

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1960



Wrecked by earth tremors—park section of downtown Puerto Montt after an earthquake ripped through Chile last spring. Leaning in foreground, is a lamp-post. The picture was taken by an American Mercy airlift team which brought 900 tons of food, clothing and medical supplies to the disaster areas. Read in this issue the astounding facts scientists have discovered in the International Geophysical Year about future potential earthquakes!

Wide World Photo

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change in your address. Please inclose both old
and new addresses. IMPORTANT!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Husband Was Suspicious

"When I first heard your program I told my husband that I was going to send for your pamphlets. He asked me what it cost and when I said nothing he said there must be a catch to it somewhere. This has been almost a year ago and there has been no bill. The other night he told me that you must be on the level. I hope to be able to send you \$10.00 or \$20.00 but I won't make any promises."

Woman from Chardon, Ohio

Never Been So Fascinated

"I sure want to thank you and your staff for giving me such a wonderful course of Bible study. I have just finished the first lesson and have started on the second. I have never in my life been so fascinated in this type of study. In fact, tonight I am up at 12 o'clock and

I have to get up at 4! I felt I just had to write you and express my gratitude and the great joy I have received."

New Student

Wants True Facts About Mr. Armstrong

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"In the article 'Persecution' you invite any reader wanting the true facts as to the background of this work and the personal history of Mr. Armstrong and as to what he believes and teaches to write in as the place to learn is from him. I would be most grateful for this information."

Man, Oceanside, California

Here is a similar letter.

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"When I read the article 'Persecution,' it made me sad to know that there is someone who sends out false accusations against God's truth."

Man from Missouri

Minister Learns from Correspondence Course

"I received my first and second lesson of your correspondence course. I am very thankful to you for this help. I am a pastor and my income is very small, but I will mail you a little money along a little later to help on your expenses. I have been in the ministry 46 years and your course gives me more help and information than I ever had, because your method of teaching is so simple, yet inspiring."

Pastor, Lake City, Florida

Editor's Comment: If you have not enrolled in the free Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, you ought to immediately.

Birds, Strawberries and a Scarecrow!

"I notice that a certain organization accepts no responsibility for the expression voiced in your broadcasts. The wise bird knows that the best strawberries are where the scarecrow stands."

Man from New Zealand

Regrets "Criticism"

"I enjoy your challenging articles but regret your criticism of Germans. We should be glad West Germany has become strong for the West. Had the

U.S.A. not helped her she would have fallen under Communist sway like East Germany and would have been made strong for the East. Let's hold out a friendly hand to this ally and keep our criticism for the Communists who must enjoy your attacks on West Germany."

Canadian now living in England

Editor's Comment: This is a typical example of seeing only one enemy at a time. We have never "criticized" the *German people*; but on the contrary respect them highly. God's commission to us is to cry aloud and warn this nation of the destruction to come. If you are not aware of Germany's role in these future events, write immediately for the booklet "1975 in Prophecy" and the article "Germany in Prophecy."

Pastor Catering to Cigarettes?

"I went to my pastor to pray for me on this subject about smoking. I was in tears and gave him my package of cigarettes and he told me that if he took them, I would go and buy another pack. I wouldn't have until he mentioned it, because until then, I had faith in his prayers. The prayer he later prayed has never been answered. The majority of his congregation is employed in the making of cigarettes. I can't help but wonder if this accounts for the fact that he doesn't preach against cigarettes."

Man, Winston-Salem, N.C.

"Hating Every Puff"

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I have been smoking for many years and practically hating every puff, but I had just gotten in the habit and couldn't seem to quit. I tried to cut down but that didn't last too long—I always had the desire. Last week after reading an article on prayer from your PLAIN TRUTH magazine, I went into a small room of our house, closed the door, got down on my knees and asked God to take all my desire for smoking away from me. I have a pack of cigarettes lying on my night table and I have not had the least temptation to take one."

From New Jersey

Editor's Comment: If you have the smoking habit, write today for our free article "Should Christians Smoke?" You

(Please continue on page 20)

Does CHRISTMAS Celebrate Christ's Birthday?

Did you know that Christmas was observed 2000 years before the birth of Jesus Christ?—that neither the apostles nor the inspired New Testament Church observed it? Here are the astounding FACTS!

by Herman L. Hoeh

WAS CHRIST really born on December 25th? Did Paul and the other apostles—and the early New Testament Church — celebrate Christmas? WHY is Christmas not so much as MENTIONED anywhere in the New Testament?

What is the origin of the Christmas tree—of "Santa Claus"—of the mistletoe and the holly-wreath?

We grew up practicing these customs, taking them for granted, but *never questioning* WHY? It is time we learned the FACTS!

4000 Years of Christmas

Christmas was celebrated by pagans 2000 years *before* Christ was born. Yet it was *not* celebrated in *Jerusalem*—where Christ founded the inspired New Testament Church—*until* 385 A.D., over three centuries after the true Church fled from Jerusalem!

Why?

Did you know that the pagan Romans long *before* the birth of Christ called December 25 the *Brumalia*, or birthday of the *new sun* after the winter solstice?—that early Catholics regarded Christmas celebrations as idolatrous? Christmas was originally celebrated in honor of pagan gods. It was IDOLATRY!

Every one of these FACTS you can find in the leading Encyclopaedias, in your own public libraries!

Though the Bible is silent about telling us to observe Christmas, or recording any such observance by the apostles or the early true Church, it *does* have something to say about the CHRISTMAS TREE! Yes, it's time you learned the TRUTH about Christmas!

You can have the astonishing FACTS about the origin and history of Christmas—how it crept into the churches—

how the custom of trading gifts with one another commenced, instead of giving gifts to Christ—all these FACTS *and many others not given in this article* are now available for you in our FREE 16-page booklet, "*The PLAIN TRUTH about CHRISTMAS!*" No other booklet makes the truth about Christmas so simple, so plain, so intriguingly interesting.

WRITE *immediately* for your *free* copy of "*The PLAIN TRUTH about CHRISTMAS!*"

Address your urgent request to Box 111, Pasadena, California, or to our London or Australian addresses. Don't delay.

Yes, it's time the mystery which surrounds the introduction of Christmas into the professing Christian world were unveiled.

Notice how plain the facts are.

Heathen Customs Crept into Christianity

No one knows the exact date on which Jesus was born. It has been hidden because God *didn't intend His church to celebrate the birthday of Christ.*

Yet the pagans, during the days of the early church, were celebrating *this very day* in honor of Sol, the sun-god. The Romans celebrated December 25 as the *Brumalia* or birthday of the *new sun*.

In most any public library you can get proof of this in a book entitled *4000 Years of Christmas*, by Earl Wendel Count. The very name of this book proves that the Christmas holiday isn't Christian. It was celebrated 2000 years before the birth of Christ in honor of pagan gods! Therefore it was, *and is*, IDOLATRY!

Notice what God does say *about*

the Christmas holiday season and other customs by which the heathen served their gods: "Take heed . . . that you do not enquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do likewise.' YOU SHALL NOT DO SO TO THE ETERNAL YOUR GOD; FOR EVERY ABOMINABLE THING WHICH THE ETERNAL HATES THEY HAVE DONE FOR THEIR GODS" (Deut. 12:30-31).

The Christian-professing world today rejects this commandment of God so they can hold the traditions of men.

Jesus commands us *not* to worship Him by pagan holidays like Christmas.

Even though Christmas did come from paganism, you ask, "Surely giving gifts at Christmas is scriptural? Didn't the wise men give gifts at the birth of Christ?"

Does Bible Teach Exchanging Gifts?

Although most people admit Christmas came from paganism when confronted with the facts, they assume that giving gifts to relatives is in the Bible. Just where did the Christmas SHOPPING season really originate?

Here's a surprise! "The custom of giving presents was a feature of the Romans during their winter festival the Saturnalia," says John Then, in his book, *Christmas*, page 91. Professing "Christians made presents to their children on Christmas morning, *under the pretense* that they were the gift of the Christ child . . . this age-old custom can be traced to the dawn of history"—to paganism!

Did trading gifts at Christmas come from Scripture? No! It came from pagan tradition and was turned into a pretense—a deception to fool little children. And millions using the name of

Christ are practicing this *lie* today.

Millions of sincere, deceived people spend precious dollars to give gifts to *friends* on a day that doesn't honor Christ. How silly to claim to honor Christ, when giving gifts to *one another* on a day that isn't His birthday at all.

The wise men didn't give gifts to one another! Notice what they did: "Then, opening their treasures, they offered HIM gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Mat. 2:1-11).

WHY were the wise men giving gifts to the Christ child? Was this his birthday? No! Jesus had been born days before! Then why did they give gifts to HIM? Because Jesus was born "KING of the Jews."

The wise men were not coming on Jesus' birthday as an example for us. Instead they came to worship Jesus and present Him gifts because he was KING.

Since Christmas isn't the birthday of Jesus and was *not* observed by the early true Christians, how did it get into the churches?

The Astounding Answer

Following the death of the apostle Paul, false teachers began to lead away many from the truth. Paul wrote Timothy: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths" (II Tim. 4:3-4).

Notice it! People would reject the truth and begin to follow myths. Instead of continuing to observe the days God sanctified, as the first Christians did, the apostatizing majority, who called themselves "Christians," soon began to invent their own traditions.

These professing Christians who departed from the TRUTH and began to adopt Christmas and other pagan customs were called "Nicolaitans" in the Bible (Revelation 2:6 and 15).

Who Were the Nicolaitans?

The doctrines of the Nicolaitans, from whom Catholics and Protestants have sprung, have never ceased to puzzle Church historians. They have always imagined the Nicolaitans to be some small sect which separated from the

great worldly body of professing Christians. It has never occurred to the scholars that the Nicolaitans are that great body of professing Christians which has departed from the true Church of God!

What does the word "Nicolaitan" mean?

It has *nothing* to do with the deacon Nicolas (Acts 6:5), or a later bishop, Nicolas of Myra, as some have assumed. The original Greek word "Nicolaitan" means one who is "*a follower of Nicolas*." Who was *that* Nicolas of whom they were followers? God reveals that He hates the doctrine of that man (Rev. 2:15).

But what does the name "Nicolas" come from? It comes from two Greek words—*nikos* and *laos*. *Nikos* means "conqueror" or "destroyer" and *laos* means "people." The original Nicolas was the conqueror or destroyer of the people! That was merely the Greek word for Nimrod—the original arch-rebel who conquered the people and founded man-made civilization within two centuries after the flood! (Genesis 10:8-10).

Nimrod Deified as "Saint Nicholas"

While Nimrod was alive, by his *dictatorial rule* he put himself in the place of God. And when he died, his admirers CONTINUED TO WORSHIP HIM AS A DIVINE HERO. They CALLED HIM "BAAL," a name found throughout the Old Testament. "*Baal*" means "*master*" or "*lord*." It was only natural that Nimrod should bear that name, for he put himself in place of the true Lord or Master of all the universe.

But "Baal" was not Nimrod's only other NAME! HE HAD MANY others. One of these names was "*Santa*," *commonly used throughout Asia Minor*. This name of Nimrod may be found in *Lempriere's Classical Dictionary*.

Now you might ask, "Is there any connection between Nimrod, who was called 'Santa,' and 'Santa Claus'?"

"SANTA CLAUS" is but a shortened form of "Santa Nicholas" or "*Saint Nicholas*." The followers of "St. Nicholas" or Nimrod are termed "NICOLAITANES" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT! So those people—who falsely called themselves "Christians"—continued to honor

Nimrod in the days of the apostle John!—*just as they do today!*

Today, on what date is "St. Nicholas" or Nimrod—especially HONORED? Is it *December 25*? Yes! But why?

The Romans used to celebrate December 25 as the *Saturnalia*—the birthday of Saturn or Nimrod. And is it any wonder that December 25, Nimrod's purported birthday is STILL CELEBRATED IN HONOR OF "NICHOLAS"—NIMROD—THE FIRST GREAT DESPOT.

Yes, Santa Claus—just a shortened form of Nicolas, the Greek name for Nimrod—is Nimrod deified. It is *he*—and not Jesus Christ—whom the professing Christians serve to this day, and whom they honor at Christmas! And there were individuals in the Church of God in those days who tolerated such practices and even indulged in them!

How Christmas Became Popular

In 200 A.D., Clement of Alexandria wrote that many were *speculating* about Christ's birthdate. In the Western and especially the Eastern parts of the Roman Empire, many sects were beginning to follow a false tradition that Jesus *was born on January 6*.

Even the church at Rome for nearly two centuries OBSERVED THIS FALSE DATE FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH ON JANUARY 6. This festival was called Epiphany. (Bingham's *Antiquities*, Book xx, chapter iv.) The celebration of January 6 was anciently introduced in Babylon as the birthday of Nimrod at the time when the winter solstice occurred on that date—before 1900 B.C. (See page 35 of *The Evolution of the Christian Year* by A. Allan McArthur.)

The introduction of the birthday of Nimrod among the Romans occurred about 300 B.C., when the winter solstice on their religious calendar fell on December 25! That occurred shortly after Alexander the Great conquered the Persian empire and introduced the Mystery Cult of Babylon into the West. Alexander wanted to found one world and one religion—AND THE ONE RELIGION TO WHICH ALL COULD TRACE BACK THEIR ORIGIN WAS THE BABYLONIAN MYSTERY CULT! It claimed to be a universal or *catholic* form of religion in which all peoples
(Please continue on page 18)

EARTHQUAKE!

