

The Dawn

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Highlights of DAWN

A House Divided

“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.”—Matthew 12:25

OUR text is a general statement of truth, for it is a matter of historical record that nations or governments that are divided in objectives and purpose eventually fall victim to an aggressor nation, or the divided government will collapse from within. This, for example, was the history of mighty Greece and the Roman Empire.

Jesus used this statement of principle to prove to the Pharisees that Satan's kingdom (the earth and its governments and institutions) was still united and powerful. (John 14:30; II Cor. 4:4) The only way that Jesus was able to cast out devils from those who were possessed was by using a power greater than that possessed by Satan—the power of God. Jesus said: “If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges. But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.” (Luke 11:18-20) The exercise of this power was also for the purpose of proving his messiahship and the wonderful works that would be performed in the kingdom.

Then Jesus continued with a statement that portended a time when the strong man of this earthly house would be made ineffective and his “goods” plundered. Jesus said,

“When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armor wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.” (Luke 11:21,22) What are Satan’s goods? They are pride, lust of the flesh, greed, and all the other satanic instruments by which he keeps mankind in bondage. These must be destroyed, or plundered, in the kingdom.

Our Lord, speaking through John the Revelator, promises a reality to the omen related to the Pharisees. In Revelation 20:2-4 (Diaglott) we read: “And he [Christ and his church] seized the dragon, the old serpent, who is an enemy, and the Adversary, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the abyss, and shut up and sealed over him, so that he might deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years [the thousand years of Christ’s kingdom] should be ended. . . . And I saw thrones, (and they sat on them, and judgement was given them) . . . and they lived and reigned with the Anointed one the thousand years.”

The prophecy tells us that in due time Jesus, the Messiah, together with his church, will bind the strong one and, through the operation of the kingdom, will for a thousand years plunder Satan’s house and his goods until they are destroyed. (Rom. 16:20) The Apostle Paul, in I Corinthians 15:25,26, states: “For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

Satan has ruled in this, his house, almost unopposed for over 6000 years, except that God has overruled his activities to the end that the development of the divine plan of the ages is not deterred. (Eph. 3:11; Ps. 76:10) “The ages have been so thoroughly adjusted by God’s command, that not from things then manifest the things now seen have come to pass.”—Heb. 11:3, Diaglott

History records a marked change in the status of Satan’s house, beginning in the year 1914. This date was the end of

Gentile Times, which was a period of punishment imposed by God on the Jewish nation for their unfaithfulness. It started in the year 606 B.C. and ended in 1914, a period of 2520 years. (Luke 21:24; Dan. 2:31-45; Ezek. 21:25-27) The prophecy in Ezekiel states: "And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown; this shall not be the same; exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it; and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him."

Satan's fortune began to change in 1914 because, according to God's great time clock, the end of the 2,520 years had come, and a new age, the Millennial Age, was soon to be inaugurated. The change in dispensation will also involve a change in the earth's rulership, as noted in the prophecy.

Beginning in 1914 there were many evidences of a growing rebellion in Satan's house—conflicts of interests that became more and more divisive and fragmentary in nature. The First World War, for example, was the first conflict that involved every major nation in the world. Even those nations that were not actively engaged felt its influence. Many governments that had enjoyed continuity of authority and power for centuries were uprooted. Most of the royal families of Europe that claimed to rule by divine authority were dethroned and were replaced by different forms of government.

It was during this time, and later, that the struggle between capital and labor became intense. The conflict of interests between these two classes has had far-reaching effects on the economy and the social life of all nations.

Associated with the struggle between capital and labor has been the great industrial revolution. The nations of the world have become sharply divided between the highly industrial "haves," with their prosperity and affluence, and the underdeveloped "have-nots." The "have-nots" are all relatively impoverished, and their condition becomes increasingly

worse. In a world inhabited by more than four billion people, one-third live in the most heavily industrialized nations, and they account for 85 percent of the global personal income and a like fraction of the annual use of global resources. The remaining two-thirds of the population of the globe must apportion the remaining 15 percent of global income and resources among them. ("Ecoscience," p. 2)

This degree of inequality is further illustrated by the following statistics. The United States, with only 6 percent of the world's population, consumes 30 percent of the total energy production of the world and comparable amounts of other resources. The rest of the "haves" consume resources far out of proportion to their population. Because of this inequality, the hostility on the part of the "have-nots" is heightened by the fact that the resources the "haves" enjoy are largely imported from the "have-not" nations. ("Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity," by William Ophuls)

In view of this long-standing inequality, it is not surprising that the "have-not" nations are becoming intolerant of a world economic system that prevents them from acquiring a more equitable share of the available wealth.

