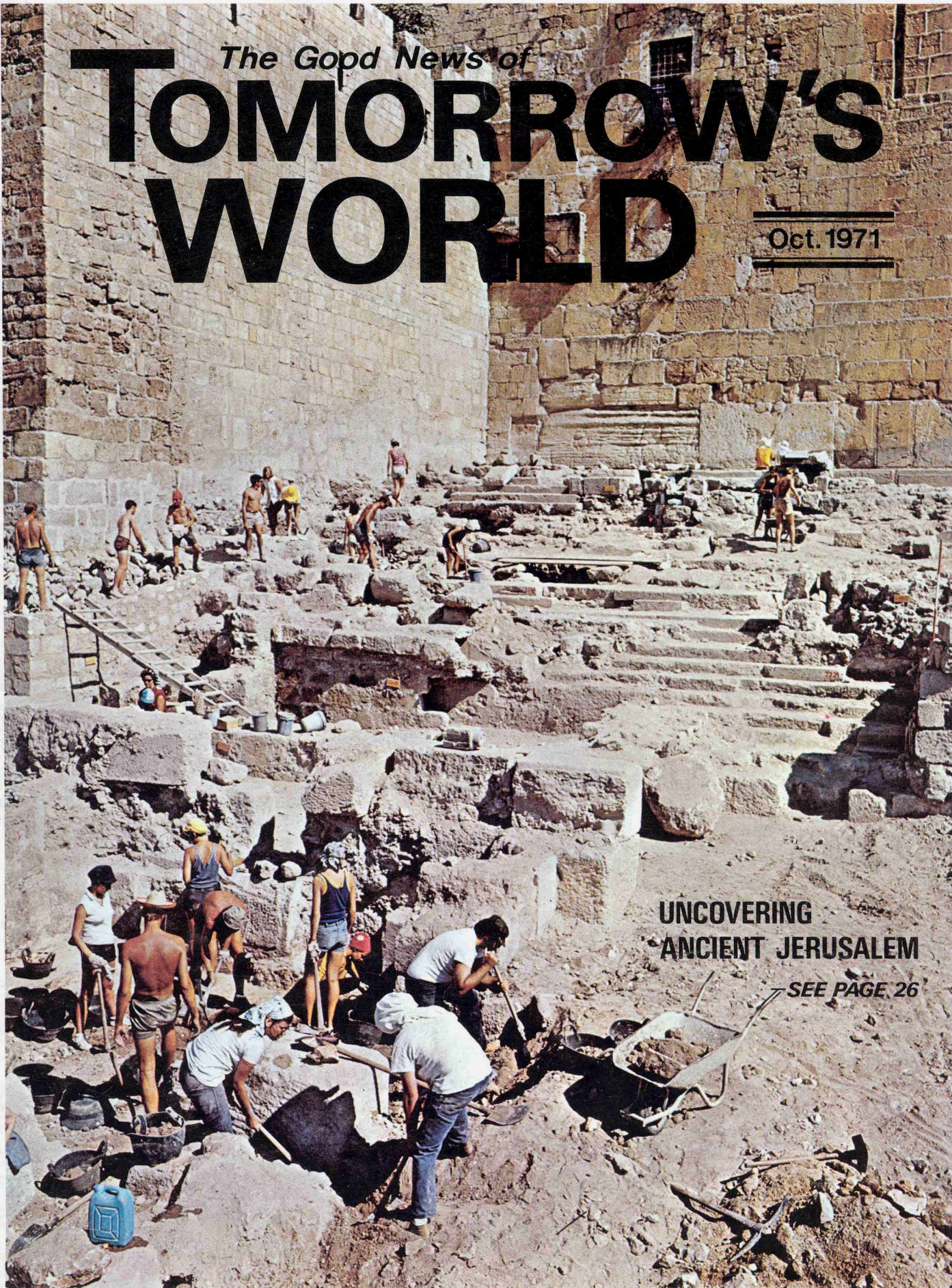


The Good News of

TOMORROW'S WORLD

Oct. 1971



**UNCOVERING
ANCIENT JERUSALEM**

SEE PAGE 26

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More About Our Cover

Outside the walls of Old Jerusalem, the veil of 2000 years of history is being removed from the southern entrance to the Temple Mount. This summer, archaeologists from Hebrew University uncovered a portion of the grand staircase that had lain hidden under the accumulated rubble of centuries. It is a product of the first century B. C., when the added influx of thousands of visitors had begun to crowd the temple area beyond capacity. In a grandiose building project that knew few parallels, King Herod of Judea (37-3 B. C.) enlarged the area of the Temple precinct by about a third of its former size, and surrounded the whole with an impregnable wall, one of the original stones of which is seen here embedded in the Southern Wall (background). This portion of the wall contained the two Huldah Gates which were approached by the broad and massive staircase. See page 26 for a report on this summer's Jerusalem Dig, and page 31 for an artist's sketch of how this newly uncovered section of the Temple Mount must have looked in the days of Jesus.

Ambassador College Photo

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October 1971

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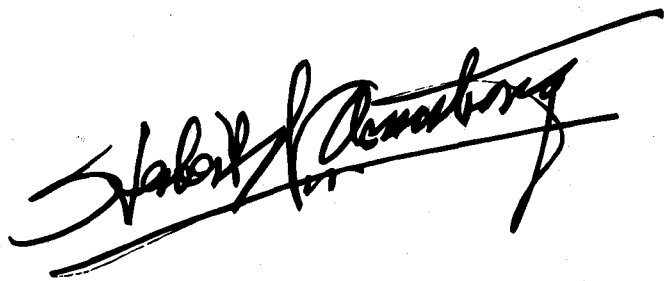
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Personal from



How to Prevent Sin

DO YOU realize that if it is wrong to *do* a certain thing, it is wrong to harbor **THOUGHTS** of that thing in your mind?

"All have sinned," says the Scripture.

What *is* sin, anyway?

Satan ought to know — and he is the invisible influence who sways the course of this world. Hollywood has been considered by many the world's mecca of sin. The newsstands in Hollywood used to carry a very worldly booklet, written in a very light "breezy," and satirical vein, titled *How to Sin in Hollywood*. It gave a definition of sin. The definition is expressive, and not far from the truth. Here it is: "Sin is *thinking thoughts* you ought not to be thinking about things you ought not to be *doing* while you are *thinking* that kind of *thoughts*."

God's definition is: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). The Law of "LOVE," as defined by the Ten Commandments. Jesus said: "That which cometh *out* of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed *evil thoughts*, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness [violations of the Law — the Ten Commandments] . . ." (Mark 7:20-22).

"ALL have sinned," says the Scripture. And what man — especially what Christian — is there who has not time and again experienced the struggle against sin described by the Apostle Paul? "What I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that I do. . . . For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not,

that I do" (Romans 7:15, 19). Who is there who has not LOST that struggle, perhaps many times?

Of course no man, of himself, can live above sin. "With men it *is* impossible," said Jesus, "but with God all things are possible." And Paul continues (Rom. 8:4, 14) to show that the only DELIVERANCE from this "body of death" is through Jesus Christ, and the indwelling power of God's Holy Spirit — "that the RIGHTEOUSNESS of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit . . . they are the sons of God."

Yes, but we have OUR part in it, too. And it all centers in the MIND.

REPENTANCE of sin means, literally, to *change* one's *mind* in respect to sin. If we repent, and accept Jesus Christ as Saviour, the promise is we SHALL receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "And be renewed in the spirit of *your mind*" (Eph. 4:23) — the presence of the Holy Spirit is the RENEWING of *the mind*.

How does sin actually happen? ". . . Every man is *tempted*, when he is drawn away of his own lust [desire], and enticed. Then when lust [the desire IN THE MIND] hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14-15).

The TEMPTATION is in the *mind*. When you *think* about the thing that tempts you — let your mind dwell on it — turn it over in your mind — whether it be a desire to GO some place, to DO something, or to HAVE something you know is wrong — that *thinking about it* finally conceives — leads to *action* — and breeds SIN. You finally DO the thing you kept thinking about, wanting to do. If you keep thinking about it, after a while you'll be UNABLE to resist it. That's why you've lost so many of these struggles against sin — you kept *thinking* about it, desiring it, wanting it.

The way to prevent sin is to let God's Spirit fill the mind. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2).

The way to put a thing OUT of the mind is to put an *opposite* thought IN the mind. So often I have noticed parents of babies strive so hard to "shush" up the baby when it is crying. There's either something causing pain, which should be removed, or something in the baby's mind that is causing its crying or fretting. Just saying "shush!" or commanding the baby to stop fussing doesn't usually get very good results. We have reared four children, and long ago I learned the trick

(Continued on inside back cover)

*Just
What
Do
You
Mean...*
**BORN
AGAIN?**

Don't be too sure you know! Many professing Christians sincerely believe they have been "born again" — but do not understand what Jesus meant by those words. The true answer is not only surprising — it is startling! — THE MOST IMPORTANT truth you can know, here made SO PLAIN you will UNDERSTAND!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY did not the Pharisee, Nicodemus, understand when Jesus said to him: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"?

WHY do people not understand those words today?

HOW MANY know, today, that Jesus' Gospel was a sensational, never-before proclaimed NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT?

Jesus Was a Newscaster

Those in Judea knew — or should have known — Malachi's prophecy concerning this. It was the Gospel of God — and the word "gospel" means GOOD NEWS!

Jesus was a NEWSCASTER. His news was something absolutely NEW — never before proclaimed to mankind. It was the most wonderful NEWS ever reported. Actually almost too wonderful for humans to believe. It was news of the utterly transcendent potential of man.

A humorous columnist wrote a bit on the news printed in daily newspapers. It is actually NOT news, he insisted, since it is a reporting of events that already have happened. Therefore it is no longer NEW, but OLD when printed. He insisted it really ought to be called OLDS!

The tremendous Message that Jesus brought was NEWS! It was not a report of past events. It was ADVANCE news! — news of an almost unbelievable UTOPIAN WORLD TOMORROW!

And it is SURE!

And it was news that we may be BORN AGAIN! Yet almost nobody understands it!

HOW MANY, even today, know that Jesus' Gospel was NOT in any sense a new or different religion — yet it was actually so BREATHTAKING — so seemingly *incredible*, so startling, it should have left its hearers in a daze of awe! It didn't. WHY?

WHY has it never been recognized by the world as the stupendous NEWS that it actually was?

Simply because the leaders in Judea rejected it — hated it — hated Jesus for announcing the wonderful great news

— turned most of the people against it. And it has been so MISREPRESENTED, so distorted and maligned, that the whole world has been deceived — and has totally MISUNDERSTOOD IT! Your Bible says the WHOLE WORLD — *all nations* — have been deceived about that Gospel!

The *time* was at hand, then, for this Message to be announced! The time is at hand, today, for its true MEANING to be made SO PLAIN that people may UNDERSTAND IT!

It WILL BE, in this article! And it is a crucial CHALLENGE to you who now read it!

And you have to UNDERSTAND what was that news announcement, or you can never UNDERSTAND what Jesus meant about being "born again."

What Was the News?

Notice, briefly, first, what that astonishing NEW Message was!

The pre-announcement, in Malachi's prophecy, says: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek [the Messiah], shall suddenly come to his temple, even the Messenger of the covenant..." (Mal. 3:1).

Now notice the beginning of the Messenger's proclamation of that Message.

It is recorded in Mark's Gospel, chapter 1: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; as it is written in the prophets..." Then follows the citation from Malachi, written above. That is followed by the account of John the Baptist, preparing the way before the Messenger.

Then, verses 14-15: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel.'" That is, BELIEVE the Good News!

What IS the Kingdom of God?

What did He mean — the Kingdom of God?

Jesus' whole Message — His Gospel — was about the KINGDOM OF GOD! Yet few know anything about it, today.

A Kingdom is a), a NATION composed of people, and b), the GOVERNMENT of the nation.

In some cases, the people of a nation are the descendants — the children — of one man. The nation of Turkey is the descendants of the ancient Esau, twin brother of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, father of the nation Israel. Before the twins were born, God said to their mother, Rebekah, "Two *nations* are in thy womb..." (Gen. 25:23).

Now Jesus the Messiah was to come as "the Messenger of the COVENANT." The "Old Covenant" had established the human children of Israel as a NATION or KINGDOM of *humans*, called the KINGDOM OF ISRAEL. Jesus came as the Messenger — heralding the Message of the NEW Covenant that shall set up the Spirit-composed children of GOD as the Kingdom of God!

As the ancient Kingdom of Israel was composed of the human FAMILY of the human man Israel, so the Kingdom of God will be composed of the *divine* family of the divine GOD!

And what does this have to do with "being BORN AGAIN"? It has *everything* to do with it!

Daniel Foretold It

The prophet Daniel wrote of this Kingdom of God. In his second chapter, after foretelling of the Chaldean Empire (Babylon), the Persian Empire, the Græco-Macedonian Empire with its four divisions, and the Roman Empire, stretching even into the now-forming resurrected "Holy Roman Empire" in Europe, we read the following: "And in the days of these kings [the forthcoming United Nations of Europe] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed... but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (Dan. 2:44). To "stand forever" it will, of necessity, be a Kingdom of IMMORTALS, not mortals.

It will be a WORLD RULING Kingdom!

Daniel's 7th chapter portrays it again — and shows the connection with being "born again." The four world empires — Babylon through Rome and its coming resurrection in Europe —

are pictured as four beasts — wild animals.

Saints Become Immortal

Verse 17: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings [kingdoms], which shall arise out of the earth. But *the saints* of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even for ever and ever." To possess it FOR EVER, the saints will have to be IMMORTAL!

Then the Babylonian religious power, now Roman, "made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; until the Ancient of days [Christ at second coming] came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the Kingdom" (verses 21-22). Read also verse 27.

The second coming of Christ is described thus: "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever'" (Rev. 11:15).

Yet in spite of these and many more such scriptures, many deceived theologians today mislead the people saying that the CHURCH is the Kingdom of God! Or, that "the Kingdom" is some mysterious ethereal nothing "in men's hearts."

Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand."

What did He mean? WHY had this Message never been proclaimed before? The answer requires a pre-history background.

There Was Once PEACE on Earth

It isn't popular, today, to mention the existence of a devil. But the Bible, again and again, puts great emphasis on the presence of a real literal devil.

Biblical revelation shows that originally, this earth was a place of PEACE, happiness — a real utopia. It was then ruled by the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. That Government will be once again RESTORED (Acts 3:20-21) by Christ returning to earth in the supreme POWER and GLORY of God!

But what happened? WHY don't we

have that Government, now? *Why* is there no PEACE on earth?

When the earth was originally created, the angels shouted for JOY! (Job 38:7.) It was beautiful. It was PEACEFUL. It was populated by angels — not then by humans. It was governed by the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. There was a super arch-angel — a cherub named Lucifer (meaning bringer of LIGHT) — one of two cherubim whose wings stretched over the very throne of God in heaven. Lucifer was thoroughly trained in the administration of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD (Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-17).

God governs by His spiritual Law — a Law based on the principle of LOVE. Love, first, to God with submission and obedience, and secondly to His creatures — the way of outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others. But Lucifer's heart was lifted up in vanity, because of his beauty and vast knowledge. He rebelled against God, mutinied, set out to organize his angels into an invading army and to conquer GOD — in order to rule the entire vast UNIVERSE. This disqualified him as earth's ruler. However, the very principle of God's Government requires that the ruler retain office *until* a successor qualifies and is inducted into office.

Lucifer's name was changed to Satan, the devil. His angels became demons. As a result of this universal rebellion on earth, universal destruction and chaos struck the surface of the earth. In six days God re-shaped the earth's surface (Genesis 1), creating fauna and flora — and MAN!

When Man Appeared

God formed MAN, not after any animal kind, but in God's own likeness — not of spirit composition as is God, but of material flesh and blood. The first man, Adam, father of the human race, allowed Satan's attitude of REBELLION to enter his heart, failing to qualify as Satan's successor.

When Jesus was baptized by John, (Mark 1:9-11), immediately He underwent the most titanic struggle ever, in His temptation by the devil (verses 12-13).

Jesus had come to qualify to replace

Satan — to restore the Government of God on earth, and bring back WORLD PEACE! But, as the first Adam had undergone and succumbed to Satan's temptation, Jesus had to face and overcome this disqualified Satan.

Jesus underwent this test under the most trying and difficult conditions possible. He had been almost totally depleted of physical strength by fasting 40 days and nights — no food and no water! Yet even in this physical weakness, He was made the stronger SPIRITUALLY.

Few have ever realized the stupendous struggle that took place in that crucial temptation. Jesus resisted Satan's supreme temptations. He did it by quoting Scripture and OBEYING GOD. He *proved* under the maximum possible test, that He would obey God's Laws and administer God's GOVERNMENT faithfully. Then, in utter physical weakness but supreme spiritual strength, He proved He was Satan's Master, by giving Satan a crisp command to leave — and the defeated Satan slunk away!

Then (Mark 1:14), having qualified for the executive administration of the Government of God on earth, Jesus came into Galilee, saying, as quoted above, "the time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand"! (Verse 15.)

WHY the News Was NEW

How was the time fulfilled?

WHY was the Kingdom of God then at hand — and not before?

Simply because the wonderful news of the coming Kingdom of God could not be announced UNTIL a successor had QUALIFIED to replace Satan as earth ruler!

At last the Kingdom of God — GOD'S GOVERNMENT over the earth — was at hand! At last, it was assured, and the time was fulfilled! The One who had qualified to rule the earth was now free to announce His coming Government!

WHY Kingdom Not Yet Set Up

Yet Jesus was not going to *take over* the reign immediately. There were a number of reasons:

1) God had set a definite PLAN, with a definite time-program, for working

out His PURPOSE here below! It is a 7,000-year plan of seven millennial "days," of which the first seven literal days of re-creation were a type. The first six of these millenniums were allotted for man, of his own free volition (though swayed by Satan) to go his own way. Also, in effect, they were allotted as the six millennial "days" for Satan's "labor" of deception over humanity, to be followed by the millennial "Sabbath," in which Satan will observe *enforced* rest from his work of deceiving the nations, and God will teach humanity His TRUTH!

2) Jesus, in God's PLAN, was first to choose and teach disciples to become apostles, to carry on the proclamation of the GOOD NEWS — and to become the foundation of His Church.

3) Christ is going to set up a world government over all earth's nations only with the administration of a thoroughly trained and experienced organization. The first six thousand years of human experience has proved abundantly that man, under Satan's sway, is utterly incapable of ruling himself. Human-devised governments always have failed to bring world PEACE. Yet man, even now, seems unwilling to admit that fact. Men are still trying, in vain, to work and fight for PEACE. And *that* is where being "born again" comes in.

And that, also, is where being "born again" has been tragically misunderstood and misrepresented! God's Government will be DIVINE GOVERNMENT, by the saints converted into divine SPIRIT PERSONS, born of GOD! As those born of humans are *human* beings, so those born of the divine God will be DIVINE BEINGS, having been given IMMORTALITY! They shall be born into — enter into — inherit the KINGDOM OF GOD.

Kingdom Is a Family

A KINGDOM is a nation composed of people, as well as the GOVERNMENT of that nation. The Kingdom of GOD is composed of the divine FAMILY of God. The One Being we habitually think of as GOD is the FATHER of that Family.

Christ is a Son of God — a member of that divine FAMILY, even as we may

be!! That divine FAMILY *is* the Kingdom of God.

There are five KINGDOMS — the vegetable kingdom, the animal kingdom, the human kingdom (we are *not* of the animal kingdom, erroneous education to the contrary notwithstanding!!), the angel kingdom — and the GOD Kingdom!

God (Heb. *Elohim* — the uni-plural name, meaning more than one Person, forming the ONE God) said, "Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness." We were made of material flesh, but in the form and shape of God, and with MINDS on a totally different plane than animal brain. The human family was made so that we might be able to receive God's Spirit, and become His children. Animals were NOT so made.

In God's wonderful Plan for working out His PURPOSE here below, God has allotted the time-period between Jesus' first coming in human flesh, and His second coming in power and GLORY, for the calling of *some* to receive His Spirit, and be spiritually educated and trained, through His Word, to become rulers with Christ when He sets up His KINGDOM.

The Crux of Salvation

4) In order that man might be reconciled to God, Jesus also came for the express purpose of DEATH, by His shed blood paying for us, in our stead, the death penalty we have incurred as the penalty of sin. In order that we might be given God's gift of ETERNAL LIFE, Jesus' resurrection from the dead was necessary before we could receive eternal life.

5) The PLAN called for Jesus' ascension to God's throne in heaven — the throne of the Government of God over the UNIVERSE — to become our High Priest, during these years of training and spiritual development of the heirs of God to be used in the executive administration of the Government of God when Christ *does* set up that Government over earth's nations.

6) Jesus could not induct Himself into the office while here on earth in human form. It was necessary for Him, as explained in the parable of the pounds (Luke 19), to go to heaven to

there *receive* the authority of the Kingdom from God (the Father) — and to be CROWNED! The coronation ceremony will take place in heaven at God's throne, *before* Christ's return in POWER and GLORY!

7) Then He must return in all that POWER and GLORY and supreme authority to RULE!

Those are the reasons why Jesus did not then, immediately, set up or establish the Kingdom of God!

But even Jesus' own disciples could never seem to understand that He was not going to set up the Kingdom of God immediately. It is human to want things NOW!

WHY Jewish Rulers Hated Message

The Jewish rulers of Jesus' day, also, thought He was proclaiming a government to be set up immediately — to overthrow the Roman Empire, then ruling Judea as a vassal state.

One of these rulers of the Jews was a man named Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee, and the Pharisees were hostile to Jesus, because of this new Gospel. Nicodemus, however, wanted to meet this astonishing Messenger and discuss it with him. To avoid criticism from his colleagues, he came to Jesus by night.

"We know," he said, "that you are a teacher come from God."

The "we" implies that the divine identity of the Messenger and the Source of His Message was known to the Pharisees. But they were "NOW" people, concerned with protecting their status as rulers under the Roman government, not with receiving revelations from God.

Judea was a vassal state, under the rule of the Romans. The Romans were shrewd enough to force leaders among the Jews to administer most of the details of government, under higher Roman officials. Of course, the Roman rule was protected by occupying military forces. This system made life for the Jewish sub-rulers very desirable — a status worth maintaining.

At once Jesus perceived the import of Nicodemus' first words. His Message was the good news of the coming WORLD GOVERNMENT of GOD — that is, the KINGDOM OF GOD — the GOVERNMENT of God.

These Jewish rulers feared that Mes-

sage. Jesus was of their race — a Jew. If they did not oppose Him, they feared being shorn of their power, and perhaps put to death as subversives threatening the overthrow of the Roman government. And the Pharisees thought Jesus proclaimed the *immediate* take-over of that rule!

Not of This Age

Therefore Jesus did not waste words. He struck straight through to the crux point — the Kingdom of God is *not* of *this* world — this time — this age — but of the WORLD TOMORROW — a different and a following AGE. Not composed of humans, but of immortals — the GOD FAMILY!

So Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

Notice carefully, please — being "born again" has a vital connection with the Kingdom of God — with THE FACT that it is not of this time — this age. And — I repeat — Jesus' Gospel — His Message — *was* the Kingdom of God.

But Jesus' abrupt opening statement left Nicodemus confused. The religious leaders, and the hundreds of denominations and sects professing Christianity today are confused and deceived! Today's religionists put a different twist on it than did Nicodemus, however.

Nicodemus *did* understand clearly what is meant by being *born*. He knew it meant being delivered from his mother's womb. It meant being delivered into the WORLD! Today's religious leaders read into it a different meaning! What Nicodemus could not understand was *how* — in what manner — anyone could be born AGAIN! And of course, being carnal-minded, he could only conceive of a second *physical* birth. But he *knew* what being *born* meant!

Born Human a Second Time?

Puzzled, he asked, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" He was not confused about what is meant by being BORN. What Nicodemus could not understand was a *second* birth. He thought Jesus was talking about a second *human* birth.

He was unable to conceive of any

but a second *physical* birth — his mind could not *grasp* spiritual things.

Now Jesus had made clear that the Kingdom of God is something that can be seen — but not until or UNLESS one is "born again." Not during this physical *lifetime*! Also, verse 5, the Kingdom of God is something a man may *enter into* — but not until after he is born AGAIN — another and entirely different birth.

Then Jesus came quickly to the point — that the Kingdom of God is not of this present human LIFE in this present WORLD — it is not of this TIME — this present life-TIME — or age — it is the succeeding age — and the life to come.

Here is the crux point that explains it all: Jesus said:

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is *spirit*."

Man is now flesh — human. He is MATERIAL SUBSTANCE. "Dust thou art," said God to Adam, "and unto dust shalt thou return." Again, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 3:19 and 2:7).

Those Born Again to BE Spirit

But, said Jesus plainly, when one is born of the Spirit HE WILL BE SPIRIT! Look at it! Read it in your own Bible.

The Kingdom of God will be composed of SPIRIT BEINGS — not of humans!

At birth of human flesh, one is delivered from his mother's womb into *this* world. When born of the Spirit one will be delivered from the CHURCH of God (physical) into the KINGDOM of God (a Kingdom of SPIRIT BEINGS!).

Man is now COMPOSED of flesh — material substance — matter.

When BORN AGAIN he will BE spirit — a SPIRIT BEING, no longer human. He will be COMPOSED of spirit — of spirit composition — with life inherent — with self-containing life — not then existing by the breath of air and the circulation of blood.

Of the next age when the Kingdom of God will rule the world — the next LIFE — Jesus said "they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as

the angels of God . . ." (Matt. 22:30). Marriage is a physical, fleshly union. In the age of God's Kingdom — when "born again" — we shall BE spirit, not flesh. Born of God as SPIRIT BEINGS, no longer human. Angels are spirits — composed of spirit (Heb. 1:7). Jesus did not say we shall then *be* angels — but AS the angels — sexless and composed of SPIRIT. Angels are spirit beings — created as such — but not begotten and BORN of God as God's own born children. We therefore shall be much higher than angels!

