

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:

G. A. Gibson, 919 Dufferin St., Apt. 1505, Toronto, Ont., Canada M6H 4B3
(PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS)

“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.

CONTENTS

ECCLESIAL NEWS: Houston, Richard	Inside Front Cover
EDITORIAL: The Word Made Flesh	161
Fraternal Gatherings	166
THE WORD IS THE SANCTIFIER (Bro. Thomas)	167
Puzzle: What Is the Answer?	170
CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH (Bro. Roberts)	171
"I AM THE LORD THY GOD"	174
NOT A BONE SHALL BE BROKEN (Psalm 34)	176
May Answers	183
CURRENT WORLD EVENTS FULFILLING PROPHECY	184
Bible Questions	Back Cover

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

Ecclesial News

HOUSTON, Tx.—Christadelphian Hall, 8008 Junius St.—S.S. 10 am; Memorial 11 am; Lecture 7 pm on 3rd Sunday, study of "Our Constitution and Guide" other Suns. 7 pm; Nazareth Revisited Class Wed. 7 pm; Law of Moses Sun. am. Bro. John Packer, 210 East Third St., Deer Park, Tx. 77536. Phone (713) 479-4292.

GREETINGS from this portion of the Master's Vineyard.

The first quarter of this year has been pretty much routine in that we are constantly watching for the soon return of our Savior from heaven to redeem us from this present evil and corrupt world.

On Jan. 11 we published an article in a Houston newspaper answering a "Church of Christ" periodical that was circulated as to doctrines and teachings that we along with several other churches of the world were said to teach and believe. As a result of this ad, a 4-night series of Bible discussions has been set up with "Church of Christ" representatives for the middle of May. God willing, the Truth will be brought to light and defended as in the past.

We have also conducted door-to-door campaigns on Saturdays prior to our Sunday night lectures, but with no obvious results as yet.

Our visitors have been few, being bro. Andrew Marshall Sr., bro. Ronnie Wolfe and sis. Hattie Wolfe, all from Lampasas. We enjoyed their company.

On Mar. 21, our beloved brother W. R. (Pete) Lucas fell asleep in Christ after a long illness. He was laid to rest at Brushy Creek, Texas, to await the soon call of the Master to "Come forth." He had been in the Vineyard service since 1935. —bro. John F. Packer

RICHARD, Sask., Can. SOM 2P0—Memorial 10 am; S.S. 12 noon; Lecture last Sun. of mo.8 pm; Class Fri.8 pm. Bro. Fred G. Jones, Route 1; phone (306) 246-4628

IT IS true we need to know who they are who associate with us on the basis of the Truth, and be able to commend them to other ecclesias when they travel. Without this, true fellowship does not exist, and the principle of fellowship is one of the fundamental essentials of the Truth.

On July 9, 1972, sister Kathleen Jones, daughter of bro. & sis. Arthur Jones of Richard, was united in marriage to brother James Sommerville of Worcester, Mass. We wish them the blessing of the Lord.

Then Aug. 13, 1972, HERBERT HUMPHREYS, 23, was baptized into the saving Name of Jesus Christ, and on Aug. 20 received the right hand of fellowship. We trust our new brother will be a help to us in holding fast to the Truth, and may with the faithful be found worthy of a place in the Kingdom.

Also May 27, 1973, sister Eileen Jones, daughter of the writer, was united in marriage to brother Herbert Humphreys. We pray that they may be help meets to one another on the road to the Kingdom.

On Jan. 26, 1974, Miss WANDA FRAZER, 15, daughter of sister and Mr. Frazer of Richard, entered into covenant relationship with the Father and His Son by obedience in baptism. It gives us joy to see these younger ones feeling the need for their reconciliation with their Creator thru Jesus Christ.

Also our joy was increased when on July 4, 1974, Mrs. SYLVIA TUPPER testified of her belief in the Gospel, and confirmed that belief by her obedience in the waters of baptism, and can now live in hope of deliverance from this constitution of sin and death. Our prayer is that our new sister will remain steadfast unto the end.

Visiting brethren and sisters have been from various places such as: Lethbridge, Alta.; Portland, Ore.; Texas, USA; Flaxcombe, Sask.; Toronto, Ont.; Worcester & Boston, Mass.; Edmonton, Alta. and Winnipeg, Man. The fellowship and help from these sources was much appreciated, and we thank them all.

Sunday school programs for the last few years have been conducted by the younger members and children of our ecclesia, and they reveal a good understanding of the Scriptures. The events listed relate to what has happened in this part of God's Vineyard, and should bring joy to those who read these records. —Fred G. Jones, Rec. bro.

The Word Made Flesh

"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself"—2 Cor. 5:19

JOHN CHAPTER ONE

IN this chapter we are introduced to a deep, but beautiful subject. John calls our attention to the Fountain and Origin of all life, and to the Only Begotten of the Father—His beloved Son through whom He manifested Himself to His chosen people Israel.

V. 1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

This takes us back a long way— "*In the beginning.*" That is, before the record of Creation given by Moses. We must bear in mind that in writing these words, John was addressing a people who *realized clearly there is but one God*—a fact John well knew.

Our English version was translated from the Greek. The original for "Word" is *Logos*, and the word rendered "God" is *Theos*. The Romans borrowed this word from the Greeks and called it *Deus* from which we derive our word "Deity."

The word *Logos* signifies "the outward form by which the inward thought is expressed and made known; also, the inward thought or reason itself." So this word comprehends the ideas both of reason and of speech.

Then we are informed by John that the Word (*Logos*) was with God (*Theos*). This suggests companionship, and we learn from the Proverbs that such was the case. In ch. 8 the *Logos*, or wisdom-energy of the Father, is personified as His handmaiden—

"Doth not Wisdom cry? And Understanding put forth her voice? She crieth at the gates . . . Unto you, O men, I call . . . ye simple, understand wisdom . . . Hear, for I will speak of excellent things . . .

"The Lord possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was . . . I was brought forth while as yet He had not made the earth.

"When He prepared the heavens, I was there; when He set a compass upon the face of the depth: when He established the clouds above; when He strengthened the fountains of the deep . . .

"Then was I by Him, as one brought up with Him; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him"
(vs. 1-30).

This, we think, makes clear how the *Logos* was with God. But John adds, "The *Logos* was God." Bro. Thomas explains this—

"Without *Theos*, the *Logos* could have no existence. This may be illustrated by the relation of reason, or intelligence and speech, to brain as affirmed in the proposition: 'No brain—no thought, reason or intelligence.

"Call the brain *Theos*; and call thought, reason and understanding intelligently expressed, *Logos*—and the relation and dependence of *Theos* and *Logos*, in John's use of the terms, may be readily conceived.

"Brain-flesh is substance that underlies thought. So *Theos* is substance which constitutes the substratum of *Logos*. *Theos* is the substance called Spirit, as it is written: '*Theos* is Spirit,' and he who uttered these words is declared to be himself both substance and spirit."

Some, however, would have us to believe that as the *Logos* was with God, and the *Logos* was made flesh, that Jesus was with God in the beginning as the second person of a triune God, described as "God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost."

But let us not be mystified by the term *Logos*. The teaching of John is plain. He does not say that in the beginning was the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was God. What he *does* say is that the *Logos* was in the beginning (as we read in Proverbs), and that the *Logos* was made flesh. The result of this action was the bringing into existence 'the man Christ Jesus,' 'the Son of God.'

By this method God was 'manifest in the flesh' (1 Tim. 3:16). The flesh, through which God was manifested, was the son of Mary. It was a flesh identical with that of his mother, being—

"Made of the seed of David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3).

John brings the subject of manifestation before us in his first epistle:

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life:

"For the *life was manifested*, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us" (1 John 1:1-2).

Thus the eternal Father manifested Himself by His Spirit, through the living body of Jesus, who as a child had been developed from his mother Mary in the same manner as any child is developed. This is further elucidated in Jesus' words—

"When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then ye shall know that I am he, and that *I do nothing of myself*; but as the Father hath taught me, I speak these things" (John 8:28).

And again (John 14:10)—

"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and *the Father in me*? The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself; but *the Father that dwelleth in me*, HE DOETH THE WORKS."

In the light of these things, surely it is not hard to understand John as he speaks of the Word, or *Logos*—that mighty power, energy and wisdom by which all things were made. The declaration in Ps. 139 regarding the eternal power of the Father is to the effect that—though centralized in Him—the Spirit is everywhere present—

"Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there. If I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there.

"If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me" (vs. 7-10).

God, by His universal Spirit, fills heaven and earth. Therefore He, being the center of all power and wisdom, expresses His will and performs His purpose by and through the Spirit which irradiates from His glorious Person—

Vs. 2-3: "The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made."

This is taken by many to indicate that Jesus was the Creator, but this impression is to a large extent simply a result of the translators' choice of wording. It is clarified in the Diaglott—

"This [*the Logos*] was in the beginning with God. Through it [*the wisdom-energy of God*] everything was done; and without it not even one thing was done which has been done."

In vs. 6-10 we have a similar case. We know that Jesus was "the Light," but v. 10 in the common version states that "the world was *made* by him." "Made" is not in the original. Again the Diaglott is clearer—

"He was in the world, and the world was (enlightened) through him; and yet the world knew him not."

Jesus was the Light of the world, and to that fact the prophets testified. Isaiah spoke of Jesus as the Light in 9:1-2, and Matthew quotes this prophecy in the following manner—

"Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet saying,

"The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people which sat in darkness saw great light, and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death, light is sprung up" (Matt. 4:12-16).

* * *

V. 11: "He came to his own, and his own received him not."

What a measure of suffering and sorrow is comprehended in these words! Walk with Jesus as he walked in Judea and listen to the Scribes and Pharisees as they sought to entangle him in his talk. Hear them as they cry out, "Thou hast a devil!" Behold them as they take up stones to cast at him. Listen to them as they accuse him of blasphemy, and take counsel to put him to death.

Go with him to the garden of Gethsemane and see the mob as they take him, bind him, and lead him away to the High Priest. Behold him as he is struck in the face by one of the officers. Listen to Pilate as he tries to free Jesus. He pleads with the people, but they cry out in murderous fury, "*Crucify him! Crucify him!*"

Then he was scourged. A Roman soldier picks up a whip of several lashes of leather, to the ends of which were fastened sharp pieces of metal. Then the crown of thorns is crushed upon his head. Then we see him led away to be crucified. Oh, what torture as he hung on the cross in the hot sun. Death was a relief. Yes—

"*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*"

But

V.12: "As many as received him, to them gave he power (right or privilege) to become sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name."

To attain unto this, they must first believe the promises made unto the fathers. They must believe in Jesus, the manifestation of the Father (as we have seen). They must be immersed into his Name, thereby receiving remission of sins and being united to the body of Christ Jesus, thereby becoming Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise (Gal. 3:27-29).

Brethren and sisters, we are in that position. There is indeed much to be done to *maintain* our status as sons of God, even—

"*Always abounding* in the work of the Lord."

—but, oh, how little compared to him who has done so much for us!

V. 15: "John bare witness of him and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me."

Again the Diaglott expresses the meaning more clearly—

"This is he of whom I said, He who comes after me is in advance of me [*RSV: 'ranks before me'*], for he is my superior."

Then in v. 23 he plainly declares his position in relation to Jesus—

"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias."

* * *

Vs. 29-37: "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world . . . and I saw and bare record that this is the Son of God . . ."

"Again the next day after John stood, and 2 of his disciples; and looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!"

"And the 2 disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus."

"Behold the Lamb of God!"

John recognized that his work was done when Jesus went forth to preach the Gospel and heal the sick—

"Ye yourselves bear me witness that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

"He that hath the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. This my joy therefore is fulfilled.

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

* * *

V. 17: "For the Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

The Law contained the "*form* of the knowledge and of the truth." It was only a shadow of things to come; a figure for the time then present; the pattern of the things in the heavens; the antitype of the true. But the knowledge and the truth, and the heavenly things themselves, came through Jesus.

V. 18: "No man hath seen God at any time: the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared Him."

Paul confirms this statement of John by saying, "No man hath seen nor can see Him" (1 Tim. 6:16). The Father was revealed by Jesus because *the Truth, the Logos-Spirit-Word, in its power, wisdom and fulness, was deposited in Jesus*, for said Paul (Col. 1:19)—

"It pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell."

When John said, "Behold the Lamb of God," two of his disciples heard him, and followed Jesus. He turned to them and asked them what they wanted. I suppose they were so surprised that all they could think of was the question,

"Where do you live?" Jesus did not answer their question, but said, "Come and see." They not only saw where he dwelt, but were his guests for the day.

What an honor! Think how we would feel if we had such an opportunity. But he is not here. However, such an opportunity will come, and it must surely be near. If we meet with the approval of the Lord Jesus at his coming, we too shall be his guests—

"Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching. Truly I say unto you that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down at a table, and will come forth and serve them" (Luke 12).

