

The PLAIN TRUTH

*A magazine of understanding
dealing with the great truths of life*

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JULY - AUGUST 1938

PROPHESED EVENTS

Speed on In Europe !

In late February, dramatic changes in Europe completely reversed the world trend. We brought to our readers a full exposition of this new shift in the March PLAIN TRUTH.

The article stated: "Tremendous developments will now follow." And they have followed!

The article showed how the way had suddenly opened for the prophesied revival of the ROMAN EMPIRE, and grouping of the world's nations into three massive armed camps.

EVENTS THAT

ROCKED THE WORLD.

Since that article appeared other events have rocked the world, extolled following this new trend, fulfilling Bible prophecies.

Hitler suddenly and dramatically annexed Austria. One more nation has been absorbed into the Fascist-Nazi sweep toward the Roman Empire revived.

France has entered a diplomatic "understanding" with Mussolini!

And, following Great Britain's sudden "about-face" policy, as outlined in the March issue, England, too, has come to a diplomatic "understanding" with Il Duce.

And lastly, Mussolini has entertained Hitler with a multiple-million dollar Roman holiday, thus solidifying, before the world's gaze, the newly-formed "ROME-BERLIN AXIS." Events

How Mussolini and Hitler are restoring the ROMAN EMPIRE in Europe.

Who will dominate, Hitler or Mussolini?

How will it affect the United States and Great Britain?

Everyone following world events fulfilling Bible prophecies will want to read this enlightening article.

vents are marching with increasing momentum, exactly in the prophesied line!

In this short article we wish to show further how these prophecies are taking place under our very eyes. There is no need again to review the prophecies themselves. Suffice it to say we are here particularly concerned with the fulfillment of the 17th of Revelation—the revival of the ROMAN EMPIRE to world power. The prophecy shows this will come thru ten dictators in Europe giving their power and strength to the Dictator at Rome. It shows the pope will be officially acknowledged, and then turned upon and Catholicism destroyed, as soon as the pope has been used to serve his purpose. The prophecy further shows that the vast army of this ten-nation EMPIRE will be engaged in the final battle of the world, at ARMAGEDDON, at the Second Coming of Christ! Other prophecies, in Daniel 11 and Zech. 14, show how

Mussolini, with this great EMPIRE perfected will go to war against Great Britain over possession of the Mediterranean, taking Egypt and part of Palestine, including just half of the city of Jerusalem.

THE OBJECTIVES OF MUSSOLINI AND HITLER

Ever since the black-shirts marched on Rome, Mussolini has planned and worked according to a single fixed purpose—the revival of the ROMAN EMPIRE. His ambitions lie almost wholly in the Mediterranean area. As we pointed out in the March number, it is not necessary to fulfil the prophecies—nor, for that matter, to fulfil Mussolini's ambitions—that the modern Empire occupy the exact territory of old. Indeed the boundary lines, even then, were continually shifting. But it is necessary, to fulfil both prophecy and Mussolini's purposes, that the NEW Empire must control the Mediterranean Sea! That, then, is the scope of Mussolini's ambitions.

And now what are Hitler's ambitions? They have been well known ever since the publication of "Mein Kampf"

Hitler does not aspire to rule the world. His goal is to solidify the German race — to make it the DOMINANT European race, dominating

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industrially, and politically, but not necessarily ruling Central Europe—especially East and Southeast of Germany. He wants to extend German economic dominance into the Balkans, opening a road from Berlin clear to Bagdad.

These Dictators Face Obstacles

But Mussolini has his problems. So, likewise, has Hitler.

Italy is commercially weak! Italy emerged from the world war relatively WEAKER in the Mediterranean than either Britain or France. FASCISM IS AN EFFORT TO CHANGE THIS DISPROPORTION! Economically Italy is the weakest of the seven "great world powers." It lacks those essential resources—iron, coal, copper, tin, nickel, chromite, tungsten, rubber, cotton, etc.—necessary to industrial and military dominance. Italy lacks the territory it needs for its increasing population, and as a source of raw materials. Geographically, it is at a great disadvantage—hemmed into the Mediterranean with its only gates to the sea, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Gibraltar, under British control. As long as Great Britain controls the Mediterranean, Mussolini's dreams must remain but dreams. Then, too, far too much of the territory bordering the Mediterranean—so vital to restored EMPIRE—belongs to other nations stronger than Italy. Most of the African shoreline, except Spanish Morocco and the Libyan desert, belong to France and Britain.

Such obstacles would discourage a weaker heart than Mussolini's.

Now consider Hitler's disadvantages. Today Germany stands armed as one of the world's great powers. But, as Hitler strives for economic and industrial dominance in the Balkans, and on toward Bagdad, he will conflict with Mussolini. Further, he is hoping to expand his influence into territory that is strictly Roman Catholic, and his anti-Catholic campaign, in developing his own personal religion, has offended the Pope and all Roman Catholics. These factors make Hitler's objectives absolutely impossible by his own efforts.

Many, looking at the European situation as it is today, would carelessly assume that Hitler stands a much stronger figure than Mussolini. They might expect that he, and not Mussolini, would emerge the real Emperor when the new Empire comes into being. They might argue that neither Hitler nor Mussolini ever would "knuckle under" to the other and Hitler heads a nation of greater popula-

tion, greater resources, greater potential power.

But all the strategic advantages are with Mussolini.

How Mussolini Will Dominate

Mussolini stands in just the strategic position he has planned. Neither the plans of Hitler or Mussolini can be carried out without the influence of the pope! And only Mussolini can "arrange it" with the pope. The privately no more Roman Catholic than Hitler, officially he is Catholic for political reasons and has established a definite "deal" and relationship with the pope.

Of the two dictators, Mussolini is the more astute politician. He inherits the Old Italian sense of strategy. This old Italian game is to pit one power or group against another. Ancient Caesars played it. Italian rulers played it thru the medieval period.

Mussolini looked over the situation, and saw France and Great Britain, under Anthony Eden's leadership, exerting tremendous pressure, thru the League of Nations against his conquest of Ethiopia and his secret aid in Spain. Single-handed he could not cope with his powerful influence. He also has known Hitler's ambitions in the Balkans.

