

The Good News

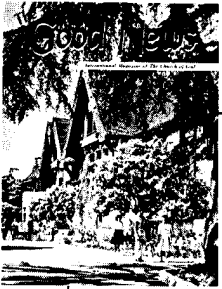
International Magazine of The Church of God



VOL. XIII, NUMBER 3

MAYFAIR

MARCH, 1964



More About Our Cover...

Another beautiful ENVOY transparency was used to produce this striking cover portrait of Mayfair.

Lovely Mayfair was the second building purchased for the Ambassador College Campus. Here in the California sunshine, fringed with bright flowers, Mayfair's English design adds to the warmth of the campus atmosphere immeasurably. But there is a problem now! Mayfair has had to serve the double purpose of student residence—presently a women's dormitory—as well as housing the dining facilities for the ENTIRE student body! Mayfair is now roughly overcrowded—it needs desperately to retire as a dining hall and focus all its charm on the lovely coeds of Ambassador. That's why the new dining hall is a must on our building program.

© 1964 Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY...

Doubts Answered

"I thank God for answering some of my personal doubts about my daily and physical ways of life in *The GOOD NEWS* article 'How Important Is Women's Hair?'"

Mrs. Paul B., North Carolina

Tour Bears Fruit

"My mother, my daughter and I were baptized by David Albert and Walter Sharp. It was the most wonderful experience I ever knew. Now I know I belong to God and I want to do His will completely. My husband sat in on the discussions. He was very impressed—he's changing already. He kept the Sabbath yesterday along with my daughter and me."

Mrs. Grant P., Nebraska

New Life Begins

"I have been baptized last Passover and a new life has begun for me. My son and I attend services in the New York Church. Now we know why we are living and where we are going. Through you I came to realize how miserable and deceived I was. When I was eleven we fled from the Russian troops in East Germany to the West with a family of eight. Now we are

all here in this wonderful country. We went through hunger and cold and sickness and things that every war brings. But looking back, it all had its purpose."

Mrs. Edith L., New Jersey

New Church at Atlanta

"I was privileged to be at the opening of the new Church at Atlanta, Georgia. It was an excellent service and opening given by God's minister, Mr. Craig and his assistant, Mr. Tucker. They express the character and leadership, by example, of dedicated servants of God."

Raymond E. C., North Carolina

Husband Was Right

"By studying the Bible Course God has proved to me that my husband was right in his understanding of the Bible, and I was wrong. I have asked my husband to tell [the minister] I want to be baptized. I am praying that he will see fit to baptize me. Now our family is as it should be. I now have peace of mind. With God's help, I'm sure I shall be a better wife to my wonderful husband."

Mrs. Blaine F., Arizona

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The Good News

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THE CHURCH OF GOD
*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

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NO. 3

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

How Church Government Really WORKS

You were called to RULE. But do you understand the "system" of rule in God's Church today? Are you LEARNING through this system how to rule the WHOLE WORLD TOMORROW?

by Roderick C. Meredith

THIS CHURCH preaches the *good news* of the soon-coming *Kingdom of God*. God's Kingdom is a literal GOVERNMENT. Through it, He will soon RULE over *every nation on earth!*

As true Christians, *we* must learn to TAKE PART in that Government. We must learn to RULE—but as *God* rules, not man.

Many do not realize that Christ has placed GOVERNMENT in His Church as an instrument to teach us HOW to rule. We need to *understand* the function of this Church Government—come to sincerely *appreciate* it—and LEARN from it continually.

Christ RULES His Church

In I Corinthians 5:12, after telling the brethren in Corinth to *put out* a fornicator, the Apostle Paul asked: "Do not ye JUDGE them that are within?"

He went on to say: "Know ye not that we shall judge ANGELS? *how much more things that pertain to this life?*" (I Cor. 6:3).

Yes, indeed! We are called to JUDGE and RULE the entire world with Christ. Our *training* and *experience* for this tremendous calling comes through *submitting to, exercising* and LEARNING FROM the Government of God *within the Church*—NOW.

Let's come to a real UNDERSTANDING of how *God's system* of Church Government functions.

After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus instructed His disciples: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, *I am with you always, even unto the END of the world*" (Matt. 28:19-20).

Christ said that He would be *with* and GUIDE His apostles in His Church as they carried out this commission. He promised to be with them to the very END or *consummation of this age!*

The Gospel of Mark states: "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord WORKING WITH THEM, and confirming the word with signs following" (Mark 16:20). So Jesus Christ was working WITH and THROUGH the apostles—He had not "gone way off" somewhere and forgotten about His Church, or turned it over to be ruled by the ideas of men.

The early apostles *knew* that Christ was to *directly* RULE the Church. When the time came to choose a successor to Judas—who had hanged himself—the apostles prayed directly and asked CHRIST to make the decision. They prayed and said: "Thou, Lord, which knoweth the hearts of all men, show whether of these two THOU hast chosen" (Acts 1:24).

Speaking of Christ, the Apostle Paul wrote the Ephesians how God had, "put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the HEAD over all things to the *Church*, which is His BODY, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23).

Paul describes Christ in like manner in the letter to the Colossians: "And he [Christ] is the HEAD of the body, *the church*: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all

things he might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18).

Since both of these letters were written about *thirty years* after Christ's death and resurrection, He is shown to be the LIVING HEAD of the true Church of God! And He is not the *theoretical* but the ACTIVE Head of God's Church.

Christ ACTIVELY Guides and Directs His Church

Besides the example of choosing Judas' successor, there are *many examples* all the way through the book of Acts where CHRIST *directly intervened* in guiding His Church and His ministers. One of these occurred when the Ethiopian eunuch was reading and trying to understand the book of Isaiah. "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot" (Acts 8:29).

This is an example of where CHRIST—*through His Spirit*—intervened *directly* and told one of His servants to minister to someone who was in need. After this encounter, Christ performed another MIRACLE through the power of His Spirit. He directly "caught away" Philip and took him—perhaps by "angel transport"—back to another place to continue his preaching!

Then, in Acts 9, while Saul was breathing out threatenings and slaughter against God's people, Christ *DIRECTLY intervened* and supernaturally struck down and blinded the Apostle Paul and *personally spoke to him*. When the time came to bring the Apostle Paul to His service, Christ was *DIRECTLY* and very much ON THE JOB!

Christ DELIVERS Peter

Later, after the Apostle Peter was supernaturally delivered from prison during the Days of Unleavened Bread, he said: "Now I know of a surety, that the LORD *bath sent his angel*, and *bath delivered me* out of the hand of Herod . . ." (Acts 12:11).

Here the LIVING Christ intervened through His angelic servants to RESCUE Peter from a very unpleasant and difficult situation.

You should all realize that whenever we find the *Holy Spirit* operating—this is actually CHRIST operating through the *agency* or POWER of His Spirit. He is actually the executive INSTRUMENT in God's hands who *directs* the Spirit's activity in our behalf.

Remember John 15:26: "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." It is *Jesus* who SENDS the Spirit from its ultimate source—God the Father. In John 16:13, Jesus stated: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall NOT speak of *himself*; but whatsoever he shall HEAR [from the *Father* or *Christ*], *that shall he speak*: and he will shew you things to come."

So the Holy Spirit conveys to God's ministers or to His people what CHRIST has directed it to speak or reveal.

Remembering this, notice now the example of the ordination of the Apostles Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13:2: "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the *Holy Spirit said*, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them . . . So they, being sent forth by the HOLY SPIRIT, departed unto Seleucia."

Christ Directs DETAILS of Work

In the same manner as above, CHRIST—*through His Spirit*—directed in *intricate detail* the Work of His apostles in certain key situations in Asia Minor. Notice: "Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the

HOLY SPIRIT to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the SPIRIT suffered them not" (Acts 16:6-7). Here again, through the power of His Spirit, Christ was ON THE JOB as the active HEAD directing the activities of His ministers and His Church!

Again, in Verse 9, He dealt with Paul in a VISION—showing him it was time to go over to preach the Gospel on the continent of Europe after an *exact nineteen-year time cycle* of preaching the Gospel in Asia!

Later, at a time when Paul needed personal encouragement, the active, Living CHRIST spoke DIRECTLY to Paul in the night by a vision: "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace" (Acts 18:9).

Christ is *very much* ALIVE! He *actively* RULES in His Church—*managing* and *directing* its activities through His human servants.

The Work of God's Church today is CHRIST'S Work. And the Church is CHRIST'S "body" the *instrument* through whom He does His Work of preaching the Gospel as a witness and feeding His flock (I Cor. 12:27).

Christ Directly CALLS His Ministers

Before Jesus Christ appointed the twelve men who became His apostles, He spent ALL NIGHT in prayer to God. This enabled Him to have the proper WISDOM and GUIDANCE to make *right decisions* (Luke 6:12). "And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he CHOSE *twelve*, whom also he named *apostles*" (Verse 13).

In God's Kingdom and His Church, government is from the TOP on *down*. It is NOT—at *any time*—a matter of the people who are to *be ruled* deciding WHO is qualified to rule over them and HOW their rulers shall rule over them!

Once Christ qualified to be our King and Priest, God SET Him in His high office above all principalities and powers in the universe (Eph. 1:20-21). Once Christ—with the *Father's guid-*

ance—had determined which of His many disciples or students were best qualified to become His direct *apostles* or *ambassadors*—representing His coming Kingdom—He then CHOSE twelve of them as *apostles*. No one VOTED for them! And no one "campaignned" for their election!

Since His resurrection and installment as our LIVING HEAD and High Priest in heaven, Christ has CONTINUED to CHOOSE some in the Church as "*apostles*; and some, *prophets*; and some, *evangelists*; and some, *pastors* and *teachers*; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. . . ." (Eph. 4:11-12).

Just as He did during His earthly ministry, Christ continues to seek the *wisdom* and *guidance* of God the Father! For He is seated at *His very right hand*! (Eph. 1:20).

So Christ has *great* WISDOM in ruling His Church! And He has the divine POWER of God to back up His decisions, and to *directly* HANDLE any problems or a mistake of His human servants!

The OFFICES and FUNCTIONS of God's Ministers

The churches of this world employ various man-devised titles for their leaders and ministers. They are called popes, primates, cardinals, archbishops, monsignors and other designations of human or pagan origin. The true Church of God is the ONLY Church which directly follows not only the *form* of government but employs the *very titles* which God Himself inspired as the designations for His ministers of various ranks and functions.

These titles are partially included in the various spiritual gifts mentioned in I Corinthians 12: "And GOD hath set some in the church, first *apostles*, secondarily *prophets*, thirdly *teachers*, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (Verse 28).

But the only *complete listing* in the Bible of the various ministerial ranks of authority is found in Ephesians 4—which we've referred to above.

Those mentioned first are *apostles*.

As the original twelve Apostles, then later Paul, Barnabas, James the Lord's brother, Jude and others, the apostles are DIRECTLY chosen by Christ. They are made known to the Church through the Living Christ actually PLACING them in office—showing clearly by what HE IS DOING in and through them that they are in an *over-all executive function* in His body, the Church.

Next are mentioned "prophets." These can be *either men or women* and were used to foretell future events by special and personal revelation from God (Acts 11:27-30; 21:9-10). There is *no example* of them having any administrative *authority* over other ministers in the Church unless they were also apostles or evangelists. Also, from the later chapters of Acts and the following centuries of true Church history, it would seem that their function has diminished and that Christ is not placing many in this office since the basic revelation of the Bible is now complete.

Next in *authority* under the apostles were the *evangelists*. Originally, they included such men as Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus, Silas and others who assisted the apostles in directing the work of the ministry. The evangelists were often *young men* who were taught and trained DIRECTLY under the apostles—just as Paul took Timothy with him from a youth and he had *years* of direct experience in the ministry under the Apostle Paul (Acts 16:1-4).

Mentioned *next* in Ephesians 4 are the *pastors* and *teachers*. Since ALL ministers are spiritual "elders"—even the apostles (I Pet. 5:1)—the term "pastor" must refer to those elders who were more mature and able spiritually and were placed in *complete charge* of a church or churches.

The other elders—perhaps with less age, ability or experience—would preach or teach in the local congregations according to their ability.

Under them in God's Government—although occupying primarily an office of *physical service*—were the *deacons*—these included men such as those who were ordained to care for the Church widows in Acts 6. Yet even these men were to be "full of the *Holy Spirit* and

wisdom." The apostles were directed to "APPOINT" these deacons over this physical ministrations. Also, certain faithful women were installed in the office of DEACONESS in the early Church such as Phebe of Cenchrea [Rom. 16:1, where "servant" should be translated *deaconess*].

