

*the*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
*a magazine of understanding*

VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1958



—Wide World Photo

**FORWARD POSITION ON QUEMOY.** Chinese Nationalist soldiers man machine gun position in area on Quemoy Island nearest to where Communist troops might attempt an invasion. These troops have been on the alert since Reds started artillery shelling of the offshore islands in August. Read in this issue why the Formosa Crisis will NOT start World War III.

# The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding.

VOL. XXIII

NO. 11

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Sent FREE to all who request it, as the Lord provides. Address all communications to the editor, Box 111, Pasadena, California. Our readers in Britain should address the editor, B.C.M. Ambassador, London W.C. 1.

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2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 P.M.  
3AW—Melbourne—Sun., 10:30 P.M.  
3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 P.M.  
4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 P.M.  
4KQ—Brisbane—Sun., 10:30 P.M.  
4TO—Townsville—Fri., 10:15 P.M.  
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6BY—Bridgetown—Sun., 10:30 P.M.  
6IX—Perth—Sun., 10:00 P.M.  
6MD—Merredin—Sun., 10:30 P.M.  
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7HT—Hobart—Wed., 10:25 P.M.

#### TO SOUTH AMERICA

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6:00 P.M. Saturdays—1010 k.c.

The WORLD TOMORROW in Spanish with Benjamin Rea.

- RADIO LA CRONICA—Lima, Peru—7:00-7:15 P.M. Sundays  
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RADIO SPORT — CXA19 — Montevideo, Uruguay — 4:00-4:15 P.M., Sundays

# Nationwide EPIDEMICS Are Spreading

Fantastic changes are taking place in nature! Outbreaks of dangerous insects, animals becoming rabid, diseases becoming more rampant! Here's what it really means!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

“THE ANTS, mommy, the ants!” screamed 5-year-old Sonny McRay, as he ran into the kitchen from the back yard, where he had been attempting to spray a menacing looking anthill.

A doctor was called, and Sonny was rushed to the hospital, deep in a coma from which he never awoke. Within 29 hours Sonny was dead.

## A NEW Plague

Ominous warnings have been appearing in national news magazines recently concerning the vicious insects that killed Sonny McRay. Commonly called the “fire ant,” but known to scientists as *Solenopsis saevissima* (the very savage ant), the insects received little notice until just recently.

Lately, however, serious outbreaks have occurred which have virtually ruined thousands of acres of valuable farmland, killed newborn calves and eaten newly hatched chickens, ruined a large percentage of the quail hatch in southern states, caused the deaths of numerous human beings, and stinging, painful bites to many others.

In the year of 1957 alone, the ants are estimated to have done half a billion dollars' worth of damage to crops. Biologists say the ant population is now “exploding,” and there can be only wild guesses as to how far they will spread.

As you read this article, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Florida are seriously affected, with spreading colonies already begun in Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, North and South Carolina.

The true seriousness of the ant plague is well illustrated by a letter received by the *Houston Chronicle*, December, 1957. A Texas farmer, R. J. Evans, wrote: “These ants are taking over

north Houston. On my farm I have 365 hills in two acres. They've hit my oats and are ruining the crop. I had a cow to come in fresh the other day in a small barn and in less than 5 hours after her baby calf was born it was covered with fire ants. They even get in our chicken nests. We have put out Chlordane and it has done some good but the ants have got out of control. Unless something is done, I will be forced to move out. It is getting to where my cows do not have a place to lie down. This thing is real serious.”

Further, it was reported that between May and December, from the time the ants were first noticed, there were as many as 400 mounds of tough, durable and hard dirt, formed by the activities of the ants, from 2 to 4 feet across, and 2 to 3 feet high. The mounds are so tough they'll stop a sickle bar—and make harvesting a crop impossible.

In addition, they have eaten fence-posts, short-circuited electrical wiring by eating off the insulation, killed calves, young lambs, ducks, chickens and other small stock. A woman and two children were killed in Florida, an abandoned child was virtually eaten alive by the ants in New Orleans, a Georgia housewife sent to the hospital by stings she received in her back yard while hanging out clothes.

No light “interesting” news item, this—but a real, down to earth PLAGUE that is growing WORSE AND WORSE!

## WHY Is It Happening?

The fire ant invasion is but one small PART of the rampant conditions that threaten the United States and other nations! But *why?*

There have *always* been certain “odd” outbreaks of disease and insect damage through the ages—but *never such an*

*all-inclusive attack from so many quarters at the same time!*

These pestilences are beginning to occur because *God prophesied* they would happen!

Most people think the Bible is out of date. They believe God has “gone way off somewhere”—that He is a vague, unreal, sort of a myth! Today, the progressive education of this world, the evolutionary doctrines of modern thought, the “modern” society, have left God out of the picture!

It is BECAUSE this world has turned away from God—BECAUSE they have *forgotten* Him and HIS LAWS—that the world is beginning to experience but a foretaste of terrible punishment!

Jesus foretold it!

In His prophecy, as recorded by Matthew, Jesus said, “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the *end* is not yet” (Matt. 24:6).

No, Jesus said certain specific things HAD TO HAPPEN *prior* to the “end of the age.” Read it! *This* is a prophecy for NOW!

“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be FAMINES, and PESTILENCES, and *earthquakes* in diverse places. All these,” he continued, “ARE THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS [TRIBULATION!]” (Matt. 24:7-8).

In the pages of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, and over *The World Tomorrow* broadcast, you have been reading and hearing forewarnings of these very occurrences that are NOW BEGINNING TO MAKE THE NATIONS' HEADLINES! It's time to wake up, and realize WHO is causing it to happen!

Notice, Jesus said WARS, and *rumours* of wars were only forerunners—that the

END was not yet.

The Communists' struggle to dominate the Far East does NOT mark the end of this age. As you read in the last issue, some believe the battle of Armageddon is just ahead—that Russia will drive into the areas around Palestine, and Christ will return. An article in the last issue, explaining the astounding TRUTH of the situation in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Palestine, proved from the Bible prophecies a *far different* outcome is prophesied!

And so it is with Formosa! What is actually prophesied is NOT what most religious OR military leaders think!

But remember—these little wars, these "hot" wars breaking out from time to time—said Jesus, are but the "BEGINNING of sorrows." They were to be accompanied by FAMINES, by *upset weather* conditions, by PESTILENCES—with disease spreading into many nations—and *plagues* from rabid animals, and harmful insects.

#### A Specific Prophecy Against Israel

The American, British and North-western European peoples are Israel! They stand positively identified in Biblical prophecy—supplying an important "key" that *unlocks* Bible prophecy to human understanding. (If you have not yet read Mr. Armstrong's amazing booklet, "The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy" be sure to write in for it immediately.)

In Leviticus 26, a dire warning is pronounced against our peoples!

Here, warning of impending consumptive diseases, successive attacks against our nations, which we have *already* suffered through two world wars, God continues by warning of FAMINE and DROUGHT! "And I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass, and your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits" (Lev. 26:19-20).

Other articles in The PLAIN TRUTH have continually warned of impending DISASTROUS conditions in the weather! TAKE WARNING! These things are REAL—and even as I write, news comes of floods, torrential rains, drowning

many in Japan, and in various parts of the United States. Hurricanes grow increasingly worse and more frequent; some areas received as much as a WHOLE YEAR'S NORMAL RAIN in a matter of HOURS! And yet—it seems few people even begin to wonder WHY!

#### Animal and Insect Plagues Coming!

But God said if we fail to take heed when He sends *these* warnings—as *we have indeed failed*—"I will bring *seven times more plagues* upon you according to your sins. I will also send *wild beasts* among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number, and your highways shall be desolate" (Lev. 26: 21-22).

And He is beginning to do just that! Listen!

In tiny Rockwall County, in heavily settled and populated East Texas, wolves literally *put sheep raisers out of business!* Out of 40 or 50 sheep raisers, only about 7 or 8 remained a short time ago. The wolves responsible were *big* 60 to 65 pound *timber wolves*—*not* the smaller coyote. The fact that Rockwall County doesn't have much timber has little to do with the wolf population. Apparently, some wild dogs have been interbreeding with the wolves—or running with them in packs in other instances—thus the wolves learn more and more of the habits of man—and how to live in heavily populated areas. The trappers sent into several counties of Texas and other states to help control the situation, said, "Wolves are likely

to be anywhere there is enough grass for 'em to hide. Often they are found in grass or weeds just below a ridge."

In Rockwall County, 35 of the big animals were killed in just 3 months!

In Hartsville, Tennessee, newspapers carried stories of sportsmen's clubs planning war on rabid foxes in the area. The threat was so serious that a Dr. E. K. Bratton said 17 victims of rabid foxes had taken treatment in the General Hospital prior to the sportsmen's request for permission to begin a drive against the animals.

In Tangipahoa parish, Louisiana, four vicious dogs were shot to death, which had been running in a pack, attacking farm animals, and slaughtering wantonly.

A rabid cow was killed in Tennessee. Wichita County, Texas, was declared a rabies epidemic area. Residents of Muskoka, Canada, were warned of a "substantial number of cases of rabies among wildlife," which necessitated great care on the part of residents.

In Arkansas, a woman reported a pack of six dogs ate a hog alive. When she and her husband ran out to the pen, the animals tried to attack them.

In British Columbia, on Vancouver Island, professional lion hunters were called in to diminish an increasingly menacing lion population, after instances of lions coming into small towns in broad daylight were reported.

San Luis Obispo county, California, was declared a rabies area. Minnesota experienced a record year in 1957 in the number of animal rabies cases reported to the Minnesota Department of Health. A rabid skunk was killed near Hot Springs, Arkansas, when it attacked one of two dogs owned by J. T. Harris.

A 73-year-old Altadena, California woman was bitten by a vicious squirrel that attacked her and bit her on the ankle. While trying to escape from the maddened animal, she tripped, and fell on the driveway — and the squirrel jumped on her and bit her twice more. Later, the same squirrel tried to enter the home of M. C. Tipton of Altadena by scratching at doors and windows. Donning heavy gloves, in an attempt to frighten away the animal, he was

(Continued on page 20)

#### UNE BONNE NOUVELLE

Les 5 livrets suivants, traduits en français, sont offerts GRATUITEMENT à tous ceux qui nous en font la demande:

"La Résurrection ne tombe pas le dimanche"

"Quel est le Sabbat du Nouveau Testament?"

"Dieu guérit-Il toujours?"

"Qu'est-ce que la Foi?"

"Pourquoi êtes-vous né?"

Prière de s'adresser à:

LE MONDE À VENIR

Box 111

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# *At Last!* Here Is the BIBLE STORY BOOK

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When, in this COMPLETE story of the Bible, you come to the exciting incidents of the flood, Daniel in the lion's den, David and Goliath and the many others usually made the subject of stories for children, you will understand the TRUE MEANING of these events, and their real connection with God's PURPOSE, and with the Gospel.

Between the first and second verses of Genesis 1, tremendously important events occurred which are related in many *other* parts of the Bible. You will find a complete explanation of these events in the articles "Did God Create a Devil? (appearing in this issue) and "How Long Were the Days of Creation?" (to appear in the next issue). These form the background, and the very foundation for UNDERSTANDING of God's purpose, and His plan for mankind. They are related here in simple, understandable, yet thrilling language, as only Basil Wolverton can write.

This entire book is written in language intended primarily for children between nine and twelve—yet it will be tremen-

dously interesting for all adults, and if parents will read it to little children as young as five, explaining it as they go, it will be understandable even to children between five and nine.

We plan to publish at least eight pages of this book in each installment in The PLAIN TRUTH. At the end of some eight to twelve months the material thus far will be published in book form for those who wish to purchase this remarkable STORY OF THE BIBLE in book form.

Periodically, every eight, ten or twelve months, another book will be published, as an additional volume of a set. We hope, God willing, to continue this thrilling, gripping series for several years — until the story of the entire Bible—both Old and New Testaments—has been published in this interesting, easy-to-understand form.

ADULTS will gain an understanding of the WHOLE BIBLE from this series such as you have never grasped before. Probably none of our readers has ever before read the continuous WHOLE story-thread of the Bible in one continuous story-flow. It will prove a new and thrilling experience. You will find it absorbingly interesting, entertaining, illuminating! Like all material published in The PLAIN TRUTH or broadcast on The WORLD TOMORROW, you will find it to be the TRUTH *made plain!*

Now a word about the author.

### The Author

Basil Wolverton's work has been published extensively in LIFE, TIME, *Pageant*, and a total of fifty-eight national magazines. We believe this is outstandingly the most important work he has

ever produced. We believe it is one of the most important phases of GOD'S WORK in these last days.