And even now we have his wonderful, almost unbelievable, promise:

"If any man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

Love for God and His Son is the most beautiful, joyful, powerful thing in the world. It transforms everything: turns all sorrow to joy. If we love them (in the true, scriptural, *obedient* sense), we *have* them: they dwell with us at every moment.

Whatever form the conversation of the disciples with Jesus took, the effect is shown by Andrew's action the next morning—

Vs. 41-42: "He first findeth his own brother Simon and saith unto him. We have found the Messiah (which is, being interpreted, the Christ.)

"And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas (which is, by interpretation, A stone)."

Can you not picture Jesus looking upon Peter with penetrating eyes and saying these few words so full of meaning? Jesus "knew what was in man." Here, in their first meeting, he was no doubt looking past that day and into the future concerning Peter's work.

V. 43: "The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip and saith unto him. Follow me."

Philip must have been familiar with the work of Jesus to respond without another word. Of course he lived in the same village as Andrew and Peter, and must have known them. Philip wasted no time:

V. 45: "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Nathanael lived in Cana, a short distance from Bethsaida, and must have been a close friend of Philip. That they had a good knowledge of Moses and the Prophets is evident by their conversation. But when Nathanael heard that Jesus came from Nazareth he was not quite sure. It would be interesting to dwell at length upon this whole incident, but the highlight comes out after his introduction to Jesus, who said of him—

V. 47: "Behold an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile!"

A glorious testimony to this faithful man, and a reminder that "all things are naked and opened" to the Spirit of God. Jesus manifested to Nathanael that by the Spirit he had been watching him when Nathanael thought he was alone. It is likely that "under the fig tree" Nathanael had been seeking God in prayer.

After meeting Jesus, Nathanael was no longer hesitant about where Jesus came from. His chief interest now, and henceforth, was wholly in this wonderful man he had met for the first time, and so he exclaims—

V. 49: "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel!"

The response of Jesus (in the last verse of the chapter) takes us back to Jacob as he rested on his way to Padan-aram (Gen.28:12-7)—

"And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it . . .

"And Jacob awakened out of his sleep, and he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the House of God!"

Surely Nathanael's mind would go to this too, and his understanding of it would open up. This experience of Jacob's was similar to that of Daniel, for they both awoke in a typical resurrection. But when Jacob awakes again after his sleep of centuries, he will see in fact what he then saw in vision, and with Nathanael and the rest of the glorious "cloud of witnesses" from down thru the ages, he will—

V. 51: ". . . see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Heaven and earth will no longer be separated by the ladder of ages, for when the New Heaven and New Earth are established—

"The tabernacle of God will be with men, and He will dwell with them; and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.

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

As it is written—

"Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."
—Editor

FRATERNAL GATHERINGS

If the Lord will

LAMPASAS: Friday to Sunday, June 13-15

FRIDAY

6 pm Supper at Hall Lunchroom

8 pm Address by bro. Nick Mammone (San Angelo)

SATURDAY

11 am Address by bro. Don Newcomer (Houston)

12 noon Lunch at Hall Lunchroom

2 pm Address by bro. Alfred Edwards (Harper)

6 pm Dinner at Park

8 pm Address by bro. Fred Higham (Detroit): —

"The Miracle of the Indestructible Jewish People:

The Solution of the Middle East Problem"

SUNDAY

10 am Sunday School: Study of Ezekiel chapter 38

11 am Memorial: Exhortation by bro Fred Higham: —

"The Lord Is Not Slack Concerning His Promise"

12 noon: Lunch at Hall Lunchroom

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

RICHARD: Friday to Monday, July 18-21

Bro. Fred Jones, Rt. 1, Richard, Sask. SOM 2PO, ph. (306) 246-4628

HYE: Monday to Sunday, July 28 - August 3

Bro. Nick Mammone, 70 W. 34th, San Angelo, Tx. 76901, ph. (915) 653-5187

BUFFALO-HAMILTON-TORONTO: Sat. & Sun., Oct. 11-12

The Word Is the Sanctifier

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to the Lord God omnipotent: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his betrothed hath made herself ready"—Rev. 19: 7

BY BROTHER JOHN THOMAS

PAUL, writing to the disciples at Ephesus (5:25-32), shows the object for which Christ loved the church even unto death; the relationship which was subsequently established between them; and the sacrifice which they ought cheerfully to make for him who had loved them so devotedly. Christ's object in giving himself for the church before it was formed, was that those who should afterwards compose it—

"Might be sanctified and cleansed *in the laver of the water by the Word.*"

—that, at the resurrection—

". . . he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and without blemish."

Jesus said to his disciples—

"Ye are clean through *the Word* which I have spoken to you" (John 15:3).

This Word, which is defined to be 'the Law and the Testimony' (Isa. 8:20), is the great instrument of holiness and purification. It changes men's minds; loosens their attachment to earthly things; causes them to place their affection on things above; creates a new and right spirit within them; diffuses the love of God abroad in their hearts; separates them from sinners; leads them into Christ; and develops in their lives fruit characteristic of that repentance which needs not to be repented of.

The Lord Jesus styles it, "the Word of the Kingdom"; and Peter, "the incorruptible Seed"; and Paul, "the Word of the Truth of the Gospel"; and John, "God's Seed"; and by James it is termed, "the Word of Truth" with which the invariable and unvacillating Father of Lights begets His children, that they should be "a kind of first fruits of His creatures."

It is by this Word that an individual is renewed or renovated, so as—in an intellectual and moral sense—to become a "new man," as appears from what the apostle says to the brethren at Colosse—

"Ye have put on the new man, which is *renewed unto knowledge* after the image of Him that created him."

This renewing affects the spirit of the mind, which may be known to be renovated by a man having turned from his natural subserviency to "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life" unto "righteousness and *true* holiness." When the mental disposition, called "the heart," is renewed, it becomes a mirror, as it were, in which one skilled in the Word of the Kingdom can discern the spirit, or behold a reflection of the Divine Nature.

This image of God in a man's character can only be created by the Word of the Truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom. A man may be very "pious" according to the standard of piety set up and approved by his fellow men; but if he be ignorant of the renewing elements—if he neither know nor understand (and consequently and necessarily be faithless) of the Law and Testimony of God—

"There is *no* Light in him" (Isa. 8:20).

He is "walking in a vain show"—

"In the vanity of his mind, having his understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God *through the ignorance that is in him*, because of the blindness of his heart" (Eph. 4:17-18).

The Law and the Testimony are styled by Peter—

"God's knowledge . . . whereby are given unto us *exceeding great and precious promises*, that BY THESE (that is, by the understanding of these) ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:2-4).

Now, the "Testimony of God" came by the Holy Spirit, by which God testified in His prophets, and in the last days spoke through His Son and the apostles. Hence the effects of the Word believed are attributed to the Spirit. And because the Word sets men to breathing in God's moral atmosphere, it is termed "spirit and life" (John 6:63). These remarks will explain the saying of the apostle to Titus—

"According to His mercy God saved us through the laver of regeneration, and renewal of the Holy Spirit"
(Titus 3:5)

This is parallel to the saying (Eph. 5:26)—

"Sanctified and cleansed in the laver of the water *by the Word*."

—for the reader must not suppose that any man, woman or child who is ignorant of the Word can be regenerated, or "born again," by being plunged into a bath. The Holy Spirit does not renew the heart of man as he renews the mortal body when through Jesus he raises it from the dead. In this case, the power is purely *physical*. But when the *heart* is the subject of renewal, it is by the knowledge of the written testimony of God, or "the Word." Peter says, speaking of the Gentile believers—

"God purified their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:9)

And Paul prays (Eph. 3 : 17)—

"That Christ may dwell in their hearts *by faith*."

Now faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). In other words, it is the belief of God's testimony concerning things to come which are not seen, and without which it is impossible to please Him (Heb. 11:1-6). When a man is renewed by the Truth, he is renewed by the Spirit, and not before. There is no such thing in the Scriptures as

a renewed, ignorant man. Ignorance of the testimony of God, and regeneration, are utterly incompatible. The Truth is the purifier to those only who understand and obey it—

"Ye have purified your souls in *obeying the Truth* . . . being born again *by the Word of God*" (1 Pet. 1:22-3).
—and there is no moral purity, or sanctification of spirit before God, without it. It is only *believers of the Truth*, then, who can be the subjects of a regeneration by being submerged "in the laver of the water." When they come out of this, they have been—

"Washed, sanctified, and justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, by the Spirit of God" (1 Cor. 6:11).

The Truth to be believed is the Gospel of the Kingdom and Name of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:12). When this is understood and heartily received, it produces a *disposition of mind* such as was in Abraham and Jesus, and which is called "repentance." Believers so disposed are the *begotten of God*, and have become as little children. They believe the 'exceeding great and precious promises,' together with the things testified concerning the sufferings and resurrection of Jesus. He fell into a *deep sleep*; and while thus unconscious and insensible, his side was opened by a spear, and forthwith rushed blood and water (John 19:33-4). Being awakened out of his sleep, he was built up a spiritual body, flesh and bones, and—by his ascension—presented to the Father as the federal representative of his church. This is the aggregate of those who, *believing these things*, have been introduced into Christ through the laver of the water, according to the saying of the Scriptures—

"Ye are all the children of God in Christ Jesus through the Faith, for as many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ . . .

"Ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And *if ye be Christ's, then* are ye Abraham's seed, and HEIRS according to the promise" (Gal. 3:26-9).

A community of such individuals as these constitutes the mystical body of Christ. By faith, its elements are—

"Members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones" (Eph. 5:30).

Hence they are "bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh"; and therefore the beloved Eve of the last Adam, the Lord who is to come from heaven and make her of the same holy spiritual nature as his own. Thus the church is figuratively taken out of the side of her Lord, for every member of it believes in the remission of sins through his shed blood. And they all believe in the *real resurrection of his flesh and bones* for their justification unto life by a similar revival from the dead—

"Your bodies are the members [or flesh and bones] of Christ . . . and he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit" (1 Cor. 6:15-7)

Paul says—

"I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Cor. 11:2)

It will be perceived, then, that the church as defined is in the present state *the espoused of Christ*, but not actually married. She is in the formative state, being molded under the hand of God. When she shall be completed, God will then present her to the Man from heaven—

"Arrayed in fine linen, clean and white" (Rev. 19:7-8).

This is she of whom the psalmist sings (45:10-15) —

"Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear. Forget also thine own people and thy father's house. So shall the King greatly desire thy beauty, for he is thy Lord, and worship thou him.

"The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework. The virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.

"With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: *they shall enter into the King's palace.* "

The presentation of Eve to the first Adam was the signal of rejoicing to the Morning Stars (Job 38:7), and we perceive that the manifestation of Messiah's Queen will be attended with the "*Alleluia*" of a great multitude, sounding like the roaring of many waters, and the echoes of mighty thunderings, saying —

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to the Lord God omnipotent: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his betrothed hath made herself ready" (Rev. 19:7).

Such is the relationship and destiny of the true church, styled by Paul, "the One Body." It is forming by the Word. Or, taking it as formed in the apostolic age but not presented, the apprehension of the apostle has been sadly realized. Says he (2 Cor. 11:3)—

"I fear lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Cor. 11:3).

The tempter has seduced the betrothed. The simplicity in Christ is no longer characteristic of a community. It is corrupted on every side, and the ruin of the transgression alone prevails. Nevertheless, although there be no hope for the professing world, seeing it is too "wise in its own conceit"; too self-satisfied with its supposed illumination; glorifying itself, and saying (Rev. 3:17)—

"I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing."

—and knows not, and will not be persuaded, that it is—

". . . wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

Seeing, I say, that this is the irremediable condition of the religious public, yet there remains scope for the deliverance of those who are disposed to obey God rather than men. If they would become bone of Christ's bone, and flesh of his flesh, they must—

"Leave father and mother, and be joined unto *the Wife*."

They find themselves now, perhaps, members of denominations as they happen to be led. These are their parentage according to the fleshly mind. They must be forsaken, and men must become "one flesh" and "one spirit" in the Lord, if they would inherit the Kingdom of God. "This," says Paul (Eph. 5:32)—

". . . is a *great mystery*, but I speak concerning *Christ and the church*."

WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

Ere Adam stood in Eden fair, I lived and breathed the vital air;
Ere yet the beasts were formed and named, my name and nature were proclaimed.
Jehovah's law I straight obey, but do not walk in wisdom's way;
Of future things I do not dream, 'tis easy gliding with the stream.
I labor hard from year to year, but rarely on the earth appear;
I travel onward in my might; I give to some poor creatures light.
Made at the first a living soul by means o'er which I'd no control,
There came in after years to be another living soul in me:
By God's command to me 'twas given, and then demanded back by heaven,
Which left me on my course to go, heedless of coming weal or woe.
I neither death nor danger fear; I never laugh, nor shed a tear;
A perfect monster while I live; but dying, many blessings give.