As a result of the Second World War there was a further polarization of affluence and poverty. The participating nations piled up huge national debts to finance the holocaust. For example, it cost the United States 250 million dollars a day for each day of war. But the end of the war did not end the arms race. Great nations, small nations, rich and poor, were caught up in the mad frenzy of military spending. Small, poverty-stricken nations that could not even feed their populations purchased huge quantities of arms. The money to purchase this vast amount of military hardware was acquired by indebtedness, and the interest burden of this debt has been a major depressive factor in the economic growth of both the developed and underdeveloped countries.

But the possession of armaments by the small countries has inevitably led to their use. During the period from 1945 to

1972—27 years—there has been a total of 40 wars. Most of these conflicts involved the small underdeveloped countries. The mechanism designed by the nations of the world to settle disputes between countries without war was the United Nations, a descendant of the defunct League of Nations.

The foundation of the United Nations was laid in 1944 by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union. The hope inspired in the hearts of men was that this revered and renowned body would be the means to end all wars. But the record of forty wars in twenty-seven years has proved men's hopes groundless.

In an article in "The New York Times" issue of September 13, 1979, entitled "The U.N.'s Ongoing Decline," the author, Mr. Y. Z. Blum, states: "The fundamental reason for the decline is no doubt the transformation of the United Nations over the years into a body dominated by an unholy alliance of dictatorships and totalitarian regimes whose respect for the purposes and principles of the charter, and for the rule of law in international relations, is matched only by their domestic observance of the rule of law and human rights.

"This majority in recent years has trampled underfoot every provision of the charter that it perceives as inimical [hostile] to its block interests, and in particular those provisions designed to safeguard the rights of the minority within the organization."

The democracies within the United Nations have now dwindled to a minority of about 30 states out of 150. The majority of 120 nations comprise the alliance of dictatorships and totalitarian regimes whose interests are diametrically opposed to democratic interests.

Satan's kingdom is in trouble also in many other areas. The tremendous increase in industrial production has brought about the problem of pollution. Increases in production and consumption produce an increase in pollution. The pollutants poured into the earth's delicately balanced atmosphere are

almost beyond belief. For example, in the United States it is estimated that we discharge into the air annually 100 million tons of carbon monoxide, 32.2 million tons of sulfur oxide, 32 million tons of hydrocarbon compounds, 28.3 million tons of particulate matter, 20.6 million tons of nitrogen oxide. It is true also that other countries are pouring a comparable amount of pollutants into our precious and finite air supply. Technological devices to control pollution will not be effective in the long run, for continued growth in industrial output must inevitably overwhelm any pollution control technology that is less than 100 percent effective. The crisis of air pollution is real and is evidenced in the large population centers such as Los Angeles, London, and Berlin, where people have died because of the polluted air. Pine trees are dying at the 5000-foot level in the mountain range east of Los Angeles. Elm trees are dying in Denver, and palm trees in Florida, because of the polluted atmosphere.

The same condition that has brought about air pollution has also been the cause of the contamination of a substantial amount of our water. Industry, in spite of controls, continues to pour pollutants into some of our streams. A vast quantity of waste is deposited into our oceans annually. This contamination has been especially noted in the Mediterranean, where it is referred to as "the sick sea," and the North Sea, which is spoken of as "the dying sea."

It is true that there is an effort by some countries to exercise controls over every kind of pollution. But because of the very basic rule of Satan's order—selfishness—there seems to be little chance of success. The essence of the situation is that one's own contribution—whether as an individual or as a nation—seems infinitesimally small, and the disadvantages of self-denial seem very large. Self-restraint, therefore, appears to be both unprofitable and in the end futile, unless the individual or nation can be certain of universal compliance.

The underlying cause of most of the problems in Satan's world, including wars and pollution, is the exploding human population of the earth. If the current rate of world population growth continues, there will be eight billion people on the earth by the year 2010 and sixteen billion by 2045. Most experts, when taking into account a probable decline of fertility, expect a world population of twelve to fifteen billion by 2060. The growth rate in the underdeveloped countries is even higher, or about 3 percent, resulting in a truly explosive growth—a doubling in about every 25 or 30 years.