Basil Wolverton formerly drew comic strips for many comic books. Millions of youngsters bought these comic books on the newsstands. One day, over twenty years ago, I received my first letter from Mr. Wolverton. It stated that he had been an atheist. He had accidentally picked up The WORLD TOMORROW on his radio six months before. What I said had made him furious. He was angry because he heard things *contrary* to his atheistic convictions—and the worst part was that he could not refute my statements. This riled him. He made careful note of the station and the time.

"I'll catch his next program, and be able to refute his religious foolishness," he resolved.

But on the next broadcast, he confessed, he was more stumped than before. He could not resist listening. Finally, after six months, he wrote me this letter and told me he had at last surrendered to God, and knocked on the door and found it opened to him. CHRIST is that Door! Shortly after that I baptized him. He continued to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour. He became an elder in God's Church. He has been for some years now a member of the Board of Directors of the Radio Church of God, and, since it was incorporated, a member of the Board of Trustees of Ambassador College.

He now serves in God's glorious ministry, not as a preacher, but as author and artist in this remarkable STORY OF THE BIBLE for children of all ages, from five to a hundred and five!

# The Bible Story

## CHAPTER ONE

### “IN THE BEGINNING”

**H**AVE you ever looked down on the Earth from a high hill or a mountain or an airplane? From such high places the planet we live on looks very huge, even though we can see only a small part of it.

Perhaps it is difficult for you to imagine how something so big could be built. But someone planned and built it, just as someone planned and built the house you live in.

Wouldn't you like to be whisked back into the long ago, and see some of the amazing things that happened before the Earth came to be the way it is now? And wouldn't you like to learn about who lived on this planet long before men lived here? And how and why *you* came to be here?

#### A Time Machine

Then let's suppose we have a wonderful machine by which we can tune into the Stream of Time—and a machine that can show on its screen things that happened long before now and things that will happen in years to come!

Let's suppose that you live in a small town in the Middle West or Mountain or Pacific Coast area of the United States, or in Canada, and that you would like to know what that town was like in the year 1800. You just press a button on the time machine and you say into the machine's microphone what you want to see.

The screen lights up with a picture you don't recognize. It shows mostly a deep forest. This machine just doesn't work the way it is supposed to, you think.

Another scene flashes on the screen. It shows the same thing as before, but from a different spot. Now you do see something familiar—the big hill just south of your town. And the water is the river that flows by it!

But there are no buildings there. And no streets and no cars. Instead, there is the

heavy forest. But what are those things in the little clearing at the river's edge?

Teepees!

Now you spot some figures moving slowly about, and as the image on the time machine zooms forward for a closeup, you plainly see—Indians!

Now you realize that your town hadn't even started to be built back in 1800.

Just as there was a time when your town and your parents and you didn't exist, there was also a time when the planet we now live on didn't exist.

And just as there was a reason for the Earth coming into being, there was a reason for *you* coming into being. Do you know what it was?

If you know the exciting answer to that question, then you have a wonderful piece of wisdom that most people do not have. Most men who are thought of as being very wise cannot give you the truth about it.

### Let's Find Out

To find out what really did happen a long time ago, let us speak into the time machine and ask to be shown how things looked before there was anything in the vast space where our universe is now.

Our minds cannot imagine such a long period of time.

But if your mind *could* understand how far back it was, what would you expect to find then? So-called cave men who looked like gorillas? Vast seas full of wriggling worms that later were supposed to develop into human beings? Tremendous blobs of white-hot lava shooting through space to form new planets?

Look at the time machine screen. It is inky black, as though every light in the universe were turned out. You are gazing out into cold, empty, black space as it was *before* the stars and planets were put there!

At first the screen looks black. But our eyes are used to seeing only *material* things. Now, as they focus more strongly on the screen, we begin to be aware of a hazy, strange glow that is not like any material thing we have ever seen before. (I John 1:5; John 1:4.) It emanates from a Personage *you cannot see*, and gradually spreads out and becomes brighter and brighter, filling entirely the great expanse of nothingness that was at first before us. When we first looked into that inky darkness, there seemed to be nothing at all. But now we know there is something not material out there after all. WHO could it be?

It is GOD.

### "In the Beginning—GOD"

God had to be there first because He made everything that ever was. (Genesis 1:1.)

Probably one of the first things you wonder about God is where He came from. He didn't come from anywhere. He has *always existed!* It is hard for us to understand. We must remember that "the *secret* things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever" (Deuteronomy 29:29). God always was and He always will be. (Revelation 1:8.)

What is God like? We know what people are like because we can see them. Your parents and brothers and sisters—if you have brothers and sisters—are a family of human beings made of flesh and blood in the image or shape of God. (Genesis 1:26.)

God is not just one person, but is really a family (Ephesians 3:15) of very special persons made of spirit. (John 4:24.) Spirit is something we human beings can't usually see or feel or hear. That's why you can't see God by looking into the space of millions of years ago, even though God was all that existed then. However, we can often see the things that God produces.

We know of at least two spirit beings now in the God Family. One is God the Father. The other is Jesus the Son. Each Person in the God Family is called God, just as each human person in your family is called by your last name. God the Father and Jesus are both composed of Spirit, and they are holy and perfect. Their Spirit, like their light which radiates from them, goes out from them everywhere, and is called the Holy Spirit. (Psalm 139:7.)

Now we know that we have gone back in time as far as we can go and still learn something. Next we should ask our time machine to show us something of what happened between that time and now—an era when God created the great universe in the vast expanse of space.

We don't know just when the universe was made nor how long it took to make it; so instead of asking the time machine to take us back any certain number of years, we'll simply ask it to show us a picture of the universe as it appeared after God created it. This could have been millions of years ago. But we do not know for certain.

### Now Look!

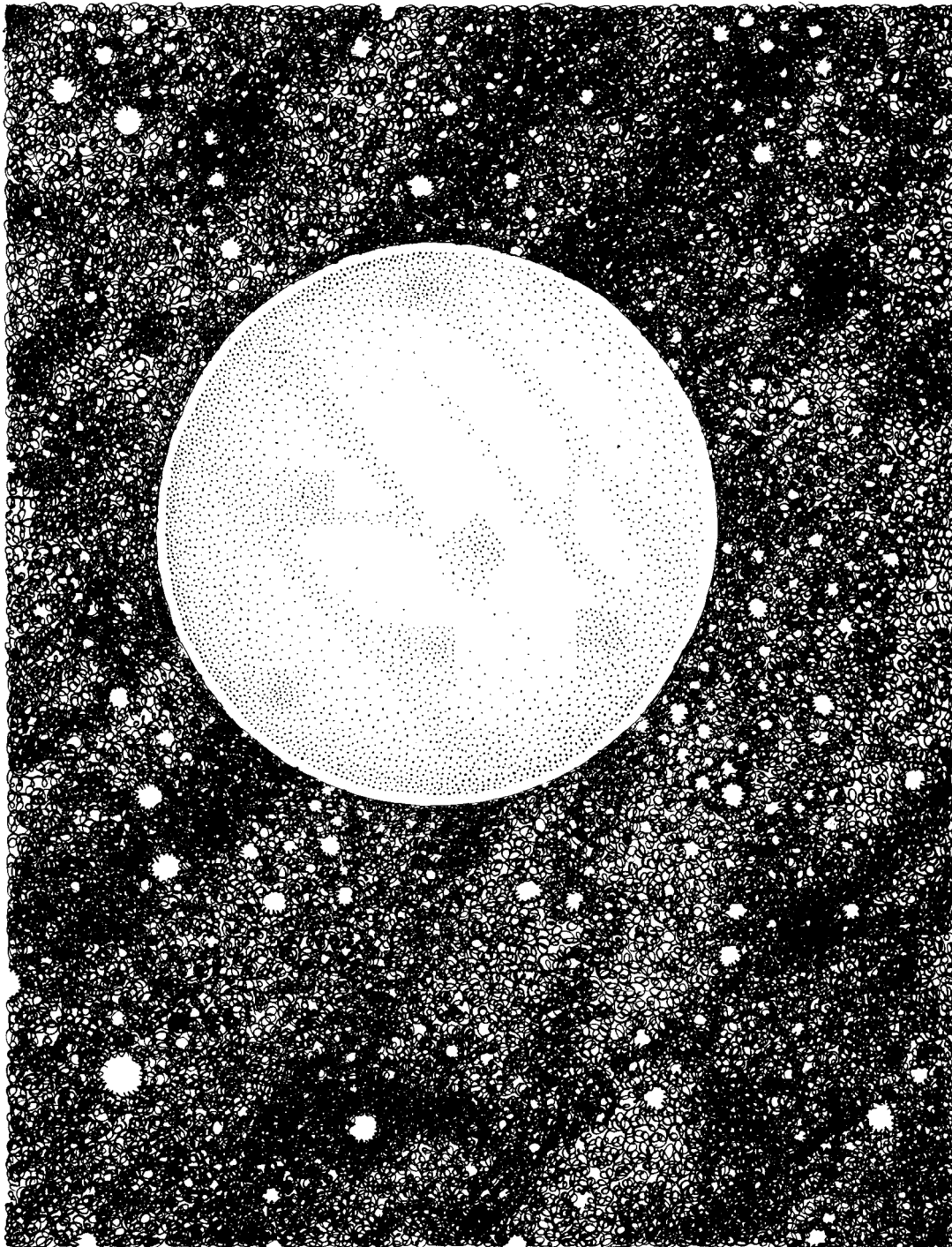
Look at what is coming on the screen! The black curtain of depthless space is now jeweled by millions of specks and patches of light of various colors. Each one of those specks of bright light is a gigantic, flaming sun thousands upon thousands of miles across. And though those suns, or stars, look as though they are grouped together like clusters of diamonds in priceless brooches, they are many billions of miles apart! (Isaiah 54:2.)

The universe is so big that we cannot see but part way through it. Its tremendous size is something our human minds cannot even begin to understand. This should



give us some idea of how much wiser and more powerful our Creator is than we are.  
(Job 22:12 and 38:4-6.)

Somewhere in those bright clusters of beautiful stars our Earth was created. Men



have thought up various ideas of how it came to be there. Some have even been foolish enough to state that our world, as well as the other bodies in the skies, just happened to be made without God having anything to do with creation. This silly idea is even taught in some of the most famous schools throughout the world. (Psalm 53:1.)

Just *how* God created the Earth should not be as important to us right now as *why* He created it.

If we were to ask our time machine to show us a picture of it after it was made, we would see a gigantic, blue-green globe hanging in breath-taking beauty against that wondrous, star-studded, black curtain of space. You wouldn't recognize any of our planet's continents or markings, because when it was first formed it was quite different.

What did God use to create the stars, planets, comets and other objects of the universe? He had to have material, just as the carpenters or your father needed material to build the house you live in. (Hebrews 11:3.)

God Himself is composed of Spirit, as you already know. His Holy Spirit emanates from Him everywhere in the universe, just as light shines from a lamp throughout a room. It is a mysterious and wonderfully powerful something we human beings can't describe because our minds are not able to grasp very much about it. The Holy Spirit is something that is everywhere. It is the very essence of God flowing out from Him. By it God created and now controls and rules the universe and everything and every one in it. Everything that exists was made by it. It is the most important thing there is.

### Angels!

When our Creator used His Holy Spirit to make the universe, He didn't do it just so He would have something vast and beautiful to gaze upon. (Isaiah 45:18.) He also created millions of spirit beings, or angels to live in it. Many of them served Him in the place He made for His throne, called heaven. We don't know where heaven is, but possibly it is somewhere in the northern sky. (Isaiah 14:13.) On the other hand, it could be very close to us. (Isaiah 66:1.) We do know that it is probably invisible to human eyes, just as spirit beings cannot be seen by us.

A long time ago there was in heaven a chief angel whose name was Lucifer. That name means *Light Bringer*, or *Shining Star of the Dawn*. God created Lucifer very wise, good and capable. Lucifer was perfect in his ways when God created him, and brilliant in knowledge and beauty. (Isaiah 14:12.)

Therefore God made Lucifer ruler over the newly created Earth, where millions of angels were sent to dwell. Lucifer's throne was in a place called Eden, where later the first human beings came into being. From this place Lucifer governed the angels

of the Earth by carrying out all of God's orders and laws.

You see, God is the Supreme Ruler over the whole universe, because God created it all, and it all belongs to Him. When He made Lucifer ruler over the Earth, Lucifer was to obey God and carry out every rule and instruction. (Ezekiel 28:13-15.)

Lucifer was perfectly obedient in these things. He did all that God commanded. There were years and years of great happiness and contentment among the angels while they and their king, Lucifer, obeyed every one of God's laws. This is because of the fact that God's laws are given to make beings happy.

Then one day Lucifer permitted a wrong thought to come into his mind.