God's "Chain of Command" in the Church

Thus, your Bible reveals a definite CHAIN OF COMMAND coming from God the Father through Jesus Christ, through His *apostles*, then through His *evangelists*, down through His *pastors*, then through the other *elders* to the laymembers of GOD'S Church.

These ministers and elders are NOT elected by the people—they are APPOINTED by Christ! Nor do God's ministers preach the doctrines which are "voted in" by the members or by boards of men. Rather, they are commanded by God: "*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, EXHORT with all longsuffering and doctrine*" (II Tim. 4:2).

Those brethren whom the Father is *calling* will KNOW by the "fruits" whom God is using to faithfully *preach His Word!*

The members of God's Church are *commanded* by Christ: "Remember them which have the RULE over you, who have spoken unto you the *word of God*: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation" (Heb. 13:7).

And again: "OBEY them that have the rule over you, and *submit yourselves*: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Verse 17).

So it is that the Living CHRIST *appoints* and *directs* His ministers and elders. They are responsible to HIM! He has the *wisdom* and the *POWER* to *correct them, chasten them* or *put them out of office* if that is ever necessary.

That is HIS job—not the job of the laymembers.

Their job is to find WHERE God's true Church really is—WHERE Christ is working—and to humbly and sin-

cerely *submit themselves* to *follow, learn from* and be *corrected by* God's ministers as long as they are following the *basic example* of Christ Himself (Heb. 13:8).

God's Church is a "Team"

God's Church is to be a "team." Together, all of us compose what is called the "body" of Jesus Christ. God PUTS US INTO His Church when we are baptized and receive of His Spirit: "For by one spirit are we all baptized into ONE BODY . . ." (I Cor. 12:13). We are not all eyes, or ears, or noses or mouths! Neither are we all HEADS!

But as a truly *healthy* human body, each member of God's Church should RESPOND to our Head, *Jesus Christ*, working *through* His apostle and evangelists in carrying out God's WORK today!

Each member should keep his eyes on CHRIST—and trust HIM to do His job in directing the body as HE sees fit.

We in God's Church today should especially remember the inspired example in Acts 15 of the conference of ministers at Jerusalem. For once again—as in *apostolic days*—God has established an earthly HEADQUARTERS for His ministry where conferences are held and decisions are made. Christ—the Living HEAD of the Church—makes His will known through His earthly Headquarters now at Pasadena, California.

Of course, spiritual knowledge is and MUST BE based upon the law of God in every case. It must simply be a *magnification* and *inspired application* of the direct teachings and examples of the Bible. But unless we want to descend into the utter CONFUSION and Satan-inspired DIVISION such as is found in the bickering denominations and sects of today, God's people must quickly and gladly *yield themselves* to the decisions CHRIST reveals through His Headquarters Work!

Each member of *God's* Church should have *already proved* the basic TRUTH of God's Plan, purpose and prophecies and His law. He should know and understand that this is the Church of GOD—bearing His NAME and doing His WORK.

Then he should follow where CHRIST is working: "If I do not the WORKS of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the WORKS: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him" (John 10:37-38).

Brethren, in the next few years before we complete the tremendous CRUSADE to which Christ has called us in preparing for His second return, there will be MANY decisions to make in His Work. These will NOT involve "strange doctrines" or "wild ideas" such as wearing long, black beards on the one hand, or fleeing to a mountaintop to wait for the Lord to return on the other!

The decisions which CHRIST *always* has and WILL continue to reveal through HIS Church will include basic decisions regarding matters of Christian living—such as not smoking because it breaks the *principle* or *spirit* of God's law, or *administrative decisions* such as *where* we shall keep the Feast of Tabernacles in any particular area. These decisions will be based upon the *laws* and *examples* clearly revealed in the Bible! They will be made with *much prayer* and *multitude of counsel*—and by those *ministers* of Jesus Christ who are most competent and who have made themselves familiar with ALL the facts in any given case!

Naturally, each individual member of the Church cannot be free to come up with his or her individual "idea" on every phase and facet of Christian living or on where the Feast of Tabernacles will be held, what evening should be set aside for a local Bible study, or what particular brand or model of *automobile* his minister ought to be driving!

RESPOND to Jesus Christ!

These may sound like trite examples—but some supposed brethren have "problems" with these very trivial matters! Obviously, we could NEVER have the "unity of the spirit" or be of the "one mind" which Christ intends unless we allow HIM to direct us—as in New Testament times—through HIS Headquarters Church today!

If we cannot learn to RESPOND to

Jesus Christ working through His ministers and His Headquarters today, we will not even BE THERE to "reason" and "argue" personally with Christ when He comes with great POWER and GLORY.

Perhaps some have not realized the IMPORTANCE of God's Government in His Church. But this is a matter involving the very inspired *Message* which we preach—the Message of God's coming KINGDOM or GOVERNMENT to rule over this earth!

Each of us must learn to be UNDER authority now so we may be fit to *exercise authority* later. Also, ALL of us—in one way or another are *trained* in exercising government and authority in God's Church here and now as preparatory *experience* for our *future* job in His Kingdom.

Each *minister* has a certain responsibility and authority over others. Each *deacon* or *deaconess* has a certain responsibility over the *physical administration* of God's Church and its affairs.

Each *husband* has certain authority and responsibility over his wife and family. Each *wife* has certain authority and responsibility over her household, her servants and her children.

This is *God's way*—and it WORKS!

Christ GUIDES His Servants

As quoted at the beginning of this article, the Apostle Paul asked: "Know ye not that we shall judge angels? *how much* MORE things that pertain to THIS LIFE?" (I Cor. 6:3).

But in matters of *Church Government*, we should all realize that Christ will directly *guide* and *inspire* those who JUDGE or RULE for Him. Even in ancient Israel, the judges were told: "Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the Lord, *who is WITH you in the judgment*" (II Chron. 19:6). And God has NOT changed! (Mal. 3:6).

For Jesus Christ said as He sent His apostles to all the world: "Lo, I am WITH you *always, even unto the end of the world*" (Matt. 28:20).

For our ETERNAL good, *all* of us need to look more to Jesus CHRIST as the Living and *very active* HEAD of His Church today!

We need to *realize* that God the Fa-

ther manifests *His will* in counsel and concert with His Son Jesus Christ—our Living HEAD who sits at His right hand in heaven. In turn, Christ directly CHOOSES and then *inspires* and *directs* His apostles over His Church. He shows PLAINLY where *He* is working—for only ONE CHURCH in each age preaches the real TRUTH of God, and does the real WORK of God in witnessing to the world and feeding the flock effectively.

Through the *apostles*, Christ *calls* and TRAINS young men as evangelists—"announcers of good news"—to raise up Churches, ordain and direct the activities of *elders* (Tit. 1:5), feed the flock and also assist in preaching the Gospel as a "witness" to the entire world.

Under the evangelists, are the *pastors*—those qualified ministers who are permanently installed in authority over entire church areas or have a similar type of responsibility.

Then, the *preaching elders* and *local elders* preside over the local congregations, conduct Bible studies, and serve in visiting the brethren and anointing the sick. Working closely with them—and with the evangelists and pastors as need may require—are the *deacons* and *deaconesses* who assist in the *physical ministrations* necessary in serving the local church brethren.

Christ's Body Is ORGANIZED

Far more than the best-trained military unit or championship athletic team, the body of Jesus Christ should be ORGANIZED, *responsive* and ready to *serve in UNITY* whenever the need arises!

Today, as He has in many past ages with other servants of God, God has raised up *one man*, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, as His *leading minister* to direct this entire era of GOD's Work on earth. As the Apostle Paul, Mr. Armstrong has *taught* and *trained* younger men as *evangelists* and others as *pastors* and *elders*.

As God's Church in this age has GROWN over the past thirty years in this era, Christ has filled ALL of the
(Please continue on page 24)

More About SIMON MAGUS

What were the origins of Catholic-Babylonian Christianity? What was Simon's religion before he met Peter? Where did that religion originate? Read in this article — beginning a new series — the detailed and documented account of Simon Magus and his great COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANITY!

by Ernest L. Martin

THE FALSE religious system began very early — almost with Pentecost in 31 A.D. Even in the earliest of Paul's epistles, he informs us that "the mystery of iniquity **DOETH ALREADY WORK**" (II Thess. 2:7). Paul wrote this in 50 or 51 A.D. The plot to supplant the Truth *had already begun*. In the later epistles of Paul and in those of the other Apostles, we find it gaining considerable momentum. However, even though the Apostles discuss the diabolical system which was arising, **THEY NOWHERE MENTION HOW IT STARTED**. They had no need in mentioning its beginning—that had already been done!

The book of Acts is the **KEY** to the understanding of Christian beginnings. Not only does it show the commencement of the **TRUE Church**, but it equally reveals the origins of the **False Church** *masquerading* as Christianity. Indeed, you would think it odd if the book of Acts did *not* discuss this vital subject.

The Book of Acts—the Key

First, let us recall two points of necessary understanding.

1) The book of Acts was written by Luke about 62 A.D.—some 31 years after the True Church began. Acts recalls **ALL** events which affected, in a major way, the True Church. It especially tells us about the beginnings of matters relating to Church history.

2) Acts does **NOT** record every single event relative to the Church, important as one might think them to be.

For example, Luke doesn't mention a single thing about the activities of *ten* of the original twelve Apostles of Christ. Yet are we to assume that they did nothing important in the history of the Church? Absolutely **NOT!** They must have done many mighty works. But we can see from this omission that Luke recorded **ONLY THOSE EVENTS WHICH WERE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY** for God's Church of the future to know.

Notice that Luke's geography leads him towards the Northwest and West of Palestine. He discusses Church history in *Asia Minor, Greece and ROME*. He wanted to leave us with the truth of what was going on in the West and North because the prophecies showed the false system arising *in these locales*.

All other activities of God's Church —all about the other *ten* Apostles, etc. — fall into relative unimportance because the trouble wasn't going to come from Palestine itself. It was to come from **ROME** and adjacent areas. It is no wonder that Luke spares no pains to tell us the truth of what was really going on in these critical areas, and that is the reason Acts concerns itself primarily with Paul.

These are well-known principles that help us understand the over-all viewpoint of Acts.

With the foregoing in mind read the incident recorded by Luke, *of the first encounter of God's Apostles with a heretic*. This encounter was not with an ordinary run-of-the-mill individual, but with one of the greatest men in the

East at that time—*Simon the Magus!*

The reason Luke describes the intentions of this man so thoroughly is the profound effect this man, and his followers, had on God's Church in Asia Minor, Greece and **ESPECIALLY ROME**. Actually, this man by 62 A.D. (when Luke composed the book of Acts) had caused the True Church *so much trouble* that Luke had to show the people that he was **NOT**, as he claimed to be, a part of the Christian Church.

All scholars realize that Luke tells about Simon's beginning because of his later notoriety and danger to the Church.

In this regard, notice the comment of *Hasting's Dictionary of the Apostolic Church*, Vol. 2, p. 496:

"It seems beyond question that Luke **KNEW THE REPUTATION** which Simon acquired, and that he regarded the *subsequent* history of Simon as the natural result of what occurred in the beginning of his connection with the Christians."

If we assume that Luke recorded this encounter of the Apostles with Simon Magus simply to show that "simony" was wrong, we miss the point completely. There is a score of places in other parts of the Bible to show the error of buying ecclesiastical gifts.

Luke was exposing **SIMON MAGUS HIMSELF**. This is the important point!! Luke was clearly showing that Simon was **NEVER** a part of God's Church, even though by 62 A.D. many people were being taught that Simon was truly a Christian—taught that he

was the HEAD of the only TRUE Christians; the *Apostle* to the Gentiles!

What Luke Tells Us About Simon Magus

Notice the points Luke places clearly before us.

1) Simon was a Samaritan, *not a Jew*—(Acts 8:9). Remember that the Bible tells us salvation was *of the Jews—not of the Samaritans* (John 4:22).

2) Simon Magus greatly used demonistic powers to do *miracles and wonders* (Acts 8:9).

3) The whole population of Samaria (both small and great) gave heed to him (Verse 10). He was looked on as the *greatest* prophet—all Samaritans BELIEVED IN HIM!

4) The Samaritans WORSHIPPED him as "the Great One"—a god. "This man is that power of God called Great [that is the Almighty]" (RSV. Verse 10). Imagine it! *They called him god in the flesh!*

5) Luke is also careful to inform us that Simon had become *firmly established* in Samaria as "the Great One" and had practiced his powers "for a long time" (Verse 11).

6) Luke wants us to understand that he *nominally* became a Christian ("Simon himself believed") and was baptized—that is, he *physically, outwardly* "entered" the Christian Church (Verse 13).