Given the present limitations, such as the amount of tillable land available, the limited water supply for irrigation and industrial use, diminishing returns from increased energy input and intensification of agriculture, it is possible that eight billion people could be fed, but not with a completely nutritional diet. (W. Ophuls, 1977) With all of this, the hope for substantial improvement through increased technology is dismal.

The religious systems, which in the past have tended to be a stabilizing influence in the world, are finding that they, too, are caught up in the agitation of world affairs. Clergymen the world over are concerned about the long and steady decline in church membership. For example, in Italy, where 99 percent of the population are born into Catholicism, fewer than 10 percent are regular churchgoers. The world over, the number of priests has declined by 20 percent, and of nuns by 50 percent. Regular attendance at Great Britain's churches, especially of the Anglican faith, has been declining for decades. Now there is also a severe shortage of clergy.

This decline was first felt in the United States, with a similar erosion of church membership. But many of the churches have attempted to meet the challenge by liberalizing their services to accommodate an increasing number of young people who refuse to accept the old tenets. Along with this trend there has been a phenomenal increase in the number of religious cults that embrace spiritism, and

many have Oriental roots. This sharply declining trend in the churches' institutional power is a saddening letdown to hopes nourished after World War II, when many religious leaders expected that religious ties would be an antidote to years of godless totalitarianism.

Not the least of Satan's problems in his disintegrating world is the growing disenchantment of the people in almost every nation with their governments, especially the leaders. The heads of government have not been able to provide workable solutions to the many complex problems, and as a result the problems have become more deeply rooted. Graft, corruption, and dishonesty in government, even in high places, have added to the disillusionment.

The evidence is clear that Satan is indeed coming to the end of his resources. The enormity of what he has done to the earth and its inhabitants is fast becoming common knowledge, leaving the people of earth in utter despair. Jesus said of this time: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars [a symbolic reference to the church systems of earth]; and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring [a symbol of the restless masses of humanity]; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after [anticipating] those things which are coming upon the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." (Luke 21:25,26) The powers of heaven are the present ecclesiastical heavens, or Satan and his minions.

The Apostle Paul, in quoting from the Prophet Haggai, states, "Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word. **Yet once more** [emphasis ours], signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made [temporal], that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." (Heb. 12:26,27) The Prophet Haggai, in the same prophecy quoted above by the Apostle Paul, tells of the aftermath of the shaking process, "and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill **this house** with glory, saith the Lord of hosts."—Hag. 2:7

The final and climactic phase of this shaking process is generally referred to as the battle of Armageddon, a symbol of a time when the opposing forces of earth will be gathered by God for a final judgment. (Rev. 16:16-18) But then the Prophet Haggai assures us that God "will fill this house with glory." And we have the wonderful prophecies of the kingdom to tell us what he means. It is a time when Satan will be bound so that he can deceive the nations no more. (Rev. 20:3) Our risen Lord, through the Apostle John, describes this wonderful time: "Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."—Rev. 21:3-5



God's Long-Promised Gift

FROM the very beginning of things God knew what the world needed. He had given man a free will, and he did not prevent him from falling into sin, as he might have done. Then he said to the serpent: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Here, indeed, was the first intimation that at some time in the future God's great Gift would be sent to the world. The Lord also spoke to

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob of the future blessings and confirmed his promise to Israel for an "everlasting covenant." For centuries the Jews looked for its fulfillment.

When Jesus was born, many Jews believed the advent of the Messiah was at hand. No doubt they knew something of Daniel's prophecy concerning the Messiah and the foretold time of his arrival. (Dan. 9:25-27) They had computed the time correctly, though they misunderstood the character of other important events in connection with the life of Jesus. It was allotted to Jesus to fulfill certain other prophecies: he must be "despised and rejected of men" and die on the cross for the sins of the world. Thus doing, he became God's great Gift to mankind; and as a result of this sacrifice he will soon lift the human race out of the thralldom of sin and death and give everlasting life to whosoever will receive it on his righteous terms.

Today Christian people rejoice in the fact that God gave us such a wonderful Gift, that he met the requirements of the situation in full, that he went into death on man's behalf, and that therefore the entire human family will be called forth from the grave and be given a chance to gain everlasting life on the earth in the great age that is soon to open up for all. Let us indeed thank God for his wonderful Gift and for the hope we have in his glorious Word.