### Pride Enters

"I am king over millions of angels," he said to himself. "From them I could form a great army powerful enough to attack God and His angels. If I could seize His throne in heaven, I could take God's place as supreme ruler of the whole universe!" (Isaiah 14:13-14.)

The mere thought of conquering God and making himself ruler of the universe caused great pride to grow in his mind. And the more he let his mind dwell on this greedy idea, the more anxious he became to do something about it.

What had started out as only a wrong thought in time grew into an evil plan that was to plunge our planet and universe and even heaven into a terrible storm of trouble.

At last Lucifer made his evil plan known to his subjects. He made tempting promises to any who would follow him in his scheme. By telling many of his angels that he would make them rulers over other worlds in far-flung space, and others that they would be given high offices under him in heaven, Lucifer managed to bring a third of the angels into his army. (Revelation 12:4 and Job 4:18.)

Most of the angels stayed loyal to God, however, and refused to turn against the Eternal One who had brought them into being.

The pride and greed that had grown from his evil idea caused Lucifer to lose some of his great wisdom. Otherwise, he would have known for certain that he could not possibly be successful in any war against his Creator.

But Lucifer's wrong thinking caused him to believe something that wasn't true, and from that time on Lucifer's thinking has been false. Filled with the belief that he could really conquer his own Creator, Lucifer decided to carry out his plan. With millions of angels willing to obey him, instead of God, he swept up to heaven with them for the attack. (Jude 6)

The war that resulted between millions of spirit beings must have been an awful

thing. Probably they used great forces and strange and awesome powers we human beings know nothing about. Today some people think that hydrogen and cobalt bombs and rocket ships blasting into space show the greatest powers that exist. But these things are puny and weak compared to the powerful forces at God's command.

God has always been the most powerful being to exist. No human being or spirit or army of human beings or spirits has any power to move Him in the slightest.

### God RULES!

In this war that happened in heaven, perhaps God allowed Lucifer to have a very small bit of success in warfare—just so Lucifer would think that he was about to win. Thus sudden and awful defeat would be even more bitter.

Awful defeat was what Lucifer ran into. The terrible power of the Creator was loosed upon Lucifer and his angels with such terribly destructive force that he and his followers were blasted out of heaven and back down to Earth. (II Peter 2:4 and Isaiah 14:15.)

God wasn't done with His attackers, however. Lucifer's great sin of rebellion against the rule of God turned him into a devil. His name was changed to Satan, which means *enemy*. (Revelation 12:9.) Those evil angels who had followed him were from then on known as demons. Demons are hateful, bitter, unhappy spirit beings whose pure spirit light has gone out forever, and who therefore have nothing but a miserable, hopeless future.

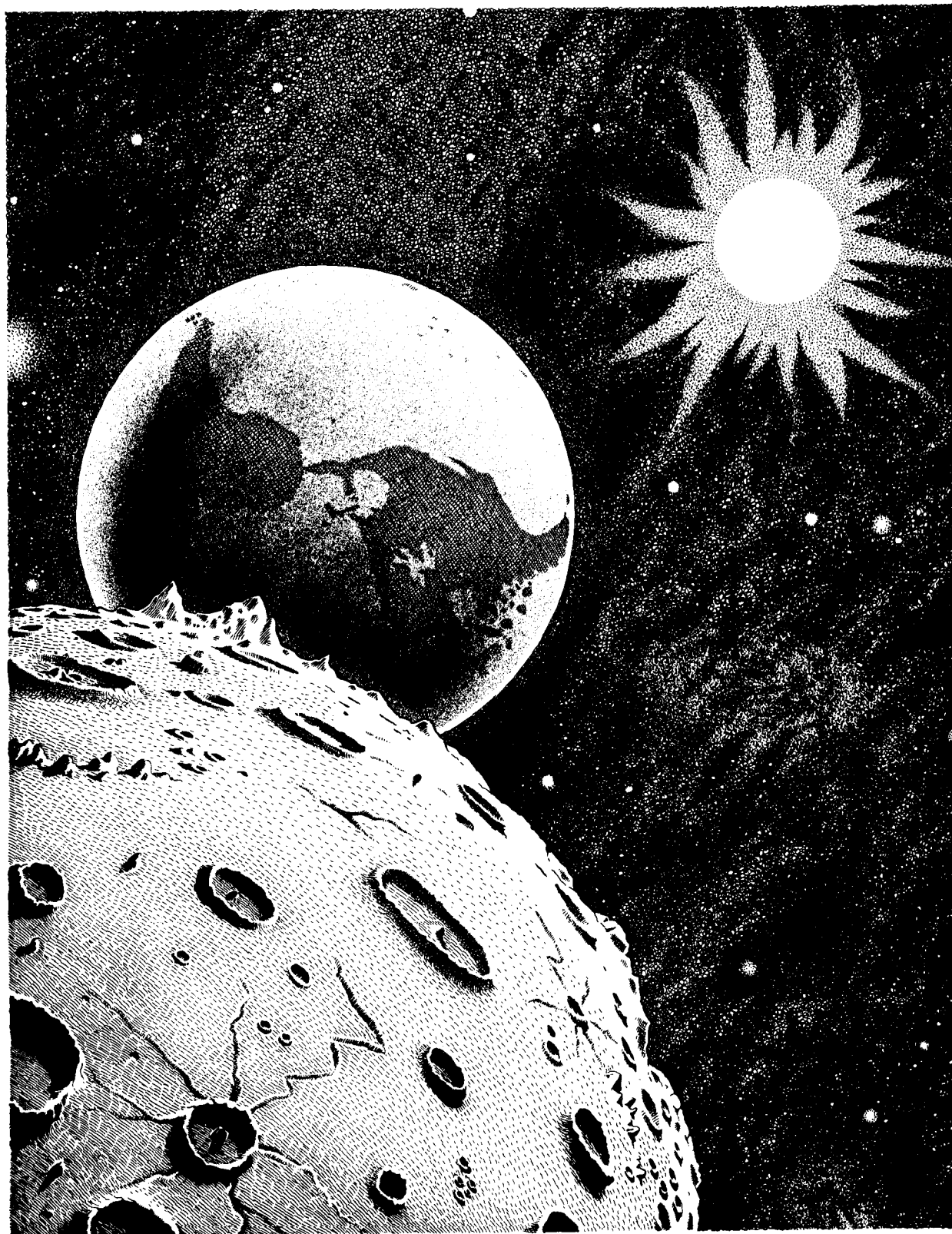
Satan was allowed to keep his rule over the angels who had become demons (Luke 4:5-6), but he lost his power over the angels on Earth who had not sinned by following him.

### Awful Penalty of Sin

Whenever God's laws are broken, suffering and trouble and destruction are certain to follow. Therefore, during that great battle when Satan and his millions of demons tried to conquer God, a great and awesome change came over the planet. (Genesis 1:2.)

What had long been a beautiful planet, our Earth, was turned into a cosmic wreck. At first terrific winds came up, flattening vegetation everywhere. Seas were whipped into rolling mountains of water. Earth's crust shook and buckled under the pressure of the raging elements.

Here and there the crust split open and flames and lava spewed high into the sky. The atmosphere was filled with smoke so thick that nothing could live in it. Huge, flying reptiles that soared through the skies in those days were dashed to the ground. Thundering herds of dinosaurs, or giant lizards, came to sudden death. Many of them,



fleeing from roaring, lava-belching volcanoes, plunged to their end in deep chasms that opened up by terrible earthquakes. The flattened vegetation, covered by whole seas of boiling water and lava, was turned into what we know today as coal.

The raging elements on land and in the sea and sky were churned up with a force that plowed up all of Earth's surface. It was as though a million hydrogen bombs had been set off all over the world. Probably nothing lived through that terrible time. Animal and vegetable life was crushed out. (Psalm 104:29.)

The only living things left upon the planet were the evil, restless demons whose lawbreaking had broken the perfect balance, harmony and beauty of the world God had lovingly created for His creatures.

For a time our planet stayed buried in a deep sea of gases, smoke and water vapor. There was no longer any dry land. Oceans covered the whole Earth. The gases and smoke and vapor were so thick that no light could reach the seas that covered the planet.

How long this condition lasted we do not know. But at last came the moment when God started preparing for a very important event in His great plan—bringing human beings into existence.

Now there are several other planets besides Earth swinging around our sun, and it is quite likely that there are even many more planets here and there in the universe. But as far as we know, Earth was the only planet God chose and prepared to be the home of human beings patterned after His image.

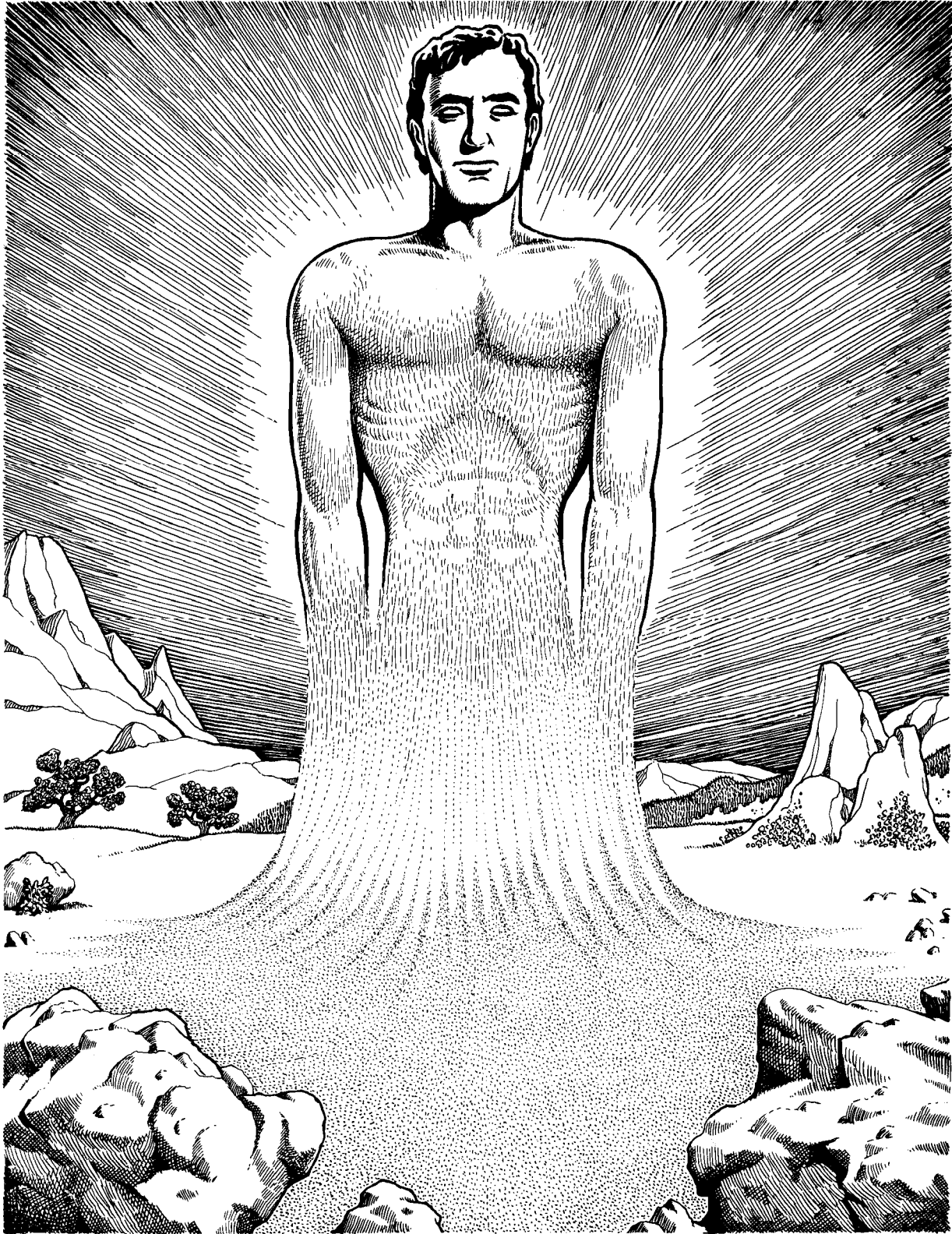
### How God Creates

For five days God worked at making Earth over into a place that would be just right to support human life. (Genesis 1:23.)

Can you imagine what great power and awesome forces it took to change the whole surface of our planet in less than a week?

Remember, God is not just one Person, but the Divine Family. The Father does the supreme planning. He decided what to do. Then He told the second Person of the God Family to do it. This second Person is called the Word of God because He is the Spokesman who does the speaking, as the Father commands Him. This second Person is the one who later was born as a human, and became Jesus Christ. So this second Person, or the Word, commanded what God the Father decided to do. Instantly the mighty and all-powerful Holy Spirit produced whatever the Word commanded. That is how God created and formed everything by Jesus Christ. (John 1:3.)