Jesus explained this further to Nicodemus:

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).

You cannot see wind. Wind is compared to spirit. It is INVISIBLE. That's why mortal FLESH, as we now are, cannot SEE the Kingdom of God. Those who inherit it will *be* spirit — normally invisible to eyes still human.

Energy of an A-Bomb?

Jesus was comparing also the POWER of one *born* of the Spirit to that of wind. A scientist of the U.S. Weather Bureau, Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., Research Climatologist, said that the energy of one average hurricane is much greater than an A-bomb such as destroyed Hiroshima. I am quite certain that no human claiming to have been "born again" in this human life is capable of exerting a tiny fraction of that kind of energy. But — as I shall show in this article, one when he *becomes* spirit will have that kind of POWER!

Not While Flesh and Blood

The Apostle Paul made clear that the Kingdom of God is something a human may INHERIT, but not in THIS AGE — not while he is composed of material flesh. He may, now, become only an HEIR, not YET an inheritor!

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption" (I Cor. 15:50).

Leading up to this verse, Paul had made it very clear.

"The first man is of the earth, earthy

[human]: the second man is the Lord from heaven [— a divine GOD Being]" (I Cor. 15:47).

This is what Jesus was saying to Nicodemus. He was of the earth, earthy — human — he was flesh, not spirit. He was born of the flesh, so that's what he was — FLESH. When one is born of the Spirit, he will BE spirit. Paul is here explaining the same truth.

But we cannot BE spirit in this present age.

THERE IS A TIME ELEMENT CONCERNED WITH BEING BORN AGAIN!

Continue, now, in I Corinthians 15: "As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy" (verse 48). That is precisely what Jesus was explaining to Nicodemus. He was born of the flesh —

he WAS flesh. He was born of the earth — he *was* earthy. And so are we all! And, same verse, "...and as is the heavenly, such are they also that *are* heavenly." But for us humans, WHEN? Not in this life!

Next verse: "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall [future — resurrection] also bear the image of the heavenly" (verse 49). As we are now flesh, we shall be SPIRIT — at the resurrection. That is when we shall be "BORN AGAIN" — when we shall *see*, enter into, the Kingdom of God — when we *are* spirit — at the resurrection!

Lively new baby is born into this world. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh"! (John 3:6.)

Harold M. Lambert Photo



"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep [be dead], but we shall all be *changed*, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we [the then living] shall be *changed*" (verses 50-52). *There* is the TIME *when* we may be born again — *when* we may *see*, enter into, inherit the Kingdom — when "BORN AGAIN" — and NOT BEFORE!

How CHANGED When Born Again

How shall we be changed? The next words answer!

"For this corruptible" — (flesh, as we now are) — "must put on incorruption" — (spirit — that which is born of God *is* spirit) — "and this mortal must put on immortality." Be changed from material flesh to spirit!

Until born again, we cannot *see* the Kingdom of God — (Jesus to Nicodemus, John 3:3).

Until born again, we cannot *enter into* the Kingdom of God — (Jesus to Nicodemus, John 3:5).

Until no longer flesh, but *changed* into SPIRIT, we cannot enter into the Kingdom of God — (Jesus to Nicodemus, John 3:6-8).

While still flesh and blood (as Nicodemus was and we are) we cannot *inherit* the Kingdom of God — (Paul to the Corinthians, I Cor. 15:50).

Until the resurrection, at Christ's coming, we shall not be changed from corruptible flesh into incorruptible SPIRIT (Paul — I Cor. 15:50-53 and verses 22-23).

Until the resurrection, therefore, we cannot *see*, *enter into*, or *inherit* the Kingdom of God. WE CANNOT BE BORN AGAIN UNTIL THE RESURRECTION!

Now Heirs — Not Yet Inheritors

While in our present status, born of the flesh and composed of flesh, we cannot see, enter into, or inherit the Kingdom of God. Notice, now, the status of the truly converted Christian, in this life — this world:

"Now if any man have not the Spirit

of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9). Unless one has received the Holy Spirit, and this Spirit is dwelling in him, he is not a Christian. Joining a church does not make one a Christian. Receiving and following God's Spirit does!

Holy Spirit Entering Compares to Sperm Entering Ovum

But now see how God's Spirit entering and dwelling in one compares to the physical sperm impregnating the ovum — the imparting of eternal SPIRIT life, later to produce — to bring forth — a SPIRIT PERSON! A fertilized ovum — an embryo — is NOT a *born* human person. Life from the father has been imparted to it — he has begotten it — but neither embryo nor fetus is YET a *born* person. In the same manner the Spirit-begotten human is not, yet, a SPIRIT PERSON OF BEING, as Jesus said he shall be *when* born again!

Continue: "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (verse 11).

UNDERSTAND THIS! There is a direct comparison between having been born of the flesh, and being born AGAIN of God. Jesus said, that which is born of the flesh *is* flesh — a born *human*. That which is born of the Spirit (God) *is* spirit — a born SPIRIT PERSON!

A mortal human life *starts* when a sperm cell from the body of the father impregnates — imparts physical LIFE to — an ovum (egg cell) in the mother. At this point the father begets, sires. He does not "bring forth": the mother does that, later. His part in the PROCESS leading to final birth is then *done*. BUT THERE IS A TIME ELEMENT. At the TIME of begetting, birth (parturition) has not YET occurred.

It is necessary to make this explanation, at this point, because the popular deception of a deceived traditional "Christianity" is to claim that when one "receives Christ" — "accepts Christ" — "professes Christ" — or first receives God's Holy Spirit to dwell in him, that he is already "BORN AGAIN."

First, then, notice the physical type and comparison.

The TIME Element

In human physical reproduction, there is a TIME ELEMENT. From impregnation — *begetting* on the part of the father — having *conceived* on the part of the mother — to BIRTH, or *parturition*, or being delivered from the mother's womb is a TIME ELEMENT of nine months.

That nine-month period is called *gestation*. Upon conception, the now fertilized *ovum* is called an *embryo*. A few months later, it is called a fetus. But *during* this nine-month period of *gestation*, we do not speak of the embryo-fetus as having been *born*. It is in the PROCESS toward birth. It is the child of its parents. But it is then the *unborn* child of its parents. The father has already begotten it — sired it. But the mother has not yet given *birth* to it. Yet it is, during the gestation period, the *unborn* child of its parents.

Now in being "born again," the PROCESS of this birth begins when GOD'S divine SPIRIT-LIFE is imparted to us by the Holy Spirit, from His very PERSON, entering to dwell within us. Repeat, from Romans 8:

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken [change to immortal spirit] your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (verse 11). This is describing the same thing explained in I Corinthians 15:50-53, the resurrection.

I want to make this crystal clear. Millions of sincere professing Christians believe that when they profess Christ (or receive His Holy Spirit) they are "born again." What actually happens is this:

The Church Our Mother

When one, after repentance, faith and baptism receives the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God puts him into — baptizes him into — God's Church. The Church is called the Body of Christ. So we read: "By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (I Cor. 12:13).

Again, the Church is called "Jerusalem above," or "the heavenly Jerusalem" (Heb. 12:22-23). Now notice, in Galatians 4:26: "But Jerusalem

which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

The analogy is this: When begotten by God the Father by receiving His Holy Spirit, we are put into the Church, which during this gestation period is our MOTHER.

The human mother of the fetus within her womb serves the function of feeding her unborn child with physical food, so that it may develop and grow physically. And also she carries it where she may best protect it from physical injury or harm, until parturition — delivery from her womb.

The spiritual mother — the Church — is commissioned to "feed the flock" (I Pet. 5:2) through the ministry which God has set in the Church "for the perfecting of the saints . . . for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man . . ." (Eph. 4:11-13). Just as the human fetus develops and grows physically during the PRE-birth gestation period, so WE, after begetting by God's Spirit, develop and grow SPIRITUALLY in PRE-birth state.

But not only is the Church to feed the members on the Word of God — spiritual food — but also to protect these conceived but yet unborn children of God from spiritual harm, as the very next verse shows: "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive . . ." (Eph. 4:14).

Then, at the time of the resurrection, we in the Church — the spiritual Mother — shall be DELIVERED from her, and born into — brought forth into — the Kingdom — the spirit-composed FAMILY of God.

Sons of God NOW

Now, further: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14). The unborn child in his mother's womb is the child of his father and mother, though not yet born — delivered from the womb. So are we, if God's Spirit dwells in us — if we are being led by God's Spirit — children of God. Yet, at *this time*,

(Continued on page 41)

SEVEN PROOFS GOD EXISTS

This is the most vital decade of all history! NEVER has it been more urgently necessary to answer the question, "Does God Exist?" Atheists, scientists and historical geologists assume He does not! Churchgoers, some Christians assume He does! It's time to QUIT ASSUMING! It's time you saw the PROOF!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Rosette Painting by Sarika Solonion

THERE IS a delusion gripping the minds of people today. It holds them in its sway, deluding and deceiving them, making them veritable slaves. It is the concept of "no God."

Sir Julian Huxley, grandson of the famed evolutionist, has stated: "There is no longer either need or room for supernatural beings capable of affecting the course of events in the evolutionary pattern of thought. The earth was not created, it evolved. So did all the animals and plants that inhabit it, including our human selves, mind and soul as well as brain and body."

Is there "no longer any need for a concept of God"? Is the Bible merely a collection of Hebrew fables, or the dynamic liv-

ing Word of an intelligent, all-wise Creator Being?

These questions demand an answer. Your very life, the lives of your loved ones, and the future of this world hang in the balance.

Proof Number One

Need "Christians" be afraid or apprehensive of science textbooks? Is the Bible totally out of harmony with all science? Do modern-day discoveries in the sciences render the Christian helpless to reconcile his belief with the "enlightened age" in which he lives?

The first *Positive Proof* of the existence of God is so broad, so all-encompassing, so diverse in its many ramifications that it is possible only to barely scratch the surface in this article. How-

ever, there can be no clearer way to substantiate this proof than to quote from a typical college textbook which discards the Biblical record. In the foreword material, the authors offer various explanations as to the origin of the earth:

"Our own galaxy, which we remember is but a tiny part of the universe, has probably existed a million, million years.

"But some progress has been made in attempting to explain how and when the sun and its nine planets came into being. The study of the solar system gives us at least a clue to the origin of that part of the universe most important to us — the earth.

"The explanation commonly accepted today is called the Hypothesis of Dynamic Encounter

formulated about 1900 by T. C. Chamberlain and F. R. Moulton of the University of Chicago. In brief it suggests that our solar system had its birth when the sun was approached by another huge star. The latter, through the operation of the law of gravitation, detached from the sun great masses of flaming gas. The orphan masses from the parent sun gradually cooled and crystallized to become the nuclei of planets. These continued to revolve around the sun, held in their orbits by the gravitational pull of the parent body.

"The evolution of the earth to its present state was very gradual" (Wallbank and Taylor, *Civilization Past and Present*, Vol. I, page 31).

Even though it is outdated in certain respects, I quote this statement in full for a very special reason.

Let's go back and carefully ANALYZE what we have just read.

Notice carefully the *italicized* words in the quotation you have just read. We have such words in the opening phrases as "probably, some progress has been made, attempting to explain, at least a clue, explanation commonly accepted, hypothesis, and it suggests."

What a collection! Here are numerous "attempts" to explain, "some progress" being made, at least a "clue," and the "suggestion" of a "hypothesis" — the very word itself meaning "we guess."

Then, in very careful wording, having begun with a number of "possibles" and "perhapses" the book begins to tell of *definite* past occurrences which are said to have taken place.

But let's analyze further. Let's get to the very trunk of the tree of this very vital first proof of the existence of God.

In the very beginning the writers, even though beginning with many attempts to explain, clues and guesses, admit the existence of our *solar system*, a "sun," another "huge star," the "operation of the law of gravitation," great "masses of flaming gas," and admit that these gases "gradually cooled."

They also mention how these gases "crystallized" and then continued to "revolve around the sun, held in their

orbits by the *gravitational pull* of the parent body."

What a fantastic array! Here is a tremendous, limitless, imagination-defying expanse — an *entire universe*. Here is a whole solar system, a huge sun, the operation of certain, definite, immutable, unchangeable LAWS. Here is a supposed collision between gigantic, breathtakingly huge astral bodies, resulting in the supposed formation of our present solar system.

Think of it! All of these myriad laws — of heat, light, energy, motion, the rotation of astral bodies, the laws of gravity, and myriad other laws, entirely too numerous to mention — are admitted to exist.

Get back to the real TRUNK of the tree. Where is the place to begin? Is it an attempt to explain the existence of our present *solar system*? Decidedly not. Scientists and astronomers tell us that our solar system is only one of many such systems in our great galaxy called the "Milky Way." However, even our galaxy is only *one* of myriad galaxies, which form *only a part* of the vast, limitless expanse of the universe. Our planet, astronomers assure us, is merely a third-rate planet in a second-rate solar system, lost in the expanses of seemingly limitless space.

Do you begin to comprehend? By what law did one star approach another? By what law did heat gradually cool? By what law was there a "gravitational pull"? By what law was there the existence of the "operation of the law of gravitation"?

Yes, there it is. In dissecting and looking carefully into the statements of some of the preposterous hypotheses which have been advanced, you begin to see that in every case the writers have begun with an *orderly*, law-abiding universe, *governed by irrefutable laws*.

"The existence of law, unchangeable, immutable, irrevocable, unseen and yet active, absolutely demands the existence of a great lawgiver.

"There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy..." (James 4:12).

That Lawgiver is God!

Proof Number Two

Before seeing this next amazing, irrefutable proof, it is first necessary to state, in simple terms, the meaning of the word "evolution." Of course, there are many processes called "evolution."

The process of development of music from simple to complex is, in a sense, an "evolutionary" process as is true in all technological inventions. This has perhaps led many to *assume* such a development is also true in organic, living material.

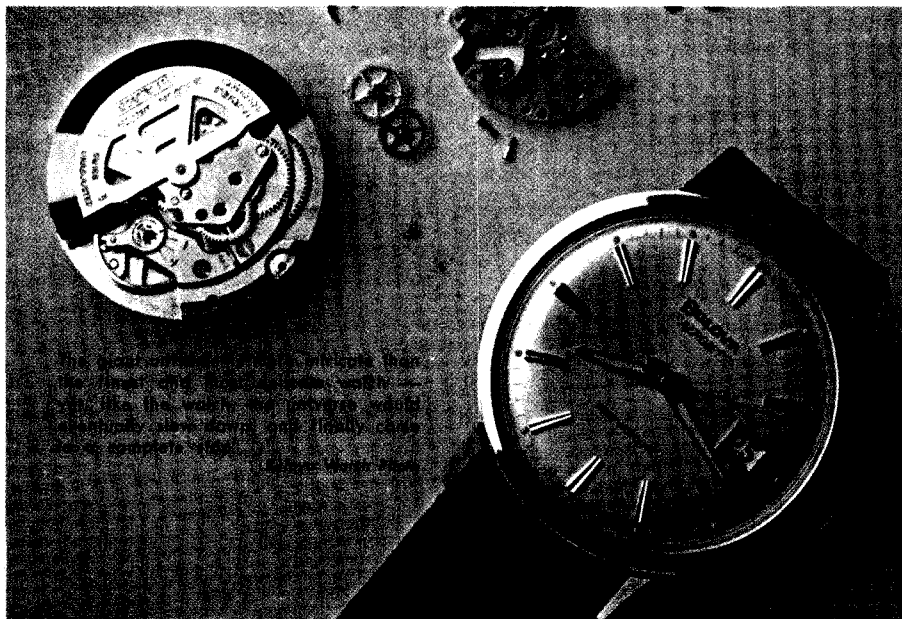
Here is one such stated idea:

"Evolution is the gradual development from the simple, unorganized condition of primal matter to the complex structure of the physical universe; and

Mother horse and brand-new foal are living proof of the miracle that happens every day. Living things produce more living things — life comes only from pre-existing life of the same kind.

Ambassador College Photo





in like manner, from the beginning of organic life on the habitable planet, a gradual unfolding and branching out into all the various forms of beings which constitute the animal and plant kingdom" (Richard Swann Lull, *Organic Evolution*, page 6).

Evolution theorizes *from the beginning of organic life* — already having LIFE with which to begin. It does not now show, nor has it ever shown, nor will it ever be able to show, how life itself first CAME into existence.

The theory of evolution (the word "theory" means "*we think*") states simply that all life forms that we know today, including humankind, have gradually *evolved* from the most simple life forms to the complex, intricate, interdependent species we see about us today, each reproducing according to its own kind.

Evolution postulates that life evolved in a "gradual process," by "*resident forces*" into the complexity of life we see about us today.

And herein, at the very basic *trunk of the tree* of all evolutionary thought, lies one of the *greatest* proofs of God!

Evolutionists, geneticists, biologists, scientists in any field whatsoever have never been able to demonstrate, nor to offer the slightest evidence that the *not-living* can make itself into the LIVING.

It is true that certain laboratory experiments have taken place in which *supposed* "dead cells" are said to have been "revived" and brought back to life

by the means of certain chemical compounds. In other experiments, scientists have diligently tried to produce organic type compounds called amino acids. This, however, is a far cry from "spontaneous generation."

There is a broad, gaping, yawning chasm of separation between *life* and *death*. The great gap between the not-living and the living is *so broad, so insurmountable, so unfathomable* by man, that evolutionists can only "suppose" and guess, offering vague, ethereal, nebulous "theories" as to how life *for the first time* "might have" begun *accidentally!*

However, on the other hand, there is an absolute, demonstrable *law* of science which comprises the second major proof of the existence of a life-giving God.

That is the law of biogenesis!

"Bio" means life! "Genesis" means beginning. This law, then, is a law concerning the beginning of life. This law, simply stated, is the absolute law that *life comes only from life*. That the not-living can never give rise to, give birth to or produce the living.

There is perhaps no law known to science that can be any more firmly and easily demonstrated than the law of biogenesis.

The very existence of life *demand*s a Life Giver!

God states dogmatically, "And the Eternal God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nos-

trils the *breath of life*; and man *became* a living soul" (Gen. 2:7).

Almighty God — the Life Self-Existent, the One who has life, who is Life, who was before all things — imparted life to the first man and set within man, the animals, and all plants the cyclical character of life which enables them to reproduce according to certain set laws. *God is the great Life Giver!*

Proof Number Three

Many of these amazing proofs of the existence of an Almighty God "overlap."

That is, each is, to a degree, inter-related with the others. The third major proof of God can be stated quite simply from the quotation you saw under Proof Number One.

You will notice that evolutionists, in trying to substantiate their theory, always BEGIN with an orderly universe and the existence of *matter*. Notice the so-called Theory of Evolution BEGINS with matter, laws, and "simple" life.

What *is* matter? Matter occupies space and has weight. It is not always necessarily seen, since certain gases, and even the air which you breathe, are also classified as "matter."

Until recently, scientists talked of the law of the "conservation of matter." However, with the discoveries in nuclear physics, and following Madame Curie's experiments with radium, scientists have now found there *is* a certain amount of "disintegration" in matter!

This *deterioration* of uranium is a scientific fact! Uranium (U^{238}) gradually disintegrates through many intermediate states into lead (Pb^{206}). Uranium, as you may well know, is radioactive and gives off energy in the form of radiation.

Gradually, over a period of seemingly limitless years, this radioactive material disintegrates into lead! *There is no proof of any new uranium coming into existence today!*

Hence science has firmly established that *there has been no past eternity of matter!*

Matter must have at sometime come into existence. It had to have been, at some time, created.

Creation, then, the *very existence of things*, absolutely *demand*s and *require*s

a Creator. That which is made requires a Maker. That which is produced requires a Producer.

Therefore, the third great proof is that the *creation* requires a great Creator.

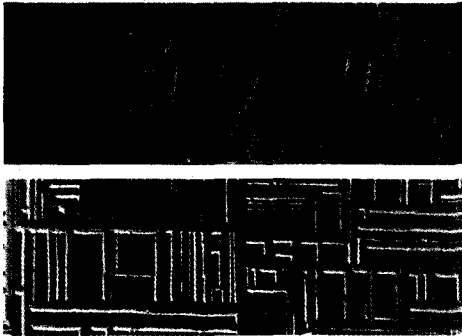
Proof Number Four

The One who is quoted in the first person as being God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature *after his kind*, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth *after his kind*: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth *after his kind*, and *cattle after their kind*, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth *after his kind*: and God saw that it was good" (Gen. 1:24-25).

Scientists have attempted to show the evolutionary pattern by "comparative embryology," by a study of selective breeding, genetics, and various other aspects of biology.

However, without taking the tremendous amount of space necessary to even faintly scratch the surface of such a broad subject, suffice it to say there is an absolute, irrefutable, immutable, unchangeable law, which absolutely prohibits a jump from *one kind* to another *kind!*

There are hundreds of *different varieties* within a certain species, and while there may be small, tiny dogs, such as the Mexican Chihuahua, and also huge dogs such as the St. Bernard or the Great Dane, *they are still dogs!* They are not cats, or horses, nor are they even beginning to show a gradual trend toward developing into *another*



species. They are all of the *same kind.*

Comparative embryology tries to point out that the beginning embryos of fish, polliwogs, and humans look very much alike. This is absolutely true. But

while it proves absolutely *nothing* for the case of evolution, this *does* offer a STRONGER proof of the existence of God. Scientists are *defied* to attempt to make the embryo of a fish turn out to be a polliwog, a man, or *anything other than a fish* of the *exact same kind* of fish which laid the egg in the first place.

Proof Number Five

Look about you. You live in a complex, intricate and *interdependent* world.

It is a world of great design.

You have never seen an ugly sunset. You have never seen an ugly scene in the desert, in the mountains, at sea, or anywhere on the surface of this entire earth, *unless* it were a scene made ugly by man. All is in *harmony.*

Life, as we know it, is entirely interdependent upon other forms of life. Nothing lives or dies to itself.

The question to the evolutionists is: *Which "evolved" first, the corn or the bee?* Did the bee evolve slowly for thousands, millions or billions of years *independent* of the cornstalks, the flowers and the pollens from growing things which are his life source?

Did the flowers, grasses, trees, and grains all evolve slowly and *gradually* over a period of millions or billions of years independent of the little bee, upon whom they must rely for their very continuation of life?

These are *totally insurmountable*, and *unanswerable* questions to the evolutionists! The old question, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" is a question which the evolutionist feels worthy only of disdain. Why? Simply because he cannot answer it.

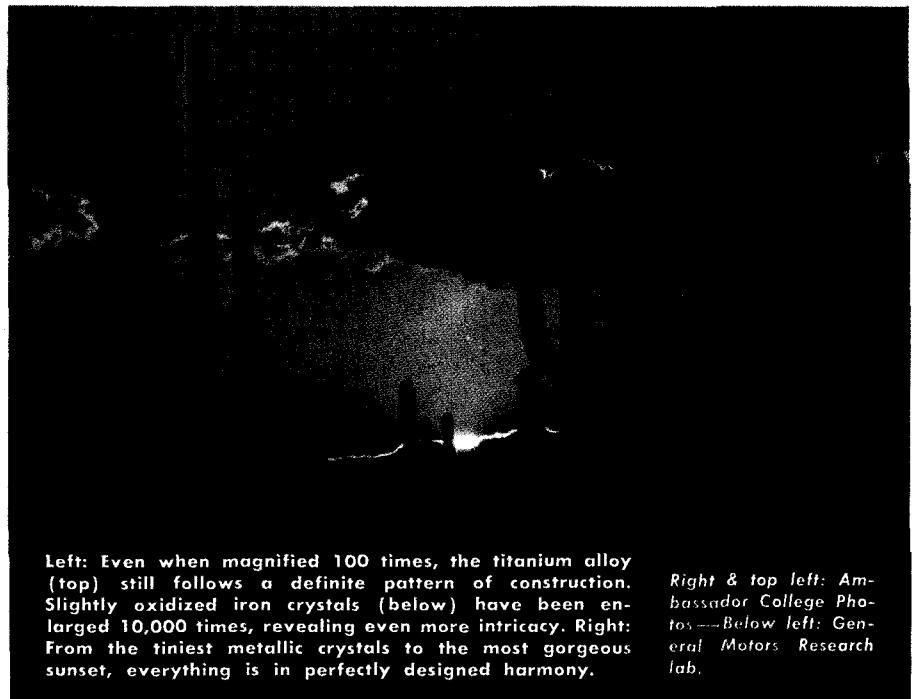
It is better, from his point of view, to merely scoff, make fun of and attempt to dismiss such a question when he cannot answer it.

This total interdependency of all life forms — the tremendous design within this universe shows a common Beginner, one main Architect, one great Designer with an overall framework of a *plan* of creation into which all life forms fit.

Nothing lives or dies to itself. Each living thing, whether plant or animal, when it dies, supplies further life for other living things. Observe a forest. A tree grows, finally dies and falls, only to become part of the fallow forest floor, supplying life-giving elements for the young trees which it had sown in its lifetime.

This great universe, and the complex intricate earth on which you live and draw breath, is a world of great *design.* It is a world of such complex and intricate design as to take the very breath in beginning to investigate even the minutest part.

The cleavage properties of minerals,



Left: Even when magnified 100 times, the titanium alloy (top) still follows a definite pattern of construction. Slightly oxidized iron crystals (below) have been enlarged 10,000 times, revealing even more intricacy. Right: From the tiniest metallic crystals to the most gorgeous sunset, everything is in perfectly designed harmony.

Right & top left: Ambassador College Photos.—Below left: General Motors Research lab.

the wings of a bird or a fly, the beauty of a sunset, the facets of a quartz crystal, and above all, the marvelous, tremendous masterpiece of all design, *the human body*, all point out that for such intricate *design*, there had to be an eternal Designer.