CORRECTION: May issue, p. 132, 2nd line: "deceit" should be "conceit."

Contend Earnestly for the Faith

"I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants"
—Rev. 2:20

BY BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS

IT has been said we ought not to judge, as Christ has forbidden it. My answer is that while we are not to judge in the sense forbidden by Christ (that is, deciding in advance who are and who are not worthy of eternal life), there is a sense in which we are to judge, as Christ indeed expressly enjoins in saying—

"Why do ye not of your own selves *judge* that which is right?" (Luke 12:57)

"Beware of false prophets: ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:15-6)

We are called upon on our own behalf to decide where fellowship should be given and where it should be withheld. If this is not a true principle, whence arises the true distinction between the ecclesia and the world? We come out of the world; we separate from the Apostasy; we withdraw from the fellowship of both, & would one and all

refuse to resume that fellowship by admitting parties belonging to either class into the ecclesia. And we would even, without dispute, refuse to countenance a disobedient brother. Paul says (1 Cor. 5:11)—

"I have written unto you not to keep company if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, *with such an one no not to eat.*"

Again he says (2 Thess. 3:14)—

"If anyone obey not our word by this epistle, *have no company with him*, that he may be ashamed."

Again, v. 6, same chapter—

"*Withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly*, and not after the traditions he received of us."

Again (1 Tim. 6:3)—

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing . . . *from such withdraw thyself.*"

Here are plain apostolic injunctions which cannot be carried out without forming a judgment on the matters involved. For how shall we know when to withdraw from another, unless we conclude that a state of things justifying it exists? And how can we come to this conclusion without observing and considering the matters relating to it? The mental act is the very basis of the withdrawal enjoined.

If these things are not so, those who say we should not judge have already committed the very crime they condemn, and are guilty of schism. Why did they leave the Presbyterians, the Baptists, and the others? Were not all these respectable, well-behaved people, plentiful—many of them—in gracious looks, kindly words, and good deeds? On what principle can they defend separation from them? Do not the orthodox communities believe the Bible, and profess the Name of Christ? Why have they come away from them? Are they not guilty of having "judged" these "sincere" professors of religion?

They have done quite right, for they are *commanded* to judge of themselves what is right, and act accordingly.

John said—

"If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine [that is, the truth concerning Christ's manifestation in the flesh] , *receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed*: for he that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds."

Paul indicates the same duty in several places. He speaks of certain "false brethren brought in." He says—

"To whom we gave place by subjection *no not for an hour.*"

Judaistical believers taught the necessity for being circumcised and observing the Law. He says of them—

"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. I would that they were even cut off which trouble you"

(Gal. 5:9-12).

There is nothing more conspicuous in Paul's letters to Timothy than his jealousy of those in the ecclesia whose influence was detrimental to the Truth. He says—

"Hold fast the form of sound words which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus"

(2 Tim. 1:13).

"The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others . . .

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the Word of Truth*. But SHUN profane and vain babblings, for they will increase unto more ungodliness, and their word will *eat as doth a canker*; of whom are Hymeneus and Philetus" (2 Tim. 2:2,15-17).

"Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: FROM SUCH TURN AWAY. . . . For of this sort are they which creep into houses and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning and *never able to come to a knowledge of the Truth*. Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived, But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned"

(2 Tim. 3:5-14).

"Preach the Word. Be instant in season, out of season. Reprove, rebuke, with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the Truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:2-4).

The same anxiety about preserving the Truth in its purity from the corrupting influence of its loose professors is manifest in his letter to Titus. Defining the qualifications of an elder, he says he must be a man—

"Holding fast the faithful Word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine to exhort and convince the gainsayers.

"For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision, whose MOUTHS MUST BE STOPPED.

"A man that is an heretic, after the first and second admonition REJECT" (Tit. 1:9-11; 3:10)

To the same purpose are the words of Jude (3-4)—

"It was needful for me to write to you that ye should *CONTEND earnestly* for the Faith which was once delivered unto the saints; for there are certain men crept in unawares, etc. . ."

The objectors themselves have shown their apprehension of these apostolic precepts by separating from the sects and denominations of the orthodox world. But they say those we are now separating from have a great part of the Truth. This is not enough. There is no authority for making one part of the Truth less important than another. A reception of the Truth on one point will not condone its rejection on another.

Can we suppose that the Judaizers had no part of the Truth? Did the Gnostics who denied that Christ had come in the flesh, reject the Kingdom of God? Did not the unbelieving Jew hold the Truth in great part? Yet Paul counseled withdrawal from them all.

Nothing short of fidelity to the WHOLE Truth can be accepted as a safe policy. The "things concerning the Kingdom of God" and "those things that concern our Lord Jesus Christ," in their scriptural amplitude must be the measure and standard of fellowship. Those who go for less than this must be left to themselves. In this they are not judged; they are only subjected to the action of another man's conception of duty, and are left at perfect liberty to organize themselves on whatever they may conceive to be a scriptural basis.

By what means shall a community, based on the Truth, preserve the Truth in purity in its midst? Obviously by the means indicated by Paul and John: that is, by exacting of ALL who are in it an implicit adherence to the things, facts, principles, points, tenets, or whatever else they may be called, which go to make up the Truth in its entirety, and by refusing to associate with those who oppose or refuse to endorse any of those elements.

Some recommend, in opposition to this, the employment of argument with those who may be in error. As a preliminary process, common wisdom and humanity would dictate this course. But if an ecclesia is to go no further than argument, how could its existence continue? An effort should doubtless be put forth to reclaim those who are in error; but where those efforts fail, dissociation by withdrawal is natural and inevitable.

The ecclesia is not a place for argument: it is for worship in agreement. When a man requires to be argued with, his natural place is OUTSIDE, and if he will not go outside, separation must be enforced by withdrawal on the part of the rest.

Division is the inevitable concomitant of an uncompromising adherence to the Truth. Peace purchased at the cost of compromise is doubly dangerous. The Truth is the standard, and must alone be allowed to rule. All doubt ought to be solved in its favor. This is the principle of action to which study will ultimately lead.

The action of separation is not an act of judgment against those from whom we may separate. It is an act of self-vindication; an act by which we discharge a duty and wash our hands of evil.

The Truth has gradually emerged from the fables in which for centuries it had been lost, and only an inexorable policy on the part of those receiving it will preserve it from a recurrence of the disaster which drove it from among men *shortly after* the days of the Apostles.

From "My Days and My Ways" Personal references omitted

"I Am the Lord Thy God"

"Yahweh, Yahweh Elohim, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth; keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin: and that will by no means clear the guilty."

THE Eternal Deity, in manifesting Himself to trembling Israel at Sinai with thundering words from the burning and smoking mountain, called their attention first to Himself—

"I AM THE LORD THY GOD"

That was the first and most important thing that they must know and understand, in preparation for their peculiar position as the people of God's covenant. They must be impressed in a striking way with the reality, the power, and the majesty of the great God of Israel.

But the revelation that God gave of Himself on this occasion, as He endeavored to establish in the hearts of His people a knowledge and love for Him that would turn their minds to His holy Law, was not just a display of power and greatness. This would inspire awe and fear, but not love, reverence and trust. What God wanted was their *hearts*, that would overflow toward Him in wholehearted love, confidence and obedience.

So besides His glorious and personal majesty and power, God told them of His character, of the way He reacts toward men in their relation to His Word—

"I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, *and keep My commandments*" (Ex. 20:5).

Paul says (Heb. 11:6)—

"He that cometh to God must believe that He IS, and that He is a Rewarder of them that *diligently seek Him.*"

In His revelation of Himself to man, God has not left Himself without witness in respect to these two aspects of His person and character; so that we can lay hold with unmistakable assurance upon these things with that faith without which it is not possible to please Him. In a detached way, the 'devils believe and tremble.' They are aware of His existence in a general way, but of His character as a God of truth, love and compassion, they are in utter darkness.

It is good for the minds of the sons of God to be much occupied in a consideration of the glorious and high things that are revealed to us in the Scriptures concerning Him; for it is evident that He is well pleased when we seek Him with a pure heart, and endeavor to draw nearer to Him each day. No idle words were spoken by Jesus when he said (John 17:3)—

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

When Jesus was asked, "Which is the great commandment of the Law?" he 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. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 22:37-40).

While it is not possible for mortal man to reach up to a full comprehension of the greatness and extent of God's power and majesty (for His Spirit spreads out to fill the boundless universe), yet we can profitably contemplate His glorious personality as embodying, in substantial form, the supreme essence of that light, glory and beauty that we see manifested in the angels of His presence, and in the person of Jesus after his ascension to the Father's nature.

The representation of this transcendent glory, as described by Ezekiel, is in line with other revelations of similar import—

"I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord" (1:27-8).

But in the glorious Being out of Whose Spirit all things have been made, and Who dwells in the heaven of heavens, there are attributes of character displayed in all their perfection that form the basis of all God's dealings with man on the earth. It is not easy for us to comprehend how so much power and greatness could yet be careful of the smallest details of His creation, yet in this glorious fact lies all our hope as perishing creatures of dust—

"One sparrow shall not fall on the ground without your Father . . . The very hairs of your head are numbered"
(Matt. 10:29-30).

Such power in human hands would be disastrous. The universe, with all it contains, would be thrown into a state of chaos and uncertainty. But, in wrath, God remembers mercy—

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him . . . The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children"
(Psa. 103:13-17).

"O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all: the earth is full of Thy riches"
(Psa. 104:24).

Wisdom, mercy, truth and love are basic attributes of the divine character that find their expression in all His dealings with us. He has made us after His Own likeness, with the capacity to grow up unto these divine graces by allowing the power of His Word to work in us to the enlargement and purifying of our hearts by faith.

By turning our minds often to His throne of grace for strength to help in time of need, we shall find that—as our minds are stayed on Him, on the glorious attributes of His being—so shall we find that "peace of God that passeth understanding."
—E.W.B.

Not a Bone Shall Be Broken

*"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart;
and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."*

PSALM THIRTY-FOUR

THIS psalm, like all psalms, is beautiful, comforting, and instructive. It is filled with interesting and thought-provoking statements by the wisdom of the Spirit. If we could fully absorb in ourselves the spirit of this psalm, fully learn all its wise instructions, and fully conform to all its loving commands—we would be assured of eternal life.

Eternal life, like every other practical activity, is simply a matter of cause and effect, of following certain clear, specific instructions, and getting certain guaranteed results. Truly the mercy and grace of God are very essential ingredients—but these are guaranteed by God's unchangeable promise *to those who do the right things*.

The key is OBEDIENCE. Do what God says. Take the trouble to find out His will, and *do* it. It's just that simple. *No one* will make it who doesn't do this. All the wishing and hoping and praying and good intention in the world is no substitute for simple obedience. And *all* will make it who *do* this. God has promised.

*Verse 1: "I will bless the Lord at all times:
His praise shall continually be in my mouth."*

We have most of the secret right there. If we "continually"—at all times—fill our hearts and minds and lips with praise of God, it will at one stroke eliminate all complaining, all foolish talking, all unhappiness, all self-pity—all the things that make most people unlovable and unloved. These things of the flesh just can't exist together with a heart that is full of praise and blessing of God.

It will also, if it is *true* praise, make us continually study and meditate on God's Word to find out how to better please Him. Praise that is not associated with careful obedience is no praise or pleasure at all to Him, for it is of the flesh and unsanctified.

Praise—continual, at-all-times, heart-outpouring praise—is the only sensible and practical and mature frame of mind. If we do not find ourselves irresistibly overwhelmed by this frame of mind, we have not yet made true contact with divine things. This lack is not a tragedy—unless we are satisfied with it. It is just a sign that we have not yet thought life through, and studied and prayed and meditated enough. We are too much in the world. We haven't had the great awakening to God that makes all the present seem a meaningless dream.

The one great *Reality* of life—the one great, bright, glorious, ever-shining FACT—is that *God is Love*, and that—

"ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love God," and "Great peace have they that love Thy Law, and nothing shall offend them."

Get this in sharp and clear focus—and everything else fades away. Get this sharp and clear, and continual praise is irresistible.

Verse 2: *"My soul shall make her boast in the Lord."*

"Boast" here means "grateful exultation, thankful rejoicing, worshipful assurance." My "soul"—my life, my whole being.

Verse 2: *"The humble shall hear thereof, and be glad."*

No one lives to himself. We affect all with whom we come in contact, either for good or ill. And at that great last day, we shall have to give account for what our influence has done to others, or *has failed to do*. If we manifest a consistent life of praise and thanksgiving and rejoicing in God, especially in times of sorrow or trial, *"the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad."* They will be upbuilt and comforted and encouraged to do likewise. They will *see* the power of faith. Joy breeds joy, and faith breeds faith—

"I rejoiced greatly that I found thy children walking in Truth" (2 John 4).