On the first day of reforming Earth's surface, God prepared periods of night and day by clearing away much of the smoke and gases surrounding the whirling planet.



Thus a little light came through to Earth for the first time since Satan and his demons were cast back down from heaven, when deep, heavy blankets of dark clouds were formed from the wrecking of the world. At that time those clouds had cut off all light rays from the sun, moon and stars. (Genesis 1:3-5.)

On the second day God formed a vast layer of fresh air over the Earth. This caused much of the water vapors to seep upward, like steam out of a teakettle, and to form great, billowing, clean clouds high in the sky. This air, a combination of healthy gases, is known to us as the atmosphere. (Genesis 1:6-8.)

It was very necessary to prepare the atmosphere, because man has to breathe air in order to live. He actually lives in a deep, heavy sea of gases, much as sea creatures live in the deep oceans.

### Three Heavens

God called this atmosphere Heaven. (Genesis 1:8.) However, He also spoke of two other heavens. One is the vast space beyond our atmosphere. (Genesis 1:14.) The other is where His throne is. (Acts 7:49.) He doesn't tell us just where that is, and astronomers can't find out because it isn't visible to human eyes.

On the third day, our Creator molded Earth's crust so that some of it was high and some of it was low. The great layer of water covering the planet drained into the low areas, causing deep seas. Large areas of land were left above water, forming continents. (Genesis 1:9-10.)

On the continents God planted all kinds of vegetation—trees, bushes, flowers, grass—everything that could grow out of the ground. And in that same day the lands of Earth began to be green with plants of all kinds springing up from the soil. (Genesis 1:11-13.)

On the fourth day God cleared away the last of the dust and harmful gases from the sky, thus letting the sun, moon and stars shine in their full brilliance and splendor upon the lands and seas. (Genesis 1:14-19.)

On the fifth day the Creator planted in the sea whales, fish, eels, octopi and many, many other water creatures. On that same day He also formed various kinds of birds to fly through the air. From these sea creatures and air creatures came many others of their kind, and in time the seas and the skies were swarming with living things. (Genesis 1:20-23.)

Now God had renewed the whole face of the Earth in five days, and at last the planet was ready for God to create man to live on it.

But before He created man on that sixth day, God formed other creatures to live on land. Elephants, cattle, lizards, worms, insects—every kind of thing that walks or



creeps was brought into being that day. (Genesis 1:24-25.)

### MAN Created!

At last God performed the most important task of physical work. Using the material from which He formed the Earth, He made a human being! (Genesis 1:26-28.)



This first human being was fashioned in such a way that he looked very much like God. It was as if God were a sculptor, making a statue of Himself in flesh and blood and bone. Actually, He made this first man out of the dust of the ground, then caused him to breathe air and to become alive—and he became the first living soul of his kind. (Genesis 2:7.)

God named this first human being Adam. Adam was the first living, mortal man on this planet. (I Corinthians 15:45.)

The Creator had already planted a beautiful park for Adam to live and work in. This park was in Eden, a land on the other side of the world from what is now the United States of America.

God knew that Adam would become lonely if he were the only human being. He took one of Adam's ribs, while he was sleeping, and by His creative powers formed it into a woman. God gave her to Adam for a companion. Adam named the woman Eve. (Genesis 2:18-22.)

All this God made and created in six days of work. Each day then was just twenty-four hours long and had a night time and a day time just as it has now.

### HOW the Sabbath Was Made

But God had not yet finished His week of creating. On the seventh day He *rested* from His work, and therefore created the Sabbath day by resting instead of working. (Genesis 2:2-3.)

Thus ended the first week in the history of the refashioned planet on which we human beings have lived for almost six thousand years.

The seventh day, on which God rested, He called the Sabbath. (Exodus 16:26.) He blessed it as a special day of rest, and set it apart as His very own day, belonging to Him. He made a law that man should always observe that holy day every week by resting and assembling in church for worship. God made that day holy time, and commanded all people to always *keep* it holy. He gave the other six days to man for man's work and play, but the last day of the week He kept for Himself. (Exodus 20:8-11.)

You will probably remember that the last time we used our time machine was when we wished to see the whole Earth as it was in the distant ages during which angels happily lived there. Now let's turn to the machine again to get a view of part of the beautiful Garden of Eden, the park where Adam and Eve lived.

### GOD'S Beauty

You probably see on the screen a deep green, grassy slope leading down to a stream of brilliant, sparkling, blue water. The slope is decked with graceful shade

trees, fruit trees and colorful clusters of plants and flowers. Beyond the fern-banked stream is a towering cliff of red and yellow agate, over which falls a foamy ribbon of glistening water. At one side, in the distance, are rolling hills covered with green groves of leafy trees and flowering bushes. In the distance on the other side is a lush jungle of amazingly beautiful vines trailing thickly between graceful, tall palms. (Genesis 1:31.)

Some close-ups on our time machine screen show strange birds of bright hues flying from tree to tree. Their songs fill the air with a soothing music that seems to tell us that here is real peace and happiness.

Another view shows us Adam and Eve beside the stream. They are watching with amused interest the antics of fish, turtles and other water creatures playing in the clear, cool water.

Now our time machine picks up a view of Adam and Eve happily at work—Adam dressing and pruning the lovely shrubs, vines, and flowers and joyfully singing praises to God—Eve taking great satisfaction in preparing the most delicious and appetizing meal full of eye-appeal as she smiles and beams in delight over the accomplishment. They are very happy in their work. But they also enjoy pleasurable hours of walking and talking with God—and there is time, too, for invigorating relaxation.

Perhaps the first thing you will notice about Adam and Eve is that their bodies are perfectly formed. Adam is straight and muscular and handsome. Eve is beautiful and graceful. It is not hard for you to see this, because they are unclothed.

You see, no clothes were needed by Adam and Eve because it wasn't cold in the park. Besides, there were no thistles or thorns to scratch them. They didn't realize that there was such a thing as being naked, and therefore they were not ashamed. (Genesis 2:25.)

Look at the screen again. A huge lion has moved out from the deep shadows of the thick trees, and is slowly moving up behind Adam and Eve! The two human beings are so interested in the water creatures that they have no idea the great beast is so close to them. But in the next moment Adam's keen sense of hearing causes him to turn and see what is almost upon them. He swings his strong, right arm out to seize the lion's heavy mane—and then playfully scratches the head of this beast who has simply come for a friendly visit!

Before Eve was created, God asked Adam to name all creatures. (Genesis 2:19-20.) In this time of perfect peace, all creatures were friendly and harmless—just as they will again be in the time of peace that will come to the world in just a few years. (Isaiah 11:6-9.) In looking at these scenes from the distant past, probably you have

paid little attention to the time machine itself. But now look at it closely.

### It's the BIBLE!

Perhaps for the first time you realize that it is shaped very much like an open book. On closer examination, you note that what you thought was the machine's viewing screen is actually the open pages of the most important of all books—the Bible!

## Nationwide EPIDEMICS Are Spreading!

(Continued from page 4)

bitten seriously through the heavy gloves when the animal leaped at him. He was also bitten on the knee.

Frank Banks, Michigan State Conservation Officer, said, "Wild dogs roaming through northern Michigan are a greater menace to wildlife and livestock than wolves or coyotes. Wild dogs," he said, "will kill for *fun* while wolves or coyotes only kill to eat."

An invasion of San Fernando Valley by rabid skunks recently led officials to allocate funds for a professional skunk trapper, when four children were bitten.

In southern Texas, stinging scorpions make it virtually impossible to go barefoot or lie on the lawns. "I stopped at a gas station where the scorpions were as thick as crickets on the pavement," reports Allen Manteufel, Church of God minister in the area.

Officials are taking steps to curb a rattlesnake invasion in heavily settled Los Angeles county, at the Palos Verdes Estates. Twenty-one of the poisonous snakes have been killed in *one block* of a residential area!

At Las Vegas, Nevada, a grasshopper plague brought the pests in swarms up to *ankle deep* in downtown streets. Chemicals and fire hoses had to be used to combat the infestation.

And so it is—across the nation, *and around the world!* These numerous examples are actual **FACTS**—backed up by reliable news sources—they're **REAL!** But these few spotty occurrences here and there form only a *slight indication* of the real **PLAGUES** in **GIGANTIC SCOPE** that are prophesied to strike our peoples!

### Disease and Sickness Spreading

God gives *blessings* for **OBEDIENCE** to His laws, which point the way to happiness, to peace and prosperity for any nation. But God sends *curses* when those laws are *broken*—**AND WE HAVE BROKEN GOD'S LAWS!**

In addition to plagues, drought and famine, and upset weather conditions, God also said He would send *frightful* diseases!

**MANY** of these diseases are coming on us because they are the *automatic* penalties for breaking God's laws of

health. We seem to know *nothing* of any such laws today, but simply eat any thing that *looks* good—buy anything that is attractively *wrapped*, paying *no* attention to all the *processes* the so-called "food" has undergone, nor the "ingredients" that are put into it, nor the "colors" that are used to make it appear good, nor the chemicals, dyes, preservatives, artificial vitamins and sundry *other* additives that go to make up our "modern" diet!

God said, "The **LORD** will smite thee with the botch of Egypt (boils, carbuncles, skin afflictions, such as cancer, etc.) and with the emerods (actually referring to *tumors*, goiters, and cancerous growths) and with the scab, and with the itch, *whereof thou canst not be healed*" (Deut 28:27).

**INCURABLE** diseases! "Whereof thou canst **NOT** be healed!" And so we see fantastic rises in *disease* today! As I write, news of encephalitis, of "sleeping sickness" comes from Korea, Japan, and some cases reported in the United States. Yellow fever is a constant threat, with a threatened epidemic reported for the United States. Bubonic plague, thought to be a disease of past ages, has been recently discovered in this nation.

(Please continue on page 22)

### WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?"

The answer is simple. The **GOSPEL** must go to the whole world, and it must go **FREE**. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "freely **GIVE**." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a **FREE** salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a **PRICE** upon The **PLAIN TRUTH**.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in **FAITH**, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of **LOVE**—and that is the way of *giving*, not getting. God expects every true child of His to **GIVE** of tithes and offerings that His work may go **FREE**—that His true ministers may **GIVE** the precious Gospel to others. We simply **TRUST GOD** to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to **GIVE** the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The **PLAIN TRUTH**.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail **HIM!**

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# Did God Create a DEVIL?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**I**S THERE a devil? Many people talk about the devil and Satan. Others scoff and say it's just superstition and imagination.

But *is there a devil?* According to most Christians the Bible is supposed to teach that the devil is the god of this world.

Indeed it does teach that!

The Bible pictures the whole world under the sway of an invisible devil. Where did he come from? Did God create a devil to tempt us and to try to lead us astray? And then to punish us if we follow the devil?

## God Is CREATOR of ALL!

So, let's look back to the very beginning. Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning God." God was before all.

The next word is "created." "God created." He created the heaven and the earth.

But the very next verse says this: "The earth was without form and void." The Hebrew words for "without form and void" are *tohu* and *bobu*. Translated into English they mean *chaotic, in confusion, waste, and empty*.

When God created the heaven and the earth, did He create this earth originally in a state of confusion? Did He create it all topsy-turvy and chaotic?

## World NOT Created in Chaos

We read in I Corinthians 14:33 that *God is NOT the author of confusion*. God is the author of peace. God is the author of order and of law.

Notice Job 38:4-9. God says there that *the angels* shouted for joy when He created the earth. It must then have been a *perfect creation, not a creation that was in chaos and confusion!*

Why would He create it in disorder and then have to straighten it out? That doesn't make sense! Dr. Bullinger, the Hebrew authority, says that the Hebrew word for "created," used in Genesis 1:1, "implies that the creation was a perfect

work." That very word "created" implies a perfect and a beautiful order and system, not chaos or confusion!

Then how did it *become* chaotic?

In Genesis 19:26, the same Hebrew word is used which is translated "was" in Gen. 1:2. And there it is translated into the English word "became." In the first three chapters of the Bible, and many other places where you find the word "was," in almost every case it is denoting a condition that was *different* from a former condition. In other words, it "BECAME" or "was made" that way. It had not always been that way.

## The Earth BECAME Chaotic

Plainly the word "was" has the meaning of "became." The Rotherham translation of Gen. 1:2, out of the original Hebrew language, is this: "Now the earth HAD BECOME waste and empty." It hadn't always been that way.

In Jeremiah 4:23, in Isaiah 24:10, in Isaiah 34:11, and in other places in the Bible, you find the same words, *tohu* and *bobu*, meaning chaotic and in confusion. In every case that condition is a *result of sin*.

