

The Good News

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How Would Jesus Vote for PRESIDENT?

This may be the most fateful presidential election in American History. Christ's Message was concerned with the government of nations. Christians are those who follow Christ. Here's what He would do.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THE PRESIDENTIAL campaign is on full blast. The issue of survival of the nation will fall squarely on the shoulders of the next president.

World war is now a daily threat. Frightful atomic war. War that means annihilation of civilization. America this minute is in grave danger.

"In His Steps"

In such a momentous presidential year, what would Jesus Christ do about this election if He were here as a native-born American?

Would He vote for Eisenhower? Would He use His great influence to keep the Democrats at the helm in this world-crisis?

Many of you undoubtedly have read the famous book, "In His Steps," by Dr. Charles M. Sheldon. It has been one of the all-time best-sellers. It is the story of an entire congregation which set out to do, in all circumstances daily, just as Jesus would do—to "follow His steps," as we are admonished by Peter. My only criticism of the book is that its characters, like most people who think they follow Jesus, acted as they *supposed* Jesus would act instead of studying the

Bible to find out how He did act.

The Apostle Paul said: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me.*" (Gal. 2:20.) He admonished, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5.) *A person is not really a Christian unless he follows Christ—acts as Christ would act—unless Christ is living his life for him.*

Christ Was Interested in GOVERNMENT

Few realize it, because they do not hear it today, but the GOSPEL OF CHRIST—the Gospel Jesus brought from God and preached, was a message about *government!*

Yes, Jesus was interested in government. His Message was about a government to RULE THE WORLD, and bring us WORLD PEACE!

But to understand it, we must take a quick, condensed flash-back of the governments of this world from its foundation until now. This is necessary for a true perspective. We are prone to view politics, government, and world events from the standpoint of this present world.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1). In rulership over this earth God sent an archangel who sealed up the sum-total of perfection, wisdom, and beauty. His throne was in Eden. He was ruler over a peaceful world populated by beings superior to humans—spirit beings called angels. (Ezek. 28:12-15.)

But as this brilliant shining "Star of the Dawn"—Lucifer—contemplated his glory, pride lifted him up, ambition seized him, and suddenly he became dissatisfied with a rulership limited to one single planet. He became jealous of God, set his heart to rival the Eternal Creator Himself, and left this planet in a war of conquest, in which a third of his angels followed him, attempting to conquer and rule the universe. (Isa. 14:12-15; Rev. 12:4.)

But he was cast back down to earth in defeat, disqualified even as earth ruler, *who not to be dethroned until a successor is both qualified and inaugurated in office.*

Just as the sins of the antediluvian world brought physical destruction to the earth by a flood; just as the fornication of Sodom and Gomorrah brought

physical destruction and chaos to those cities by fire; just as the sins of the present evil world have doomed it to physical destruction once again by fire, so the sins of the angels caused the face of the earth to suffer great violence, and it became chaotic, in confusion, waste and empty (Gen. 1:2).

First Chance at World Rule

Then in six days God Almighty brought order out of chaos, created the present vegetable and animal life, and created upon earth a new race, the race of human mortals. Adam was given rule over the lower species—animals. Lucifer, an archangel, had been given rule over angels. But, while man was made a little lower in status than angels, he was made in the image of God with possibilities, thru conversion, of being born of God, and *changed* into immortal spirit beings, higher in order than angels.

In the Garden of Eden was the tree of Life—symbolic of the Holy Spirit of God Himself, by which Adam could have been raised to this higher immortal and divine level.

First, Adam was given opportunity to qualify as WORLD RULER. He could have become successor to the former Lucifer, now re-named Satan (meaning Adversary, Rival, Aggressor). Adam was put to the test to determine whether he would obey God and prove able to RULE with God's Laws.

In the fateful test with Satan, Adam disobeyed God, accepted the rule of Satan over him—yielded to human pride, lust and greed. Thus he placed himself and his children under the rule of Satan. He failed to overthrow Satan. He failed to prove he could obey God and carry out GOD'S government over those God should have placed under him.

Had Adam obeyed God and proved able to defeat Satan in this test, he could have partaken of the "Tree of LIFE"—he would have been begotten of GOD, later BORN of God, *changed* from mortal human to immortal and divine God, of the very family—the KINGDOM—of GOD! All earth's mortals, as his children, would have been under his rule. He would have become world ruler forever!

But Adam placed himself and his children UNDER THE RULE OF SATAN.

Adam was driven from the Garden of Eden lest he take of the tree of life, and gain immortality (Gen. 3:22). Thus he never received immortality, which is the gift of God by and thru His Holy Spirit.

Satan thus retained his rulership, thru invisible sway of influence, temptation, and deception, over the world.

How Our Present System Started

Just how Satan manipulated human mortals in the ways of government on

earth during the first 1600 or 1700 years, there is no historic record. We know merely that with very few exceptions humans under Satan's invisible sway followed the course of human passions, the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and God destroyed all but eight souls by the Flood.

Noah and his descendants should have learned their lesson, but they didn't. Satan found in one of the great-grandsons of Noah, Nimrod, the grandson of Ham, a very able and powerful man who could be "used" politically. Thru Satan's influence, instilling great ambition thru greed and pride, this Nimrod organized the people into a system of human government, by which man ruled over man contrary to the principles established by God. Such government never could be good or bring blessings to humanity, but the Eternal purposed to permit man to learn that lesson by hard experience. We are learning it still, and haven't learned it yet.

Now notice how the present world's system became organized.

Nimrod organized the present world's first government—the city of BABYLON. Later he organized Nineveh and other cities. He instituted the system of regimentation, whereby one or a few at the top, by directing their efforts, profit from the sweat and labor of others.

Thus the BABYLONISH system of government was started. Soon there were many cities, each ruled by a king. Then an ambitious king, swayed by Satan's philosophy, seeking more worlds to conquer, organized a portion of his manpower into a fighting force and by aggression ruled over adjoining cities. Thus nations were born, and then Empires.

This BABYLONISH principle of government, intertwined with economic manipulation, has ruled the world ever since. It has ruled under various forms—whether called oligarchy, monarchy, dictatorship, autocracy, democracy, communism or nazism—but it's the same old BABYLONISH PRINCIPLE under slightly different modes of administration.

And this is the origin of what we call CIVILIZATION. Its forms of administration have undergone change in the constant struggle and turmoil—in the rise and fall of empires, of cultures, of rival modes of political, economic, religious, or social administration. But its basic principle has remained the same—the principle of competition and strife, based upon greed and vanity.

Regardless of the form in which it appears here or there, it is a system based upon exploitation of the people, aggression, regimentation, delusion and deception. And the entire system is

founded on the idea of huddling people together in crowded cities.

Since it is the system of strife and competition, each of the four phases of this civilization—political, economic, religious, and social—has striven constantly to dominate and rule. In ancient Rome the politicians ruled over the Church, Business, and Society. Then after 554 A.D., the Church ruled over the State, Business, and Society. In America, where we are supposed to rule ourselves, it has been a constant struggle for dominance between Big Business and the politicians. In Russia today a small group of godless atheistic Marxists have set up a political Dictatorship manipulated by stirring up class hatreds, inducing the laboring class to feel downtrodden enough to put in the saddle this Dictatorship pretending to rule for the benefit of this one class.

But regardless of the particular form of administration, this CIVILIZATION which holds the entire world in its organized grip today is the same old BABYLONISH SYSTEM started at the original BABYLON by Nimrod!

"Babylon" means CONFUSION. Competition and strife have produced confusion in the world. And *God is not the author of confusion* (1 Cor. 14:33).

Should Christians Strive to Make This a BETTER WORLD?

Now we come to the reason for needing a true perspective.

Most churchmen today, viewing everything from the perspective of THIS WORLD TODAY, blindly assume this is God's world. They see certain forces of evil in it, and these they feel they must oppose. They see the Christian duty to be that of working to make this a better world.

That concept is a wrong viewpoint altogether.

This is *not* a world of God's making. *This is SATAN'S world!* Satan is the invisible god of this world. He is the author of its organization, its basic philosophies, its systems of government, business, society—yes, AND RELIGIONS!

This thing we boast of as CIVILIZATION is, in actual fact, Satan's handiwork, not God's! Strange as it may seem, that is true!

All nations—not just the heathen powers, but all nations, *including ours*, are DECEIVED, swayed, led, by Satan. (Rev. 12:9; 18:3; 20:2-3.) The Bible speaks of this world as "this present EVIL WORLD." (Gal. 1:4.)

Did Jesus Come to Make This a BETTER WORLD?

Into such a world, in His own due time, God sent forth His own Son, born
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HOW and WHEN Church Festivals were Changed

Here is the astonishing eye-opening history, thoroughly documented, now published for the first time.

by Herman L. Hoeb

FOR CENTURIES a continuous and violent controversy has raged over the observance of religious days. This controversy *still exists today*.

Multitudes of conflicting sects claim that Sunday, with its eucharist, communion or Lord's supper, is a divinely instituted day for Christians.

Controversy exists over Easter, Christmas, saint's days, Pentecost or Whitsunday, All Souls' day, the feasts of the Annunciation, the Assumption and others as sacred occasions. Are all, some, or none of these, "Christian" institutions?

This problem is vitally important. It involves the *fundamental* teachings and traditions of opposing religious denominations which claim to follow Jesus Christ. For centuries the Catholic Church deemed it *essential to salvation* that many days and feasts be held sacred. Protestants are in great confusion as to exactly *which* days are obligatory and *how* these days came to be observed. A few affirm the sanctity of the Sabbath but reject the Holy Days given by God to His people.

But the disagreement is not simply among the millions who believe it is essential to observe special days. There are thousands of individuals and groups which maintain that it is absolutely wrong to celebrate *any day whatever*. Certain other sects, which pass tracts on street corners, contend that *it does not matter* which days are to be regarded as sacred.

The Scripture CANNOT SUPPORT *each of these contradictory ideas*.

What is the truth?

WHY Churches Disagree

Certainly the contradicting tracts, pamphlets and books cannot all be correct. False teaching *must* have crept into Christianity at some time *since* Jesus founded the original, true church.

Every sect admits this.

Each believes that at some particular time certain teachings contrary to its particular tenets crept into Christianity. *When* did these errors arise and *by*

whom? What denominations are teaching error today? What is the "faith which was once delivered unto the saints"? (Jude 3) These are questions that must be answered!