The humble are the only intelligent people—those who see themselves, and all mankind, as nothing; and God as everything: those who see all passing things *as* passing things, even natural life itself. They have no pride, or touchiness, or self-esteem that needs to be built up and catered to. They have no natural ambition or desire. They clearly perceive the emptiness of all lust and worldly pleasure. They are always happy and contented in God. They have no juvenile need for being entertained, or mollified, or pacified.

Verse 3: *"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together."*

"With me" and "together" are the thoughts here. Again, no man liveth unto himself. It is easy, and it is selfishly pleasing, to be wrapped up in ourselves and our own little petty day-to-day concerns. But it is not sensible. It is not godly. It is not healthy. It is not spiritual. It is not even *happy*, compared to what real happiness can be.

"The hand cannot say to the eye, I have no need of thee."

The children of God are all members of one another. If they are *not*—if they don't perceive and practice this—then they are not the children of God. It is a glorious communism, a *true* communism, of which the natural man has no conception: one for all, and all for one. It is God's way. It is God's command. The way of selfish and self-seeking individuality leads only to rejection and death.

The true children of God are as inseparable as Siamese twins—with common organs of life and activity; and if we hope for life, we *must* enthusiastically adapt ourselves to this basic reality, for God in His wisdom has ordained it that way—

"We ought not to please ourselves. Let everyone please his neighbour for his good to edification: for even Christ pleased not himself" (Rm.15).

Verse 4: *"I sought the Lord."*

We must seek. We must make a real effort. We must be prepared to put time and labour and *joyful enthusiasm* into the search. We cannot just sit back and take God for granted. He has to be diligently sought for: *"Seek, and ye shall find."* There's no excuse: it's guaranteed. It's entirely up to us.

Where do we seek? There is only one place: *His Word*. There is only one way: with constant, fervent prayer. God says (Jr. 29:13)—

"Ye shall find Me when ye shall search for Me with ALL your heart."

Let us stop, and think, and face this frankly: it has got to be *all*, or we are just wasting our time. We shall never find God until we seek with all our heart, putting everything else away.

Verse 4: "He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

Not: "He delivered me from all the things I feared" He doesn't do that, for these things are necessary for our character and development. (Of course *that* deliverance will come in the end, when the purpose of these things has been accomplished). But here it's—

"He delivered me from all my fears."

—from the fears themselves. This is a far deeper, far greater blessing. This must come from God. We cannot do it ourselves. How often, from one end of Scripture to the other, do we find the *command* and the assurance, "Fear not"—

"Fear not, Abraham"

"Fear not, children of Israel"

"Fear not, Daniel"

"Fear not, Jacob"

"Fear not, Joshua"

"Fear not, Mary"

"Fear not, Moses"

"Fear not, Gideon"

"Fear not, Paul"

—and so we find, over and over and over throughout the Scripture, right down to the Revelation—

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer...be faithful unto death."

Fear is the great enemy of peace. We must conquer fear: and there is a way, and only one—

"There is no fear in love: He that feareth is not made perfect in love: Perfect love casteth out fear"
(1 John 4:18).

Verse 5: "They looked unto Him, and were lightened."

Here, in almost the same words, is what Paul says to the brethren at Corinth (2 Cr. 3:18; 4:6)—

"We all, with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory . . ."

"God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined into our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

God is light. There is no other light. All else is darkness. Apart from God, apart from His Light, we are merely groping through life in gross darkness: seeing nothing, understanding nothing: mere bats and moles, mere animals in a black tunnel of oblivion—never comprehending, never enjoying, the splendours and beauties that the divine Light reveals.

There is much food for nourishment and meditation in every verse, but we must pass on to consider the more central and outstanding ones—

Verse 7: "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them
that fear Him, and delivereth them."

We do not think enough about this aspect of God's providence. It is related to the casting out of fear. The angels are real—much more real and substantial than we are ourselves, for they are immortal and indestructible, while we are but a passing breath that could be snuffed out in a moment. And they are right here on the earth, among us. If we are among the children of God, and we hope and pray that we are, then there is an angel watching over each of us continually, and present at all our assemblies.

We remember that Paul instructed according to the Spirit's wisdom—a beautiful type to the mind of the Spirit, but so annoying to the rebellious mind of the flesh—that sisters should wear a special covering in the assemblies of the saints "*because of the angels*." Herein sisters are especially privileged to typify the glorious Bride of Christ in his presence. Their humility is their glory.

Angels have rarely appeared visibly to men, but throughout the record of Scripture there are enough instances of such appearances to give us much comfort and understanding and strength, if we will meditate upon them.

"He shall give His angels charge concerning thee."

Some, we are reminded, have entertained angels unawares, and we are told to bear this in mind in all our

contacts with others. We never know when God is testing us in this respect. Any common incident may be an angelic visitation. It would be tragedy indeed to find at last that we had destroyed our salvation by being unkind and ungracious and ungodly toward an angel of God.

Verse 8: "O taste and see that the Lord is good!"

This is surely the key verse of this psalm, and one of the key verses of all Scripture. An actual, practical *demonstration* is infinitely more convincing and conclusive than the strongest and most logical of arguments. We can prove by reason and Scripture and evidence that God is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him: but how much more simple and satisfying to "*taste and see!*"

In spiritual things, the "taste and see" approach has an even greater advantage and importance than in natural things, for the results are divinely controlled, and we are specifically told that only those who *do* obey will be permitted to understand. Only those who "taste" will be allowed to "see." Jesus said (John 7:17)—

"If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine."

God does not permit mere speculators and intellectualizers to be convinced and converted. He deliberately blinds them, as we are repeatedly told.

The sad part is that very few—either "in the Truth" or out of it—are willing to give the glorious divine promise of "taste and see" a full and fair trial. They have various degrees of interest and desire, but they will not accept the whole program. In natural things it is considered an indication of folly to invest in a major item on which all one's welfare depends, and then not follow—or even bother to learn—the instructions concerning its successful operation.

But in spiritual things, we tend to substitute wishes and hopes and good intentions for careful study and learning of facts. The Bible is a large book. It is a detailed message from God of how to obtain eternal life. It is *all* necessary, or it would not be there.

It *can* make us "wise unto salvation." Studied constantly, it can change us from the natural, ignorant animals we all are to start with, into something useful for God's eternal purpose—something He can joyfully save, and not have to cast sadly away as useless at the last great day of judgment. The rest of this verse says—

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."

If we were asked, "Do you trust in God?" we would say, "Yes, of course." But if the questioner said, "Give some evidence, some proof," what have we to offer? James says (2:17-18)—

"Faith without works is dead ... I will show you my faith by my works."

Paul tells us how men of faith of old time gave proof of their faith. Noah built an ark on dry land, and preached 120 years, to the derision of the wise of the world. Abraham left his comfortable home (and Ur *was* comfortable in those days), wandered 100 years as a stranger, and offered up his son. Moses abandoned the wealth and luxury and power of Egypt, and chose affliction with the people of God. Others were mocked, scourged, beaten, imprisoned, stoned, sawn asunder, "not accepting deliverance," all to manifest that they trusted God.

We are not tested to these extremes. But we *are* tested. We are faced with a choice. The fact that we may ignore it, and fail it, does not mean that the test has not come. We are called upon to demonstrate faith and trust by following the course of spiritual wisdom, which is folly to the natural man. In its simplest terms, we are just called upon to *obey*. This doesn't just mean being baptized, and breaking bread, and going to the meetings. It is far more than that—far more searching. The commands of God are many, and have a direct bearing on every act and decision of our lives. It *must* be that way, for their whole purpose is to transform our mind and nature and character: they *must* therefore affect our every act.

At every step, we must make the conscious decision between the mind of God as revealed in the Scriptures, and the mind of the flesh as we naturally find it in our own thoughts and desires. *This* is the only way godly character can be built up.

Whatever action is taken, whatever decision is made, that is not consciously motivated by a scripturally-enlightened desire to please God, is *sin*, for it is of the natural flesh. "Taste and see" means try *God's* way. Try God's way in *everything* as a complete pattern of life. Put away all the world's selfish, fleshly, God-ignoring "common sense" rules and maxims, and try the Spirit's way—learned by constant, loving, prayerful study of the Word.

We then just may make the marvellous, unearthly discovery that we had never really lived at all before.

Verse 11: *"Come, ye children, hearken unto me:
I will teach you the fear of the Lord."*

It is something that has to be *learned*, and it is a lifetime's work to learn it—with ever-increasing depth and understanding. The first instruction is—

Verse 13: *"Keep thy tongue from evil."*

Keep thy tongue. The Spirit saith (Pr.10:19)—

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin."

Even to the dim eye of common sense, this is obvious. Being what we are—weak creatures of flesh—it is inevitable that if we talk a lot, much is bound to be natural and of the flesh, and therefore sin. The Scriptures emphasize nothing more strongly than the absolute necessity of rigidly guarding the tongue, if we hope for life—

"By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matt. 12:37).

If we find ourselves talking about others, judging and criticizing and condemning others, complaining, finding fault, gossiping about what others do and don't do, should do and shouldn't do, then let us be moved with a terrible fear at our fleshly folly in not bridling our tongue, and seek by the power and help of God to change our ways before it is too late.

"Love believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things, thinketh no evil, suffereth long, and is kind."

Truly error must be faced, wrong-doing must be confronted, sound fellowship must be maintained. Serious matters cannot faithfully be ignored. But in this present, sad, stumbling, dark vale of tears, love must of necessity, in our day to day relationships, cover a vast multitude of sins.

Verse 18: *"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart:
and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."*

A broken heart and a contrite spirit. These are essential qualifications for salvation, so it is urgent that we know what is involved, and how it is accomplished. A "broken heart" is some-thing that must be prepared and offered to God in sacrifice—

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise" (Ps. 51:17).

A broken heart is not primarily the result of *outward* affliction and sorrow, though such things can greatly contribute to its development, and therefore Paul says (Acts 14:22)—

"We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God."

Even of Jesus it is said (Heb. 5:8)—

"He learned obedience by the things which he suffered."

Jeremiah declares (17:9)—

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked."

This is all of us, in our natural, animal state—

"In me—that is, in my flesh—dwelleth no good thing."

The deceitfulness of the heart is principally *self*-deceit, leading us to think we are other than we really are—that salvation is an easy thing we can drift into, instead of agonizing for—that we can serve both God and Mammon—

"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cr. 10:12).

"When ye have done all, say, We are unprofitable servants" (Lk.17:10).

What hope then have we if we *haven't* done all—if we haven't made the utmost effort to serve and obey?—

"If the righteous shall scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Pet. 4:18).

If we are more concerned with criticizing others than criticizing *ourselves*, we are being deceived by our wicked heart. The more enlightened and concerned we are about examining and criticizing ourselves, the more we face and recognize our own shortcomings, then the more kind and charitable we shall be toward others, knowing that—

"With what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged" (Mt. 7:2).

A broken and a contrite spirit are developed by searching self-examination *by the light of God's Word*. Without the light of the Word, the search is meaningless, however strenuous and sincere and well-meaning, for then it is just darkness examining darkness. This is the case with all the world's self-examining and self-analyses, leading to nothing but further confusion. There is only one Light.

The broken heart and contrite spirit that God requires is the repudiation of the foolish will and desires of the flesh, and complete submission to the beauty and wisdom of the will of God—

"Thy will, not mine, be done."

Verse 19: *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous:
but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."*

We are assured (Lam. 3:32-33)—

"The Lord doth not willingly afflict nor grieve the children of men: Though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies."

That is, He has no pleasure in, nor desire for, the affliction of men. It is simply a *necessary* means to a glorious end, in the development of a broken and purified heart. If we have afflictions, we can be *sure* they are of a loving necessity, and they are probably because our character needs the lesson. Our wisdom is to submit in thanksgiving, and to try to learn the lesson they teach—

"He subjected Creation to vanity, not willingly, but in hope" (Rm. 8:20).

Verse 20: *"He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."*

The significance of no broken bones is that affliction is so controlled that there is no permanent injury or deformation. We remember that under the Law, whenever in chastisement there was any permanent injury to a bond-servant, the owner had to let him go free, even for just a broken tooth—for he had transgressed the limits of permitted chastisement.

Again under the Law, not a bone of the Passover lamb must be broken (Ex. 12:46), and these two passages in Exodus and Psalms find their spiritual fulfilment in John 19:33-36—

"When they came to Jesus, they brake not his legs . . . That the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken."