## No Chaos Originally

Notice Isaiah 45:18. "Thus saith the Eternal that created the heavens, God himself that formed the earth and made it, He hath established it, He created it *not* in vain." "In vain" is an incorrect translation. In your Bible, if you have the marginal references, you will find in the margin the proper translation "waste."

The original Hebrew word there is TOHU. This Hebrew word is the identical word used in Gen. 1:2, meaning confusion, or emptiness, or waste—a result of disorder, a result of violation of law. In Isaiah 45:18 we have the plain statement that God created the earth *not* "tohu," that is, *not* in confusion, *not* in disorder. But in Genesis 1:2, the earth was, or *the earth* BECAME—as

it ought to be translated—*chaotic and in confusion!*

Then it became that way after it was created. Now, what could have caused that confusion?—that disorder? What sin could have wrecked the earth and brought it into the condition in which it was found in Gen. 1:2?

## Life Before Adam?

Now, what was the sin then that caused this physical destruction to the earth? It was *not* a sin caused by humanity, because there had been no man on the earth until the sixth day of that re-creation or that re-making. So it was not a sin of man. Adam was the *first* man. We find over in I Corinthians 15:45 that Adam is called the *first* man on this earth. In Genesis Eve is called the mother of all living human beings. There was no other race prior to Adam and Eve.

So the sin which brought chaos was not caused by man. And yet life must have populated the earth because a sin had occurred on the earth that brought it into a condition of chaos and confusion by breaking the laws of God.

What kind of life could it have been? It wasn't human life. What was it that populated this earth prior to the second verse of Genesis, the first chapter?

In Genesis 1:28 speaking to the man whom He had created, God said this: "Be fruitful and multiply and *replenish* the earth." What does that word *replenish* mean? To *plenish* is to populate. To *replenish* means to *repopulate*—to populate all over again. Those very words imply that the earth had been populated before!

Immediately after the flood in Genesis 9:1, God spoke to Noah. He blessed Noah and his sons and said unto them: "Be fruitful and multiply and *replenish* the earth." Identically the same words that He spoke to Adam!

In Noah's case we know He meant *repopulate* the earth. Then didn't He mean the same thing when He used the

identical words to Adam: "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth?" Certainly here is indication that the earth had been populated, and that it was to be populated *once again*. Then what kind of life had populated the earth prior to Adam, prior to the week called "creation week"?

Next, let's turn to II Peter 2:4: "For  
(Please continue on page 26)

## Nationwide EPIDEMICS

(Continued from page 20)

A well-known crippling disease called Multiple Sclerosis has afflicted a total of 250,000 persons. Muscular dystrophy is on a great increase, with about 100,000 cases now being treated, and an estimated increase of from 20,000 to 30,000 new cases per year! *Epilepsy* afflicts a total of ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND alone! About *two million* persons in this country have incipient or acute diabetes! Casual observation shows that THIRTY-TWO MILLION Americans are overweight! It is estimated that TEN MILLION of us are suffering from varying degrees of deafness! Blindness afflicts about 334,000 persons.

Taking these diseases and afflictions, including many others, means OVER NINETY-FIVE MILLION Americans are suffering from some form of registered chronic disease!

CANCER, that dread scourge of modern living habits, remains high on the list of public killers—with an estimation that A THIRD OF ALL AMERICANS NOW LIVING WILL DEVELOP CANCER BEFORE THEY DIE!

Heart disease, apparently caused by FATS collecting in the large artery leading to the heart, is killing at a fantastic rate, and increasing each year!

Yes—just as the Almighty God said—if we break His laws, we will be a nation *smitten with disease*—and we ARE! We're SICK!

### The GREATEST Problem of All!

An astounding, overpowering, and yet *almost ignored* affliction that is VERY prevalent today is MENTAL illness!

Almost unrealized by the average citizen, our society has become filled with individuals who are not mentally

healthy enough to live normal, happy lives!

Mental illness, as it is called (and it is represented by a host of different afflictions), *fills more hospital beds than cancer, heart disease, and tuberculosis combined!* AND—for every totally disabled mental patient, there are at least TWO OTHERS living in the outer world—perhaps not yet considered "acute" enough to be confined to an institution, but mentally unbalanced, unhealthy, and with extreme personality problems.

An astounding statement was issued by the Army recently, when it was revealed that fully ONE FOURTH of all applicants for the military service were being disqualified because of "mental defects!"

It is estimated by the National Association for Mental Health that at least 6% of the population of the U.S. or 9 MILLION PERSONS are suffering from "emotional or other personality disturbances." At the present time, we can't build hospitals, or supply space in existing hospitals fast enough! There is an acute shortage of over 250,000 beds now!

This is only an *indication* of the *really shocking truth!* IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONE OUT OF TWELVE CHILDREN BORN IN THE UNITED STATES WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO ENTER A MENTAL HOSPITAL!

Many people have been led to believe "treatment" by psychiatry, or in hospitals for the mentally ill can completely cure and restore the majority of mental cases!

Listen!

Even as the Almighty God has prophesied—INSANITY is extremely prevalent, and is growing worse and worse! Dr. Menninger, secretary of the Menninger Foundation, told Associated Press Managing Editors Assn., "Sixty per cent of their [the mental hospitals] population never comes out alive."

Medical science isn't solving the problem!

God warned if we continually BREAK HIS LAWS, not only His *physical laws* on caring for our land, on raising proper foods, and our eating habits, but the unseen SPIRITUAL laws that bring prosperity and health, we would be under a CURSE!

"The Lord shall smite thee with *mad-*

*ness* [INSANITY, MENTAL DISEASES], and *blindness* [334,000 people in the U.S. alone suffer from blindness], and astonishment of heart" (Deut. 28:28). See the RSV, where "astonishment of heart" is rendered, "CONFUSION OF MIND!"

### Protection for YOU

Even though *other members of your own family* fail to heed, if YOU begin to LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY—if you REPENT of having broken God's perfect laws, if you really begin to ABHOR the self, and become God-centered—with your *whole being* yielded completely to God and HIS WORD—then YOU can *escape* these terrible plagues that are prophesied to continue in intensity in the immediate future!

"If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it, so that it be desolate, that no man may pass through because of the beasts: Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters, *they only* shall be delivered" (Ezek. 14:15-16).

Only the RIGHTEOUS will be spared, with God's supernatural protection!

God says of His true *Church*, accomplishing HIS WORK, of going through the "open door" of radio, the press, and of evangelism, that "because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will *keep thee* from the HOUR OF TRIAL (margin) which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Rev. 3:10).

Jesus said He is looking for those to do HIS WILL! He said YOU'D BETTER BE DOING IT WHEN HE COMES! "Blessed is that servant, whom His Lord when He cometh shall find *so doing!*" (Mat. 24:46).

HORRIBLE things are prophesied for the very next few years! These things are at the very door! It's drawing toward the 11th hour of this world's existence! DON'T make the mistake of shrugging off these warnings lightly—you're going to SEE the prophesies of God happen *with your own eyes!*

Jesus Christ—your BOSS, and YOUR RULER—calls on you to REPENT! "Except ye *repent* ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

# The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

In this eleventh installment, Mr. Armstrong continues his early married life, business experiences in Chicago, and the beginning of God's intervention, sweeping away his business.

**S**HORTLY after our second daughter, Dorothy, was born, I persuaded my younger brother, Russell, then twenty, to come back to Chicago and join me in the advertising business. He had been employed in an office job with the Portland Gas & Coke Company in Portland, Oregon.

## My Brother's Experience

I gave him what instruction and coaching I could, and sent him out calling on prospects to sell advertising space for our magazines. But after several days—or perhaps two or three weeks—he didn't seem to be doing so well. I knew he had not had any of this kind of experience. So I decided to take him on a call with me, to observe the manner in which I talked with prospective advertisers. I decided that we should call together on some one I had never met before.

The J. I. Case tractor account had just switched to a new agency I had never contacted. I decided to make the call on the space-buyer of this agency. It was one of my "on" days, and about 10:30 in the morning.

I wanted to set a good example for Russell, to show him how it was done. We went together to the agency office. Briskly, and with dignity I stepped up to the receptionist.

"Tell Mr. Blank that Mr. Armstrong is here to see him," I said in a positive tone. I had found that this approach often gave the impression I had an appointment and it usually got me right in on my man.

The space-buyer came out to the reception office, holding my card which I had sent in by the receptionist.

"What bank journals do you represent?" he asked.

"The nine largest—all of them that are worth using," I replied snappily and

positively, and in a tone of authority.

"Well" he exclaimed, "come in!"

In his office I immediately launched into the situation my surveys had disclosed, slapping down on his desk a pile of hundreds of questionnaires from bankers and tractor dealers, and taking out of my brief-case the typed tabulations and summaries of the surveys.

He was tremendously impressed immediately.

"Mr. Armstrong," he said after we had covered the material in the surveys, "I wonder if you could prepare for me a statement of the combined circulations, page sizes, rates, et cetera, of your publications."

"I have it right here—already prepared for you," I said, handing the statement to him.

He asked me to prepare for him some other statement. I reached into the brief-case and handed it to him. He asked if I would send over to him sample copies of each of my magazines. I reached in the brief-case, and handed them to him.

"Well," he said finally, "that just about covers everything. Now tell me, Mr. Armstrong—I see you know this problem thoroughly, and you know your own publications. Just what do you advise for this J. I. Case account—which magazines, and how much space ought they to use to accomplish their objective with the bankers?"

"They should use nothing but full pages," I said, speaking authoritatively, "and they should use all nine publications for a concentrated national circulation, because the J. I. Case distribution is national; and they should use it every issue on a year-around basis because they have an educational problem which is going to require constant educational-type copy over an extended period of time. You've got to change the attitude of bankers in regard to mechanized pow-

er farming. That's a big order. It can only be done with big space, and it's going to take time. And here I have for you the data and arguments you should incorporate into the advertising copy to convince the bankers. These are the facts that will convince them if you present them in important-size space and keep it up month after month."

I handed him the typed statement of facts, data and arguments which my surveys and personal interviews with bankers had indicated would be most effective in changing banker-attitude toward tractors.

He thanked me, and Russell and I left.

## Record-Breaking Contract

Out in the hall, on the way to the elevator, I asked Russell: "Do you think we will remain on the J. I. Case list, for renewal contracts for another year?"

"Boy!" exclaimed Russell, "*will we!*" Why, I think he will do just what you recommended. Why, you had him literally eating right out of your hand."

"Well, did that experience help you Russ?"

I was completely surprised at his answer.

"No! it certainly didn't! Instead, it showed me why I haven't been landing any contracts. Look, Herb! I'm only twenty years old. They think of me as just a kid. You are twenty-eight. You've been in this for years, and you've had experience I haven't had. You have all the facts right on your tongue-tip. You speak with assurance and authority. You know your stuff, and men you talk to *know* that you know your stuff. They have confidence in you immediately. But I don't have all this knowledge yet, and I don't appear as mature, and I can't talk as confidently."

I was disappointed. To try to help my



Mr. Armstrong's brother Russell, with Beverly at age 2, in Chicago.

brother, I had really keyed myself up to "put on a good show" for him on this call. It boomeranged. It reacted in reverse. It discouraged him. And I didn't know what to do about it. What he had said was true. It would take him years to gain maturity of appearance, and the knowledge of all these merchandising and distribution problems, just as it had taken me years to acquire this knowledge and maturity.

That same afternoon the space-buyer in the agency we had called on that morning called me on the telephone.

"Hello, Mr. Armstrong. I have some good news for you. I didn't tell you this morning, but while you were here, the president and advertising manager of the J. I. Case company were here in the office of our president, making up the lists for the next year. I took all your data in to them as soon as you left, and we put you on the list."

"Splendid!" I replied, "but how much space?" I was already carrying the J. I. Case account, with half-page space in only three magazines.

"Full page," he replied.

"Splendid! but how many magazines?"

"Oh," as if he had not thought to tell me, "all nine of them."

"Splendid! but how many months?" I was having to drag it out of him.

"Fifteen months," he replied. "We

will start with the October numbers, using October, November and December of this year, and then the entire calendar year next year, making a total of 15 pages in each magazine."

"Wow!" It was the biggest advertising contract ever sold for bank journals, so far as I knew. And so far as I know, it probably is still the record today. By this time advertising rates on all my magazines had gone up considerably. My commission on this order was probably around \$3,500—a good fee for about one hour's consultation that morning!

For some little time longer I tried to keep Russell on the job, not soliciting tractor accounts, but smaller-space advertising. But he was just too young. He procured a job with one of my clients, a burglar-alarm manufacturer, selling their burglar-alarm system to banks. He travelled for some months in northern Illinois and in Wisconsin, gaining some valuable experience, getting together Board meetings in banks to present his product to them. But, although he did better on this, his youth proved too great a handicap, and finally he returned to Portland, Oregon, and to his job with the Gas company.