How to Find the TRUTH

It is our purpose to examine and explain the historical records of the Bible. Scripture gives the only inspired account of the practices of the early church because *it was written by the inspired leaders of that church*. The letters of Paul were recognized by Peter to be inspired "scripture" (2 Peter 3:16).

Then the councils and early writings of the Catholic Church must be searched to reveal the practice *and heresies* of so called Christianity in the *following centuries*. This is one of the most misunderstood portions of history *ever to be recorded*. Most Catholics and Protestants never learn what occurred in those early church councils.

Also the findings of secular history, which are often disputed by certain sects, will aid in determining exactly what teachings bear the stamp of Biblical truth, and which are errors and superstitions veiled under the name of Christ.

Too often it is the policy of certain church teachers to *confuse* people. Ministers KNOW that if they can keep their followers confused, that they will *continue in the religious customs learned from childhood*. These leaders know that human beings are not inclined to change religious beliefs when their minds are in confusion. Churches perpetuate faulty creeds rather than allow their adherents to examine with an open mind the following facts of Scripture and history.

But no one needs to remain in doubt or ignorance. *The facts can be known*. To neglect these facts is tantamount to rejecting the Bible revelation.

The time has come to present the truth, from whatever source it may be obtained. Instead of seeking to prove special preconceived arguments, the declaration of the apostle Paul must be fol-

lowed: "*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good*" (I Thess. 5:21).

Common Teachings False

The vast numbers of pamphlets and books written on the observance of religious days are utterly lacking in truth. They deceive the people because most readers are unable to distinguish the true facts from the "wished-to-be-believed" facts or preconceived notions. False doctrines are often due to unwillingness on the part of many writers to examine *all* sources of information. The reason for this lack of *all* the facts is the fear that creeds and dogmas will not stand the full light of penetrating research.

Modern critics follow the trend of the age. They do not accept or trust the Scripture as the revelation of God to man. That is why they have not presented the correct answers with all their scholarship and abundance of facts. They grope in the darkness of conflicting historical evidence without any sure foundation.

Even those *few* books which contain PART of the truth are highly inadequate. Half the truth can be as misleading as total error, for the very reason that it seems to be *so near* the truth.

HOW to Learn the Whole Truth

Where did Christians acquire the custom of observing Christmas, Easter, the Assumption, Halloween and other days?

The only way to understand the truth about church days and festivals is to find the *origin* of the present differences of practice. The very beginning of human civilization is involved. Strange as it may seem, *the observance of days did NOT start with the church in the New Testament*.

Without examining ancient civilization, and the days held sacred by heathen nations, it is *impossible* to arrive at the correct conclusions. Why? Here is the answer!

"Many of the holy days in the religious calendar of Christendom were borrowed,

as is well known, from the public festivals, of ancient nations" (Webster, *Rest Days*, page 306).

The question of *tradition* must be examined. Catholics and even many Protestants acknowledge that Christian practice cannot be understood without it. Many Protestants hold that the Bible should be the only standard. By others, tradition is accepted in determining church festivals. *If* tradition, then *which* traditions are correct? There is much disagreement on this point between Protestants and Catholics. The former accept only a small portion of the multitudinous traditions of the Catholic Church.

Did Jesus give the apostles the right, as Catholics believe, *to introduce different days* from those He Himself observed? *How far* are Christians expected to follow the example of the life of Jesus?

Was Paul commissioned by Jesus *to alter* the days that the Gentile churches were to hold sacred?

The Protestant attitude is that the Catholic church has *not* preserved the truth of the Bible whole and inviolate. The reformers supposedly purified the faith.

Then, *why all this disagreement among Protestants?* Are they really continuing false practices instead of the "faith once delivered"?

Also bear this in mind. The practice of the Christian world has *never* been the same through all ages. The Bible teaches that it *does matter* what one believes. We must know *once and for all time*, exactly what festivals the Bible declares to be right, and which traditions, if any, are to be followed.

The Church in the Heathen World

The early church developed under the guidance of the apostles during the decades when the Roman Empire was at its full power. She had to meet the great Roman civilization with its civil, social and religious customs that were often diametrically opposed to the teachings of Jesus. To convert men and women steeped in heathen rites necessitated the power of God and an understanding of the ideas of the surrounding heathen world.

What was that world, *with its heathen holidays*, really like? Did the church meet it with *compromise*?

No one can fully understand today *how* the early Christians dealt with paganism until it is first grasped what those pagan customs were and how they developed. What was basically wrong with heathenism?

Origin of Heathenism

Modern evolutionists and skeptics picture heathen ideologies as the *pro-*

gressive cultural acts of man as he developed beyond his bestial tendencies. Nearly every child has been indoctrinated in the first years of grammar school with fascinating stories supposedly explaining his own "primitive" ancestors' superstitions when the magnitude of creation was first visualized.

If the truth would be known, civilization did not develop in this way. Rather, the overwhelming evidence of history and archeology verifies a different—a surprising—account of the origin of heathen civilization. It began forty-two centuries ago with Nimrod and his associates in the Middle East. Not tens of thousands of years previously, as evolutionary theories purport to explain.

The apostle Paul, in the first chapter of Romans, gives a precise, vital summary of the *real* beginning of heathenism—those customs that surrounded the early church in the days of the Roman Empire. Here is what he writes about the wise and dignified ancients and pagan philosophers:

"Because that, *when they knew God*, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise they became fools, and *changed* the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man . . . Who *changed the truth of God into a lie*, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator . . . And even as *they did not like to retain God in their knowledge*, God gave them over to a reprobate mind . . ." (Romans 1: 21-32).

Here is the origin of Roman society!

It was developed by men who "knew God." Who "changed the truth of God into a lie." Who "did not like to retain God in their knowledge." *God was NOT unknown* by the ancients.

Notice that the apostle Paul pictures the founders of civilization as doing this in their human wisdom. They wanted to glorify God *in their own way*. It *seemed* right to them. Paganism is not a society of deliberate evil, but of what *appears* to be right to the *natural* man. Heathenism is what men *want* to do, not what they *ought* to do. It is a mixture of good and evil.

There was not a single phase of life that remained untouched by human contamination—the desire on the part of human beings to develop a society *in opposition to God's way*. Heathen customs ever since the building of the tower of Babel (Genesis 11) have affected the social, political, economic and religious life of *all people to this very day*. The great men who founded ancient civilizations "liberated" men from God. They received in return honor and

even worship as mighty leaders "before" or "in place of" the Lord (Genesis 10: 9). They were later deified as "gods," says Alexander Hislop, in *The Two Babylons*.

Because the ancient founders of civilization didn't want to retain God in their knowledge, their understanding became perverted. They garbled and perverted stories of the creation, of the garden of Eden and life before the deluge. These traditions were combined with the lives of those heroes and became the myths of antiquity. Modern sceptics believe *mythology* "is man's first effort to know his God" (Bullfinch's *Age of Fable*, p. ix). In reality it is the *degraded* and corrupted remains of the recorded episodes and exploits of men who, knowing God, turned the truth of God into a lie! These deified heroes were soon clothed with the splendor of the stars and planets that were symbolic of their attributes. Thus the heavens bear the names of heathen deities or heroes to this day.

The Heathen Knew About the Sabbath!

The Bible records the fact that ancient nations at one time knew of God *before they descended into gross idolatry* with the rebellion at the tower of Babel. *They knew* He was the Creator.

One of His acts in being Creator, according to the second chapter of Genesis, was the hallowing of the seventh day. "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made" (Genesis 2:3).

Jesus declared to the Pharisees that the Sabbath was made for *man*. Not the Jews alone, but for man and hence at man's creation. Man was not made to serve the Sabbath, but the Sabbath was made to be a blessing *for man* (Mark 2:27). In declaring His law, God told the Israelites to "*remember* the Sabbath day, to *keep* it holy. . . . For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:9-11). The Sabbath day that God blessed according to Genesis 2 was the *seventh day*. It was hallowed *at creation for man*, not just Israel only.

Now, the Bible declared that the Sabbath was *from the beginning*, not just from the time of Moses. Since Paul says that the heathen originally knew God, but turned the truth into a lie afterward, then there ought to be some record wherein the ancient heathen nations *recognized that at creation, long before Moses was born*, God set apart the seventh day as a rest or holy day. Is there such a record?

Yes!

In the library of Asshur-bani-pal of Assyria, many clay tablets have been found relating the *epic of creation* according to the limited knowledge of the Babylonians. One of these tablets reads: "On the seventh day He appointed a holy day, and to cease from all business He commanded" (Henry H. Halley, *Pocket Bible Handbook*, p. 64).

Here is absolute proof from the ancient records collected by this Assyrian King that the Babylonians knew God set apart the seventh day as a holy day at Creation, not at the time of Moses.

But how long did they observe or preserve the knowledge of it?

Heathen Lose Sabbath

It has long been the fancy of sceptics and critics that *Moses* derived the Sabbath from ancient Babylonia. This idea has been almost totally abandoned as more truth comes to light. *God* gave the Sabbath to the world at creation, but the world after the deluge *lost it*. Within a few generations the seventh day, which was originally ordained for joy and rest from physical labor, became a day of superstition in the *few* heathen nations in which it was remembered.

Here is what happened. The Sabbath was disassociated—separated from the *true* week—according to most modern scholars. It became connected with the month. The early Babylonians divided "the first 28 days of each month into four weeks terminating respectively on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th day, and by making the first week of the new month always begin with the new moon." The seventh day of each Babylonian week was called a *shabattum*, the pagan corruption of the *Sabbath*. Kings, doctors and others were to refrain from certain labors as displeasing to the deity on the 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and certain other days of each month. (*Encyclopaedia Biblica*, T. K. Cheyne and J. Sutherland Black, editors, pp. 5290, 4179.)

Thus the true Sabbath was changed into periods of ill omens. And no wonder! The heathen originally knew the just "judgment of God" against those who violated His laws (Romans 1:32). When once the true Sabbath was changed, God became the Unknown One. Displacing Him from their minds, the nations began to fear their herogods *on days they made for themselves*. With passing centuries all semblance of the true Sabbath was lost to the heathen, although many near eastern nations did preserve a corrupt *form* of a seven day week.

Of this preservation of a form of the *week* among *middle eastern* nations, *Smith's Bible Dictionary*, page 745, says: "Its antiquity is so great, its observance so widespread . . . that it must probably

be thrown back as far as the creation of man. The week and the Sabbath are thus as old as man himself."