And so Mussolini proceeded to get his foot into the German camp. He came to an understanding, entered a certain alliance, with Hitler. This is to Hitler's advantage, for he well knows he cannot achieve his ambitions without the consent of Mussolini and the pope. So the "ROME-BERLIN AXIS" was born. This axis swings a balance of power in Europe. Then Mussolini played this alliance against Great Britain and France. With it he was able to defy them. With it he forced Eden's resignation at London, and the "about-face" policy of Prime Minister Chamberlain.

PITTING ONE AGAINST THE OTHER

But eventually even this alliance with Nazi Germany would lead to clash over rival interests in the Balkans. This, too, Mussolini foresees. Hitler might try to dominate the "Rome-Berlin axis" and the entire Balkan region. And so Il Duce proceeded also to get his foot into the rival Anglo-French camp! He has just completed a diplomatic "understanding" with both France and Great Britain! Now he can pit THEM against Herr Hitler!

Eventually Mussolini must come to war with Britain to accomplish

his goal of Empire. No one knows this better than he. He must control the Mediterranean. It is the very LIFE of the envisioned reborn Rome. Also it is the very life-line of the British Empire. It is a matter that cannot be compromised. But Mussolini is not yet ready.

England would conquer him today. So he is willing to bide his time, playing the game, pitting power against power until things are maneuvered as he wants them. And so it serves his present purpose to enter a diplomatic "understanding" with Great Britain. He has agreed to British dominance of the Mediterranean, and also to withdraw his troops, which have already served their purpose, from Spain. In this he has nothing to lose for the time being—but he GAINED British recognition of his conquest of Ethiopia and in Spain. He will use Great Britain to bring about his ROMAN EMPIRE! And then, after Britain has served him in the effort, When he has the united military strength of the TEN NATIONS under his power, he will wield that power against Great Britain in open battle for the Mediterranean.

Since Italy is not strong enough to conquer those nations occupying the territory of the Roman Empire, Mussolini is forced to resort to the methods described in Rev. 17:12-13, making an alliance with these ten nations. Thru his recently-perfected "understandings" with Hitler, France, and England, he has laid the ground work for his plan.

In other words, Mussolini will gain most of the territory he craves by peaceable alliance, finally welded into an EMPIRE wholly under his control—and with this power he will take the balance by force. Thus he plans to overcome his handicaps of insufficient resources, territory, and population.

When it comes to the final showdown, Hitler will see that the only way he can exert German economic dominance thru the Balkans is by coming into Mussolini's EMPIRE. No doubt Mussolini will make heavy economic concessions to Hitler. But Mussolini will be in control. He will command all the armies. He will be the EMPEROR! At least that is the indication now.

THE TOES OF IRON AND CLAY

In closing, please notice a significant fact in the prophecy in Daniel 2.

The entire Gentile succession of world Empires, from Babylon to the Rome of today, is pictured here. And whereas the ancient ROMAN EM-

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DOES EASTER REALLY COM-MEMORATE *the* RESURRECTION?

IT is commonly supposed, today, Jesus was crucified on FRIDAY, and that the resurrection occurred about sunrise on Easter Sunday morning.

It would seem that no one, until recently, ever thought to question or to PROVE this "Good-Friday-Easter tradition. Yet the Bible tells us to PROVE all things.

For PROOF there is but one dependable authority—a sole historical record, the Bible.

TRADITION NO EVIDENCE

There were no eye-witnesses to the resurrection. Even ancient so-called "apostolic fathers" had no source of information save that record which is today available to us. Tradition, then, must be dismissed.

What are the recorded facts?

The doubting Pharisees were asking Jesus for a SIGN—a supernatural evidence—in proof of His Messiahship.

Jesus answered: "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man be THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS in the heart of the earth. (Mat. 12:38-40).

Now consider, please, the remarkable import—the overwhelming significance—of Jesus' statement!

He expressly declared that the ONLY SIGN He would give to prove He was the Messiah was that He should be just THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS in the rock-hewn sepulchre in "the heart of the earth."

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF

THIS SIGN

These Christ-rejecting Pharisees demanded PROOF. Jesus offered but one evidence. That evidence was not the fact of the resurrection itself—it was the LENGTH OF TIME He would repose in His grave, before being resurrected.

Think what this means! Jesus staked His Claim to being your Saviour and mine upon remaining exactly THREE DAYS AND THREE

Was Jesus three days and three nights in the grave, as He said in Matthew 12:40?

Can you figure this between sunset "Good Friday" and sunrise Easter Sunday?

Here is an astonishing TRUTH!

NIGHTS in the tomb, IF He remained just three days and three nights inside the earth, He would PROVE Himself the Saviour—if he failed in this sign, He must be rejected as an imposter!

No wonder Satan has caused unbelievers to scoff at the story of Jonah and the "Whale!" No wonder the Devil has set up a tradition that DENIES Jesus as the Messiah!

THE DILEMMA OF THE

HIGHER CRITICS

This one and only supernatural PROOF ever given by Jesus for His Messiahship has greatly bothered the commentators and the higher critics. Their attempts to explain away this sole proof for Christ's divinity are ludicrous in the extreme. For explain them away they must, or their "Good-Friday-Easter" tradition collapses!

One commentator says of course we know that Jesus was actually in the tomb only half as long as He thought He would be! Some expositors impose upon our credulity to the extent of asking us to believe that "in the GREEK language, in which the New Testament was written, the expression 'three days and three nights' means three PERIODS, either of a day or a night!"

Jesus, they say, was placed in the tomb shortly before sunset FRIDAY, and rose at Sunrise Sunday morning—two nights and one day.

The BIBLE Definition

But the BIBLE definition of the duration of "nights and days" is simple.

Even these same higher critics admit that in the HEBREW language, in which the book of Jonah was written, the expression "three days and three nights" means a period of 72

hours—three twelve-hour days and three twelve-hour nights.