We rejoice that he will give to all men gifts of healing and blessing and life—in the world's eternal holiday from oppression and death to be introduced by the Festival of Christ, which will last for a thousand years. Then gladness will continue on through the endless ages of eternity, with neither sin nor sorrow to mar the world again. "And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying; neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."—Revelation 21:4



Bible Study

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 2

Christ Preeminent in All Things

MEMORY SELECTION: "He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."—Colossians 1:17

SELECTED SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:9-20

WE RECOGNIZE the preeminence of our Lord in all things, including all matters pertaining to our faith. Indeed, our Lord should be so enthroned in our hearts and minds that he would be preeminent even over self. This thought is in harmony with Jesus' words (Luke 14:26), "If any man come to me, and hate not [love not less] his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

Almighty God had no beginning—existing from everlasting to everlasting. This is shown by the psalmist (Ps. 90:1, 2), "Lord [Jehovah], thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

But our Lord Jesus—known as the "Logos" in his prehuman existence—was the beginning of the creation of God. This is expressed in Proverbs 8:22-31: "The Lord [Jehovah] possessed [created] me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world [man]. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: when he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: when he gave to the sea his decree,

that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men."

The Apostle Paul explains this matter in his letter to the Colossians. He says, "[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist [in him all things have been permanently placed, Diaglott]." —Col. 1:15-17

Our Savior has been given the position of preeminence and authority over the church of God. He not only purchased it with his own precious blood but he is her guide and source of strength throughout the Gospel Age. Paul says: "And he is the Head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the

Father that in him should all fullness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." —vss.18-20

Verses 9 to 14 deal primarily with Paul's prayer for the Colossian brethren. His dedication to the Lord and his people is a source of strength and blessing. He says, "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." (vs. 9) He continues by urging them to walk worthy of the calling they had received in the Lord and to grow in the fruits of the spirit and in knowledge.

He acknowledges God as the source of all blessing and the One to whom all honor is due, for it was through the Father that we have received the invitation to the heavenly inheritance. It was the Father who delivered us from the powers of darkness and brought us to a knowledge of the plan of redemption. He was the Author of the plan, and Jesus made that plan possible by becoming a man and sacrificing his perfect life as a corresponding price for Adam. □

Christ Triumphant Through the Cross

MEMORY SELECTION: "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him."—Colossians 2:9, 10

SELECTED SCRIPTURE: Colossians 2:6-15

THE translators of our common English Bible (King James translation) have chosen a word that causes confusion in the minds of many sincere-hearted Christians. The word is "god-head," and it appears in our memory selection. Due to false teachings that have arisen from the darker past, the word "god-head" suggests, perhaps, the unscriptural idea in which there is a god with several bodies but with only one head.

When the passage is read from the Revised Standard Version, Moffatt's Translation, or the Emphatic Diaglott, the word "deity" has been used instead of "godhead." Strong's Exhaustive Concordance defines the word (#2320) as "divinity," and Young's Analytical Concordance renders the word "deity."

Christ Jesus was chosen by God as the Head of the church. He is the Advocate and Guide of

the body members of the church during the present Gospel Age, and he will carry out the plan of God during the future millennial kingdom for the restoration of the whole human family from sin and death. He has been given "all power . . . in heaven and in earth" by the Heavenly Father.—Matt. 28:18

Paul's counsel to the prospective members of the church is outlined in the selected scripture reading. He says, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."—2:6, 7

As our Lord was triumphant, so must we also be if we would share with him in that blessed kingdom. We have received our justification through the merit of Jesus' sacrifice, and we must "walk in him" and follow his

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standards of truth and righteousness which have been established for us.

We are living in a time of great temptation, and the apostle's words of caution to the Colossian brethren are even more noteworthy in the closing years of the Gospel Age. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (vs. 8) With so much of the wisdom of men and their idle philosophies in evidence in our present-day world, we note particular interest in our Lord's words (Matt. 24:24), "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; inso-much that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

The apostle speaks to the Colossian brethren about the meaning of circumcision. He says, "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of

your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross."—vss. 11-14

The practice of circumcision was given to the nation of Israel to represent further their obedience to God and his commandments and their turning away from sin. To the Jews, however, circumcision became largely a ceremony with little evidence of faith in its true meaning. Paul sought to bring the matter to the attention of the Lord's people. We learn that true Christians become the spiritual seed of Abraham and therefore heirs of the spiritual promises. And, as it was necessary for the natural seed of Abraham to maintain faith in circumcision as evidence of their separateness from the Gentiles, even so must the spiritual seed of Abraham recognize the antitypical significance of circumcision of the heart, which should be more effective in separating them from the world and from sin. Thus are they marked off as God's peculiar people zealous of good works.—Rom. 2:28,29; Titus 2:14

Let us keep the faith, take up our cross, and follow our Lord, even unto the end of our way. □

Christ Sovereign in Our Lives

MEMORY SELECTION: "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."—Colossians 3:4

SELECTED SCRIPTURE: Colossians 2:16—3:4

TO ALL who have received the begetting of a new mind—"the mind of Christ"—the gracious promises of the Scriptures are a sustaining power. To most others in the world, however, these promises seem to be little understood.