The Roman civilization at the time of the early church was just beginning to recover a knowledge of the week and of the Sabbath (through the dispersed Jews). The Romans had previously departed so far from God that they lost the week. Any period of time less than a month was measured by the lunar *ides*, the *kalends* and the *nones*. (Webster, *Rest Days*, p. 170.)

True Origin of "Church" Festivals

The early Christians encountered scores of festivals in the Roman Empire. These days had their idolatrous beginning two thousand years prior in Mesopotamia, where the original Babylon was located. Pagan feasts with their many customs were *commemorative* festivals ordained to the honor of the heroes who founded human civilization contrary to the ways of God, and who formed their own religious beliefs by turning the truth of God into a lie.

These holidays depicted episodes in the lives of the apostates Nimrod, Semiramis, Tammuz and others. Under the influence of Satan, they organized a counterfeit plan of redemption to deceive the world in order to acquire power for themselves. This Babylonish system of religion and government was secretly explained by the ancient *mysteries* against which Paul warned the true church (2 Thessalonians 2:7). This ancient pagan system had to be mysterious. The patriarchs were still alive. *The truth of God was known*, as Paul states, (Romans 1:25). *The truth had to be turned into a lie with stealth*.

The glory of the planets and stars was soon connected with the "glorious" exploits of these leaders whose names are still affixed to them (Deut. 4:19). *Hence the pagan commemorative festivals were associated with the movements of the heavenly bodies very early in history*. Nimrod became Baal the sun-god, mentioned so frequently in the Old Testament. *This sun-worship covered all nations of heathendom*.

The Family of Nimrod

The death of Nimrod and his traditional rebirth through Tammuz, the son of the Queen of heaven, according to the lying mysteries, was commemorated at the winter solstice when the "rebirth" or annual rising of the sun occurs in the heavens. This festival of Babylon even reached Rome where it was called the Saturnalia (December 17-24) and preceded the Brumalia (December 25). Associated with this festival were evergreen trees, the fir in Rome and the palm in Egypt, and the giving of gifts,

says Hislop in *The Two Babylons*, p. 97.

Why do these peculiarly pagan customs now prevail among Christians *at the same time of year?*

Yes, why? Did the original pure church which abhorred idolatry finally graft idolatrous customs into the church?

Together with Nimrod was Semiramis, his wife, the self-appointed Queen of heaven. In the Old Testament she is termed *Ashteroth*; in Assyria she was called *Ishtar*; by the pagan Germans, *Ostara*; by our Anglo-Saxon ancestors, *Eastre* (Hislop, pp. 103-113). At Rome, where her name was Cybele, spring festivals were held in her honor, accompanied by the customary use of buns and dyed eggs (Hislop, p. 108).

Today *these* same customs prevail in Christendom *at the same time of year*. Why? Are these customs part of the faith once delivered? Or were they added afterward in an apostatizing church age? The truth of history which will follow makes the answer to this question so plain that there shall be no doubt in anyone's mind.

Tammuz, an illegitimate son of Semiramis, became the great mediatorial son of the sun-god, supposedly begotten of the spirit of Nimrod after his death. Semiramis and Tammuz were the original *Mother and Child* which have become so prominent in Catholic worship. After the death of Tammuz, "a Lent of forty days was held in the spring" in the Roman Empire, as elsewhere, in commemoration of him (Hislop, p. 105). The prophet Ezekiel saw this very idolatrous practice occurring in Jerusalem (Ez. 8:14).

By whose authority is this same forty day period of Lent celebrated in so many churches in honor of the death of Christ instead of Tammuz? Did Paul teach this adaption of idolatrous customs? Or did he forbid it? How did the original true church in the days of the apostles regard these days *that were then celebrated* by the pagans in the Roman Empire?

Hundreds of Festivals

The major feasts just mentioned were but a minute number of the hundreds of idolatrous and licentious occasions observed in the pagan world into which the early church spread. Most festivals had their real origin in Babylon from whence they travelled eastward and westward engulfing all civilization.

These holidays, now found in Christendom, were Satan-inspired memorials of pagan traditions—memorials which anticipated by two thousand years the beginning of the true plan of God. The average Roman, of course, saw no harm

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Herbert W. Armstrong
Publisher and Editor

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Rod Meredith, Norman Smith,
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Associate Editors

Calvin Allen, *Campus Editor*

Kenneth Herrmann, *Science Editor*

Dick Armstrong, *Picture Editor*

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 California.

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Heart to Heart Talk With the Editor

I WONDER how many of my readers are like one who said to me recently: "Well, I'll tell you why I'm not a Christian. It isn't that I don't believe in God or in being converted—I believe it, all right—and I've often wanted to be a Christian—but somehow it just all seems so FAR OFF—SO UN-REAL."

Tonight I cut a large slice of watermelon and ate it. It was delicious—and I was sure it was *real*. It didn't seem far off, mysterious, unreal. The things we see, and handle, come in constant daily contact and association with all seem REAL.

Yes, this slice of watermelon was real. But I thought, as I worked to extricate the seeds,

"What caused these seeds to grow inside this melon? Out of the ground, from another seed, sprouted a vine, and on the vine a tiny watermelon began to form, and as it grew these seeds developed inside it. And if we keep on planting and growing watermelons for ten thousand years those seeds, which will sprout more watermelons, will continue to develop inside every watermelon.

"WHY? Here's a living, moving, *real* phenomenon. What causes it? How did the process get started? What keeps the process perpetually in motion? Is there not a Great Mind, a Supreme Intelligence, an Omnipotent Power—*more real* than this thing He produces and causes to grow in such marvelous manner—actually *present*, and *acting upon* these very real things, keeping them alive and in motion.

Everywhere we see *life, motion, REALITY!* Here it is, close and real—and *living!* And most wonderful of all is your own self—the marvelous mechanism of your body, and still more wonderful, your mind—performing all its functions. And about you is *every need* to keep you fed, breathing, living. Did this all happen by accident?

Out of the ground grows vegetation—food. On or out of the ground comes water. A layer of air is provided around the solid earth. What—or Who—provided this? Did the air produce the man who needs to breathe it? Or did the man produce the food to satisfy his need? Or the food provide the water to accompany it in sustaining the life of the man? Did any of these provide the

sunshine, also necessary? Here we have man, air, water, food, sunshine—all necessary in harmonious association. Yet no one of these had anything to do with bringing about the presence of any other. How did all these—and many other necessary factors—all come to be provided and joined together on this planet in exactly the manner required to *supply your needs*, that you may live, accomplish, and find happiness? How, unless an All-Wise, All-Powerful, Benevolent and REAL God planned it, created it, set it in motion, and now *keeps it going?*

There are things that *YOU need!* Among them are fresh air, sunshine, water, and food. And these things are all active—the very Power who created them *keeps them in motion—NOW!* The Creator is *active, TODAY!* He is REAL! Is He not *more real* than that He produces and acts upon? Of course!

But there are many *other* things you need! How about the need of wisdom and guidance when important decisions which may alter your whole life are at stake? How about needing a Great Power that can, and will if you are in contact and ask it, give you favor in the eyes of another when disfavor could cause you great trouble? How about the need of an all-powerful Friend to deliver you from real or threatened calamity or loss? How about One to turn to when you are about to lose a loved one, or in time of grief? How about the need of One who is both able and willing to prosper you, cause things to turn out right for you, guide you and protect you through life? How about the *need* of One who has inherent immortality and is able and willing to impart ETERNAL LIFE to you as His gift?

Yes, there are *other* things you NEED! You stand in greater NEED than you probably ever stopped to realize! And the One who sends the rain—and the sunshine—upon the just and unjust alike—who provides food, and air, and other basic necessities for all, is more REAL than what He provides—and *just as able and willing* to establish PERSONAL CONTACT and continuously supply your *every other need* as well—including deliverance from every trouble, wisdom, guidance, faith in place of worry, assurance in place of doubt, security in place of uncertainty, favor in the sight of others, healing when sick—all these and countless other needs *He stands committed to supply*, because HE HAS PROMISED—upon condition you become His, establish and maintain contact, trust Him and obey Him!

GOD is more *real* than you or I—or any of the things about us.

Why, then, does He seem so far away, until it seems He has faded in the dis-

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tance? Why does He seem mysterious and unreal? Why do the objects with which you come in daily contact, your friends, your pleasures, seem *more* real—when actually they are less so?

You may say, "Because I can *see, feel, and hear* these things or people."

But that is not really the reason at all.

You don't see the air you breathe, but it seems very *real* to you. You cannot see, or hear, or feel the power of gravity, yet it seems very *real* to you, and you know that if you slip it will pull you down in a fall that might hurt you—you know that if you let go of and drop a sack of eggs the power of gravity will pull them down and break them.

Perhaps you say, well, these things are real to me because they are close to me. But that is not the reason. GOD is as close as any of these—He, too, is REAL, and He is CLOSE! Yet He seems unreal and far away!

Now let me tell you the REAL REASON.

If you are away from a childhood chum for 35 or 40 years, never hear from or about that person in all that time—totally out of contact—he finally seems like a faint, dim, far-off dream or figment of imagination. He doesn't seem REAL any more.

But, if there is another childhood chum you also have not seen in the same 35 or 40 years, but with whom you have kept constantly in touch all these years—constantly corresponded, even talked over long distance telephone frequently, heard about from mutual friends who have been *with* this old chum—then that friend, even tho you have not seen him, will seem still *real, and close*.

God seems unreal and far away *only to those who have not established, and are not actively maintaining close personal contact!* It is not a matter of distance or visibility—it is a matter of CONTACT.

Even though you read the Bible, and pray—if you have not established personal *contact* with God, you just won't understand much of the Bible or be much interested in it, and your prayers will not seem to go as high as the ceiling! You can't *keep up* a contact which has never yet been *established!*

Yet God is the SOURCE of *everything!*—of *your* EVERY NEED! In HIM you must live, and move, and have your being—and you have never yet BEGUN to really live until you are living *in Him!* You are now making mistakes you would not make if you had His guidance—mistakes which are costly, and from which you suffer! You are suffering pains, heartaches, fears, troubles, because you have not established contact with the only One who can help you! You NEED HIM!