Notice Jonah 1:17: "And Jonah was in the belly of the fish THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS." This, they admit was a period of 72 hours. And Jesus distinctly said that AS Jonah was three day and three nights in the great fish's belly, SO He would be the same length of time in His grave!

As Jonah was in the "GRAVE" (see marginal reference, Jonah 2:2) 72 hours, after which he was supernaturally resurrected by God, by being vomited up, to become a saviour to the people of Nineveh upon proclaiming the warning to them, so should Jesus be 72 hours in His grave, thereupon being resurrected by God to become the saviour of the world!

Did Jesus know how much time was in a "day" and in a "night"? Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day...but if a man walk in the NIGHT, he stumbleth." John 11:9-10).

Notice the BIBLE DEFINITION of the expression, "THE THIRD DAY." Text after text tells us that Jesus rose THE THIRD DAY. See how the BIBLE defines the time required to FULFILL THE THIRD DAY.

In Genesis 1:4 God "divided the the LIGHT from the DARKNESS, and God called the LIGHT Day, and the DARKNESS He called Night. And the evening (darkness) and the morning (light) were THE FIRST DAY.... and the evening (darkness) and the morning (light) were THE SECOND DAY....and the evening (now three periods of darkness called NIGHT—three nights) and the morning (now three periods of light called DAY—three days) were THE THIRD DAY." (Gen. 1:4-13).

Here we have the ONLY BIBLE DEFINITION which explains and COUNTS UP the amount of time involved in the expression "THE THIRD DAY." It includes three dark periods called NIGHT, and three light periods called DAY—three days three nights, and Jesus said they contained TWELVE HOURS for each period—a total of 72 hours!

That ought to be conclusive! Any seven-year old, near the end of the second grade, could figure it easily.

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dress.

EDITORIAL

In place of the customary editorial,
I want to introduce this month a per-
sonal heart-to-heart talk with you
dear friends and brethren who are my
readers.

Recently I was asked, "Do you believe
in a long prayer? Is it necessary to pray
for a long time, when asking something
definite, in order to get the answer?"

Let me tell you a personal experience.
It was at a time when my wife was sick and
sensible, her life in grave danger. We had
annointed and prayed for her—prayed re-
peatedly—but she was not healed. There
was immediate, serious need of \$75 for a
specific purpose. Several other needs were
just as serious and urgent. We were at our
wit's end. I decided the difficulty was
with me.

So I began to fast and pray. No to ag-
onize, or shout and hug at God as the He
were deaf and needed to be begged. This
time I did not even continue to ask, once,
for those physical and material needs.
Father, I sought now to learn what was
wrong with me—why my prayers had gone
unanswered—and, to rectify the trouble.

I had simply gotten out of that intimate
CONTACT with God—drifted too far from
Him thru lack of sufficient prayer. Too
many worldly, material interests had begun
to fill my mind. This happens to so many
who do not realize it! In this case it took
just twenty-four hours of fasting, alternat-
ing between Bible study, prayer and contem-
plation, to get the world out and let the
Holy Spirit in. By that time I knew I was
once more in that intimate, personal com-
munion with God. The contact was re-estab-
lished. Now I KNEW He was listening, and
would answer. What a blessed experience!

It was then, and not until then, that the
petition for these definite physical and ma-
terial needs was renewed. And the prayer
requesting these things lasted a mere min-
ute or two. A long prayer was not needed
now. Just as briefly as a young man would
ask his earthly father whom he knows to be
both able and willing, we asked our heavenly
Father to supply these definite immediate
needs, as He has PROMISED to do (Phil.
4:13.) This time I KNEW the answer
would come. To KNOW GOD is to TRUST
Him!

Even as I arose from my knees, two of
the needs asked were being delivered to the
house. The next morning my wife's cheeks
were rosy with circulation of rich red blood,
and her healing was complete. That very

morning's mail brought the \$75 from a most
unexpected source! And during the day
the other needs were supplied.

Jesus, our example, was accustomed to
spend LONG HOURS in private, secret
prayer. He prayed all night to God. He
arose long before it was day, and went out
alone for a season of intimate supplication
and communion with His Father. But on
the occasion of raising Lazarus from the
dead, His prayer required a mere thirty-
seven words—and the answers came!

Again, when Jesus had been called to
cast out a demon, His disciples asked why
they had failed to cast it out. "And Jesus
said unto them, Because of your UNBELIEF!"

This kind faith not but by
PRAYER AND FASTING." As a result of
His fasting and praying, Jesus was full of
faith. His disciples' lack of faith was the
natural result of their lack of sufficient
prayer. Jesus KNEW God—they did not.
To KNOW God is to TRUST Him!

Now how do we really KNOW the Lord?
When you read the Bible, God is speaking to
you. When you pray, you are talking to
HIM. This is conversation, and by contin-
ual conversation you get to really KNOW
those with whom you converse.

FAITH is simply dependence upon the
veracity of another. God has given us many
PROMISES in His Word. First we should
search the Scriptures to see whether God
HAS PROMISED what we ask. Then we
should pray and ask Him for what He has
PROMISED to give. When my two little
sons come to me and say, "Daddy, you
PROMISED!" they know I would never
break my promise to them, and they have
perfect FAITH for the answer.

Why, then, do we lack faith so that our
prayers go unanswered? Because WE DO
NOT REALLY KNOW THE LORD! You
cannot really KNOW the living Almighty
GOD, and then doubt that He will do as He
has promised. Either we have never be-
come sufficiently acquainted with God, thru
complete surrender, right-minded Bible
study, and submissive earnest prayer, or we
have neglected that acquaintance!

Another reason is the tendency of so
many to look upon prayer merely as an
emotional experience. Its only object to
them, appears to be to elevate one's feelings
and emotions up into the air. The idea of
asking for definite needs, and actually re-
ceiving the answer, would never occur to
them. But the very TEST of the value of
prayer is "DOES IT WORK? DOES IT GET

RESULTS?" The reason God wants all His
children to learn is their own utter help-
lessness—their utter DEPENDENCE upon
HIM! He wants us to take our trials and
troubles and sorrows and temptations and
our every need to HIM. He wants us to
TRUST HIM for what we need. Even in
the little things of every-day life—each
should be taken up with Him. It is by trust-
ing Him in the little things that faith is
exercised and developed.