7) Simon even recognized that Christ's power was greater than his but wanted to be *associated with that great name* (Verse 13).

8) Simon, seeing the potential of the Christian religion waited until the authorities, Peter and John, came to Samaria and then offered to pay them money to OBTAIN AN APOSTLESHIP IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Verses 18-21).

Simon Coveted Apostle's Office

Those who carelessly read this section of Scripture may get the mistaken notion that Simon wanted only to buy the Holy Spirit. Yes, he wanted that—but his main intention went far beyond. He had eyes on becoming an APOSTLE!

Peter immediately perceived his intention and said "You have neither PART nor LOT in this matter" (Verse 21). The true Apostles had been chosen

after Christ's death to take PART in the apostleship by LOT (Acts 1:25, 26). Peter was telling Simon he couldn't *buy* an APOSTLESHIP.

Luke is showing that Simon wanted to be one of the APOSTLES—a top man in the Christian Church. He was after that *office*. After all Simon imagined himself to be fully qualified to be an APOSTLE especially over the Samaritans since they already looked to him as the greatest religious leader of the age. However, Peter rebuked him sternly.

9) Peter perceived that Simon was in the "gall of bitterness, and in the bond of lawlessness" (Verse 23).

NOTE: This verse has been misunderstood because the King James Version fails to give the full force of Peter's accusation. This verse when understood in the manner Peter intended, is one of the most important of the whole chapter. IT IS A PROPHECY! Peter knew the mind of this man and what this man was to become. This is made plain by Sir William Ramsay in his *Pictures of the Apostolic Church*, p. 60. He says:

"Peter rebuked him in strong and PROPHECIC TERMS. The PROPHECY is concealed in the ordinary translation: the Greek means 'thou art FOR a gall of bitterness and a fetter of unrighteousness [lawlessness]' i.e. a cause of bitterness and corruption to others."

This makes it plain. Peter was uttering a *prophecy* by the Holy Spirit. He was telling what this Simon was to become; *Lange's Commentary* says:

"Peter's words, literally, mean: 'I regard you as a man whose influence WILL BE like that of bitter gall [poison] and a bond of unrighteousness [lawlessness], or, as a man who has reached such a state'" (Vol. 9, p. 148).

Not only was Simon, in Peter's time, a great antagonist to the Church, *but he would be the adversary of the future.*

This prophecy is the KEY that opens to our understanding the ORIGINS of the *heresies* mentioned in the letters of the Apostles. Peter clearly knew Simon wouldn't repent. Verse 22 shows that in the original.

Gall of Bitterness Defined

It is also interesting to note Peter's statement that Simon was to become a "gall of bitterness." People today may

not realize the exact meaning of such a phrase, but no Jew in the First Century was in any doubt as to its meaning.

It was a figure of speech adopted from the Old Testament which denoted going over to the *idols and abominations of the heathen*. Read Deuteronomy 29:16-18 and see how plainly this figure of speech is used. When the Apostle Peter applied to Simon Magus the phrase "gall of bitterness," he meant that Simon would be the responsible party for the introduction of *heathen beliefs and idols* into Christianity. The prophecy takes on a new and important scope when we realize this real meaning of Peter's prophecy.

No wonder Jude later says, speaking about the very men who followed Simon Magus (including Simon himself): "For there are certain men crept in unawares, *who were before* of old ORDAINED to this condemnation" (Verse 4). We can be confident that Peter recognized that Satan was going to use this Simon Magus as the GREAT ANTAGONIST OF FALSE CHRISTIANITY.

The later history of Simon Magus shows that Peter's prophecy *came true* in a most remarkable way.

Simon Magus Unrepentant

10) Even after Peter's strong rebuke, Simon DID NOT REPENT! And Peter *knew* that he wouldn't!

Conclusion: This means that Simon thought he deserved to be an Apostle—if not the chief Apostle—in the Christian Church. He became baptized which, in a physical way, made him ostentatiously a "member." It is important to remember that he DID NOT REPENT of his error. There is not the slightest hint that he gave up believing that he had divine right to be an Apostle.

He *deliberately continued in this error*, with his later followers—calling himself "Christian"! It is because of the later deceptive activities of this would-be Apostle that Luke was compelled to show his ignominious beginning and to reveal what Peter *prophesied* about him.

It is by identifying the *real beginning* of the great false church system with *this* Simon that opens up a whole new
(Please continue on page 17)

IS THE BIBLE A CATHOLIC BOOK?

Was the CATHOLIC CHURCH responsible for the preservation of the Bible? Did God use that church to write and compile the New Testament scriptures? Since we accept the Bible as a divine revelation of God—we must KNOW the answers to these VITAL AND BASIC questions!

by Paul Kroll

THE ROMAN Catholic boast is, "The plain truth, which every sincere person MUST FACE is the fact that you can accept the Bible only upon the word of the Catholic Church. The Bible truly is a Catholic book, and it would not be in our possession today but for the Catholic Church.

"If you can accept the Bible or any part of it as the inspired word of God, you can do so only because the CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS IT IS" (*The Bible Is a Catholic Book*, p. 4).

What about this claim, brethren? Did God entrust the task of compiling the books of the Bible to the Catholic Church? Were the New Testament Scriptures written by Catholics?

Further Catholic Claims

Roman Catholics claim that THEY WROTE the books of the New Testament:

"The books of the Old Testament were inherited by the Church from the Jews. And all of the books of the New Testament were written by Catholics" (*The Bible Is a Catholic Book*, p. 4).

Catholics further claim that THEY compiled the CANON of the Old and New Testaments:

"It was the Catholic Church and NO OTHER which selected and listed the inspired books of both the Old Testament and the New Testament!" (*The Bible Is a Catholic Book*, p. 4).

A third claim of this church is that they existed as a church HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE there ever was a Bible:

"The plain fact of the matter is:

the Catholic Church and the Catholic Faith existed before the Catholic Bible, or any other Bible" . . . we all know that the Bible was not completed for hundreds of years AFTER CHRIST LEFT the earth" (*The Bible Is a Catholic Book*, pp. 6, 19).

Besides this the Roman Catholic scholars bring forth this "proof" to explain why they have seven extra books in their Bible:

"The Jews in Palestine who spoke Hebrew did not rank these books among the inspired books of the Old Testament, either because they were not written in Hebrew, or because they came too late to be placed in the list of inspired books made by Esdras [Ezra].

"The Apostles used the Scriptures of the Greek-speaking Jews [Septuagint], and it is upon the authority of the Apostles that the Old Testament, with the seven books under consideration was held to be inspired.

"If they had been only the word of man, the Apostles surely would have eliminated them from the Old Testament. As they did not do so, but on the contrary, RETAINED THESE BOOKS in the Old Testament . . . the Catholic Church must hold them to be inspired Scripture" (*The Bible Is a Catholic Book*, p. 21).

What about these claims? Is the Catholic Church THE FINAL AUTHORITY for determining which books are to be accounted as inspired? Were the Apostles Peter, Paul and John "Catholics"?

Did the Catholic Church really exist hundreds of years before the Bible was

written? When was the Canon of Scripture formed?

Apocrypha Added

Catholics claim they decided the content of the New Testament Canon in 397 A.D.

"It is a fact of history that this decision was FIRST OFFICIALLY MADE for all time . . . in 397 A.D., and was approved by the Vicar of Christ, the Pope . . . This decision gave the first clear and undisputed list of all the twenty-seven New Testament Books, which together with the FORTY-SIX Old Testament Books, inherited from the Jews, made up the Bible for the Catholic Church from that day until this" (*The Bible Is a Catholic Book*, p. 2).

And that is what it remains—the Bible of the Catholic Church. It is not the Bible which GOD PRESERVED!

Notice, there are forty-six Old Testament books. The Catholics added seven books called the Apocrypha.

You will find these seven books entitled: "Tobit," "Judith," "Wisdom of Solomon," "Ecclesiasticus," "Baruch," "I Maccabees" and "II Maccabees."

Besides these seven books, 107 additional verses are placed at the end of the book of Esther. Inserted in the middle of the third chapter of the book of Daniel is a "Song of the Three Holy Children," and at the end of the book of Daniel is a 13th chapter called "Susanna and the Elders" and a 14th chapter called "Bel and the Dragon"!

Jesus' Stamp of Approval

Josephus, the renowned Jewish his-

torian, clearly informs us as to *which books* the Jews regarded as being inspired and forming the Old Testament Canon:

"For we [the Jews] have not an innumerable multitude of books among us, disagreeing and contradicting one another, but **ONLY TWENTY-TWO BOOKS**, which contain the records of all the past times; which are justly *believed to be divine*" (Flavius Josephus, *Against Apion*, Book I, Section VIII).

These twenty-two books or scrolls contained the *thirty-nine* separate books of the Old Testament. They had the three-fold division of: *law, prophets* and *writings*. You can verify this in any Bible handbook.

Now, did Christ recognize *these same books* as did the Jews? Or was there some discrepancy between what the Jews preserved and what Christ approved?

Here are Christ's words:

"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the **LAW OF MOSES**, and in the **PROPHETS**, and in the **PSALMS**, concerning me.

"Then opened he their understanding, that they might *understand* THE **SCRIPTURES**" (Luke 24:44, 45).

Had the Jews made a mistake in overlooking the Apocrypha—or if it came *too late* for Ezra to insert it into the Canon—why didn't Christ list it with the **OTHER THREE DIVISIONS**? The answer is: He *never regarded it as inspired*. This is another example of false reasoning by religious leaders to *substantiate their arguments!*

The Jews had the *identical number* and selection of books as the Old Testament King James Bible. The Apocrypha was *never a part* of the inspired Word of God—as Catholics claim. The Jews in authority rejected it! For further details, you can write for our article, "Do We Have the Complete Bible?"

Septuagint Version Uninspired

In short, Catholics claim that the Septuagint is the *inspired version* of the Old Testament—and that it contained the Apocrypha. On this "proof" rests most of the claim for the Catholic



Artist's sketch of Josephus. His writing reveals which books Jews accepted as Scripture.

insertion of the Apocrypha into the Bible.

The truth is that the Septuagint *did not contain* the books of the Apocrypha (for details send for the above-mentioned article, "Do We Have the Complete Bible?").

But further, the Apostles **DID NOT** use the Septuagint as their standard translation. The Apostles were "using some *earlier translation* of which we have otherwise no knowledge; for several [non-Septuagint] readings occur in the New Testament, notably in the quotations from Daniel, in the Apocalypse, and Hebrews. There must therefore have been . . . **SOME OTHER VERSION** . . . extant in the first century" (Frederick Kenyon, *The Text of the Greek Bible*, p. 32).

That standard translation was the one preserved at the *Headquarters*. But *where was* the Headquarters which God had chosen? Clearly, it was *Jerusalem!* At the time the nation Israel split off from the tribe of Judah we read in I Kings 11:13, "Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son [Solomon's son] for David my servant's sake, and for **JERUSALEM'S** sake *which I have chosen.*"

Jerome Rejected Apocrypha

Between 382-5 A.D., Jerome was given the task of producing a new revision of the Scriptures. His revision

is the Latin Vulgate—the **OFFICIAL VERSION** of the Roman Catholic Church.

But astoundingly enough, Jerome **REJECTED THE APOCRYPHA!!** Why then do Catholics *accept it*? Because, as Jerome brought out—it supported **THEIR DOCTRINAL IDEAS!**

The Latin Versions which contained the Apocrypha were shot through with flagrant mistranslations and errors. Further, Jerome admitted that the **APOCRYPHA WAS NOT INSPIRED SCRIPTURE!!**

"And so there are also *twenty-two books* of the Old Testament; that is five of Moses, eight of the prophets, nine of the Hagiographa . . . what is not found in our list **MUST BE PLACED** amongst the Apocryphal writings. Wisdom . . . and the book of Jesus, the Son of Sirach, and Judith, and Tobias, and the Shepherd **ARE NOT IN THE CANON.**

"All scripture is by them [the Jews] divided into *three parts*: the *law*, the *prophets*, and the *Hagiographa*, which have respectively five, eight, and eleven books.

"As, then, the church reads Judith, Tobit, and the books of Maccabees, but **DOES NOT ADMIT THEM AMONG THE CANONICAL SCRIPTURES**, so let it read these two volumes [Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus] for the edification of the people, **NOT TO GIVE authority to the doctrines of the church.**

"The book of Daniel, which in Hebrew **CONTAINS NEITHER** the history of Susanna, *nor* the hymn of the three youths, *nor* the **FABLES** of Bel and the Dragon" (Jerome, "Prefaces to the Books of the Vulgate," *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 6).

Jerome *rejected the Apocrypha!* He made his translation directly from the Hebrew. That is why his version was bitterly contested.