Design in the universe *proves* the existence of a Designer!

Proof Number Six

This sixth proof of the existence of an Almighty God is perhaps the most astounding of all.

It is *fulfilled prophecy!*

About one full third of your Bible is *prophecy*; and while *most* of that one third pertains to our present day, there are many, many prophecies which *have already been* fulfilled, and which are presently BEING fulfilled.

These moss-covered, hewn stones were once part of the fabulous buildings of Tyre — the "New York" of the ancient world. Though Tyre had withstood enemies for centuries, God decreed through the Prophet Ezekiel: "They shall break down thy walls... and lay thy stones IN THE MIDST OF THE WATER" (Ezek. 26:12). Those very stones are lying there today!

Ambassador College Photo



God sent His prophets hundreds of years ago to such major cities as Babylon, Ekron, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Tyre and Sidon. These prophets — simple human beings who had been commissioned with a *message* — foretold the decay, fall and *particular type* of fate which was to befall each of these ancient cities.

And without fail, in *every single instance*, exactly at the time prescribed, all these things HAPPENED!

Since we have the technical details of the fulfillment of many of these prophecies in booklet form, and in order to save space, I invite you to write for our FREE booklet *The Proof of the Bible*.

This attractively printed booklet will show you with *pictures* exactly how these prophecies were fulfilled.

The very fact that God is able to

foretell the future, and *bring it to pass*, is a *great proof* of His existence!

Proof Number Seven

This last proof is perhaps the greatest proof of all to true Christians. It is the proof of *answered prayer*.

However, since the skeptics, atheists and doubters have *never* prayed, and hence have never had prayers *answered*, they continue to DOUBT.

Now take George Mueller's example.

George Mueller is dead now, but he was a great man of FAITH. He founded five great orphanages and other charitable institutions in Bristol, England. He started out, as FAITH always does, with a very small work, without any financial backing, and absolutely *no* means of support, except to get down on his knees and send up a *believing prayer to God*.

For nearly *seventy years* George Mueller continued that great work, and it grew into a tremendous institution until it housed thousands. Every dime for feeding, clothing, sheltering, and schooling those thousands of orphans came in only one way — as a result of *believing prayer*.

Altogether he received more than a million four hundred thousand pounds — that was about seven million dollars — *sent* to him in answer to his prayers!

Real answered prayer is NOT the mere working out of events as a result of "concentration." Many people seem to assume answered prayer is merely an accomplishment as a result of "positive thinking" or a psychological adjustment.

This is a gross error!

Real answered prayer is a direct, miraculous supernatural intervention from Almighty God! It is the result of obedience to God's *laws*, asking according to *His will*, and then believing *in faith* until the answer comes.

These seven, irrefutable unchallengeable PROOFS of the existence of Almighty God represent only the *minutest beginning* of the subject. They are, nevertheless, *proofs*. It's about time people quit *assuming* — it's about time they began to really PROVE all things.

It's about time YOU said with Job, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25). □



Should A Christian Observe Halloween?

What about this strange festival? What have goblins, witches and ghosts to do with this feast of demoniacal masks and gaudy decorations?

by Gerhard O. Marx

Ambassador College Photo

EACH YEAR millions around the world observe the strangest of all festivals — Halloween. Especially so in Great Britain, Scandinavia and the United States.

Every autumn, young and old alike adhere to its observance. It is a night of frolicking fun and frivolous foolishness. All kinds of nonsense and superstitions are associated with this festival.

On this night children dress in outrageous costumes and put on witch-like masks. Then they are let loose to frighten people into giving them food and other gifts. Many are familiar with the “trick or treat” threat associated with Halloween. Buildings are

desecrated, windows broken and other fooleries resorted to.

Why, then, do we keep Halloween? What useful purpose does such a celebration fulfill in this “enlightened” scientific twentieth century? Is it merely a harmless celebration for our children to participate in? Or is there something more harmful and sinister behind it?

It's about time we checked into this observance to see *where* and *when* it really originated and for what purpose it was established.

You may not have realized it but the ancient Druids in Britain, the pagan Romans and Greeks, the Babylonians and others kept a Halloween festival.

Yes, Halloween long antedates Christianity! It was only later introduced into the professing Christian world — centuries *after* the death of the apostles. But it was celebrated by the pagans long before the time of Christ.

Notice! “The earliest Halloween celebrations were held by the Druids in honour of Samhain, Lord of the Dead, whose festival fell on November 1” (*Halloween Through Twenty Centuries*, Ralph Linton, p. 4).

Further, “It was a Druidical belief that on the eve of this festival Saman, lord of death, called together the wicked spirits that within the past 12 months had been condemned to inhabit

the bodies of animals" (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed., Vol. XII, pp. 857-858).

"It is clearly a *relic of pagan times*!" (*The Book of Days*, Chambers, Vol. II, p. 519.)

Read what this November celebration was like! It was a pagan belief that on one night of the year the souls of the dead return to their original homes, there to be entertained with food. If food and shelter were not provided, these spirits would cast spells and cause havoc toward those failing to fulfill their requests.

"It was the night for the universal walking about of all sorts of spirits, fairies, and ghosts, all of whom had liberty on that night" (*Highland Superstitions*, Alexander Macgregor, p. 44). Literal sacrifices were offered on this night to the spirits of the dead, as they visited their earthly haunts and their friends. In 400 A.D., for instance, an Irish king commanded his subjects to make sacrifices and worship a pagan deity on the first of November.

There was a reason why November was chosen for that particular event. The Celts and other northern peoples considered the beginning of November as their New Year. It was logical. This was the time when the leaves were falling and a general seasonal decay was taking place everywhere. Thus it was a fitting time for the commemoration of the dead.

Since the northern nations at that time began their day in the evening, the eve leading up to November 1st was celebrated. According to our Roman calendar it would be the evening of October 31st.

Observed Everywhere

Halloween, or *All Souls' Eve*, was kept throughout the pagan world. Note how widespread such an observance was:

"There was a prevailing belief among all nations that at death the souls of good men were taken possession of by good spirits and carried to paradise; but the souls of wicked men were left to wander in the space between the earth and moon, or consigned to the unseen world. These wandering spirits were in the habit of *haunting the living* . . . But

there were means by which these ghosts might be exorcised" (*Folklore*, James Napier, p. 11).

To exorcise these ghosts, that is, to free yourself from their evil sway, you would have to set out food and provide shelter for them during the night. If they were satisfied with your offerings, they would leave you in peace. If not, they were believed to cast an evil spell on you.

"In Wales it was firmly believed that on All Hallows Eve the spirit of a departed person was to be seen at midnight on every crossroad and every stile" (*Folklore and Folk-Stories of Wales*, Marie Trevelyan, p. 254).

In Cambodia people used to chant: "O all you our ancestors, who are departed, deign to come and eat what we have prepared for you, and to bless your posterity and to make it happy" (*Notice sur le Cambodge*, E. Aymonier, p. 59).

In China in 1875, the following placard was posted by order of the emperor throughout the district of Rangoon: "There will this year be scarcity of rice and plenty of sickness. *Evil spirits will descend* and inquire into sickness. If people do not believe this, many will die in September and October. Should any people call on you at midnight, do not answer; it is not a human being that calls, but an evil spirit . . ." (*Folklore*, p. 12).

This sort of Halloween festival was strenuously observed throughout the non-Christian world. Pagans would pray to their false gods to prevent demons and witches from molesting them. Notice!

"The Miztecs of Mexico believed that the souls of the dead came back in the twelfth month of the year, *which corresponded to our November*. On this day of All Souls the houses were decked out to welcome the spirits. Jars of food and drink were set on a table in the principle room, and the family went out with the torches to meet the ghosts and invite them to enter. Then, returning to the house they knelt around the table, and with their eyes bent on the ground, prayed the souls to accept the offerings" (*Adonis*, Frazer, p. 244).

This, then, is the way the heathen world celebrated their Halloween, their *All Souls' Day*. Although some aspects

of the Halloween festival varied with each country, the overall pattern and purpose did not.

Halloween "Christianized"

But how did the professing Christian world come to accept and keep such a day?

Here is how!

For numerous years prior to the 6th century, Rome was invaded and ruled by Barbaric tribes from the north. But in 607 A.D. the Roman Emperor Phocas defeated the Barbarians. The Roman Pantheon, a pagan edifice which had been wrestled from the barbarians, was given to Pope Boniface IV.

Emperor Hadrian rebuilt the Pantheon around 100 A.D. He dedicated it to the pagan goddess Cybele and to the other Roman deities. This temple then became the central place in Rome where the pagans honored and commemorated their gods.

With this splendid edifice now falling into the hands of the professing Christians, the question was, what should be done with it? After several ideas were put forward, this is what was finally decided.

Whereas the pagan dedication had been to Cybele and all the gods, the Roman bishop now *consecrated it to the Virgin Mary and all the saints of both sexes*. (See *The Mysteries of All Nations*, Grant, p. 120.) Thus, this pagan building became a "holy" structure. No more did the pagans use this edifice to pray for their dead. It was now the Christ-professing Romans who employed the Pantheon in praying for their dead.

This rededication of the pagan temple to Mary and others occurred in 610 A.D. Now converted into a Christian shrine, an annual festival was instituted to commemorate the event. The day chosen was May 13.

The Christian-professing populace now paid homage to the consecrated Pantheon and to those for whom it was dedicated. The masses were encouraged to pray to Mary and the other saints. This day became known as "All Saints' Day" — a day on which prayers were offered for the souls of saints who had died. The more prayers were offered, the less they would suffer the interim

time in "purgatory." Later, even money was solicited for expiation purposes, thus curtailing the saints' sufferings.

This commemoration of the dead saints, going by the name of "All Saints' Day," continued to be held in May within the Empire until 834 A.D. At this time, the *name* and *date* were changed. "The time of celebration was altered to the *first of November*, and it was then called *ALL HALLOW*" — from where we get the name Halloween; *all hallow* merely meaning *all holy*, and the "een" is a contraction

of evening (*Folklore*, p. 177).

Thus in 834 A.D., the church at large kept Halloween on the *first of November* for the first time. And yet, this was the very same day the Druids in Britain, the Norsemen in Scandinavia, and the pagan Germans among others were keeping their festival of *All Souls' Eve*, in commemoration of Saman, lord of death and his demons.

Reason for Change

Why did the Roman church change the date to November 1st, thus

coinciding with the pagans' feast of *All Souls*? Here is the reason!

It was a general practice of the Christianized Roman Empire and the church at Rome to convert the pagans within the Empire as quickly and on as large a scale as possible.

Ever since the time of Constantine — who made Catholicism the state religion — the Roman emperors realized how essential it was to have a *unified* Empire, where as many as possible would be of *one mind*. The civil and religious leaders saw how important it was for

For the ancient Druids, November first was the New Year, the time of the great autumn festival in honor of the sun. During the celebrations on October 31st, the Druid priests offered human sacrifice. They also appeased Samhain, the lord of death, hoping that he would be less severe on the souls of those who had died during the preceding 12 months. Part of the ancient festival was the lighting of bonfires on hilltops to welcome good "spirits," ward off evil ones and "encourage" the waning summer sun.

Historical Pictures Service



the sake of unity to *allow only one religion* within the Roman domain.

It became, therefore, a stringent state policy to force all non-Christians to accept the orthodox faith. The condition for "conversion," of course, made it very easy for the pagan population of Rome and elsewhere to accept Christianity. If "acceptance" of Christianity was made simple, refusal was made difficult. This plan of action led vast numbers of the heathen population within the Empire to flock into the fold of the church.

Conversion of Germans

Here is an example. When Charlemagne — who was crowned in 800 A.D. by the Pope — invaded and conquered parts of Eastern Germany, he compelled the conquered German king, Wittekind, to be baptized and to accept Christianity. With his life at stake, this heathen — who knew nothing about Christ — was forced into "conversion." And with him his entire people.

This policy did, of course, help the cause of unity. But it also provided the church with complex problems. These pagans, who were usually baptized *en masse*, were still pagans at heart. Even though they became nominal Christians, they still yearned for the heathen practices they were expected to discard.

With Wittekind's baptism, for example, a vast number of barbarians were added to the roll call of the church. And within 50 years of this occasion, the church changed the *date* and *name* of their All Saints' Day to November 1st, calling it *Halloween*. All within the Empire were now expected to keep this festival on the newly decreed date.

Wittekind's professing Christians, with other conquered pagans, had a profound influence on the ecclesiastical affairs of the church. Along with numerous other "Christianized" pagans, these barbaric and uncultured people brought with them many outright pagan practices and celebrations. Halloween was merely one of many. The pagans were fervent in clinging to their past ceremonies and observed them openly — yet supposedly they had been converted to Christianity.

What was the church to do? Excom-

municate them and thus reduce her membership? This she would not do. Was she to force them into discarding their heathen practices? This, as she had learned in past times, was not possible.

There remained only one other way. This, then, is what was decided:

Let the recently converted pagans keep certain of their heathen festivals, such as Halloween or All Souls' Day. But with one stipulation. No longer were they to pray to pagan gods, and evil spirits, but now they must use this day to commemorate the death of the true saints. They were to worship and pray to the saints on this day. To make it easy for them, the Roman church even *changed the date* of All Saints' Day from May 13 to November 1st.

The church felt that, by *divesting Halloween of its heathen basis*, she could allow her followers to observe this festival. The church understood the yearnings pagans had for their old ways. But she reasoned that these heathen practices they were allowed to observe were now put to a *good use*. She thought that by uprooting the pagan deities from Halloween and embedding the dead saints into that festival instead, she would *cleanse* or *purify* this festival.

Often, throughout her history, the Christian-professing church would resort to this action. We have a prime example of this given to us by Pope Innocent. He refers to a heathen festival the pagans kept in the early part of the Roman Empire. Here are the Pope's own words:

"The heathen dedicated this month (2 Feb.) to the infernal gods . . . In the beginning of this month the idolaters walked about the city with lighted candles, and as some of the holy fathers *could not extirpate such a custom*, they ORDAINED that Christians should carry about candles *in honour of the Virgin Mary*" (*Folklore*, p. 181).

Time and again the church allowed her followers to resort to heathen days and practices in worshipping God, or what she considered to be the worship of God.

[Editor's Note: To find out more about the church in general, send for our FREE article "Why So Many Denominations?"]

Church Failed to Control Heathen

"Thus, at the first promulgation of Christianity to the Gentile nations . . . they could not be persuaded to relinquish many of their superstitions, which, rather than forego altogether, they chose to *blend* and *incorporate* with the new faith" (*Popular Antiquities of Great Britain*, John Brand, p. xi).

If a pagan practice or festival could not be forbidden, the church felt, then let it be tamed. Thus the church persuaded her followers to *transfer* the devotion of these former heathen from their gods to the Christian God.

So it was with the festival of *All Souls' Eve*. Not able to dissuade her new recruits from observing this heathen festival, the church allowed her followers to celebrate Halloween *if* they were to honour the saints on that day, instead of pagan deities.

But did she succeed? Did the pagans, in keeping this heathen festival, really transfer their former devotion from demons to saints? Did these recently converted pagans worship the true God on this day?

Not at all! The church failed in attempting to focus the pagans' attention upon the true God and away from their own idols. Being used to nature worship, they *retained* many heathen embellishments in their celebration of this rededicated Halloween festival.

What About Our Time?

Now we come to the 20th century. You will be surprised to what extent we have inherited pagan rites and ceremonies from our forefathers, so obvious in the celebration of Halloween.

Note this classic example. "In many Catholic countries the belief that the *dead return* on this day is so strong that food is left on the tables (Tirol, Italy) and people (France, Italy, Germany) still decorate the graves of their dead [on this day]" (*Funk and Wagnalls' Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend*, Vol. I, page 38).

Also in Protestant countries — in Britain, Scandinavia, Germany, the United States, etc. — many pagan and superstitious beliefs and practices have

become an integral part of each year's celebrations.

In many parts of Britain, *bonfires* are set alight on the eve of Halloween. Of course, fire has nothing to do with praying for dead saints. The original reason for the fire, however, was to frighten away witches and evil spirits on this night. Fire has always been an essential part of Halloween in Great Britain.

Also, each year on the 5th of November, huge bonfires are started in all parts of Britain. These fires are wrongly associated with Guy Fawkes, who attempted to blow up the House of Parliament during the reign of James the First. In reality, these bonfires date back to the Halloween or *All Souls' Feast*, kept by the ancient Druids. But most Britons don't realize this.

You and Your Children

What about you and your children? You may see the pagan origin of and the superstitions associated with Halloween. But you might reason that after all, don't we honor and pray to the saints during this time? Perhaps you do.

But the question is, *should you?* If you claim to be a Christian, here are two good reasons why you should not observe this festival!

One reason is that Halloween has a pagan origin. The basis of this festival is heathen. It is not based on the Bible, but has its foundation in a false, pagan religion. If you claim to be a Christian, you would want to make sure that *all* your beliefs are based on the Bible, and have *Jesus Christ as their foundation*. That is not true of Halloween, a feast that is utterly *heathen*.

Consider! What comes to most people's minds when thinking about Halloween? Do people think about dead saints who have need of their prayers? Do the celebrants of this festival focus their attention primarily on the saints, whose spirits are supposedly in purgatory? Are these the thoughts that permeate the minds of children and grown-ups on this occasion?

Not at all! On the contrary. When most people think about Halloween, weird and *frightening masks* come to mind, where the persons wearing them *portray witches and demons*. Pumpkins and turnips are hollowed out in the

shape of *eerie-looking* faces. Lighted candles are placed inside to help bring out the more frightful side of these carvings. Dough is baked into small figurines *resembling witches*, and *spiders' web cakes* are baked by the dozen for this occasion. Children, dressed up in the most revolting garments, are let loose on the neighbors, trying to scare the daylight out of them.

Let's be honest. When Halloween comes around, there is little thought given to the poor souls of departed ones supposedly suffering in purgatory. I have before me *Good Housekeeping's Book of Entertainment*, which my wife picked up from the local library. On page 168 of this much-read book, there is a section on what to do on Halloween. Notice the astonishing advice given!

"Halloween decorations are quite as important as the food. When planning them, remember that if the room is to be dimly lit (preferably by candle and *firelight*) the decorations must be bold to be effective. Orange, black and red, *the devil's colours*, are the colours associated with Halloween and *this scheme should be carried out* as far as possible. . . . Have paper streamers and lanterns hanging from the ceiling, or, if you would like to have something less usual, you could make a giant *spider's web* with black and orange strings, or in narrow strips of crêpe paper coming from the four corners of the room, complete with a *large spider* — *one of the devil's favourite followers*."

Notice so far where the stress lies — on saints or on devilry? Read further of the black magic associated with this festival. "To decorate the walls, make large silhouettes of *cats, bats, owls and witches on broomsticks*. . . . For the supper table small *witches with broomsticks* can be made by using lollipops on 4-inch sticks."

Weird lanterns, witch-balls, and witches' cauldrons are some other objects the book suggests must fit into the evening somehow.

How pagan can you get?!

Another Reason

Consider the second good reason why a Christian should not observe Halloween or All Saints' Day. NOWHERE does the Bible — which should be the foun-

ation of our beliefs — command us to pray to anyone except God the Father and His Son or to make intercession for the dead. *Praying for the dead is not Biblical* (Psalm 49:7). None of God's people in the Old or New Testaments has ever prayed for so-called departed souls. There is a reason for this. Man just does *not* have an immortal soul.

Nowhere does the Bible speak of a person having an "immortal soul." In other words, there is no such thing mentioned in God's divine Word as souls leaving the body at death. This erroneous idea also stems from paganism.

The Bible does speak, however, of a "soul." But by the word "soul," it merely means a person, a human being, or a living being. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die!" (Ezekiel 18:20.) If man had an immortal soul, he could not possibly die. All this is explained fully in our FREE reprint entitled "Do You Have an Immortal Soul?" Write for your FREE copy.

Halloween and several other annual festivals people observe in the Christian-professing world have *no Biblical basis*, but rather originate in paganism.

The testimony of history stamps Halloween as a *heathen* festival with a *pagan foundation*. And the Bible warns, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 3:11).

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JERUSALEM THROUGH THE AGES

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Ever since David made it his capital some 3000 years ago, Jerusalem has been a "cup of trembling" and a "burdensome stone" to all nations. Read here the history of this city which is claimed as a holy place by Jew, Christian and Moslem alike, and the significant role Bible prophecy assigns to it in the WORLD TOMORROW.

by Ernest L. Martin

JUST HOW important was Jerusalem in the beginning of Biblical history? Surprisingly, it was not important at all! For the first 2000 years, the Bible relates nothing of the site. Only in the time of Abraham do we begin to hear of it. It was at Salem, the later Jerusalem, that Abraham met the priest-king, Melchizedek. A few years later, we find Abraham taking his son Isaac to the mountains of Moriah (always associated with the Jerusalem area), where he built an altar and intended to sacrifice Isaac. Though later traditions recognized Moriah as the site of the Temple,

there was nothing in the Biblical record to suggest any special holiness to the locale. True, later traditions imagined that Jerusalem was the district where the Garden of Eden was placed, and that Adam and Eve were buried there (other traditions place their burial in Hebron several miles to the south), but it seems better to view traditions with caution and not to put unqualified confidence in them.

The Biblical Jerusalem

Jerusalem finally comes on the Biblical scene in an important way in the

time of Joshua. The city had become a Canaanite stronghold called Jebus (Josh. 15:8). Of all the Canaanite cities that Joshua and the Israelites were commanded to take, Jebus was probably the most formidable. The Jebusites had built a towering fortress on one of its steeper hills. The area was so strongly fortified with the citadel perched on top of a steep mountain ridge, that the Israelites failed to capture it until the time of King David.

When David came to power, he found this Canaanite fortress an embarrassment. While Israel had been able to

extend its influence from the River Euphrates to the River Nile, no one had been able to rout the Canaanites from the stronghold of Jebus—and it was located right in the heart of Israel's home territory. This humiliating spectacle became an almost intolerable situation to David. To resolve the problem, he commanded a full-scale attack on the fortress.

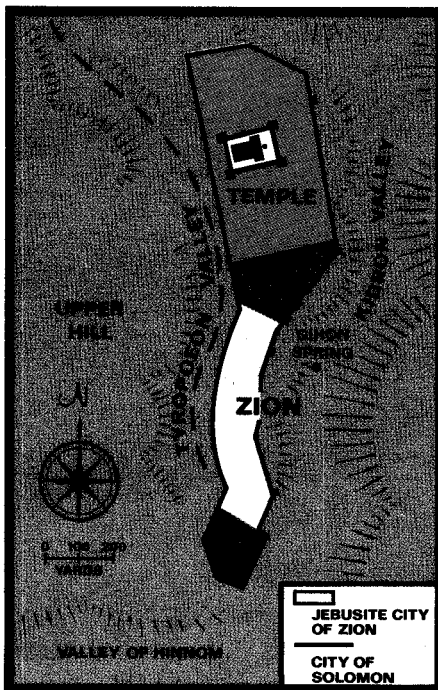
The Jebusites were so certain of their ability to withstand any assault that they taunted David and his troops by saying that even the blind and the lame of the Jebusites could withstand the total onslaught of David and his armies (II Sam. 5:5-10). So incensed was David by this slur that he offered the position of "field marshal" to any of his officers who could ascend the Canaanite stronghold and capture it. This is when Joab, a nephew of David, climbed up via a water conduit and managed to gain entrance to the citadel. Other men followed, and soon David had gained control of the hilltop citadel—a feat which had eluded all attempts for over 400 years.

Once David had secured this fortress, he adopted it as his capital city, naming it the City of David. Because of the site's majestic appearance and its towering eminence, he also called it ZION (a city resembling the impenetrable fortress of God in the heavens). The Ark of God was then transported to this elevated citadel. David was now sure that with the Ark in Zion no human power, no matter how strong, could capture the Ark, as had been done previously by the Philistines.

This mountain citadel was situated south of what was to become the Temple Mount. It was flanked on the east by the Kidron Valley and on the west by the Tyropoeon Valley (the Valley of the Cheesemakers). When Solomon finally completed the building of the Temple on the knoll just to the north of Zion (the City of David), he removed the Ark of God from Zion and put it in the Temple. Because of this move of the Ark to the northern knoll of the ridge, the whole mountain ridge became known, symbolically, as ZION. It should be clearly understood, however, that the original Zion was the

fortress which was taken by Joab and David, not the Temple Mount. (See illustration to understand this point.)

After the time of Solomon, Jerusalem remained essentially the same for almost 400 years. Of course, many new buildings were constructed during this period and an extension of the city was made on the western hill opposite the City of



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Jerusalem in the time of David and Solomon. After David's conquest of the Jebusite city, the whole area was fortified and surrounded with a wall which eventually extended to encompass the Temple Mount. Zion then came to be known as the city of David.

David, but what occurred was mainly the natural growth (and even decline in some areas) of the city. Nothing happened of any major consequence until the time of Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon. In his wars with the Jews in the sixth century B.C., he so utterly destroyed Jerusalem that the area looked like open fields where once there had been a city (Micah 3:12). The destruction by Nebuchadnezzar was so thorough that very little remained of David's and Solomon's Jerusalem.

Then after 70 years of complete desolation, some 50,000 Jews returned from Babylon to Jerusalem to rebuild the ruined city. They found the topography

much the same as it had been in pre-exile days, but the site of the city was in shambles. Soon, however, a new Jerusalem was being built, and during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, the city was completed.

This Jerusalem was different. It had none of the former splendor that graced the city of David and Solomon. But little could be done. The Jews in Jerusalem were a mere remnant of a scattered people and they had little power or money to sustain a city like the previous Jerusalem. Still, though Jerusalem was smaller, it had become a living city once again.