When the priests of Israel had turned to
Baal, they cried out, prayed, agonized,
shouted, pleaded all day, petitioning this
false god to send down fire from heaven.
But they were out of touch with the true
God, and all their long agonizing prayers
were futile. Then Elijah, who beyond doubt
had previously spent many hours in fervent
surrendered prayer resulting in intimate
contact with God, prayed calmly, confident-
ly, a brief few words. And the Almighty
answered with fire! (I Kings 18:21-38.)

Sometimes it requires many hours of
earnest, submissive, supplication from a
truly repentant contrite heart to establish
real contact and acquaintance with God. Not
because He is hard to reach, but because it
is so difficult for us to surrender, and get
our wills into harmony with His. It is HARD
to put our wills, our pride, our desires,
completely under—sometimes this takes
time. But, once the contact with God is
established, a long, agonizing, painful pray-
er for a specific need is ridiculous. God is
not deaf! We are not heard for our "much
speaking and vain repetitions." (Mat. 6:8-13.)

Paul admonishes, "Let a man examine
himself." Every successful business man
takes inventory at regular intervals. You
cannot be a successful Christian without
periodic self-examination! Perhaps YOU,
dear brother or sister, need it, now! Per-
haps you need to go where you can have a
QUIET TIME, alone with God. Examine
whether you are honestly surrendered ALL
the way—willing to obey God and keep all
His Commandments (I John 3:22). Ask Him
to help you with that secret thing in your
life you have been unwilling to surrender!
Confess this rebellion, and ask Him to put
it down. (I John 1:9).

Perhaps you need an intensive season of
FASTING and prayer. Perhaps you need
to get some of the worldly interests out of
your mind and heart. Are YOUR prayers
always answered? Perhaps you, too, need
to get to your knees and STAY THERE, in
real persevering prayer, until you break
thru.

Have the courage, purpose and determi-
nation to GO AND DO IT NOW! Don't put
it off. God is Love, full of compassion and
tender mercy. He is waiting for you. Go
and seek Him, NOW.

HOW WE SEND YOU

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FREE—without subscription price,
It carries no advertising.

Some ask how this is possible.
This work is a work of FAITH.
We trust God to impress upon
enough of His children to voluntar-
ily GIVE of their tithes and offer-
ings that the Gospel may go out
FREE!

We believe this is GOD'S WAY.
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His law is the principle of "GIVE"—
not "GET." It is love to OTHERS,
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This work is made possible, and
carried on, by that principle. When
you send in a contribution, whether
large or small, you are GIVING it
to the Lord's cause. It does not
pay for your subscription—it is a
free GIFT, making it possible for
us to GIVE the Gospel, freely to
thousands and thousands of others.
Are YOU doing YOUR full part,
as a faithful steward of God? Won't
you PRAY earnestly, that every
need of this great work may be
supplied?

NEXT MONTH

What is the significance of the
disturbance in Palestine, with its
fighting between the Arabs and the
Jews? Is this playing a part in
bringing on the WORLD WAR?
And if so, just how? A startling,
eye-opening article in the Septem-
ber number will show how this is
fulfilling BIBLE PROPHECIES.

When we come out, as God com-
mands in Rev. 18:4, WHERE
SHALL WE FIND FELLOWSHIP?
This very interesting, enlightening,
and surprising article had to be
carried over for the September
number.

The strange story of Israel con-
tinued next month and other in-
teresting, enlightening articles that
will help you UNDERSTAND
YOUR BIBLE. Sent FREE to your
friends, relatives, neighbors, pro-
viding they will request it, sending
name and address.

Does EASTER Really Commemorate the RESURRECTION of CHRIST?

Continued from page 3

We praise God that His plain truths are revealed UNTO BABES, and hidden from the wise and prudent!

WHAT IS WRONG?

What is wrong with these plain, simple words of Jesus? How do the wise and prudent theologians KNOW Jesus was crucified "Good Friday" and rose "Easter Sunday?"

The simple answer is, THEY DO NOT KNOW IT—for IT IS NOT TRUE! It is merely TRADITION—a tradition we have been taught from childhood, and carelessly ASSUMED! Jesus warned us against making "the Word of God of none effect through your TRADITION. (Mark 7:13).

We have examined two scriptural witnesses, in Matthew and in Jonah, both setting the duration of the body of Jesus in the tomb as three days and three nights, which the Scriptures plainly define as 72 hours of time. Now let us examine four other scriptural witnesses that PROVE THE SAME THING.

Notice Mark 8:31. And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and AFTER three days rise again."

Our young second grader can figure this. IF Jesus had been killed on Friday, and then AFTER one day" He had risen, the resurrection would have occurred on Saturday evening. IF AFTER TWO DAYS, it would have occurred Sunday evening, and if AFTER THREE DAYS, it would have occurred MONDAY EVENING!

Examine this text carefully. You cannot, by any process of arithmetic, figure any less than a full 72 hours—three days and three nights—in a resurrection which occurred three days AFTER the crucifixion! If Jesus was in the grave only from Friday sunset to Sunday sunrise, then this text, too, must be torn out of your Bible or else you must reject Jesus Christ as your Saviour! If He rose AFTER THREE DAYS, it might have been MORE than 72 hours, but it could have not be a second less!

Notice now Mark 9:31, "...they shall kill him; and AFTER that he is killed he shall rise THE THIRD DAY." The duration expressed here must be between 48 and 72 hours. It could not be one second PAST 72 hours, and Jesus still rise THE THIRD DAY. And it could not be Friday sunset to Sunday Sunrise, because that is only 36 hours, carrying us into the middle

of the second day, AFTER He was killed.

In Matthew 27:63 Jesus is quoted as saying "AFTER THREE DAYS I will rise again." This cannot possibly be figured as less than 72 full hours.