This psalm, therefore, has led us—as all psalms do, as all the Scriptures do—to the sinless Son of God; the spotless Lamb slain from the foundation of the world; the perfect—the *only* perfect—embodiment of the broken heart and contrite spirit that is so precious in the sight of God—

"Not a bone of him shall be broken ..."

“Not a grain of corn—of the true wheat—the true bread—shall be lost.”

“This is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh.”

“We are members of his Body, of his flesh, and of his bones.”

And again the thought comes around—

“The Body is One, and hath many members, and all the members, being many, are One Body. The foot cannot say, I am not of the Body:”

—what good, to itself or anyone, is an amputated foot?

“The ear cannot say, I am not of the Body.”

—what good is an amputated ear?

“The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of thee.”

In God's wisdom, every member needs every other: and the Body needs every member.

“The members should have the same care one for another. Whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it. Ye are the Body of Christ.”

“NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN.”

—G.V.G.

May Answers Who said to whom?—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Here is water—Eunuch to Philip | 25. I am doing great work—Nehemiah to Sanballat |
| 2. Drink ye wine—Jeremiah to Rechabites | 26. Refrain from these men—Gamaliel to Council |
| 3. Get her for me—Samson to parents | 27. I know that he shall rise—Martha to Christ |
| 4. I was no prophet—Amos to Amaziah | 28. See my zeal for the Lord—Jehu to Jehonadab |
| 5. Give me my wife—Jacob to Laban | 29. Why hast thou done this—Mariners to Jonah |
| 6. Come up to us—Philistines to Jonathan | 30. Are here all thy children—Samuel to Jesse |
| 7. What aileth thee—Danites to Micah | 31. Thy gifts be to thyself—Daniel to Belshazzar |
| 8. Thou whited wall—Paul to Ananias | 32. We have found the Messiah—Andrew to Peter |
| 9. Thou art the man—Nathan to David | 33. I have enough, my brother—Esau to Jacob |
| 10. Thou bloody man—Shimei to David | 34. Slay every man his brother—Moses to Levites |
| 11. See thou do it not—Angel to John | 35. These be thy gods, O Israel—Aaron to Israel |
| 12. Where is the lamb—Isaac to Abraham | 36. Art thou a master of Israel—Jesus to Nicodemus |
| 13. We would see Jesus—Greeks to Philip | 37. Why is the decree so hasty—Daniel to Arioch |
| 14. Art thou a Roman—Lysias to Paul | 38. No doubt ye are the people—Job to friends |
| 15. Bring me a minstrel—Elisha to Jehoshaphat | 39. All this availeth me nothing—Haman to Zeresh |
| 16. Hew me cedar trees—Solomon to Hiram | 40. Thy money perish with thee—Peter to Simon |
| 17. Why art thou alone—Ahimelech to David | 41. A bloody husband art thou—Zipporah to Moses |
| 18. I have a secret errand—Ehud to Eglon | 42. Art thou for us or against us—Joshua to angel |
| 19. Whose damsel is this—Boaz to servant | 43. These are 2 anointed ones—Angel to Zechariah |
| 20. Arise, take possession—Jezebel to Ahab | 44. I will fill house with glory—Haggai to Zerubbabel |
| 21. A virgin shall conceive—Isaiah to Ahaz | 45. 70 weeks are determined—Gabriel to Daniel |
| 22. Give me this mountain—Caleb to Joshua | 46. Thy silver and gold is mine—Benhadad to Ahab |
| 23. Thou child of the devil—Paul to Elymas | 47. To obey is better than sacrifice—Samuel to Saul |
| 24. Flee also youthful lusts—Paul to Timothy | 48. Let me go & take off his head—Abishai to David |
| | 49. Art thou in health, my brother—Joab to Amasa |
| | 50. Shall the sword devour for ever—Abner to Joab |
| | 51. How long wilt thou be drunken—Eli to Hannah |

Anything in the Berean may be freely reprinted or reproduced by anyone in any form.

Current Events Fulfilling Prophecy

US, JEWS & ISRAEL. Is US support for Israel weakening? What if US & Israel interests, which have always coincided in past, should diverge? Without benefit or need of formal treaty, US & Israel have had unique relationship. Without US support, not likely Israel would have been created from British-controlled Palestine in '48. Without US

aid, & funds from US Jews, it wouldn't have survived. US govt. & people have never wavered in firm support of Israel: has been one of few uncritically accepted constants of US policy. Kosygin said, "I don't understand Americans: there are 80 million Arabs & only 3 million Israelis: why do it? It doesn't make sense." But most Americans feel it's right, & US policy remains consistent in basic support of Israel.

But there's been marked change in public atmosphere & diplomatic stance. One cause is Arab discovery of use of oil weapon: has made Israel's enemies vastly richer & more powerful, while severely taxing economies—& therefore loyalties—of its friends. US impressed by other facts: Arabs fought well in early part of '73 War, destroying myth of inevitable Israel victory; Arabs finally able to form common front, destroying myth of inevitable Arab disunity.

Globally, Israel increasingly isolated. W. Europe ready to bargain away Israel in return for Arab oil. Arab oil power blacklisting Jews from international finance. UNESCO, last fall, excluded Israel. UN applauded Arafat who spoke of generations of war on Israel.

There's no doubt Jewish position is different from other US ethnic minorities. No other foreign power is so crucially situated in world today, or has such strong emotional claims on a US minority. Part of reason lies in historic uniqueness of Judaism, which is not merely a nationality, or race, or culture, or religion, but inextricable mixture of all. No other ethnic group has religion so centered, in its very rituals & prayers, on a particular land. Since WWII, spectacle of Israel—brave, threatened, struggling for survival against heavy odds did much to preserve spirit of Judaism in US, & was strong source of US Jewish consciousness & identity. US Jews have sent Israel over \$4-billion; but from '48 to '68, only 8800 of US's 6 million Jews emigrated to Israel, majority of them returned.

Soon after pistol-packing Arafat addressed cheering UN, a public letter to Pres. Ford appeared in "Washington Post," urging firm support of Israel & rejection of PLO—signed by 71 of US's 100 Senators. From '50 to '74, Congress approved \$3.7-billion credits or loans for Israel. Since '73 War, US has been providing military aid without repayment.

While only 25% in US over 25 have had some college, 54% of Jews that age have. Jews are only 3% of US, but are represented far beyond their numbers in law, science, teaching, medicine, etc. In survey for US's top 70 intellectuals, magazine 'Public Interest' produced list that was ½ Jewish. Three in Ford Cabinet are Jews: Kissinger, Schlesinger & Levi. So are Greenspan (Economic Advisors Chairman) & Burns (Fed. Reserve Chairman). Jews vote more conscientiously than others: in NY City they produce ½ of primary vote, though only 1/5 of population. Jews tend to marry outside faith at high rate: nearly ½ of marriages are mixed. Over ½ of Jews aren't affiliated with a synagogue.

There was nothing inevitable about creation of Jewish State. Some Jews felt their destiny was not to become a small state among other states, but to seek opportunities—& make contributions in other countries the world over. Hitler did much to resolve that debate, & to seal thru horror the belief that Jews must have a country where they'll never be outsiders. Thus Israel was born in an extraordinary confluence of prophecy & politics. Truman announced recognition of Israel 11 minutes after its formation, & promptly received Israel's first President, Chaim Weizmann, in Washington.

First & only serious split between US Govt. & US Jews came under Eisenhower. US increased financial aid to Arabs, & rejected large Israel loan. When Russia armed Egypt, US refused arms to Israel. When Israel, Britain & France in '56 attacked Egypt because of Canal nationalization, Eisenhower forced pullback. That action still bothers many US Jews, who feel it set stage of ensuing wars that have yet to achieve Mideast settlement.

If US now pushes Israel into settlement that risks its survival, moral commitment of US to Israel will grow, not lessen. If US forces Israel to withdraw from Arab lands, it must be prepared to take military action if peace is broken. There's considerable evidence both US Govt. & people realize these implications. Schlesinger says: "Our purpose is to break oil chain Arabs have put around us: for that, US must build a strong Israel." (Tm 3:10)

A MARVELOUS picture: Israel alone & friendless in world, with only a weakening Tarshish on its side. Britain has failed her now, but Britain did a mighty & vital part for nearly 100 years. Britain no longer is a factor of international importance, but a new young lion is filling, & will fill, the necessary role. To the blind fleshly beast Kosygin, it was inexplicable that practical & hardnosed US should quixotically run counter to its own obvious best interests for the sake of this despised race, but Bible students joyfully perceive & marvel at the deep currents of the divine purpose. "I will bless him that blesseth thee, and curse him that curseth thee." Heathen Kosygin, modern Haman: your time will come!

GUNS FOR ALL. Arms trade world's fastest growing business: \$18-billion yr., up over 5 times since '64. World (that can't feed its people) spends \$240-billion yrly. on war. US by far largest arms dealer: \$86-billion since '50: offers weapon for every need & pocketbook: keeps adding new ones. Mideast biggest customer. Britain was leading arms merchant till '30s—now poor 4th after US, Russia & France.

Since WWII, creation of 75 new nations has meant 75 new armies to equip. No one wants old or obsolete equipment that reflects on their dignity: new nations' leaders feel prestige determined by number of shiny new

weapons rolling past reviewing stand. Both US & Russia have made arms supply contingent on getting bases in return. With oil profits booming, Persian Gulf nations in most expensive & competitive arms race in history: could trigger war. India increasingly worried at growth of Persia's military muscle. Can anything be done to stop this vast and insane weapons flow?

"We still deal in original sin," says arms dealer. They're heirs of Sir Basil Zaharoff who, as chief salesman for Britain's Vickers, bribed, cheated, & lied fluently in 8 languages selling weapons to both sides in Boer, Balkan, & First World wars. Graft fuels almost every transaction. "What I do," says one dealer, "is sell a weapon here, then go to neighbor & sell antidote." French sold anti-ship missiles to Peru, then leaked news to Chile who got so jittery they bought it too. US sellers boast their products have been battle-tested in Vietnam & Mideast. Impoverished India paid \$3-billion to Russia for arms in past 3 yrs.

Trade can scarcely help peace: in all 60 wars since WWII, imported weapons used almost exclusively, bringing not only violence & destruction, but death to 10 million. Today's favored customer may be tomorrow's Frankenstein: govts. can change abruptly. Iran or Saudi Arabia coup could bring radical to power who'd turn vast arms stock against interests of suppliers. Till there's bona fide world police force, it's still Dodge City, & everyone wants rifle over door: day of rifle over every door may not be far off. (Tm 3:3)

A DEPRESSING reminder of the incorrigible evilness of man, & the utter vainness of any hope for peace & righteousness while man rules the world. All will piously agree it's a dreadful condition, but each blames the other, & none will call a halt. How true the Bible picture of animal man's last days as days of war! How hypocritical his empty boast of "civilization" & "progress." When Persia turns to Russia, India may be forced toward US.

MILITARY ELECTRONICS began when Britain used bulky, primitive radar to spot Nazi bombers in WWII. Ever since, scientists busily expanding world's electronic arsenals: others just as busy devising countermeasures. US had no answer to Russia's SAM-6 missiles that devastated Israel Air Force in '73: after examining missiles, they learned how to equip planes with countermeasures. US Med Fleet recently got another hint of Russian skills: Soviet destroyer came close to US ship, but Reds' electronic fog so dense US radar blinded.

On ocean floor, US has wide network of detectors so sharp they can pinpoint any sub in area. US satellites so effective they followed movements of individual tanks in '73 War. Satellites can spot nuclear tests anywhere on earth or moon. US to build sky command posts: giant planes packed with electronics. One recently directed entire NATO mock battlefield in W. Europe while at same time keeping eye on aerial movements in E. Europe & Russia as far away as Moscow. New 'cruise-missiles' equipped with terrain-following guidance will skim land or water for 1500 miles, seeking target & eluding enemy radar. All experts agree no new weapon—or defense—will stand unchallenged long. Weaponry life span shorter & shorter: newest may be obsolete soon after reach battlefield. (Tm 3:3)

BRO. Roberts, in his day, thought war had reached a diabolical pitch of murderous ingenuity—machine gun was invented about 1870. What would he think today: & what horrors does future hold? And staggering cost burden grows: in '73 war, billions in equipment were burned up in few days. A major war of any length today would destroy the intricate fabric of capitalism. Dictatorships have no such finance problem: Russia is closed system & manipulates its currency, cancelling any public debts as it chooses, with no concern for individual sufferers.

