOTE: Britain once led the world in industry & wealth & power, & ruled the seas with an iron rod. Then she betrayed the Jews. Her abysmal decline soon followed.*

**SCIENCE FALSELY SO-CALLED.** Prof. Rosenhan of Stanford U., & 7 associates, had themselves committed to mental institutions to find out how well psychiatrists can distinguish normal from sick. They spend average of 19 days in dozen institutions, public & private, in 5 states.

Beyond falsifying names & occupations, they all described their life histories as they actually were. In so doing, they gave the doctors every chance to discern the truth. "I couldn't believe we wouldn't be found out," Rosenhan said. But they weren't. At 11 hospitals they were promptly diagnosed as schizophrenic, at the 12th as manic-depressive. As soon as they got admitted, they studiously resumed normal behaviour. They worked hard to convince staff members they should be released.

But such efforts were to no avail. Doctors & nurses interpreted everything they did in terms of the original diagnosis. When some of them took notes, the staff made such entries in their records as "Patient engages in writing behaviour." The only people who realized the experimenters were normal were patients. "You're not crazy," said one, "You're checking on hospital."

The hospital, Rosenhan concluded, distorts the perception of behaviour, place is more important than person. If you're a patient, you must be crazy.

They witnessed incidents of abuse & brutality. One patient was beaten for approaching an attendant & saying, "I like you." All this, Rosenhan points out, is part of a pervasive depersonalization & helplessness that afflicts patients in a mental hospital. They found much evidence that the staff didn't regard patients as people.

From their fellow-patients, they quickly learned, "Never tell a doctor you're well. That's called 'flight into health.' Tell him you're still sick, but feeling a lot better. That's called 'insight.'" You've got to acknowledge you're sick to be considered well enough to release.

It took them up to 52 days to get out of the hospital, even tho they had been admitted voluntarily, & law requires mandatory discharge on request in such cases. Three had to finally walk out; other 9 ultimately discharged, but with stigma of the diagnosis: "schizophrenia in remission" (Nwkl:29)

*NOTE: A sad revelation, but just what could be expected. We could pity and sympathize, were it not for the pompous pretensions of the medical "experts." What a great facade of "knowledge"! What poor little lost creatures hiding behind it! If man would only recognize his ignorance, how much he could learn from the Word of God!*

**DOLLAR'S NOSE DIVE.** For 37 yrs., till 71, \$ rode high in world; preeminent, & solid as Fort Knox. Now, twice in 14 mos. it has been struck hard, staggering blows. US trade balance gets worse & worse: \$6.4 billion deficit in 72. (USN 2:26)

*NOTE: US had almost infinite power & infinite riches 25 years ago, but there is a national, mindless compulsion to get into debt & load themselves with every new luxury & gadget that perverted ingenuity can invent to tempt lust & pride. Yet there is no happiness, no satisfaction, no peace—only more gnawing lust.*

**ARAB OIL WEALTH.** Saudi Arabia within 10 yrs. may have greater financial reserves than those backing US \$ & Jap yen combined. (USN 3:5)

**"RELIGIOUS" WAR.** In recent weeks, rioting, arson & murder have brought N. Ireland to new level of terror in its religious war. In 2 weeks, 26 have been killed, bringing total to 718.

Extremists on both sides are determined to wreck any settlement. It's quite possible they can succeed. Now the mobs are in control, & are throwing up their own new leaders—wild men. (Nwk 2:19)

*NOTE: What vile crimes are committed in the name of Christ! Surely these periodic outpourings of violent and murderous evil around the world are to expose and burst the modern conceit that man has "improved" over his benighted ancestors.*

**US ENERGY CRISIS.** US has passed from long period of dirt-cheap energy that made it world's leading industrial power, into an era in which its ability to meet its growing demands for energy come more into question each year. Each ton of coal, each barrel of oil, comes harder at greater cost.

Internationally, the crisis could force whole new order of priority in US diplomacy. US could find itself alienating its Israel allies as it tries to improve relations with Arabs who control most of world's oil reserves.

US has created the most prodigious energy machine in history. With only 6 pet. of world's population, US guzzles 33 pet. of world's energy. Projections call for far higher consumption by '85.

US oil reserves are good for only 10 years at present rate; natural gas for 11 years; uranium for 13 yrs. Given the doomsday implications of the energy plight, how could US have raced so close to disaster so blindly? But with energy so readily available & so cheap, US gave little thought to the huge amounts it was wasting. Autos, for example, shoot 87 pet. of their energy intake out of exhaust pipe.