And you *can* find Him, if you'll seek Him—you'll find Him CLOSE, not far away. But something has been standing BETWEEN you and Him—a far greater barrier than a literal iron curtain. *Your sins* have formed an impregnable wall, so that you can't establish contact—can't reach—can't enjoy communion with the One you need most of all! And your sins are your transgressions of His loving LAW—His great immutable spiritual Law given in love to bring to mankind success, accomplishment, peace, happiness, and joy! In breaking the law you have severed yourself from *these* goals, too!

Yet THAT GREAT WALL CAN BE BATTERED DOWN—*instantly*—NOW! There need be no delay. God in His wisdom and mercy *knew* you would sin and separate yourself from Him. He provided a way for you. He GAVE His only begotten Son to pay the penalty you have incurred *in your stead!*

It matters not how BLACK your past has been. No matter how terrible are some of these *secret* sins you have never confided to anyone. They don't *need* to stand between you and your greatest NEED, which is God. Jesus Christ was made flesh, and He who never sinned died to pay the penalty of all *your guilt*. Why then should *you* carry this guilt around on your conscience any longer? Why let it separate you from God? It is every bit of it PAID IN FULL, by the blood of Jesus Christ—His very life-blood. But God Almighty resurrected Him to eternal LIFE, and today He *lives* as YOUR LIVING SAVIOUR from your guilty past, *if* you will accept Him as such!

If you *want* to find God—be a Christian—you *can*—and here's how: First, you'll have to REPENT—*turn from* the old life of sinning, and surrender your SELF wholly to God—give your life to Him, to serve Him and to live by His perfect laws and right ways that will bring you only blessings. You'll have to be IN EARNEST, for no one can deceive God. Then, ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST as your personal Savior. Don't put it off. Don't say, "I don't know how," but DO IT NOW! Take the "bull by the horns" and DO IT—you know you ought to, so exercise your WILL and DO IT! Just go to a room ALONE—close the door—and with no one else around, except just you and God alone—GIVE YOURSELF TO HIM, ask Him to FORGIVE all your past sins—confess them to Him (not to any human being)—and then just say—yes, SAY IT: "I here and now accept JESUS CHRIST as my Personal Saviour." Everything may be HARD, until you SAY THAT—but the minute you say those words, the unseen power that has caused you to hesitate, and put it off, and has

made it seem so difficult (the power of the devil), will let loose, and YOU'LL BE FREE—you'll know you are now GOD'S—the contact will be ESTABLISHED! You can talk to Him, and HE WILL HEAR! You can pour out your heart to Him, and He will LISTEN—and comfort, and come close and give you what you NEED.

Jesus Christ came into this world and died to reconcile YOU to God the Father—to join you to Him—to *establish contact* for you! Accept this, and know the GREAT PEACE that will come over your soul!

Then you must be baptised—not into any religious denomination or organization, but into CHRIST JESUS. If there is no one locally in your town who can do this for you the Bible way, write to me. I will help you if I can.

Then God PROMISES to put His spirit in you—to give you, and radiate from you a LOVE you never had, a new FAITH, PATIENCE, UNDERSTANDING. Thru His Spirit you will be given power for self-mastery. Power to *understand* the Bible.

You accept Christ, and receive God's Holy Spirit by FAITH. *Believe* you are now His—KNOW it—and then *keep up the contact* now established! You do this thru constant daily Bible study and prayer. God talks to you thru His Word. You talk to Him in prayer. It is a two-way conversation. Thru it you BECOME ACQUAINTED—get to KNOW God, and where once He seemed far away and unreal, He will now seem close, and real! KEEP IT UP! You'll experience an inner joy you didn't dream could exist—you'll have a HELP that is *real* in every time of need.

You won't be perfect all at once. You'll still have your SELF to wrestle with. Trials, tests, afflictions, persecutions will come—but now you'll have an ever-present HELP and deliverance—a constant Source of inspiration, and courage, and power—an inner peace and faith—and you'll live the full and ABUNDANT life for the first time, with assurance of LIFE ETERNAL. Don't become discouraged and give up, though, when you have made a slip. You'll be starting out as a spiritual BABE in Christ. Babies stumble and fall down many times before they learn to walk. Don't let that discourage you—get up and try all the harder. And, as you continue the CHRISTIAN LIFE, the Bible and God's way will become a new, and the supreme, INTEREST of your life!

The main thing is, don't let ANYTHING cause you to hesitate or delay. Just "take the bull by the horns." GO AND DO IT NOW!

WHY Must Men Suffer?

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous," says Scripture. WHY? "I am the Eternal . . . I create evil," says Isa. 45:5,7. HOW can this be? Who was responsible for Adam's sin? Did Satan thwart God's purpose? Was God unable to prevent it? The real meaning of the story of JOB brings the true answer.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY DOES God permit war? WHY does God allow human suffering and misery? "If God is GOOD—if God is LOVE—if He is MERCIFUL, He would not wish for people to suffer," is the reasoning of many humans. "And if He is ALMIGHTY," they conclude, "He could, and would prevent it."

What's wrong with this reasoning?

Is GOD Author of EVIL?

Years ago a post-office clerk came to me with a question.

"I have asked every preacher in town to explain this Scripture," he said, "and not one of them can. Let's see if you can."

Then he quoted from the 45th chapter of Isaiah.

"I am the ETERNAL, . . . there is no God beside me. . . . I form light and create darkness: I make peace and create evil: I the ETERNAL do all these things."

"There!" he exclaimed. "God says he creates evil. How do you explain that?"

I gave him the true explanation, which I now give you in this article. It is also the explanation of what is called "the original fall."

The common idea is that God created the first man *perfect, complete, immortal*. But when God wasn't looking, Satan entered, succeeded in overthrowing the man, wrecking God's perfect creation, thwarting God's purpose, upsetting God's plan. Consequently God was forced to figure out some new plan for repairing the damage. Redemption, people believe, is that plan—God's effort to *restore* man back to a condition as good as Adam before the fall.

What Men Don't Understand

Either this common idea is true, or the only alternate possibility, —that God knew in advance that Satan would tempt, and Adam would sin—that it was all a *part* of God's original PURPOSE and PLAN—that God expressly *permitted it*, and that God therefore is RESPONSIBLE FOR IT!

And the preachers, the churches, and the professing Christian people of this

world simply cannot believe this! Yet, to reject it makes Satan more cunning, more powerful than God. The common idea represents Satan as outsmarting God.

What men do not understand is GOD'S PURPOSE, and GOD'S PLAN for accomplishing His great purpose.

Yes, God *is* responsible! And being responsible, God *will see to it*—He and He alone is responsible for accomplishing His great original purpose. All that has happened is a necessary *part* of that great design. Satan can do nothing God does not allow. "My purpose shall stand," says God.

There is NO CONTEST being waged between God and the devil. God reigns SUPREME, and every creature and every being stands subject to God's will!

Becoming the Sons of God

What the world does not grasp is that God is *reproducing Himself*—creating, in mortal humans, His very own divine CHARACTER—permitting humans to *learn by experience*, for character cannot be automatically or instantaneously created, imparted or imputed—it must be *developed*, and this only thru EXPERIENCE, and experience requires *time*.

We humans must *have our part* in the development of righteous and holy character. We must first come to realize the true values, and to thoroughly repent of the false way. We must come to *seek*, with our whole hearts and minds, God's true way of righteous character. We must set our wills in tune with God's will.

Then we must come to realize our utter helplessness, and learn to rely on God, in living FAITH, for the power, the strength, the understanding, the righteousness we ourselves are incapable of attaining.

We receive eternal life, and all righteousness, from GOD. But we have *our part to do!* We must come to *desire* it above all else—to *seek* it with all our might—to *yield* ourselves, utterly to God's will, and to trust implicitly and unswervingly in HIM. In no other manner could we become the supreme char-

acters which it is God's PURPOSE to make of us.

To this end, we must now be begotten as God's own children, inheriting His divine nature. Thru His power, thru feeding on His Spirit, we GROW in grace and knowledge and spiritual character, until, at the resurrection, we shall be BORN of God as His very SONS—elevated to HIS plane and level!

That's God's supreme purpose. It can be achieved only thru EXPERIENCE, and in process of TIME. And men LEARN by *suffering*.

Jesus suffered. "For it became Him, . . . in bringing many *sons* unto GLORY, to make the captain of our salvation (Christ) perfect *through sufferings*." (Heb. 2:10). Again, "Though He were a Son, yet *learned He OBEDIENCE by the things which He suffered*." (Heb. 5:8).

Now see how Job's experience explains all this.

LET'S UNDERSTAND IT!

Job's Experience Explains It!

Thousands of years ago, there was a man named Job. You've heard of the man. He lived, as *you* live today, for a PURPOSE. And the solution of this whole question is made clear by the life-experiences of Job. Many know the story, but *few* understand its MEANING!

This Job was a wealthy man—the wealthiest in all the East. Solomon may have possessed greater wealth. But, as Solomon was the *wisest* man who ever lived, so Job was the *most righteous!*

So let's glimpse, briefly, this thrilling story and its revealing lesson.

"There was," begins the scriptural record, "a man once in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God and shunned evil. He had seven sons and three daughters; also in livestock he possessed seven thousand sheep and goats, three thousand camels, five hundred pair of oxen, and five hundred she-asses, besides a very large household; so that this man was the greatest man in all the East." (Job 1:1-3, Moffatt translation.)

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the ETERNAL, and Satan came also among them.

"And the ETERNAL said unto Satan, 'Whence comest thou?' Then Satan answered the ETERNAL and said, 'From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.'

"And the ETERNAL said unto Satan, 'Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is none like him in the earth*, a perfect and an upright man, one that fears God and shuns evil?'" (Verses 6-8, A.V.)

"Satan answered, 'But is it for nothing that Job reverences God? Have you not hedged him safely in, his house and all he has? You have prospered him in his business, and his flocks are teeming on the land. Only put out your hand, touch whatever he possesses, and see if he will not curse you to your face!'" (Verses 9-11.)

This World's Philosophy

Notice, please, Satan couldn't point out one imperfection in the man's righteousness. Even God said it was perfect. Yes, undoubtedly Job was the most righteous man who ever lived.

But Satan tried to get around it. He argued that it *paid* Job to be righteous. So, Satan argued, just take away from him *what he has*, and the man will lose his temper and start cursing God!

Well, God deliberately PERMITTED Satan to take away Job's possessions, and put Job to this test.

"Then said the ETERNAL to Satan, 'There! I leave all he has within your power: *but lay no hand upon the man himself.*'" (Verse 12.)