OIL MONEY EXCEEDS ALL EXPECTATIONS: 17 nations took in \$133-billion in '74: gave them trade surplus of \$97-billion—rest of world that much in red. Britain expects \$16-billion deficit in '75. Oil nations piling up \$4½-billion a month surplus: great potential for mischief in world money markets. (USN 3:24)

* * *

Arabs buying hugely into West business. Iran putting \$300 million in Pan Am: oil cost was major factor in Pan Am losses: rescued by nation fat with oil profits. Iran buying 50% of ENI, Italy's national oil agency: will guarantee Italy's oil needs. (USN 3:3)

WORLD'S wealth suddenly pouring into Mideast. White West countries, which till recently arrogantly & ruthlessly ruled world, are increasingly weakened & impoverished. Great beneficiary is Russia, who is self-sufficient in oil & energy: her future victims are at present falling over each other to extent credit & help build her power & resources. And the great cause of Arab oil robbery is Russia: without her threatening in background, West wouldn't for moment tolerate present situation. Deal ties Italy to Persia.

STUNNING RED TRIUMPH IN INDOCHINA. Once again, US trying to save a city by airlift: every 30 minutes a huge plane lands at Phnom Penh, disgorging 700 tons of munitions a day—last, desperate gamble to save Cambodia. Govt. has lost over 1/5 of Army since Jan. 1. Odd thing was that, for first time since WWII, there seemed no great concern in Congress or anywhere else about US ally falling to Communists. (Nwk 3:3)

Reds control 80% of Cambodia. All routes, sea & land, to capital cut. On paper, Govt. has 200,000 troops vs. 75,000 Reds, but nearly 1/2 of Army are non-existent "ghost soldiers" whose pay is pocketed by corrupt officers. A bloodbath would follow a Red victory: 50,000 would be executed: all officers, govt. officials, teachers, any educated in West. (USN3:10)

* * *

Each day Reds tighten noose around capital. Congress balking at help. Cambodia seems certain to be first friendly country to fall to Reds since Castro took over Cuba 16 years ago. In 5 yr. civil war, 700,000 civilians killed, 3 1/2 million homeless. Rampant govt. corruption long been major barrier to victory: wealthy Cambodians continued to give extravagantly lighted dinner parties, while poor quarters lay in darkness & parents begged food for children. If Reds take over, will be ruthless drive to abolish feudal privileges, redistribute wealth. Cambodia accepted US word, believed pledges of support, & committed its citizens to battle. Concern is for US credibility. Would be disastrous if Cambodia collapses because of US indifference. (Nwk 3:10)

* * *

If US lets Cambodia fall, other allies will find US word hard to trust: entire global structure of US alliances may be shaken. Thailand has just announced plans to send home US troops. Thais clearly edgy about US intentions; considering accord with China. (Nk3:17)

* * *

S. Vietnam staggering under Red attacks: Govt. has abandoned several key provinces. Cambodia in grave danger: capital ringed with enemy troops, population starving. Moscow & Peking provided N. Viets with \$1 1/2-billion aid last year. N. Viets' allies have been faithful: US has been less so. End is inevitable. When Cambodia falls, military supplies can be used against S. Vietnam, & airfields used to bomb Saigon. S. Viets have shown willingness to fight; question is continuation of US ammunition & equipment supplies. There's certainly no sign Russia or China losing will to supply N. Viets. If S. Vietnam falls, massive purges inevitable: all from school-teachers up who co-operated with US or own govts. will be endangered. (USN 3:31)

* * *

In sudden, stunning capitulation, Thieu has abandoned 1/2 of S. Vietnam to conquering Red army: ensuing great retreat may signal end of Thieu govt. N. Viets seem on verge of victory that has eluded them for 30 years. Sudden sickening realization in US that 55,000 US lives may have been sacrificed for naught. If S. Viets don't get more US help, they probably won't last thru summer. Bitter setback to US strategic position in Asia. Philippines, Thailand & Malaysia all reviewing their relations with US. Thais say, "Detente with China is far better security than relying on US." (Nwk 3:31)

* * *

Ford warns, "If we abandon our allies, we'll be telling world aggression pays: it won't stop, but increase." Israel fears Mideast "guarantees" will be no more binding than Viet Paris Agreement, now so clearly destroyed. (USN 3:31).

THE frontiers of advancing Communism have been moved significantly forward, in more ways than one. At the end, the collapse of Indochina was shocking in its suddenness. A tremendous setback & humiliation for once-mighty US; a tremendous victory for dogged Communist cunning & perseverance. Once again, US seems to have been blindly fighting on the wrong side of history. Communism is on the march with tenacious, bulldog aggressiveness, & it cannot be stopped anywhere unless there is something at least as good to put in its place. There wasn't in Cambodia. There wasn't in Vietnam. It is beginning to appear there may not be in Italy, nor in Portugal. Nor perhaps Spain. Or even France. Everywhere, the social fabric is rotten & decadent. When Communists take over, all suspected of any potential for trouble are exterminated. We've seen it in Russia, & China, & E. Europe, & Cuba. It's an age-old custom of dictatorships. It is illustrated in the cases of Abimelech, Zimri, Jehu, Athaliah, Jehoram, & many of the emperors of Rome. When the numbing shock of Indochina passes, perhaps US will rally & reassess, & try to put its house in order, & restore its world credibility by a strong position & commitments. But perhaps the national will & purpose is gone, & God now intends things to hasten to the end.

ETHIOPIAN CIVIL WAR. US faces critical choice: help crush rebellion, or stay aloof & thus abet breakup of country that was US's closest African ally for many years. New strain on US-Arab relations: Arabs strongly support Moslem Eritrean rebels. US refusal to help govt. could result in breakaway of Eritrea, & shift in naval power balance: Red Sea ports now open to US would come under pro-Arab leftists.

While Selassie ruled, US had special relationship with Ethiopia; following '74 army coup, US-Ethiopia relations went into deep-freeze. Since Jan., full scale civil war in Eritrea. Govt. has lost initiative: rebels (with large scale arming by Arabs) have seized countryside & are raiding govt.-held cities. Govt. asking urgent US help. (USN 3:3)

US will send millions in arms to help Ethiopia put down Eritrean rebellion. Stakes so high US decided to risk Arab anger. A leftist Eritrea could make Red Sea ports available to Russia, adding to Moscow's muscle in area. (USN 3:10)

ANOTHER Vietnam may be in the making. US long backed a callous Ethiopian dictator in Selassie. Those who have displaced him give no promise of being any better. Today the Arabs can afford to match US 10 to 1 in any cash & arms supply to opposite sides. With their present billion-\$ a week surplus cash piling up, they can afford indefinitely to stack Eritrea with weapons from border to border.

ARAB BLACKLIST. As Arab oil wealth grows, so does muscle in world trade. Using new strength, Arabs pursuing policy deeply inimical to legal & social principles of West. Financial & political capitals shocked to learn Arabs threaten boycott of major international bond issues unless banks with Jewish ties barred. (Tm 3:10)

* * *

Blacklist violates basic US precepts; but economic realities pull hard the other way. Arabs spend \$5-billion yrly. on US goods: deals that Europe & Japs would be quick to snap up. US trade deficit already is worry. Arabs deliberately flaunting blacklist to bring US pressure on Israel. (USN 3:10)

* * *

Many US officials eager to soft-pedal it, but Arab blacklist becoming major national issue. Congressional probe shows Arab discrimination wider spread than suspected. Arabs say they'll keep up pressure. Even US Govt. has bowed to pressure. Some US employers currying Arabs' favor by voluntarily discriminating against Jewish workers & Israel firms. Arabs encouraged to maintain boycott by discovery that many West cos. only too willing to play blacklist game: 200 cos. have submitted documents to prove they don't deal with Israel. US govt. & business leaders worry that assault on Arab blacklist might scare off badly needed Arab capital & provoke Arab reprisals; but retaliatory mood seems growing in Congress. (Tm 3:17)

A VERY ugly and ominous reality. Increasingly the Arabs have the power to dictate international financial terms. With just 1 year's oil profits, they are already the world's bankers. Already once proud & mighty US is afraid to step on wealthy Arab toes. Already perfidious & self-serving Europe has capitulated to the blackmail, & publicly abandoned any pretence of concern for Israel & justice. Pressure on US to do same will be tremendous.

BIG POWERS IN RISKY GAME IN PERSIAN GULF. Dangerous new arena of US-Russia rivalry. Dizzying arms race. Rivalries between conservative sheikdoms & leftist Arabs. Roots of present tension go back to Britain's '71 withdrawal from area. Ever since, one power after another jockeying to fill vacuum. Latest contender is Iran, with dreams of reviving ancient Persian Empire. Iran fighting rebels in Oman; committed to defence of Kuwait; massive financial aid to Afghanistan; warning India of Iran intervention if India attacks Moslem Pakistan; aiding both sides in Israel-Arab controversy.

Russia is determined to use Iraq in building Russian authority thru-out region: in return for massive aid, Russia has unlimited use of Iraq ports & airfields, & is expanding Iraq harbors for Russian Indian Ocean Fleet. Russian presence strong in Persian Gulf. In Communist-ruled S. Yemen (which controls Red Sea entrance), 2000 Russian technicians building ports & airfields. When Egypt opens Canal, network of Russian bases in Somalia, S. Yemen & Iraq will enable Russia to maintain fleet in Persian Gulf. A volatile situation that is dangerous to West's oil supplies. (USN 3:10)

INCREASINGLY the Mideast is focus of world rivalry, & the rapid & enormous buildup of wealth there makes it more & more so. Increasingly Russia is building an entrenched 187 position of power there for time when it will be ready to strike for world empire.

ITALIAN REDS GAIN. Bologna (½-million) is largest Communist-run W. Europe city. With Communist Party angling energetically for role in Govt., Bologna's Reds proudly cite city as exemplar of municipal efficiency in nation riddled with civil decay. While most cities doubling bus fares, Bologna still gives free public transportation to 60,000 at workday rush hours. Has Italy's best day-care centers system. Aged benefit from easily accessible out-patient clinics, home nurses & companions. Over past 30 yrs., Reds won reputation both for honesty in municipal finance & creativity in city planning. If Bologna's any guide, Italy's Reds have more to offer than propaganda. (Nwk 3:3)

* * *

Communists seek share in Italy Govt. As result of economic disorder & disenchantment over inept succession of govts., Reds' hopes never been brighter. To placate moderates, Communists promise Europe-oriented foreign policy independent of both super-powers. Many middleclass apparently believe Reds not threat they once seemed: in Milan poll, 38% for compromise with Reds, 35% not (Tm3:31)

THE bickering, divided, incompetent govts. of Europe seem to be falling to Communism by default. Capitalism is built on individual & cut-throat greed, just sufficiently modified by govt. regulation so that rich

do not completely devour poor. Communism is (supposedly) built on mutual self-sacrifice & help, though in truth & practice its roots are power hunger & ruthless oppression, as in Russia, & its caste system is as invidious as India's. But the time seems very near, in Europe & world, for the Russia-oriented dictatorship that is called Communism to steadily rise in power and prestige.

THEODOR HERZL. His contemporaries disparagingly labeled him a "political Jules Verne." Verne was then producing outlandish fictions about lunar voyages & undersea exploration. Herzl was even more absurd: he predicted Jews' return to homeland. In Dreyfus trial, Herzl suddenly saw that defendant was emblematic of Jewish people.

Herzl did not invent idea of Jewish State: appeal of Return to Jerusalem was ancient as Dispersion itself. But Herzl alone took it from vision to plan to practicality. On way, he assumed countenance & stature of a prophet, sweeping all objections from his path. Austrian Emperor Franz Josef fumed; Bismarck dismissed Zionism as "melancholy reveries"; even Rothschilds saw Herzl as mere crank, refused him funds. These were but minor irritations to Herzl. His message was always the same: Jews will never be safe till they have homeland of their own. Herzl moved thru Europe & Mideast like a Jewish Napoleon: rallying poor, converting rich, negotiating with sultans, papal nuncios & Cabinet ministers. He died in 1904, burned out at age 44.

But he had aroused Jews of E. Europe, including a 10-yr.-old named David Ben Gurion. Slowly they began trek to Ottoman-controlled Palestine: New Exodus was underway. Still, Britain's Balfour Declaration, promising land to Jews, was 14 years away; Israel would not be founded for another 44 years.

Herzl had appeared & disappeared as if on celestial cue, leaving his work to more stable founders & builders. But in the light operetta that was old Europe, he had looked thru the gilt backdrop and had seen the flames of the Holocaust. (Tm 3:24)

WHEN the set time in the divine purpose came for the long night of dispersion to begin to end, God saw that the needed means & motivation was supplied. The infamous Dreyfus case—one of shameful France's most shameful episodes—was a watershed in Jewish recognition of the precarious tenuousness of their supposed new & secure foothold in "enlightened" European society. But it took Hitler, 40 yrs. later, to indelibly drive the lesson home.