#### Depression Strikes

In January, 1920, the well-known statistician Roger Babson was the speaker at one of our Association of Commerce luncheons then being held each Wednesday in the Cameo Room of the Morrison Hotel. Through the Advertising Club, a division of Chicago Association of Commerce, I had been a member of the Association for some years.

We were then at the very height of a wave of post-war prosperity.

"Gentlemen," said Mr. Babson, "we are about to enter the worst business depression that our generation has ever experienced. I advise you all to set your houses in order. I advise against any further plans of expansion until this depression has passed over."

Seated at tables in that large room were leading bankers and business executives of Chicago. I glanced around. I saw amused smirks animate the faces of many prominent men.

Through the next few months of 1920 business activity continued its boom upswing.

In the summer of that year I attended the American Bankers Association national convention in Washington, D.C. While passing the White House one day, I was stopped at the drive-way for a large limousine emerging from the White House to pass. In the rear seat was President Woodrow Wilson. He smiled and waved his hand to the two or three of us who happened to be passing at the moment.

Mr. Wilson was the fourth President I had seen in person. At age five or six, when we lived in Marshalltown, Iowa, held in my father's arms, I saw President William McKinley. He was making a rear platform address from his private train. The event was so vividly stamped in my memory that I remember it distinctly, even though I was scarcely out of babyhood at the time.

I saw and heard President Theodore Roosevelt several times, both during his administration and afterward. I sat within about fifteen feet of him at an Association of Commerce banquet in the ball room of Hotel LaSalle in Chicago. I saw President Taft, when he made a speech in Des Moines, Iowa. But, since seeing and waving back to President Wilson that day in 1920, I have not seen a

A snapshot of Mr. Armstrong taken shortly before the flash depression of 1920.





single President in person—though of course, since television, most of us have seen every president many times; and I had seen all Presidents since Wilson in news reels.

A highlight of that 1920 convention trip to Washington D.C. was a long conversation I had, lasting more than an hour, with John McHugh, in the lobby of the Willard Hotel. Mr. McHugh was then president of the Mechanics and Metals National Bank of New York. Later, through consolidations of this bank and others into the gigantic Chase National Bank, Mr. McHugh was elevated to a position two levels higher than the president of the largest bank on earth, with the title "Chairman of the Executive Committee."

But one might ask: "*What price Glory?*" in the business world, after all. A very few years ago I stopped in at the Wall Street offices of the Chase National Bank, and asked for information as to the latter days of John McHugh.

"Who? Never heard of him!" was the only reply I could get from those of today's staff that I questioned. Had he been a glamour-boy movie-star instead of a world-famous banker, his name might have lived after him more effectively.

I was really puzzled about one thing. John McHugh was the very epitome of a quiet, cultured, dignified gentleman. He was extremely courteous, kindly, polite. Naturally he had many friends and many who *posed* as friends. How could a soft-spoken and kindly *gentleman* like John McHugh turn down a conniving, scheming, professing "friend" who might come to him for a large undeserved loan? Didn't friends and acquaintances take advantage of such a gentle soul? I asked one of my bank journal publishers.

He laughed. "Oh, no," he explained. "Don't worry about the wrong kind taking advantage of John McHugh's friendliness. His judgment is very keen, else he would never have risen to such high level in the banking world. Nobody puts anything over on him. He simply remains gracious and friendly, and explains that loans of this type are handled by such and such officer. He then offers to introduce the would-be borrower, expressing confidence he will be well taken care of. He always is. Such procedure

is the signal to the other officer to turn the man down. The would-be borrower friend, of course, becomes angry and furious at this other officer—but not at Mr. McHugh, who still retains the friendships.

Before the end of 1920, Roger Babson's predicted depression did strike—with sudden and intense fury. By January, 1921, we had reached and passed its lowest ebb.

#### "Thermometers on the Wall"

At this time Roger Babson once again was the guest speaker in the Morrison Hotel Cameo Room Association of Commerce luncheon.

"Well, gentlemen," he said, "you will remember that a year ago I warned you that within one year we would be in the throes of the worst depression our generation has ever seen. I noticed many of you smiling unbelievably then. Well, that year has rolled around, and here I am again, and here is the depression with me."

Chicago business leaders were not smiling now. Mr. Babson then proceeded to explain why he knew what was coming and business executives did not.

"It is now mid-winter," he said. "If I want to know what the temperature is, now, in this room, I go to the wall and look at the thermometer. If I want to know what it has been, up to now, and the existing *trend* as of the moment, I look at a recording thermometer. But if I want to know what the temperature in this room is going to be, an hour from now, I go to the source which *determines* future temperatures—I go down to the boiler-room and see what is happening down there. You gentlemen looked at bank clearings, indexes of business activity, stock-car loadings, stock-market quotations—you looked at the *thermometers on the wall*; I looked at THE WAY people as a whole were dealing with one another. I looked to the SOURCE which *determines* future conditions. I have found that that *source* may be defined in terms of 'RIGHTEOUSNESS.' When 51% or more of the whole people are reasonably '*righteous*' in their dealings with one another, we are heading into increasing prosperity. When 51% of the people become '*un-righteous*' in their business dealings with



Mr. Armstrong with his mother upon her arrival in Chicago in 1920.

their fellows, then we are headed for BAD TIMES ECONOMICALLY!"

I have never forgotten Mr. Babson's explanation. I hope my readers today, nearly 40 years later, may remember and profit by it, too.

I paid with the loss of my business to learn the lesson!

Every one of my big-space advertisers in the tractor and similar industries went into economic failure in that flash-depression of late 1920. It wiped out my business and source of income—literally!

I was not a quitter. I had learned, now, not to give up. But I had not learned that a *dead* horse is DEAD! God Almighty will resurrect dead *people*—but not dead horses or businesses necessarily. For two years I stayed on in Chicago vainly attempting to revive a dead business. I didn't know, then, that God the Eternal was intervening to take from me and destroy my IDOL—the god I was placing before HIM! That false god was the vanity of desiring to be considered "IMPORTANT" and to reap and accumulate a big share of this world's material goods. I wanted to be considered "important" by those I regarded as important people. I craved material "success."

From that time on I became like King

Midas in reverse.

Everything I touched, as a business enterprise, turned to failure, and always by causes totally outside my control! It was frustrating, humiliating, and exceedingly painful.

Next month: succeeding business efforts disintegrate; my wife and sister-in-law anger me into infuriated and determined study of the Bible and of evolution, and into search for PROOF of whether God exists and whether Biblical inspiration is a fact.

## Did God Create a Devil?

(Continued from page 22)

if God spared not the angels that sinned." Here is the sin of angels mentioned.

### Sin of Angels!

Now read the next verse, "And spared not the old world," between Adam and Noah, "but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." There it mentions the sins from Adam to Noah, and it mentions the *physical destruction* to the earth as a result of the flood, a chaotic physical condition brought about on the earth by the sins of those men.

Was there a chaotic condition brought about on the earth *as a result of the sins of angels?* The sin of the angels is mentioned first, and *it occurred first!* There was a devil already there in existence by the time Adam was created. So the sin of the angels happened *before* the creation of man.

Now read II Peter 2:6. "Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, [God] condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample to those that afterward should live ungodly."

Universal sin was in those two Canaanite cities. Physical destruction came to the entire part of the surface of the earth which those people occupied as a result of that sin. Then didn't such a destruction come to the earth *as a result of the sins of the angels* which occurred before Adam?

Now quickly turn over to Jude. In the sixth verse, you read this: "And the

angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation [they had a place where they lived, a habitation, an estate, and they left it], God hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Notice! It is the *sinning angels* who are reserved in those chains under darkness, restrained from light, restrained from truth until the judgment of the great day.

### Angels Possess the Earth!

How plain! They had an estate which they didn't keep. In Hebrews 2:5 we read this: "For unto the angels hath God not put in subjection the world to come of which we speak." In other words, The World Tomorrow, the Kingdom of God, will not be under subjection to angels. *The present one is under subjection of fallen angels.* The demons, and the devil who is their head, rule this present earth and sway its inhabitants. The Bible everywhere indicates and affirms that very fact.

How did they obtain their dominion? How did they acquire their power? How did they maintain their control? Where did the devil get the power to control and to lead and to rule this world?

The devil is the leader of fallen angels, as you will find in a number of places (John 12:31, John 14:30, John 16:11). In II Cor. 4:4 the devil is called the god of this world. He is the king or the prince of the evil world that we live in today. Let's see something about the origin of the devil.

Turn to Isaiah 14, beginning with verse 4, "Thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, 'How hath the oppressor ceased, the golden city ceased?'"

Here is a king of Babylon.

This account continues to tell how he had disrupted the earth. He was an invader, a conqueror. He was a war-monger, trying to take away from others and trying to acquire all he could. He had just the opposite philosophy from that of God. In other words, he had the philosophy of the devil.

*He represented the devil.* The king of Babylon was the devil's instrument and tool.

Now we find in verse 12 that this lesser human type *lifts to the great anti-*

*type—the devil—whom he represented and whose tool and instrument he was.*

### Rebellion of Lucifer

Things are said about the great former cherub, the devil, *that could not be said about a human being.* God says, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer." Lucifer means *shining one, or shining star of the dawn.* God names things or people, or beings what they are. Lucifer was originally a shining "star." Stars represent angels (Rev. 1:20). He was a great cherub whose duties were represented by the bright morning star. *He was a light bringer.* In other words, one who had great knowledge and truth and light, and who was *to give* it to those who were placed under him. He was placed in a certain rule and authority over angels.

Continuing in Isaiah 14: "How art thou cut down to the ground which didst weaken the nations? For thou hast said in thine heart, 'I will ascend into heaven.'" Then he must have been **BELOW HEAVEN.** He must have been **ON THE EARTH.**

He said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars [that is, the angels] of God." I want you to notice *he had a throne*, but he wasn't willing to be content with his jurisdiction. He was out to rule the universe.

Now notice what else Lucifer said: "*I will ascend above the heights of the CLOUDS. I will be like the most High.*"

"I'm going to be god myself," he said.

### Lucifer Becomes the Devil

So Lucifer became the devil. God changed his name when his character changed. He tried to make himself God. But we find **HE WAS CAST DOWN TO THIS EARTH.**

Now, quickly turn over to Ezekiel 28, verse 1. "Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus. . . ." The prince of Tyre, or Tyrus, was a very evil man. He was an aggressor, an invader, a conqueror.

He was a tool of the devil. Now, as we come to the twelfth verse, just as in Isaiah 14, the lesser type *lifts up to the great antitype.* We find the devil himself pictured! Now we find one that is *not* human at all. For a few verses, it is talking about the devil himself, and

(Please continue on page 31)

# The *Plain Truth* about the PROTESTANT Reformation

Was the Protestant movement a sincere attempt to restore New Testament Christianity? Do the "fruits" show that it was motivated and guided by God's Spirit? Read the startling TRUTH in this fifth installment of the series of articles based on Mr. Meredith's eye-opening book!

by Roderick C. Meredith

WE HAVE already discussed the great apostasy which swept over the professing Christian Church after the days of the apostles. *Paganism*—its ceremonies, traditions and philosophies—was quickly introduced into the early Catholic Church.

The documented story of utter *corruption* and *debauchery* in professing "Christendom" presents a startling contrast to the *beliefs, customs* and *way of life* of the true Church in apostolic days. We found that men like Wyclif, Huss and Savonarola were *martyred* in trying to purge this wickedness from the Catholic Church.

Millions of the common people cried out for relief from the political and financial tyranny of Rome. Last month, we discussed Luther's unique identification with these fervent hopes of the masses.

We have presented the documented evidence that Luther was oppressed with a sense of *guilt* in being unable to obey what he thought was God's will. This led him to the point of *adding a word* to Romans 1:17 and teaching: "The just shall live by faith *alone*."

Besides revolting against the Catholic doctrine of indulgences, Luther rebelled against the need of *any* definite obedience to the commands of God—relying now on "faith *alone*" for salvation. And in his rebellion against Rome, he made a *political appeal* to the German nobles for their backing, writing: "We were born to be masters. . . . It is time the glorious Teutonic people should cease to be the puppet of the Roman pontiff" (Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church*, p. 278).

## The Beginning of Lutheranism

After his final break with Rome,

Luther began to cultivate a number of the leading nobles and princes to support his cause. Without proper protection, he was a *dead man*—under the ban of the emperor and the pope.

During his disputes with John Eck, and in his preaching, writing, and other reformatory labors, Luther had won the respect of a number of young humanists of Germany. Among these were Ulrich von Hutten and Francis von Sickingen. Hutten seconded Luther's religious appeals by writing caustic pamphlets against the pope and higher clergy. And his friend, Sickingen, offered his castle to Luther as a place of refuge in case of emergency.