The first five months of 1960 marked the MOST DISASTROUS earthquake year in four decades! Earthquakes of a magnitude never before recorded by man have recently rocked sections of this earth. Scientists are alarmed!—admit that something world-wide is going on! Read the startling answer in this article by a faculty member at Ambassador College.

by A. J. Portune

STRIKING suddenly out of the gray dawn of Saturday, May 21, 1960 erupted the *most devastating and catastrophic* series of earthquakes EVER RECORDED ON EARTH! Within hours an area as large as the *state* of New York was *completely destroyed*. FOUR THOUSAND persons lay dead! Another thousand lay dying, their plaintive cries for aid going unheeded in the twisting chaos about them. Thousands of other injured were trapped beneath the growing wreckage of collapsed buildings, bricks and mortar dust!

This was Concepcion, third largest city in Chile. Here, and in other major cities in the narrow 2,000-mile-long country, began a ten-day era of terror and a series of events that defy the imagination.

When the first huge temblor shook Concepcion, large industrial hub of the country, 30% of the city's buildings COLLAPSED. Hundreds of factory workers and residents poured into the streets! By evening 138 dead were counted and thousands were praying in the streets that the worst had passed.

By noon the following day, courage and hope returned and the majority of the populace began picking its way around in the rubble. At 3:05 p.m. the ground again HEAVED and nine minutes later—at 3:14 p.m.—the MIGHTIEST EARTHQUAKE ever recorded on seismographic equipment shook the Pacific strand of Chile like a rag doll.

High in the Andes the devastating tremors triggered mountain slides and avalanches, burying *entire villages*, highways and railroads. Rivers, dammed by rockslides, flooded other helpless hamlets.

In the Gulfs of Corcovado and Ancud,

whole islands *disappeared* beneath the sea while other new sections of earth thrust up above the swirling waters—creating *new* islands.

New volcanoes were suddenly born—adding their spewing, red-hot lava and smoke to several old volcanoes suddenly come to life.

In *stark terror* thousands of eye witnesses saw an entire 25-mile strip of coastline suddenly sink *ONE THOUSAND FEET*. The whole face of the land was changed!

People by the hundreds fell in terror, unable to move from sheer fear, and from the violence of the writhing earth. "It seemed like the end of the world..."

Geologic History

In the ten-day series of over *one hundred* earthquakes, twelve tremors exceeded the intensity of six on the Richter scale. Six is classified as a *major* earthquake. The cataclysmic shock of May 22 reached 9.2 on the scale—THE STRONGEST EARTHQUAKE EVER RECORDED ON MODERN SEISMOGRAPHS.

The tremendous violence of the up-thrusting earth sent giant seismic waves hurtling across the Pacific Ocean as fast as 520 miles per hour. Tremendous havoc and destruction came to coastal cities as far as TEN THOUSAND miles away. Damage running into the millions of dollars was recorded in Hawaii, Japan, Okinawa, Alaska, New Zealand, Australia and the Philippine Islands.

These recent catastrophic earthquakes and the resultant seismic ocean waves that occurred in Chile have made *geologic history*. Never before has modern man been witness to earthquakes of such catastrophic proportions. Seismologists and scientists have had to *revise* their

concept of the destructive capacity of earthquakes.

What does it all mean? Are these earthquakes a symptom of things to come? We must know!

Signs of the Times

Earthquakes are *increasing*—not only in frequency but in magnitude. Scientists know that something strange is taking place within the earth.

Dr. Perry Byerly, professor of seismology at University of California, recently stated: "Something world-wide is going on, but it is hard to say just what it is . . . we don't know what. But great forces are at work in relative patterns, trying to pull our continents in one direction or another. This is due to something below, a great strain that is accumulating . . ."

Here, in a recently compiled report, are the startling facts heralding things to come. Here is the graphic evidence portrayed in recent major earthquakes—world-wide.

Summary of Recent Major Earthquakes

FOREIGN

1. *Chile*, May, 1960—Area the size of New York state destroyed; \$600 million damage, over 5,000 dead, 450,000 homeless, another 150,000 homes badly damaged. One tremor, at 9.2 on Richter scale, was the *strongest ever recorded* on modern seismographs. Quake-spawned tidal waves battered coast of Hawaii, Japan, Alaska, Australia and New Zealand.
2. *Agadir, Morocco*, Feb. 29, 1960—12,000 dead; city wrecked by two
(Please continue on page 7)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

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 KNBX—Seattle—1050 on dial—12:00 noon every day.
 KWJJ—Portland—1080 on dial—10:00 p.m., Sundays; 9:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.
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RADIO LOG

(Continued)

TO AUSTRALIA

- 4KQ—Brisbane, Qld—10:30 p.m. Sun.
 4WK—Warwick, Qld—4:00 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 6GE—Geraldton, WA—10:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.
 6KG—Kalgoorlie, WA—10:00 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 6PM—Perth, WA—10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.
 6AM—Northam, WA—10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.

TO LATIN AMERICA

In English—

- RADIO SWAN—Swan Island—1160 kc.—6:00 p.m., Sundays.
 RADIO AMERICA—Lima, Peru—1010 kc.—6:00 p.m. Saturdays.
 HOC21, Panama City—1115 kc.—7:00 p.m., Sundays.
 HP5A, Panama City—11170 kc.—7:00 p.m., Sundays.
 HOK, Colon, Panama—640 kc.—7:00 p.m., Sundays.
 HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 kc.—7:00 p.m., Sundays.

In Spanish—

- RADIO SWAN—Swan Island—1160 kc.—9:00 p.m., Sat. and Sun.
 RADIO LA CRONICA—Lima, Peru—1010 kc.—7:00-7:15 p.m., Sundays.
 RADIO COMUNEROS—Asuncion, Paraguay—970 kc.—8:00-8:15 p.m., Sundays.
 RADIO SPORT—CXA19—Montevideo, Uruguay—11835 kc.—4:00-4:15 p.m., Sundays.
 RADIO CARVE—CX16, 850 kc., and CXA13, 6156 kc.—Montevideo, Uruguay—3:30 p.m., Saturdays.

EARTHQUAKE!

(Continued from page 5)

earthquakes and a tidal wave.

3. *Iran*, April 24, 1960—1,500-3,000 dead as the city of Lar and neighboring village of Gerash were *completely destroyed*. Two huge tremors reduced Lar to a "billowing cloud of dust" as one observer commented. Another said, "This is the *worst* scene of disaster and devastation I have ever seen."
4. *Algeria*, Feb. 21, 1960—46 dead.
5. *Peru*, Jan. 13, 1960—60 dead.
6. *Mexico*—An alarming increase in earthquakes noted in Mexico City area—over 40 during first half of August, 1959, alone. Residents of

Loma Bonita fled into the streets and fell to their knees to pray.

7. *Formosa*, Aug. 16, 1959—Violent 40-minute earthquake left 14 dead, many buildings destroyed and damaged in Hemgchung area.
8. *Solomon Islands*, Aug. 19, 1959—Tremors shook island of Vella Lavella every eight minutes for *eight hours*, tumbling brick and concrete buildings, leaving natives in a state of constant panic.
9. *Greece*, Jan. 8, 1959—An earthquake of "*extreme violence*" was reported around Rhodes or other Greek islands.
10. *Mongolia*, Jan. 23, 1958—MOSCOW: "RECORD EARTHQUAKE TOPPLES MOUNTAINS IN REMOTE MONGOLIA."—"One of the worst earthquakes ever recorded has rumpled the earth's surface in a remote part of Mongolia, splitting open huge chasms and toppling mountain peaks in a primeval display of natural force. Existing rivers were jerked into new courses, and completely new rivers—one eight miles long—were created . . . 'Dense clouds of dust billowing above the mountains to a height of 4,500 feet could be seen as far as 40 miles away. Some peaks cracked and half crumbled, and scars formed with a sheer drop of hundreds of yards.' The center of the earthquake is marked by a fissure more than 155 miles long and up to 70 feet wide."

11. *Japan*, Nov. 7, 1958—Tremor equal to Tokyo quake of 1923.

UNITED STATES

12. *Montana*, Aug. 17, 1959—Disaster struck near Yellowstone National Park—the largest quake in U.S. during present century excluding Nevada and California quakes.
13. *Tennessee*, Dec., 1959—Sharpest quake in western Tennessee in 20 years.
14. *Georgia and South Carolina*, Aug. 3, 1959—A rumbling, house-rolling tremor hit these southern states. "A tremendous jolt from some external force," said one observer.
15. *Northern California*, March, 3, 1959—Biggest in area since 1906 San Francisco quake.
16. *Alaska*—1959 quake regarded as

one of greatest quakes in earth's history. WASHINGTON (NANA)—"Scientists of the Coast and Geodetic Survey have pieced together reports of one of the greatest earthquakes in world history. It occurred last year in a remote region of southeastern Alaska. Almost unnoticed by the rest of the world, the effects were reported as far away as Hawaii and Valparaiso, Chile.

"Three-mile-high ice-capped mountains 'danced.' Waters of a small bay were thrown 1,800 feet up a mountainside in a titanic deluge which swept away great forests as if the trees were matchsticks. A great glacier was tossed over a high mountain range like a white flying carpet. Ships were thrown 15 feet or more out of the water. Over an area of 150 square miles, the soil boiled in sand craters, and there were great landslides. It might well have been one of the major catastrophes of history, except that it was in a very sparsely inhabited area.

No wonder scientists are concerned! Something *BIG* is brewing, but not even the scientists realize how big. These recent reports herald only the beginning. What's ahead concerns you and your family's future.

Populous Areas Escape

Although six to seven hundred earthquakes occur in the United States each year, the heavily populated areas have *thus far* escaped. But, as a recent report has brought to light, "Great earthquakes occasionally occur *outside* the main trouble zones. In the United States, for example, a great earthquake occurred in 1811 in New Madrid in southeastern Missouri—an area *not* popularly considered earthquake-prone. This earthquake was felt over *two-thirds* of the United States. Fortunately, New Madrid, where it was centered, was only *sparsely populated* at the time" (*Dallas Times Herald*, August 23, 1959).

Seismologist Leonard Murphy of the Coast and Geodetic Survey recently stated, "We've been *lucky* in the United States in that few earthquakes have occurred in major, heavily populated cities." However, with recent knowledge on earthquake potential, no area on earth

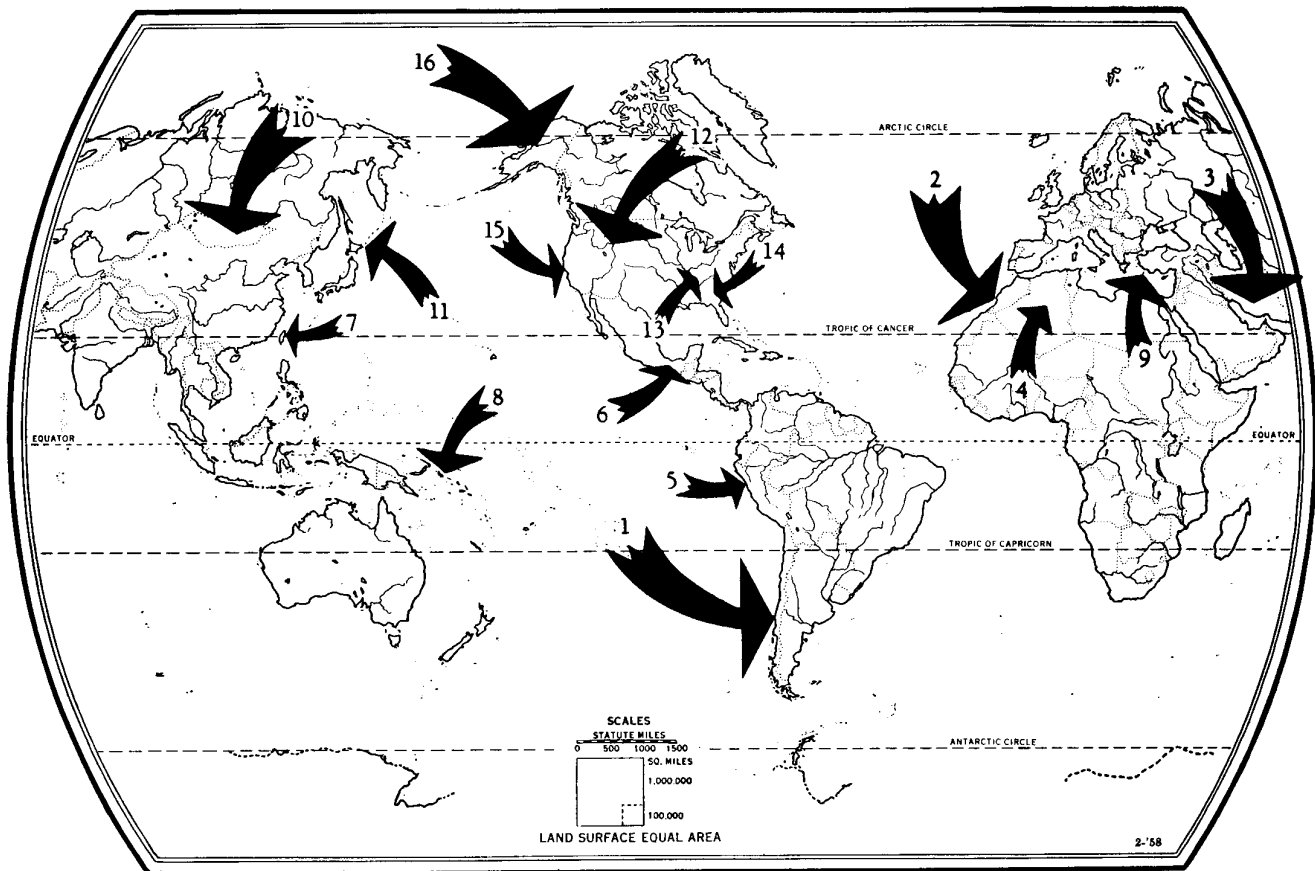


Chart showing world-wide occurrence of major earth tremors in last few years. Size of arrows denote intensity of quake. Courtesy the Ambassador College News Gathering Department.

may be considered immune from disastrous earthquakes.