Notice, will you, Satan did this *with God's permission!* Satan was the active agent. But he did it with God's express permission—he could go just as far, in inflicting evil, as God permitted, and *no further!* God *set a limit* on how far Satan could go! There is no contest here between God and Satan—no equality. GOD IS MASTER OF THE SITUATION! He gives the orders, grants permission, sets the limitations!

"So, away went Satan from the presence of the ETERNAL."

What Happened to Job

Then one day a servant came running to Job with the startling news that Arabs in a foray had carried off all his oxen and asses. Even while he was still talking, in dashed another servant shouting that lightning had just struck and burned up all the sheep, goats, and shepherds. While he was yet speaking another rushed in breathlessly announcing three parties of Chaldeans in a raid upon the camels had carried them off, slaying

all the servants except the one who escaped to bring the news.

And even he was yet speaking when in burst another.

"Your sons and daughters," he exclaimed, "were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother, when a whirlwind swept across the desert and struck the four corners of the house, till it fell upon the young folk; they are DEAD! And I alone escaped to tell you!" (Verses 12-19.)

Well, now Job was stripped of all his great wealth—wiped out! Worse, all his children were killed!

Did Job blame this ill-fortune upon GOD? Did he lose his temper and curse God? Did he sin, as Satan expected?

"Then Job rose, tore his tunic, shaved his head, and dropped upon the ground in humble worship, crying, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I must return: *the Eternal gave, the Eternal has taken*—blessed be the Eternal!' In all this Job did not sin, nor did he give offense to God." (Verses 20-22.)

Notice, Job attributed ALL to God. The wealth he had had, *God gave*. The good—the prosperity—all came from God. But also "*The ETERNAL has taken!*" The Eternal, too, was responsible for the disaster! NOTHING happens contrary to God's purpose!

Satan Tries Again

"One day the sons of God again came to present themselves before the Eternal, and among them came Satan.

"Where have you been?' said the Eternal to the Adversary; and the Adversary answered, 'Roaming here and there, roving about the earth.'

"Then the Eternal said to Satan, 'Have you noticed that there is no one like my servant Job on the earth, a blameless and an upright man, who reverences God and shuns evil? He still holds to his loyalty: it was idle of you to entice me to undo him.' But the Adversary answered,

"He has saved his own skin! A man will let all he has go, to preserve his life. Only put out your hand, touch his flesh and bones, and see if he will not curse you to your face!'" (Job 2:1-6.)

Notice, there is no contest here between two equals. God sits in authority supreme. Satan cannot do one thing without permission from God!

And here, in this heavenly court, God permits Satan to advance his arguments—even to put them to the *test of experience* on the most righteous human on earth! It is a thrilling drama here being enacted—a drama with great purpose—tremendous meaning!

"So the Eternal said to Satan, 'He is in your power; only *spare his life!*'"

Notice again, ALL AUTHORITY comes from God. It is GOD who put poor Job in Satan's power. Satan was permitted to devise his most cunning and cruel affliction—with but one restriction: "Spare his life," commanded God. Satan could go no further than God specifically authorized! And God did permit this evil! WHY, we shall soon see!

So "Away went the Adversary from the Eternal's presence, and he smote Job with painful ulcers from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head, till Job took a potsherd to scrape himself.

"As he sat among the ashes, his wife said to him, 'Still holding to your loyalty? Curse God, though you die for it!'"

Was God Just and Fair?

But Job retorted to his wife,

"You are talking like an impious fool. Are we to take *good* from God's hand, and not evil too?"

Notice, all the GOOD had come from God. Also *all the evil!* Beside Him there is no God—no power equal or superior to His. God is responsible for EVERYTHING—both good and evil, because God's power is SUPREME—*absolute!* Is this a sin to charge the EVIL, as well as the good, to God?

"In all this," answers God's Word, "*Job sinned not* with his lips." Charging this evil to God, then, was no sin—no error. It was the TRUTH!

Job's Friends Have an Argument

"Now, when Job's three friends heard of all the trouble that had befallen him, they came, each from his own home, Eliphaz from Teman, Bildad from Shuah, and Zophar from Maan; they arranged to go and condole with him, to comfort him. But when they caught sight of him at a distance and could not recognize him, they wept aloud; every man of them tore his tunic and flung dust on his head. For seven days and seven nights they sat beside him on the ground; none said a word to him, for they saw how terrible was his anguish." (Job 2:9-13.)

Here is human suffering to compare with the horrors of World War II. Here is anguish almost beyond description! Satan inflicted it. But God *permitted it*, and therefore is RESPONSIBLE!

Now in the long conversation that followed between Job and his three friends—a conversation occupying the next 34 chapters in the Bible—Job's friends blamed it all on JOB. Their idea was a good deal like many people believe today. Since God is GOOD, it was impossible to attribute this evil to GOD.

But Job continually denied his friends' allegations. Continually HIS OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS he upheld and maintained. He attributed it all, rightly, to God—

yet, without imputing any blame or fault to God. JOB UNDERSTOOD GOD'S GREAT PURPOSE being worked out here below!

And it is important that we understand! For here Job, as one single individual, is used as an illustration for our learning TODAY, typical of all the mass suffering we see about us in this world today!

God Enters the Argument

Finally, after all these long conversations run themselves out, God Himself takes a hand in the conversation.

Now we begin to see WHY this affliction had come to Job.

"Then the Eternal answered Job out of a storm, saying:

"Who darkens MY DESIGN with a cloud of thoughtless words? Confront me like a man; come, answer these My questions." (Job 38:1-3.)

Let me interrupt here with an interesting side-light explanation which throws light on the conversation to follow. Some authorities believe that Job was the architect and director of the building of the Great Pyramid—still today the largest building on earth, and prior to the construction of the Woolworth building the tallest. That Job was proud of his righteousness is plain. That he also might have been puffed up over constructing the world's greatest building clears up much that God says now to him.

Job was too well aware of his righteousness. God now proceeded to deflate his ego. Can it, then, be possible God now compares His creation of the earth, and all that is, to the comparatively insignificant accomplishment of building the Great Pyramid? It's interesting to keep this possibility in mind.

"When I founded the earth," God opened up on Job, "where were you, then? Answer me that, if you have wit to know! Who measured out the earth?—do you know that? Who stretched the builder's line on it? What were its pedestals placed on? Who laid the corner-stone, when the morning-stars were singing, and all the angels chanted in their joy?" (Verses 4-7.)

It is significant that a pyramid is the only kind of building on earth where the corner-stone is the top stone—the last stone laid—at the COMPLETION of the building! And here God represents the symbolic "corner-stone" of the EARTH as being laid at its completion—when the angels shouted for joy!

And so God continued to deflate poor Job. Job may have been the most righteous man on earth—yet how insignificant he was, compared to GOD!

Man was created to need GOD! Man cannot live his full life, fulfill his mis-

sion, or be happy, unless he keeps himself in his right relationship with GOD! That is the very first lesson man needs to learn and keep ever in mind!

A first principle in character—in the PURPOSE of our existence—is to exalt and worship only GOD, to humble the self, to realize man's utter helplessness, and his total DEPENDENCE upon GOD!

"Who helped shut in the sea," God asked, ". . . when I swathed it in mists and swaddled it in clouds of darkness, when I fixed its boundaries . . . saying Thus far, and no farther! Here your proud waves shall not pass!"

"Have you ever roused the morning, given directions to the dawn? . . . What path leads to the home of Light, and where does Darkness dwell? Can you conduct them to their fields? . . . Have you grasped earth in all its breadth? How large is it? Tell me, if you know that!

"Can you bind up the Pleiades (cluster of stars) in a cluster, or loose the chains of Orion? Can you direct the signs of the Zodiac, or guide the constellations of the Bear? Can you control the skies? Can you prescribe their sway over the earth?"

GOD does all these things. How MIGHTY is God! And how little, how weak, how impotent and insignificant is man—yes, even the most righteous man, Job! How Job must have begun to shrivel up in his own estimation! Smaller and smaller Job shrank, as God continued. Job didn't seem so important, now!

"Who, then," God is not through yet—"is able to stand before ME? Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? Whatsoever is under the whole heaven IS MINE. . . ." And so God continued to bring down Job's self-righteous importance—and to show the unmatched, awesome MAGNITUDE of God, thru four whole chapters, before He finished.

And by the time God finished, Job's estimation of himself was exactly nil. All through his conversation with his three friends, Job stoutly maintained his own righteousness—his self-importance! Even though Satan had taken away his wealth, his children—even tho reduced to a pitiful sight, covered with nauseating boils—Job's own righteousness he stoutly maintained!

Job was able to maintain his case against Satan—against his friends. But now he could not answer GOD! Job's trouble was not what he had done, but what he was—SELF-RIGHTEOUS! The self in Job had never died!

In just 5 verses of Job's conversation he used the personal pronoun 15 times; and in the 29th chapter alone, he used it 50 times!

Now, for the first time, he began to realize the TRUTH—he began to catch a vision of GOD!

The Lesson Learned!

Then Job answered the Eternal, and said,

"I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. I thoughtlessly confused the issues; I spoke without intelligence, of wonders far beyond my ken. I had heard of thee by hearsay, but now mine eyes have seen thee; wherefore I ABHOR MYSELF, and REPENT in dust and ashes."

That was Job's SURRENDER to Almighty God—a surrender every human must make before he can be converted—before God's PURPOSE in him can be fulfilled! A man may be naturally GOOD—but even the self-righteousness of a Job, God says, is like a filthy rag to Him! The only righteousness that is really good is the Righteousness of GOD, imparted to us BY FAITH!

Job at last had learned his lesson! Just human goodness is not enough. GOD is all in all. And the only goodness that is good is God's own goodness, imparted, thru God's Holy Spirit, within us! All true righteousness comes from GOD.

ALL humans have this great lesson to learn. It's the one supreme lesson of life! To learn it, and conform to it, is the PURPOSE of human existence!

Job's calamity and great suffering proved a great blessing to him, in the end! Actually, great good, double prosperity, and eternal happiness, came of it! For, after he repented, and came to really know God, he was given another seven sons and three daughters, and twice the material possessions he had had before!

"So the Eternal blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning," it is written (Job 42:12). And verse 11 speaks of "all the evil that the Eternal had brought upon him."

Satan Never Altered GOD'S PURPOSE

So notice this! Satan has never upset God's program—never altered God's purpose! In Job 42:2, the alternate marginal translation of the original inspired Hebrew words is: "no purpose of thine can be restrained."