The Maccabean Period

For 300 years, from the time of Nehemiah to the Maccabean Wars (the middle of the second century B.C.), there were no essential changes in Jerusalem. But with the Maccabees some very definite alterations took place.

The Maccabean Wars developed as a result of the Syrians conquering and taking over most of Judaea. A resistance to the Syrians by the Maccabean brothers, and those Jews who followed them, finally resulted in the vanquishing of the Syrians from Judaea. Albeit, the victory wasn't a complete one. The citadel of Jerusalem still remained in Syrian hands. Just as earlier, when the Jebusites' control of the city had proved such an embarrassment to David, so Simon (the last of the Maccabee brothers) experienced the same humiliation. While he had carved an independent Jewish state out of Palestine, his enemies were still firmly positioned in the citadel of Zion. But the embarrassment didn't last long. The fortress was finally starved into surrendering, and once more the main citadel of Jerusalem fell into Jewish hands.

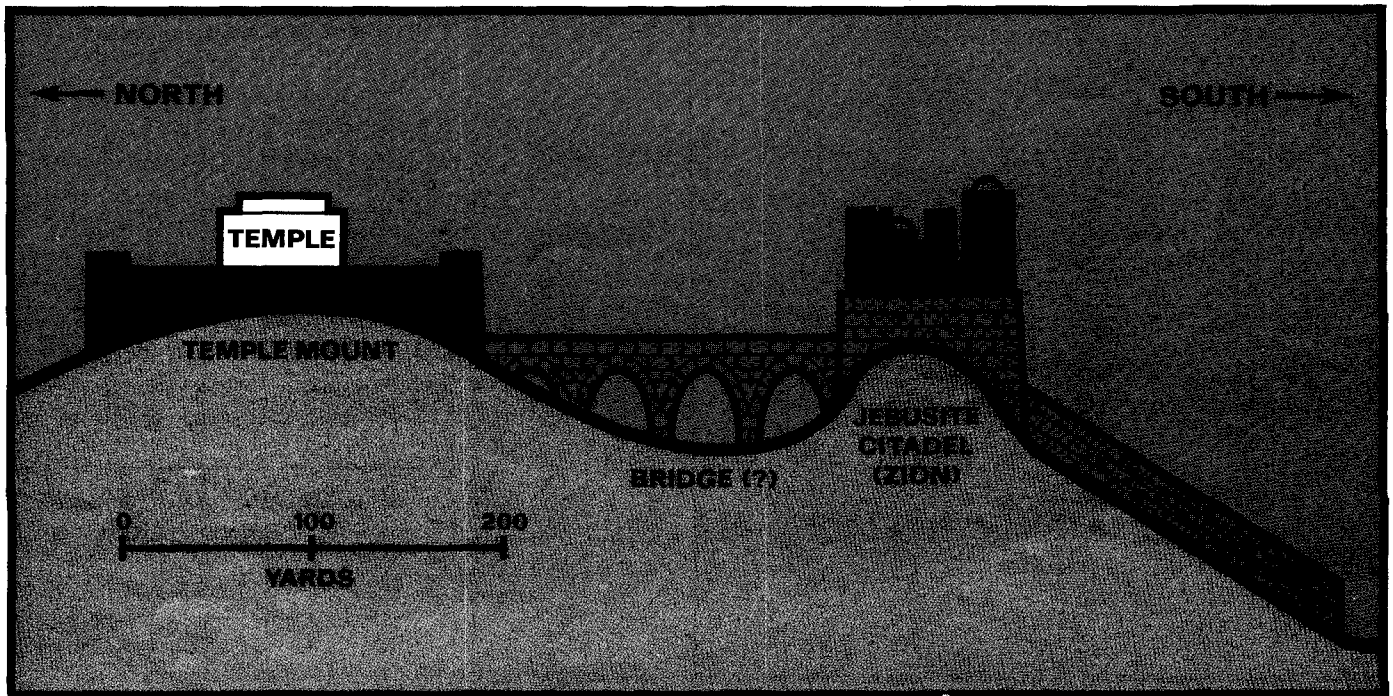
This time, however, a decision was reached by the inhabitants of Jerusalem which profoundly altered the topography of central Jerusalem. Instead of continuing the use of the citadel, as Josephus the Jewish historian informs us, the people decided to tear down its walls, its buildings, and *to cut down the very mountain itself!* This was to prevent any Gentiles from recapturing the citadel and harassing the future population of Jerusalem. They then

went to work on cutting down the mountain. This undertaking was so gigantic that it took the population of Jerusalem, working day and night, THREE YEARS to accomplish the task (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, XIII, 6, 7).

Josephus stated that this mountain the Jews demolished was located in the

one could look down into the Temple enclosure (*Antiquities of the Jews*, XII, 9, 3). If the fortress were situated on the spur south of the Temple Mount, it would have had to be a very tall mountain indeed to view the Temple enclosure. But that's where Josephus puts it and the historical Book of Maccabees implies the same thing (I Macc. 1:33,

he had much of the area around the Temple scraped down to bedrock. He then cut channels into the rock and placed in them his foundations for the massive walls he was to build around the Temple platform. He even extended the platform westward across the Tyropoeon Valley. For the water that seasonally flowed in the Tyropoeon, he



A profile of Jerusalem in the time of Solomon, as suggested by Josephus. Some kind of causeway or bridge probably served to connect the citadel of Zion with the Temple Mount. In the second century B.C. Simon the Priest had Mount Zion cut down in order to prevent its use as a hostile bastion from which to threaten the Temple. The work took three years.

Lower Quarter of the Old City, which was, of course, the Zion of David's time (*Wars of the Jews*, V, 4, 1). If this be true, and Josephus claims that it is, we can better understand why the Bible calls the fortress "Mount Zion." This must have been the mountain, with its fortress on top, which was completely levelled by Simon and the people of Jerusalem by 139 B.C. It can now be understood why there is no longer a "Mount Zion" on the ridge south of the Temple Mount.

It must be admitted, however, that some scholars feel Josephus is right in telling us about the destruction of the mountain, but he must surely be wrong as to its identity with the City of David. The main reason for their doubt is Josephus' statement that from this citadel

34; 14:36). After all, it took the population of Jerusalem THREE YEARS, working day and night, to demolish the mountain. It surely must have been a very large one. At the present state of our knowledge, it seems better to acknowledge Josephus' location of the fortress as being on top of the City of David.

Herod — Builder Extraordinary

A hundred years after the levelling of Zion, a tremendous building operation began in Jerusalem which certainly helped to alter the topography of the city. This was the time of Herod the Great in the first century B.C. One of Herod's primary projects was the enlargement of the Temple and the platform on which it stood. To do this,

constructed new conduits. Then in the valley, south of the Temple Mount, he built a gigantic hippodrome (where horse races and other spectacles could be held). On the upper hill to the west, he constructed many fine buildings, including a sumptuous palace for himself. All these building operations required the destruction of quite a lot of the older Jerusalem — the Jerusalem which had existed from Nehemiah's time and throughout the Maccabean Period. It was this "brand-new" Herodian Jerusalem that Christ was familiar with. It had strong Hellenistic (Greek) overtones in its architectural style and looked nothing like the typical Middle Eastern city that we are acquainted with today.

Jerusalem Destroyed by the Romans

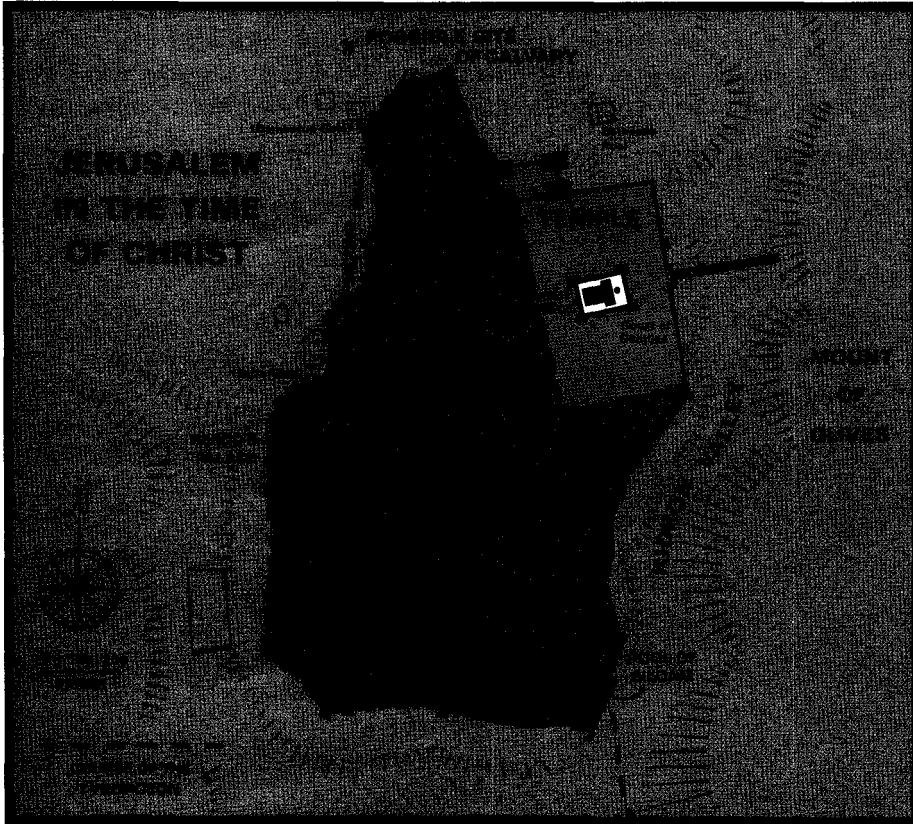
The Jerusalem of Christ's time, which had been built by the Herodian family, was completely destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. The Roman

destruction was exactly like the previous one by Nebuchadnezzar. So total was its ruin that Josephus, who was an eyewitness to the devastation, said that no one coming upon the place could have

believed there was once a city in the area (*Wars of the Jews*, VII, 1, 1). The rubble that remained was used to fill in parts of the valleys that surrounded the city. Erosion also set in

and quite a lot of the Upper City was washed down to fill in the valleys below. The result was the complete disappearance of the city (with the exception of a part of the Temple walls and a few remnants of towers) which Christ and the early apostles knew.

In its place, the Romans allowed a smaller and quite modest Jerusalem to be built. But even this rebuilt Jerusalem was not to last long. Between 132 and 135 A.D., the Romans once more warred against the Jews in Jerusalem. Again the city was conquered. After this second war, the Romans were so incensed over Jewish rebellion that they destroyed all the buildings of Jerusalem (which had been built since the 70 A.D. destruction), and the records claim you could plow the ground where once there was the city of Jerusalem. One can easily imagine how the topography must have been altered in and



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Below left: "Dig" — general view showing foundations of Ommiad (Arab) Palace and two Roman columns.

Below: Ambassador College diggers working on a pit in an Ommiad (Arab) palace.

Ambassador College Photos



around Jerusalem after the two destructions of 70 A.D. and 135 A.D. were over. The site was utterly devastated and looked very little like it had appeared in the days of Christ, let alone what it looked like in the time of David.

Aelia Capitolina

The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, after the 135 A.D. desolation, decided to obliterate every bit of Jewish influence from the site of Jerusalem. He forbade any Jew, no matter who he was, from approaching within 20 miles of the locality. He also built a new town on its site and named it "Aelia Capitolina." This was a completely pagan town where the Roman gods were to be honored and worshipped.

In the building of this new town, the quarters with which Christ and the apostles had been associated were so changed that many of these older sites were completely lost from memory. In fact it would have been very difficult to locate any of them, with the exception of the general location of the Temple, a few towers, etc. This is why Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great (who, 200 years later, was trying to locate the sites linked with Christ and the

apostles), sometimes had to rely on guesswork and even so-called visions to establish them. There is still much debate among scholars whether she and her assistants really did find the proper places after all. The fact is, the previous cataclysms were so ruinous that little evidence remained.

Byzantine Jerusalem

With the advent of Catholic Christianity, a new interest in Jerusalem took place. Churches, hospitals and pilgrims' hostels began to spring up. Though the quality of the buildings was not the same as in previous centuries, the Byzantine era did produce an abundance of structures, some of which are partially visible to this day. There was even an abortive attempt by the Jews of this period to rebuild the Temple (about 360 A.D.). Only the foundations of the intended Temple were constructed before arson and the Roman authorities put a stop to its building.

Justinian, a later Byzantine emperor

of the sixth century, was so interested in the construction of churches and other buildings in Jerusalem and elsewhere that his contemporaries called him a new "Solomon." (Solomon was famous throughout the East as the greatest builder of all time.) Justinian sent his chief architect to Jerusalem to build new churches and to redecorate those already there.

It was Justinian who helped make Jerusalem a new "Byzantine" city — different from the previous Jerusalems.

The Arabic Conquests

When new buildings go up, it is customary that the older structures are either torn down or modified. In the Roman and Byzantine periods, Jerusalem's appearance was drastically altered from that which existed in the time of Christ. But with the coming of the Arabs, a further alteration occurred. Mohammed, inspired by both Jewish and Christian teaching, plus some original theology of his own, developed a religion that caused his followers to conquer the entire Middle East in the middle part of the seventh century A.D. Jerusalem was conquered in 638 A.D. and because of its holiness (to the Mo-

Central area of "Dig" showing Crusader Wall and foundations of Ommiad Palace. Byzantine building in foreground.



ammedans), it became the third most important holy city in the Moslem world. Thus, the Moslems concentrated on building up Jerusalem — this time in classical Arabic style.

Helped by Byzantine architects, the Arabic leaders began constructing holy places and many other buildings all over Jerusalem. The present Dome of the Rock, built over the site of Solomon's Temple, and the Al Aksa Mosque just south of the Temple Mount, were built or modified during this time.

Our excavations in Jerusalem have uncovered a tremendous Ommiad (Arabic) building just to the south of the southern Temple wall. Many of the building stones that the Arabs used in their constructions were formerly old Herodian ashlar (square hewn stones) which made up the Temple and its walls in the time of Christ.

These early Arabic structures were elegant creations.

The Later Periods

After the initial construction work of the Arabs, Jerusalem did not change

drastically for the following 900 years. True, during the time of the Crusades, when Europeans held Jerusalem off and on for about 100 years, there were some modifications to buildings and new constructions were made, but there were no major developments until the Ottoman Turks took over control of Jerusalem in the early sixteenth century. The present *Old City* of Jerusalem and its walls (so familiar to tourists who visit Jerusalem today) is really the city of Suleiman the Magnificent — the Turkish ruler of Jerusalem who flourished around 1540 A.D. It was the Turks who made Jerusalem into the city that we know today. Of course, since the arrival of many Jews from around the world in the last seventy years, and the general increase in the Arab population within that period, two new sections have grown up around the old Turkish Jerusalem (the Old City of today) — one to the north, which is essentially Arabic, and one to the west, which is Jewish. In fact, since the 1967 War, which saw Jerusalem once again a united city, the Jerusalem area has been growing by leaps and bounds. Already

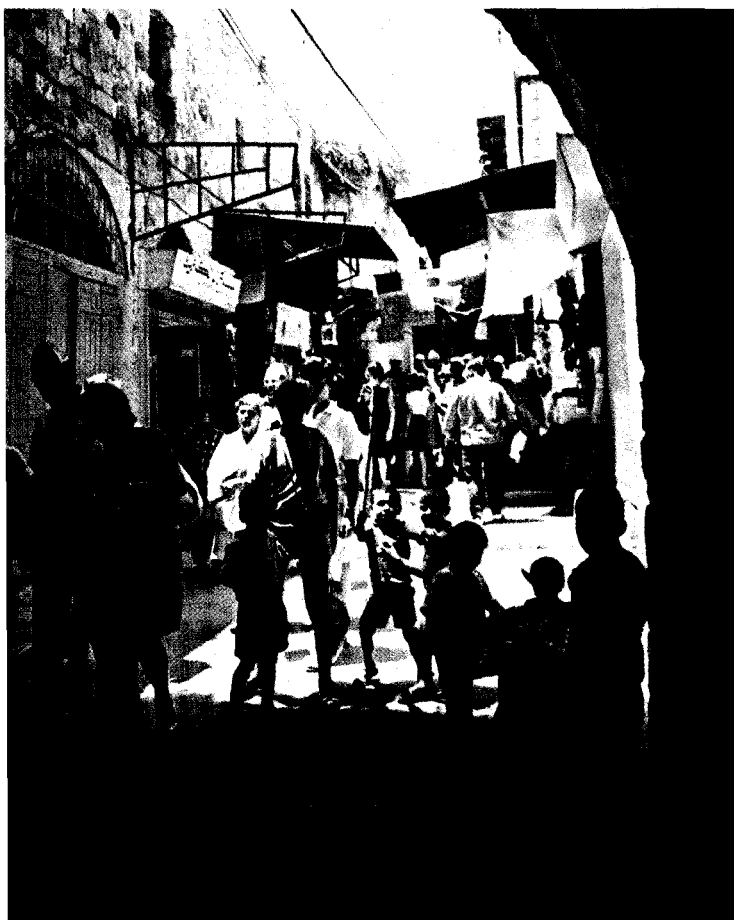
the population is just under 300,000 persons and it is projected that 750,000 people will be living there by the turn of the century.

Jerusalem and Prophecy

We have seen in this brief survey of Jerusalem's history that the appearance of the city has changed dramatically over the centuries. David wouldn't

Below left: A street in the Old City of Jerusalem. The wall constructed around it in Turkish times limited the lateral expansion of the city and led to the congested conditions seen here. Below: Arabs washing for prayer at a fountain in the *Haram esh-Sherif* (venerable sanctuary), as the Temple precinct is called in Arabic. In the background is the "Dome of the Rock," named after the huge rock protrusion around which it is built. On this rock, tradition claims, Abraham had intended to sacrifice Isaac. Below right: New apartment buildings line a spacious boulevard in North Jerusalem.

Ambassador College Photos



know the place if he were brought back to life. Indeed, even those who lived in the time of Christ would have great difficulty recognizing the Jerusalem they once knew. After all, Jerusalem was levelled to the ground in the time of Nebuchadnezzar (sixth century B.C.). There was the levelling of the major hill and the filling in of valleys in the time of the Maccabees (second century B.C.). The destruction of many buildings by Herod for the construction of his Jerusalem also changed the city's appearance. The Romans completely destroyed the buildings and filled in part of the valleys (first and second centuries). Then, there was the building up of Jerusalem in the Byzantine Period, the building in the Arabic Period and more especially the construction in the time of the Turks. And we must not forget the developments which have occurred in the last seventy years. Thus, it should be no surprise that the city of Jerusalem has changed beyond all recognition from that of David's time. Yet, there is a happy turn of events which is prophesied to occur

to Jerusalem in the not-too-distant future. A greater Jerusalem is soon to arise.

The New Jerusalem of the Future

In Zechariah 14, there is a prophecy telling us that "living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea [the Dead Sea], and half of them toward the hinder sea [the Mediterranean Sea]: in summer and in winter it shall be" (verse 8). These streams will appear once a major topographical change takes place in the area of Jerusalem. The Mount of Olives, just to the east of Jerusalem, will be split into two separate mountains and a valley will be formed between them (verse 4). Then, apparently at the same time, a further topographical change takes place. "All the land [near Jerusalem] shall be turned as a plain [levelled out] from Geba [5 miles north of Jerusalem] to Rimmon south of Jerusalem [about 30 miles south]: and it [Jerusalem itself] shall be lifted up [a large mountain will rise on the site of

Jerusalem], and [Jerusalem shall be] inhabited in her [usual] place" (verse 10).

Jerusalem will become a new "Mount Zion" around which the redeemed tribes of Israel will gather (Jer. 31:6-9). On this mount will be built a new city. Streams will issue from a new Temple which will be there (Joel 3:18). The Prophet Ezekiel further tells us that the eastern stream coming from this newly elevated Jerusalem will flow into the Dead Sea, making it a fresh sea with an abundance of fish (Ezek. 47). This is the new Jerusalem of the future — the coming joy of the whole world.

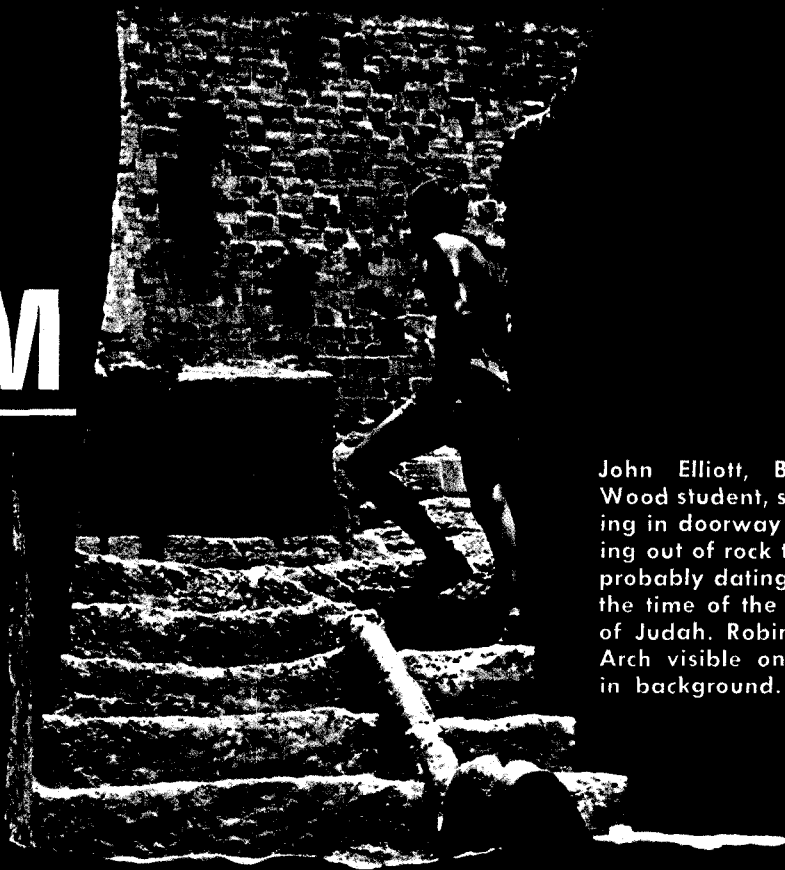
And though Jerusalem has suffered terribly from human rampages over the centuries, a glorious Jerusalem is soon to emerge which will make all other cities of the world insignificant by comparison. God will demonstrate how He can take the "worst" in man's opinion and make it into the "best." This is what He will do to His Jerusalem — the Mount Zion of the future! God speed that day. □



JERUSALEM

They sort through the rubble of centuries to bring to light the forgotten glories of ancient civilizations. From the "Big Dig" in Jerusalem, here is an on-the-spot account of student life in their own words. Share with them the thrills and excitements, the pains and strains on site, digging up the past.

by John E. Portune



John Elliott, Bricket Wood student, standing in doorway looking out of rock tombs probably dating from the time of the kings of Judah. Robbinson's Arch visible on wall in background.

Student contributions by Peter McLean and David Treybig

TWO HUNDRED suntanned faces flash skyward to the booming, ear-shattering roar of two Israeli Phantom Jet fighters streaking away to the south. Suddenly, 3,000 years of history have become the present.

This is Jerusalem, archaeological capital of the world. Here for the past three summers, students of Ambassador College have been playing a well-praised part in a massive excavation of the Southern Temple Mount Wall. Under the hot summer sun, faces tan and muscles complain as traditional images of camping and the seashore are traded for picks and potsherds.

What is it like being here? What sensations await the diggers under the Mediterranean sun? What is the fabric of everyday student life while sifting through the dust of the ages? Many

have been wanting to know more about the "Big Dig."

Here in the students' own words is . . .

A Day on the "Big Dig"

Day dawns early in Jerusalem. As I blink the drowsiness from my eyes, the first rays of the sun are just creeping over the top of the Mount of Olives. Here in the Shepherd Hotel it is 5 a.m., and 78 student alarm clocks are beginning to erupt like popcorn. The local donkey brays the start of another cloudless Jerusalem summer day. Time to be up and at it!

Downstairs in the dining room Mr. Canvin, Bricket Wood's [Ambassador College — England] energetic catering manager, has ready a real "digger's breakfast" — toast and honey, yogurt, coffee, and those Middle Eastern deli-

ciacies, eggs fried in olive oil. I'm not too keen on them myself, but if I don't hurry, those ravenous roommates of mine will have devoured everything in sight.

Breakfast finished, we scramble into our digging clothes — and what a sight we are. You wonder where some of the fellows and girls come up with such outfits. But after all, the Dig is hardly a place for formal wear.

Outside, we are just in time to grab a seat on one of the colorful Arab buses that take us to the Dig. It is a wonder how their brightly painted, creaky open-engined chassis ever keep up with the frantic pace of this hilltop capital.

In a few hectic, fun-filled moments we are outside the Dung Gate, southern entrance to Jerusalem's Old City. The doors on the buses hiss open and we



pile out. Instantaneously, we are deluged by the ever-present throng of Arab children trying to coax a few coins from us in exchange for a local souvenir. But by now most of them appreciate our limited budgets and quickly turn their attentions to a potentially more receptive group of tourists across the road. One or two of the friendlier youngsters stay back for a ride on our backs up the hill and through the gate. Inside on the right is the Dig.

The Day's Work Begins

On site, no one has to tell us when we reach the work area. The ground is covered with a layer of incredibly fine, powdery gray dust. It boils up around our ankles with every step. At first we watched it with curiosity to see the fascinating patterns it made. Now it is just there.

Up ahead, standing amidst the long rows of tools, is the strong-bodied figure of Vasili, our foreman. He is a young Greek archaeologist who has been working in Israel for the past five years.

About two hundred young people work on the Dig: 78 are from Ambassador College, the rest, volunteers from around the world. Each is a part of a small work team of half a dozen or so. Each team has a leader whose job it is to set the pace and keep the heavier jobs from the girls. I'm over one of the groups myself. Vasili is over us all.