What Causes an Earthquake

Scientists know that deep within the earth there are tremendous forces at work. These forces are part of the primary LAW that keeps this earth in balance. These expansional and contractional movements—that are constantly taking place within the earth—have their resultant effect upon the “skin” or crust of the earth. As a result, there must be a “giving and taking” to compensate for these tremendous subterranean forces.

The earth’s crust therefore is a moving—almost living—thing, creased and cracked to allow for the constant moving and shifting that must occur.

Suppose the rectangle in FIGURE A represents a large tract of land, perhaps several hundred miles across, and that the *weakest* rocks lie along the line AB. Imagine that the dotted lines are very long straight fences built across it. If
(Please continue on page 29)

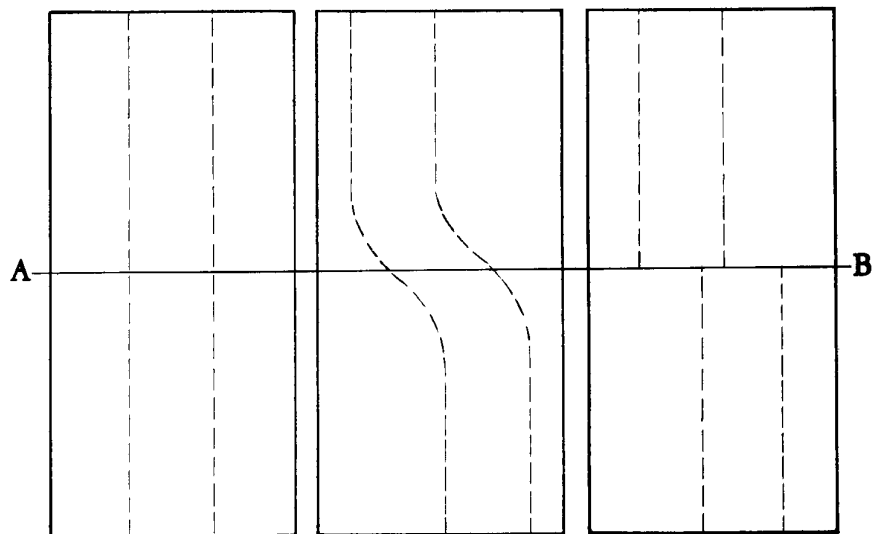


FIGURE A
Fences in straight line across fault

FIGURE B
Elastic energy being built up by pressure below

FIGURE C
New unstrained position after 'slip' or earthquake along fault

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

Purchase of the church building at Eugene, Oregon, increasing opposition, and rapid growth of the work are related in this 33rd installment.

IT WAS now spring, 1935. We had severed all direct or official ties with the Oregon conference [Church of God with headquarters Stanberry, Missouri, identified in Rev. 3:1-6 as the "Sardis" church], though we endeavored to maintain a friendly Christian fellowship relation with them.

The new Church of God had been organized late in 1933, meeting at the Jeans country schoolhouse, 12 miles west of Eugene, Oregon. The "Three-Point Campaign" of radio, publishing, and evangelistic campaigns was now well under way. The "Radio Church of God" program had started on the air, on Eugene's little 100 watt KORE, the first Sunday in 1934. *The PLAIN TRUTH*, Volume 1 Number 1, had been printed February 1, 1934. The campaign in downtown Eugene had begun the first of April, 1934.

And now, spring 1935, the Alvadore campaign had ended with a new little church of fifteen members, meeting at the Alvadore schoolhouse, some fifteen miles northwest of Eugene. Now we were forced to hold services at Jeans and Alvadore only on alternate Sabbath mornings, with services held each Sabbath afternoon at our home on Fourth Avenue, Eugene.

Purchase of Church Building

Usually, members at Jeans would drive over to Alvadore, or attend at our home in Eugene, on the odd sabbaths after I was unable to preach at Jeans. Likewise, Alvadore members usually drove to either Jeans or Eugene when I was not at their school. But this situation was not very satisfactory.

The need of a church home in Eugene to combine these three small groups focused our attention on the place that our people had built in 1931.

The building of this little church house had begun immediately following

the close of the tent campaign held in Eugene in the summer of 1931 by Elder R. L. Taylor and myself. Mr. Taylor had, prior to this campaign, owned a small retail lumber business in Eugene. Apparently, he had failed in business, but came out of it with a small amount of lumber on hand. He now proposed to "donate" that lumber toward the erection of a small church house in Eugene. He only had part of the needed amount of lumber, however. So church brethren were induced to contribute funds for most of the construction costs. A few donated labor, including a carpenter and an electrician. They had never completed the construction. Siding had not been put on the outside, and plain slabs of wall-board had been nailed up inside, with quarter-inch spaces unfilled in between slabs. And there were no seats or pulpit or furnishings of any kind.

While I was at Astoria in the newspaper business, in my final "detour" from my life's real calling, Mr. Taylor had written me that "we had lost the church building." He was correct in saying that "we"—the church members—had lost it. But *HE* had not. He had traded it and a small piece of land he owned to a Mr. Powell who lived next door to the little church, for Mr. Powell's house. This, in turn, he had traded for a small island in the Willamette River opposite Eugene. Because of the partial amount of lumber he had "donated" to the church house, Mr. Taylor had insisted on holding the deed to the property in his own name. Although church brethren had contributed much more than he, they had allowed it to be held in his name. He had "sold them down the river," and come out with a little island in the river for himself.

Late in May, 1935, Mr. Powell was living in the little unfinished church house. Mr. Elmer Fisher, Mr. W. E. Conn and I approached him about the

purchase of the place. The purchase was made, for \$500. Mr. Fisher put in the first \$100 to bind the deal. Various church members put in, later, another \$100 or slightly more, and most of the balance was contributed by elderly Mrs. C. A. Croffoot.

Now came the question of how the new property was to be deeded. Mr. Taylor's action had given church members cause to question the honesty of a minister who had the church property deeded in his name. I was determined that no such suspicion should have grounds for being directed toward me. I insisted that my name should not be connected in any way with the deed to this property.

In this particular case, as subsequent events proved, it would have been safer for the church if control of the property had been in my hands. But I said, then, "If we can't trust such men as Mr. Day, Elmer Fisher, and Mr. Conn, then nobody can be trusted." Perhaps I didn't realize as thoroughly as I do today that God says we can trust no man.

On my own recommendation, the property was deeded to "J. M. Day, Elmer E. Fisher, and W. E. Conn, as trustees for the Church of God at Eugene, Oregon." Actually, as I learned from attorneys later, this was a loose and unsafe way to protect the property of the church, legally. Anyway, the purchase was made late in May, 1935, after some four months of the unhandy functioning of those three little separate churches.

Completing the Building

Immediately we set out to put the building in shape for holding services. I asked the members to contribute special offerings to purchase necessary lumber and paint. We purchased the siding lumber, which was put on by volunteer labor. I filled in the quarter-inch spaces

between plaster boards with the proper plaster cement, myself, then the inside walls were painted and the outside also.

I looked into other church buildings for ideas about the seating. The most economical way proved to be to build our own seating in the form of benches, with a center aisle and two narrow outside aisles down the side walls. I designed the pattern after observing various more costly benches in larger church buildings. I sat in various ones, to determine what design would give the most comfort. Then, with some of the men of the church helping, we built the seats.

Those seats are still there today. Only today the little church house is completely outgrown, and a much larger modern new church building is, as I write, on the architect's drawing-boards. A twenty-acre "dream site" on the outskirts of an enlarged Eugene has been purchased for the new home of this "mother church" of the "Philadelphia" era of the true church which Christ himself built and still directs, rules, and blesses.

Mrs. Armstrong and Elmer Fisher painted those church seats in an attractive brown color while I worked on other things. In the new church at Alvadore, one of the members was a cabinet maker by profession. He built the pulpit and an altar rail around the front of the rostrum.

On June first, 1935, The Church of God at Eugene, Oregon, held its first service in the new building, consolidating the three groups into one church.

Convincing Atheist Communists

Soon after occupying the new little church building, I began holding every-night evangelistic services there. We mimeographed hand-bills and had them delivered to front porches all over town. We called it "The Little Church at the end of West Eighth Avenue." Its location, then, was a half block beyond the city limits.

While these meetings did not attract thousands, the little church house was usually fairly well filled.

One night my subject was the prophecy of Daniel 11—the longest prophecy in the Bible. It begins with events of Daniel's time, in the first year

of King Darius. It foretells the swift conquering flight of Alexander the Great, his sudden death, the division of the Empire into four divisions. Then the prophecy carried along the events of the King of Egypt and the King of Syria or the Seleucidae—as "King of the South" and "King of the North."

One ancient history covers the details of those events and those following in this long prophecy. That night I read a verse of the prophecy, then a paragraph showing its fulfillment from *Rawlinson's Ancient History*, carrying straight through to the time of Christ, the early Apostles, and on to our present, and the immediate future.

At the close of the service a young lady who had come for the first time, with two companions, waited to speak to Mrs. Armstrong. Her friends went on out. She asked if she could make an appointment to talk to Mrs. Armstrong and me.

"I'm an atheist," she said. "Or at least I thought I was when I came here tonight. But now I feel myself slipping. To tell the truth we three girls thought it would be good sport to come out here and laugh at the ignorant medieval religious superstition we expected to hear. I've always believed religion is a silly superstition—the 'opium of the people.' But tonight we couldn't laugh. I never heard anything like this. I have to admit no human writer could have written that long prophecy and made it come to pass, step by step, over so many years. What I heard tonight makes sense. It is not like any religious teaching I ever heard. I want to ask you some questions."

Mrs. Armstrong arranged a private talk with her for the next afternoon. She jabbed sharp questions and pointed questions at us, but they were all promptly answered. She continued to attend the meetings, and after a couple of weeks she believed, repented, and was baptized. We learned that she was the secretary of the local Communist Party! She resigned from the Communist Party forthwith.

This young lady was jeered and ridiculed for taking up with "medieval superstition," of course.

One day she walked into the small front room of the old Masonic Temple

which I was still using, rent free, for an office. She was actually leading a half-reluctant man by the arm.

"Mr. Armstrong," she said, "this man is a Communist—one of my former associates in the Party. He's an atheist. He says he *knows* there is no God. We encountered each other across the street just now. He said he would like to meet that weak-brained idiot of a preacher that hypnotized me into believing foolish superstitions. He said that he would *prove* that evolution is true and there is no God by making a monkey out of you. So I grabbed his arm and said, 'Come right along. Mr. Armstrong's office is just across the street.' I have marched him over here, and I have come along to laugh at the show, as he proceeds to make a monkey out of you."

At the moment I had a Bible in front of me. I pushed it aside.

This was a challenge that inspired fast action. I gave a quick silent prayer for guidance.

"Sit down!" I said to the man in a commanding voice, and taking immediately the initiative before he had a chance to utter a word. "So you're going to make a monkey out of me by proving there is no God. First, I'll shove this Bible out of the way because you wouldn't believe anything it says, anyway. Now *you* must be a very highly educated man, with a brilliant intellect. I want to find out just how bright you really are, and how much you know about some of the laws of science. Do you know something about radioactivity and radioactive elements?"

"Well, yes," he stuttered. Evidently my fast and sharp attack caught him by surprise and he was on the defensive before he could recover.

I asked him if he agreed with certain laws of science. Of course he had to answer that he did. I followed up the attack, snapping questions at him forcing him to answer and commit himself. Before he realized what was happening he had admitted that science proved there has been no past eternity of matter—that there was a time when radioactive elements did not exist—and then a time when they did exist. He had also admitted that life could come only *from* life, and not from the not-living. Before he realized it he had admitted

there had to be a First Cause, possessing LIFE, able to impart life to all living organisms.

"Now," I pursued, "you're a real intelligent man. I'm sure you won't deny that! You have a MIND. With it you can think, imagine, reason, plan. You can make things. But *you cannot make anything that is superior to your mind!* Do you agree to that, or can you show me that you can originate and produce something superior to your mind?"

He was getting more confused by the minute. Of course he could not demonstrate that he could produce something superior to his own mind, so he was forced to admit it.

"Then you have admitted that whatever can be produced must be devised, planned, and produced by an intelligence GREATER and SUPERIOR to whatever is produced. Do you know of *anything* that is more intelligent, and superior, than your mind?"

I knew his vanity could never admit of anything superior to his mind.

"I guess not," he admitted weakly.

"And yet you acknowledge that something less intelligent than your mind could never have produced your mind and that it must of necessity have been devised and produced by an Intelligence GREATER than your mind. So you see you have admitted a First Cause having LIFE, and of intelligence superior to the most intelligent thing you know, in order to bring YOU and YOUR MIND into existence. Look at all the forms of LIFE on this planet—the way each is constructed—the way each functions—the way each needs certain things like water, food, sunshine, and a certain range of temperature, in order to function and exist. Could YOU, without any pattern to go by, think out, design, produce, set in motion, and impart a functioning LIFE to all these life forms of the fauna and flora of the earth? Or do you think it took a GREATER POWER, a SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE, a LIVING CREATOR, to design, plan, and create and sustain this earth and the entire vast universe?"

He could take no more. "W— W— Well," he stammered pitifully, "I won't worship God even if you DO make me admit He exists!" This was a last attempt at defiance.

"That's a decision God is forcing YOU to make," I replied. "He won't make it for you. He will allow you to rebel and refuse to worship Him. But He did set laws in motion, and whatever you sow, that shall you reap!"

The young lady did not laugh. It was not funny!

A few weeks later I met this man on the street corner. He made one last effort at brave retaliation to salve over his wounded pride.

"I'll never bend MY knees to your Christ," he said.

"Oh yes you will!" I replied firmly. "There is a judgment day coming for you, and the Creator that lets you breathe says EVERY knee shall bow to Christ—even if He has to break the bones of your legs!"