Almighty God is SUPREME in the universe! Supreme not only in Love, and in Power—but in WISDOM! There was divine WISDOM in God's permitting Satan to afflict Job. Out of all this experience of suffering, Job was humbled, his ego deflated, his self-pride removed. It hurt, to have these things torn out of his character—Job suffered—even as

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Inside COMMUNIST Yugoslavia

What is it really like in a Communist State? Are the people happy and prosperous under a "People's Government" as the propagandists say? What about the freedom of religion in Yugoslavia?

by Herman L. Hoeb

OUR HUNDREDS of miles of travel in Yugoslavia has been an astounding revelation to us. Unless one has been here he can't imagine how different life is—so regimented, so poverty stricken, so sad.

Yugoslavia is the only communist country in the world which has broken out of the Russian Iron Curtain. Tito's brand of communism naturally would be slightly different from Stalin's. *But it is still communism!* On the cap of every soldier, on hundreds of public buildings, is the infamous red star. Over factories the red hammer and sickle protrudes high into the sky.

We could not enter Yugoslavia until we obtained the proper visas at Trieste. We spent an entire day, standing in a room crowded with people who were also waiting for visas. This was only a little foretaste of the bureaucratic red tape that we saw everywhere in Communist Yugoslavia.

With the visas properly stamped in our passports, Dick Armstrong and I boarded a train for Belgrade, the capital of Tito's communist state. At Sezana, a small customs station, we had our first encounter with a *Communist spy system*.

An Amazing Spy System

In our train car as we were stationed at Sezana, we experienced first hand a communist spying system. It all began with the collection of our passports.

Armed communist *officials* in the most unkempt uniforms appeared at our seat. There wasn't just one man, but several! One fellow collected our passports. Next to him stood another fellow, poker-faced, watching to see that the first official really did collect our visas and passports. His only duty was to spy on the other official. And a third looked on to see that the other two did their jobs!

Later another official, armed and in a soldier's uniform, appeared. What did he want? You guessed it, he wanted

to know if we still had our passports!

The same lengthy procession of officials continued for over an hour. After the passport routine was over, the same spying system appeared again, this time to exchange our dollars into *dinars*, the currency of Yugoslavia. One government representative gave us dinars, then a few minutes later another appeared, wondering how we acquired the dinars!

So it went with our train tickets and with the customs checking. Every official is an armed government representative, almost always in special uniform. It is the excessive use of officialdom and the military that makes Yugoslavians fearful of one another. And think of the tremendous tax burden to support all these employees, most of whom carry their pistols and even bayonets to demonstrate their authority.

From Sezana we proceeded through a most desolate and rocky area, hardly fit for pasture and grazing land. Much of this resulted from a drought that plagued the country this year. God was indeed frowning on Tito's communism. For another eighteen hours we continued to travel, passing through the major cities of Ljubljana and Zagreb.

We spent an entire night in the crowded compartment of the train. There was only room for six persons in the compartment, but there were nine of us trying to catch a wink of sleep. Every compartment was so overflowing with people that the entire length of the aisle was filled with people standing or seated on their suitcases. Almost everyone was in rags or dirty suits. In our compartment a poor barefoot lady, her feet having sores on them, tried to console a sick child.

As if this were not all, at every train stop, officials would go through the entire length of the train. We were awakened at least every hour by army officers carrying kerosene lamps. They wanted to check our tickets to see if we belonged on the train.

Travel is amazing in Yugoslavia. Al-

most everyone has to go by rail to travel any distance. And sad to say, the poorly paid natives have to pay twice as much as foreigners for the same distance. Tito wants to attract tourists and the economic friendship of the Western nations.

Farmers Merely Serfs on Land They Once Owned

As we passed the countryside during the eighteen hours of travel to Belgrade, we watched the toiling peasants of Croatia and Serbia (two districts of Yugoslavia). Just imagine yourself once having owned a farm, but now having to work on it for the "People's Government" which *took it away from you!* That is the state of most people in rural Yugoslavia—slaves, merely modern serfs, on land once privately owned.

Just after the Second World War, Mr. Armstrong had a lengthy conference with Mr. Constantin Fotitch, former Yugoslavian Ambassador to the United States. Mr. Fotitch, a strong anti-communist, told Mr. Armstrong that pre-war Yugoslavia had more farm-owning peasants than any other country in the world. Yugoslavians love their land. Tito knew, he said, that the only way to impose Communism on the country was finally to break the will of the peasants, to deprive them of their land and force them to become slaves on the state-controlled farms.

To enforce his ruthless regime, Tito had thousands of peasants murdered because they would not leave their farms. Hundreds of thousands of acres of formerly privately owned land passed under communist state ownership. But the peasants still resisted. The government failed to receive the quantities of food that it expected. Tito's government was failing to fill all the demands and orders of Russia.

To safeguard his own position, Tito knew he had to bow to the determined stubbornness of the peasants. A break with Moscow was inevitable. The Yugo-

slav peasants had to be appeased, but Moscow would not tolerate it.

Today, Tito's Communist Party has had to allow each family a few acres for its own use. Nevertheless, almost all farm labor still occurs on state operated farms.

The means of cultivation is centuries outdated. Men and women can be seen as early as five o'clock in the morning on their knees with sickles, or standing with scythes, cutting weedy clover for the stock. Actually the clover is almost wholly weeds and most of them are little more than three or four inches high—very poor pasture, yet it serves as hay.

Oxen and poor mules and horses cultivate the countryside. A soldier on the train saw me observing the countryside. Thinking that I was admiring it (!) he cautiously said that in three months it will look much worse! He meant that winter was approaching and it would be even harder for the peasants.

A few houses were being built in the countryside through which we were passing. The mountainous scenery and the river below are beautiful, but such a contrast to the tired and furrowed peasants as they were building their homes. There was not even a wheelbarrow at one place. The man and his wife were having to carry a wooden box filled with cement from the place where it was mixed to the site of the house. While the younger people would be doing such back-breaking labor, elderly women would be nearby, carrying grass on their backs for the cattle.

The City of the Unemployed

Our arrival in Belgrade was early Wednesday morning. There were many horse drawn taxis waiting at the rail station, but only a few auto taxis. The streets had only a few people on them and almost no automobiles. Actually the only autos in the country are taxis or private cars belonging to government officials or to tourists. The "super-highway" that leads from Belgrade to Trieste is a very poor country road, often only paved with gravel, here and there cut by deep ruts, and in places dangerously undermined by the continuous flowing of the river.

The real shock to us came Wednesday afternoon and evening—the city of Belgrade turned into a veritable city of wondering, dejected unemployed. It seems that little work is done beyond two o'clock in the afternoon—there is just not enough work nor money to keep the people occupied in this Communist "paradise."

Although there are millions of man-hours that could be readily utilized to improve the living conditions of the city and the rural areas, there is almost

a total lack of equipment to do the work. The cost of hand labor is too expensive for the government because so much of the tax money is spent upon maintaining a gigantic administration and the army.

I don't believe any of you have ever seen a more hopeless city than the capital of Yugoslavia—a city of formerly happy people caught in the throes of Communism and drought. Imagine being in a large city, with wide sidewalks and stately green trees. On each side are large buildings reflecting happier times. Amid this background thousands of ragged men, women, and children—and an occasional well dressed person—stand gazing into shop windows or walk aimlessly along the streets. Nearly all the young men are in uniforms with a red star on their caps.

At nearly every corner, stand armed policemen forbidding tourists to take pictures of military centers and also giving silent warning of what could happen if anyone should decide to get out of line as the "march to progress" proceeds.

There is hardly a child in the entire city who wears shoes. Dirty rags drape about their bodies. At one point three little girls stopped us. Here we at last saw what Communism does for children. Tangled black hair, bare legs and feet scarred, dirty little dresses. What did they want? Just a little money for their mother who can't work.

A Visit to an Auto Repair Shop

Just before this event we had emerged from an auto repair shop, where we were invited by a "commissar" and his "comrades." Inside this shop were three autos being repaired, outside was a truck. There were only a few tools available, although at least seven men were giving the appearance of work. When we came with a camera all work ceased. It seemed a great relief to have an excuse to cease working—and why not? They earn almost nothing for their labor. The minutes that followed in conversation with these workers provided us with the only happy faces we saw in all our time in Yugoslavia. How they did enjoy having Dick Armstrong take their pictures!

Several spoke broken English, but others conversed in German, learned during the war. From them I was able to learn that the propaganda which is being told the people stresses the fact that all that ails their society is lack of technology. Just give us a few more years, I was told, and it won't be like it is now.

How true!

What these workers failed to realize was that it is the *system* that is wrong. It's not merely a lack of technology. That may aggravate the condition, but it

is not what produced this condition. The ONLY hope for Yugoslavia is in an alteration of the Communist policy. That will take a few years, but we saw the seeds that are bound to produce that change.

Communism is actually appealing to only a fraction of the people. Many young people and a few older folk notice the giant new apartment buildings that have been constructed in Belgrade. Many are not yet completed, but at least they provide fuel for the propaganda that it will take only another year and all will be different—housing for everyone.

Even very few of the men in uniform really believe in the party line with their whole hearts. Perhaps they have hopes of its success. But in their faces is registered the same apathy and despair which everyone has. The most profound *cause* for such an outlook on life is *idleness, mental and physical idleness*. There is nothing more burdensome than to have *nothing to do when so much ought to be done*.

Food Is Poor

You in America are accustomed to see wholesome and reasonably fine appearing fruit on the markets. Usually the wormy fruit is discarded by giving it to the animals or else it is left under the trees to provide fertilizer. Not so in Yugoslavia.

In stores that we passed were bins of fruit, especially apples. They were wormy and rotting. For the pigs? No. For the people.

There were flies and wasps everywhere in the shops. With people being reduced to this privation, it is little wonder that a change is inevitable.

In the very *best* stores in the capital, most of the commodities were expensively priced for the people and very cheap in quality. Of course, for us the prices appeared reasonable. But it must be remembered that a person may have to work an entire week for the cheapest shirt in town.

Is Religion Tolerated in Communist Yugoslavia?

This is THE important question for everyone in the country.

One evening, at five thirty, just as many people were going to their homes, I seemed to have been guided to a large domed building, that, on closer observation, was a church—of the Orthodox faith. To my amazement, dozens of poor people were streaming through the two side doors and the large entrance. Inside, the services were already in progress. The only seats were those affixed to the wall; everyone, except the very old, was

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How Would Jesus Vote for PRESIDENT?