And in John 2:18-22, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and IN three days I will raise it up....but He Spoke of the temple of His body." To be raised up IN three days after being destroyed, or crucified, could not possibly be in a day and a half—it could not be less than 72 hours.

If we are to accept all the testimony of THE BIBLE, we must conclude that Jesus was exactly three days and three nights—three full 24-hour days—72 hours in the grave or the only supernatural proof He gave must fail.

The TIME OF DAY of Resurrection

Now notice carefully this fact: In order to be three days and three nights—72 hours—in the tomb, our Lord had to be resurrected at exactly THE SAME TIME OF DAY that His body was buried in the tomb!

Let us realize that very vital fact.

If we can find the TIME OF DAY of the burial, then we have found the TIME OF DAY of the resurrection! IF the burial, for instance, was at sunrise, then in order to be left an even three days and three nights in the tomb the resurrection likewise had to occur at sunrise, three days later. IF the burial was at noon, the resurrection was at noon. If the burial was at sunset, the resurrection was at sunset, three days later.

Jesus died on the cross soon after "the ninth hour" or three o'clock in the afternoon, (Mat. 27:46-50; Mark 15:34-37; Luke 23:44-46).

The crucifixion day was called "the preparation," or day before "the sabbath." (Mat. 27:62; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54; John 19:24). This day ended at sunset, according to Bible reckoning (Lev 23:32).

Yet Jesus was buried before this same day ended—before sunset. (Mat. 27:57; Luke 23:52-54). John adds "There laid they Jesus, therefore, because of the Jews' preparation day." According to the laws observed by the Jews all dead bodies must be buried before the beginning of a Sabbath or feast day. Hence Jesus was buried BEFORE SUNSET on the same day He died. He died shortly after 3 P. M.

Therefore—notice carefully!—the BURIAL OF CHRIST'S BODY WAS IN THE LATE AFTERNOON! It was between 3 P. M. and sunset as these Scriptures prove.

And since the RESURRECTION had to occur at the SAME TIME OF DAY, three days later, THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST OCCURRED, not at sunrise, but IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, near sunset! Startling as this fact may be, it is the PLAIN BIBLE TRUTH!

If Jesus rose at any other time of day, He could not have been three days and three nights in His grave. If he rose at any other time of day, He failed to prove, by the only sign He gave that He was the true Messiah, the Son of the living Creator! Either He rose near the END of a day near sunset, or else He is not the Christ!!! He staked His claim on that one and only sign!

So a time-honored tradition must be shattered! Let us praise God for His TRUTH which has been preserved thru the dark ages, so that the true light may now shine forth, if our hearts and minds are still willing to receive it! Praise His name! Do you LOVE the TRUTH as it is revealed, or despise it and love the traditions you have heard? "Whosoever despiseth the Word shall be destroyed!" Let us say with David, "Precious also are THY thoughts unto me, O God!"

WHAT DAY WAS

THE RESURRECTION

Now which DAY OF THE WEEK was the resurrection day?

The first investigators, Mary Magdalene and her companions, came to the sepulchre on the first day of the week (Sunday) very early, while it was yet dark, as the sun was beginning to rise, at dawn. (Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1).

Now here are the texts most people have SUPPOSED stated the resurrection was at sunrise Sunday morning. But they do not say that!

When the women arrived, the tomb was already OPEN! At that time Sunday morning—while it was yet dark—JESUS WAS NOT THERE! Notice how the angel says "HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN!" See Mark 16:6; Luke 24:3; John 20:2; Mat. 28:5-6.

Jesus was ALREADY RISEN at sunrise Sunday morning! Of course He was He rose from the grave IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, near SUNSET!

And since we know the resurrection was just shortly prior to Sunrise Sunday morning, and that it occurred in the late afternoon of the day, we now may know THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST OCCURRED

LATE SATURDAY AFTERNOON— NEAR THE END OF THE SABBATH!

The Sabbath day ended at sunset. It was late on that day, before the beginning of the first day of the week. It was not, then a Sunday resurrection at all—it was a Sabbath resurrection!

DID CHRIST FULFIL HIS SIGN?

Now all this is based on the supposition that Jesus did fulfil His only SIGN of being three days and three nights in the grave. All our evidence of this is based on the claims of Jesus BEFORE His crucifixion. But some of the higher critics and doctors of divinity tell us that Jesus made a mistake—that He was only in the tomb HALF AS LONG as He expected to be. Let us have PROOF as to whether He did spend the exact amount of time in the grave He said He would.

Notice that in Mat. 28:6, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD gives this testimony, which we now present as EVIDENCE! "He is not here: for he is risen, AS HE SAID HE WOULD." And He certainly did not rise AS HE SAID unless He rose at the precise TIME that He had said! So we have the proof of the ANGEL OF THE LORD, recorded in the sacred WORD OF GOD that Jesus did fulfil His sign—He was three days and three nights in the arth—He did rise Sabbath afternoon, and not Sunday morning!

Now notice carefully one more text, Matthew 28:1-6. "IN the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn TOWARD the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre." And at that time the angel told them "He is not here: for he is risen as He said." If we accept this as a correct translation it places the time of resurrection directly IN THE END OF THE SABBATH, or LATE ON THE SABBATH as it is worded in the American Revised translation. In the end of anything is still IN it. Some modern translations render this text as "AFTER the Sabbath"—or at dawn the first day of the week. However, even if we accept that rendering, this text becomes a fourth witness to prove that at sunrise Sunday morning He was NOT THERE—HE HAD RISEN prior to that time. But if you accept this translation, as it is in your Bible, you have a direct statement that Jesus's resurrection was before the ending of the Sabbath.

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Which Day Was The Crucifixion?

It is not difficult now to determine the day on which Jesus was crucified, Counting back three days from the Sabbath, when he rose, we come to Wednesday, the fourth, or very middle, day of the week.