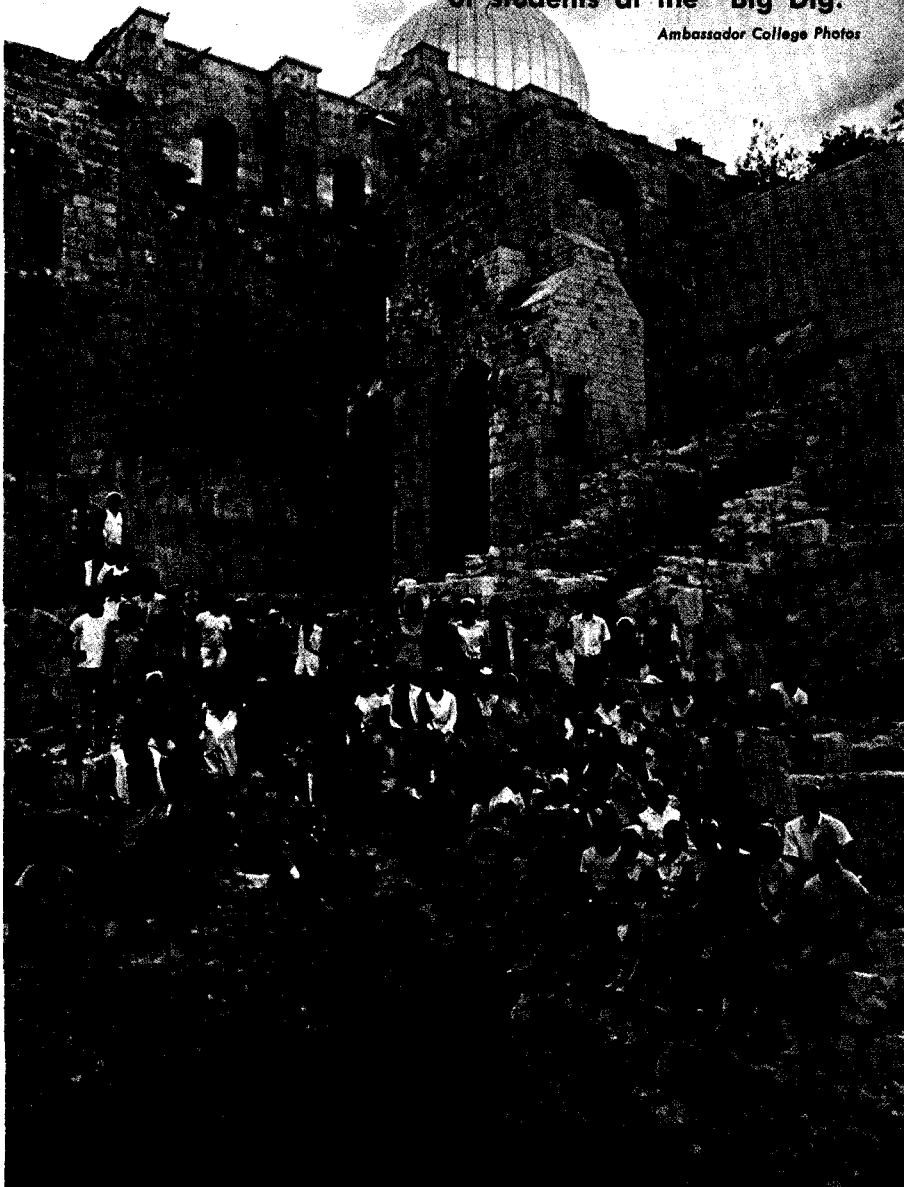
The job we do is as simple as the tools we use — picks, shovels, trowel, brushes, wheelbarrows, and rubber buckets. The rubber bucket is a standard feature on archaeological sites as it is comparatively harmless when tossed down a deep pit. It is the main container for moving materials.

We are literally expected to move mountains barehanded. Many first-time observers on an archaeological excavation wonder how much of the dirt and rubble is moved manually. Virtually every ounce has to be removed by hand. Otherwise, countless important small artifacts would be lost or destroyed.

We have a bulldozer on the Dig which has, in fact, just grunted into action with a puff of black smoke and a throaty growl. But it never gets near

Above: Early morning breakfast in the Shepherd Hotel, Jerusalem. Below: Group shot of students at the "Big Dig."

Ambassador College Photos



any of the important areas. Its noisy presence on the Dig, although not very welcomed by the diggers because of the clouds of the powdery gray dust it ceaselessly covers us with, is a powerful "strong arm" for clearing noncritical fill and for moving sifted rubble.

Down in the holes digging is under way. In each of the areas some wield the picks and shovels. Behind them others fill the rubber buckets with the material dug free. Still others use brushes and small trowels to clean the building stones.

As each full bucket is tossed or hoisted to the top, it is dumped into a rectangular sifting frame fitted over a wheelbarrow. After a vigorous shaking, eager hands search the remains for the occasional intact pottery handle, the glint of a piece of glass or the telltale blue-green colour of a corroded coin. Finding such long-lost artifacts generates a sense of excitement and provides the information the experts need in dating the layers through which we dig.

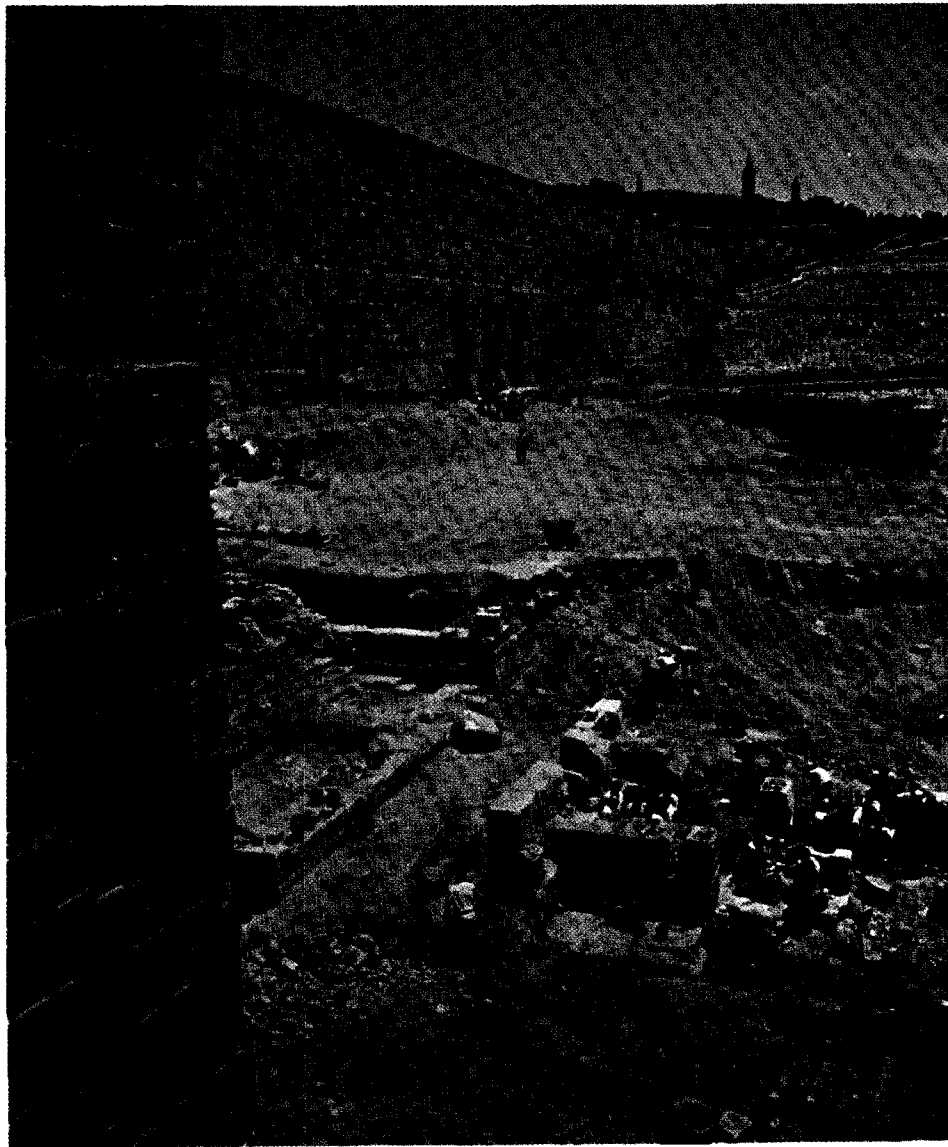
A Pause in the Sun

As for me here in the sunshine, it is hot — mighty hot! By now the pick I am swinging seems welded to my hands. The deeper I dig, the more rocks it seems to hit. Besides this, my back aches. In fact, all my muscles ache. I never knew I had so many.

As I straighten up for a moment, someone rumbles past our pit with a wheelbarrow full of rubble and I get a face full of dust. I blink and look around.

Towering above me in the cloudless blue sky is the glistening dome of Al Aksa Mosque. Just now one of the colony of pigeons that inhabits the Wall glides toward me in the warm breeze. Then it turns and returns to its precarious perch high above the sun-drenched Dig.

Just over my right shoulder rises the Mount of Olives. It is so close I can see a busload of tourists arriving at the Intercontinental Hotel — that familiar landmark on the Mount. To my left, in characteristic medieval style, is the old Crusader and Turkish Wall. It still surrounds most of the Old City. It begins its serpentine course immediately in front of me, where it joins the magnifi-



cent golden-stoned southern face of the Herodian temple wall.

Behind me, my thoughts fall on the historic Valley of Jehoshaphat curving away to the south to meet the Tyropoeon Valley and the Valley of Hinnom — the ancient "hell" (*gehenna*) of the Bible. Momentarily, I remember, "I'm in Jerusalem." Chariots and Roman Legions flash through my mind. The throne of David was only yards from where I am now standing on the Ophel

Left: Two Bricket Wood girls sift materials for small artifacts. Below: New area of Dig from the Crusader Wall, looking east. Mount of Olives in background. Below right: Judy Bishop, Big Sandy student, shows oil lamp she found on the dig. It is dated about the 6th century B.C.

Ambassador College Photos

Ridge. I can't help contrasting my mind's-eye image to the potpourri of tumbled-down, little box dwellings that now clutter this historic site.

Suddenly, I am brought back to reality by a stinging sensation. A drop of perspiration has trickled down my dusty forehead to find its way into the corner of my eye. I wipe my grimy face on the shoulder of my dusty shirt and get back to work.

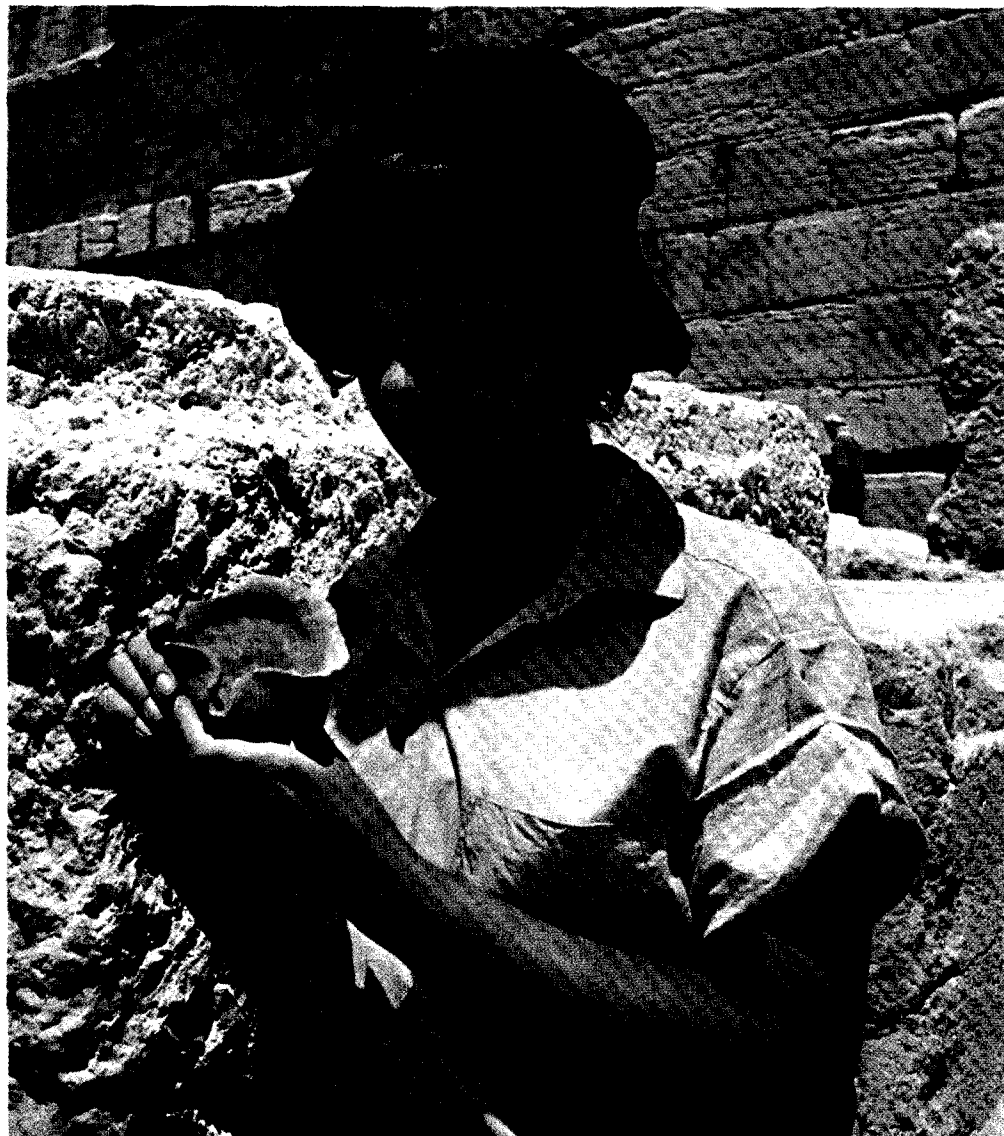
Digging from seven in the morning until one in the afternoon seemed like an eternity the first few sunburned days. But now time goes quickly. The 10 o'clock break helps a lot. We gather like pigeons on the ancient Byzantine walls outside the Dig office to wait for Mr. Canvin. In his familiar little white Volkswagen van, he comes over the hill and through the gate in a cloud of dust, laden with all kinds of "good-

ies." Out comes the lemonade, the yogurt and the sandwiches, all prepared by the girls on kitchen duty this morning.

That half an hour in the shade, sharing the morning's experiences and showing the girls (at close range, of course) a local reptilian we managed to catch during the morning's work, is tremendous. It is not only a time of rest, but one of companionship.

But now it is 10:30 and time to get back to work. Two and a half hours to go.

In our area of the Dig outside the Crusader and Turkish Wall, along the southern face of the Temple Mount, the main job is the removal of general debris. The entire Dig area is "L" shaped, five acres in extent, and encompasses the entire Southern Wall and its southwest corner. The Crusader and



Turkish Wall to my left divides the area virtually in two.

During the first two summers of the Dig, all the work took place inside the Wall. But this summer most of the activity has moved outside the Wall. A few weeks ago the ground here was nothing more than a bramble-covered slope falling away to the south. Today it is busier than an agitated anthill.

Each day we are finding new buildings, new cisterns, new water channels, new pavements, and very recently we came across a magnificent Herodian staircase built shortly before the time of Jesus. It led up in grand style to the famous "Hulda Double Gates" to the Temple Mount. Professor Mazar was excited by the find, and the *Jerusalem Post*, Jerusalem's English newspaper, ran a substantial feature story on the discovery.

But just now, running up the hill shouting is Vasili. He is hot on the trail of a group of wide-eyed, camera-toting tourists who have somehow evaded the guards on the gate. Security on the Dig is a constant headache here in the center of tourist-filled Jerusalem. Were it not for the hawk eyes and stern faces of the men on the gates, there would be standing room only. Vasili, with much gesticulation and persuasion, now has them cornered and is leading them to the gate.

The Challenge of Discovery

Down in my pit I have uncovered a big rock. It has been here for centuries, covered with the dust of passing civilizations — Jewish, Roman, Turkish and Crusader. And I am now determined to move it.

It is a real challenge. So I lift my pick and bring it down with a thud. The pick wedges itself under the corner of the rock — and the rock moves. I want to know what is under it. What will I find? Probably the usual dirt, broken pottery and more rocks. But at the back of my mind run expectations of something more exciting.

Maybe a silver shekel from the first century? Or a glass figurine of a later period? How about a decorative marble image of a lion from the time of King Herod himself? Or perhaps a stone

with the seal of the Roman 10th Legion?

These are not wishful guesses. In the last two weeks Ambassador students have found these very remnants of the past. Yesterday, one of the girls found a well-preserved oil lamp dating from about the 6th century B.C.; another, a fascinating weight inscribed with an unusual Greek inscription. It is this thrill of discovery that pushes us on. It is hard work, but it is rewarding.

It is now a few minutes before noon. Strange sounds begin cascading from the slender Moslem minaret towering above our heads. The sounds are strange to our Western ears, but we have come to look forward to this auditory interruption of our dusty routine. It signals a ten-minute break — a cold drink and a chance to play with Antiochus, a frisky little puppy belonging to one of the Dig leaders.

Only one hour left. The hottest one of the day. By the time we finish our day, we will be walking piles of dust and dirt, covered from head to toe and distinguishable only by the bright red or blue of our Israeli "shalom" hats. Ah — that cool shower awaiting us back at the hotel!

An Important Service

But beyond the bright-colored hats, the wheelbarrows and the rubber buckets, the work of these 78 energetic students who have come this summer to dig in Jerusalem is of vital importance to the worldwide work of Ambassador College.

In their sometimes comical attire, doing their "down-to-earth" jobs on the Dig, they might seem to be just another group of young people come to seek a unique summer far away from home.

But to the men who direct this important academic project in Jerusalem, Ambassador College students are certainly not "ordinary." Meir Ben-Dov, Professor Mazar's right-hand man, mentioned recently with a clear ring of seriousness, that next year he wanted 250 Ambassador College students. What a fitting tribute to the important and valuable work being done by the students of Ambassador College here in Jerusalem. □

ARCHAEOLOGICAL interest in Jerusalem's magnificent Temple Mount has not just been confined to recent years. From well before the turn of the twentieth century, scientific attention has been focused on Mount Zion's rich historic heritage.

A full century ago, almost to the very year, the English engineer-Captain (later Major-General) Sir Charles Warren conducted a substantial examination of the area. In 1867 to 1870 he dug a series of deep narrow vertical shafts down to the natural bedrock. The work was slow, costly, and beset with constant difficulties. Danger of collapse was a constant threat. Wooden shorings placed in the soft earth tunnels rotted within as little as three months. Other detriments were cantankerous landlords, buildings that could not be moved, and cemeteries still in use.

Despite these, his findings turned out to be highly accurate and have been of immense value to the present full-scale excavations. They provided invaluable information on the lay of the bedrock and on the many courses of original He-

rodian Temple Wall stones buried beneath the surface. Also revealed was the presence of various cisterns and water channels.

Considering the lack of modern mechanical and archaeological methods, Warren's finds were remarkable.

Since 1867, many archaeological excavations have been conducted in Jerusalem, representing many countries and institutions. The most recent endeavor, before our present excavation, was in 1961 when the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, under the direction of well-known archaeologist Miss Kathleen Kenyon, began small scale trench-method excavations of the Southern Wall area and the City of David. The work revealed, near the Temple Mount, a small section of pavement, a portion of a large building, and a column. Later an additional trial dig was started near the southeast corner but was soon discontinued due to pressure from local authorities.

Then in 1967, after the unification of Jerusalem, the archaeological institutions of Israel began considering the feasibility of a full-scale excavation of

the entire Southern Wall area. With encouragement by the mayor of Jerusalem and the Israel Exploration Society, the present "Big Dig" was launched in 1968, headed by Professor Binyamin Mazar.

The actual work began on February 28, 1968, with workmen mostly from the Jerusalem area supplied by the Ministry of Labour, plus students from Hebrew University. Other young volunteers from Israel were serving as partial fulfillment of their military service requirements. Quite a number of personnel also came from abroad to work at the site.

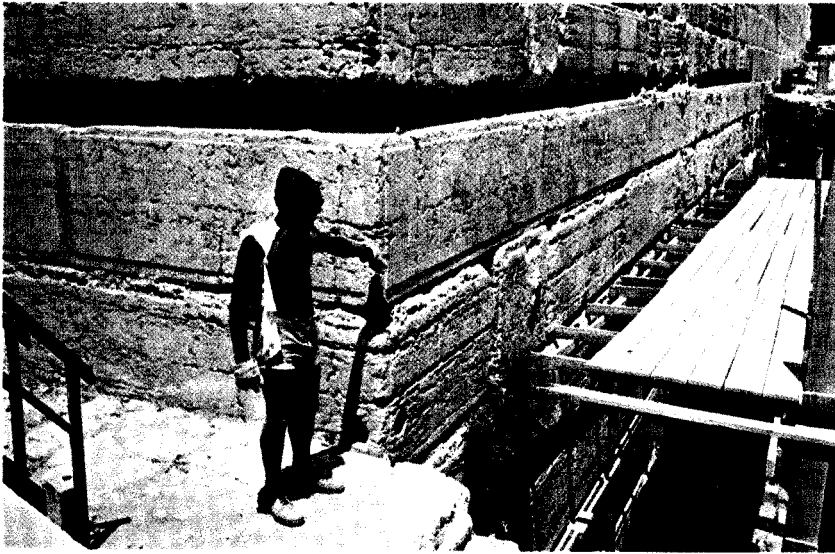
From the very start the "Big Dig" was a mammoth project. In its present extent it occupies a full five acres of land and in many places has been excavated to a depth of more than fifty feet. The manpower and finances required to move all the accumulated debris by hand are significant. So from the onset, for reasons of economy, work was initially to be suspended during the winter season.

In the first winter recess, Ambassador College entered into the project jointly

with Hebrew University and the Department of Antiquities. Beginning December of 1968, Ambassador began providing financial assistance to put the project on a full-time continuous basis, and in 1969 began to provide summer-time student manpower. Work has continued unbroken since that time.

The major factor behind the selection of this particular location by the Israelis was its proximity to the Temple Mount, which could provide a clue to the basic topography of ancient Jerusalem in the time of Christ and an outline of the major buildings which made up this important part of the city.

The Dig is situated on the central part of a ridge stretching from the Temple Mount — Mount Moriah of the Bible — southward to the Pool of Siloam. Many of the changes which have taken place in the topography of this area were mainly the result of the enormous construction project carried out by Herod the Great in greatly extending the Temple platform built during the reign of King Solomon. Josephus, the famous Jewish historian of the period, writes that the mighty Hero-



Ambassador College Photo

Herodian Stones

SOME OF THE most fascinating of all the architectural antiquities at the Dig are the massive Herodian Temple Mount stones. These impressive building blocks were hand carved from hard, white local limestone. Some of these original foundation blocks measure as great as 30 ft. x 3 ft. x 5 ft. and weigh up to an estimated one hundred tons! Dating from as early as 18 B.C., these stones reflect the highly sophisticated culture of the Herodian society.

Like many leaders, Herod the Great had a desire to be remembered after his rule was over. He chose to leave his impression upon society through buildings, particularly in the form of the stones used in construction. Their distinguishing characteristic is the simple bossing (projecting ornaments) on the exposed faces of each stone. This bossing protrudes approximately a centimeter from the rock's face. Special care and attention were given each stone by highly skilled hand craftsmen. Such simple, yet elegant design in architecture was not witnessed again for several centuries.

Even more impressive than the actual stones themselves is the structural architecture of the walls. Each stone is so precisely posi-

tioned that no mortar was used for strength or security. The carving was so accurate that not even a thin knife blade could be wedged between adjacent stones. Many of the joints remain in that same precise position after these many centuries.

How could such mammoth blocks of solid limestone be moved by men and animals alone? The archaeologists at the Dig feel that undoubtedly dirt ramps and wooden rollers were the answer. The dirt ramps were built on a gentle incline to the course, or level, of the wall on which the block was to go. Draft animals pulled each stone along on wooden rollers until it was in position. Then a simple system of pulleys was apparently employed to remove the rollers. Each course of stone of the Temple Mount was set precisely five centimeters farther back than the level below, so that the exterior of the wall receded slightly as one gazed from bottom to top.

With such skill in carving and structural design, one can feel only awe for the highly developed Herodian civilization of that day — a society still reflected by the magnificent Herodian stones.

— Tim Snyder

dian Wall "was a structure more noteworthy than any under the sun. For while the depth of the [Tyropoeon] valley was great... the height of the portico standing over it was so very great..." (*Antiquities of the Jews*, XV, 412, Loeb ed.).

Discoveries at the Dig

In the three years of digging along the Southern Wall and around the southwestern corner, four major historic periods have been identified by substantial remains. These are the Arabic, the Byzantine, the Roman, and the Herodian.

During the first year most of the digging involved the clearing and the identification of a large Omniad (Arab) Palace that stood very near the Southern Wall at the southwest corner. Much of it was built from older Herodian stones that had fallen from the top of the Wall during the destruction following the siege by the Roman General Titus in 70 A.D.

In the second year attention was turned to the area on the west near the Wailing Wall. In this area excavations revealed the foundations of a monumental staircase from King Herod's time that led up to the Temple Mount. Until the summer of 1969 the only visible remains of the staircase had been the famous "Robinson's Arch" projecting from the Wall. Also discovered were rock tombs hewn from the bedrock just west of this arch. Stratigraphical analysis suggests that they may date from the time of the kings of ancient Judah.