No matter what measures US takes, it can't help but be more & more dependent on foreign sources—meaning Mideast—during next dozen years. That dependency could soar to 65 pet. by '85. Resulting trade deficit for oil alone would be a whopping \$20 billion a yr., vs. present \$4 billion. Constant worries about security of Mideast oil. Same worries apply to natural gas US plans to import, since biggest deals will be with Russia & Algeria.

Increased US dependence on Mideast oil could cause another problem. Europe & Japan also are utterly dependent on Mideast oil, so time could come when world's 3 major industrial areas will be competing, perhaps belligerently, for same energy supply. Energy crisis gaining momentum. Importance of whole situation extends far beyond US borders. (Nwk 1:22)

*NOTE: Suddenly the US sees the dead end of the mad toboggan ride looming up before it. Most of US's prodigious energy consumption is squandered on lust and luxury, but they will never have the sense and restraint to cut back, any more than drunken Imperial Rome did. US may well have passed her brief zenith of world power, while fresh young Russia grows and grows. It is ominous that US is even considering the necessity of buying billions of \$s of natural gas from its sworn and deadly enemies, just to keep its wild merry-go-round of pleasure spinning. How will US pay these mounting billions, with her trade balance already deeply in the red?*

**CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES.** Strange correlation between a soldier's rank & his chances for a disability pension (which offers a significant tax break). In '71, 48 pet. of the 4-star generals who retired did so with "disability" ratings; 33 pet. of the major generals; 11% pet. of the lieutenant colonels; 9 pet. of the sergeants major. (Nwk 1:29)

*NOTE: Half of the top men in the army retire under the fake of "disability" so as to cheat on taxes. And so on down the line, in regularly decreasing degree according to position. Clearly, the lower the rank, the harder it is to exert the pressure to get the false rating. No wonder Russia makes disciples daily among the poor!*

**AMIN SEIZES ALL FOREIGN COMPANIES.** Having expelled 26,000 Asians in past 4 months, Amin turned last week to Uganda's British community. All foreign agricultural & industrial operations would be taken over immediately, he announced. The takeover affects 26 tea plantations (20 are British), and 15 factories, (14 are British).—Tm 1:1

*NOTE: What a comedown for the once-mighty British Empire which within our lifetime ruled this area with an iron hand from London! Yet with all the changes, the basic prophetic picture gets clearer every day—a Roman-Russian-Moslem world against little Israel, with only an ever weakening Tarshish friend on her side. All the world's major false religions—Catholicism, Communism, Mohammedanism—united against the purpose of God.*

**POLITICAL HYPOCRISY.** The Watergate & ITT scandals suggest something very wrong with mood & morality of US Govt. Net impression is of a Govt. that figures end justifies means, that tries to hide its transgressions & hamper its own lesser officials charged with seeking the truth. There's an aura of disconcerting chumminess between Govt. officials & corporate executives seeking favours or suspected of violating laws.

It's strange conduct for an Administration that has so strongly denounced permissiveness & decaying morality of modern life, & has so often proclaimed its devotion to the law. (Tm 4:2)

*NOTE: Watergate, like Vietnam, may be a great turning point in US fortunes & relationship to the rest of the world. A country that presumes to lead, & that makes a great show of its rightness & righteousness, must at least preserve an outward appearance of decency at the highest levels of govt. There must inevitably be a world revulsion when the sordid facts are set beside the gilded pretensions. It's one more step in aligning the nations.*

**WHY RUSSIA IS WOOING US.** Militarily, Russia is 2nd-greatest power on earth—with nuclear missiles, huge Army, & growing Navy extending Soviet power into Indian Ocean, Caribbean & Mediterranean.

Economically, Russia remains a relatively unprosperous nation. Living standard of its 230 million at low end of industrialized countries, far beneath US & other nations.

By practically every yardstick, Kremlin up against immense domestic problems of crisis proportions. Agriculture struck by disaster: only massive imports are averting severe food shortages. Industry growth rate is lagging. Consumer goods shunted to back burner, in favour of military machine.

Worker discontent growing; labour productivity down. Dissent plagues leadership. Brezhnev trying to build his own authority by creating "cult of personality" like Lenin & Stalin.

Is Communist system under gun? No sign of this. Workers even more orthodox & hardline than leaders. Increasingly, many Russians speak of Stalin era as good old days.

How can a country still unable to produce paper clips efficiently manage to turn out the most advanced missiles, ships & tanks? Answer is: Russia's system of tight control is well suited to gearing up for what is essentially a "wartime economy." In areas such as heavy industry, transport, communications & armaments, allocation of priorities from a central place is beneficial. The military apply stringent standards: defective or shoddy goods sent into civilian economy; they're not accepted by armed forces.