N. IRELAND "WAR" raging since '69: 1200 killed, 15,000 injured. "Chicago-style" gangsterism: growing lawlessness. Armed robbery, rare 6 yrs. ago, at epidemic proportions. Juvenile crime soaring alarmingly. Disregard of law, & inability of police to enforce it under current conditions: failure to pay rents, widespread refusal to pay taxes, reluctance to observe traffic regulations. Europe's worst housing crisis: less than ½ of houses in Belfast fit for human habitation, due to violence, old age & decay. (USN 3:31)

"LAW & order" is a fragile flower. The animal in man is never far below the surface: looters are usually first on the scene at disasters. How can children raised in this atmosphere of hatred & bigotry be anything but violent animals? What chance do they have, with such a shameful example by their elders? We have been sickened by pictures of both Protestants & Catholics exulting over the other's suffering, & glorying over the collapse of reason & moderation.

US-RUSSIAN MIDEAST STRUGGLE CONTINUES, US's future at stake in this vital part of world. Over past 20 years Russia exploited Arab-Israel conflict to expand its influence at expense of US, reaching high point in '70 when up to 20,000 Russians were in Egypt, controlling network of airfields & ports. Egypt was close to becoming Soviet military bastion. US, by contrast, was a pariah in Arab world.

That no longer holds. US staged impressive comeback. Sadat decided Russia couldn't force Israel to give up Arab territory. Russians were ordered out of Egypt, Russian bases closed. Kissinger seized initiative from Russia, first by saving Egypt from defeat in '73 War, then by demonstrating US could help Arabs recover territory.

Russia has attempted to compensate for its losses in Egypt by building stronger position in Arab radical camp, pouring sophisticated military equipment into Syria & Iraq. Moscow's latest move is recognizing & arming Arafat's PLO guerrillas. (USN 3:24)

THIS outline reminds us how events have made sudden & unexpected switches in the required prophetic direction when for a while they appeared to be going the wrong way. One prominent writer in another group was convinced—and quite exultant—that Russia's (now ended) foothold in Egypt "proved" bro. Thomas all wrong about King of North.

TV VIOLENCE BREEDS VIOLENCE. Police believe youthful crimes directly inspired by TV. New body of evidence shows pernicious effects of TV mayhem. TV has never been so violent: 60% of all prime time shows are violent. By age 15, today's average child has seen over 13,000 TV killings. TV writers see violence as most effective attention getting device: appeals to large & loyal audience. Studies show heavy exposure to TV violence numbs

reactions to such behavior among young viewers: they accept violence more readily in others. We're raising generation of hard Americans.

Adults, too, suffer emotional damage: TV's prevailing message is fear. Locale for most TV blood-letting has shifted closer home—further heightening viewers' sense of vulnerability. Even CBS Pres. Taylor admits: "TV is increasingly one of probable determinants of antisocial behavior." Networks exploit violence without regard for consequences. (Nwk 3:10)

TV IS modern animal man at his worst & ugliest. Its motive is violence & corruption of the young for profit, like the heroin pusher. And no one dare cage this rampaging monster because it is too powerful & profitable, & to take it away from the besotted millions would leave them bogged in their mindless emptiness.

IF KISSINGER FAILS, wide-open prospect of new Israel-Arab war, new oil embargo, wreck of US-Russia detente: Egypt may return to Russia alliance. (USN 3:17)

* * *

Last wk., after 17 days intensive negotiations, Kissinger announced mission failure. Israel suddenly ordered partial mobilization. Egypt said would rejoin Syria-PLO front. Collapse seemed certain to lead to resurgence of Russian Mideast influence. (Nk 3:31)

* * *

Israel demanded stronger non-war pledge, in return for Sinai pullbacks, than Sadat willing to give. Factor in problem was declining US prestige, caused by Viet-Cambodia troubles: both Egypt & Israel raised unavoidable question of long-range credibility of US commitments. Syria crowed to Israel, "US isn't reliable friend." (Tm 3:31)

KISSINGER did fail, but there is still much going on behind the scenes. Trickery & deception can't be ruled out, but it does increasingly appear that Egypt wants peace & alignment with US. We are greatly cheered at this trend, for it is how it must finally be.

SOUTH EUROPE CRUMBLING? New Portugal junta has close ties with Communists. If Portugal goes, Spain's in trouble. Italy economically weak, its Communists strong. Greece & Turkey threaten to leave NATO because of anger at US over Cyprus. Russia suddenly has chance to expand power in Mediterranean: working hard on Turkey to get it out of NATO, & US bases out of Turkey. Russia capitalizing on Greek anti-US feeling: pressing for elimination of "one-sided" agreements with US & NATO. Deep resentment in NATO against US for stopping military aid to Turkey. (USN 3:17)

THE long-looked-for end seems to be approaching. Things have a way of going down rapidly once they reach a certain point of deterioration, as we are seeing in Indochina. Russia is wonderfully cautious & patient, but seems she has not much longer to wait.

CHILD ABUSE believed largest cause of death among US children: 280 reported cases per million population in '72; 380 in '74. Increase caused by stresses & strains of society today—frustrations, poor life quality, drug & alcoholism increase. Expected to worsen. Child abuse not only self-perpetuating problem, but training ground for general violence. The 11 to 13-yr.-old murderers we see today come from violent homes. (Tm 3:17).

FROM so many points of view, 'society today' does not have very much to commend it. And yet it is so needlessly so: Creation is wonderful; the earth is beautiful; God is real; His Word gives boundless peace & joy & meaning & satisfaction to life, & assured eternal promise for the ages to come. What unnecessary tragedy that man's life is so ugly!

SHAH BETRAYS KURDS. Shah intends to let nothing stand in way of making Iran a modern industrial nation. Persia has just (for 5th time) revised upward its (now) \$70- billion 5-yr. plan, designed to make Persia world's 5th industrial power (after US, Russia, Germany & Japan). Has bought nuclear reactors from France; ¼ interest in Krupp steel empire; loaned over \$-billion to Britain; bailed Pan Am out of impending bankruptcy; made \$15-billion 5-yr. US trade deal. He bought \$5-billion in arms in last 8 mos.—now wants to buy US aircraft carrier. Plans to spend \$5-billion more on arms, & \$7-billion more on nuclear power plants.

To improve relations with Arabs, he has sacrificed his Kurd allies. In ruthless example of real politik, for territorial concessions from Iraq, he abruptly withdrew support from Kurds, allowing Iraq to launch ferocious offensive against them. 14 million Kurds, split among Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria & Russia, long for a state of their own. They fended off Greeks as long ago as 400 BC, & later the Romans, Parthians, Crusaders, Mongols, & imperial Britain [Kurd land has oil]. (Nwk 3:24)

* * *

Iraq-Iran reconciliation end ½ century of bitter enmity. (Tm 3:24).

PILATE & Herod have become friends: a lesson the cold, callous, calculating ways of the world. Kurds were a useful pawn that it served Shah's interest for a while to use against Iraq, but cast to the wolves as soon as it served his devious purposes. The Iraq-Iran accord—if it does not come unstuck—removes a big obstacle to the development of the prophetic picture. Both are Gog's allies at the end. This is the man US is building its faith on.

LEFT TIGHTENS GRIP ON PORTUGAL. Radicals in govt. consolidate position: 200 member ruling body (MFA) voted itself vast new powers, & made itself permanent Revolutionary Council with power to override any civilian assembly that may be elected. It also nationalized all Portuguese banks. Campaigning has taken increasingly ugly turn: leftist thugs breaking up rallies of other parties. (Tm 3:24)

* * *

After brief 11-month fling at democracy, Portugal has replaced a right-wing dictatorship with one on left. Spínola's bungling grab for power has strengthened left. Irony is that right was making major gains. (Nwk 3:24)

* * *

Military men who overthrew dictatorship last April in name of democracy now heading down road to Marxism & state control of all political & economic life. Sharp drift to left, growing power of Moscow-leaning Communists, deeply worries NATO. (USN 3:31)

* * *

All week long, state-controlled radio blared revolutionary songs, many anti-US. Portugal teetering on brink of biggest social upheaval in W. Europe since Spanish civil war. Pace is dizzying. Banks & insurance cos. nationalized; planning to nationalize utilities, reform agriculture. Rightists & centrists jailed without charges: more Communists & allies in Cabinet. Christian Democrat Party banned from coming elections. (Nwk 3:31)

IF PORTUGAL goes Communist, as at present seems increasingly likely, it will be a very serious (probably fatal) disaster for NATO, a great setback for US, & a big step forward in the divine purpose. Today Communists hold the power (though they are but a small proportion of the people), & Communists never relinquish power voluntarily.

RHODESIA BACK TO SQUARE ONE. Arrest of one of Rhodesia's most influential Blacks sent shock waves thru country; heavy blow to hopes of Black-White accord. Govt. claimed he plotted to kill Black rivals: immediate suspicion about Govt's real reason. Black leaders angrily cancelled all talks with Whites. Expect renewed & stepped-up attacks on Whites. S. Africa worried: with Rhodesia, it's the only remaining White-ruled nation in Black Africa. Recently it had begun to construct fragile detente with Black neighbors. As peace offering, it has been pushing Rhodesia into political accommodation with its Blacks. Black nations warn that if these efforts collapse, they'll support guerrilla war against Whites. (Nwk 3:17)

THE Black carpet has now rolled out all over sub-Saharan Africa, except for these 2 stubborn holdouts. The White man has, at great effort, built the wealth of these 2 countries, and most of it would collapse if he were overthrown, as it has elsewhere. But he did not build that wealth fairly in relations to his Black neighbors, whom he grievously oppressed. As in other parts of the world, it would appear the day of reckoning approaches.

MAN MADE DISEASES. Last yr., researchers announced they could transplant genes, the small lengths of DNA that dictate hereditary characteristics. Fearful that such experiments could produce new bacteria that might escape the laboratory, they self-imposed a moratorium. Last wk., after 4 days of intense debate, scientists from 16 nations decided to lift ban. They urged researchers to use certain safeguards. If doctored forms of common bacteria were to escape, they could spread cancer or other diseases. (Nwk 3:10)

MAN is insanely tampering with forces that his tiny little animal brain is too puny to cope with. It is the forbidden fruit & the Babel tower all over again. However, an all powerful God is in control: else we'd be but helpless, caged inmates of a zoo gone mad.

NOTHING STOPS WORLD TERRORISM. Acts of savagery in swift succession in Israel, Germany, Argentina. Problem intensifying. Only US & Israel take rigid stand, refusing any deals with terrorists. Nations (like Germany) that bow to terrorism find it feeds on its successes. Of 182 world terrorists captured in recent years, 144 never punished or just got token terms: many ransomed by new acts of terror. Most nations won't get tough.

US terrorism taking new twist with appalling potential: destruction of multi-million \$ Conn, rubber factory showed high vulnerability of industrial complexes. Brick factory 2 blocks long, 4 stories high, reduced to rubble. US terrorists more sophisticated than ever, better trained with explosives, more dedicated to violence. (USN 3:17)

COMPLEX modern society makes terrorism easy to perpetrate, hard to control. Modern corruption & immorality & godlessness are rich soils for these poisonous fruits.

MEANINGLESS "CHRISTIANITY." New book, "Common Catechism," is joint product of 36 respected Protestant & Catholic theologians, edited by member of Pope's theological commission. Rejects many ideas that Catholics, Lutherans & Calvinists have traditionally affirmed. Puts considerable limitations on Bible, saying "we can learn virtually nothing" from it on specific questions of sex morality, & that 10 Commandments are "to large extent conditioned by their age " Many NT passages are described as later additions, instead of accounts of what Jesus said & did. Book is useful survey of kind of Protestant liberalism that has guided Protestant ecumenism, & that's increasingly attractive to ecumenically-minded Catholics. Martin Marty, prominent US Lutheran, thinks book's "vision may be only one open to 21st century Christians." (Tm3:31)

THIS revelation of the current thinking of "respected Protestant & Catholic theologians" clearly explains the present state of corruption & immorality in so-called "Christendom." They have cast aside the only Light—the Word of God—and are groping in the pigsty by the "light" of their own animal darkness, guided only by natural lusts & reasonings.

PLO TERRORISM. Bloody raid on Tel Aviv: 7 terrorists, 11 Israelis killed, many hurt. Arafat's PLO claimed responsibility: 9th major attack since last April. PLO resumed terror raids only 5 months after Arafat presented himself at UN as new voice of Palestinian moderation. Arafat made Tel Aviv attack as Arab solidarity was deteriorating. Egypt had been accusing PLO of trying to scuttle Kissinger peace efforts. (Nwk 3:17)

THE announced purpose of the raid was to derail the Kissinger peace talks. Whether or not it was a factor (it well may have stiffened Israel), those talks did fail.