This summer, although work has continued in all areas, most of the activity has moved to the sloping ground against the Southern Wall near its southeastern end. Here another Omniad structure has been recently uncovered and an impressive Herodian staircase that once led up to the well-known "Hulda Double Gates."

What future excavations hold depends largely on what is found day by day. But whatever its course, the "Big Dig" will certainly rate a place in archaeological annals as one of the most impressive and interesting excavations of all time.

— John E. Portune

THE STORY OF MAN

for children five to one hundred five

Written and Illustrated by Basil Wolverton

ORDEAL BY SIEGE

CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED FIFTY

FORCIBLY LOWERED into the deep mire of a dungeon pit in the prison at Jerusalem, Jeremiah could feel himself gradually sinking. The more he struggled, the deeper he sank. His shouts for help were futile. (Jeremiah 38:1-6.) Now that his eyes had become adjusted to the gloom, he could see that the men who had brought him there, at the orders of the princes, had departed and left him helpless in a stinking cesspool.

A Noble Ethiopian

One of King Zedekiah's trusted attendants, an Ethiopian by the name of Ebed-melech, happened to learn what had happened to Jeremiah through men who were discussing the prophet's plight and were greatly amused by it. This black man was one of the king's favorite officials because he was alert, intelligent, conscientious and had proved himself trustworthy. Being a fervent follower of God, he was shocked that God's servant should be treated so cruelly. He hurried and reported the incident to his master, even though he realized that the king, an idolator, might not wish to be bothered by the matter.

"Those responsible have done an evil thing that could cause more misery to fall on Jerusalem," Ebed-melech respectfully suggested to Zedekiah. "There is no more bread left to keep Jeremiah from starving, but unless he is rescued soon, he could die in a much shorter time by smothering in the mire of the cesspool!"

Although Zedekiah had told the princes that he wouldn't interfere with their depraved treatment of

Jeremiah, he was so angered by the way they were trying to cause the prophet's death that he decided to step in again to save him.

"Do what you can to rescue that man and bring him back to the cell where he was," the king instructed that trusted aid. "Just don't try anything by yourself. I'll give you thirty palace guards to help you and protect you from any trouble you run into."

The first thing Ebed-melech did was obtain ropes and an armful of old rags. When he and the thirty men arrived at the pit, they let the ends of the ropes down to Jeremiah and tried to pull the prophet up. But he had sunk up to his shoulders, and pulling him created a suction that held him so firmly that the pressure under his arms was quite painful. The Ethiopian had expected this difficulty. Tossing the rags to Jeremiah, he called down to him to stuff them between his arms and the ropes, so that the men could pull harder without hurting him too seriously.

After the prisoner was lifted to freedom from the miry trap, Ebed-melech saw to it that he had an opportunity to bathe and put on clean clothes before being taken back to his cell. He also managed to bring him a little food. (Jeremiah 38:7-13.)

Following a rest, the prophet was surprised to be taken to a room in the temple, where Zedekiah was waiting to talk privately with him.

"You've told me before what you believe will take place here soon," the king said. "Now I'm asking you to tell me again, including anything that's new or anything you've withheld, and what I should do."

"I've angered you many times by what I've said," Jeremiah observed, shaking his head. "If I say anymore, how do I know but what you'll become so

angry that you'll have me beheaded? As for advice, you won't accept any from me."

Zedekiah's Half-Strong Promise

Zedekiah wanted to be thought of as strong and a doer of good. But he had refused to repent and he was afraid of his political advisers. He glanced quickly around to make sure that he and Jeremiah were alone, then moved a step closer to the prophet.

"I swear that no matter what you have to say, I will not put you to death," the king earnestly declared. "Neither will I turn you over to anyone who seeks your life. May God end mine if there is no truth in what I say."

Zedekiah's sincerity was evident to Jeremiah, who decided to give the king a complete account of what would soon happen.

"What I have to say isn't anything I've made up," the prophet explained. "This is what the one and only God has revealed to me. To begin, King Nebuchadnezzar is no longer in Judah. He and a part of his army have gone to the city of Riblah in Syria. The whole Babylonian army has defeated the Egyptians, who have fled back into their country. The victors haven't pursued them because they are anxious to return here and continue the siege of Jerusalem.

"You would be wise to go out and surrender to Nebuchadnezzar's generals. If you do, you will save your life and the lives of many others, and the city won't be burned. If you don't, the enemy will break down the walls, pour into Jerusalem and set fire to it. Many people will be slaughtered. Many will be captured — including you and your family!"

"Months ago I turned against the Babylonians," Zedekiah said after a period of thought. "Now if I suddenly surrender, and have to join my countrymen who already are prisoners in Babylonia, they will never cease mocking me." (Jeremiah 38:14-19.)

"If you surrender, that won't happen," the prophet pointed out. "It could happen if you are captured, but I doubt that the Babylonians would let you live that long. I implore you, sir, to bury your pride and save yourself and your people! If you refuse, you will be mocked by the women of your harem, who will seek safety by willingly turning themselves over to Babylonian officers. The children you have had by these women will become slaves to the enemy!" (Jeremiah 38:20-23.)

Zedekiah swallowed nervously, still afraid to trust God, although he wanted to help God's prophet. He glanced cautiously about, then stared earnestly at the prophet.

"Don't tell anyone else what you have told me today," he warned. "Keep silent about these things, and I'll keep my promise that you won't die by my order or at the order of the princes. If they ask you if you talked to me, and tell you that they'll see that you live if you tell them what we talked about, tell them that you wanted me to spare your life, and I promised that you wouldn't be taken back to that dungeon under Jonathan's house."

Evil Princes Outsmarted

At a gesture by the king, Jeremiah's guards, waiting at a respectful distance, approached and escorted the prophet back to his cell. It wasn't long before he was visited by the princes, who had been informed of his meeting with Zedekiah, and who hoped to learn if he had made any kind of contact with the Babylonians through Jeremiah.

"Tell us about the conversation you had with the king at the temple, and we'll do what we can to see that you are freed from this place," one of them told Jeremiah.

"I told the king that I don't deserve to be put back in a dungeon where it isn't possible to keep on living," Jeremiah answered. "He assured me that I wouldn't die by his hand or yours."

This reply didn't tell the prophet's visitors much, but it caused them to confer among themselves.

"The king must have a good reason for sticking up so staunchly for this fellow," one of them remarked.

"Whatever it is," another said, "I don't think this miserable prophet has the ability to be a spy for the Babylonians or a secret messenger for the king — especially as long as he's behind bars. Let's leave him where he is and, for the present, forget about him."

Jeremiah drew a breath of relief as he watched his visitors stride away. (Jeremiah 38:24-28.)

Just as the prophet had told Zedekiah, most of the mighty Babylonian army soon returned to Jerusalem, whose inhabitants fearfully realized that they were woefully unprepared for another siege — even a short one. Food had been difficult to obtain. There was never enough to stock for the future. In spite of



the many days the siege had been lifted, many people were on the verge of starvation. Besides, sickness was still taking its toll.

Frenzy and dismay settled on the inhabitants. Even while the enemy was still miles away, excited men slammed the gates shut and barred and reinforced them with huge props. Anyone who happened to be on the outside was cut off from returning.

"Let no one in from now on!" was the order. "They could be Babylonian spies or soldiers disguised as Jewish food deliverymen or even as our troops!"

As for the king, he knew that he didn't have long to make up his mind what to do, though probably his decision would be simply determined by what he wanted to do, regardless of the consequences. For the time being, he was busily con-

Because of fear of the approaching Babylonians, Jerusalem's gates were slammed shut, even against those who were trying to bring in precious food.

ferring with his officers, who were frantically organizing their soldiers for defense.

The Ethiopian Honored

Again the Babylonians spread out around the city, pitching tents at a safe distance. They built corrals for their horses and for the livestock they had taken on their way back from their victorious encounter with the Egyptians. It was obvious that they were determined to take up where they had left off, and were prepared to stay for a longer period than the city could hold out.

When Jeremiah heard of the return of the enemy, he managed to get word to Ebed-melech, the Ethiopian, to come to his cell. The black man came at once, wondering if the prophet needed his help again, but he received a more pleasant surprise.

"I have some good news for you from God," Jeremiah told him. "He has asked me to inform you that because you have put your trust in Him and have obeyed His laws, there is no need for you to fear the Babylonians. You won't be wounded or killed by them." (Jeremiah 39:15-18.)

Thankful for this encouraging information, Ebed-melech went back to his duties, one of the few people in Jerusalem who could harbor any hope under the fearful threat of the Babylonians.

Within only a few days many of the city's inhabitants were so desperate for food that they were forced to consume animals that weren't meant for man to eat. Horses, donkeys, cats, dogs and even rats and mice became common fare. When these

Food became so scarce in Jerusalem that people consumed horses, donkeys, dogs, cats and rats. The more ravenous even included their own children.



items were exhausted and the final stages of starvation set in, a few people secretly resorted to the horrible, grisly pursuit of cannibalism. Possibly these miserable humans would have preferred to give themselves up to the Babylonians, but no one was allowed outside the walls. The misery and death could have been prevented if one man, the king, had walked through the gates and given himself up to the besiegers. (Jeremiah 21:1-10; 32:23-24; 38:17.)

While matters were worsening inside the city, things were changing on the outside. Using teams of chariot horses, the Babylonians brought load after load of soil as close to the wall as they could safely come under cover of their own shielding. As the days passed, the loads of soil grew into rising mounds that eventually became as high as the walls they faced.

Under cover of careful but difficult shielding, the invaders dumped much more soil over the mounds on the wall side, thus extending the mounds closer and closer to the walls. Fortifications were built atop some of the higher mounds so that it was possible for Babylonian soldiers to face Jewish wall guards at the same height, and well within the range of spears and arrows. Huge catapults were pushed up other mounds, making it possible for boulders to be easily hurled to the wall tops and even beyond.

Final Phase of the Siege

After months of struggling under the lethal handicap of soaring spears, hissing arrows and

catapulted hot boulders, the Babylonians managed to finish the fortified mounds that were part of their plan of attack. Early one morning the Jews on the wall tops were startled to see that the mounds were fully manned. More ominous was the sight of battering rams on wheels, soon surrounded by burly troops with especially wide shields.

The Babylonians had obviously been prepared to attack with the first sufficient light of day. There was a shrill blowing of horns and much shouting, causing much excitement and stir among the men on the walls. They didn't know exactly what to expect, but when they saw the battering rams gaining momentum toward the walls, they realized that this wasn't going to be a matter of simply killing off one Babylonian ram crew after another.

Jewish archers and spearmen swarmed to the wall edge to discharge their weapons down on the troops rushing forward with the weighty rams, only to find themselves the targets of spears and arrows from the nearby Babylonian fortifications. After their one fusillade, which wasn't very effective against the wide, horizontally held shields of the enemy ram crews, the Jewish archers and spearmen were forced to dodge for shelter.

To add to their peril, Babylonian catapults bombarded the wall tops with smashing boulders, some of them nearly red-hot. The conflict had hardly begun, but it was obvious that the Jews were going to have a difficult struggle in defending their capital.

The long, heavy rams, pushed by the running

Babylonians, slammed noisily against the walls, cracking the stone and mortar. As quickly as possible the crews dragged their mammoth weapons back out of spear and arrow range, where fresh crews took over and aimed the rams into the cracked areas. This time, sizeable chunks of stone fell away under the crashing blows of the iron noses of the log-shaped hammers. The walls were being pierced!

It was yet a long way through the walls, but the encouraged invaders kept the rams in action. With each thunderous blow, more of the stones cracked and fell away, constantly enlarging the openings. This limited success cost many Babylonian lives. Comrades on the mound fortifications weren't able to entirely prevent the Jews from hurling or shooting their share of missiles.

Killed and wounded on both sides were immediately dragged off and replaced, inasmuch as there was only limited space for the soldiers, and neither side could afford to lessen its efforts. The frantic struggle was made grimmer by screams and groans of men in pain, the hissing of arrows and boulders, the thuds of spears against wood, stone and flesh, the pounding of the rams, the shouts of excited officers and the general clatter of this unusual kind of battle.

The frantic pace had to lessen when twilight came, and stop completely when darkness set in. This was to the advantage of both sides. They could rest and prepare to continue the battle next morning. Neither side could gain much of an advantage during darkness.

The Walls Breached!

It was almost impossible for Jewish officers to tell how much damage had been done to the walls. They couldn't look down and determine the size or depth of the gouged-out holes, although several soldiers on the wall top claimed that the rams' metal noses had appeared to penetrate several yards during the last attacks.

When Zedekiah heard this report, he was gripped with fear. For a time he considered a personal surrender to the enemy as soon as morning came. Then he reasoned that it would be the same as suicide to expose himself during a continued battle, and decided that the wisest course would be to gather his family together, if worst came to worst, and try to escape from the city by a secret exit known only to a few.

At dawn the attack and defense were resumed with greater fury. For a while the Babylonians greatly deepened the breaches in the walls. Progress was later slowed when some of the ram trucks began to fall apart from rough usage. Some of them had to be withdrawn. Others were put to work in teams, so that the deepening breaches would become wider. One of the rams was finally applied to a gate. The unshatterable hardwood proved to be tougher than stone. However, when bolts and iron straps started to shake loose, the attackers decided to continue.

That afternoon, despite their reverses, the Babylonians completely broke through the wall at one point. About the same time, the battered gate began to fall loose. The invaders kept up the hammering because they wanted the openings to be wide enough to admit several men at once. They knew that if they tried to enter single file, the Jews could easily pick them off.

The King Deserts

When Zedekiah learned that the enemy was about to try to get troops into the city, he excitedly ordered some officials, attendants and servants to prepare to accompany certain members of his family in swift departure. All his wives and children weren't included because there were some with whom he didn't care to be burdened. The more in the party, the less chances of escape there would be.

Accompanied by picked guards, the king and the chosen part of his family rushed to a secret passage which took them under the north wall of the city. It emerged in a bouldery area uncomfortably close to a part of the line of Babylonians encircling Jerusalem. Darkness was coming on, making it possible for the escapers to quietly move from boulder to boulder until all reached a ravine out of sight of the enemy. Just then the sound of many voices welled up from the city, indicating that the invaders were inside and clashing with the defenders. (II Kings 25:1-4; Jeremiah 39:1-4.)

For a few moments the king paused to listen to the frenzied sounds of battle, then turned on his intended way to safety in Egypt. He was resigned to the painful loss of his nation and city, but he exulted in having escaped from the enemy. Terror would have replaced exultation if he could have known what would happen in the next few hours.

(To be continued next issue)



Science vs. Theology?

The famous spiral galaxy in the constellation Andromeda. In the arms of such awesome galactic spirals are multiple billions of stars. Since there are billions of galaxies in the observable universe alone, we must conclude the total number of stars is humanly uncountable.

Lick Observatory Photo

THE UNFATHOMABLE UNIVERSE -TOO SMALL?

FROM time immemorial, man has been fascinated by the beautiful and awesome spectacle of the stars of heaven. Many centuries before the birth of Jesus, David observed that "the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork" (Psa. 19:1).

Even today, the seeming myriads of stars and nebulae continue to be a breathtaking and inspiring panoply.

Yet, at any given time, despite one's initial impression, the actual number of stars distinguished by the naked eye is *less than 3000*. This means that you could easily count them all in *less than an hour!*

By contrast, the Bible states in Jeremiah 33:22 that "the host of heaven CANNOT BE NUMBERED." During the thousands of years before Galileo's invention of the telescope, such a statement was considered to be either *false* or at least a *gross exaggeration*. The stars uncountable? The universe, they said, was *too small* to contain that many stars!

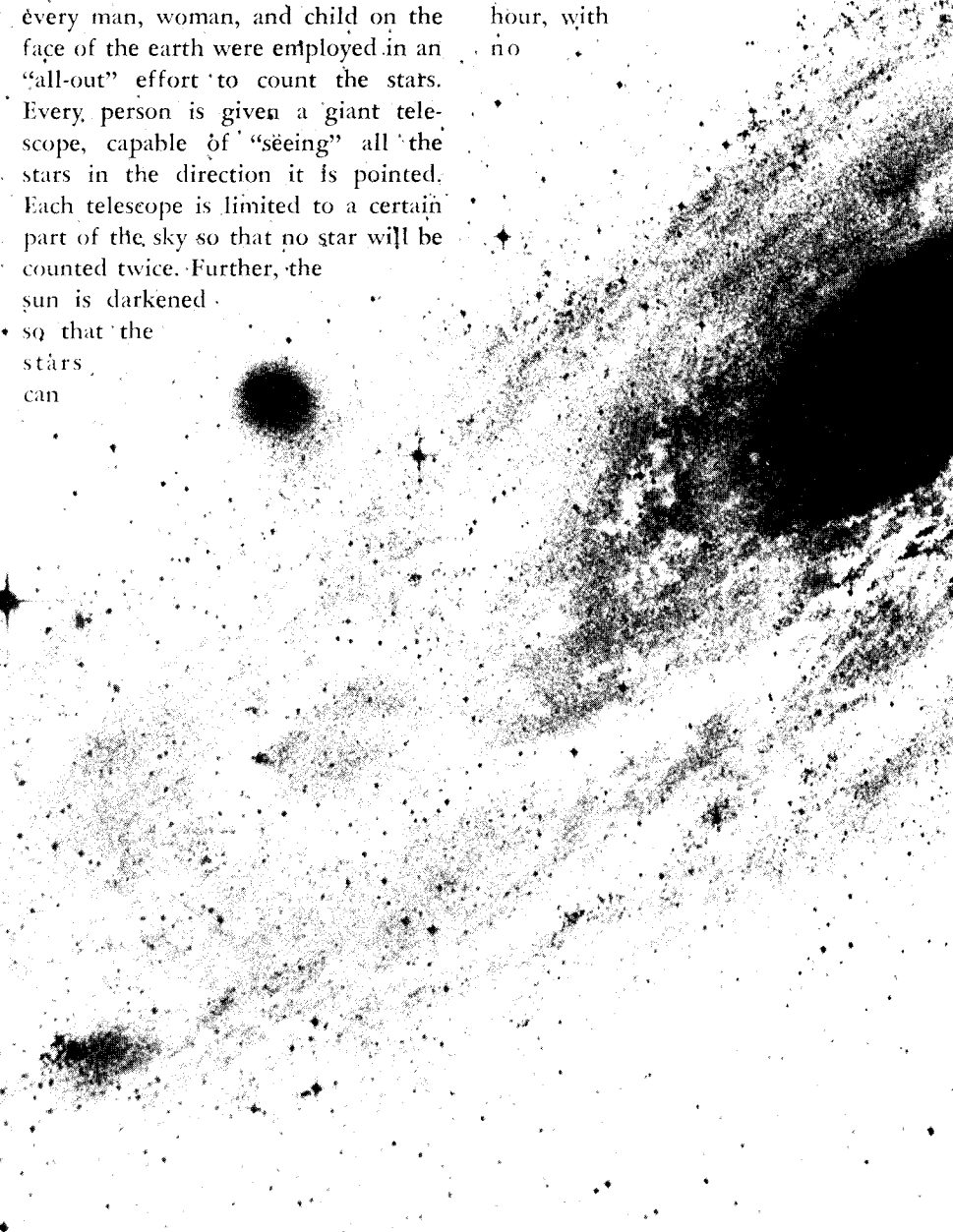
However, using such giant telescopes as the "200 inch" on Mount Palomar (100 miles south of Ambassador College, Pasadena, California), astronomers have estimated that there

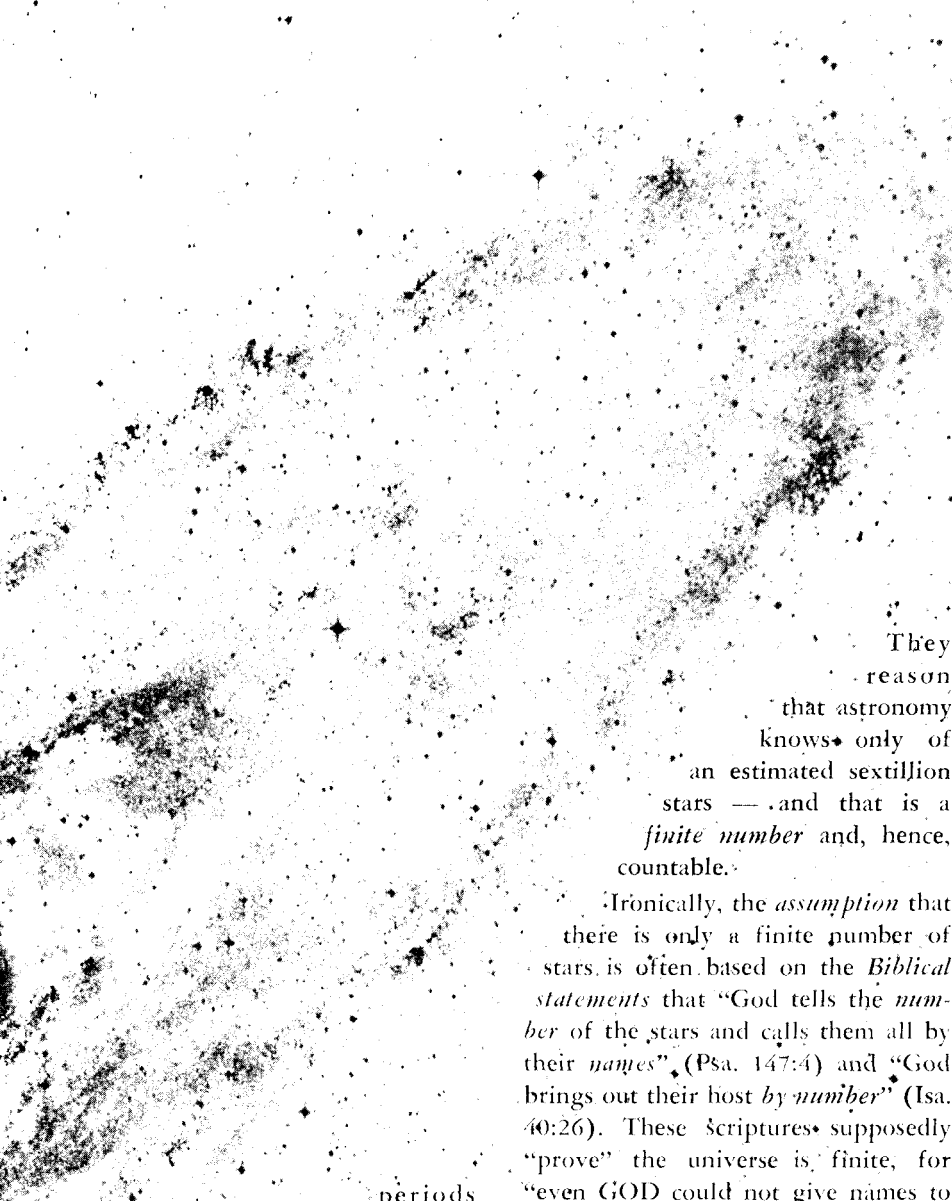
are *billions of billions* of stars in the visible universe. More specifically, astronomers estimate that their number is equal to 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 or one *sextillion*. Is this an "uncountable" number?

To find out, let's suppose that every man, woman, and child on the face of the earth were employed in an "all-out" effort to count the stars. Every person is given a giant telescope, capable of "seeing" all the stars in the direction it is pointed. Each telescope is limited to a certain part of the sky so that no star will be counted twice. Further, the sun is darkened

so that the stars can

be seen even during "daylight" hours. When the signal is given, everyone on earth begins counting — quickly — each person recording one new star every second. They work diligently, hour after hour, with no





periods
of rest. How
long would it
take to "count" the
stars of heaven? A
day? A week? A
month?

No, it would take everyone
on earth — nearly four billion
people — over 8 thousand years to
count the stars in the visible uni-
verse. But 8000 years is longer than
man has been on the earth!

We therefore conclude that the
term "uncountable" is indeed a very
appropriate description of the num-
ber of stars in the observable uni-
verse.

But is the number of stars *literally*
"uncountable" in the sense of there
being "infinitely many"? Some have
assumed that if the term "can-
not be numbered" is taken literally,
then the Bible must be *unscientific*.

They
reason
that astronomy
knows only of
an estimated sextillion
stars — and that is a
finite number and, hence,
countable.

Ironically, the *assumption* that
there is only a finite number of
stars is often based on the *Biblical*
statements that "God tells the *num-
ber* of the stars and calls them all by
their *names*" (Psa. 147:4) and "God
brings out their host *by number*" (Isa.
40:26). These Scriptures supposedly
"prove" the universe is finite, for
"even GOD could not give names to
an INFINITE number of stars." Actually,
the *fact is* that ALL objects
in an *infinite* set may STILL have a
"name." For example, *all* the nat-
ural numbers (1, 2, 3, 4 . . .) have a
"name," even though they
comprise an *infinity*. Furthermore,
the *infinite* mind of God would surely
be capable of assigning names to
an *infinite* number of stars. Thus,
the Scriptures do *not* claim that
the universe can only have a *finite*
number of stars.

Moreover, astronomers readily ad-
mit that they *cannot* determine if
there are "infinitely many" stars,
because man is *limited* to ob-
serving the *visible* universe.

Note that the size of the visible
universe is NOT determined by how
large a telescope man can build.
Rather, it is determined — according
to most astronomers — by a fascinat-

ing property of the universe itself!
No matter where in the heavens
astronomers look, they find the stars
and galaxies "retreating" from us.
The farther away these celestial ob-
jects are, the faster they appear to be
traveling.

Now, light reaching us from a
receding object "looks" redder (lower
frequency), just as the pitch of a
train whistle drops in frequency as
the train passes us by. Scientists
know that at a certain velocity (near
that of light itself, i.e., 186,000 miles
per second) this "red shift" will be
so great that man *cannot detect* any
light coming from the object — not
with his eyes, not with any known
instrument — even using the largest
telescopes available.