Jesus was crucified on WEDNESDAY, the middle day of the week, He died on the cross shortly after 3 P.M. that afternoon, was buried before sunset Wednesday evening. Now COUNT the THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS. It also was there THREE NIGHTS. His body was Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday NITES in the grave—THREE NIGHTS. It also was there thru the daylight parts of Thursday, Friday and Saturday—THREE DAYS. He rose Saturday—the Sabbath—late afternoon, shortly before sunset, at the same TIME OF DAY that He was buried! And Sunday morning at sunrise He was NOT THERE—HE WAS ALREADY RISEN!

It is significant that in Daniel's prophecy of the "Seventy weeks", Jesus was to be cut off "in the midst of the week." While this prophecy has the application of a day for a year, so that this 70th week became a literal seven years, Christ being "cut off" after three and a half years' ministry, as He was, yet it is significant He was also "cut off" by crucifixion ON THE VERY MIDDLE DAY OF THE LITERAL WEEK!

WHAT Sabbath Followed the Crucifixion?

Now we come to an objection some may raise, yet the very point which PROVES this truth! Perhaps you have noticed that the Scriptures say the day AFTER the crucifixion was a SABBATH! Hence, for centuries, people have blindly assumed the crucifixion was on Friday!

New we have shown by all four Gospels that the crucifixion day—Wednesday—was called "the preparation." The preparation day for THE SABBATH. But for WHAT Sabbath?

John's Gospel gives the definite answer: "It was the preparation OF the PASSOVER."

"For that sabbath day was a HIGH DAY." John 19:14; 31).

Just what is a Jewish "HIGH DAY?" Ask any Jew! He will tell you it is one of the annual holidays, or feast days. The Israelites observed seven of these every year—every one called SABBATHS! Annual Sabbaths, falling on a certain annual calendar date, and on different days of the week in different years, just like the Roman holidays now observed. These Sabbaths might fall on Monday, on Thursday, or on Sunday.

If you will notice the following texts, You will see these annual holidays were all called Sabbath days: Lev. 23:24; Lev 16:31,

Lev. 23:39; Lev 23:15; Lev. 23:26-32.

Notice Matthew 26:2; "Ye know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified." And if you will follow thru this chapter you will see that Jesus was crucified ON THE PASSOVER!

And what was THE PASSOVER? It was the ancient day of Israel commemorating their deliverance from Egypt, and picturing to them the crucifixion of Christ and their deliverance from sin. In the twelfth chapter of Exodus you will find the story of the original Passover. The children of Israel killed lambs, and struck the blood over the door-posts and on the side-posts of their houses, and wherever the blood had thus been applied the death-angel PASSED OVER that house, sparing it from death. Following the Passover were SEVEN DAYS of UNLEAVENED BREAD. The first of these, the day after the Passover was a holy convocation or annual Sabbath, and the last of these days was another annual Sabbath, or feast day.

Observe the dates: "And in the fourteenth day of the first month is THE PASSOVER of the Lord, And in the fifteenth day of this month it the FEAST." (Num 28:16-17).

The passover lamb, killed every year on the 14th of the first month called "Ablib," was a type of Christ, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Christ is OUR PASSOVER, sacrificed for us (I Cor. 5:7).

JESUS WAS SLAIN ON THE VERY SAME DAY THE PASSOVER HAD BEEN SLAIN EVERY YEAR! He was crucified on the 14 Ablib the first Hebrew month of the year! And this day, the PASSOVER, was the day before, and the preparation for THE FEAST day, or annual high day Sabbath, which occurred on the 15th Ablib. THIS Sabbath might occur on ANY day of the week. Frequently it occurs, even today, and is celebrated by the Jews, on THURSDAY.

And the Hebrew calendar shows that in the year Jesus was crucified, the 14 Ablib, Passover day, the day Jesus was crucified, was WEDNESDAY. And the annual Sabbath was THURSDAY. This was the Sabbath that drew on as Joseph of Arimathea hastened to bury the body of Jesus late that Wednesday afternoon.

HONEST OBJECTIONS EXAMINED

Someone is sure to notice Mark 16:9, thinking this text says the resurrection was upon Sunday. But if you read the whole sentence, it does not say that at all. The expression "was risen" is in the perfect tense. What was Jesus' condition early the first day of the week? Does it say he "was rising" or that He "did rise" from the grave? No, early the first day of the week, at the time when He appeared to Mary Magdalene, He WAS RISEN. Of course was! He had risen the late afternoon before, so naturally He WAS RISEN Sunday morning. This text does not in any way refute the scores of other texts we have given.

Another passage that might confuse, is Luke 24:21: "...and behold all this today is the third day SINCE THESE THINGS WERE DONE." "These things" included all the events pertaining to the resurrection, —the seizing of Jesus, delivering Him to be tried, the actual crucifixion, and, finally the setting of the seal and the watch over the tomb the following day, or Thursday. Study verses 18-20; telling of "these things" and also Mat. 27:62-66. "These things" were not completed until the watch was set. Thursday. And the text says Sunday was the third day SINCE THESE THINGS were done. These things were not done until Thursday, and Sunday truly was the third day since Thursday. But it was not the third day since FRIDAY, so this text could not prove a Friday crucifixion.

THE FINAL PROOF

There is yet one final clinching PROOF of this amazing truth.

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The TRUTH about Israel

CHAPTER II

GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

BEFORE the days of Moses there was no nation known as God's particular nation. Prior to Moses there was no written Word of God—no inspired Scriptures—no Bible! ! !

God had communicated, previously, thru certain favored patriarchs who headed vast families. But after the Flood, as the re-population of the earth multiplied rapidly into nations, God needed a broader agency thru which to communicate and deal with mankind.

Once again man had turned, as he had done before the flood, solely to his OWN way and devices. Once more the human race began to walk contrary to God's way, as He had commanded in His Law. Once again sin ran rampant, and men began to lose all personal knowledge of God. The nations turned to the worship of idols.

So God selected one man, Abram, who was upright and willing, and called him out of his idolatrous environment—away from his kindred and people—into another land. And there God appeared to him and made with him an unconditional, unbreakable COVENANT. This covenant was the foundation of the nation Israel. It is the basis of the NEW Covenant, thru which we may inherit eternal life. In a sense, it was the pivot upon which God's whole Plan of redemption swings. It made Abraham the fleshly FATHER of all of God's people.