Two other men were aids of Luther's work and were associated with him at the University of Wittenberg. The first was Andrew Carlstadt, Luther's senior in the divinity school, who had conferred on him the doctor's degree. He was an able theologian for those times, but lacked Luther's personality and popular eloquence. He was regarded as somewhat impetuous and often wished to bring about a more complete reformation than did Luther. To Luther's dismay, he sometimes *put into practice* what Luther merely talked about.

The other man who became absorbed in Luther's teaching was Philip Melancthon, the professor of Greek in the university. He was only twenty-one years old at the time, but was scholarly, sensitive, and brilliant—already possessing a wide reputation for his ability. His conversion to Luther's teaching was not because of any travail of spirit, but as a result of his enthusiastic agreement with Luther's interpretation of the writings of Paul.

These humanists, these theologians, the elector, Frederick the Wise, and

many other princes, nobles and scholars—all began to ally themselves with Luther and his teachings. To most of the princes and nobility, the motives were purely *political* and *financial*. They were tired of the domination and intrusion of the Italian papacy. Luther had become a concrete symbol of this long-felt rebellion. Under his leadership, they were united in a *common bond of hatred* against the material power of the Roman Catholic Church (Alzog, p. 202).

To the humanists, Luther became a champion who expressed in popular eloquence what they had written about in witty, erudite books and pamphlets which were above the understanding of the average man. And his religious appeal gave depth and a positive meaning to the attacks on the hierarchy which their satirical writings had lacked. Though many did not understand his doctrine of *grace*, his *spirit of rebellion* against Rome quickly spread.

Thus, Luther became overnight a *champion of all Germany* in their various grievances against the papacy. A real *movement* had now begun, and the pope and new emperor, Charles the Fifth, were to find that it was to grow into a conflagration with which they could not fully cope.

## Luther's Doctrinal Development

Luther's treatise entitled "To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation," issued in 1520, had made him very popular with the German nobility, local authorities and peasantry. His practical proposals in it are briefly summarized by Walker: "Papal misgovernment, appointments, and taxation are to be curbed; burdensome offices abolished; German ecclesiastical interests should be placed under a 'Primate of Germany';

clerical marriage permitted; the far too numerous holy days reduced in the interest of industry and sobriety; beggary, including that of the mendicant orders, forbidden; brothels closed; luxury curbed; and theological education in the universities reformed. No wonder the effect of Luther's work was profound. He had voiced what earnest men had long been thinking" (*A History of the Christian Church*, p. 345).

Later the same year, in his "Babylonian Captivity of the Church," Luther attacked the sacramental practices of the Roman church. He denied the doctrine of transubstantiation, and said there are only two real sacraments—baptism, and the Lord's Supper. He denied the scriptural validity of the other Roman sacraments—confirmation, matrimony, orders, and extreme unction, though he did say that penance has a certain sacramental value as a return to the purity of baptism.

It is remarkable that in rejecting transubstantiation, Luther declares the *absolute authority* of Scripture in matters of faith and practice. He states: "For that which is asserted without the authority of Scripture or of proven revelation may be held as an opinion, but there is no obligation to believe it . . . Transubstantiation . . . must be considered as an invention of human reason, since it is based neither on Scripture nor sound reasoning. . . ." (Bettenson, *Documents*, p. 280).

If Luther had only applied this type of scriptural test to *all* of his doctrines, the world today might be a different type of place! For when he was charged with inserting the word "sola" (*alone*) into Romans 3:28, he haughtily replied: "Should your Pope give himself any useless annoyance about the word *sola*, you may promptly reply: It is the will of Dr. Martin Luther that it should be so" (Alzog, p. 199). And, we may add on good authority, no other reason for such unscriptural changes as these was ever given. When it came to Luther's own personal doctrinal convictions, Martin Luther was truly a *self-willed* man.

### The Essence of Luther's Doctrine

The essence of the gospel to Luther was *forgiveness of sins* through a personal, transforming faith in Jesus Christ.

He regarded this as the *sole type* of true religion (Walker, p. 346).

But Luther totally neglected the Bible teaching on the kind of absolute *repentance* that must *precede* any forgiveness of sins. And his mind continued to rebel against the necessity of *obedience* to any kind of authority or law after one was forgiven by faith in Christ. He wrote: "As many as *believe* in Christ, be they as numerous and wicked as may be, will be neither responsible for their works nor condemned on account of them." And again: "*Unbelief* is the only sin man can be guilty of; whenever the name is applied to other acts, it is a misnomer. . . ." (Alzog, p. 199).

His third tractate of 1520, that "On Christian Liberty," asserts that a Christian man is spiritually *subject to no man or to any law*. He contended that since we are justified by *faith alone*, we are no longer under obligation to keep the law of God.

Here we see that Luther continued to stress this personal, emotional, and psychological experience of free *forgiveness* as the central tenet of all his teaching. He had himself felt so oppressed by a sense of *guilt* while in the Roman church, that he now felt compelled to cast aside all sense of *law* and a need for *obedience*. We will compare this teaching with Scripture in another place.

Thus, Luther's doctrine was now complete in its main outlines. Although he would later clarify himself on many smaller points, the basic principles of Luther's theological system had now been established (Walker, p. 346).

### Luther at Worms and at the Wartburg

In 1521, Luther was summoned to appear before the Diet of Worms, and his friends warned him of his mortal danger. But the emperor had given him promise of a safe conduct, and he was determined to go even "if there were as many devils in that city as there were tiles on its houses."

Before the Diet, Luther was immediately confronted with a row of his books and asked whether he would recant them or not. After a recess for consideration, he admitted that he might have spoken too strongly against persons, but would not recant any of the substance of what he had written unless

it could be disproved by Scripture or reason. He is reported to have closed with the words: "Here I stand; I can do naught else. God help me. Amen" (Hurlbut, p. 153).

Returning home from Worms, Luther was seized by friendly hands and taken to Wartburg Castle, near Eisenach, where he was to remain in hiding for nearly a year. He had been put under the ban of the empire, and had Germany been ruled by a strong central authority Luther's career would have soon ended in martyrdom. But his vigorous and friendly territorial ruler, Frederick the Wise, time and again proved to be Luther's salvation. From his secret retreat at the Wartburg, Luther made his continuing activity felt by writing many letters and pamphlets in favor of his cause which were sent all over Germany. But the most lasting fruit of the period was his translation of the New Testament. This translation from the Greek text of Erasmus into German was a work of high literary value, and is regarded as the foundation of the German written language (Hauser, p. 60-61).

"Few services greater than this translation have ever been rendered to the development of the religious life of a nation. Nor, with all his deference to the Word of God, was Luther without his own canons of criticism. These were the relative clearness with which *his interpretation* of the work of Christ and the method of salvation by faith is taught. Judged by these standards, he felt that Hebrews, James, Jude, and Revelation were of *inferior worth*. Even in Scripture itself there were *differences* in value" (Walker, p. 349).

Thus we find that although Luther taught that all true doctrine should be based on Scripture, when it came to *interpreting* Scripture he had his own pet theories even as to the relative worth of *entire books* of the Bible! And, as we shall see, he violently denounced those who did not agree with his doctrinal theories.

### Continuing Reformation at Wittenberg

While Luther remained in seclusion at Wartburg, several of his associates continued the ecclesiastical revolution in Wittenberg. In many cases they carried

out the very reforms that Luther had talked about—but had not yet acted on.

By October, 1521, Luther's fellow monk, Gabriel Zwilling, was denouncing the mass and urging the abandonment of clerical vows. Many of the inmates of the Augustinian monastery of Wittenberg soon renounced their profession, and Zwilling was soon attacking the use of images.

At Christmas, 1521, Carlstadt summoned the city to a celebration of the Lord's Supper after the *new fashion*. He officiated in plain clothes, omitted all reference to sacrifice in the liturgy, offered *both* the bread and wine to the laity, and used the German language in conducting the sacrament (Bainton, *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*, p. 64).

Auricular confession and the fasts were soon abandoned. Carlstadt taught that all ministers should marry and later, in 1522, took to himself a wife.

The general excitement was increased by the arrival, in December of 1521, of several radical "prophets" from Zwickau. They claimed immediate divine inspiration, taught against infant baptism, and prophesied the speedy end of the world (Walker, p. 350). Melancthon was upset by all these events, and was too unsure of himself to affirm or deny these new teachings.

Carlstadt, however, was only trying to follow through on *Luther's appeal* to return to Scriptural practices. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the arrival of the Zwickau "prophets" tainted the movement with radicalism for a time. These incidents were highly displeasing to the elector, Frederick the Wise, and drew forth warning protests from other German princes. It is important to realize that Luther had to walk a narrow line to keep with the pleasure of these *German princes* who gave political, military and financial backing.

And so, partly to avoid any further censure for radicalism from the German princes, and partly because of an evident *jealousy of Carlstadt* (Orchard, p. 339), Luther was determined to return to Wittenberg and again take charge of the reformatory movement.

#### Carlstadt's Reforms

But let us first notice some of the

changes Carlstadt was bringing about: "Carlstadt renounced all clerical garb and, though a minister, dressed in a great gray cloak as a peasant. A second principle re-enforced this position, namely social equalitarianism. The doctrine of the priesthood of all believers was taken so seriously that Carlstadt would not be called Doctor but only "Brother Andreas." The *desire* which also actuated Luther *to restore the pattern of early Christianity* was carried further to include many Old Testament practices. The destruction of images was based on the Mosaic injunction, as was also the introduction of a *strict sabbatarianism*. The *entire program* was *alien to the spirit of Luther*, who believed that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and any portion may be used in the interests of religion" (Bainton, *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*, p. 65-66). Upon hearing of this new program, Luther immediately returned to Wittenberg, gained the favor of the Elector and the town council, and *banished* Carlstadt from the city.

The startling fact is here disclosed that Carlstadt, although he *misunderstood some points*, was attempting to reinstate many of the practices of *Christ* and the *apostles*. *Luther would have none of this*. He would sometimes talk about returning to Biblical Christianity, but he always rejected any real attempt to actually do so.

#### Luther's Alliance with the Princes

After Luther's return from Wittenberg, he showed a decidedly *conservative attitude* in all things and regained his influence with the German princes. He was forced to *play politics* much of the time because the success of the Lutheran movement was wholly dependent on their favor.

The emperor was now kept busy by a great war with France for the control of Italy. Pope Leo X had died in December 1521, and his successor was not yet influential enough to curb Luther's activities. Under these favorable circumstances, it looked as if the Reformation might win the entire German nation to its cause (Hausser, p. 68-69).

Many Lutheran congregations were now forming in various regions of Germany, and the problem of *church*

*organization and government* was presented. Without consulting the *Bible* to find out what type of church government *Christ* had instituted in His church, Luther thought out *a system of his own*. "Luther now was convinced that such associations of believers had full power to appoint and depose their pastors. He held, also, however, that the temporal rulers, as in the positions of chief power and responsibility in the Christian community, had a prime duty to further the Gospel. The experiences of the immediate future, and the necessities of actual church organization within extensive territories, were to turn Luther from whatever sympathy he now had with this free-churchism to a strict dependence on the state" (Walker, p. 351).

Because of this very type of *man-devised church government*, we find that the Lutheran church has been *politically controlled* and almost wholly dependent on the state down to recent times. But Luther's efforts to *keep the favor of the German princes*, and his tendency to *retain countless ideas and customs* brought over from the pagan Roman church—all this caused him to be considered very "conservative." In fact, he did not depart from the Roman Catholic traditions in *many ways*.

Luther decided that great freedom was permissible in the details of worship, as long as the 'Word of God' was kept central. The different Lutheran congregations soon developed a *wide variety* of usages in their services. Instead of Latin, the German language was increasingly used. Luther retained much of the Catholic form of the *Mass*, and issued one in German in 1526. He also retained the Catholic practice of *confession*, though not as obligatory. "Judged by the development of the Reformation elsewhere, Luther's attitude in manners of worship was strongly conservative, his *principle* being that 'what is not contrary to Scripture is for Scripture and Scripture for it.' *He therefore retained much of Roman usage*, such as the use of *candles*, the *crucifix*, and the illustrative employment of *pictures*" (Walker, p. 352).

#### A Rift in Luther's Party

At this time, the first serious rifts among Luther's followers began to ap-

pear. The first disaffection arose among the humanists, whose leader, Erasmus, had very little sympathy with Luther's doctrine of "justification by faith *alone*." He feared the results of a teaching which practically *denied the moral responsibility of man*. And the stormy writings of Luther, coupled with tumultuous outbreaks in several places, made him increasingly alarmed.