In other words, there are certain
absolute limits beyond which physical
man cannot go — and one of these
is the boundary of the limit of detec-
tion of the visible universe. What is
on the "other side" of this boundary?
What lies beyond the limits of man's
perception? Man as a physical being
does not know.

Yet there *is* a Great Plan by which
man *can* know the size and scope of
the vast, unfathomable expanses of
the universe — a plan instituted by
the very Being who *created* the
heaven and the earth (Gen. 1:1),
who *designed* the lights of the firma-
ment to divide day and night and to
serve as signs for seasons, days, and
years (Gen. 1:14), who calls the
stars by their names (Psalms 147:4),
and whose understanding is *infinite*
(Psalms 147:5; Isa. 40:28). If you
would like to know more about this
remarkable program, as contrasted
with current attempts to "conquer"
space, then write for our free, full-
color booklet *Who Will Rule Space?*

No, the universe is not "too small"
to contain an "uncountable" number
of stars. In fact, even if the universe
were much "smaller," it would still
be humanly impossible to *count* or
number all the stars. And considering
the possibility that the universe may
be infinite, what *better description*
could one give than that there is,
as the Bible states, an *innumerable*
number of stars?



Science vs. Theology?

DO LIARS ALWAYS LIE ?

EPIMENIDES SAID, "The Cretians are always liars" (Titus 1:12). But Epimenides was a Cretan! Was he lying or telling the truth about Cretans?

If he were telling the truth, he was a liar. If he were a liar, he was telling the truth. What is the answer?

The resolution of this ancient paradox clarifies several misunderstandings about the Bible. It explains why Satan (and his ministers) quote true scrip-

tures (Matt. 4:1-10; II Cor. 11:13-15), why the false prophet Balaam uttered true prophecies (Num. 22), and why

The logician's problem: to find which door leads to freedom, even though one of the guards always lies.

The logician's solution: "If I ask the other guard if this is the correct door, will he say 'yes'?" . . .

Ambassador College Art

the demon who impersonated Samuel seemed to be so "honest" (I Sam. 28:3, 12-20).

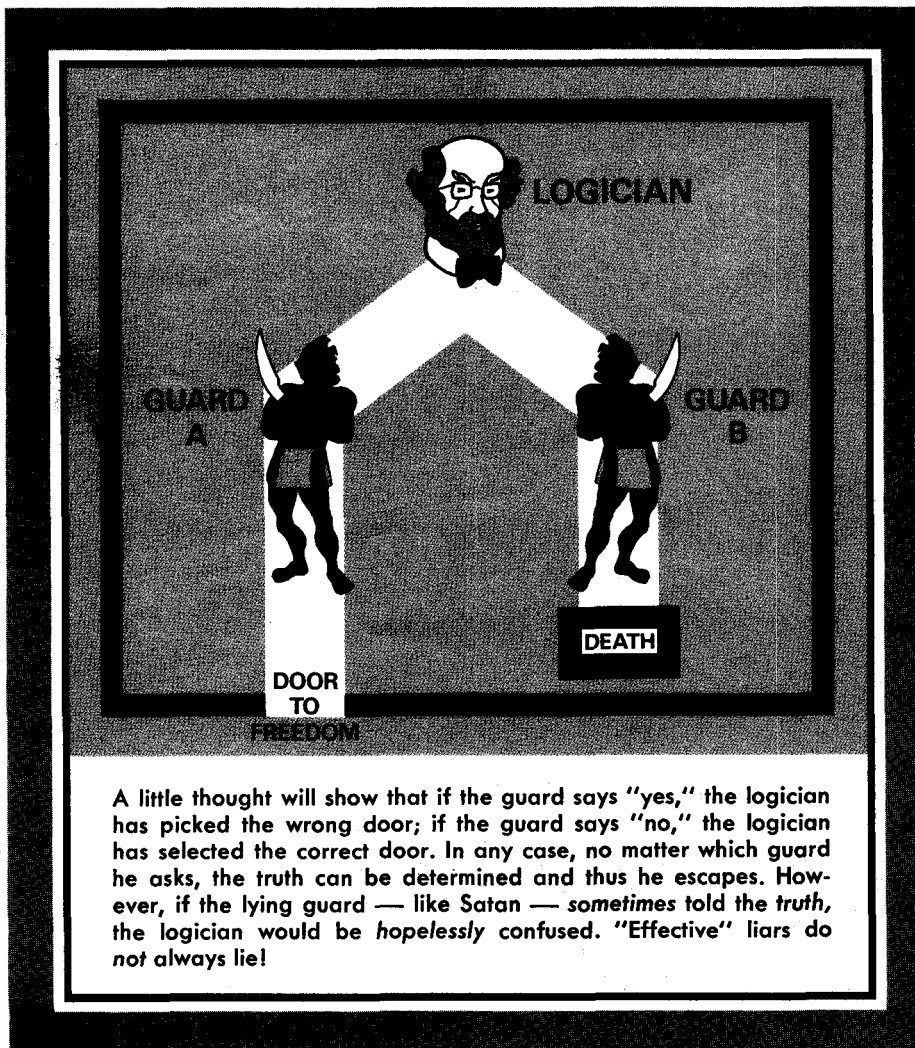
The answer hinges on a principle — someone who is *always a liar* does *not always lie!* Once this is understood the paradox vanishes. (Fenton violates this principle in giving a logically absurd translation of Titus 1:12. Also, many of the commentaries seem to be unaware of the paradox connected with this verse.)

If a liar could be "depended upon" to lie *consistently*, one could always extract the truth from him. Consider the story about a logician who is captured by a tribe of savages (Kemeny, Snell, and Thompson, *Introduction to Finite Mathematics*, 1957). The tribal chief decides to give the logician a "sporting chance" to escape. He places the logician in a jail having two exits and two guards. One exit leads to freedom, the other to death. One guard is always truthful, the other always lies. He is allowed to ask *only* one question of *only* one guard. The logician asks, "If I ask the other guard whether this exit leads to freedom, will he say yes?" No matter which guard he asks, he can determine from the answer which door leads to freedom. So, he escapes!

In order to be "effective," *liars often mix truth with error.* The statements of Satan in Genesis 3:4-5 are an excellent example. Many people use these verses as an argument that human beings cannot be born into the Family of God. They reason that since Satan is a liar (John 8:44) and since Satan said, "Ye shall be as gods . . ." (Gen. 3:5), then men shall NOT be as gods. **WRONG!** Satan told the *truth* about the ultimate destiny of mankind. Jesus Christ said so! (John 10:34-35.) But Satan *lied* about HOW to become as God (Gen. 3:4-5).

Keep in mind that a quotation from the Bible *may* be *false*, if the one quoted is a liar, but it should *not* be assumed to be false just because the one quoted is a liar. Just as Epimenides spoke the *truth* when he said (by implication) that he was a liar, someone quoted in the Bible also spoke the *truth* when he said, "I will be a *lying* spirit" (I Kings 22:22).

— William Stenger



A little thought will show that if the guard says "yes," the logician has picked the wrong door; if the guard says "no," the logician has selected the correct door. In any case, no matter which guard he asks, the truth can be determined and thus he escapes. However, if the lying guard — like Satan — *sometimes* told the truth, the logician would be *hopelessly* confused. "Effective" liars do not always lie!

BORN AGAIN?

(Continued from page 8)

we are in the *gestation* state, not yet that *parturition*. And only HEIRS. Not inheritors!

Continue: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be [future — at resurrection] also glorified together" (verse 17).

Now see how this passage designates the resurrection into GLORY — when we shall BE spirit — as a BIRTH!

"For the earnest expectation of the creature [creation] waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God" — that is *the time* of Christ's coming to REIGN, and of the resurrection to [finally being *born of*] SPIRIT composition — "... because the creation [RSV] itself also *shall be delivered* [a birth] from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and *travaileth in pain* together until now" (verses 19-22).

What could be more clear?

Here is another comparison: we shall be delivered from *this world* (the Church is *in*, though not *of* this world) into the glorious WORLD TOMORROW and the Kingdom which shall rule it.

The CREATION is waiting for this time of Christ's coming, the resurrection, and the Kingdom of God. Because the creation *shall be DELIVERED* from the bondage of corruption. Not now delivered — SHALL BE — at the resurrection time! Although this is not referring directly to *our* being born again, it is a direct comparison to the BIRTH of a child being DELIVERED from its mother's womb.

The resurrection — the time when we are changed to BE spirit and to INHERIT the Kingdom will be a time of DELIVERY FROM the bondage of corruptible flesh and from this world of SIN — A REAL BIRTH!

Christ Born a Second Time By the Resurrection

Continue in Romans 8:

"For whom he did foreknow, he also

did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [Jesus] might be the *firstborn* among many brethren" (verse 29).

Now compare with Romans 1:3-4: "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God... by the resurrection from the dead."

Jesus was, in the human flesh — His first birth — a descendant of David, and, by the resurrection from the dead — (born AGAIN) — the Son of God, now no longer human, but composed of SPIRIT — a Spirit Being. He thus became the FIRST so BORN of many brethren who *shall be* BORN AGAIN at the time of the resurrection of those who are Christ's.

Of course we understand, and so did Paul in writing the above, that Jesus was also the Son of God while in the human flesh. Though *born of a human* woman, He was sired by God. But this is comparing the two births — the one from the human Mary, as descended from the human David — the other, by His resurrection to glory, as Son of God by His resurrection, in the same manner we may be.

Emphatically this does NOT imply that Jesus was a sinner needing salvation. He was the pioneer, setting us the example, that we, too, may be BORN of God.

When Born Again What Shall We Be Like?

When we are born again, what shall we be like?

Here is the answer: "For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; *from whence* also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall *change* our vile body [FLESH], that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body..." (Phil. 3:20-21). And what is Christ's GLORIOUS body like? His eyes are as flames of fire — His face bright as the sun at full strength — Revelation 1:14-16.

A TIME When Begotten But Not YET Born

Thus, scripture after scripture — analogy after analogy — comparison after comparison — shows that being

BORN of God is a PROCESS, in which there is a time element. Just as being born of the human flesh is a *process*.

At the *time* when the father *begets* and the mother *conceives* — of the union of sperm cell and ovum — the fertilized ovum becomes an *embryo*. But it is not yet delivered from the womb — not yet *born*! And will not be for nine months. A pregnancy is *in progress*. Yet during this period of physical development and growth, it is the unborn child of its parents.

In like manner, at the *time* when the Spirit Father, God, begets a human with the Spirit (the spiritual counterpart of the physical *sperm*) — the Holy Spirit — he becomes a *son of God*! He is then already a *son of God*.

But he is still human — he is still material flesh and blood. He must now undergo a period (until death, the resurrection) of spiritual development and growth. He is in the *gestation* state in the PROCESS toward being born. He is in the CHURCH of God, but the Church is *not* the KINGDOM of God.

The Church is composed of *human, flesh-and-blood* children of God. And, flesh and blood cannot see, cannot enter into, cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is made up of spirit-composed children of God. The Spirit-begotten human in the Church is in the *process* of being born of God, BUT he has not yet entered the Kingdom of God. He has not yet been BORN of God.

He is in the *gestation* state toward spirit-BIRTH, but not yet BORN of the Spirit. He yet has a lot of spiritual developing and growing to do — acquiring the spiritual *character-image* of God.

POWER Greater Than Energy of Wind

There is another passage, understood by almost none, that reveals our astonishing *transcendent* potential!

It begins in Hebrews 2, verse 6. But first, notice about Christ, in chapter 1:

"God... hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of *all things* [Moffatt and others, *the universe*], by whom also he made the worlds; who,

being the brightness of his glory, [Moffatt] stamped with God's own character and upholding [sustaining] the universe by the word of his power . . ." (Heb. 1:1-3). ALL POWER, in heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18) has been given to Christ. He is now Chief Executive of God's Government of the UNIVERSE.

Now begin with Hebrews 2:6; a citation from Psalms 8:4-6:

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him?"

Yes, why should the Great God be concerned about us mortals? WHY did He put us here on earth? What is the PURPOSE of life — what is our transcendent potential? It is so far above and beyond anything you have thought or imagined, it seems shockingly incredible!

Can you believe it? Are you willing to believe what is now plainly stated? Here comes the astonishing answer, beginning verse 7:

"Thou madest him a little lower than the angels." Some translations have it, "for a little while lower than the angels." Continue: "Thou crownedst him [kingship] with GLORY and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands . . ." — that is, God's Creation. Continue:

NOT YET the Universe!

"Thou hast put ALL THINGS [Moffatt: the UNIVERSE] in subjection under his feet. For in that he put ALL in subjection under him, he *left nothing* that is not put under him . . ." Can you grasp that? The entire vast, endless UNIVERSE! But that is for BORN sons of God. Man is not yet BORN — except Christ only! Continue: Here comes the answer:

" . . . But *now* [in this present gestation state] we see NOT YET all things [the universe] put under him" (verse 8). (Emphasis mine.)

But what *do* we see, NOW?

"But we see JESUS . . . crowned with glory and honour" (verse 9). Yes, as revealed in chapter 1, Jesus has already been given the executive administration of God's Government — the KINGDOM of GOD — over the entire UNIVERSE! Only, *until* our time to inherit and possess the government of

EARTH, at Christ's return, He is allowing Satan to continue on this earth his work of deception. Now continue:

"For it became him [Jesus], for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto GLORY, to make the captain [margin, leader — or, forerunner, pioneer — the One who has gone on before us, as we are to follow] of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them *brethren*" (verses 10-11).

Christ First Born of Many

We are, as quoted before, heirs of God, and joint-heirs — as BRETHREN — with Christ. He has gone on ahead, through a resurrection, to GLORY as the pioneer!

He is the firstborn of many brethren! He has INHERITED "all things" — the UNIVERSE! We are still heirs — still in the gestation stage of the process of being BORN of God. Jesus is now our High Priest, supervising our spiritual development — preparing us to be kings and priests, reigning *with* Him!

The first thousand years we shall reign ON THE EARTH. For He shall have "made us kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" (Rev. 5:10).

The First Thousand Years

For that first thousand years, Jesus is to reign on the throne of His earthly ancestor DAVID in Jerusalem (Isa. 9:6-7). And, "he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron . . ." (Rev. 2:26-27). But how and from where shall we rule?

Jesus said, again, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne [at Jerusalem], even as I also overcame, and am [now] set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21).

When BORN of God, we shall BE spirit, no longer human flesh and blood. We shall be given POWER! As Daniel revealed, the saints then shall take the kingdoms of earth's nations and RULE them — for the first thousand years.

And . . . *after that?* The passage in

Hebrews 2 shows that then, under Christ, we shall be given power to rule over the entire vast universe — literally ALL THINGS. For that is the power that has been given to Christ, and we are joint-heirs, to become joint-INHERITORS with Him.

All Power — The UNIVERSE

Most people have passed right over many vital statements in the Bible, not recognizing their tremendous import!

Let me give you a few. Ask yourself: have you ever recognized the true import of these statements in God's Word?

Matthew 28:18: "And Jesus came and spake unto them [after His resurrection], saying, ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Matthew 11:27: Jesus said: "ALL THINGS [the whole universe] are delivered unto me of my Father . . ."

John 3:35: "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given ALL THINGS into his hand."

John 13:3: During the last Passover, "Jesus knowing that the Father had given ALL THINGS into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God . . ."

John 16:15: "ALL THINGS that the Father hath are mine . . ."

I Corinthians 15:27: "For he [the Father] hath put ALL THINGS under his [Christ's] feet. But when he saith ALL THINGS are put under him, it is manifest that he [the Father] is excepted, which did put ALL THINGS under him. And when ALL THINGS shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put ALL THINGS under him, that God may be all in all" (verse 28).

And — incredible, yet true! — we, in Christ, are made co-heirs with Christ in this ultimate supreme rule.

Incidentally, the passage in I Corinthians 15:27-28 indicates, in verses 22-26, that our reign over the universe shall follow the thousand years' reign on the earth.

Must GROW During Gestation

Human life *starts* with what the Bible terms "corruptible seed" — physical male sperm. Divine life *starts* with that which is incorruptible — the Holy

Spirit of God entering the human person. But as the human embryo must GROW till it becomes a fetus, which must GROW to the point of being born into the human family, so the Christian in whom divine life has been started by the gift of God's *incorruptible* Spirit must GROW toward perfection to be born into the GOD family. He will *then* be perfect, unable to sin.

Peter gives an analogy of this:

"Being born again . . ." (I Pet. 1:23).

Being — in process of — not having *been* — not yet an immortal person — but *being* "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible . . ." (Other translations use the term "begotten.") *Greek: annagenmao* — to beget anew — (Young). Peter is here referring to the process having *started* within us by the incorruptible Spirit of God — *not* as our human life was begotten by human physical sperm. Peter here shows that the Spirit of God is the incorruptible "seed" that imparted the presence of eternal life within us. Continue: "by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

Peter continues, chapter 2: "Wherefore . . . as newborn babes. . ." Not that we *are* already-born *perfect* divine spirit persons having entered into and inherited God's Kingdom. He is comparing the Christian's spiritual "gestation" period to that of a newborn human physical baby simply because it would be awkward indeed to compare it to a physical embryo or fetus. He is not saying we *are* already *born* babes in God's Kingdom — but *as* — or *like* newborn human babes. It is an *analogy*, which Webster says is a comparison or "likeness between two things . . . consisting in the resemblance *not of the things themselves*, but of two or more attributes, circumstances or effects."

Peter is simply showing that, *as* a newborn human babe must be nourished and GROW physically, (even, for that matter, as must the unborn fetus), so Christians must grow spiritually. Continue: "desire the sincere milk of the word" (RSV has: "long for the pure spiritual milk") "that ye may GROW thereby" (I Pet. 2:1-2). Paul styled it "unto the *perfect* man" (Eph. 4:13) — unable to sin. When born again, we shall not be helpless spirit BABES, but spirit beings of perfection *unable* to sin. This

Christian spiritual GROWTH is in spiritual character and knowledge in this present human life. *As* a physical babe must grow *physically*, so we in the Christian life must grow in spiritual knowledge and character (see II Pet. 3:18) to become PERFECT, which we shall never attain UNTIL born as spirit *beings*.

The Comparison

During our converted human Christian life, we are already children of God, as yet unborn. We have within us through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the presence of ETERNAL LIFE — Spirit life — divine life — BUT, only from and through GOD. We do not, yet, have any eternal life *inherent* — of *ourselves*, independent of God! And, WE COULD LOSE IT — be aborted!

This compares to the unborn physical fetus, in the gestation period. It has human life — but only through the umbilical cord and FROM the mother — NOT independently of itself. And it can be aborted!

This is so clearly brought out in the Bible: in I John 5:11-12: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, *and this life is in His Son.*" It is NOT inherent in us. We do not, now in this life have BORN life of our own, independent of Him. Our contact with Him through His Spirit is the umbilical cord through which we are partaking of eternal life *from Him*. Continue, verse 12: "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son hath not life." If one is *cut off* from Christ, he has NO eternal life.

A BORN human baby has human life *on its own* — independent of its mother. THAT DEFINES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE STATE OF BEGETTAL AND A BORN STATE! The only difference is, in the Christian life we are fed and protected by and through the spiritual Mother — the Church, while our actual eternal life comes into us through and from GOD. But when BORN again, of GOD, we shall have ETERNAL LIFE INHERENT — of our own! We are NOT now in that state!

HOW Jesus Was the ONLY Begotten Son

King David of Israel had God's Holy Spirit. Praying for forgiveness, follow-

ing his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah, he implored: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:10-11).

The prophets had received God's Holy Spirit. Peter wrote: ". . . Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Pet. 1:21). They could not be called "holy men" unless God's Spirit was within them.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are to be seen in the Kingdom of God. Jesus said so. Therefore God's Spirit was "dwelling in them" — they were begotten of God — but THEY WERE NOT BORN OF GOD — for Jesus is the *firstborn* of many brethren.

But if *they* were *begotten* of God by the Holy Spirit — and hundreds of years before Christ was born, how could Jesus be called "the ONLY begotten Son of God"?

ANSWER: The scriptures calling Jesus the ONLY begotten Son of God all apply to His begettal as the human Son, His *first* birth — born of the human mother, Mary. Jesus was the ONLY *human* ever begotten by God prior to HUMAN birth. In Revelation 1:5, the A.V. speaks of Christ as the *first begotten* — but other translations render it, properly, *firstborn* — referring to His resurrection, not His human birth from His mother Mary.

Jesus was NOT the *first* begotten *in the sense* that Abraham, David and Old Testament prophets were begotten.

Before Jesus was conceived by Mary, He was not the SON of God. God is the divine FAMILY. He was one of that Family. In I John He is called the "Logos" — the Word. He, like the Father, had existed eternally. But He is nowhere in God's Word referred to as a SON of God prior to conception by Mary. His *human* birth was His *first* birth. He gave up the GLORY He had with the Father in order to be born into the world to save the world.

Abraham and many others — prophets and writers of the Bible — were begotten of God — they were in the same identical state as human Christians who have God's Spirit within

them today. But they have not, even yet, **INHERITED** — *entered into* — the Kingdom of God. They have not yet been **BORN** of God.

Jesus had to be the **FIRST** to be **BORN** of God — the **FIRST-BORN** of many brethren. That was His *second* birth, as the resurrection will be ours! "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise [were not born into the KINGDOM]: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (Heb. 11:39-40).

This, again, **PROVES** that the conversion in this life — receiving the Holy Spirit — is only a *begettal* — **NOT** a *birth*! For Old Testament fathers and prophets *received* God's Spirit — but they were not "born again" because Jesus was the *first* so born!

How does this **PROCESS** of being born again take place?

What Is the WAY?

Peter gave the **WAY**, and the conditions. Repent, he said, and be baptized, as an act of **FAITH** in Christ, His shed blood in payment of the penalty of our sins, and His resurrection making possible our eternal life and being born again. Then, he said, we shall receive the Holy Spirit.

Those in whom the Holy Spirit dwells **ARE CHRIST'S** (Rom. 8:9); all others are not. But **IF** God's Spirit dwells in them God will, by a resurrection **AS** He raised Christ from the dead, bring forth all such in immortal spirit life — composed of spirit as Christ is.

All these scriptures **MAKE CLEARLY PLAIN** that we are to be **BORN AGAIN** by, and **ONLY** by, a resurrection to spirit composition.

We are now heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ — **NOT YET INHERITORS**, or possessors of the Kingdom.

The Human Birth

What is a birth — what is meant by being born?

The actual final *birth* is called *parturition* — a baby being delivered out of its mother's womb.

But this *birth* requires a father, as well as a mother! If it were not for the **PART** the father contributes in the pro-

cess, there would be no fetus to be *born*. But **THERE IS A TIME ELEMENT**. The father's part in what shall, later, be the *birth* is to beget — to gender — to sire. From his body emanates the sperm cell that unites with and *starts* life in an ovum within the mother. *This* occurs 9 months *prior* to *parturition* — or *birth*.

We *never* say, in the English language, that immediately when an embryo is conceived in the mother — sired or begotten by the father — that the embryo has already been **BORN**! Birth has not occurred! To say it would sound idiotic, ridiculous!

From conception must follow the **PROCESS** called *gestation* for 9 months. The embryo takes on human form and is called a fetus. It must develop and grow physically to be born.

So with being born again, in a spiritual birth.

What comes from the divine Father is the Holy Spirit. Just as the unborn child in the mother's womb is, even in the fetal state, the child (yet unborn) of its parents, so those in whom God's Spirit dwells are, already, children of God. But they are still *OF* this *first birth* — still human — still composed of physical flesh. They are still in their spiritual Mother — the Church — which is still *in* this corruptible present world, though not *of* it. When *born* of the Spirit, said Jesus, they shall **BE** spirit.

But **IF** God's Spirit dwells in them — at the resurrection, or if still living, at Christ's coming — God *then* will resurrect or *change* them from physical to spirit composition. They will then be *brought forth* — *delivered* from their Mother, the Church, into the Kingdom of God.

Of the *first birth* we are, and remain, **FLESH! HUMAN** beings!

Of the *second birth*, which is spiritual, we shall **BE** spirit, no longer flesh — but **SPIRIT** beings! — Divine Beings!

The Greek Words

The New Testament of the Holy Bible was originally written in the Greek language. It is inevitable that some difficulties confront translators in the rendering from one language to another.

For example, there are some idiomatic expressions common to one language that have no equivalent in another.

One word may have more than one meaning in a language where the equivalent word in another language would not have the same different meanings. For example, the English word *saw* may mean *did see*, or it might mean — as a noun — a carpenter's instrument to cut through wood, or, as a verb it may mean to cut with a saw.

However, by checking different translations, and by **UNDERSTANDING** of the context and all other passages of the Bible *in relation to* the same subject, we may come to the correct meaning as expressed in English.

One such example is the original Greek word for the English *born* — a word Jesus used in speaking to Nicodemus.

The Greek word used in John 3:3-8 for *born* is *gennao* (pronounced *ghen-ab-o*). Here are the English definitions of the Greek *gennao* from leading lexicons — Greek-English dictionaries:

Thayer: "gennao: 1. properly: of men begetting children. Matt. 1:1-16; Acts 7:8, 29; *fol.* by *ek* with *gen.* of the mother, Matt. 1:3, 5, 6; more rarely of women giving birth to children. Lk. 1:13, 57; 23:29; Jn. 16:21, etc. 2. a. univ. to engender, cause to arise, excite. . . . d. peculiarly in the Gosp. and 1st Ep. of John, of God conferring upon men the nature and disposition of His sons, imparting to them spiritual life i.e. by His own holy power, prompting and persuading souls to put faith in Christ and live a new life consecrated to Himself."

Liddell & Scott: "gennao: to beget, of the father; to bear, bring forth, of the mother; II, to generate, produce." (Webster defines "generate" "to beget; procreate.")