Apocrypha UNinspired

Any quick reading of these books shows how **UNINSPIRED THEY REALLY ARE.** Hcrc is an example:

"And he said unto him, touching the *heart and the liver*, if a devil or an evil spirit trouble any, we must **MAKE A SMOKE** thereof before the man or the woman, and the party shall no

more be vexed" (Apocrypha, Tobit 6:7).

Brethren, these are the darkened ideas of *pagan and superstitious men!* Christ cast out demons by the *power of God*. Christ didn't make heart and liver broth when he cast out demons! How clear it is that these books ARE TOTALLY UNINSPIRED!

Even the men who wrote these—in many cases—totally fabulous tales, *claimed NO divine inspiration*.

"And IF I HAVE DONE WELL, and as is fitting the story, it is which I desired: but if *slenderly* (didn't write so well) and *meanly*, it is that which I COULD ATTAIN TO" (Apocrypha, II Maccabees 15:38).

Here is the author of this book *apologizing* that perhaps he didn't do as well as he should have. Apologizing that he MAY NOT HAVE all the facts. These are not the writings of men who were filled with God's Holy Spirit.

Yet, the Catholic Church has given them "inspiration status."

But what about the Catholic claim that "they decided" the New Testament Canon. Can we answer their claim that *theirs was* the "first official list" of New Testament books?

Who DID Draw Up New Testament Canon?

The truth is—the Catholics were THREE HUNDRED YEARS TOO LATE in deciding *their* version of the Canon of Scripture!!

Even into the *fourth century*—those men who amalgamated into the Catholic Church, were NOT SURE which books were to be regarded as Scripture.

Here is what Eusebius, who wrote in 325 A.D. admitted:

"But besides the Gospel of John, his first epistle is acknowledged without dispute, both by those of the present day, and also the ancients. The other two epistles however *are disputed*. The *opinions* respecting the Revelation are STILL GREATLY DIVIDED . . . among the *disputed* books . . . that called the Epistle of James and Jude. Also the Second Epistle of Peter" (Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, Book 3, Chapter 25).

But the true Canon of Scripture had

already been set before 100 A.D.—in the *lifetime of the Apostles*—long before there ever was a Catholic Church.

Notice Isaiah 8:16.

"Bind up the testimony, seal the law *among my disciples!*" This Old Testament *prophecy* shows that Christ's disciples would be responsible for rounding out the Canon—making it a complete unit.

Bible Reveals How It Happened

When Paul wrote II Timothy, "his departure was at hand" (Chapter 4, Verse 6) — Paul was ready to be martyred.

Here is what he wrote:

"Only Luke is *with me*. Take Mark, and *bring him* with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry . . . The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but ESPECIALLY THE PARCHMENTS" (II Tim. 4:11, 13).

What were these parchments? Why were they so important? It seems quite obvious! These must have been THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WHICH WERE ALREADY WRITTEN!!

Notice! There was *Paul* who wrote the *fourteen epistles*. There was *Luke* who wrote his *gospel and the Acts*. There was *Mark* who also wrote one of the gospels. Of the early writers, only Matthew was not there—and his gospel had been written some years before.

Paul could now entrust these sacred books to the *other disciples* after his death. This was around the year of 67 A.D. when Paul was martyred.

But to whom did these books pass? Was the *Catholic Church* now responsible for them? Not in the least.

Peter Now Responsible

Peter was responsible for gathering up all the New Testament books written by the other disciples. He was martyred just shortly after the Apostle Paul.

"Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle [Peter was ready to die], even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

"Moreover I will endeavour that you may be able *after my decease* TO HAVE

these things always in remembrance" (II Peter 1:14, 15).

Now—how was Peter able to do this—*after* his death? He was to gather together the bulk of the New Testament Canon. He collected the writings of Paul and the other extant scriptures. Notice what Peter wrote:

"Even as our beloved brother Paul . . . in ALL his epistles, speaking in them of these things . . . which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also THE OTHER SCRIPTURES" (II Pet. 3:15, 16).

Peter was martyred shortly after the Apostle Paul. At that time several of the books we have in our Bible were *still not written*. These were I, II, III John, Jude and Revelation.

But did the books now pass to the Catholic Church? Were they now the guardian to the canon?

NOT IN THE LEAST!! Another disciple—some of whose books early Catholics *rejected*—became responsible.

John Writes Last Books

But notice this *surprising fact!* All of these books—but one—were written by the APOSTLE JOHN. He lived until around 100 A.D. He, too, was a disciple and Apostle of Christ—another *direct eyewitness* of Christ.

The Apostle John's final words in Revelation reveal a clue for us showing that HE WAS RESPONSIBLE for gathering the *final books* of the New Testament Canon.

"If any *man shall* ADD unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any *man shall* TAKE AWAY from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life" (Rev. 22:18, 19).

With the writing and addition of The Revelation to the Canon an amazing *sevenfold division* of God's Word occurred: *law prophets, psalms; GOSPELS, ACTS, EPISTLES, REVELATION*.

Seven is God's *number of completion*. When John wrote and under divine inspiration added this book of Revelation to the New Testament Canon—God's book became complete.

We have seen that the total Canon

of Scripture was *compiled before 100 A.D.* That the various books of the Bible were *written before 100 A.D.*—LONG BEFORE there ever was an apostate Catholic Church.

It is a historical fact that before 325 A.D., there were *many contending factions* in the religious world. Rome had some measure of control, but it was limited.

But Emperor Constantine would not tolerate this religious bickering. He had wars to fight—and an empire divided against itself could not stand. *He forced* these quibbling factions to GET TOGETHER and decide on some common doctrine! Constantine wrote:

"This appears to be grievous, that in those provinces which divine Providence has freely entrusted to my fidelity . . . the multitude are found inclining to deteriorate, and in a manner DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTIES, and among others, that the *bishops were at variance*" (Eusebius, *Ecl. Hist.*, bk. 10, Chapter 5).

Constantine then ordered a meeting of all the bishops of the different factions. Finally, unity emerged at this Council—at the demands of the Emperor, and Catholicism as an organized Church was first born. This was 325 A.D.

Everyone was ordered to be a Roman Catholic. Persecution began.

Constantine's Edict

"Victor Constantinus, Maximus Augustus, to the heretics:

". . . To speak of your criminality as it deserves demands more time and leisure than I can give . . .

"Forasmuch, then, as it is no longer possible to bear with your pernicious errors, we give warning by this present statute *that none of you henceforth presume to assemble yourselves together. . . .* [we] forbid the holding of your superstitious and senseless meetings, not in public merely, BUT IN ANY PRIVATE HOUSE OR PLACE WHATSOEVER . . . Take the far better course of ENTERING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. . . . We have commanded . . . that you be positively deprived of every gathering point for your superstitious meetings . . . and that these be

made over without delay to the Catholic Church; that any other places be confiscated to the public service. Let this edict be made public" (from Eusebius' *Life of Constantine*, Book 3).

Over two centuries after the New Testament Canon was completed by the original Apostles, total spiritual darkness descended on the peoples of the Western world.

The Bible was easily suppressed. It was only available in the Latin language—which *few understood*. Besides there were only a *few copies* of the Scriptures, under complete control of the religious hierarchy.

Catholics Condemn Bible

Before the age of mass-media printing, it was easy to *suppress the Bible* from the public. The Catholic Church had the Vulgate—but it was in *Latin*, and *not understood* by the populace. Neither was it readily available.

But the art of printing came to the fore in the fifteenth century. Then the real conflict began!

It is true that one of the first printed Bibles (set by Gutenberg, in 1456) was a Catholic endeavor. But what you ARE NOT TOLD—is that it was *in Latin!* Again, common folk *would not be able* to understand it.

From the papal bulls issued at the Council of Trent in April 8, 1546, we see the Catholic attitude toward Bible reading:

"The same Sacred Synod . . . declares and decrees that the *same Old Edition* of the Vulgate which has stood the test of so many centuries in the Church, is to be considered for public readings in Latin" (*The Red Judas*, Guy Fitch Phelps, p. 97).

By that very statement—the printing of any other Bible version—is contrary to the dictates of the "infallible" uttering and MUST BE DESTROYED!!

Here is another papal bull written in 1515:

"Some masters of the printing art . . . print and publish books translated from the GREEK, HEBREW, Arabic and Chaldean into Latin, and other books in Latin and THE VERNACULAR [*common language*] which contain errors against the faith and pernicious dogmas which are

contrary to the Christian [Catholic] religion.

"Such books and writings are to be submitted for careful examination to our Vicar . . . in all other cities and dioceses they are examined by the Bishop or a competent person qualified to judge of such books and writings.

"Whosoever should contravene these regulations is liable to the loss of the printed books, [and] THEIR PUBLIC BURNING" (*The Red Judas*, Phelps, p. 110).

The position of the Catholic Church is *quite obvious!* It was *the Bible* that was being translated into the common (vernacular) tongue. It was THE BIBLE which was being translated from the Greek and Hebrew. It was THE BIBLE which was in opposition to the doctrines of the Catholic Church!

BIBLE IS GOD'S BOOK

It becomes quite clear that the Bible is *not a Catholic book*. The Bible is GOD'S *book*, preserved by Him that His people might have the words of life.

We should appreciate the tremendous power—the fondling care God has had so that *His Living Word* would be available for us.

These words "are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Cor. 10:11). Let us be thankful we have an Almighty God who has been able to throw down all attempts to *destroy His Word!*

God has given us the KEYS of knowledge (Luke 11:52) which men crave to *destroy!* The time is again coming—very soon—when God "will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of HEARING THE WORDS OF THE LORD" (Amos 8:11).

There is a time coming when Catholicism will overrun the Western world. They will say, "Let us destroy them together: they have *burned up all the synagogues* [meeting places] of God in the land" (Ps. 74:8).

Brethren, it is time to *wake up*. It is time to *get on fire* for God—to overcome our weaknesses, our sins. There is just a short time left. Let us work to OVERCOME IN THE DAY!! The *night* is almost upon us.

YOU WERE BORN TO RULE!

When Jesus Christ returns to this earth, when the saints are changed into immortal beings, when the Kingdom of God is established, will YOU BE QUALIFIED TO RULE? Will you be READY and ABLE to fill a position as a king or priest under Jesus Christ?

by Leslie L. McCullough

WHEN faced with this question, DOZENS of the members of the Church of God reply with, "Why should I want to rule anyone? I don't want to tell people what to do. I don't want to be responsible for others. I don't want to *rule*. I just want to *serve* God and live my life as a Christian."

But did you realize, YOU CAN'T BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT LEARNING TO RULE AND BE RULED? The "Christ-like" or Christian way is the way of *ruling* and *rulership*.

Desire TO Rule

No deeply converted, completely dedicated, totally surrendered Christian *can look at this world around us and not want to CHANGE IT!* When you walk down the street and see the sullen, resentful, hateful looks in the eyes and on the faces of the people you meet, DON'T YOU WANT TO CHANGE THOSE LOOKS? When you see the total unhappiness and wretchedness, the vain, empty searching-for-something — the striving to find pleasure in some form or another — DON'T YOU WANT TO CHANGE THAT EMPTINESS? Don't you deeply desire and *almost ache* to fill those lives with happiness and *real purpose*?

YOU SHOULD!

If you don't want to learn to rule others and give of yourself in teaching them to live the right way, YOU ARE SELFISH! When you say, "I don't want to tell *others* what to do," YOU ARE SELF-CENTERED AND REBELLIOUS!! If

you don't earnestly desire to change this world, *all of it*, YOU AREN'T A CHRISTIAN!

Love Not the World

Jesus Christ inspired the Apostle John to write: "Love not the world [*cosmos*, or this world's system of things], neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For ALL that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, *is not of the Father*, but is of the world" (I John 2:15-16).

Who is the god of THIS WORLD? God the Father *isn't*. Jesus Christ *isn't*. Satan the Devil *is!* It was Satan who took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him *all* the kingdoms of the earth and who said, ". . . All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it" (Luke 4:5-6). Satan is the one who is referred to as "the god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4). He is the one who has deceived THE WHOLE WORLD and led it in its rebellion against God. He is the one who originally DIDN'T WANT TO BE RULED.

If you don't want to see this miserable, debauched, sin-filled world change — if you don't want to be a part in changing its politics, its medical practices, its business practices, its child rearing principles and *all the rest of its systems* THEN YOU WON'T BE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

When you say, "I don't want to

rule," you are *actually* saying, "I don't want to BE RULED." You are in reality condoning the practices and beliefs of the world. You are putting your stamp of approval on the practices and teachings of Satan, and are thereby becoming the opponent of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "He that is *not with me* is against me" (Matt. 12:30). If you are *against* Him, you won't be with Him in His Kingdom. YOUR WHOLE LIFE WILL HAVE BEEN WASTED!