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of the human virgin Mary.

WHY did Jesus come? To get into politics, to strive against the forces of evil in this world, to make this a better world?

WHAT was His Message? Certainly NOT a Gospel merely about Himself—a Gospel of merely accepting Him, and then, as part of this world, helping to make it better!

When Jesus reached the approximate age of thirty He was baptized, and anointed with the Holy Spirit as the Christ. But before He preached a word—before He could even enter upon His ministry, He, like the first Adam, had to meet Satan in the greatest contest in all eternity!

It was a contest for the rulership of all the earth. Jesus Christ met and conquered Satan by the Word of God. Satan, like his ministers today, quoted Scripture, but he twisted and perverted its meaning. Christ quoted Scripture, accepted it to mean what it says, overcame Satan by *obeying* it! Jesus understood Satan's temptations, rejected his deceptions, refused to obey him, conquered him by *obeying* GOD! Then He commanded Satan, "Get thee hence!"—and the devil obeyed and slunk away!

Then and there Jesus Christ *qualified* to succeed Satan as RULER OVER ALL THE EARTH! But the time had not yet come for Him to be inaugurated in office. First, He had to return to the throne of God and receive God's official authorization.

God had allotted ONE MILLENNIAL WEEK—that is, a period of seven thousand-year "days"—for the accomplishment of His divine PURPOSE in humanity on this earth. That divine Purpose is the creation of righteous spiritual Sons of God. God allotted the first *six* of these thousand-year periods for Satan's labor of deceiving the human race—six thousand years in which mankind is permitted, if he chooses, to suffer from the "labor" of sin. When the first Adam failed to depose Satan, God extended the duration of Satan's dominion over the earth for six thousand years. This was necessary for the accomplishment of God's great Purpose.

Then, as "in six days God made the heaven and the earth, and the seventh day He rested and was refreshed," even so in the seventh millennium humanity is to "rest" from sin, those converted are to enter into God's spiritual rest;—and in this coming millennium Satan shall not do *any work*—that is, his work of deceiving the world!

Then Jesus will come to earth again, this time in all His Power and great Glory as KING of kings, and LORD of lords.

But, in God's great Plan, He has proposed that Christ shall rule by and thru many saints then made immortal. They shall form the world-ruling kingdom—the KINGDOM OF GOD—which Kingdom shall rule over all the mortal nations on earth. Time had to be allowed for their conversion.

Jesus Preached GOVERNMENT

So, after meeting and conquering Satan, Jesus devoted three and a half years to teaching His Gospel to His Disciples.

His Gospel—the only true Gospel of Jesus Christ—is not what most people think today. Few have heard it, today!

It was, and is, a Gospel of GOOD GOVERNMENT! The word "gospel" means "Good News." And what Jesus preached—the Message He brought to mankind from God—was the GOOD NEWS of the coming GOVERNMENT OF GOD—the coming world-ruling government *which shall overthrow, blast out of existence, and rule in place of every present government on earth!*

Yes, Jesus Christ said to Pilate that He was born to be a King! He, Himself, is coming again as WORLD KING!

And His Gospel was merely, as one might say, His *political platform* for His Kingdom. He revealed the way to enter it as one of its immortal citizens—the way of salvation. He revealed its laws.

What Jesus taught was that this present world, with its governments, its religions, its economics, its society, is *an evil world*—it is Satan's world—it is a world *in competition against*, and AT WAR AGAINST, HIS COMING KINGDOM—THE WORLD TOMORROW!

No, *Jesus did not enter into THIS WORLD'S politics!* He called His Disciples *out* of this present evil world—out of all its customs and philosophies and ways—to a life of SEPARATION from the world.

Jesus said to His disciples, "Follow Me!" And one cannot follow Him and also follow this present world! He did not mean for Christians to go out of the world, physically. He knew they must live in it, but He taught that they should not be *of* it. In his final prayer for His disciples, Jesus said to His Father, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not *of* the world, even as I am not *of* the world." (John 17:15-16.)

To His called ministers Jesus commanded: "Go ye *into*"—(not away from)—"all the world, and *preach the*

Gospel." He did not say go into the world and become part of it, striving to make it a better world. He said go into it and "preach the Gospel." And His Gospel is the Good News of a *different* world altogether—of a coming world to be ruled over entirely not by these present various world governments then reformed, but by HIS KINGDOM which shall blast forever out of existence every government that operates today!

"AMBASSADORS for Christ"

Thus Jesus' disciples live *in* this present evil world as though they were foreigners, here merely as the guests of the nation where they reside, as AMBASSADORS for Christ and His coming Kingdom, here as representatives of HIS coming Kingdom, *not* of any of this world's governments.

As the Word of God reveals in II Cor. 5:17-20, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; . . . Now then we are *ambassadors for Christ.*"

The United States sends an ambassador to the Kremlin. He resides for the time in Moscow, Russia. The Christian in the United States is in the same relative position as the American ambassador in Russia. He is not a Communist. He does not regard the Soviet as his government, and he knows well it is a government mortally opposed to his government. He does not serve the Soviet government, nor enter into its politics, nor devote his time in Moscow to trying to eradicate the evils he sees in their system, or to making their state a better state, or to entering into their politics, or voting or entering their army or fighting for their cause.

Yet, he subjects himself to all their rules and regulations that in any way concern him or his life while there. If they drive automobiles on the left side of the street, he conforms to their regulations. He does not oppose them, he is SUBJECT to them while there, endeavoring to cause them to like him so as to better represent the interests of *his* government, the United States.

Jesus taught His disciples to render unto Caesar the things that *are* Caesar's. Specifically he was referring to payment of taxes. If the government levies taxes, pay them. The Bible teaching for the Christian is to be SUBJECT to the powers that be in this world, but, on the other hand, Christians shall *obey God* rather than man.

The true Christian will so conduct himself as to be highly regarded by the powers of government where he lives. He will be regarded by them as a good citizen. He will appreciate the privileges, advantages, and opportunities extended. He will regard himself as the

paying guest of the country where he resides, and he will act with due courtesy, submission to its rules and regulations insofar as they do not conflict with the commands of God, and submission to their penalty where they do.

But the true Christian is one who follows Christ, and Christ did not vote! Jesus did not try to reform Caesar. He did not try to make this a better world. Rather, He preached the doctrine of a radically different world to come—and He called His followers out of all participation in this present evil world, and to allegiance to HIS KINGDOM which is to come.

Citizenship in Heaven

But His World is the World Tomorrow! His Kingdom, He told Pilate, is not of this world—that is, of this AGE, this present time. This is Satan's world and Christ did not come to reform Satan, or improve Satan's handiwork, but to save His followers from Satan and his system.

Since God's Kingdom is not literally set up as yet, the true Christian's citizenship, in his heart, is now reserved in heaven (I Peter 1:4, Eph. 2:19).

Christians are called to be separate from the world (II Cor. 6:17), and all its affiliations, whether social, political, economic or religious. They are not to live by the philosophies, customs and ways of this world, but by EVERY WORD OF GOD (Luke 4:4). Jesus taught us not to live by traditions of the present society and civilization, but by God's laws (Mark 7:7-9), and He taught here that those who disobey this teaching WORSHIP HIM IN VAIN. Yes, thousands call themselves Christians, think they are converted, believe in Christ, worship Him, but worship Him in vain, following the course of this world and its customs and ways, instead of the commandments of God! (Mark 7:7-9.) Read it!

Jesus said for the Christian to seek first the KINGDOM OF GOD (Mat. 6:33), and He also said we cannot give allegiance to and serve two kingdoms (verse 24).

How and When Christians Are to Help Run Government

In the prophecy of Daniel 7, and especially in verses 17-18, and 21-22, and 27, we find revealed how and when Christians are to take part in the running of the government.

In this prophecy Daniel is shown the empires of this world from his day until the Kingdom of God. First was the Chaldean Empire, to be followed by the Persian, the Grecian, the Roman. There is now to be one more resurrection of the Roman Empire—a United States of Europe now forming.

But finally, at Christ's second coming, "the saints of the Most High shall take the Kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever."

These present governments are to run their course "UNTIL the . . . time came that the saints possessed the kingdom." That time has not yet come. Until then Christians are to obey God and be subject to the powers that be.

When Jesus comes again, it is proclaimed: "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and HE shall reign for ever and ever." (Rev. 11:15.) Then it is, as Jesus has said, "He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them." (Rev. 2:26-27.) The smashing of the present governments of the world is pictured in Daniel 2:34-35, 44.

Then Satan shall be shorn of power to rule the world. (Rev. 20:1-4.) His qualified successor, Christ, shall then be inaugurated in office. Then begins the Sabbath Millennium of Christ's reign—when He shall set His hand again to save Israel and the world.

WHY the World's Greatest Church "Is Fallen"

In the prophecy of Revelation 17 is pictured the greatest church in this world—a professing Christian church, ruling over many nations, but she is called in Bible language "the great whore"—a most ugly name!

But you will notice, verse 5, she is shown to be a MOTHER church. She has many daughters, who, even tho they have come out of her in "protest" naming themselves from the word "protest," nevertheless are labeled by God's prophecy as "harlots."

And what caused the fall from grace of these great, popular churches—who have DECEIVED ALL OCCIDENTAL NATIONS? (Verse 2 and 18:3). What was her fornication?

Notice it—verse 2: "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication." The "Beast" on which she sits represents the GOVERNMENTS OF THIS WORLD.

The true CHURCH is the affianced Bride of CHRIST. She is to be married to Christ in a spiritual Marriage AT HIS SECOND COMING! (Rev. 19:7.) Then the true "CHURCH of God" will become the "KINGDOM of God," to rule the earth. But Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not of this world." He taught His disciples to keep themselves unspotted from the world—to come apart and be separate.

But this great counterfeit Church, instead of becoming "engaged" to the true Christ and keeping herself true to

Him as coming world ruler, formed an illicit union with the governments of this world—entered into this world's politics—sought to DOMINATE this world's governments, took an active part in its affairs! Thus she committed spiritual "fornication"—illicit union prior to marriage.

The Roman church united Church and State, actually ruled over the state, which is Satan's kingdom, for more than a thousand years! The popular churches of Christendom nearly all take active, vigorous part in this world's affairs and its politics. Most churches will now be instructing their members HOW TO VOTE in this presidential election. They are part and parcel of THIS WORLD, and they serve only THE GOD OF THIS WORLD, Satan the devil. They are deceived! They do not even know they are doing wrong—they ARE DECEIVED!