THE PURPOSE OF ISRAEL

Israel, God's nation, began with ONE MAN. And of this particular nation, God said: "This people have I formed for myself; they shall show forth my praise." (Isa. 43:1). Also he said to them, "Ye are my WITNESSES saith the Lord that I am God." (Isa. 43:12). Again, "I will sanctify my great name...and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified IN YOU before their eyes." (Jezek. 36:23).

So, aside from selecting a specially-prepared and sanctified line thru which Jesus was to be born, God's purpose in establishing this literal national race was to have on earth a people who should show forth His praise, thru whom the heathen could be led to God. Israel was formed to become a national custodian for a revelation of God's will to man—a nation thru whose prophets He could communicate—a national agency for the PRESERVATION of His written Word, and thru whom it should be carried to the World. A national agency for the propagation of the true knowledge and worship of the true God.

God always begins things, thru human agencies, in a small way and causes them to grow great. So this nation was started with ONE surrendering man.

In the 12th chapter of Genesis, beginning the first verse, we read: "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Gen. 12:1-3).

THE TWO-FOLD PROMISES

Notice particularly that the promises to Abraham are TWO-FOLD. First, God gave him a fleshly, racial promise. His flesh-and-blood descendants were to grow into a GREAT NATION. This promise was of race, multiplicity of seed. Second, God gave him the spiritual promise upon which rests our hope of salvation. In him, thru HIS DESCENDANT, CHRIST were all nations of earth including Gentiles, to be blessed.

Few have ever seen it, but God has always concerned Himself, in dealing with His earthly children, with two phases, fleshly and spiritual. Too often literal material things in the Bible are spiritualized, and often a fleshly substitute is accepted for the true spiritual. It is important, vitally important, that we understand and properly distinguish. Since we are now FLESH, but may, through the Gospel, become SPIRIT (I Cor. 15:42-53), God is naturally concerned, both with the fleshly and with the spiritual. This knowledge is a VITAL KEY to an understanding of God's Word!

And so let us at the outset distinguish clearly the TWO-FOLD aspect of God's promises to Abraham. God said, "I will make of thee a great nation." None will deny that the nation of ISRAEL, which formerly occupied the country we now call Palestine,—a fleshly RACE—was in fulfillment of that promise. God also said, "and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." None shall deny, after reading Galatians 3:8, that this is a SPIRITUAL promise, relating to the GOSPEL. For we read: "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen thru faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed."

THE CHRISTIAN'S INHERITANCE

And now notice the 7th verse of Genesis 12: "And the Lord appeared unto Abraham and said, Unto thy seed I give THIS LAND."

That is the inheritance God promised Abraham. And, if YE be Christ's, then are YE Abraham's children and HEIRS according to that PROMISE— heirs of THAT LAND. Abraham's RACIAL descendants did occupy that land until they sinned so grievously the Lord was forced to drive them out. And Abraham's descendants, when finally born again by resurrection or translation, shall inherit that same land forever!

Later God repeated this promise of inheritance of the land, informing Abram how long he and his children should possess it. It is in Genesis 15:14-16. "And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou seest, thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered."

And here, notice a further promise of RACE; Abraham's descendants are to be as numerous as the dust, which cannot be numbered. This refers, not to the ONE seed, Christ, to whom all spiritual promises pertain. This promise is not of GRACE, but of RACE, multiplicity of seed.

Again the land of promise is further

described: "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the River of Egypt unto the great river, the River Euphrates." (Gen. 15:18). Eventually as other promises and prophecies explain, the land of the promise shall expand to include the whole earth. THIS is the land of the saint's eternal home and inheritance—of promise made ONLY to the CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM (Gal 3:29 and Mat. 5:5).

Again, when Abram was ninety-nine years of age, the Lord appeared again and again "I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be thou perfect, And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly." (Gen. 17:1-2). Notice that now God agrees to bestow upon Abraham these blessings and promises: O N... C O N D I T I O N ! He says, "Walk before me and be thou perfect," and then if Abraham first does that, God will perform the blessings!

And so the promises of God, which He promises to will and bequeath, can be obtained ONLY ON CONDITION. Abraham had a part of this agreement to perform. If, and when, Abraham performed his part, then God stood bound to perform his part. Thus this became an agreement,—a COVENANT. A covenant, as any dictionary defines, is AN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN TWO OR MORE PARTIES. It is a contract. It involves conditions. It involves two parties or more. But IF the one who agrees to perform the task, or keep the conditions imposed by the other, does fully perform his part, then the other party to the agreement stands BOUND to bestow the reward. It is so in all contracts, agreements, or covenants.

And just as Abraham was told he must perform the conditions FIRST, before coming into the inheritance so it is with us. The New Covenant, based upon the spiritual phase of these promises to Abraham will be made only with a tried and tested people—with the OVERCOMERS of sin—with those who not only started the Christian life, but who have endured unto the end! And so, if we are among these faithful, we are the children of Abraham, (Gal 3:7).

Continued next month

IS THE BIBLE A TEXT-BOOK ON SCIENCE?

Often we hear the apology emanate from one steeped in the teachings of "modern science" that "Of course the Bible is not a text-book on Science."

The inference is that the Bible contains error, written by men ignorant of what is now known in "modern science."

It is true that there are contradictions between the plain statements of the Bible and the teachings of modern science. Therefore those under influence of this "modern science" are led to believe the Bible is not true.

The facts are these: The Bible is NOT a text-book on science. Science deals only with the MATERIAL—

with organic and inorganic matter. The Bible is a revelation from God, dealing primarily with the SPIRITUAL, a realm modern "scientists" have never plumbed, and only secondarily with the material. But "All Scripture is given by INSPIRATION OF GOD," (II Tim. 3:16). It is a revelation from God of the things man does not otherwise know, and could not find out! God is the CREATOR.