Christ Won't Do It All

Many of you brethren have expressed the thought that there is no real need for you to push yourself in learning how to deal with other people. You have used the excuse that you have only an average education. You have only been given a small amount of natural talent. There is no real, concrete reason to *work hard* to develop the few talents you have. Christ is coming in a very few years and *everything* we need will be *added* then—BUT WILL IT?

Is Jesus Christ going to take people who have been lethargic, careless and indifferent in overcoming their own weaknesses and governing their own emotions and minds and give them positions of great rulership? Is He going to take people who haven't been able to see the sins and the horrible mess man has made of this world, who haven't really tried to properly rule themselves and place in their hands the lives of thousands of people during the Millennium? OBVIOUSLY NOT!

He isn't going to *automatically* make

up for all your lack of effort and just hand you the ability to rule. You have to QUALIFY IN THIS LIFE for your position of rulership. You have to overcome in this life and produce *fruits* to show that you are earnestly working to prepare yourself to fill the position Christ has for you in the Kingdom.

Many are still unthinkingly clinging to some of the old pagan ideas and teachings. Many of you are laboring under the assumption that when Jesus returns He is going to do *all the ruling* Himself. You aren't sure what you are going to do, if anything, but only that you are going to be "in the Kingdom" with Him. You haven't allowed yourself to fully realize the absolutely awesome responsibilities of being a part of the Kingdom of God. You haven't faced up to the URGENT NEED in your own personal life to learn the principles of ruling.

If you are "in the Kingdom" with Him, you will be ruling and governing the lives of others. If you don't want to be ruled and to take a part in ruling others, YOU WON'T BE THERE!

Our Part

Jesus Christ isn't going to do all the ruling by Himself. There are going to be *millions*—and eventually *BILLIONS*—of others to help carry the vast, breath-taking job which needs to be done during the Millennium and on through eternity.

In John 14: 2-3, Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions [margin renders abodes or positions]: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place [or position of responsibility] for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Where will Jesus Christ be when He returns? He says that in the end-time He will gather all the nations together to do battle in the place called Armageddon (Rev. 16:16). This same battle is also mentioned in Joel 3:12-16 as taking place in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. This valley is located just outside Jerusalem. The *very day* Christ returns, He is going to stand on the

Mount of Olives just outside Jerusalem, Palestine (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:9-12). On that very day, the Kingdom of God will be established on the earth with its world-ruling Headquarters right in Jerusalem.

Jesus said that where He was we would be also. So we, you and I, if we make it, will be right there with Him. But does that mean we will be ruling with Him?

YES! DEFINITELY!

Read Revelation 20:4-6. "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them . . . and they lived and REIGNED with Christ a thousand years."

What do *thrones* and *judgment* stand for except positions of rulership? Even in this age when the few remaining monarchs of the nations of Europe are nothing but figureheads, the term "throne" carries the implication of ruling. Jesus said we are to REIGN with Him *one thousand years*. We, all of us who are converted Christians, are to be kings and priests, or rulers, in the Kingdom of God (Rev. 5:10).

THAT IS THE VERY PURPOSE FOR WHICH WE WERE CREATED—TO RULE THE WORLD!

We Must Qualify Now

Now is *the* day of salvation for all who are members of God's Church. *We don't get another chance*. We have to qualify NOW for one of these positions which Christ is preparing for us or *we won't be there*.

Some *few* of the top positions are already filled. But the vast majority, the overwhelming bulk of the positions of responsibility and rulership in the Kingdom, are WIDE OPEN!

It's up to you.

Abraham has *already* qualified to fill one of the very top jobs immediately under Jesus Christ. He qualified during his life by his absolute obedience and unquestioning faith in the promises of God. Because of this obedience and faith, he is called the father of the faithful (Rom. 4:16; Gal. 3:29).

Christ didn't wait until His return to have Abraham become strong in faith and deeds. If He had, you and I would not be here. Abraham had to exercise

that faith and equip himself for the position which he now holds and which will be given to him when he is resurrected at Christ's return.

David Also

David is another who has already been granted his position in the Kingdom of God. During his forty years as king over Israel, he learned to administer the law of God to the whole nation. That breath-taking duty will once more be his under Jesus Christ.

In speaking of the end-times when Israel is to be delivered once more from bondage, Jeremiah says, "But they [Israel] shall serve the Lord their God, and David THEIR KING, whom I will raise up unto them" (Jer. 30:9).

When will David be raised up but in the resurrection at the second coming of Christ? David was already dead by the time Jeremiah wrote his prophecies of the end-time. Yet this responsibility is recorded as being his. Christ didn't wait until the resurrection for David to prepare himself for his job. He isn't going to automatically be given the ability to rule. HE HAD TO LEARN HOW DURING HIS LIFETIME!

The Apostles Too

No one will be granted rulership in the government of God without first learning how to rule in this lifetime. The original twelve Apostles had to prove by their willingness to obey Jesus Christ and by their administration of His teachings that they were capable of handling the job He had for them.

Theirs will be the staggering job of ruling over and judging the individual tribes of Israel as shown by Christ Himself: "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration [at the resurrection] when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve *thrones*, *judging* the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matt. 19:28).

These jobs *are taken*. They have already been spoken for and filled. We can't take any one of these jobs away from the one to whom it has ALREADY been given. These positions weren't arbitrarily given. They weren't

awarded automatically. They had to be worked for. They were gotten through the dedication and diligent application of God's law by each person during his years on this earth.

How Does This Apply to You?

But, you may say, "How does this apply to me? I can see what the Bible says about *these* men, but how do I apply what *they* did to *my own life*?"

In other words, HOW do we qualify to rule in the Kingdom of God? We are the weak, base, poor and ignoble of the world. How can such as that prepare themselves for great responsibilities? None of us in God's Church has a nation or even a small town to practice on. HOW CAN WE LEARN TO RULE?

Notice one extremely important thing each one of these men had in common. It is the *key* which opened the door to unbelievable responsibility for each of them.

"Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws" (Gen. 26:5). God says one of the *prime reasons* the promises were given to Abraham was that he **KNEW** God's law. He *obeyed* and *kept* ALL THE COMMANDMENTS which were given to rule man.

David, the one called a man after God's own heart, is quoted as saying, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he *meditate* DAY AND NIGHT" (Ps. 1:1-2).

David *knew* and *practiced* the law of God throughout his life!

The Apostles Too

The twelve Apostles spent three and one-half years being taught personally by Jesus Christ how to live the Ten Commandments. They were commissioned to preach the Gospel and all the things they had been taught by Him to all parts of the world. They served their apprenticeship under the Master Himself. They **KNEW** and **KEPT** all God's commandments throughout their lifetimes.

Every one of these men practiced the law of God **DAILY**. None of them had a nation, state, county or even small town to practice on when they first began. They qualified to begin with by *ruling themselves*. Their monumental jobs, their gigantic responsibilities, their fantastic positions all began as a result of their *governing* and **RULING** their own lives first.

That is where we need to start. Each one of us, if we are to ever have responsibilities under Christ, has to first begin at home. *You* need to rule your own emotions, fears, lusts and desires and bring them into subjection to the law of God. That is your daily, hour-by-hour, minute-by-minute **JOB!** That is how you qualify to be a part of the government of God.

You Have To Know the Law

In order to serve in any governmental position, even in the nations of this world, you must first learn the laws of that nation and come to know and understand those laws. Many of the politicians of our day began their careers in the law schools of the universities of this country. They spent *years* studying **THE LAW** of the United States of America. They had to study and delve into case histories in order to understand how that law was applied in specific instances so they in turn might pass judgment on future cases.

They had to go up through the ranks from a small-town attorney to a councilman, till finally they arrived in the Congress of the United States where they helped to make the laws which govern this nation. No new lawyer starts out in Congress. He has to qualify and know the laws before he can make new ones.

In order to qualify to rule a carnal nation, these men must *diligently* and *zealously* study the laws of that nation. How much more then should we who are to become spiritual rulers apply ourselves to the study of God's law and come to **KNOW** and **UNDERSTAND** that law.

Do you see? Can you begin to understand now the vital importance of studying your Bible daily and listening attentively to every sermon on the Sab-

bath day? **YOU MUST LEARN GOD'S LAW NOW SO THAT YOU MAY APPLY IT IN THE MILLENNIUM!**

In order to qualify as a ruler in the Kingdom of God, two important rules must be applied.

Number one, we must *learn* to be obedient to every one of the laws of God and to be completely conversant with them as well as to respect and obey those whom He has put over us to help guide and direct us in understanding that law.

Number two, we must learn to rule. You learn to rule by doing. It isn't the one who just hears the Bible expounded who will be qualified as a ruler, but the one who has put into practice those principles and learned to govern himself by them.

But How?

Immediately someone will say, "But how can I rule in this life? I am only an average lay-member of God's Church. I don't have the opportunities, or responsibilities, of the ministers to qualify me. I only have a *little* ability and natural talent."

Jesus Christ, our Creator and the One who understands our way of reasoning, has already answered that. In the parable of the nobleman, Luke 19: 12-27, we find where he gave his ten servants a pound apiece and told them to, "Occupy till I come." When he returned, the first servant came to him and returned ten pounds for the one which he had originally been given. Jesus said to him, ". . . Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful *in a very little*, have thou authority over ten cities."

This man only had **A VERY LITTLE** with which to work. But because he was faithful in a *little*, he was given **MUCH RESPONSIBILITY**.

The same basic principles are applied in Matthew 25:21 where Christ said, ". . . Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful *over a few things*, I will make thee **RULER OVER MANY THINGS**: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Here again, a man had been *faithful* in **ONLY A FEW THINGS** and as a result was to be

(Please continue on page 21)

What Our Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Catholic Believes Again

"My wife is a Jehovah's Witness and I am a Catholic. We have been having a discussion that we would like for you to settle. My wife thinks you are now or were at one time a Jehovah's Witness. I honestly don't have any idea about what your religion is. I had lost belief in God and the Bible until I started listening to you. My wife tells me you are always right and can prove what you say. You have done a good job of making me believe again."

Mr. Robert J. D., Missouri

• *No, we are not now, and never have been members of, affiliated with, or remotely connected with the "Jehovah's Witnesses." It's not OUR religion, but GOD'S—and if you carefully PROVE everything FROM YOUR BIBLE, you'll come to see the same thing.*

Doctor Confounded

"A few weeks ago I was seated in an easy chair when a very strange feeling came upon me and I knew that something dreadful was wrong. I began to black out and a feeling of absolute terror overcame me. I cried out to God for help and after a while I was able to move about but I could not find Mr. Battle's phone number. I drove to a doctor's office a few blocks away and he told me I had dreadfully high blood pressure. Then I did call Mr. Battles and he came to my room and anointed me. The next Friday it was normal. The doctor had given me a prescription and he was so pleased that he told me I could reduce the medication by half. He thought I was doing exceptionally well. You can guess his consternation when I informed him that I had not taken any medication."

James O. R., Texas

Student Gives Half

"I only get two pounds pocket money per month until I leave grammar school in July. Anyway, thanks for Lesson 7 of the Bible Course, and here's half of my money for this month. I think God can use it better than I can, and

when I start work, then I'll tithe the tenth, but until then you can have half."

Middlesex, England

Proves God

"I am 14 years old and I would like to prove God by sending my tithes to the furthering of His Work. So please accept this small offering."

Frank V., Ohio

Three Tithes Not Missed

"I pay three tithes now and I don't miss it. Before, I put 25 cents into the collection box and did that ever hurt."

Mrs. Lester M., Colorado

Starts Tithing—Gets Raise

"Last month my husband and I sent in our first tithe. Last week my husband got a \$40 a month raise which is a few dollars more than what we sent. Needless to say, next week our tithe for this month will be more."

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton R., Arizona

Unexpected Results

"For two months I have paid God's tithe even though it just did not seem possible to do so. However, we have been able to make out better without the ten per cent I sent you. Today I received \$50 that I did not expect. Enclosed is a check for \$5 which is God's share."

Kenneth W. C., Ohio

Recovery Astonished Friends

"God has healed me through your hands. Though not totally healed, I was able to start duties two days after receiving your parcel and I have regained the use of the parts of my limbs which before then were almost paralyzed the past few months. My friends were astonished about my prompt recovery but so far I kept it a secret from them until I consulted you, whether it is good to tell them what actually happened."

Man from Tamale, Ghana, Africa

God—Not Home Remedies

"My face was badly swollen, itching and burning when I wrote you. Relief

came while writing the letter. I was completely healed and all signs of the infection were gone before your anointed handkerchief arrived. I tried home remedies such as alcohol and soda water and they gave momentary relief then made it worse, so I know it was God that healed."