Strong: "gennao: to procreate (prop. of the father, but by extens. of the mother); fig. to regenerate: — bear, beget, be born, bring forth, conceive, be delivered of, gender, make, spring."

Young: "Gennao: to beget, bring forth."

George Ricker Berry: "gennao: to beget, give birth to, produce, effect; pass., to be begotten, born (often in

John of spiritual renewal)" (That is, receiving or having received the Holy Spirit, being begotten).

One man, a native Greek from Cyprus, in a private communication, states it this way: "the verb *gennao* denotes the PRODUCTION THROUGH BIRTH." And further . . . "denotes a production through a process that always includes a birth." He put major emphasis on *birth*, rather than begetting or conception — but when asked if it does not INCLUDE an impregnation by male sperm, and conception, as well as gestation period, he agreed that it does.

However, it is to be noted that the scholarly AUTHORITIES whose definitions are quoted above, all put first and primary emphasis on the *begetting* by the father. It is, as I have always said, A PROCESS, with the time element at different stages of the process.

It might be made more clear, in non-technical language, to explain that in some languages words may be all-inclusive as to TIME, without distinction as to past, present, or future state of a process. For example, in German there are not the two words designating the two states of being an *beir* or an *inheritor*. The one German word would be used in describing a young man who is his father's *beir*, having not yet inherited anything, or a man who, after the death of his father, has become an inheritor of his father's estate.

A Frenchman said, "If I were an author, I would much prefer to write in English, because there are so many more words, expressing various shades of meaning."

There is a TIME PERIOD between fertilization by a male sperm and parturition — delivery from the womb — which state as to time, in English, is medically termed *gestation*. We never refer, in English, to that gestation state as a *born* state. Likewise, in English, we cannot properly refer to the Christian in whom God's Spirit dwells as having been "born" of God. My commission is to make the truth PLAIN in English.

Definition: "Supernatural Begettal by the Holy Spirit"

"To *beget* means begetting, the action or process of generating or producing; generation" [from *New English Diction-*

ary of Historical Principles, 1888]. It is interesting also, in this dictionary to find the following: "*Begettal* (f. *beget v.* + al, cf. *Commital*) Begetting, 1873, C. M. Davies: They believe in his preternatural begettal by the Holy Spirit."

Thus, the one Greek word, *gennao*, means PRODUCTION THROUGH A PROCESS that includes and is generated by the imparting of the fertilizing or life-giving element by the father. There is a TIME when the culmination in BIRTH has not yet occurred.

In the Greek, *gennao*, the word is all-inclusive as a PRODUCTION PROCESS. But in English, the word *birth* is NOT all-inclusive, and refers only to the final stage of the process — the time of parturition — delivery of child from the womb. One's birthday in English always means the DAY — or anniversary of the day — of his delivery from his mother's womb.

Status of Christian, NOW

Now let us notice one of the problems to be expected in rendering the verb *gennao* into *our* being *born again* of God.

When Jesus was talking with Nicodemus, He was referring to the TIME when we may *see, enter into*, the Kingdom of God. And that is the TIME of the final BIRTH. For the Kingdom is literally the Family of God. Therefore the translators correctly rendered the Greek *gennao* in John 3:3-8 in the English word *born*.

Combining this with I Corinthians 15:45-53, the resurrection chapter, it is made absolutely plain that we do not *enter into* and *inherit* the Kingdom of God while still flesh and blood, but only after the resurrection to SPIRIT COMPOSITION.

Being *born again* refers to the time — the *future* state — when we shall BE spirit, no longer flesh and blood — *born* actually by the resurrection.

But in certain passages, the Greek *gennao* is used, in referring to the *present* state of those who have received the spiritual life-begetting, impregnating Holy Spirit. They are, upon receiving His Holy Spirit, children of God, in the same sense that the embryo-fetus is the unborn child of its human parents.

We are in the state — the TIME ELEMENT—after generation-conception, but prior to birth. In the human instance, the medical term for this state is *gestation*.

We are NOW *begotten* children of God — but still flesh-and-blood *humans* — still *beirs* — not yet spirit-composed divine beings — not yet inheritors — not yet having been "brought forth" into, or seen, or inherited the Kingdom of God — therefore, not yet BORN of God.

In other words — shocking though His truth may sound to some to whom this truth is new, that which is born of humans is born into the *human* family — the *human* kingdom — and that which is *born* of God is born into the GOD family — the GOD Kingdom — the Kingdom or Family of GOD! But while still flesh and blood, we are merely begotten of God — we have not yet been "brought forth" into His FAMILY — His KINGDOM!

The English Verb, "Beget"

Now a word of explanation about this English verb *beget* — or the adjective form, *begotten*.

The simple dictionary definition, (Webster) is: "1: to procreate, as the father: sire. 2: CAUSE." Above, I quoted the definition from the *New English Dictionary of Historical Principles*: "begetting, the action or process of generating or producing. . ."

Also this same dictionary in giving an example of the use of *begettal* in a sentence, quotes, from author C. M. Davies, 1873: "They believe in his preternatural [supernatural] begettal by the Holy Spirit."

Beget refers to the father. And the father's action is to *cause* the *start* of the process toward birth.

Various Translations

Since the entire New Testament was originally written in the Greek language, our English language Bibles have been translated from the Greek.

And since the Greek *gennao* is an all-inclusive term — referring to begetting by the father, but also, secondarily according to the lexicons, including the process culminating in birth, the

translators had to decide which English term to use in each case.

It had been the teaching of the Roman Catholic church that their church is the Kingdom of God. When one embraces the Catholic faith, he is regarded by Catholicism as having already *entered into* the Kingdom of God. Protestants have largely followed this assumption as applying to Protestantism, though some regard the Kingdom of God as some ethereal something "set up in men's hearts." Many translators *assumed this error*. This led to translating *gennao* into the English term *born* in many instances where it rightly should be translated *begotten*. They simply chose the English term which conformed to their erroneous belief. And since the Greek *gennao* is a term including the whole process of birth even from conception, they in some cases translated *gennao* by the English word *born* — where I have PROVED by many passages flesh and blood humans have NOT been yet BORN again, of God.

In every instance where the Greek *gennao* refers to Spirit-begotten Christians, it should be rendered "begotten."

Notice a few outstanding examples!

In John 1:13, the Authorized, or King James, Version of the Bible renders it: "... Which *were born*, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." In the American Revised Version a marginal rendering says: "or, *begotten*," as it should be. Other examples appear in John's first epistle. Notice:

In the American Revised Version I John 2:29 is correctly translated: "*is begotten* of Him"; but in the A. V. it is, incorrectly, "... every one that doeth righteousness is *born* of Him."

I John 4:7, the A.V. incorrectly has it: "... and every one that loveth is *born* of God, and knoweth God." But the Revised Version corrected this error, rendering it: "... is *begotten* of God."

I John 5:1, in the A. V., incorrectly has it: "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is *born* of God: and every one that loveth him that *begat* loveth him also that is *begotten* of him."

Here, this same Greek word, *gennao*, was inspired by the Holy Spirit *three*

times in the same verse. The first time, the King James translators erroneously rendered it into the English word "*born*." The second time *gennao* is used in the Greek they *could not* render it "him that was BORN" or "him that 'borned'" — for it refers to the human believer, not God. Here they were *forced* to choose the correct translation of *gennao*, in the past tense, as "*begat*." Then, since they already had to use the past tense "*begat*" in that instance, they also *correctly* rendered it, in the third place the word occurred, "*is begotten*."

The Revised Version also corrected this error, rightly rendering it: "whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is *begotten* of God, and whosoever loveth Him that *begat*, loveth him also that is *begotten* of Him."

One final example: I John 5:4 — the A. V. erroneously renders it: "For whatsoever is *born* of God overcometh the world..." but the Revised Version corrected it to read: "For whatsoever is *begotten* of God overcometh the world..."

Correctly Translated

Now quickly notice a few instances where the SAME GREEK WORD was correctly translated "*begotten*."

I Cor. 4:15, the Apostle Paul is talking to those converted under his ministry. "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have *begotten* you through the gospel." There it is correctly translated, showing that Paul's converts at Corinth, as his "spiritual children," had been *begotten* of God, *but not yet BORN*.

The experience of conversion, in this life, is a *begettal* — a "conception" — an "impregnation" — but NOT YET A BIRTH! This we have made very PLAIN!

One more — Heb. 1:5 — speaking of CHRIST'S begettal in the virgin Mary. This verse shows that Christ, later BORN of God by a resurrection from the dead (Rom. 1:4), was an actual BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD, in a manner that no angel is, or can be. Angels are merely *created* beings. They are not actually *begotten* of God, so that in this sense they are not His *born* sons, as Christ now is — and *as we may also be*. Notice the verse: "For unto which of the angels

said he at any time, Thou art my son, this day have I *begotten* thee?"

Now that ought to be plain. A converted person — one who has repented, accepted Christ as Saviour, received God's Holy Spirit, does have a *changed* attitude and outlook and purpose — his whole character *begins* to change, and travel in an opposite direction. BUT HE IS NOT INVISIBLE TO THE HUMAN EYES OF OTHER PEOPLE! He is not *composed of* SPIRIT. He is still composed of material flesh, even though God's Holy Spirit has entered, and now dwells in, and leads his HUMAN MIND.

When We Cannot Sin

There is a particular verse that has puzzled millions, discouraged thousands who didn't understand, and caused some to accuse the Bible of contradicting itself.

Look at this verse! It says: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and *he cannot sin, because he is born of God*" (I John 3:9).

Now is that a contradiction of verse 8 of the first chapter of the same book which says we deceive ourselves if we think we have no sin? The answer is easy to understand.

Remember that in New Testament language the pronoun "we" or "us" refers to converted Christians. (The unconverted are referred to as "they" or "them." An example is I Thes. 5:3, 4. "For when *they* shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon *them*... and *they* shall not escape. But *ye, brethren*, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake *you* as a thief.")

I John 1:8-9 reads: "If *we* say that *we* have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we [Christians]" — this verse is referring to sins committed, though of course not deliberately and willfully, *after* being converted — "confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we [we CHRISTIANS] say that *we* have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (verse 10). Then, the next verse, I John 2:1: "And *if* any man sin, *we* [Christians] have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the

righteous." It is here speaking of Christ in His present office as our High Priest.

Christians Should Not Sin

Of course the Bible teaches that Christians *should not sin*. The first part of I John 2:1 (not quoted above) teaches that. The emphasis all through the New Testament is on rooting out sin — overcoming sin — *growing* in God's righteousness, always toward perfection.

But these and numerous other verses (especially the Apostle Paul's experience, Romans 7:14-25) say plainly that converted Christians *do* sin — though not habitually *practicing* sin deliberately and willfully. Certainly it is *not impossible!*

Look at Jesus Christ Himself! The Scriptures say He *did not sin* — yet they teach plainly that at all times *it was entirely possible* for Him to sin. Jesus, in the human flesh, "*was in all points tempted* like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). No scripture says that He *could not* sin.

So here we have many scriptures showing that it is NOT IMPOSSIBLE for converted Christians to sin — it was NOT IMPOSSIBLE even for Jesus! Yet, in I John 3:9, in the A.V., we have the flat statement that, if and when we are actually *born* of GOD, we *shall not be able to sin* — IT WILL THEN BE IMPOSSIBLE!

Two Translations

Here, again, the translators had to decide *how* to render the verb *gennao*. And it MUST be decided by the meaning in the context as a whole.

Some more modern translations render it "begotten" supposing the passage is talking about Christians NOW not continuing in indifferent *practicing* of sin, as they did before conversion. They know well that it is NOT IMPOSSIBLE for a human Christian, NOW, to sin. So they render it in the sense of continuing in the habitual *practicing* of sin, once *begotten* of God.

On the other hand, it also CAN be rendered "BORN" as in the A.V., without any contradiction.

Notice this, in I John 3:1: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath

bestowed upon us, that we should be called THE SONS OF GOD. . . . Beloved, NOW ARE WE THE SONS OF GOD, and it doth not yet appear *what we shall be*: but we know that, when HE [Christ at His second coming] shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall SEE HIM *as he is*" (I John 3:1-2).

This is speaking of the time when we shall *be spirit* — BORN of God.

WHAT We Shall Be

Now notice that! Understand WHAT we shall be, *when* we are BORN of God! Then, next we shall see — still further — WHEN we shall be born of God.

This scripture, in this marvelous 3rd chapter of I John, plainly says that "WE" — meaning begotten, converted CHRISTIANS — are, *now, already*, the SONS of God. Yes, of course, and the tiny embryo, no larger than a pinpoint in its mother's womb is, already, the SON (or daughter) of its human father, even though not yet BORN.

Next, this scripture reveals that "it doth *not yet* appear WHAT WE SHALL BE."

Grasp that! Isn't it PLAIN? We are, later, to BE something different. Of course! Although we already are begotten SONS of God, we are still FLESH — still matter — still VISIBLE. But WHAT WE SHALL BE has not, yet, *appeared*. As Jesus explained to Nicodemus, we SHALL BE immortal SPIRIT. That is what we *shall later be!*

BUT, this scripture continues — READ IT! — UNDERSTAND this *wonderful, WONDERFUL TRUTH!* — we know that, when HE, Christ, shall appear at His second coming to earth, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM!

Now what shall HE be like? If you can know that, you can know what BORN-AGAIN Christians shall *then* be like — for they shall be LIKE HIM!

What does the GLORIFIED Christ look like? His eyes blaze forth like flames of fire! His feet glow like finely burnished brass. His face shines like the SUN, in FULL STRENGTH — so bright, it would blind your eyes if He were visible to you now! (Rev. 1:14-16; 19:12-13; Matt. 17:2.)

And THAT is the way YOU and I shall

look, if and when we are finally BORN of GOD! These deceived people who talk about having had a "born-again experience" certainly don't look like THAT!

WHEN Born Again?

That tremendous, glorious event of being BORN of God is to take place AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST — at the time of Christ's second coming to earth!

We are now flesh — vile corruptible flesh subject to rotting and decay. But at Christ's coming, when we shall be born of God, this vile body shall be changed, and made exactly like Jesus in His glorified body!

Yes, I know this is probably too wonderful for you to grasp!

But scripture after scripture piles up on us, confirming this tremendous truth!

Look at the very resurrection chapter, I Corinthians 15.

The Bible, which is God's message and instruction to mankind, nowhere teaches any such thing as the pagan doctrine of an "immortal soul" going to heaven at death. It teaches that the soul is mortal and shall die (Ezek. 18:4, 20).

But it does teach the resurrection of the dead.

Now, when? At Christ's second coming!

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits [that was more than 1900 years ago]; afterward they that are Christ's *at his coming*" (I Cor. 15:22-23).

That is WHEN — at Christ's COMING! And notice, Christ is the "firstfruits" — *the first* of those who have been human to be BORN OF GOD by a resurrection from the dead! The true resurrection from the dead!

What Kind of Body?

Now how? What kind of body? That question is asked in verse 35. Notice GOD's answer:

"... That which thou sowest" — bury in the ground — "thou sowest not that body that shall be" (verse 37). The IMMORTAL body that comes up in the resurrection will not be this vile, rotting

body of material flesh—but a different body. Continue: “But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him. . . . So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption. . . . It is sown a natural body”—that is, of NATURE—MATERIAL FLESH—“it is raised a SPIRITUAL BODY”—composed of SPIRIT! “And as we have borne the image of the earthy”—material flesh—of the earth—earthy (verse 49)—“we shall also bear the image of the heavenly”—like GOD—like CHRIST in His *glorified body!*

The remainder of this passage we have covered above.

Christ Only the First

I have been the father of two sons. I am human. *They*, begotten of ME, were born HUMAN, as I am! When we are BORN OF GOD, we shall be of HIS VERY FAMILY. We shall be SPIRIT as He is Spirit—immortal as HE is immortal—divine as HE is divine!

WHY does not organized professed “Christianity” KNOW that? WHY should that seem incredible, impossible, or even to some like blasphemy?

WHY?

The New Testament of your Bible teaches that truth all the way through! Jesus taught it! Paul taught it! Peter taught it! John taught it! The Holy Spirit INSPIRED IT, repeatedly!

You have seen, in Philippians 3:20-21, how, as stated just above in I Cor. 15, at Christ's coming our vile bodies shall be changed into SPIRIT, made IMMORTAL, fashioned like Christ's GLORIFIED BODY. *That* is when we shall be BORN of God. And *THAT* change *does not take place* in THIS LIFE! All these sincere people who think they have been “born again” HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THAT CHANGE!

Now we saw in I Cor. 15:23, that Christ, who was BORN OF GOD by His resurrection, was the FIRSTFRUITS of those to be resurrected—those to be BORN AGAIN!

Now *believe* other scriptures which say the same thing!

Believe Romans 8:29: “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [write for a free booklet on the meaning of *predestination*] to be conformed to the IMAGE of his Son [Christ], *that he*

might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Christ was born a SON of God *by a resurrection* from the dead (Rom. 1:4). He was only the *first* to be SO BORN OF GOD, of MANY BRETHREN. We are to be in His same IMAGE—as He is, NOW! We are to be put on His SAME PLANE—as His BRETHREN—to be also BORN OF GOD—to become GOD'S SONS!

We are already *begotten* sons—IF really converted—but what we SHALL BE, in the resurrected GLORIFIED BODY—does not yet APPEAR—cannot yet be seen (I John 3:1-2).

God is to have MANY SONS born of Him. Of all these, JESUS was the *first* to be SO BORN. He is the ONLY human so far BORN OF God, though many have already been BEGOTTEN!

Believe Colossians 1:15, 18: Speaking of Jesus “who is the IMAGE of the INVISIBLE GOD, the FIRSTBORN of every creature. . . the FIRSTBORN from the dead.” Yes, just the *first* of many BRETHREN, in the very IMAGE of bright shining GLORY of the INVISIBLE GOD. And we are to be conformed to the SAME IMAGE (Rom. 8:29).

Will You BELIEVE?

Now will you believe what God says in the book of Hebrews?

WHY should God be concerned about human beings? From a small airplane we look like little ants down here. From a jet 5 to 6 miles high, people on the ground have shrunk so small they can't be seen. HOW TINY must we look to GOD? WHY should He have concern for us?

The question is answered in Hebrews 2, beginning verse 6. God made man a little lower than angels, but, in God's PURPOSE and PLAN, He has CROWNED man, as He first has Christ, with GLORY and HONOR.

What is the GLORY with which Christ is now CROWNED? A crown denotes KINGSHIP—rule—authority—power. Jesus Christ said, just before ascending to heaven, that ALL POWER in the universe—in heaven and in earth—had been given to HIM.

In Heb. 1:1-3, it is revealed that Christ now is the BRIGHTNESS of God's GLORY!

Yes, His eyes like flashing flames of

fire—His face shining bright as the full-strength SUN.

Christ's GLORY is such that now He sustains, upholds, controls, every force, energy, and power that exists EVERYWHERE—supreme POWER over the universe!

Now believe what God says about US!—Hebrews 2:10, “For it became him. . . in bringing MANY SONS UNTO GLORY, to make the captain [margin, Leader, or Predecessor, or Pioneer] of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” And in verse 11 Jesus calls us His BROTHERS.

Oh, what matchless, transcendent GLORY God purposes for us—*when* we are BORN AGAIN! Revelation 1:13-17 gives a graphic description of that future glory.

WHY Not Now?

But, as we read in Heb. 2:8, we do not see YET all this GLORY having been inherited by any but CHRIST. WHY, then are we not YET *born*?

Because, when we are, we are to be given such POWERS to guide, direct, and control, that we must first BE TRAINED and have the PERFECT SPIRITUAL CHARACTER developed in us so that we may safely be entrusted with such vast powers!

God CREATED this universe. He is the REAL Supreme Ruler! He is not going to turn over that power to rule to any except those who will rule HIS WAY, who will OBEY HIM, *obey* HIS GOVERNMENT, and carry out HIS GOVERNMENT, UNDER HIM!

So, it is ONLY those that are LED BY God's Holy Spirit in HIS WAYS who are the SONS of God (Rom. 8:14). And we have to begin OVERCOMING our own self-natures, the wrong WAYS of this world which have become fixed HABIT, and the devil. We must “GROW in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18).

Yes, even as the unborn, but begotten human baby must GROW from its beginning size no larger than a pinpoint, fed on physical food, so once we are impregnated by GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT—HIS LIFE—WE MUST GROW SPIRITUALLY, fed on the SPIRITUAL FOOD of God's Word the BIBLE, and by

Letters to the Editor

Personal from the Editor

In your July '71 issue of *Tomorrow's World*, you ran a Personal article *Just What Do You Mean...* "The Unpardonable Sin"? It is the answer to a question which was asked me not too long ago. Even after looking up passages in the Bible and quoting some, I would never be able to so ably and positively convince the individual concerned as you have in this article. It is explained in such a way that anyone can understand it.

Reader,
Otego, N. Y.

Did God Create a Devil?

Thank you for the articles "Did God Create a Devil?" and "Satan's Fate." These two articles have given me the understanding I have long been seeking regarding the origin of the world and the devil. It is amazing how clearly everything falls into its proper perspective now.

Mrs. Luis L.,
North Miami Beach, Fla.

PRAYER, and what fellowship is possible with truly begotten BRETHREN in God's TRUTH.

And UNLESS we *do* continue to GROW in spiritual character development, more and more LIKE GOD, we become like the unborn babe that miscarries — or like an abortion! AND SUCH SHALL NEVER BE BORN OF GOD!

Glorious World Tomorrow

What WONDERFUL, almost INCOMPREHENSIBLE, *GLORIOUS GOOD NEWS!*

And the BEST NEWS is, that the COMING OF CHRIST is now drawing VERY NEAR! Just a very few more years! And then — the PEACEFUL, HAPPY, *GLORIOUS WORLD TOMORROW!*

All who NOW are *begotten* sons of God shall then be BORN — elevated from mortal to IMMORTAL, from decaying FLESH to SPIRIT — from HUMAN to DIVINE!

And THAT *TRUE* BORN-AGAIN EXPERIENCE will be incomparably more GLORIOUS than the false, vague, meaningless, so-called "born-again experience" that deceived THOUSANDS think they have had now.

Can your mind grasp what an incredible, transcendent GLORY is the true

Keep an Open Mind

Would you please cancel my subscription to *Tomorrow's World*? Much of what you teach is according to Scripture and I myself believe the Ten Commandments. But I find a lot of what you teach is contrary to Scripture.

Mrs. M. G. M.,
Christchurch, England

• *Contrary to Scripture? Or contrary to what you have always believed about Scripture? Read the next three letters.*

I read your May issue of *Tomorrow's World*. As usual, there were many thought-provoking articles. Like you pointed out in your "Letters to the Editor" column, there is little value in reading again what you already know. I do not always buy everything you say, but keep it on reserve if it raises doubt or skepticism. Then, if eventually it proves itself, I am pleased to know it as fact.

Douglas H.,
Johnson AFB, N. C.

potential of those who do BELIEVE, REPENT and OBEY?

But, the scriptures that break before our eyes this GLORIOUS GOOD NEWS, also warn us to TAKE HEED, and to MAKE OUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE! □

Personal

(Continued from page 1)

of quieting the baby by *getting its mind on something else*. Instead of commanding it to stop crying, attract its attention with some new object — get it interested in playing with that object (I have often used my fountain pen with excellent results) — and before you know it the child will forget all about its crying.

Try using this same method on yourself. But instead of material or worldly things, a mature person should use self-discipline and set his mind on spiritual things. Open your Bible. Put the study of some *spiritual* subject in your mind. Next time you are tempted, try it. Pray over it. Ask God to help you. See how rapidly you begin to win the victory over temptation and sin, and how marvelous will be your spiritual and CHARACTER growth. □

I'm amused at the letters which you sometimes reprint by someone, who although he's read quite a few issues of *Tomorrow's World*, the second his glance comes across one item which doesn't fit in with what he's thought the last 30 years, he wants you to immediately cancel. I don't agree with some articles, but am willing to keep an open mind for fair argument. There is so much good in the magazine! Please keep my issues coming.

Mrs. Charles M.,
Alfred, Maine

I've only received 3 issues of *Tomorrow's World* and I've yet to find anything I can disagree with. I do not say that lightly. I have thoroughly checked all Bible references. As you so aptly state, "There is only one Source that you can absolutely trust. That Source is your own Bible." Believe me, that is the only Word I believe. I will believe no man unless he can show me Bible references and let me read it myself — and not have it taken out of context.

Mrs. J. T.,
Youngstown, Ohio

Read the Book

Following the article "Read the Book" — I started it, and this is to let you know that I have finished it. My letter has been delayed by several factors, but the real reason why it has taken me so long is that I have been working on *The Ambassador College Correspondence Course* and have now almost completed that too. Reading the Bible through chapter by chapter has been rewarding in itself, but it has also lent greater meaning to my study with the course.

Richard W.,
Yorkshire, England

Personal Counsel

I have studied and restudied time and time again your *Tomorrow's World* magazine on "Why You Need to Change," "Repent," "Be Baptized," "In the Name of Jesus," "For the Remission of Sins," "Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit." This issue has given me more understanding than any one of your other magazines. Each step is combined into one magazine, leaving me no excuse because of its plain and clear instructions.

I have tried to overcome my own evil ways, but I am weak and can see, as you say "no human can naturally or normally yield himself to obey God in his own strength, but must have God's Holy Spirit." This I have proved to be true. I have come to the point that I am ready to totally surrender my will and obey the Laws of God. I would like to talk to one of your representatives to see if I am ready for baptism. I am sure I am, but if I lack something, then I want to find out what it is and correct it.

Mrs. Charles V.,
Sharpsville, Ind.

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★ WHAT IS THE REWARD OF THE SAVED — HEAVEN?

What assurance have we that our departed loved ones have gone to heaven? By WHAT AUTHORITY have we believed that we shall go to heaven, if we're saved?

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