During the future age of restitution, God will pour his Spirit upon all flesh, even as he has done during the present Gospel Age by pouring his Spirit upon his people. At that time the whole world will be given an opportunity to understand and appreciate the promises of everlasting life offered in the kingdom to all the willing and obedient. The world will then rejoice in the obedience and exaltation of the church members, because it will be

through them that the blessings of the kingdom will flow.

Although the world will not have a spiritual calling at that time, they will nevertheless, profit by the example of faithfulness set before them by the church members. They will be satisfied with the blessings then in store for them and will make progress with the church's assistance.

The hope of glory is ever before the child of God. If faithful unto death we are promised that glory, honor, and immortality await us—even as the apostle assures us, "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."—Col. 3:4

Throughout the nearly two thousand-year period between

our Lord's first and second advents, there have been those who have desired to take up their cross and follow Jesus. It has been a difficult time, and varied have been the experiences of those who will ultimately share a position in the spiritual kingdom. All have been tried and tested. Loyalty to truth and obedience have been essential factors in the life of each one.

Many have been called to a knowledge of the spiritual blessings that are available during the present age. It is from among this class of called-out ones that the "little flock" is being selected. We rejoice in the words of the Revelator (Rev. 2:10), "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." The church class will be comprised of those who have been "called," "chosen," and "faithful."

We are guided by the apostle's counsel as it was written to the Colossian brethren. He says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." (Col. 3:1) The Christian has risen above the allurements of a sin-sick and dying world. He puts these corrupt things out of his mind and, instead, focuses

his attention on the blessed promises of God's Word. He seeks those things that are above by studying to make himself approved of God and striving to the best of his ability to follow in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior.

Paul admonishes, "Set your affection [mind, marginal reading] on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col. 3:2) The things of this world are temporary and cannot bring lasting benefit or blessing to anyone. The Lord's people are thus advised to develop an appreciation and understanding of spiritual things, which are not of this world. By so doing we are assured of an abundant entrance into the kingdom of God. That kingdom and that inheritance is not temporary but everlasting. In that kingdom is joy and blessedness forevermore.

We are not our own, but our lives are in the hands of God. "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (vs. 3) The calling of the present Gospel Age has gone largely unnoticed by the world. The lives of all who have made a covenant to do the Lord's will are hidden. This invitation continues to go out to those who will set aside the things of this world and seek the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. □

The Incarnate Word Among Us

MEMORY SELECTION: "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."—John 1:14

SELECTED SCRIPTURE: John 1:1-5, 9-14

AWAY back in the far distant past—we do not know how long—our Lord existed with the Heavenly Father alone. During that period of his prehuman existence he was known as the "Logos," or "Word." "Logos" is a fitting title to describe God's only begotten Son because the Greek word "Logos" literally means "The Expression." When we ponder the thought of the "Logos" being the companion of the Heavenly Father in that early time before the creation of the world, he was, of course, in every sense the complete "Expression" of God—in will, mind, purpose, and character.

The "Logos" was fully subservient to his Father's will. As proof of this obedience, he willingly set aside his heavenly condition and became the man Christ Jesus. And, as further evidence of his loyalty to God, he was obedient unto death—even the ignominious death on the cross.

Because of our Lord's faithfulness, the Heavenly Father raised him from the dead and exalted him to the divine nature, which is far above his prehuman life, as the "Logos." The divine nature is the highest form of life on any plane of existence, far above angels, principalities, powers, and every name that is named. He is now next to God and possesses all knowledge and power both in heaven and on earth.

Although the Son of God enjoyed the esteemed favor of the Father both during his prehuman existence and as the perfect man Christ Jesus, he was not at that time of the same divine nature as God. It is only since his faithfulness in carrying out the Father's will, in connection with the plan of redemption for the recovery of the human family from the condition of sin and death, that he has been highly exalted to a position at the right hand of God. He is now

a partaker of the divine nature, together with its glory, honor, and immortality. We are advised accordingly (John 5:23) that now "all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him."