Arnon M., Iowa

Best Envoy Yet

"We received our 1963 Envoy and it is the best yet. The pictures of Ambassador College in Pasadena and England are beautiful. It is easy to spend many hours looking through our copy. The many hours it must have taken to prepare a book of this type are appreciated very much. It draws us much closer to the Work."

Mr. and Mrs. Ray L. G., North Carolina

"Last night we were working away and one of the group had a transistor radio and was tuning it in and your voice came over the air—he almost went past the station when someone said, 'I like the way he is preaching, let's listen to him'—so the radio was turned up louder and we listened to you preach. Everyone agreed it was wonderful. My boss asked me to write you for the little booklets you spoke about. I certainly would appreciate it and we can then all read them. You certainly made a hit with him and I am sorry to say—even though he is a fine, generous man—he doesn't go to church and last night he said that if he could hear you preach all the time he would attend church—so you really did something for him. How often are you on the air and what station?—I didn't even get the station we heard you on—but at the very last I did get where to write you. If these books cost anything, which I know they do, but do not know how much—please let him know and he will send you a check. Thanks."

Can't Keep Sabbath?

"I got the Plain Truth from you and I have learned some wonderful things out of it. I had gotten a few books from you before and I let a preacher borrow some of them and he has still got them. He believed what you said about the

Sabbath day, but he said he couldn't keep the seventh day because he had to suit the people of his denomination."

Man from North Carolina

• *To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not—to him it is sin.*

Tithing Brings Blessings

"My husband doesn't approve of my tithing from my household allowance, but hasn't forbidden me to do so, as long as I don't let him know about it.' Yet since I have begun some weeks ago, he has had several offers for jobs and a possible business opportunity. Until now, his career has been back-sliding. Please pray for us."

Lady from Florida

• *Even one obedient mate means blessings for the home.*

Living Proof

"A year ago this month I wrote to you requesting prayer—I had a very serious heart attack and three milder ones. Frankly, I was disgusted with taking so much medicine, but the doctors said I had to take it to live. I told my husband that the Lord made my heart and He knew exactly what was wrong and how to fix it. I have never been back to the hospital even for a checkup. I am living proof that, as we read in James 5:16, 'The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.' This is why it all means so much to us. We thank you."

Mrs. Edwin J., Florida

Likes "Readers Say" Section

"We're so glad to hear you are still improving The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I think it is a wonderful magazine the way it is now. I guess every improvement makes it that much nicer. I can hardly wait till I get your magazine each month. Sometimes it doesn't get here till the middle of the month, I think it is read at the post office quite a bit before it is sent on its way. I hope they get some good from reading it. I like to read something I can understand. I am amused sometimes by the article, "What Our Readers Say." You put in the bad, as well as the good, that shows you are not afraid to speak the truth."

Woman from West Virginia

Surprise!

"I just had to write and tell you what happened after I sent a dollar to you for God's Work. I received twenty dollars that same evening. I certainly didn't expect God to reward me so quick. We were also having financial trouble which we got settled that same day."

Mrs. K., Robertsburg,
West Virginia

• *Read Ephesians 3:20.*

Correspondence Course Invaluable

"I really enjoy my Bible lessons. Starting again the last lesson, which is No. 31, is the most astounding and surprising one yet. I have already finished it. I reckon I need two each month instead of just the one lesson. They are very interesting to read and study."

Mr. and Mrs. H., Jack, Alabama

• *If you are not already signed up for this course—be sure to do so IMMEDIATELY!*

Blessings for Tithing

"God blesses us in strange ways. About two years ago when I learned about one of God's laws, tithing, I was over \$3,000 in debt. I figured up my bills. I couldn't afford to pay tithes

and my bills too. My pay check wasn't that big. Well, I decided God's laws must be obeyed whether my bills got payed or not. Well, I have payed God's tithes and my bills too. I am only \$300 in debt now. We have eaten better food and have better clothes. Now, I have tried to figure out with pencil and paper how I did it but was unable to. God has stretched my pay check farther than I can figure with a pencil. God sure is true to His Word."

Mr. J., St. Louis, Missouri

• *God has a THOUSAND ways where we have none.*

Zealous Disciple

"I have been attending (with a family in the church) Bible study classes in Washington, D. C. and Sabbath services at Richmond, Virginia, every other Sabbath. Washington is 70 miles from my home and Richmond is 175 miles away but it is worth every mile to hear the Truth preached. I never thought I would travel this far to hear a minister, but it makes a difference when he is a minister of God."

Mr. G., Martinsburg,
West Virginia

• *This proves how desperately "laborers" are needed for the "harvest" God is supplying.*

MORE ABOUT SIMON MAGUS

(Continued from page 8)

vista of understanding in regard to the counterfeit Christianity which began even in the infancy of the Church.

What Did Simon and the Samaritans Believe?

One of the most scholarly of early church historians was Harnack who wrote an extensive seven-volume work titled *The History of Dogma*. This man is recognized as one of the top authorities in the world on this subject.

He states: "Long before the appearance of Christianity, combinations of religion had taken place in Syria and Palestine, ESPECIALLY IN SAMARIA, in so far as the ASSYRIAN and BABYLONIAN religious philosophy . . . with its manifold interpretations, had penetrated as far as the eastern

shore of the Mediterranean" (Vol. 1, pp. 243, 244).

Notice he says the Babylonian religion had come ESPECIALLY TO SAMARIA!!

And why not. The Samaritans were largely Babylonian *by race*. The Bible tells us in II Kings 17:24 that most of the Samaritans had been taken to Samaria from Babylon and adjacent areas. Later on, Ezra informs us that others who were mainly of Babylonian stock came to Samaria (Ezra 4:9-10). These people amalgamated their *Babylonian* religious beliefs with *some* of the teachings from the Old Testament. But they NEVER DEPARTED basically from their own Babylonian-Chaldean religious teachings.

If anyone doubts that these Samari-

tans practiced *outright paganism* under the guise of YHVH worship, let him read the extraordinarily clear indictments recorded in the inspired Word of God (II Kings 17:24-41).

A Brief History of the Samaritans

There were originally *five* Babylonian tribes who had been transported to the area where Northern Israel once lived before Israel's inglorious defeat and captivity by the Assyrians. When these five tribes *moved INTO the vacant land of Samaria*, they brought their Babylonian and Assyrian gods with them.

After a short while in their new country, they were ravaged by lions. They interpreted this punishment as coming upon them because they failed to honor the god of the new land—not realizing that there is only *One* Great GOD, who is not confined to *any one* land. These Samaritans didn't have sense enough to realize that the True God of the land had sent Israel into captivity because of their calf-worship and their introduction of Phoenician religion.

They asked the Assyrian king to send back one of the priests of Israel to teach them the former religion in order that the plague of lions would be stayed.

The Israelitish priest who was sent to them taught the religion of *Northern* Israel. Remember that the priests of *Northern* Israel were NOT Levites. At the time of Jeroboam, the true priests of God were forced to flee to Jerusalem and Judea (II Chron. 11:14). Jeroboam set up *his own* form of religion with the calves at Dan and Bethel (I Kings 12:28-30). He moved the Holy Days from the seventh to the eighth month. He made priests of the lowest of the people, those who were NOT of Levi (I Kings 12:31).

All of these acts of Jeroboam were *outright violations* of God's law. It was from the time of Jeroboam down to the time of Israel's captivity that the majority of Israel were NOT *worshipping the True God at all!* Jerusalem and God's temple had been repudiated and paganism had been introduced on a grand scale. When these transplanted Babylonians who were being afflicted by lions in Samaria asked for a priest

of the former people—THEY GOT ONE! But that priest was one of the former calf-worshipping priests of the rebel Israelites. *He was almost as pagan as the Babylonians themselves!*

This priest of Israel taught the Babylonians (*now called Samaritans*) to adopt the former worship of the *Northern* Israelites. The priest taught them to revere YHVH as the "God of the Land." Thus, these Samaritans finally took upon themselves the NAME: The People of YHVH; but their religion was *outright paganism*—a mixture of Israelitish calf-worship and Babylonianism—just as Simon Magus later was eager to appropriate Christ's NAME, but continue his pagan abominations!

Notice what God says about the final condition of these Samaritans.

"So these nations feared the Lord [calling themselves God's people], AND served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: *as did* their fathers [the Babylonians], so do they unto this day" (II Kings 17:41).

These people *called* themselves the worshippers of the True God, but were actually Babylonian idolaters.

What Deities Did the Samaritans Worship?

It will pay us to notice the gods and goddesses that these forefathers of Simon Magus brought with them to Samaria. The people from the City of Babylon adored SUCCOTH-BENOTH; the Cuthites: NERGAL; the Hamathites: ASHIMA; the Avites: NIBHAZ and TARTAK; the Sepharvites: ADRAM-MELECH and ANAM-MELECH.

The first deity is SUCCOTH-BENOTH, a goddess. It was Semiramis in the form of Venus. Listen to Jones in his *Proper Names of the O. T.*, p. 348. He says the name signifies "Tabernacles of daughters." It means:

"Chapels made of green boughs, which the men of Babylon, who had been transported *into Samaria*, erected in honor to *Venus*, and where their daughters were PROSTITUTED by the devotees of that abominable goddess. It was the custom of Babylon, the mother of harlots, and therefore HER SONS DID THE SAME THING IN SAMARIA."

What about the god NERGAL of Cuth? We are informed by McClintock and Strong's Encyclopedia that the name signifies "the great man," "the great hero" or "the god of the chase," i.e. *the Hunter*. In other words, as the Encyclopedia further points out, he was a form of NIMROD. This Hunter-god was honored by the people of CUTH for Arabian tradition tells us that CUTH was the special city of NIMROD (vol. VI, p. 950).

The next god was that of Hamath: ASHIMA. Jones shows us that he was the great pagan god of propitiation i.e. the god who *bore the guilt* of his worshippers (p. 42). This god was the pagan REDEEMER—the OSIRIS of Egyptian fame or the *dying* NIMROD.

The Avites worshipped NIBHAZ (masc.—the god of HADES) and TARTAK ("*the mother of the gods*"). This last mentioned goddess was supposedly the mother of the Assyrian race, or, as Jones says, she was SEMIRAMIS (see p. 354).

The fifth Babylonian tribe worshiped pre-eminently two gods: ADRAM-MELECH and ANAM-MELECH. The first was the "god of fire," the Sun or the Phoenician Baal (Jones, p. 14); the second was "the god of the flocks" or the Greek HERMES, the Good Shepherd (p. 32).

(It is self-evident that these gods and goddesses were the major Babylonian deities, and at the same time, *the very gods and goddesses which the Roman Catholic Church deifies today as Christ, Mary, etc.*).

Simon Magus grew up in this mixed-up society. The Samaritans *called* themselves the people of the True God but religiously were *practicing* Babylonians. Simon himself was a priest of these people (the word "Magus" is the Chaldean/Persian word for "priest"). Thus, in the encounter of Peter with Simon Magus, we find the first real connection of true Christianity with the Chaldean priest who was prophesied to bring in its false counterpart.

Next month we will see how Simon Magus managed to startle the Roman world with his plan to bring in one universal religion under the guise of Christianity.

(To be continued)

MAYBE YOU CAN HELP!

Hundreds of heart-rending appeals for help from less fortunate brethren are channeled to our own Used Clothing Department for handling. These are from brethren who can turn to no other source of help. Maybe YOU can be of help—read this article and find out how!

by Selmer L. Hegvold

GOD SPEAKS bluntly about those called to His way of life. He states He has called the *weak* of this present evil world—you and me! (I Cor. 1:27).

Christ said, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: *naked, and you clothed me*: I was sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came unto me" (Matt. 25:34-36). Verse 40 explains that those who help the distressed ones are in effect, bringing to pass these very words. Can *you* help?

Where You Come In

Many of the more prosperous among us have given abundantly to alleviate this distress. Others have devoted countless hours in managing, preparing and dispatching such items. Christ spoke warmly of such individuals.

More Clothing Departments

Headquarters in Pasadena, California, now finds that it is being relieved by other clothing departments in the fast-growing church areas around the world. Many of you brethren can now contact your own pastors in your *own* areas and receive speedier help than has been formerly possible.

This speeds the process of answering your needs, and also relieves the financial burden upon God's Work in long-distance shipping costs for large, bulky packages.

Those of you who have extra, much-needed items of useful clothing should immediately contact the deacons or

elders in your own church area for instructions. If your own church has not as yet established such a depot, it will probably do so as soon as the need becomes apparent.