On Mar. 21, US Govt. extended \$101 million credit to Russia to finance a truck plant—first US Govt. credit ever given to Russia. (USN 4:2)

*NOTE: Russia, tho increasingly powerful, is the very opposite of a paradise. If it were so, or gave any appearance of the possibility of ever becoming so, the Scriptures would not be true. Russia is a mighty military dictatorship with tremendous internal pressures & a great lust for power. This is exactly what the prophetic picture requires. And US in short-sighted greed is helping her to build her military power.*

**SPREADING MIDEAST TERROR:** piling up new trouble for US. More & more, US caught in middle of underground war between Israel & Arabs that's gaining momentum in Mideast & around world. Arab nations increasingly accuse US of complicity. Outlook is for growing US-Arab hostility. Increasing fear for safety of Americans abroad. (USN 4:23)

*NOTE: The Arabs have oil & wealth, & therefore the self-serving world sides with them, & boycotts & condemns Israel to curry Arab favours. Increasingly US is isolated as Israel's only friend. But God will continue to overshadow Israel, & tho she must still suffer terribly for her arrogance & godlessness & all hope must seem gone, still she will not be destroyed, but at last be delivered & redeemed.*

**EUROPE IN TRANSITION.** Not since turbulent transition from shooting war to cold war 25 yrs. ago has Europe found itself at centre of so many different currents of change. Old US-Europe "Atlantic community" rapidly evolving into international rivalry, Russia is striking a benign posture of detente, hoping to achieve long-standing goal of a pivotal role in W. Europe. West long since ceased to worry about liberating E. Europe nations.

NATO's chief problem: how to maintain its strength and reason for being in an age of detente. Inevitably, the quality of NATO's components has begun to waver more erratically than ever. Italian army is moderately well trained. French, in contrast, may be weakest of NATO's links. Germany's army filled with slovenly, long-haired draftees on 15-mo. hitches. US's 7th Army more conspicuous for racial battles than for prowess in manoeuvres.

Many Europe nations, moreover, are shrunken relics of what they once were. Without Congo, Belgium only a way station between Germany & France. Without Indonesia, Dutch find their "swamp" delta uncomfortably confining. Britain's entry into Common Mkt. is one indication of general European identity crisis: "We've lost an empire, so we'll run Europe."

But having lost old colonies, Europe's nation-states haven't created a new communion. Much as they talk about unity, they're reluctant to yield national sovereignty, as witness the jealousies that flared in last month's monetary crisis. Even as "new Europe" tries to stitch itself together, old one doing its best to pull Continent apart. For all talk of unity, Europeans haven't surmounted their national prejudices.

Even greater threat to unity is persistence of myriad old tribal & regional interests & loyalties. Europe's minorities making increasingly noisy claims for recognition & redress. The phenomenon spans Europe from Britain (grappling with Welsh & Scottish nationalism & bloody Ulster war), to Russia (troubled by ethnic unrest in Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania). Upset by violent upsurge of Croat nationalism, Yugoslavia's existence directly imperilled. Others have variety of unhappy minorities: Switzerland's Juras, Sweden's Lapps, Rumania's Hungarians, France's Bretons & Corsicans, Spain's Basques, and myriad ethnic groups of Italy.

Present Europe map was carved out by warring armies only in past 1½ centuries. Underlying Europe's artificial frontiers is patchwork of ancient tribal & economic enclaves. Europe is a plethora of unassimilated minorities: W. Europe alone embraces 30 different ethnic communities.

Ulster's warring Catholics & Protestants, who are still trying to write final chapter to 1690 Battle of the Boyne, aren't the only Europeans with ancient scores to settle. Belgium's Dutch-speaking Flemings & French-speaking Walloons regularly take their differences to the streets. In any given office bldg. in Brussels, it is said, the doorman speaks only Dutch, the secretaries are bilingual, & the managing director deals only in French. There's little indication that Europe's govts. ready to yield significant power. (Tm 3:12)

*NOTE: Europe is weak & divided, & increasingly coming under the shadow of the ever-growing Russian bear. What a change from Munich, when Britain & France & Germany were proud world powers determining Europe's future, & backward Russia was not even important enough to invite to the council table!*

**ISRAEL TO BAN PROSELYTING?** "Jews for Jesus" invasion of Israel has revived Orthodox campaign to expel all Christian missions. Four Cabinet ministers assigned to consider drafting law to "curb Christian Jews-for-Jesus missionaries." Chief Rabbi demanded Israel "uproot this affliction. There's nothing antidemocratic about such legislation." (Tm 3:26)

*NOTE: Israel seems to be taking a lesson in oppression from the Pope in his heyday. Caiaphas and Annas would be well-pleased with their modern counterparts. They don't want to take any chances they might learn the Truth.*

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