Our Lord has always occupied a position of preeminence. In his prehuman existence he was higher than the angels—although not of the divine nature—and we know that he was directly involved in the Father's plan of creation. Paul says that "[He] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist [in him have all things been permanently placed, Diaglott]."—Col. 1:15-17

As the perfect man Christ Jesus, our Lord was separate from the rest of the human family in that "in him was life." (John 1:4) The entire race, from the time of Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, has been in a dying condition. Adam could impart only sin and death to his

posterity. But, because of Jesus' perfection and the life which was in him, he was able to take the sinner's place in death and therefore purchase the whole human family—the sacrifice of a perfect life for the loss of the perfect life of Adam. According to the Heavenly Father's plan, our Lord Jesus laid down his life on our behalf and provided the necessary corresponding price as the satisfaction for divine justice.

Only a small number yet understand the plan of God as it continues to unfold. In the Father's providence arrangements are in progress whereby many sons shall share the glory of the divine inheritance. Throughout the present Gospel Age these consecrated followers of our Lord have received of the merit of Jesus' life-giving blood. Because of their devotion to God and his Son, they are justified and therefore are free to offer their own lives in sacrifice alongside that of earth's Savior.

In due time the members of Christ's body will all have been selected. Then the merit of our Lord's sacrifice will become available for the entire race of man—those living and those who will be brought forth from the condition of death by the mighty power of the Christ, Head and body. □

A Witness to the Living Word

MEMORY SELECTION: "I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God."—John 1:34

SELECTED SCRIPTURE: John 1:19-34

PROPHETS of old were often used by the Heavenly Father to foretell the coming of Messiah—including events in connection with his humble birth of a virgin, his being led as a lamb to the slaughter, his crucifixion, his resurrection from the dead, and his ultimate triumph to a position at the right hand of the Most High God.

John the Baptist, however, was given the unique and very special task of directly announcing to the world that the Son of God, the Messiah, the perfect man Christ Jesus had indeed arrived. And what a great event it was to announce that the Savior of the world had come. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."—John 1:29

Respecting God's servant and the one selected to herald the good news, our Lord declared of his forerunner, "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the

Baptist."—Matt. 11:11 Yet when we note the entire verse, we catch the full importance of our Lord's statement: "notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he [John the Baptist]." "

Not only was our Lord Jesus the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world—to be testified in due time—but he also opened the way for the selection of his bride members, who would be given the opportunity to share his spiritual kingdom and receive the heavenly inheritance. In the Father's providence there are to be 144,000 members of that class who will be associated with the Lord and receive glory, honor, and immortality.

As the forerunner of Christ Jesus, John the Baptist belonged to the previous age. His work was finished before the invitation was extended to the followers of our Lord. John will, in turn, receive a different

reward for his faithfulness. He will be of the earthly ruling class, one of the princes of the earth in the new kingdom order.—Ps. 45:16

Those who recognize the greater blessing of the spiritual kingdom that is still being extended for the duration of the Gospel Age are given an opportunity for dedication to God by way of consecration. They rejoice in the vital relationship with the Master, and if faithful to their covenant they will receive the spiritual inheritance as promised.

As it was John the Baptist's honor to proclaim the arrival of the Lord Jesus in the flesh, even so it is our privilege to proclaim the second presence of the Son of man and his glorious reign soon to be inaugurated for the blessing of all the families of the earth.

The religious leaders in Israel were very much interested in learning who John was and what the nature of his ministry was. This is evidenced in their inquiry, "when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him,

Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?"—John 1:19-22

John's simple answer to the Jews was, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the Prophet Esaias." (vs. 23) His message to the children of Israel was that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, repent, and get ready for it.

"And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?" (vss. 24, 25) The religious leaders of Israel were intent to learn who he was and the nature of his activity.

"John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose." (vss. 26, 27) John was honored to announce the presence of Messiah, whom the Jews failed to recognize, and he humbly compared his own insignificance with the greatness and majesty of our Lord Jesus Christ. For "I [John the Baptist] saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God."—John 1:34 □

Christian Life and Doctrine

THE CREATOR'S GRAND DESIGN— PART 2



The Creator Reveals Himself

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.”—Psalm 19:1

MANY great scientists of modern times have openly stated their belief in the existence of a supreme, intelligent Creator. A. Creassey Morrison, in the book, “Man Does Not Stand Alone,” says, “By unwavering mathematical law we can prove that our universe was designed and executed by a great engineering Intelligence.” Prof. Louis Pasteur, the noted French chemist, testified that he prayed while he worked.