I encountered this man many times on the street after that, but he never again discussed religion. He always treated me with respect.

My First Wedding

I must go back a bit now, to recount an incident that occurred in February or March of 1934. It was shortly before my wife and children had moved to Eugene from Salem.

I was asked to perform my first marriage ceremony. Ernest McGill, one of the twelve children of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McGill, whose names have appeared before in this autobiography, asked me to perform the ceremony for him and Ora Lee Wilcox.

It caught me by surprise. It was the first time, since my ordination, I had been called on for such a ceremony. I was totally unprepared.

My first thought was to go to the pastor of some church in Eugene and ask him for his form of marriage ceremony. But on the heels of that thought flashed in the next second the thought that I had found the Bible entirely different from modern-day religious beliefs, forms and ceremonies. I realized then that instead of going to MEN to learn how to perform a marriage ceremony, I should go direct to the Bible. Instead of learning from men, I should learn of GOD.

Immediately I studied all I could find in the Bible about marriage. I did not find the words of a specific ceremony

written out, but I did find God's PURPOSE in marriage—that God had instituted it—and God's requirements of both husband and wife. The wording of the specific ceremony, itself, came naturally by putting together the essential scriptures concerning marriage.

When the wedding day came, the ceremony was simple, plain, taken from the Scriptures. I had seen that it is GOD and not man, who joins husband and wife as one flesh. Therefore they were married, not by me, but by GOD during a prayer. Everyone thought it was the most beautiful wedding ceremony they had ever seen. God's ways *are* beautiful! That same ceremony, with very few alterations, is still being used today.

But I must recount here an accompanying incident. I had, of course, written my wife that I was to marry Ernest and Ora Lee. A little later she found our elder son, "Dickie," age five, missing. When he didn't show up she became frantic. Finally she found him hiding under a bed, sobbing as if his little heart would burst.

"Why, Dickie," she called, "what's the matter?"

"I don't want Daddy to marry Ora Lee," he sobbed. "He married you, and he's my Daddy, and it's *wrong* for him to marry any other woman."

Of course his mother explained. Later he, himself, performed marriage ceremonies, and I performed his wedding ceremony.

Our "New" Office

Following the evangelistic meetings in the old Masonic Temple in downtown Eugene, April and May, 1934, I had retained for some time, as mentioned above, the use of one of the smaller rooms as an office. I do not remember just when, but later—probably early autumn, 1935—Mr. Frank Chambers, owner of the building [and somewhere near half of all downtown Eugene, it was rumored], told me he had a tenant for the entire building, and I would have to move. Up to that time he had not charged any rent for this smaller office room. He said he had a vacant room in the Hampton Building, across from the Post Office [a new Post Office has been built since] on the southwest corner of Sixth and Willamette. How-



AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from previous page)

ever, he would have to charge me \$5 per month office rent.

Well, we seemed to be getting up in the world. From no office rent we now advanced to paying \$5 per month office rent!

However, it was an inner room, without windows for ventilation. There was a transom over the door leading into the hall. There was another transom over a locked door leading into the Labor Union Hall adjoining. But instead of fresh air, the stale tobacco

smoke wafted regularly through this transom on mornings following a union meeting. There had been a skylight in the ceiling, but it was so dirty very little light filtered through.

During the years we occupied this office we were able to work only about two hours at a stretch, then having to vacate the office for an hour or so while the air changed a little. After some months we did manage to afford a small electric fan which kept the stale air circulating.

The Hampton Building, corner 6th and Willamette, in Eugene. Here in the small, inside one-room office, The PLAIN TRUTH was published.

There were two or three old tables in this room. Unable to afford a desk these were used as office desk, and tables for printing, folding and mailing the mimeographed *Plain Truth*. There were also a couple of old chairs in the room.

For filing cabinets in which to keep folders of correspondence and records we went to a grocery store and asked for some cardboard cartons. The ones they gave me apparently had contained

(Please continue on page 28)

HOW to REAR CHILDREN

Here is the shocking second installment. Learn the cause of juvenile delinquency and what you personally can do about it.

by Garner Ted Armstrong

YOU would be shocked, *stunned*, if you realized what is destined to happen to our nation in the next ten to twenty years.

We are going the way of ancient Rome. Edward Gibbon, in his famous history, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, lists five major causes for the decay and final collapse of the great might of Rome.

The United States of America today is festering with the sickness of ALL FIVE!

The Handwriting on the Wall!

Just as it was in the Rome of old, the *real enemy* threatening our society is decadence **WITHIN**! We are rapidly becoming a nation of criminals, and we don't realize it. *We can't build prisons fast enough!* Each year sees a consecutive *increase* in major crimes committed in the United States. And, most frightening of all, is the dangerous trend among our *youth*. Three times as many criminals as college students exist in the United States. And, crime has grown greater *proportionately* than our population. The rise in crime cannot be attributed to the increase in population.

There has been no respite in the rise of crime—on the contrary, crime is rising more than ever before!

In spite of all the warnings—of all the voices of law enforcement officials lifted up in alarm—the crime rate continues to skyrocket.

"'America's culture of worklessness will double the number of juvenile delinquents within four years,' a Boston educator said . . . Dr. Kvaraceus said he was not optimistic about this country's chances of solving the problems of juvenile delinquency. The rate of increase in juvenile delinquency, he said, is about three to four per cent higher than the rate of population increase in the seven to seventeen age bracket."

It stands absolutely proved the rise

in crime cannot be attributed to mere rise in population!

Is this decadence? Is our society really being threatened with crime?

There is more crime in the United States of America today than in any other nation now on the face of this earth, or than in any nation which has ever existed in the history of this world!

And the rapid increase in *crime*, the decay from *within* was one of the five major reasons why the great Roman Empire fell. And *your Bible* foretold the collapse of this once great empire, *hundreds* of years before it happened!

The apostle Paul, looking on beyond his day into the present twentieth century, wrote:

"This know also, that in *the last days* perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS**, unthankful, unholy . . . *lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God*, having a **FORM** of godliness, but denying the power thereof, from such *turn away!* (II Tim. 3:1-5).

Paul said **DISOBEDIENCE TO PARENTS** would be one of the major problems of our day! And *it is*. This prophecy has *come true*.

Juvenile Delinquency Was Prophesied!

The pagan philosophers of Rome "did not like to retain God in their knowledge," but, rather, professing *themselves* to be wise, recorded the wanderings of their darkened minds through the labyrinths of ethereal hypotheses which have since been praised by a gullible world as "wisdom." However, God says of them:

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a *reprobate mind*, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wick-

edness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, **DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS** . . . who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit *such things* are worthy of **DEATH**, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Rom. 1:28-32).

God places the breaking of the fifth commandment—"Honor thy father and thy mother"—on the same par with any of the other commandments! Your Bible says disobedience to parents is punishable by death, the same penalty as for murder! Notice it! ". . . disobedient to parents . . . they which commit *such things* are worthy of *death* . . ."

During the days of Hezekiah, the king of Judah, God sent a prophet whose name was Isaiah. But Isaiah did not just prophesy to the nation of Judah and Israel of that day. The prophecies of Isaiah were also *written* and recorded—and have been preserved for *our day*.

Isaiah prophesied to **ISRAEL**!

The peoples of the United States of America, the British Commonwealth of Nations, the democracies of north-western Europe constitute the *Israel* of your Bible!

Few understand this amazing truth! While "Israel" may, in some cases, *include* the Jews, who are of the tribe of *Judah*, the name "Israel" does not *ever* mean the Jews *only*! All aborigines are Australians, but **NOT ALL AUSTRALIANS ARE ABORIGINES**. In like manner, all Jews are *Israelites*, but **NOT ALL ISRAELITES ARE JEWS**!

Space does not permit a lengthy explanation of this startling truth here, but notice what the prophet said about *our people*!

"As for my people, *children are their oppressors*, and *women rule over them*. O my people, they which lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths"

(Isa. 3:12). Notice it again!

Isaiah prophesied, by the Holy Spirit of God, that our society would be literally *turned upside down*.

Never has there been a time in the history of even our peoples where teenage gangs have universally held whole cities in their grip of terror, where elderly ladies and young girls are mercilessly struck down on busy streets, where the crippled and the feeble are beaten and killed by brutal and lawless gangs of young dope addicts, where such a raging holocaust of violence has beset a nation!

But again, let it be emphasized, *crime* is only the *end result*, and the *evident, tangible* problem. For every actual crime committed, known and tabulated by law enforcement agencies, there are perhaps dozens of *undetected* crimes committed against persons and property. And for all *these* crimes, there are literally *thousands* of instances of direct flaunting of parental authority, of deliberate and calloused indifference to parental control, and of disobedient children!

God said "DISOBEDIENCE TO PARENTS" would highlight our age!

These prophecies are true *now!* *We* are the people of Israel—and, just as God said, we are faced today with a generation of youthful criminals. "Children *are* our oppressors."

The Pressures of Society

But what are the real CAUSES behind youthful rebellion? *Why* are little children growing up today disrespectful of their parents, disobedient, haughty, and, in some cases, headed toward a life of crime? There have been myriads of reasons given, and voluminous material has been written about juvenile delinquency. However, has there been any real *solution*? Has the problem been *solved*?

No! Regardless of the warnings, the problem is rapidly growing worse!

An Associated Press release recently reported:

"About 37 per cent of all persons sentenced to penal institutions in the United States are 18 to 25 years of age. Director James V. Bennett of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, in reporting these figures . . . described the rising number of youths

in the nation's prisons as 'a problem of surpassing importance.'" (Clipping)

In Great Britain, the Conservative Party was seriously considering reintroduction of corporal punishment "because of a serious increase in crime" and to "halt the alarming increase in assaults on women and children and in robbery with violence" (Clipping by Parliamentary Correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor*).

No—rather than a lessening of the problem, it grows steadily WORSE!

"'Crimes of violence are still on the increase.' So said the Federal Bureau of Investigation in a report on the first nine months of 1959, issued November 30. Reports from U.S. cities of 25,000 or more showed crimes against the person—murder, rape, felonious assault—rose by 7 per cent over the same period of 1958" (p. 14, *U.S. News and World Report*, Dec. 7, 1959).

But what really CAUSES this frightening rise in crime? What is the real *reason*?

Is there a conspiracy to keep from your understanding the real *causes* for teen-age crime? Is there a *reason* why your children are not as obedient as you would want them to be?

Yes, there is a reason! There are *many* sickening, deplorable reasons. They are the *pressures* of a society gone berserk, which was prophesied to become "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God!"

Every individual personality is merely the sum total of all the other influences, experiences, other personalities and the environment with which he has come in contact. We are all a product of our society. And, statistics prove, we have become a lawless, rebellious, crime-ridden people! ". . . For the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence" (Ezek. 7:23). Our SOCIETY is delinquent! That is the REASON!

Parental Delinquency

Our end-time society is bent on *self-satisfaction*! The apostle Paul said men would be "lovers of pleasures *more* than lovers of God." Nothing seems to characterize our present society more than the thrill-seeking, pleasure-mad binge of

a fat, indolent nation bloating on its own prosperity, and seemingly "too busy" in its mad race for pleasure to be concerned about the children it engenders.

An undisciplined home, disagreeing parents bent on their own *self-satisfaction*, upside-down homes where mother wears the pants, broken homes—none of these can be expected to produce obedient, happy children.

F. B. I. Director, J. Edgar Hoover, charged that *delinquent parents* are largely to blame for the "growing menace of youth crime," in a caustically-worded editorial in the F. B. I.'s law enforcement bulletin. Hoover noted that the public only thinks of criminals who lead youngsters into thievery and immoral activities as "corrupters of youth."

"In truth, said the bachelor F. B. I. boss, large segments of the adult population are also among the guilty."

This direct statement by the leading law enforcement officer of our nation, the head of one of the most effective and respected police organizations on the face of this earth, places the blame squarely on "large segments" of the *adult population*! In this statement quoted here from the Cheyenne, Wyoming, *Wyoming State Tribune* for March 11, 1959, Mr. Hoover went on:

"Countless adults escape the stigma, although by their negligence, indifference, personal greed and bad example they are in fact responsible in large measure for juvenile criminality. He asserted that a major factor in the youth crime problem is our present society which has substituted indulgence for discipline, pleasure for duty and money for morals. He said the time has come for decisive action. Hoover predicted that, based on the alarming present rate, more than *one million* youths in the ten to seventeen age bracket will be arrested in 1962 and in each succeeding year."

It is time we examine the insipid teachings of modern child psychologists who have "substituted indulgence for discipline."

Dr. Sidney Berman of Washington, D.C., was quoted in the *Chicago Daily*

(Please continue on page 20)

The New Commandments of Jesus

Many teach that Jesus Christ substituted some "new" commandments for the Law of His Father. What is the TRUTH? Are the Ten Commandments still to be obeyed?

by Roderick C. Meredith

THIS is an age of REBELLION against all law and constituted authority. Nations and governments are being overthrown, and homes and schools thrown into chaos by various forms of *rebellion*.

A revealing insight into modern man's reaction to the phrase in the Lord's Prayer "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done" was given by an Ohio minister recently.

He wrote: "We do not mean it. *We don't like authority*, nor will we give in easily even if He is the King of heaven . . . It is all too obvious that most men over most of the years have prayed earnestly: 'Thy kingdom *not* come, *my* will be done.'"

Ten Commandments Abolished?

In last month's PLAIN TRUTH, we concluded a series of articles expounding the Ten Commandments. This series showed the positive application of these commandments to our personal lives as *living, active laws*.

But today, many professing ministers and Bible teachers are proclaiming that the Ten Commandments are either "done away"—as they say—or replaced by the "new" commandments of Jesus.

What are these "new" commandments? Do they replace or contradict the Ten Commandments? What does the BIBLE reveal on this important subject?