This entire system—religion taking part in politics—is labeled "BABYLON" (Rev. 17:5).

"But," some who follow "Anglo-Israel" teaching will object, "we Americans are ISRAEL. Since we are nationally the race of ISRAEL, ought we not to take active part in our nation's affairs?"

We are ISRAEL, yes—but Israel today is not living under God's divine form of government, which is THEOCRACY, but under a form of the BABYLONISH SYSTEM. The governments which have constituted the various stages of the Roman Empire which is "Babylon" have called their particular form of this system "Fascism." We call ours the "republican" form, or, erroneously, "Democracy." But it is a MAN-MADE form of administration of the BABYLONISH SYSTEM.

ISRAEL—the United States, Britain, the "Democracies" of northwestern Europe—modern Israel is IN BABYLON TODAY, just as prophecy states (Jer. 50:1,4-6, 8, Isa. 48:1,12-20, etc.). It is because of this—because our sins are increasing—because we have made alliances with heathen powers instead of relying upon our God—that the Eternal warns us our nations are soon to be invaded and conquered, in order to bring our people back to God (Isa. 47:1-6; Jer. 30:7-16,24; Micah 5:8-11; Ezek. 3:1,4-7,17, 5:12-14; 6:11-14, etc., etc.).

Yes, ISRAEL IS IN A "BABYLONISH" SYSTEM today, and GOD CALLS US OUT! (Rev. 18:4, Jer. 50:8; 51:6-9; Isa. 48:12-20.)

What, then, would Jesus do in this time of presidential election? He would WARN our people Israel: "COME OUT of her (Babylon), my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues!" The plagues of God are soon to fall upon BABYLON and all who choose to remain a part

of "Babylon." JESUS CALLS YOU OUT!

What would Jesus do? HE WOULD BE TOO BUSY PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF HIS OWN COMING WORLD-RULING KINGDOM, and the way of salvation, to take any part whatsoever in the politics of this present evil world, or in any man-made form of government that is DOOMED very soon to be destroyed and replaced by the Theocratic government of THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Our mission is, as Ambassadors of Christ—as advance emissaries of HIS KINGDOM—to WARN Israel of her plight and present danger, to proclaim to all nations the Good News of THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Why Must Men Suffer?

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you and I suffer, today! But he was brought to *repentance*, surrender to GOD, dependence upon GOD, a filling of God's Spirit, without which he never could have known real happiness, never could have gained eternal LIFE!

All Job originally had was material wealth and possessions, and more *human* righteousness! Now Job had double the material possessions—but infinitely greater, he now had the supreme security of the faith of God, and that true source of happiness, reliance upon the Supreme One, and the indwelling of all His attributes! God's Spirit in us is the only thing that will satisfy the heart-hunger—the *only* thing that can warm, fill, and energize with happiness and joy the human soul!

The True ANSWER to Our Questions!

Now we are ready to see, and to UNDERSTAND, the true answer to our questions!

The real answer was brought out by Job during his conversation, even as it is illustrated by the experience of his life.

"If a man die, *shall he live again?*" asked Job (Job 14:14).

And the answer is the answer to all our questions! Here it is:

"All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: *thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands!*"

The part of what Job said that is most often carelessly overlooked is the part that answers the questions of this article! *Notice it again!*

"*Thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands!*"

STUDY THAT! Job knew he was merely the *work of God's Hands!* Merely a clay model, which God, the Master Potter,

was to mould and fashion and re-shape. Let Isaiah explain it: "WE are all as an unclean thing, and *all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags*; and we all do fade as a leaf; and *our iniquities*, like the wind, have taken us away. . . . But now, O ETERNAL, thou art OUR FATHER; *we are the clay*, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand." (Isa. 64:6-8.)

Our own righteousness will not save us. We must REPENT, surrender unconditionally to GOD, come to Him thru Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, and then God PROMISES to beget us with His Holy Spirit—actually put HIS SPIRIT *within us*. His spirit is His very LIFE—His Love, His understanding and wisdom, His power, His faith, His righteousness. *We drink in*, thru His Spirit, HIS NATURE AND HIS CHARACTER.

Thru a life-long of Christian living—of *overcoming* self, of growing spiritually, thru the very power of GOD imparted to us, we develop spiritually ready to be finally BORN OF GOD—by a resurrection, or instantaneous conversion from mortal to immortal—from human to divine—from weakness to power—from dishonor to GLORY!

And what about all these human sufferings which work character within us?

The Apostle Paul settled that: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the SONS OF GOD." (Rom. 8:18-19.)

Inside COMMUNIST Yugoslavia

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standing, a custom of the church.

Here in communist Yugoslavia was a church service, and not a single soldier was anywhere in sight. Old men and women, young girls AND YOUNG MEN came to this service. It was not a Sunday service, but a mid week service which made it all the more amazing. Poor people, leaving their work and on their way home, stopped to attend. Here is *real* Yugoslavia, *religious* Yugoslavia.

For two whole hours the services proceeded in the native tongue and with the terribly idolatrous ritual. But imagine, tired people in a Communist state standing for two whole hours in a church! It really means something important to them. The people find here a counterfeit for their spiritual needs, but it is so much better than the materialistic world in which they continually suffer.

Near the middle of the service a young man with his wife came to the

service; a baby was in his arms. His only clothes were trousers, worn shoes and an undershirt. He followed the example of everyone else and kneeled to kiss a supposed picture of Christ. These people are totally ignorant of the commandment against idolatry. They suppose that if there are no statues that the adoration of pictures is perfectly right.

The major portion of the service was occupied with worship of revered pictures and the cross. The priests chanted their songs and words in the native tongue. Twice they walked among the parishioners swinging their incense burners in the direction of each individual. Like most religion, especially in Europe, the people watch the clergy do the work of "salvation" while they stand by in idolatrous ignorance.

Religion Versus Communism

The natives in Yugoslavia are deeply religious and very superstitious. Tito is not able, nor is he trying to abolish religion. At present he is tolerating it. This fact is of vital import, because it gives a clue to what is *going to happen* in Yugoslavia.

Step by step the hold of communism is slipping in this country.

First, the power of Joseph Stalin was broken by Tito. He decided to become independent. At first he was anti-Russian and anti-West.

But as time passed he saw the necessity of seeking American help. While in Switzerland, I was told at the Yugoslavian Consulate in Zurich that there is "no collectivism" in the country. This was to *attract tourists*, of course, because there is *collectivism* in Yugoslavia. What the representative should have said is that there is "no *Russian* collectivism" in Yugoslavia.

Recently Tito has been seeking economic and military aid from the West although he continues to assert that he does not believe in the economic system of America. Also he has invited to several conferences Austrian, Greek and Turkish officials for a friendly unwritten agreement on the defense of Balkan Europe. *All this brings Tito more and more into unity with continental Europe*. While in Yugoslavia we were unable to speak to Tito personally as he reportedly was vacationing in the remote city of Bled.

Prophecy shows that soon there is to arise a united fascist Europe under domination of the Roman Catholic Church. There are to be ten nations in this league that will frighten Russia and attack the Democratic nations of the West. This is all explained in Revelation 17. The vital thing is that *Yugoslavia will inevitably be in this union!* Tito is a Croat, not a Serb. The Croats are Roman

Catholic. The Croats collaborated with the Nazis in the last war and forcibly tried to convert thousands of Serbs to Catholicism. It's going to happen again!

The only steps that remain for Tito to take are the alteration of his economic system and an agreement with other European nations to submit to the unifying power of the Roman Catholic Church.

This may seem at first impossible, but actually it is inevitable.

Tito dares not stand alone against both Russia and a United Europe. He CAN'T EVER return into the Russian sphere because he would be liquidated. All he needs to do is alter his economic policy, liberate Roman Catholic prelates—which he is already doing—and seek reconciliation from the church that excommunicated him for his Communist program.

Whether Josip Broz-Tito is the man who will continue to guide the land and be one of the ten dictators in the coming Europe, the Bible does not reveal. It is very likely he will be one of the ten men. He hates the West and *he is turning toward fascism.*

It will not be hard for the people of Yugoslavia to join with the union. Their religion is *not a heresy* in the eyes of the Roman Church, but merely a *schism*—which means that their rituals may be continued in much the same manner although they need to acknowledge the Pope as the head of the universal church.

This process is already occurring. During the service mentioned before, I was able to pick up a few words which were prayers for the people of Yugoslavia, but there were no prayers directly for Tito—he does not *yet* profess religion. The church is actually LEADERLESS to this extent. *The Roman Pope can become that leader.*

In Germany Protestants and Catholics are using one another's churches in which to hold meetings, because Russia is doing everything to stifle religion. It is a growing tendency to minimize doctrinal and ritual deviations, and to seek cooperation. Although not every individual will accept the coming domination of Rome, the overwhelming feeling among Europeans is that political and religious unity is absolutely essential to preserve Europe from perishing. This influence will bring Yugoslavia into the coming union of dictators—the "beast" of Revelation 17.

From now on it is very important to *watch* Yugoslavia. There is bitter anti-American feeling in her leaders, though not necessarily in her people. *But in Europe the people follow the leaders.*

Knowing the growing anti-American feeling in Germany, which we saw in every city, and hearing about Franco's fascist party in Spain, there can be no possible doubt that *the final union of dictators here in Europe will be a THIRD force in the world.* And this force will,

with the secret preparations of the Nazi underground, and with the immense aid America is giving, **TURN AGAINST THE WEST AND DESTROY IT!**

Jesus said that the **ONLY** way to escape this terrible calamity is to *watch* the news and *pray* always that you may be accounted worthy. Indeed these are terrible times!

How and When Church Festivals Were Changed

Continued from page 5

in these superstitious, idolatrous celebrations. But the early true church recognized *the abomination in which God held them* (1 Peter 4:3).

In coming issues the history of these feasts will be presented. Read how professed Christians *changed their attitude toward these occasions and accepted them into the church.*

Also read why God chose to reveal to Israel His Sabbath and annual Holy Days. There is a great deal of confusion concerning the special purpose which these festivals serve in New Testament times. It is little understood. Just as the heathen, under the universal influence of Satan, counterfeited the plan of God, *which they already understood basically*, they also anticipated the true Festivals of God for his church by inventing many of their own!

To be continued in next issue

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