The Creator of matter, of force and energy—the Creator of all the laws of Science. The tools of modern science are said to be observation and reason. And insofar as men of science confine their efforts to observations and measurements, they are as careful and accurate as could be expected of erring mankind. But when they launch into the real realm of REASON—trying to explain what they have observed and measured, then they have proved extravagant and absurd!

No, the BIBLE is not a modern science text-book. But if the atheists and infidels of modern science, (so called,) would employ the TRUTH revealed from God in the Bible as their basic conception explaining what they observe and measure, then, indeed, we should have TRUE SCIENCE! There is not one contradiction between the Bible and PROVED FACTS of science—not one! But there are contradictions galore between Bible statements and the THEORIES, hypotheses and guesses being handed out in the guise of true science. Bible truth is ETERNAL, but truly the pathway of modern science is literally strewn with the wreckage of cherished hypotheses!

AN EXAMPLE OF "SCIENTIFIC REASONING"

Science employs observation and reason. Many of the "scientific facts" so commonly accepted are merely theories reasoned from facts observed.

Here is an amusing example.

There is a well-known law that heat expands, and cold contracts. This is FACT, which has been seen, measured, and proved. Let us "reason" from this fact, as an example of arriving at a "scientific conclusion." We reason, then, that as soon as the surface of a lake of water freezes, the ice, being contracted under influence of cold, of necessity becomes heavier. So it would sink to the bottom a layer at a time. This is a perfectly logical conclusion, based on that particular law. A "scientist" living in the hot torrid zone who had never seen ice, but had made tests that proved the law that cold contracts and heat expands, might work out this conclusion, and

call it a FACT of science!

What is wrong with this process? It assumes that a law once in operation must continue. That is exactly what "Science" assumes in regard to Creation, and this assumption has produced the theory of EVOLUTION! But we happen to know that just before water reaches the freezing point, the LAW SUDDENLY REVERSES. It ceases to contract, and commences to expand. Hence ice is lighter than water, and does not sink, but floats. This sudden CHANGE in a natural law in operation proves our earth is not controlled by BLIND law—but by a wise and intelligent LAWGIVER!

LOCUST HORDE DESTROYS CROPS

Early in 1935, we told our readers the vast army of worms, grasshoppers, bugs and insects prophesied in the first two chapters of Joel would begin swooping down on crops during that summer and would continue a campaign of destruction for years.

It has happened as prophesied, The invasion of grasshoppers, which are the locusts of Bible, is continuing again this year, as we predicted in the January number of The PLAIN TRUTH.

An Associated Press dispatch dated July 17, printed in newspapers over the country, says: "Voracious grasshoppers which descended on grain fields 'like rain' are swiftly ruining the best potential crops."

A dispatch from China says two hundred persons are dying daily of starvation from the drought continuing in large sections of China.

The great world-wide drought, combined with the invasions of insects, is one of God's last-minute WARNINGS to His people that "THE DAY OF THE LORD" is at hand. Soon this dread day with its supernatural, unbearable plagues, sent from God, will fall suddenly and unexpectedly upon a heedless and indifferent world. The final world war, climaxing at ARMAGEDDON, and the Second Coming of Christ will all take place during this same time of the DAY OF THE LORD.

We are today IN BABYLON. God's warning to us is "COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, that ye be not of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." (Rev. 18:4). Jesus warned His people, "WATCH ye, therefore, and PRAY ALWAYS, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:36).

PROPHESIED EVENTS (Continued from Page 6)

PIRE is shown to be strong as iron, its final last-hour revival in our day is pictured as part of iron and part of clay—"so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly broken." (Dan. 2:42). Ancient ROME was one Empire—one nation—one people. Mussolini's revival will be an Empire moulded out of ten nations, ten peoples, some strong, some weak, not cleaving together, tho at first they do give their power and strength to him. What a wonderful picture of the true nature and brittle lack of strength and permanency of Mussolini's EMPIRE!

When he finally brings it into reality, the people of the world will gasp in wonder, awe, and amazement. (Rev. 17:8). But it is not being soundly constructed, nor built of enduring materials. A mixture of clay and iron! It is scheduled for a very short life pictured as "one hour" in Rev. 17:12.

But, praise Almighty God! "in the days of these kings shall the GOD OF HEAVEN SET UP A KINGDOM, which shall never be destroyed!....but it shall break up in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and IT STAND FOREVER!" (Dan 2:44).

Let us pray, "THY KINGDOM SHALL COME!"

Does EASTER Really Commemorate— (Continued from Page 6)

According to Mark 16:1, Mary Magdalene and her companions did not buy their spices to anoint the body of Jesus until AFTER THE SABBATH WAS PAST. They could not prepare them until AFTER this—yet after preparing the spices THEY RESTED THE SABBATH DAY ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENT! (Luke 23:56).

Study these two texts carefully.

There is only one possible explanation: After the annual high-day Sabbath, the feast day of the days of unleavened bread—which was Thursday—those women purchased and prepared their spices on FRIDAY, and then they rested on the weekly Sabbath, Saturday, according to the Commandment (Exodus 20:8-11)!

A comparison of these two texts PROVES there were TWO Sabbaths that week, with A DAY IN BETWEEN. Otherwise, these texts contradict themselves.

The PLAIN TRUTH concerning the crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ is fast sweeping the world. Thousands are coming to see it. This truth has been published in the Sunday School Times. The Oxford University Press, in their "Companion Bible," publish a table proving this never-revealed truth of the Bible.

We praise God that, through the truths of His Word became trampled upon and LOST thru the dark ages of superstition, apostasy, and counterfeit doctrines, that the ORIGINAL TRUTH has been carefully preserved in THE BIBLE ITSELF. We can STUDY to show ourselves approved unto God, and seek out and FIND these long-hidden truths IN THE BIBLE.

What a wonderful study it is! How precious is HIS WORD! All the Truth has not YET been brought to light. Let us press on, and seek and find more and more! Let us feed upon the pure WORD OF GOD! Let us not reject the true light, or God will certainly reject us! Let us rejoice in it, with praise and thanksgiving!