First of all, let us notice one of the all-important purposes for Jesus Christ's coming to this earth in the human flesh. Isaiah prophesied of Jesus: "He will *magnify* the law and make it honourable" (Isa. 42:21). Here we find that Christ came NOT to abolish the law, but to *magnify* it.

Magnify has just the opposite meaning of changing or abolishing some-

thing. It means to *reveal* in the most minute detail, to *enlarge* upon. Certainly the life and teachings of Jesus do just that with the Father's law.

Jesus said: "Think NOT that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am *not* come to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matt. 5:17).

Jesus did just what these words imply. Both in His life and teaching, He *fulfilled* the law. He *magnified* it by His perfect example. He *filled it to the full*, passing beyond the mere letter to observe even the minutest spiritual intent and purpose of the Father's perfect law.

Those who knew Him as a teacher could never charge Him with having substituted the traditions of men for the commandments of God. He OBEYED the Ten Commandments in word and in deed. He taught and lived them as the perfect *WAY of life*.

He said: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the LEAST in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called GREAT in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:19).

The Way to Eternal Life

When a young man came to Him asking the way to eternal life, Jesus said: "If thou wilt enter into life, *keep the commandments*" (Matt. 19:16-18).

The young man asked, "Which?"

And Jesus answered: "Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery . . ." and proceeded to list a number of the *ten commandments*.

Jesus Christ KNEW the way to salvation! He said that way was *obedience* to the law of God the Father and *surrender* to His will.

Jesus declared: "Not every one that

saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven; but he that *doeth the WILL* of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

Far from abolishing the Ten Commandments, Jesus OBEYED them (John 15:10). Christ was the "light" that God sent into the world to show men *HOW* to live.

After His death and resurrection, Christ sent the apostles out with this command: "Go ye therefore, and teach *all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: *teaching them to observe ALL THINGS whatsoever I have commanded you*" (Matt. 28:18-20).

The apostles had been there when Christ told the young man: "Keep the commandments." They had heard Him magnify the commandments of God in what is called the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5, 6, 7).

The apostles had witnessed the *obedience* of Christ to the Ten Commandments, and knew that His was the *perfect example*. Therefore, when Jesus Christ sent them out to every nation with the order to teach them *ALL things He had commanded them*, there could be no possible doubt in their minds but that this included the Ten Commandments of God.

Obedience to the Ten Commandments, then, was the very *basis* of the teaching of Christ and of His original apostles.

But what about the "new" commandments of Jesus? Did they not alter or abolish the necessity for literally keeping the Ten Commandments that were revealed in the Old Testament?

A "New" Commandment

Actually, in spite of what many think, there is only one place in all the Bible

where Jesus said He was giving a "new" commandment. The other references—by the apostle John—are to the exact *same* principles, as we shall see.

"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; *as I have loved you*, that ye also love one another. By *this* shall all men know that ye are my disciples, *if* ye have love one to another" (John 13:34-35).

Jesus gave this "new" commandment the last night of His physical life on earth. He had—by teaching and example—already shown the disciples that keeping God's commandments was simply an expression of LOVE.

Christ had already summarized God's law into the two great principles: "Thou shalt *love* the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind . . . Thou shalt *love* thy neighbor as thyself" (Matt. 22:37-39).

In fact, the latter part of this summary of God's law Jesus quoted directly from the *Old Testament* (Lev. 19:18).

What, then, was "new" about Jesus' command to love our neighbors?

The answer is plain. The principle of loving our neighbors was NOT new, but Jesus' *magnification* of that principle in His own perfect life shed a completely NEW light on the spiritual intent and depth of this commandment.

Remember Jesus' emphasis—"AS *I have loved you*, that ye also love one another."

Jesus' own *perfect example* of LOVE and SERVICE was the greatest and most meaningful magnification of the love of neighbor as commanded by God. In His life, He demonstrated HOW that love actually functions in day-to-day life.

How to Love Your Neighbor

Three times the Divine voice broke the usual silence of the heavens in announcing the satisfaction of God in the life of Jesus. Even the Roman Procurator, Pontius Pilate, declared: "I find no fault in Him" (John 19:4).

This was because Jesus lived a life of GIVING to others. Whether in His constant teaching of the multitudes, His healing of the sick, His feeding of the hungry crowds or in an act of humility such as washing the disciples' feet, *He was always giving of Himself.*

"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:33).

Are these strange words from a man of LOVE? No. Rather, they are manifestation of how *perfect love* sometimes says and does things for the good of others which at the time they may not appreciate.

Jesus loved these Pharisees! It was in love that He THUNDERED these words to wake them up from a life of religious hypocrisy and perversity that was damning their souls. Remember, it was also for these same Pharisees that Jesus DIED. It was for these men and others like them that Jesus prayed: "*Father, forgive them: for they know not what they do*" (Luke 23:34).

It was in that perfect, understanding love that Jesus withdrew Himself occasionally from the multitude to rest, to meditate, to pray. For He knew that only by keeping close to the Father and being an instrument in His hands could His human presence and teaching enrich the lives of others.

Jesus did not just ACT like He loved others. He DID love them with a perfect love. Through God's Holy Spirit within Him, He desired *from the heart* to love and serve His fellow beings for their highest good.

He literally *lived* the words Paul later showed He uttered: "*It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive*" (Acts 20:35).

In this way, His command that men love one another "*even AS I have loved you*," certainly does become a "new" and more all-encompassing command in governing human relationships.

Did Jesus LITERALLY Obey the Ten Commandments?

Many religious folk think that Jesus had a sentimental type of "love" in His heart, but that He didn't really OBEY God's commandments literally.

The truth is that Jesus Christ *kept* and *obeyed* every one of the Ten Commandments in the letter AND in the Spirit—just as His followers today should do. As we have already seen, He declared that He had *obeyed* the Father's commandments (John 15:10).

To make it perfectly clear, Jesus Christ *never* had another god before the true God. He *never* committed idolatry,

or blasphemed God's name. Jesus *kept* *holy* the Sabbath that God had made holy and often worshipped in the synagogue on that day as was His custom (Luke 4:16).

Jesus *honoured* His parents, and He *never* killed, committed adultery, stole, lied or coveted. He set us an EXAMPLE that we should follow in His steps (I Pet. 2:21).

Today, a true Christian is one so *surrendered* to God that Christ is literally living *His* life in that person through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. For the apostle Paul said: "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but CHRIST LIVETH IN ME: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith OF the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me*" (Gal. 2:20).

A true Christian should not only have faith *in* Christ, but should live by the very faith OF Christ placed in him by the Holy Spirit. Christ—through the Spirit—should literally be LIVING in the true Christian.

And remember, Christ will live the SAME life in you today that He did 1900 years ago—setting an example. "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever*" (Heb. 13:8).

Jesus, in His flesh, "was in ALL POINTS tempted *like as we are*, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). Yet in His fleshly life He OBEYED the Ten Commandments. Dwelling now in His labourers through the Holy Spirit, He WILL keep the commandments in them.

It is *Christ's* love. It is *His* power IN us that can keep the spiritual law of God.

For Jesus Christ *was*, and *is*, obedient to God the Father.

Did John Give a "New" Commandment?

In the epistle of the apostle Jesus loved, the apostle John, we also find reference to a "new" commandment.

"Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a NEW commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in (Please continue on page 19)

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

Why did Abraham and David find high favor with God, since they committed sins such as lying, adultery, and murder? Does God show favoritism?

God is no respecter of persons. We have *all* sinned. "*Whosoever* shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in *one point*, he is *guilty of all*" (James 2:10). Anyone who commits *any sin*—just one point—is just as guilty, then, as David and Abraham were when they committed their sins.

Many of *our sins*, which are *very common* and which do not *appear* very great in *our own eyes*, are nevertheless *very great* in God's sight. In I Samuel 15:23 we read: "For *rebellion* is as the sin of witchcraft, and *stubbornness* is as iniquity and idolatry." Here we have God's statement that rebellion (disobedience of any sort) and stubbornness are both as great as witchcraft and idolatry, which are two of the greatest sins. We have *ALL* been guilty of disobedience and stubbornness, which means *we have ALL been AS GUILTY AS ANYONE COULD BE*.

Now we come to the crux of the question: just *WHY* did God have such high regard for Abraham and David. The key is in their *attitude* of sincere *REPENTANCE* and their *SUBMISSION* to God. We *all* sin. In that point *we are all equal*. It is in *repentance* that we differ. When Nathan pointed out David's sin to him, he did not try to justify himself. He repented bitterly, as is shown in Psalm 51. If we would repent just as earnestly and sincerely, we would be as greatly favored. We *should* repent as earnestly, since our sins are *just as great*. When we repent, God forgives a great sin as quickly as a small one. The blood of Christ covers *ALL* sins.

Abraham was highly favored by God because "Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my

statutes, and my laws" (Gen. 26:5). When God told Abraham to leave the comfortable, educated, and polished civilization in which he had been brought up, and go into a strange country and live in a tent in the open country, Abraham went without question or argument (Gen. 12:1-5). *Abraham did not try to find excuses*, or reason himself into a way out: he just *went*, and trusted in God's guidance. If we would obey as willingly today, and did not frequently lean to our own understanding, contrary to God's will, we would be more highly favored in God's sight.

The thing that makes the sins of Abraham and David look so bad to some people is that *God pointed out THEIR sins* and showed them to the world as bad examples. These men then gained God's favor by *repentance* and *submission*. If our *hidden* sins were dragged out in the open, would *WE* be able to love God and repent as they did, realizing that *God loves us* and that *everything* He does is for our good? It is time we come to such a state of spiritual maturity. We can do so by following the examples of Abraham and David—by *striving* daily to *overcome* our sinful tendencies and become as *humble, repentant, and submissive* to God as they were. We will *then* be qualified to receive a place with them under Christ in His Kingdom.

Who are the 'other sheep' of John 10:16?

Christ said: "And *other sheep* I have, which are not of *this fold*: them also I will bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be *one fold*, and *ONE shepherd*" (John 10:16). "This fold" refers to Judah (the Jews) who were living in Palestine. Christ came to His own (the Jews) and His own received Him not (John 1:11). Christ

was born of the tribe of Judah, but the Jews rejected Him saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us" (Luke 19:14).

Who are the "other sheep" then? The "other sheep" are the *other* tribes of Israel. Israel (Jacob) had more than one son—he had *TWELVE* sons! The "other sheep" then are the descendants of the other eleven sons of Jacob. Christ referred to them (the other tribes of Israel) as the *lost sheep* of the house of Israel (Matt. 10:6). The Jews referred to the other tribes of Israel as "the dispersed" among the Gentiles (John 7:35). Israel and Judah became two separate nations (houses) during the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son.

For proof of where the *other* tribes of Israel were at that time and where they are today, read Mr. Armstrong's booklet "The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy." The "other sheep" of the lost tribes of Israel were *not* in Palestine.

Some have thought the Gentiles represent the *other sheep*. Yet, it must be remembered that only the descendants of Jacob (Israel) are referred to as *SHEEP* in all the Bible. The Gentiles can obtain salvation through Christ but they are never referred to as *sheep* (see Eph. 2:11-13).

Christ concluded by saying: "And there shall be *ONE* fold, and *ONE* shepherd." When will the house of Israel *AND* the house of Judah be *ONE FOLD* and have *ONE KING* and *ONE SHEPHERD*? The prophet Ezekiel gives the answer (Ezek. 37:22-23). David, resurrected, will be that *KING* with Christ, the *CHIEF SHEPHERD* (verses 24-26). Ezekiel 34:23, Jeremiah 30:9 and Psalm 89:27 explain that David is to be *RESURRECTED from the dead* and made king. The resurrection from the dead occurs at Christ's second coming to this earth (I Thess. 4:13-18; Heb. 11:13, 39-40; I Cor. 15:20-23, 50-53). Christ will then establish the new covenant with the house of Israel *AND* the house of Judah (Heb. 8:8; Jer. 31:31-33). Thus, the "other sheep" are the other tribes of Israel that left the land of Palestine but who will return again along with Judah and *come under the rule of Christ* through the resurrected David (see Jer. 50:4-6).

Does CHRISTMAS Celebrate Christ's Birthday?

(Continued from page 4)

could find unity!

According to the *religious* calendar maintained by the pagan priests of the mystery cults, each year averaged 365¼ days. This made the year a fraction too long. It caused the winter solstice to drop back over the centuries about the rate of one day in about 133 years. When this celebration of the winter solstice—"Christmas"—was first introduced in Rome, the solstice had gradually dropped back to *December 25*, beginning 300 years before Christ.

The early *Babylonian* date of January 6 as the birthday of the pagan saviour Nimrod was first applied to Jesus by the apostatizing *Eastern* Christians. But this date for the birth of Christ was *not* universally accepted. In A.D. 245, Origen, like numerous other Catholic leaders, still repudiated the idea of observing any day as Christ's birthday. The traditional date of January 6 therefore did not gain a very strong foothold in the western parts of the Roman Empire because certain heretical sects were also following the January 6 tradition.

Then, how did December 25—the *Roman* festival in honor of Nimrod's birth—finally become the traditional date of Christ's birth?

How Christmas Tradition Developed

Bishops in the West, and especially at Rome, saw that by allowing converts to *retain* their pagan holidays, they could induce thousands to enter the church and "embrace" Catholicism. The Catholic writer Tertullian lamented this trend when he said in 230 A.D.:

"By us who are strangers to Sabbaths, and new moons, and [GOD's] festivals, once acceptable to God, the Saturnalia, the feasts of January, the *Brumalia* [December 25], the Matronalia, are now frequented; gifts are carried to and fro, new year's day presents are made with din, and sports and banquets are celebrated with uproar" (from *De Idolatria*, chapter 14).