Throughout all the centuries the wise and the learned have endeavored to pry into the secrets of creation and explain how the great universe came into existence. While these have discovered many of the laws which govern nature and are able, up to a point, to utilize this knowledge, they cannot explain how, out of nothing, there came into existence countless billions of planetary systems and myriad forms of life—plant and animal—and why law and order are so unmistakably displayed in these creations. Happy are they

who, by faith, based on reason, are able to accept the plain testimony found in the first verse of the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."—Gen. 1:1

Yes, there is a God! All nature testifies to this. This testimony is everywhere displayed throughout the earth, in the air, the seas, the skies. The Creator himself calls attention to this in a revealing dialogue with the Prophet Job, as recorded in chapters 38 through 41 of the Book of Job. Job was a faithful servant of God, the God who, in the beginning, created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 2:1); but the Creator permitted calamities to come upon him. He lost almost everything in life which contributes to happiness, including his health. Job's friends insisted that he was being punished for gross sins which he had secretly committed. Job denied this yet was unable to understand why his God was allowing him to suffer. However, in faith he exclaimed, "He knoweth the way that I take."—Job 23:10

This controversy between Job and his friends continues throughout many chapters of the book. Then, as the record states in chapter 38: "The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me." (vss. 1-3) The long series of questions which God asks Job brings out the many points which, because human wisdom does not know the answers, should help even the most skeptical to realize the truthfulness of David's words, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Ps. 14:1) The wise know that belief in the existence of God leads to the only reasonable answer to many of our questions.

"Where wast thou," God asked Job, "when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened, or who laid the cornerstone thereof; when the morning stars sang together, and all the

sons of God shouted for joy?" (vss. 4-7) Job was a wise man; he knew that everything made by man required planning and skill. This was true of buildings. In our day it is true of intricate machinery, of television, jet planes, and other modern marvels. These things do not just happen.

The earth, the home of all mankind, had been created without Job or other men having anything to do with it. Job was not present when the "foundations" were laid. He had no part in the architectural design and measurements. Nevertheless, he knew that the earth existed. This marvelous display of wisdom and design should help us, as doubtless it did Job, to realize that there must have been a divine Architect and Builder with intelligence and power far superior to that possessed by man.

Then the Lord reminded Job of some of the details connected with the creation of the earth. He asked: "Who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? when I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddling band for it, . . . and set bars and doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?"—vss. 8-11

Marvels of the Sea

How seldom we think of the miracle-working power of God in connection with the ebb and flow of the ocean's tides. Oh yes, we know how to "explain" it. The tides, we say, are controlled largely by the gravitational "pull" of the moon. But what does that mean? What is gravitation? Sir Isaac Newton discovered the law of gravitation, but who framed that law and implemented it? There are times when locally the winds increase the height of the tides a number of feet, and those living near the shore must temporarily seek higher ground; but seldom do men and women realize that ordinarily they can dwell safely by the sea only because God has decreed, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed."—vs. 11

Next Job was asked: “**Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place?**” (vs. 12) Seemingly Job was a prominent man in his community and one who exercised considerable authority, but he had no control over the rising of the sun. “Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days?” No, of course not! Job knew that from the earliest days of his recollection the sun had risen and set without his having anything to do with it. He realized also that this was true of the generations before him. He knew that at no time had man ever had any control over the movements of the sun, the moon, the stars, or the earth. This was far beyond the ability of man. This was the work of God.

The Gates of Death

“Have the gates of death been opened unto thee?” Job was asked, “or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?” (vs. 17) Men and women of all ages have endeavored to peer beyond death, to know what lies beyond the grave. Apart from the revelation given to us in the Word of God, which assures us of a resurrection of the dead, no one has obtained any satisfactory information. Just as the mystery of creation is explainable only in the light of the fact that there is a supreme intelligent Creator, so the desire for life after death becomes a genuine hope only because the One who created life has promised to restore the dead to life. The various incidents recorded in the Bible of the awakening of certain ones from the sleep of death are therefore proofs of the existence of God, the God who created “the heavens and the earth.”—Gen. 2:1