Many others of you who have *time* and *energy* available should volunteer your talents in repairing, pressing, cleaning and sorting according to sizes the many and varied items that will begin to come in to your local department. Here is just another way you can serve in a more complete and satisfying way. The need is *urgent*, particularly among the scattered brethren and is growing more so!

Note God's promise to you! "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For *with the same measure that you mete it shall be measured to you again*" (Luke 6:38). Each of you needs that "good measure." God has opened this, *another* way, for you to serve.

The Millennium is not yet here! It is God's desire that all prosper. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest *prosper* and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (III John 2).

God commands the Christian: "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Eternal thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thy heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanted" (Deut. 15:7, 8). God knew that "the poor shall never cease out of the land." So, He commands, "Thou shalt open thine hand

wide unto thy brother, to the poor, and to the needy, in thy land" (Verse 11). Jesus emphasized this again in Matt. 26:11. God prophesied we would always have the poor with us in all generations!

The Appeals for Help Pour In

One correspondent who, with her family, is having to make a fresh start from the ashes of a once-cherished home and effects, writes, "We had a fire about a month ago and lost everything we had. Since we are new in this part of the country people haven't helped us. By that I mean the charitable organizations, and we are in need of clothing.

"My husband doesn't make very much money and I am expecting a child in April and we have other financial obligations and it's hard to try to do all that and buy clothing for four people.

"I will certainly appreciate any and all consideration given."

Others are terribly *embarrassed* by the plight they find themselves in. They delay writing for help until the situation becomes truly desperate. Some have lovely families with several children but have been unable to keep abreast of rising costs of living. As a result, little children are forced to go inadequately clothed in order that all the family may have sufficient to eat. The bulk of the requests for clothing comes from storm- and flood-ravaged areas—or states where the shift in economy has forced unemployment.

It has been a hard struggle for many just to get through last year's winter with all of its serious freaks of nature. Now the terrific rains, tornadoes and

violent wind storms and droughts of this past summer have brought additional havoc. What tragic distress lies ahead for those already suffering serious shortages?

One writes: "I read your article in *The GOOD NEWS* ["Many Thanks," May, 1963] that you had used clothing. Well, since this is the first time I have ever had to do a thing like this, it is very embarrassing. But, oh, it is so gratifying to know that God understands.

"Well, Mr. B. has not been able to work since [last fall] and it has been very difficult for us. We have a little boy starting to school this fall, and if the situation doesn't improve, I just won't have hardly anything to start him in. So I am sending a size list and if you could help us a little bit we would surely be so grateful and appreciate it more than I can possibly tell you."

Another writes: "The article about the used clothing was an answer to prayer because some of my boys need clothes very much so I am sending you my family sizes."

There has been up to 200 pounds of boxed clothing shipped out of the Headquarters department here every week! Many were *incomplete* because of a shortage of *desperately* needed items, mainly in small children's clothes, in underclothes and socks, and in extra-large adult-size clothing. The cry now will be for overshoes, rubbers, raincoats, mittens and overcoats. *Are YOU closeting or storing some of these items USELESSLY??*

Another Thought

"I have got four children. I take them to church but their clothing is all old and I thought I would write you about some. Anything would be appreciated. My husband is in the hospital now, and has been out of work all [last] winter besides being sick too. I have got two children in school. Neither one of them has a coat to wear and they are [constantly] sick from it with colds. If you have *anything* we can use we would be thankful for it." This from another lady in need.

Another writes: "I go to church and

am in need of some clothes. I need them to wear to church and to find a job. As of yet, I have been unable to do so. My parents are not in the Church, but would be glad to help me if they could. But they can't. They aren't able to. I would sincerely appreciate any clothing or shoes you could send me."

The Sabbath is holy time brethren. Each should appear before God in his very best. Some cannot do so, and still others have not even been able to attend because of lack of decent clothing!

This should stir you into searching your trunks, your closets and your attics for forgotten, but *useful*, articles.

Your Joy Can Be Full

Grateful acknowledgments for contributions have been pouring in. A few quotes should make your heart swell with joy.

"I got my clothes you sent and I could never begin to thank you enough. I never thought there would be that many and so pretty. They all just fit. Our unconverted friend even said you surely must be God's true servant to send two big boxes of clothes and to pay the postage. [This is one way we can let our light shine.] That is why I am sending a little extra to help pay the postage."

Another writes: "My children were all so excited when we received the package from Pasadena. We found use for everything—those which didn't quite fit were passed on to brethren who were very thankful for them.

"What was and is the greatest of all in the packages was the New Testament. I gave it to my five-year-old because he didn't receive any clothing. He said, 'I am so glad I didn't get any clothes because I got the *best thing in the world instead.*'" (Occasionally New Testaments and small complete Bibles are sent along with used clothing shipments.)

The blessing was really appreciated in this large family: "I wish to thank the Radio Church of God for the four wonderful boxes of good clothing they have sent to my family over these last few weeks. Everything was so neat and clean and packed so securely—it was

such a pleasure to receive them. We are in the Church and have *eleven children*, so the clothing was very much appreciated. I thank everyone very much for them, all who had a part in getting these four big, lovely boxes to us down here . . . all the way from Headquarters in wonderful Pasadena, California."

And others: "I am writing to give you thanks for the clothing you sent me. They all were needed, and we could use them all. Thanks so very much."

"I would like to express sincere thanks for the used clothing received from you last week. Everything sent was a perfect size and I know the children will get full wear out of the clothes. I know this is another one of God's great blessings in supplying our needs and I am certainly very thankful for the clothing."

"Here is my tithe and offering. Oh, how we thank you for the used clothing."

"Please thank whoever was responsible for packing the box of clothing. A very good fit in all things. I especially appreciated the little New Testament Bible."

"Dear Sir: I wish to let you know that I received the used clothing that you sent me and am very thankful for them. I just pray that God will bless His work in every detail and each individual who contributes in any way. Pray that God will enable me to do my part and not fall short in what is required of me. Thank you again."

A Final Thought

Not only can you contribute in goods, and in labor (where close to church areas needing your services), but also in a very vital and effective way.

Some cry, "Pray that God will enable me to do my part and not fall short in what is required of me!" Can you find room in your prayers for such? I know you can!

Whether you are strong, or whether you are weak, prosperous, or poor, *remember!* God has called you to serve with Him in the greatest Work this earth has ever seen! Your used clothing can be the richest blessing another might receive—and that blessing will return to you an hundredfold!

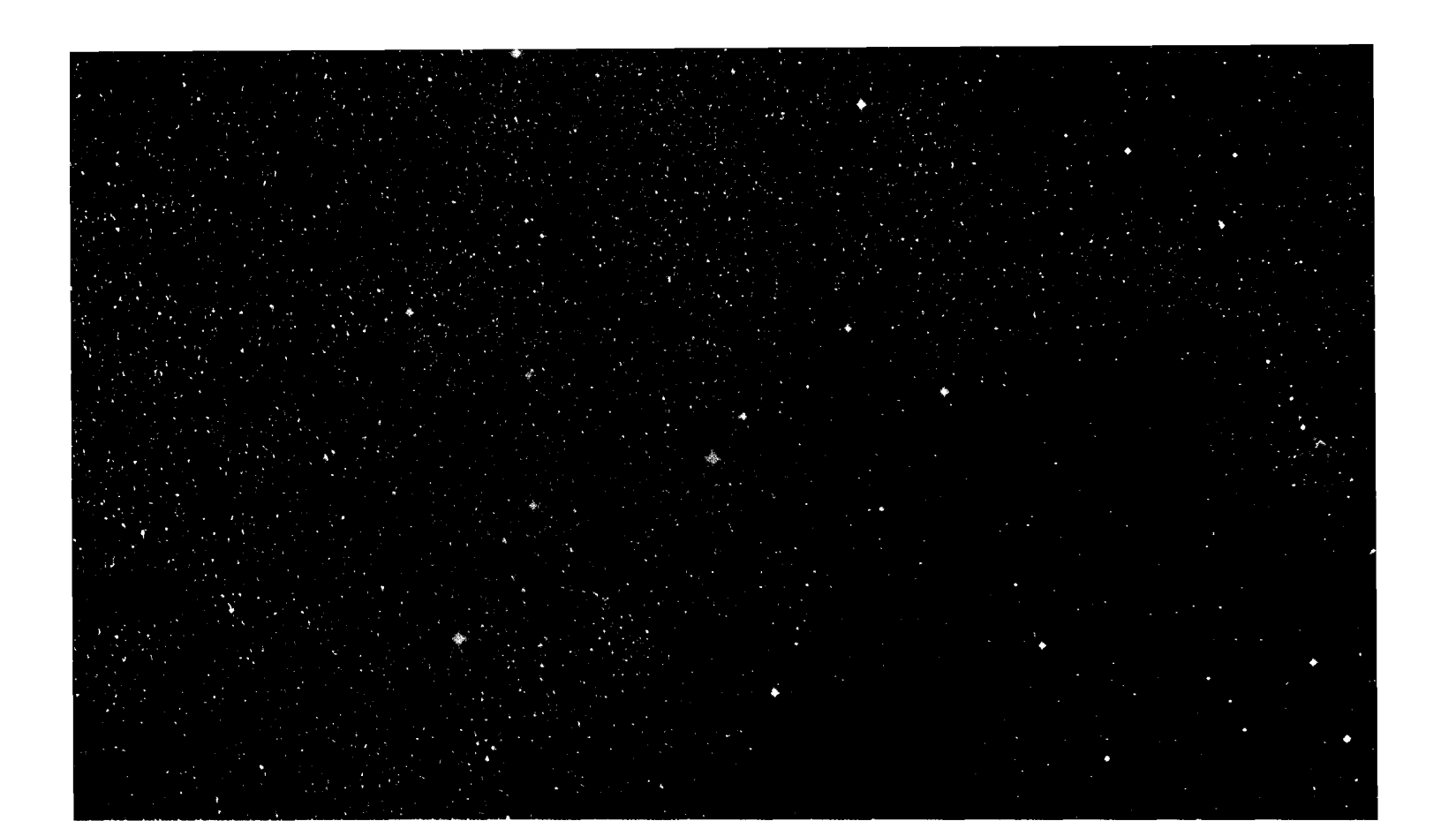


Photo © 1959 California Institute of Technology

The Limitless Universe--Yours To Rule

You Were Born To Rule

(Continued from page 15)

given GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES AND RULERSHIP.

You can't use the excuse that you have only a *small* amount of natural ability or talent. Everyone has to answer for what he has been given whether it is a *small amount* or a large amount. You have to be faithful and work with what you have been given. Then when Jesus Christ returns, if you have been faithful, He will add to and *greatly reward* you for your FAITHFULNESS IN LITTLE THINGS! We needn't worry about how much someone else has been given or waste time comparing ourselves to others. Each one of us has to answer *individually* for himself.

We have to qualify to rule in the Kingdom of God by qualifying and ruling *in the position in which we find ourselves* right now!

Husbands

The husband is going to equip him-

self for rulership by studying God's law and learning to apply it to his wife, family and home. He must *first of all* SUBMIT HIMSELF to Jesus Christ as his Lord and Master. How many of you men reading this article unquestionably fulfill this first requirement?

Many of the men in God's Church seem to feel they are TOO BUSY to take the time to study and pray as they ought. They leave such "brain work" to their wives. They want to be the leader in the home, and yet they have *disqualified* themselves in the most important prerequisite of all.