In less than two centuries after Christ's death, professing Christians

were returning to their former pagan practices—to December 25, the birthday of Sol the sun god. Here is one of the earliest indications that Christians were transforming the birthday of the physical *s-u-n* into the birthday of the S-o-n of God.

This idolatrous adoption of heathen festivals proceeded very slowly UNTIL CATHOLICISM BECAME THE STATE RELIGION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE UNDER EMPEROR CONSTANTINE.

Almost immediately, the pagans flocked to the churches bringing their customs with them. Within forty years the celebration of the 25th of December became so widespread that a *sudden* change took place in Rome.

The last record of Pope Liberius' celebration of the nativity on January 6 occurred in 353 A.D. In the very next year he celebrated it on December 25! This is fully explained in the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, by James Hastings, article "Christmas." Even the *Catholic Encyclopedia* admits that Christmas celebrations *officially began* by this year—354 A.D.

Christmas Celebration Spreads Rapidly

From Rome in the West, the celebration of Christmas quickly engulfed the whole empire. But many preachers in the East still clung to January 6 as the traditional nativity. As late as 373 Ephraim Syrus said: "On the tenth day (of March) was His Conception and on the sixth day (of January) was His Nativity" (*Assemani Bibl. Or.* ii. 169).

Here is what Chrysostom said about Christmas in his *Homily on the Birth of Christ*, written in Antioch about 380 A.D.: "It is not yet ten years since this day was made known to us."

Christmas didn't come from the apostles. It came to Antioch, the city where Paul preached, *three hundred years after* the apostle died! It came from an apostate Rome, not from Jesus Christ. Christmas came from paganism, not from the Bible.

Notice what Chrysostom continues to say about Christmas: "I know well that many even yet dispute with one another about it, some finding fault with it and others defending it." He admitted it was "new, in that it has recently been made known to us . . ."

The bishops at Rome claimed to have accurate knowledge of Christ's birth because they possessed the census papers of Jesus' family. Just why they kept this hidden for over three centuries they never say.

They forged many records in an effort to show that preceding popes celebrated Christmas on December 25. If this were really true, they would not have needed to forge these spurious records.

Forbidden in New Testament

The celebration of Christmas in Constantinople, near where Paul preached in Asia Minor, first took place between 378 and 381. And if this isn't enough evidence against the apostolic origin of Christmas, there is proof that December 25 was not celebrated in Jerusalem before 385. Yet Jerusalem was the site of the mother church in the very beginning.

The Catholic Bishop Chrysostom, who lived in the fourth century, admits that the superstitious "*times*," which Paul forbids in Galatians 4:10, were pagan Christmas customs practiced by "Christians" in his day, as by the pagans in the days of old. He says: "Many were superstitiously addicted to divination . . . upon them . . . In the celebration of these *times* [they] set up lamps in the marketplace, and crown their doors with garlands"—as is done at Christmas *time* today! (From *Bingham's Antiquities of the Christian Church*, pp. 1123, 1124).

Christmas became a universal practice in all but the Armenian Church by the fifth century. Hundreds of traditions and customs began to develop about Christmas in every land. In the *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia*, you can read this about Christmas: "Yet the festival rapidly gained acceptance and became at last so firmly established that even the Protestant revolution of the sixteenth century was not able to dislodge it." Protestants didn't get Christ-

mas from the Bible. They got it from their mother church—Rome; and Rome got it from pagan sun-worship!

And where do you suppose the story of Santa Claus originated? And what about hanging mistletoe in the doorway at Christmas time? Where did the holly-wreath, the Yulelog, and lighting of fires and candles come from?

And what about the Christmas tree? Is it mentioned in the Bible? Yes indeed. It is mentioned and *condemned*.

You can read the *truth* about these customs—what God says about them—if you write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's FREE booklet "The Plain Truth About Christmas."

HOW to Honor Christ

Most people are dishonoring—yes, *robbing* Christ at every Christmas season and they don't know it! While spending every available dime on gifts for friends and relatives in this *commercialized* season, they are forgetting Christ. They take—steal—the very money that belongs to Him.

Notice what Malachi says in his prophecy for today about modern Israel—the United States, Great Britain and the other democracies; "Will man

rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How are we robbing thee?' *In your tithes and offerings*. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me; the whole nation of you" (Malachi 3:6-12).

Many of you have been robbing God of His tithes and offerings by spending *God's own money* in Christmas gifts instead of giving Him what is due. Our people have turned aside from Him, our hearts have gone after pagan festivals—Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter.

The way to return to God and give Him your heart is to *pay* your tithes and offerings. Why? "For where your treasure is *there* will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). You are not truly converted until your *WHOLE* heart is yielded to God. The only way to give your *whole* heart to Him is to let Him rule your pocketbook—to pay Him the tithes and offerings that belong to Him.

Today, under the New Covenant, God commands that His tithes go to His work for the preaching of the true gospel to all the world. This year, instead of celebrating a pagan holiday, why not give your gifts and pay your tithes to Christ for His work?

That is how you can really honor Him.

way—their very *CHARACTER*—which is expressed in the *Ten Commandments*. Christ not only *taught obedience* to the commandments, He *LIVED* them!

And so John adds: "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the *DOCTRINE* of Christ, *hath not God*. He that abideth in the *DOCTRINE* of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (verse 9).

What the "New" Commandments Actually Teach

When we examine the positive side of the "new" commandments, we find that they simply reinforce and make more *BINDING* the old! They outline a way of *LOVE*—of *giving*—of *serving*, which can only be attained through Christ Himself living in us.

In perfect unselfishness, we are to learn to love our fellow man *AS* Jesus loved us. That is *NEW* Testament doctrine! It is *FAR MORE* binding than the letter of the commandments stated in the *Old* Testament.

But it does *NOT* replace them. Rather, it magnifies them to their full spiritual intent. And these "new" commandments themselves refer to the perfect magnification in the life of Jesus.

And Jesus *OBEYED* the Ten Commandments *literally* in spirit as well. He is to be our "light," our *example*.

Describing the principle of how we should love our neighbor, the apostle Paul stated: "Love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). For God's spiritual love flows down the riverbed, or channel, expressed in the Ten Commandments.

In perfectly *OBEYING* the Ten Commandments—in their every phase and facet—Jesus' entire life was a radiant life of love itself, and *love is the fulfillment of law*.

The "new" commandment He gave called attention to His perfect example of *obedience* to the Father, and of *kindness* and *service* to all men.

Next month, we will conclude this vital series with the answer to a question upon which millions of professing Christians are confused: "Are the Ten Commandments Binding Upon Both Jew and Gentile Christians?" Don't miss this important article on one of the most controversial topics of our day.

The New Commandments of Jesus

(Continued from page 16)

him and in you: because the darkness is past and the true light now shineth. He that is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now" (I John 2:7-9).

Here the apostle refers his flock first of all to the "word" of God which they had from the beginning. But then he mentions one "new" thing. He proceeds to explain this is the deep spiritual love which brethren in Christ should have for one another. There is simply *no room* in this love for hate, envy or malice.

But does this Christian love "do away" or *CHANGE* the Ten Commandments of God?

Of course not!

It only *emphasizes* and *magnifies* the

personal love Christians must have toward their fellow men. This love goes *far beyond* the letter of the Ten Commandments—but *by no means* replaces them!

Again, John wrote in his second epistle: "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And *THIS IS LOVE*, that we *walk after His commandments*. This is the commandment, that, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it" (II John 5-6).

Here John defines Christian *LOVE* as *keeping the commandments*!

We are not just to love the *persons* of God and Christ. We are to love their

How to REAR CHILDREN

(Continued from page 14)

News, Thursday, January 8, 1959, as saying, "Behind every problem-child is a problem-laden family." He described as problem parents those who *reject their responsibilities*, turning them over to substitute parents."

Again J. Edgar Hoover said on January 16, 1959:

"The family role in our society can hardly be overemphasized. We can readily understand the importance when we consider the alarming increase in juvenile delinquency following the impairment of family living and family unity. . . . The home is the front line in the battle against juvenile delinquency. We must not forget the child has a right to expect love, attention, the home—and the opportunity to become a wholesome citizen."

Broken Homes

It has often been said the very *foundation* of any society is its basic institution, the family. No nation can survive unless its *family life* is healthy, happy and morally stable. Godfrey Sperling, Jr., Staff Correspondent of the *Christian Science Monitor* mentioned in February, 1957:

"Since 1944 . . . divorces granted in the United States have averaged more than 400,000 annually—by far the highest divorce rate in the world.

"Our proportion of divorces to marriages is six times that of Canada and three and one-half times that of France. . . . In 1953, 31,980 marriage licenses were issued in Los Angeles County, while 15,688 divorces became final. These do not include hundreds of thousands of separate maintenance proceedings and as many or more unlitigated separations. Most of the decrees involve the security of the minor children of couples, and affect, in a general way, the domestic lives, the public morals, and the welfare of all our people. . . .

"There is a wide and growing

recognition of the casual relationship between broken homes and their moral and economic consequence upon their children. It is estimated that more than 380,000 youngsters are orphaned annually by our legal separation process."

Think of it—America *leads the world* in divorces! At the same time, America leads the world in child crime! There is a *definite* relationship between the two. Broken homes and divorce are not the *ONLY* cause of juvenile delinquency. But they are a major contributing factor! Mr. Sperling went on to say:

"Many of these children, emotionally disrupted by the deprivation of the influence and security of a normal homelife, drift into mischief. Records of the juvenile courts, Cook County and the boy's court, Chicago, indicate that approximately 80 per cent of their cases are traceable to broken homes, and are no exception to the rule.

"As America suffers from the highest divorce rate so it is the most lawless country on the face of this earth (reported at the mid-Atlantic Conference on Correction held in New York) and especially so as regards crimes committed by youngsters. The correlation between divorce and juvenile crime is clear. The wave of child delinquency is *terrifying*."

Notice it! There is a direct relationship between America's tremendous divorce rate and juvenile delinquency!

But what most fail to realize is that divorce is only the *final climax of destruction to a family already in its death throes for quite a long time*.

The amazing truth, is, for every actual divorce, there are many legal separations, estrangements, or homes where husband and wife are living together in the same house, but living apart, as virtual strangers. In addition, the countless homes where disrespect, selfishness, anger, and out and out *brawls* are the rule are practically ignored by most in a perusal of the statistics concerning juvenile delinquency.

If the true facts were either available or known, you would be appalled at the millions of "upside-down homes" which actually exist in our nation! And herein lies the *real problem*. Divorce is only the *result*. Juvenile delinquency is a *result*. Both of these are *effects* of underlying causes. It is the real *CAUSE* of divorce, and of juvenile delinquency that we must discover in its alarming particulars.

In the first two installments of this series we have shown the gravity—the *mountainous* proportions—of the wave of youthful violence in our nation. We have shown statistics point out only the *known, catalogued, registered* cases of delinquency, but can serve only as a vague indication of the truly *FRIGHTENING* number of boys and girls who are rebellious, hostile, resentful, disrespectful of any constituted authority, disobedient to their parents!

We have shown, from many authoritative sources, that *DELINQUENT PARENTS*—upside-down homes—and a *DELINQUENT SOCIETY* are the basic, underlying *CAUSE* for delinquent children.

In the next installment, we shall begin to evaluate, NOT the "unusual" or the "exception to the rule," but the average, every-day family in our land. We shall pinpoint and expose the *real reason* for youthful rebellion, NOT in those who are stigmatized as "delinquents" alone, but rebellion in *THE AVERAGE CHILD*!

LETTERS TO EDITOR

(Continued from page 2)

will be surprised at the facts about smoking.

Food Miraculously Supplied

"Things have been happening so fast, my head is in a swim. We always seem to have food to eat, miraculously, it seems, at times. For instance, one day last week we had no meat for supper and no money to buy it. I walked out the front door and there were two grouse sitting there, when none had been seen before. My garden did very wonderfully, while others around died from lack of rain. Could only have been the grace of God."

Family from Homer, Alaska

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

ON TO SINAI

THE BATTLE with the Amalekites near Sinai had now lasted all day. Little by little the Israelites cut down the numbers of the enemy, and gradually forced them eastward away from the camps. By late afternoon Moses was very tired because of praying and holding his arms toward the sky. Believing that the foe was about to give up, he ceased praying and fell back to rest.

A Sudden Turn of Events

From that moment the Amalekites began to put sudden fury into their fighting. The Israelites had to retreat over much of the ground they had gained. (Exodus 17:11.)

"We're losing!" exclaimed Aaron. "Lift up your hands and pray, Moses, or these Amalekites will slay us all!"

"My arms are too tired to hold up any longer," Moses muttered wearily.

Among those with Moses on the hill was a man named Hur. He is said to have been the husband of Moses' sister, Miriam, and was a help to Moses because of his great influence and popularity with the Israelites.

When he heard Moses complain that he was weary, Hur quickly looked around to find a rock about the height of a bench. He motioned for others to help him, and the men rolled the rock up behind Moses.

"Sit back and rest on this stone behind you," Hur said to Moses.

Moses sat down with relief, but he was still too tired to hold his arms up. Hur took one arm and held it up. Aaron held up the other. Still holding his shepherd's rod, Moses started praying again. The three men thus carried on until the setting of

the sun. (Exodus 17:12.)

By that time the Israelites had scored a victory! Dead and wounded Amalekites littered the ground. The rest of them fled eastward to disappear among the sand dunes and hills.

Very tired, Moses returned to his tent. There was much celebrating that night because the Israelites had won in battle with little or no loss of life. But many weary ones, including Moses, didn't join in the celebration.

God spoke to Moses, instructing him to carefully record that day's events in the book in which Moses was writing the events happening to Israel during his lifetime.

"Tell Joshua to remember these things, too," God told Moses. "Tell him that he will have to look forward to more war from the Amalekites, but that I shall one day cause that enemy of yours to be utterly destroyed."