YUGOSLAVIA COURTS RUSSIA. Ever since discovery of pro-Russian plot last yr., aging Tito taking extreme care to avoid antagonizing Russia. Has now arrested author Mihajlo Mihajlov, who earned Russia's undying hatred by charging Stalin, not Hitler, invented genocide. He accuses Tito of following increasingly neo-Stalinist line. He was sentenced last week to 7 years in prison. (Nwk 3:10)

THERE was a time when US supported "enlightened" & anti-Russian Communist Tito in hope dividing & weakening Russia's E. Europe empire. But we hear little of that these days. Tito is now old, & Yugoslavia divided & weak, & Russia waits & crouches for the kill.

LEARNING LESS. National scores on SAT tests in schools have fallen every yr. since '62: down 10% in 12 years. Other investigations confirm trend. Some educators place much of blame on TV. But some blame must be on schools: emphasis is on 'expressing selves' at expense of work. Learning less about reading, math, & science. (Tm 3:31)

THIS trend has got to be inevitable, given today's philosophies & moral & disciplinary climate. God causes nations in their folly to weaken themselves as His purpose requires.

TORTURE IN CHILE. 3 distinguished international humanitarian groups all reached same conclusion after investigations: Chile has institutionalized brutality & torture. Since overthrowing Marxist Allende 1½ yrs. ago, military junta has adopted most of classic tools of dictatorship. US has declined to express disapproval. (Nwk 3:31)

THIS is the govt. which US, by interfering secretly in Chilean affairs & undermining Allende, helped to set up over the murdered body of an elected President.

UNEMPLOYED invariably complain of boredom & tensions of enforced idleness. They spend first weeks off job doing all long-put-off chores. But after a while everything is fixed, & there's nothing to do. (Tm 3:17)

THIS is tragic. What a revelation of the utter, vacuous emptiness of animal man! In a world of endless, fascinating marvels whose study & enjoyment could last 100 lifetimes, these poor besotted creatures cannot drag thru their dull vacant days without boredom & monotony. Without his daily grind, his dark smelly saloon, & his ubiquitous, idiotic, mind-numbing TV, poor animal man is bored to death. God made man upright, & spread before him the glories of eternity! How that once noble creature has deformed!

DO-IT-YOURSELF A-BOMB. A 20-yr.-old college student with no previous knowledge of nuclear engineering was, in a test, asked to design a homemade A-bomb. He did, & experts say that if it were built it would have destructive force of 1000 tons of TNT, could kill 100,000: would cost \$10,000 & use 15 lbs. of plutonium. He learned how by 5 weeks study in college science library. (Nwk 3:10)

ANOTHER fateful breakthrough, & dark portent of things to come. From the moment they triggered the first prototype atom bomb, this day was inevitable. Mankind must inevitably destroy itself if left to go its maniac course. But God will intervene before then.

WORLD FOOD. Only 7 (of over 130) countries produce more food than their people need. These 7 contain only 320 million under 1/12 of world population—and over 2/3 are in US. In contrast, 1/3 of human race (over billion) live in 50 hungry nations. Even most bountiful lands would bankrupt if they tried to meet needs of hungry nations. Russia still far from able to grow enough food for its people: 1/3 of its total work force is on land (1 in 25 in US). Russian farm worker produces 1/10 what US farm worker does. (USN 3:24)

OF ALL world's growing problems, food is most basic. Though it has 1/6 of world's area & only 1/14 of world's people, & though it drives 1/3 of its workers to the task, the Russian dictatorship cannot even feed its own people. This is power that wants to run world.

POLITICAL SLUSH FUNDS. From '60 to '73, Gulf Oil funneled \$10 million to political activities, much of it illegal. American Airlines had illegal slush fund of at least \$275,000, created by juggling books. Braniff Airlines created nearly \$1-million political fund by selling 1000s of tickets that were never entered in books. 3M doled out illegal political contributions of \$½-million since '63, concealed by using Swiss banks. (Tm3:24)

AS MORE & more of this seamy story unravels, the brave tinsel of "democratic" capitalism peels & tarnishes. Big Business systematically bribed politicians for favors, & costs were of course passed on to public, who thus paid to have their legislators perverted.

PAPAL CRACKDOWN. No modern pope has tried more earnestly than Paul to control proudly independent Jesuit Order. Last wk. he vetoed some recent decisions, & insisted on right to approve every document of Jesuit General Congregation, despite long-standing custom that Pope only reviews major constitutional changes. It was stunning rebuke: Jesuits reportedly left "reeling" by papal attitude. (Tm 3:17)

THE history of the stealthy, shadowy Jesuit empire is an intensely interesting aspect of papal power & oppression. But pope today having difficulty bringing his hounds to heel.

PAN AM'S OIL BILL last yr. rose \$194 million, prime factor in \$82-million loss. Iran, major instigator of high oil prices, buying into Pan Am with \$300 million—largest investment in US firm ever made by oil country. With Pan Am's terminals & expertise, Shah plans to turn Iran Air into major international airline. (Tm 3:3)

A VERY significant development, that has yet to sink into US's consciousness. Pan Am is the flagship of US's commercial air supremacy & pride. It has been ignominiously gunned down & kidnapped by an upstart oil baron from a long-dead empire.

FRENCH ARMY. Morale so low, warned secret govt. report, that upheaval similar to one that racked France in '68 could break out in army itself. Even professional officers have lost confidence. Been lowest paid troops in W. Europe. Both conscripts & officers have been edging politically toward Left. (Tm 3:17)

WELL we remember the absurd & soon-punctured myth of the glory & invincibility of France's pre-WW II army that fell apart before Hitler in a few disgraceful weeks. It does not appear that France's present army will constitute much of a problem for Russia.

US TRADE DEFICIT: shocking \$5.9-billion for last 3 mos. of '74-year's total billion. Oil import costs up \$18-billion in '74. Dramatizes extent of financial hemorrhaging that has hit US since Arabs boosted oil prices. (Tm3:31)

US CANNOT remain a world power if this continues indefinitely, & there's nothing yet to give any hope it won't. But this is not nearly as bad as Britain, Italy & France losses.

CAN US COPE? 4-fold oil price jump & massive wealth shift threaten West with economic disaster. Scramble for non-renewable raw materials perils international order. World food shortage threatens mass starvation in poor lands with exploding populations. Nuclear weapons slipping out of control. Terrorist with atom bomb is distinct danger: so's nuclear war, with 20 nations in line to join nuclear club.

Doubt whether US people any longer have will or desire to cope with demands of world leadership: simply not prepared to exercise self-discipline that pulled us thru other crises. For past 10 yrs., young taught disrespect for authority; fashionable to mock patriotism. Generation inculcated with those values unfit for world leadership. (USN 3:3)

TRULY has been tremendous collapse of unity & national purpose & idealism & self-confidence in US in past 10 to 20 years. Racial & ideological conflicts, the colossal boastful blunders & delusions of Vietnam, the sordid revelations of widespread political & business corruption, bungling & ever-changing govt. policies that have driven country into recession, the constant galloping crime rise, the glorification of moral filth & brutal violence in the entertainment world—all combine to make a very sick & weak people.

RUSSIAN MILITARY PREPONDERANCE. Troops: Russia 4 million; US 2million. Tanks: Russia 40,000; US 9,000. Major surface ships: Russia 220; US 175. Attack subs: Russia 150; US 75. Four new Russian missile types in '75, many with multiple warheads. No end in sight to Russian missile sub construction: new larger model starting. (USN 3:3)

Def. Sec. Schlesinger says: "If present trends continue, serious setback likely for US." Russia outspending US by 20 to 25% in research, forces, & equipment, & 60% in nuclear arms. West & Japan dependent on Persian Gulf oil. Russia building major military capability in area: Somalia facilities impressive & growing. Russia deeply serious about permanent strike capacity in Indian Ocean. (Nwk 3:17)

SOON it will be Munich all over again. How terribly parallel is present picture to years preceding WWII, as Hitler, with dreadful single-mindedness & determination, built a mighty war machine to conquer the world, while small caliber European politicians fluttered fearfully about mumbling of "Peace in our time." But this time the stakes are far greater, the world far weaker & more divided, and the new world empire seeker far more powerful & prepared.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear brethren & sisters, Greetings to you all. Due to dissatisfaction over the attitude that some Berean Christadelphians have taken this last 3 years on the subject of divorce and remarriage, I have refrained sending in any ecclesial news. Nevertheless as the magazine should be the medium by which news and correspondence should be given to the household, we wish to put on record events of importance and interest to us all. Yet we are very sad at the disruption which has taken place in our fellowship in the past year or so, and we are of the opinion that this would not have happened if all had held fast to our former position, but we still hope and pray that every effort will be taken to reestablish ourselves, so that we can again walk together in unity and peace in defence of the faith once delivered to the saints.

—bro. Fred G. Jones.

(Bro. Fred has asked that this personal note of explanation be inserted.)

Dear brethren and sisters, Loving greetings in the Hope of Israel.

Our brother Paul speaks of the troubles of the last days being comparable to the pangs of childbirth (1 Thess. 5:3). This is especially true also in type, as we observe with sorrow the travesty of Bible truth in other groups. The lesson of these things ought to be heeded by all who will strive to enter through the strait gate. Also we have the 3rd century (and earlier) departure from the Truth into error as another lesson why it is wise to hold fast unto that which we have been given in the last days.

We are heart-sickened by the teaching, in a recent book by a prominent member of another group, that Jerusalem is Babylon the Great. Surely this should make all reflective brethren take notice of the times.

All those who love the Word of God, and not men's wisdom, ought to be able to say Amen to the scripture—

"They shall prosper who love thee" (Psa. 122:6).

—that city—

"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth" (Psa. 48:2)

—and unite in that fervent prayer—

"Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces."

Yet, according to this new theory, her (Jerusalem's) smoke is going to ascend up forever and ever (Rev. 19:3) and God (Who really loves her) is said to be going to destroy her forever (Rev. 18:8,21-22). This is old Jesuit teaching.

David, in godly reverence, said of Jerusalem (Psa. 137:5-6) —

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chiefest joy."

This should be the attitude of all who appreciate the whole Word of God. David further speaks of the Lord building up Jerusalem (Psa. 147:2). Will He destroy that which He takes pleasure in?—for Isaiah says (65:18) —

"But be ye glad and rejoice FOR EVER in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy."

We all know that Jerusalem of today is to be changed topographically at the event of the great earthquake of Zech. 14:10; yet this only cleanses Jerusalem of Gentile filth (Rev. 17:4). For the elevation of Mount Zion on the same site of Jerusalem of today, see Zech. 14:11.

It would be possible to write a volume, brethren, on the love Yahweh has for His *City of Peace* (Heb. 7:2). But the reason for this short letter is that we may "contend earnestly" for the Truth, and "so much the more as we see the Day approaching"! With love in Christ Jesus, your brother,

—Brian Riley, 152 Otaika Road, Whangarei, New Zealand

Bible Questions

COMPLETE THE EXPRESSION—

1. Rise up
2. Contend
3. I am made
4. Peter wept
5. Agag came
6. Go thou in
7. He is a Jew
8. Jesus sighed
9. Moses spake
10. Jehu driveth
11. Comest thou
12. Rebuke them
13. Be not yoked
14. I was wrought
15. Fables devised
16. Behold I come
17. Ye suffer fools
18. Spirit speaketh

19. Shake the earth
20. Swine ran down
21. Waters prevailed
22. Israel shall dwell
23. I have done very
24. Judah hath dealt
25. Many are weak &
26. Take water of life
27. Eateth & drinketh
28. Word of God grew
29. We were entreated
30. Now speakest thou
31. He hath triumphed
32. Disciples asked him
33. Ground brought forth
34. Sought me out very
35. They read in the book
36. Sin doth beset us so

37. The scribe answered
38. Being caused to fly
39. Waters brought forth
40. Wherefore look ye so
41. Whatsoever ye do, do it
42. Let all things be done
43. He forgave them both
44. Dividing to every man
45. Behaved not ourselves
46. Be quiet & do nothing
47. Doth not behave itself
48. I beseech thee hear me
49. Love with a pure heart
50. Not handling the Word
51. Cause him to be healed
52. Glorified herself & lived
53. Enquire something more
54. Wicked will be destroyed
55. Which must come to pass
56. Ye took spoiling of goods

early	deeply	terribly	privately	expressly	peaceably	deceitfully
sadly	plainly	swiftly	inwardly	curiously	cunningly	unworthily
easily	shortly	heartily	violently	unseemly	unequally	thoroughly
sickly	frankly	joyfully	earnestly	distinctly	gloriously	unadvisedly
safely	sharply	severally	perfectly	diligently	disorderly	abundantly
freely	merrily	mightily	patiently	delicately	plentifully	exceedingly
gladly	quickly	decently	furiously	miserably	deliciously	wonderfully
rashly	bitterly	foolishly	fervently	discreetly	shamefully	treacherously

Answer: "Who are these women?"—Hannah, Anna

\$3.50 per year (only for those who desire to pay—free to others)

Printed in U.S.A.