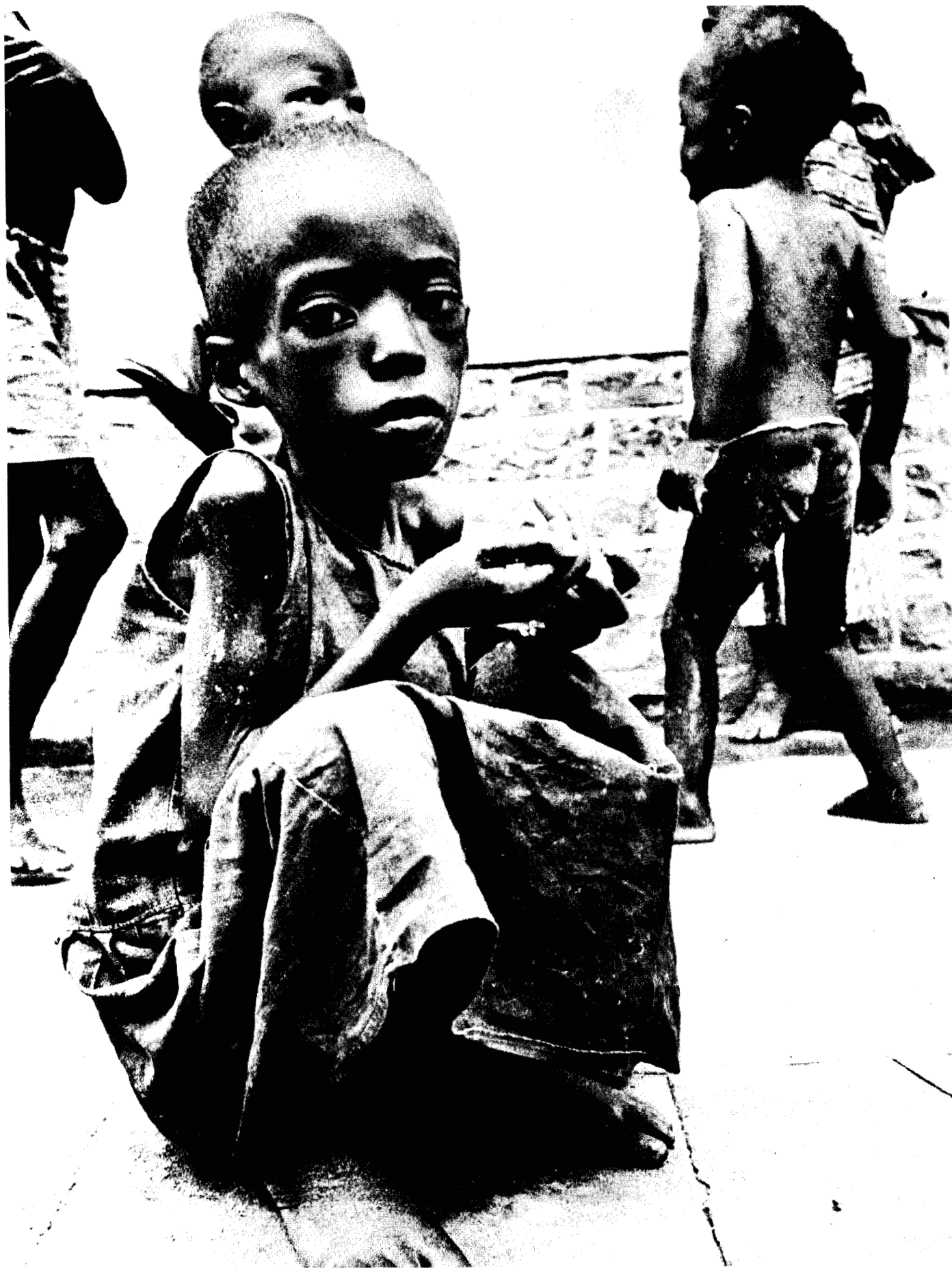
You men who can find plenty of time to work on your cars, to work in your shop or to hold down a part-time job and still can't find time for prayer and study SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES! You will NEVER be a king or priest in God's Kingdom until you REPENT of that attitude!

As a husband learns to properly schedule and control his own spiritual life, he needs to teach his wife—with love, compassion and understanding—how to discipline her spiritual life. Then, he will be able to teach her how

to submit herself to Jesus Christ and to those, including her husband, who have been put in responsibility over her.

He needs to teach his children *obedience* to the law of God and respect for their parents and elders. If you are unable to control *one small child*, HOW COULD YOU EVER RULE AND CONTROL A NATION OF ADULT MEN AND WOMEN. You need to make sure that Deuteronomy 6: 6-9 is the standard by which you live. You must actually *learn* and *experience* the same things Jesus Christ did when He was here on this earth.

We are told concerning Jesus Christ, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto *all them that obey him*" (Heb. 5:8-9). Jesus Christ Himself learned to rule by *being obedient to the law of God*. He told His disciples that He had set them the example which they should follow (John 13:15). If He as our Saviour and our Lord and Master learned how to rule by being obedient



Wide World Photo

YOU Can Stop This Misery

to God, WE CAN LEARN THE SAME THING BY THE VERY SAME PROCESS!

You men are going to have to apply the laws of God to your job, your children, your wife and YOURSELF so that the *world tomorrow* may be administered in peace and happiness.

Women

Often you women in God's Church, you wives, widows and elderly ladies feel you are limited in your opportunities to learn rulership. You *assume* that the men or husbands are the only ones who really have an opportunity to exercise authority. You seem to feel the only way you can learn to rule and have authority is by ruling and having authority *over men*, and by that very thought YOU ARE DISQUALIFYING YOURSELF from the real responsibility which is to be yours.

You women, all of you, in your home and daily life have *dozens* of ways in which to rule. You demonstrate your conversion first of all by your obedience to your Lord and Master—JESUS CHRIST. You too must learn to administer the Law of God by diligently and zealously applying yourself to your prayer and Bible study. All too often the women in God's Church use the excuse that the duties of caring for their husbands, children and homes *crowd out* their time for prayer and study. Those who say they can't arrange their time around their prayer and study are actually saying THEY DON'T WANT TO!

You must learn to run your home in an orderly fashion. The housework or dishes should NEVER dictate whether or not you will pray and study on any given day. Don't become a slave to a stack of dirty dishes.

How can you exercise rulership? One of the very first things you as women should learn to rule is your *emotions*. All too frequently frustrations and emotional instability keep you off balance for days on end. Once you have begun to properly control your emotions, you will be better able to administer the Law of God to your children and household with love, compassion and understanding. You will then be better able to direct when your dishes are done,

and if you have children, perhaps even which one of the children will do them.

You can set up schedules of the daily activities of the children *governing* their time to arise in the morning and to go to bed at night. *You* control one of the most vital and most important functions of a household—the menu. Your family's health depends on your *careful planning and selection* of the proper foods for its consumption.

All of these things are your responsibilities and to be administered by you under the over-all direction of your husband. Here many times is the crux of the whole matter. Many of the women in God's Church feel that if they are under their husband they aren't themselves administering any rulership. THAT COULDN'T BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. All of us here at Headquarters are continually checking with those over us in responsibility. Mr. Armstrong repeatedly checks with his superior—Jesus Christ—through the Bible on decisions he makes.

To be under authority is part of learning to rule. EVERYONE from Jesus Christ down has to answer to a superior. Even God the Father is *under authority* to His Own law. Our needs and what is good for us governs His actions. AUTHORITY IS GOOD!

A woman who tries to establish herself above her husband or take a position over the office of the man is doing exactly the same thing Satan the Devil did in his rebellion against God. He didn't want *to be ruled over* and to submit himself to a superior authority. He tried to rise up and establish himself in a position that was never to be his. Let his fate be a constant reminder to all of us to learn to serve in the capacity or position in which God has placed us.

Some might think that ruling over dirty dishes or the laundry is an extremely *unglamorous* job. But whoever said that the mundane, down-to-earth, common and ordinary details of rulership were glamorous?

There is very little glamour in deciding where to place a sewerage disposal plant! There is nothing very thrilling about deciding whether or not an individual should pay with his life for

having broken the Law of God. Yet these are exactly the things you will be doing under Jesus Christ during His reign on earth.

Children

Even your small children have to learn to rule the things under their jurisdiction. One of the very important things we teach our children in their early years is to properly *control and govern* their bodily functions. The older child who hasn't learned this simple little bit of rulership is generally a rather unwelcome guest in your home.

Children should be learning to *rule over their clothing and toys*. There should be a definite place for each of these things and when not in use they should be found in that place. Every child must learn also to *control his emotions* and to begin to live with the rest of humanity. Our newspapers today are filled with the stories of undisciplined children who haven't learned this simple lesson.

Many times a pet can be a great help in teaching a child to rule over something. Even here this rulership should be done with love and compassion which will have to be taught the child by you as parents. In this way, the child learns that his pet looks like him for protection and the necessities of life.

In order to rule in the government of God, we are going to have to rule by the Law of God. To qualify for these positions of rulership we must KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT LAW. The knowledge and understanding of the Laws of the Kingdom of God come only through prayer and Bible study and daily application of that Law in our lives.

Are you qualifying to serve as a king or priest? Will you have a position in the Kingdom of God? Abraham does. David and the Apostles do. They qualified to rule by first BEING RULED. WILL YOU?

All of us—men, women, and children—must learn to rule by first of all BEING RULED. We must learn to apply the Word of God to all our everyday situations. That isn't "religious talk." That is the way to a HAPPY, ABUNDANT AND FRUITFUL LIFE!

How Church Government Really Works

(Continued from page 6)

ministerial ranks outlined in Ephesians 4 except that of the local "prophets"—who were not much in evidence toward the latter part of the Biblical history and after the Bible was written.

Now Twelve Evangelists

Under Mr. Armstrong there are now exactly TWELVE evangelists. They include men such as Garner Ted Armstrong, Roderick C. Meredith and Herman L. Hoeh, who serve directly in the evangelistic work of broadcasting, writing or editing material for the whole world. In addition, Mr. Norman Smith—directing the Radio Studio and editing the broadcast for the whole world; Mr. Albert Portune—managing the business end of God's Work for the whole world; Dr. C. Paul Meredith—writing and editing the Correspondence Course for the whole world—ALL these men carry on in the evangelistic part of God's Work.

Then there are men such as Mr. Raymond Cole—Superintendent over the churches up and down the entire East Coast—who certainly does evangelistic work in raising up local Churches and Bible studies, directing the activities of other ministers and ordaining elders and deacons. Mr. Raymond McNair is in a similar capacity in God's Work over all the British Isles—raising up churches and directing their activities.

Mr. Dean Blackwell in the Chicago area, Mr. Wayne Cole in Australia and Mr. Gerald Waterhouse in South Africa have similar responsibilities. And Mr. Charles Hunting carries out in England similar business responsibilities as those of Mr. Portune in Pasadena with an ever-increasing ministerial and teaching responsibility in the British college and churches besides.

Responsibilities of Pastors and Elders

The pastor-rank ministers also include those of exceptional leadership

and who have proved themselves in Christ's service such as Mr. Carlton Smith—District Superintendent over God's Churches in the Pacific Northwest, Mr. Ken Swisher—District Superintendent over God's Churches in the Southwestern part of the United States, Dr. Benjamin Rea—Dean of Ambassador College in England and speaker over *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast in the Spanish language, and Mr. David Jon Hill—Managing Editor of this magazine for the whole Church and leading professor and teacher at God's college in Pasadena. The other pastors are all leading ministers over large church areas with much experience, or are outstanding servants of Christ in His colleges either in Pasadena or Bricket Wood.

The preaching elders are those men who are full ministers and are usually over churches in the field ministry. As full preachers, they nearly always have had direct training under Mr. Armstrong at one of God's colleges for at least several semesters, and most of them are college graduates—some with master's degrees.

The local elders are those men who—although perhaps not called to preach—have dedicated themselves in an unusual manner to serve their brethren and have qualified as spiritual "elders" in the local congregations. They are qualified to visit, anoint the sick, conduct Bible studies and occasionally give sermonettes—according to their ability—in serving in the local congregations.

In most cases, local elders will NOT be full-time employees of God's Church. Rather, they will be successful members and examples from the local congregations who have their own businesses or jobs and are able to SERVE their brethren by visiting, counseling and anointing on certain evenings each week and on the Sabbath.

As with all God's servants, their sacrifice and service should be RESPECTED by all of God's people who are com-

manded to "esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake" (I Thess. 5:13).

God's PATTERN of Church Government

This, then, is the "system" or PATTERN of Church Government laid down in your Bible by GOD. It is the Government of GOD—not man. The Living CHRIST has been installed by God the Father Himself as the Living HEAD of the Church who in turn appoints His apostles, evangelists, pastors and elders over the flock.

Be sure to pull out, perhaps mark—and certainly SAVE and USE the enclosed sheet in this issue of *The GOOD NEWS* showing the locations of God's ministers and of His Churches and Bible studies all over the earth!

This is where CHRIST is working! This is where HIS eyes and HIS interest is focused in a special way! So should yours be!

Remember these ministers—and the Churches and Bible studies—in your earnest, prevailing PRAYERS to the Living HEAD of our Church. Study this article again in a few days, so that you may fix it permanently in your mind how CHRIST has organized His body, His Church, on earth today!

When an article in this magazine, a Co-Worker letter, a member letter, a personal letter from Mr. Armstrong or the Letter Answering Department, or certainly *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast comes your way, realize that it is the Living CHRIST speaking to you through His Headquarters on earth! Look to HIM as your Head and the One responsible for the direction of His Work through Headquarters in Pasadena.

Realizing who is really back of this, be sure you RESPOND to Jesus Christ and His Church! Learn to be obedient and RESPONSIVE—quickly and gladly—to His Government in His Church so that you may BE THERE in His Kingdom to come!

Realize and appreciate the offices of those whom God has set to SERVE you—now that you know how God's Government really WORKS in His Church today!