Not long after that, Moses ordered an altar built at Rephidim to honor God for sparing the Israelites, and to remind the people that God would continue to protect them from their enemies. (Verses 14-16.)

On to Sinai

After hovering for several weeks in the same place, the guiding cloud one morning began to change shape and move a little. This was the signal that it was about to lead the people onward.

The Israelites broke up their camps, banded their flocks and herds together and were ready to move on when the cloud started to float to the southeast. There was a range of mountains in that direction, and movement was increasingly difficult around high rocks and through narrow defiles. Travel was upgrade, and the multitude made slow progress over the rough, arid ground.

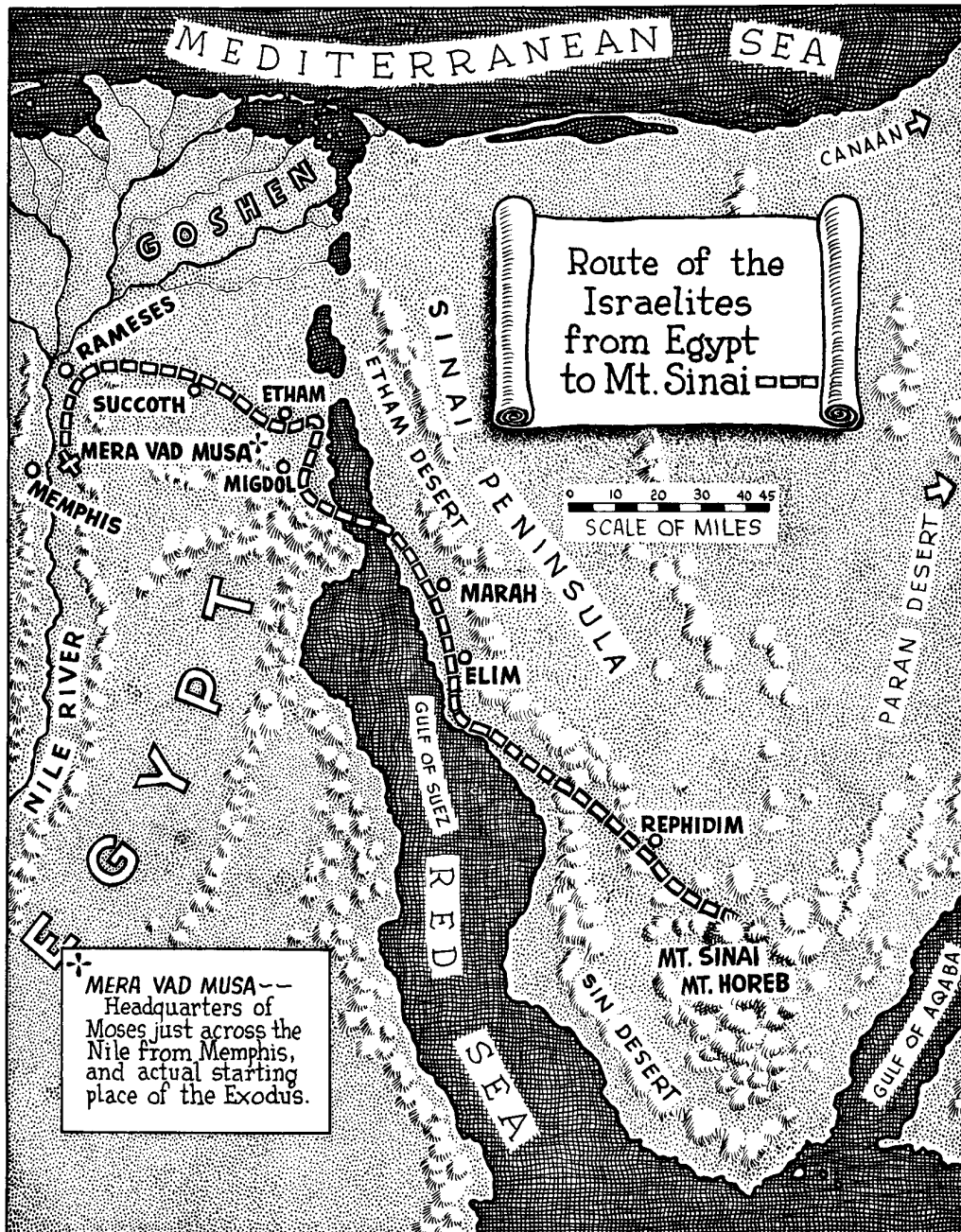
"This is a peculiar route by which to cross this country," one of Moses' officers remarked.

"Would you choose some other way and not follow the cloud?" Moses asked.

"But we are moving upward and directly toward those mountain peaks," the officer observed.

"I am familiar with those mountains," Moses told the officer. "That lofty one with the two peaks is Mt. Sinai, otherwise known as Mt. Horeb. Some call the higher peak Mt. Sinai and the lower peak Mt. Horeb. I herded sheep in those regions for a long time, and so this area is almost like home to me."

Moses glanced at the officer, and saw that his remarks obviously hadn't swept away the man's belief that the cloud was leading the people into the wrong path.



The land of Goshen was given to Israel by Egypt's Pharaoh in Joseph's day. It included all the eastern half of the Nile Delta down to the city of Ramses or Old Cairo.

"God has a definite reason for bringing us this way," Moses told him in a sterner tone. "When you learn what that reason is, you will remember it all your life."

The guiding cloud continued to move slowly but directly toward the high mountains. In fact, it moved straight toward Mt. Sinai, the mountain Moses had mentioned. It was on the slopes of this mountain that God had first spoken to Moses several months before—out of the burning bush.

Suddenly the cloud stopped—right over the top of Mt. Sinai!

"Look!" some of Moses' men exclaimed. "The cloud has come to a stop in the middle of the day! Are we to pitch our tents for the night this early in the day?"

"The cloud has stopped here," Moses told them. "We must do the same. It would be wise to tell the people to set up their camps for more than just an overnight stay." (Exodus 19:1-2.)

The people happily welcomed the opportunity to stop early. It had been a hot and difficult journey up into the higher elevations. But now, in the vast valley nestled amid the cluster of mountain peaks, the Israelites quickly discovered many springs of cool, pure water. This was a happy surprise in this area of bleak rocks and great stretches of arid sand and gravel.

Not long after his quarters were set up, Moses received a message from God.

"Come up on Mt. Sinai," he was told. "Come alone to receive word directly from your Creator."

Accompanied by Aaron, Hur, Joshua and other mounted officers, Moses rode up to the sloping base of the mountain. When the way became quite steep, Moses alighted and told the others that he would go alone on foot.

Moses was still spry for his age, and he set out with amazing agility up the rough, rocky side of the mountain. After a while he reached a flat ledge. He walked back from its edge, out of sight of those below.

Suddenly a clear, booming voice came from somewhere above on the mountain!

God Speaks

"Moses, you will deliver a message to the Israelites in the valley below."

Moses bowed in awe when the vibrating tones broke upon his ears. This was the same, tremendous voice he had heard from the burning bush months before. No other voice was like it—not even the angel voices by which God had contacted Moses from time to time.

"Remind the people," the Voice spoke out, "that I, the Creator of all the universe, have freed them from the Egyptians and have brought them safely to this place. Tell

them that if they will obey my laws, they shall become a special people—a nation I shall treasure more than any other nation of this world. They shall become a holy kingdom of priests who will guide and help all mankind, and who will some day rule over the whole world! Now go down to the people and tell them what I have spoken.” (Verses 3-6.)

Moses obeyed. He went back down the mountain to his tent. There he called for the heads of the twelve tribes and other elders. When they arrived, he repeated God’s words to them.

“Tell these things to the people,” Moses instructed them. “Show them that God has honored and blessed us by giving us a wonderful task to do. If we are faithful in these things, and live by God’s rules, a glorious and useful future is in store for us and our future generations.”

The elders, in turn, took God’s message to the people. Probably there were thousands and thousands who were thrilled by this message from God. On the other hand, there were probably more thousands who utterly failed to understand that God was giving them a wonderful opportunity no other nation would ever be given.

However, when the people were told about God’s great promise to them, they were quick to agree to the terms. Their attitude was reported to Moses, who later went back up the mountain to tell God that the Israelites were anxious to obey him. (Verses 8-9.)

“Go back to the people,” God told Moses, “and tell them to wash themselves and their clothes, so that they may be clean when I come down upon Mt. Sinai three days from now to be heard by them. Tell them that because I shall come down upon the mountain, no one is to come up too close to it. Set barricades along the slopes to keep the people from coming too near. Any man or beast who passes those barricades must be put to death for trespassing on hallowed ground.” God wanted to make sure the people respected Him so they would fear to break His righteous laws which make people happy. (Verses 10-13.)

Moses went back down the mountain again to take God’s instructions to the Israelites.

Before three days had passed, the people were prepared for God’s visit to Mt. Sinai. They didn’t know exactly what to expect. They had been told that they would hear their Creator’s voice, and although they were curious to know how He would sound, many of them felt somewhat fearful about what would happen. If people today were told that God would come down from heaven in three days, most of them would also be fearful—simply because most of them aren’t living as God wants them to live.

The third day dawned clear and mild, as it had for the past several days. The cloud still hung motionless above Mt. Sinai. There was nothing unusual to indicate that anything special would take place.

Suddenly, as out of nowhere, clouds began to form over the valley. Within only a few minutes the bright, blue sky was veiled by tumbling masses of dark gray vapor. The guiding cloud was lost from sight as the swirling vapors swung downward.

The mere sight of the darkening sky was enough to startle the people. But when crackling, blinding tongues of lightning began to stab out of the clouds, the Israelites were greatly alarmed.

Roaring thunder echoed and re-echoed between mountain peaks. The valley was filled with jolting, awesome sound and sights. It seemed that the noise couldn't possibly be any greater. But through it all came a long, piercing, clear blast of a great trumpet, which caused every man, woman and child to tremble.

It was the tremendous strain from a mighty, heavenly trumpet, announcing that God was coming down to Mt. Sinai! (Verse 19.)

The people had been told that a sounding trumpet would also be the signal for them to come out of their tents and camps and gather close to Mt. Sinai without trespassing beyond the marked barriers.

The mighty sound of the trumpet continued ever louder, but the thunder and lightning subsided. The clouds lifted, exposing most of the mountain to the searching gaze of millions surging toward it.

Abruptly the top of the mountain broke out in gigantic tongues of brilliant flame, as though it were being consumed in a sea of fire! Pillars of lighted smoke spewed skyward. Then the peak of the mountain seemed to explode in an awesome burst of eye-paining light!

People covered their eyes. Many of them fell to the ground, for at that moment the ground rocked and shook. Huge boulders, shaken loose by the earthquake, came thundering down off the mountain. None of them rolled so far as to injure anyone. Clouds of dust appeared here and there on the slopes where tons of soil and loose rocks cascaded from the mountain sides.

Even Moses shook with fear and awe at this overwhelming display of God's power. Yet Moses knew that it was as nothing, compared to what God could do—such as causing mammoth planets to collide or creating galaxies of stars in great, fiery, celestial upheavals over billions of miles of space.

The brilliant light remained atop the mountain. The ground ceased to shake. The blasting note of the trumpet faded away. Because the Israelites didn't know what to expect next, the utter silence that followed was, to some, even more terrible than



Roaring, ear-splitting thunder echoed and re-echoed between the quaking mountains.

the blinding lights and furious sounds.

What did happen next brought more fear and trembling to the Israelites. A loud voice, louder than the recent thunder, boomed down from the mountain top and

reverberated across the valley to the awe-struck listeners. It was like the voice that might come from a giant thousands of feet tall; and it spoke in Hebrew, the mother tongue of the Israelites.

"Come up on the mountain, Moses!" the voice thundered. "Come alone! Do not allow anyone to follow you!"

Still trembling, as were all the elders and officers about him, Moses walked past the barricades, slowly made his way up the side of Mt. Sinai and disappeared over a smoky ledge.

(To be continued next issue)

Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

(Continued from page 12)

bottles of whiskey, since they had big whiskey labels printed on the sides. I pasted plain wrapping paper around the outside to conceal these labels.

Into this office we moved the very old second-hand neostyle—ancestor of the mimeograph—and our old second-hand ten-dollar typewriter. This constituted our entire printing equipment, on which *The PLAIN TRUTH* was printed for the first few years.

I wrote the articles, then cut the stencils. The local mimeograph representative permitted me to visit his office once a month and cut the headline on one of his "scopes." It was Mrs. Armstrong's job to grind out the sheets on the old hand-cranked neostyle. Every sheet had to be fed in by hand, then slip-sheeted by hand after each sheet was printed. She then assembled the pages, folded them, and addressed them by hand in pen and ink. She maintained the mailing list—all written in ink on sheets of paper.

What a far cry that was from the way *The PLAIN TRUTH* is printed and mailed today! Today it is published in three editions in Los Angeles, London, and Melbourne. In those days the circulation was building up from around 175 or 200 copies at the start. Today it is running around 275,000 copies, pressing rapidly toward 300,000! Today the Los Angeles edition comes rolling

at the speed of a newspaper off magazine presses as large as those printing *TIME*.

Today several trained workers are employed maintaining the mailing list, which fills many steel cabinets, not only in our two-story Ambassador College Press Building in Pasadena, but also in our Administration Building at Ambassador College in England, and in our large seven-room suite of offices in Sydney, Australia. The operation in both Sydney and England today is many times larger than the *entire* operation back in those pioneer days in 1935!

Today the handsomely printed, 32-page, two-color copies flow at rapid speed through modern addressing machines, with a force of some fifty employees doing the addressing, sorting into mail sacks, and getting them loaded onto large trucks to be whisked to the post office there. But in this one respect we did have one advantage in those days. Mrs. Armstrong and I were able to carry the entire mailing of the mimeographed *PLAIN TRUTH* in our arms across the street to the post office—and before we did, we always knelt and prayed over them, laying our hands on all the copies asking God to bless them and those who received them.