In the autumn of 1524, he began to challenge Luther's denial of free will. This doctrine, which we will discuss more fully in a later section, asserted that in the fall of Adam, man's nature had become so radically corrupted that he was *incapable of obeying God* or of doing *any* truly good thing.

Realizing the gross error of this doctrine and others held by Luther, and fearful of the increasing decline of interest in education and in public morals which seemed to accompany Luther's teaching, Erasmus formally broke with Luther (Alzog, p. 226-227).

Another rift in the movement occurred because of the dissatisfaction of some with the half-way measures Luther was taking as a reformer. Many sincerely wanted to get back to the pattern of *New Testament Christianity*. But Luther now seemed determined to preserve as many of the Romish practices and doctrines as he could without overthrowing his basic doctrines of justification by faith *alone* and rejection of the papal hierarchy and sacramental system. He no doubt felt he must do this to keep the *political backing* of the German princes.

It is true that the leaders of some of these movements became *radicals*. An example is Thomas Munzer, who attacked Romanists and Lutherans alike for their doctrines, claiming himself to be *directly inspired*, and leading his followers in ransacking and destroying monasteries and breaking all images in the churches (Walker, p. 353).

Yet it seems *certain* that if Luther had been willing to trust in God alone for his protection, *instead of courting* the favor of the human princes, he could have led the people to a *complete break* with the pagan Catholic system, doctrines, and customs. He would have found *many thousands* of sincere men and women in Germany alone who

would have *gladly* followed. For the masses were already fed up with the Roman and feudal system and were *ripe* for a change.

Here was a grand opportunity to effect a genuine restoration of *apostolic Christianity*. If Luther and his associates had surrendered their wills completely to God, asked His guidance *in every phase* of this restoration, and honestly followed the plain *literal* word of the *teachings* and *practices* instituted by Christ and His apostles, much of Germany would probably have followed.

But such was *not* to be the case. Luther's refusal to carry through a complete reformation left many sincere but uneducated peasants and townsmen to be the prey of unbalanced leaders who in many cases restored some of the *true apostolic practices* Luther had willingly ignored, but who all too often mingled these with *strange excesses* of their own devising.

#### The Peasants' War

The situation just described brought on the now infamous revolt of the German peasants. The way Luther blundered in handling this situation caused by far the most serious separation from his movement.

The German peasantry had been oppressed for generations and their state was one of increasing misery. The preaching and religious excitement of Luther's reform movement acted as a spark to goad them into the long-delayed action of rising against their masters.

"In March 1525, the peasants put forth twelve articles, demanding the right of each community to choose and depose its pastor, that the great tithes (or grain) be used for the support of the pastor and other community expenses, and the small tithes abolished, that serfdom be done away, reservations for hunting restricted, the use of the forests allowed to the poor, forced labor be regulated and duly paid, just rents fixed, new laws no longer enacted, common lands restored to communities from which they had been taken, and payments for inheritance to their masters abolished. To modern thinking these were moderate and reasonable requests. To *that age* they seemed revolutionary" (Walker, p. 354).

Although many Protestant historians maintain that Luther had no part in the peasant uprising, it is a *perversion of truth* to deny the fact that the peasants were simply putting into practice some of the principles of freedom *contained in Luther's own writings*. And there is no denying the fact that if Luther had not turned against them in their hour of need, countless thousands of lives would have been spared—and the economic slavery of the German peasantry would not have been prolonged (Hausser, p. 102).

But Luther was suspicious of the uneducated peasant class—in spite of the fact that his own family had belonged to it. And, more important, Luther had put his trust in the *backing of the princes*, and was ever careful not to offend them—although he did send them a tempered warning and a reminder of their responsibility in the expected outbreak (Hausser, p. 103).

#### Luther Advocates Violent Suppression

Although Luther had long advocated the counsel of love and restraint, and knew well Christ's injunction to "love your enemies," his about-face in the matter of the peasant revolt is no less than astonishing. Furthermore, the situation *did not call for such violence* as he advocated—even had such a course been consistent with Christian principles.

Unquestionably, there were faults on both sides. But Luther's ranting appeal to the princes to *mercilessly destroy* the peasants reveals a spirit as far remote from the Spirit that directed Jesus Christ as it would seem possible to imagine.

Henry C. Vedder paints an accurate picture of the ugly situation:

"Though the peasants had a good cause, they had not always adopted good methods. Most of them were ignorant, all were exasperated, and some were maddened by their wrongs. In their uprising some outrages were committed; castles had been burned and plundered and ruthless oppressors had been slain. These deeds were now made the pretext for a retaliation whose cruelty has rarely been surpassed in history. It is computed by historians who have no motive to exaggerate, that *fully a hundred thousand* were killed before the fury of the princes and the knights was appeased.

"Foremost among those who urged them on was Luther. It would seem that he had become alarmed by the persistence of those who had sought to make him and his teachings responsible for the peasant war. His hope was in the protection and patronage of the princes, to whom the plain words he had spoken must have given deep offense. So in the midst of the uproar he sent to the press a second pamphlet, in which he turned completely about, and denounced the peasants as violently as he had before rebuked the princes.

"They cause uproar, outrageously rob and pillage monasteries and castles not belonging to them. For this alone, as public highwaymen and murderers, they deserve a twofold death of body and soul. It is right and lawful to slay at the first opportunity a rebellious person, known as such, already under God and the emperor's ban. For a public rebel, every man is both judge and executioner. Just as, when a fire starts, he who can extinguish it first is the best fellow. Rebellion is not a vile murder, but like a great fire that kindles and devastates a country; hence uproar carries with it a land full of murder, bloodshed, makes widows and orphans, and destroys everything, like the greatest calamity. Therefore whosoever can should smite, strangle, and stab, secretly or publicly, and should remember that there is nothing more poisonous, pernicious, and devilish than a rebellious man. Just as when one must slay a mad dog; fight him not and he will fight you, and a whole country with you.

"Let the civil power press on confidently and strike as long as it can move a muscle. For here is the advantage: the peasants have bad consciences and unlawful goods, and whenever a peasant is killed therefore he has lost body and soul, and goes forever to the devil. Civil authority, however, has a clean conscience and lawful goods, and can say to God with all security of heart: 'Behold, my God, thou hast appointed me prince or lord, of that I cannot doubt, and has entrusted me with the sword against evil doers (Rom. 13:4) . . . Therefore I will punish and smite as long as I can move a muscle; thou wilt judge and approve.' . . . Such wonderful times are these that a prince can more

easily win heaven by shedding blood than others with prayer'" (Vedder, *A Short History of the Baptists*, p. 173-4).

Well may we ask ourselves, "If these are the words of a reformer sent from God, then what is the measure of true religion?" Are these the words of a man directed by the Holy Spirit of God? Was the risen Christ using this man to purify His "little flock"?

By this cruel act of turning so bitterly against the peasants, Luther had gained greater esteem with the protecting princes. But, even humanly speaking, the cost was great. From this time forth, popular sympathy for his cause among the peasants of southern Germany was alienated.

Erasmus rebuked Luther for his hypocritical conduct in this sordid affair. He wrote: "We are now gathering the fruits of your teaching. You say indeed that the Word of God should, of its nature, bear very different fruit. Well, in my opinion, that greatly depends on the manner in which it is preached. You disclaim any connection with the insurgents, while they regard you as their parent, and the author and expounder of their principles" (Alzog, p. 223).

After this, it is easy to understand the peasants' lack of sympathy for the man who urged the princes to "smite, strangle, and stab" them and their loved ones.

### The Division of Germany

The bloody suppression of the peasant uprising now left the princes and the cities in complete control of Germany. Political alliances were now formed for or against the Reformation. A league of Catholics was organized by Duke George of Saxony and other Catholic princes who met at Dessau in July, 1525. An opposing Lutheran league was formed at Torgau. A renewal of the emperor's struggles—this time against an alliance of the pope and the French king—kept Charles V too occupied to interfere with the religious struggles in Germany (Walker, p. 356).

At the Diet of Spires, in 1526, a decree was made giving each German prince the right to handle religious matters in his own territory—for the time being—as he felt responsible to God. This act gave the Lutheran movement its first legal existence, and was

regarded as a triumph for the German reformers. However, from this time forth Luther was tied to the apron strings of his princely protectors. As we shall see, he was forced to employ compromise and deceit in order to continue in their good graces. Because of his own system, he was not allowed to preach the Word of God "without fear or favor." He and the Protestant cause were inextricably bound up with the politics of this world.

But the emperor was soon victorious over all his enemies, and the princes were summoned to the Diet of Spires in 1529. The Catholic party was now in the majority, and issued an edict which forbade the progress of the Reformation in the states which had not accepted it, and granted full liberties in the reformed territories to all who remained Catholics.

To this unequal ruling the Elector of Saxony and several other princes made a formal protest. From that time the term Protestant was applied to the Lutheran party and to their doctrines (Fisher, *The History of the Christian Church*, p. 304).

From this time the development of territorial churches became an established policy. Germany was to be divided between the Catholic territories in the south, and the Protestants in the north.

Now where a man lived often determined his religion. And the spread of Lutheranism depended more on politics than on prophets.

In the next installment, we will discuss the outcome—the "fruit"—of this religio-political movement. Then we will proceed with the exciting events in other phases of the Reformation. To keep our perspective, we must always bear in mind these questions: Was this movement motivated and guided by God's Holy Spirit? Was it a genuine return to the "faith once delivered to the saints"?

For more of the answers, don't miss next month's gripping installment in this important series!

## Did God Create a Devil?

(Continued from page 26)

not about a human being.

Beginning at verse 12: "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus." Here is the REAL king that ruled

in and through the prince of Tyrus. "And say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God. Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." Here was one who sealed up the sum total of perfection, of wisdom, and beauty.

Could that be said about a man? Does God speak like that of any mortal man? Never! He is speaking of some being far greater than man. Notice, "*Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God.*" On the earth!

Then he said, "The workmanship of thy tabrets and thy pipes was prepared in thee *in the day that thou wast CREATED.*" This was not a human being, who was *born*.

The prophet continues to say, "*Thou art the anointed CHERUB that covereth.*" If you will refer to Exodus 25, verses 16-22, you will find the type of the throne of God described. Included in the earthly type—the tabernacle in the days of Moses—was the mercy seat which was a picture of the very throne of God. On it two cherubim were placed. They were made of metals, of course, but their wings stretched out and covered the very throne of God. They symbolized the two great cherubs whose wings stretch out and cover the very throne of God.

Through Ezekiel, God says: "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth." In other words, one of the two great cherubs ruling over millions of other angels!

He was a created being. He sealed up the sum total of perfection, of wisdom, and of beauty. Then in verse 14, we read this: "I have set thee so," God said. God had set him in office. "Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God,"—Palestine or Eden!

"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day *thou wast created.*" Here was a being that was *created perfect UNTIL INIQUITY WAS FOUND IN HIM.*

That iniquity was described in Isaiah 14. He said, "I'm not satisfied with what I have. I'm going to become an invader. I'm going to take God's place and be the God of the universe." That was the devil's *sin*—INSUBORDINATION.

#### How the Earth Became Chaotic

A third of the angels united with Satan in the rebellion. *That is what*

*caused the chaos of this earth.* The sin of angels reached into the heavens and brought chaos on earth. What the geologists and astronomers see is not an evolving universe, but the wreckage of a titanic battle waged by spirits throughout space—a battle fought before man's creation.

The earth was created perfect and complete. Then it BECAME chaotic as a result of rebellion. And in six days, God *re-made* the earth, *re-shaped*, *re-fashioned* it, and created human beings upon it.

He gave Adam a chance to take the place of Satan the devil. Remember, Lucifer had been placed *in rulership*.

God placed the great cherub, Lucifer, to carry out His government on the earth; but Lucifer refused to carry out God's will, God's commands, God's government. He wanted to substitute his own.

*So he disqualified himself.*

Adam had the chance to supplant him. In the contest to see if Adam would conquer, if he would obey God, he failed. He obeyed the devil instead, and man *became the property of the devil*, and the whole human race was sold down the river to the devil ever since.

Jesus Christ came 4000 years later and He entered the great contest—the contest of the temptation on the Mount. *He REFUSED to obey the devil.* He quoted scripture correctly. *He obeyed God.*

Finally, He turned to the devil, and *He gave Satan a command.* He said, "Get away from me," and the devil obeyed!

From that time on, the successor of Satan has been qualified to take over the rule of the earth. But Jesus went to heaven for 1900 years. He is soon coming again, and when He does, *the devil will be DISPLACED.* Christ will rule the earth; God's laws will be restored. Order and peace will come at last!

So God did NOT create a devil. He created a cherub, Lucifer—perfect in his ways, but with the power of free choice—and Lucifer transformed himself into a devil by rebellion against the government of God!

Today, YOU face the question: Will YOU obey the ways of Satan, or the LAWS of GOD?

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