Next installment will continue surprising events and the development of this work during the Depression Years.

LA PREDESTINATION

Est-ce un mythe, une fable ou la réalité? La réponse vous est donnée dans le livret, portant le même nom, qui vient de paraître, *en français*.

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EARTHQUAKE!

(Continued from page 8)

the block is slowly strained by forces working on the land mass in different directions, it will be deformed so the fence is moved to the positions shown in B.

All the time this is going on—and the process is very slow—*elastic energy* is being stored up, just as when a spring is wound.

Eventually the strain may become so great that the weaker rocks can no longer *resist*. Suddenly they break and the stored-up elastic energy is released as the earth's crust shifts to a new position, just as if the coiled spring were suddenly let go.

The rocks along the line of weakness (AB) move until they take up a new UNSTRAINED position (C). The waves of energy set up by this sudden movement of tremendous areas of land—or release—we call an *earthquake*. This movement and stress pattern may occur horizontally, vertically or a combination of the two, according to the direction of the strain upon the land masses.

Earthquake Faults

In recent years seismologists and scientists have come to astounding new knowledge concerning the *origin* of earthquakes and earthquake potential on this earth. In their studies they have encountered new potentials that *stagger the imagination*.

Just over fifty years ago, at the time of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, scientists were aware that certain "earthquake cracks" were associated with movements of the earth's crust. At this time—less than sixty years ago—scientists believed that these cracks in the earth were the *by-product* of earth tremors—but had nothing to do with their *cause*.

San Franciscans, back in 1906, knew of the "earthquake crack" and referred to it as the "great fissure." Other earthquake cracks had been observed in different places along the Pacific Coast, but had never been associated in any way *with* each other.

Soon after 1906 and the San Francisco disaster, serious investigations began in-

to these isolated earthquake cracks. It was at this time that the startling truth was learned that these "isolated" faults were all part of one *tremendous gargantuan fault system*. It was to this particular vast fault—running visibly on the surface of the land for over 700 miles and stretching from the Gulf of California to a point well above San Francisco—that scientists gave the name "San Andreas Faultline."

Intensive studies of similar fault systems have revealed to scientists and seismologists that the *entire surface* of our earth is cracked and creased by these tremendous cracks and deformities.

Startling new facts have come to light as a result of exhaustive and intensive scientific research made during the International Geophysical Year of 1957. Charting and scrutinizing the hidden depths of previously unknown ocean floors, scientists have discovered additional breath-taking flaws in the earth's crust. Beneath the waters of the Mid-Atlantic lies the newly discovered *Mid-Atlantic Ridge*, a spectacular rift tracing its serpentine course from Antarctica in

the south—through the Atlantic—all the way to the North Pole.

Probing the mysteries of this phenomenon, scientists have revealed a huge rift or crack running along the crest of this ridge in places *miles* wide.

In similar studies in the Pacific, giant fractures trace their way—unseen—beneath the sea, mute testimony of the tremendous forces lying below.

Terrible Potential

In studying these fault systems, scientists have come to an entirely new concept in earthquake potential. With the startling new knowledge of the immensity and magnitude of the tremendous fault systems that trace themselves through this earth, scientists have come to understand that *HUGE* faultlines mean *HUGE* earthquakes. Scientists are now aware of most of the "active" fault systems on the earth's surface. However, many *dormant* systems may exist in areas of the earth where earthquakes have been little known in recent years. Earthquakes of *world-wide* proportion have now become a reality in the thinking

Remains of the 1906 earthquake that struck California. San Francisco and Santa Rosa were the hardest hit.





Wide World Photo

A donkey waits to be loaded with household effects in the Moslem Casbah of Agadir, Morocco, in wake of earthquakes and tidal wave which practically razed the resort city in February, 1960.

of seismologists and scientists.

Lee F. Noble, an alumni of Yale University, has introduced into seismological circles a hugeness that staggers the imagination. While studying strata distortion along the San Andreas faultline in California, Noble was amazed to discover a *FORTY MILE* separation between two imposing mountain ranges. He has calculated that the 10,000 foot San Gabriel range and the equally imposing San Bernardino range were once *ONE RANGE*, created by a tremendous upthrust along the San Andreas faultline in the past. Having created this range, the San Andreas faultline has subsequently torn it apart, dragging the two halves where they now stand today—better than forty miles apart.

This knowledge has introduced a new concept into geologists' thinking! Where slippages along faultlines were once thought of in terms of feet, they now

must be understood in terms of *miles*.

The intensity of an earthquake is generally determined by the extent of displacement or slippage along a faultline. The amount of slip that produced the devastating San Francisco earthquake in 1906 was apparently only *twenty-one feet*. Can it begin to enter our imagination the ferocity and scope of an earthquake where a slippage along a faultline of perhaps *ONE MILE* or more should take place? No structure in the area could be left standing—the whole face of the land would be changed!

The earthquakes that recently devastated the Chilean coastline are graphic evidence of the destructive potential that we live with daily on this earth. Earthquakes of this magnitude CAN OCCUR! Scientists now realize the awesome fragility of the paper-thin shell we call the earth's crust, upon which we live.

What About the Future?

Should we be alarmed about the future? Are earthquakes going to continue to increase in frequency and intensity? Our scientists tell us something is brewing. We need to know!

Down through the centuries God has warned man of his sinful and disobedient ways. God has sent His prophets in every age to warn man of the fruits of his disobedience. Man has rejected these warnings! And now, at the end of nearly 6,000 years, Almighty God is sending one last *final* warning to the world as a witness before He executes His *judgment* upon a godless and lawless world.

That last warning—of the coming rule of God over man—is now booming around the world just as Jesus Christ prophesied: "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the

world for a *witness* and then shall the END come" (Mat. 24:14). That warning is being fulfilled through The WORLD TOMORROW program circling the globe with over TWELVE MILLION watts of power each week and through the pages of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine that you are now reading.

When Almighty God is *through* warning mankind verbally, He is going to speak in a language that man will heed and understand. God is going to bring down vengeance upon disobedient and lawless man.

Notice the judgment that the Creator God passes upon disobedient and rebellious peoples. "Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust for *FEAR* of the Eternal, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of man shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the *day of the Lord* of hosts shall be upon everyone that is proud and lofty, and upon everyone that is lifted up; and he shall be *brought low*" (Isa. 2:10-12).

How is God going to accomplish this?

What are the means He is going to use?

God is going to bring upon man the most terrifying and nerve-shattering circumstances to bring man to his knees. God is going to *SHAKE* man into a realization of his sins and transgressions!

Notice now verse 17: "And the loftiness of man shall be brought down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Eternal alone shall be exalted *in that day*. And the idols He shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rock, and into the caves of the earth, *for fear of the Eternal*, and for the glory of his majesty when he arises to *SHAKE TERRIBLY THE EARTH*. In that day man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the *moles* and to the *bats*; to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for the *fear of the Lord*, and for the glory of his majesty, when he arises to *SHAKE TERRIBLY THE EARTH*" (Isa. 2:17-21).

Yes, man is going to forsake his cities that have been utterly destroyed—made

rubble by the terrible hand of the Creator God in that day. Man will run into the open fields and out into the mountains seeking to escape the terrible shaking wrath of the Creator God, brought down upon mankind through terrible, devastating EARTHQUAKES.

Earthquakes a Sign

When Jesus Christ was asked, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the *sign* of thy coming and the end of the age?"—Jesus Christ said that among many other terrible and destructive circumstances EARTHQUAKES would occur in many places (Mat. 24:7).

Jesus Christ promised that together with famines and pestilences, *earthquakes* will be one of the *signs* immediately preceding His imminent return. Christ told His disciples, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and puts forth his leaves, *ye know* that summer is nigh: so likewise, when you shall see all these things, know that it is *near*, even at the doors" (Mat. 24:32, 33).

Our major news sources and current scientific journals tell us that earthquakes are increasing in frequency and in magnitude. Earthquakes of a magnitude *never before recorded on earth* by man are *now occurring* in this year of 1960. These ARE *signs of the times*.

As we approach the end of this age, *earthquakes* are going to grow increasingly greater and more frequent in occurrence! Great earthquakes in heavily populated areas will begin to occur. Man is going to be shaken and terrified *until he is snapped into reality*—into realizing he has transgressed against the Creator God!

The Return of Jesus Christ

All these events will culminate in the *return of Jesus Christ to this earth*! Let's understand what is to occur.

Notice Zechariah 14. "Behold the *day of the Lord* cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee" (verse 1). Now continuing in verse 4. "And his feet shall stand *in that day* upon the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall *CLEAVE* in the midst thereof toward the east and to-

ward the west and there shall be a great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And you shall flee to the valley of the mountains; . . . yea, you shall flee like as you fled before the EARTHQUAKE in the days of Uzziah king of Judah."

Jesus Christ is returning to this earth to plant His feet upon the Mount of Olives. In that day there will be a TREMENDOUS earthquake in which the whole face of the land will be changed. Mountains will be moved out of their places! New valleys and rivers will be created. Jesus Christ will be King over all of the earth in that day (verse 9).

That same day is mentioned in Revelation 16. The time setting is the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. "And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, *It is done*. And there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings; AND THERE WAS A GREAT EARTHQUAKE, *such as was not since men were upon the earth so mighty an earthquake and so great*" (vs. 17-18).

The whole face of the earth is to be changed by this cataclysmic earthquake. "And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found" (vs. 20).

The return of Jesus Christ is going to be highlighted by the most cataclysmic earthquake that has ever struck this earth. It will defy the imagination! Every fault system and earthquake crack on the face of the earth will come into full play when Jesus Christ descends to *shake terribly* the earth.

Tremendous Tidal Waves

Not only will the earth itself writhe under the cataclysmic convulsions of this tremendous earthquake, but also the very oceans and seas will erupt in tremendous seismic waves to devastate huge portions of this earth.

Notice Jesus Christ's words in Luke 21. "For these be the days of *vengeance*, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in *those days*! For there shall be GREAT DISTRESS in the land and wrath upon *this people*. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and

in the stars; and *upon the earth* distress of nations, with perplexity: THE SEAS AND THE WAVES ROARING; men's hearts failing them for *fear* and for looking after those things which are *coming* on the earth: for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Luke 21:22, 23, 25, 26).

Yes, these are the terrible and awe-inspiring times spoken of by Jesus Christ to soon come upon this earth.

Earthquakes to Grow Worse

Jesus Christ warned us that we would *know* of His impending return by the things He outlined to come to pass. With each passing day our major newspapers and news magazines world-wide tell us of increasing famine, pestilence among cattle and crops, of increasing rumors of war and of the accelerated occurrence of *earthquakes* world-wide. These are *signs of the times!*

As we hurtle down toward the grand smash climax of this age, these means that God has chosen to shake man from his lethargy are going to *increase* in violence and scope.

Now, in just the past few months, we have experienced earthquakes of a magnitude unprecedented in the history of man on this earth. Yet, these are to *grow worse*.

HOW YOUR PLAIN TRUTH SUBSCRIPTION HAS BEEN PAID

So many ask: "HOW does it happen that I find my subscription price for The PLAIN TRUTH has already *been paid*? HOW can you publish such a high class magazine without advertising revenue?"

The answer is as simple as it is astonishing! It is a paradox. Christ's Gospel cannot be sold like merchandise. You cannot buy salvation. Yet it does cost money to publish Christ's TRUTH and mail it to all continents on earth. It does have to be *paid for*! This is Christ's work. We solve this problem Christ's WAY!

Jesus said, "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached (and published—Mark 13:10) in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (Mat. 24:14) *at this time*, just before the end of this age. A PRICE *must be paid* for the magazine, the broadcast, the Correspondence Course, or other literature. But HOW? Christ forbids us to *sell* it to those who receive it: "Freely ye have received," said Jesus to His disciples who He was sending to proclaim His Gospel, *freely GIVE!*" "It is *more blessed*," He said, "to GIVE than to receive."

God's WAY is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*. God expects every child of His to *give* free-will offerings and to tithe, as His means of paying the costs of carrying His Gospel to *others*. We, therefore, simply trust our Lord Jesus Christ to lay it on the minds and hearts of His followers to give generously, thus paying the cost of putting the precious Gospel TRUTH in the hands of *others*. Yet it must go *only* to those who *ask for it for themselves*! Each must, for himself, *subscribe*—and his subscription has thus already *been paid*.

Thus the living dynamic Christ Himself enables us to broadcast, world-wide, without ever asking for contributions over the air; to enroll many thousands in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course with full tuition cost *already paid*; to send your PLAIN TRUTH on an *already paid* basis. God's way is GOOD!

Scientists Aware of What's Ahead

Investigation into the earthquake faultlines of this earth has introduced into geologists' thinking an entirely new scope of destructive potential.

Unless we have God's protection—unless we know in advance about these things and are preparing for them—we will have to *go through them*.

But, notice Jesus' warning to *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).

God Our Protector

God promises deliverance and protection to His people. God will not bring these things upon those who *obey Him* and trust in Him. Notice His promise in Psalm 91.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High [he that is obeying and keeping the Commandments of Almighty God] shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the *noisome* pestilence. Thou shall not be afraid for the *terror by night*; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the *destruction* that *wasteth* at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but it shall not come nigh thee*. Because thou hast made the *Eternal*, which is for a refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

Sometime in the future, perhaps tomorrow, perhaps next week or next year, when a sudden eerie silence falls over YOUR town—YOUR city—and then from deep within the bowels of the earth comes an ominous rumbling and your familiar world begins to sway and teeter and *dissolve* in CHAOTIC DESTRUCTION, *will you have God's protection?* Our only hope lies in obedience to the Creator God and to His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. What a dreadful fate it will be to be His enemy when He *shakes terribly* the earth!

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