Further Questions

Here is another intriguing question: “Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof, that thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof? Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because

the number of thy days is great?" (vss. 19-21) What is light; what is darkness? The light of day replaces the darkness of night, but where does the one go when the other takes its place? God asked Job if he knew the dwelling place of light, just where it stayed while its place was occupied by darkness. A foolish question? By no means! With all our modern scientific knowledge, no one has yet been able to give an adequate definition of light, or of darkness. Like electricity, which we know exists but cannot clearly define, so are light and darkness inexplicable. But God knows, for he created both the darkness and the light. It was God who said, "Let there be light: and there was light."—Gen. 1:3

The Lord continued to question Job, asking him about a number of things described by unbelievers as the works of nature, things which, to those who believe in God, are frequently overlooked as proofs of his existence. We quote: "Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; to cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; to satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth? Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?"—vss. 25-29

The obvious answer to all these questions is that there must be a supreme, intelligent Creator who designed and created water and who also planned the means by which it would reach the ground and give life to vegetation. Most of us have witnessed with pleasure the revival of plants, or of grass, when water is provided; but do we realize that the process which accomplishes this is miraculous, made possible because all the elements involved were designed and made by God, who in the beginning created the heavens and the earth?

And how marvelous is the arrangement by which the water created by God reaches the "dry places." (Ps. 105:41) As we

know, it is by the evaporation of the water of oceans and lakes, the moisture ascending to form clouds, which are distributed over the land and which, by changes of temperature in the air currents, are caused to release their refreshing waters in the form of rain and snow. Reaching the earth, the water finds its way back into the oceans and lakes to continue the marvelous cycle. Scientific instruments of today tell us how all this happens, but the real power, or forces, which contribute to make it possible are still unexplainable.

The Heavenly Bodies

Shifting the focus of his questions from purely mundane things to heavenly bodies, God asked Job: "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?"—vss. 31-33

The lesson implied in these questions is more striking today than it was to Job. Job was a wise man for his time, but in his day the knowledge of astronomy had not advanced to the present degree. Calculations now made possible by powerful telescopes have revealed the minute accuracy of time and distance involved in the movement of the heavenly bodies, giving evidence that they are held in their orbits, and at constant speeds, by the power and design of a supreme Intelligence inexplicable by man.

Without going into detail as to the particular references to Pleiades, Orion, Mazzaroth, and Arcturus, the main point of the lesson is that neither Job nor we can possibly change the course of a single planet, sun, or star. Nor do we understand the governing forces which control "the ordinances of heaven," or the manner in which their influences are felt in the earth. But God knows, for he created both "the heavens and the earth" and designed their relationship to each other.

In God's Image

One of the most difficult questions which God asked Job was, "Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?" (vs. 36) The lower animal creations are governed largely by what we call instinct. From the time of their birth they seem naturally to follow a certain pattern, and while many of them can be trained to obey to a certain degree the directives of their human masters, there is no evidence that they really understand why. Certainly, as implied in the question asked Job, the lower animals do not possess a "heart" knowledge, or mental appreciation, of their existence or of their course of action.

But with man it is different. He is able to reason, at least to a limited degree, from the known to the unknown. He knows that some things are right and other things are wrong. He has a conscience which is pricked when he does wrong and affords peace and contentment of mind when he does right. Many have advanced theories concerning the alleged ascent of man from protoplasm to his present state. They have attempted to explain what has brought about the various changes in the anatomy of animals in the evolutionary process which has led to man; but no one has even attempted to answer the question put to Job, "Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts?" of man, "or who hath given understanding to the heart?"

There is only one answer to this question. It is God's answer, recorded in his own inspired Word for our instruction and encouragement. It is found in the very first chapter of the Bible, verses 27 and 28. Here we are informed that man, as constituted, is far superior to even the highest forms of lower animals, capable of reasoning, of planning, of inventing, of knowing right from wrong, because he was created "in the image of God." When the evolutionists find a reasonable, valid, provable explanation of how this difference between man and his alleged nearest of kin among the brute creation

came about, they will be a little more worthy of being given a serious hearing than at present.

Instincts Display Creative Wisdom

Throughout chapter 39 of the Book of Job a number of other questions are recorded, the answers to which must also be negative so far as human wisdom is concerned. These questions pertain to the marvelous instincts displayed by various animals and birds. The chapter begins with these questions: "Knowest thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? or canst thou mark when the hinds do calve? Canst thou number the months that they fulfill? or knowest thou the time when they bring forth? They bow themselves, they bring forth their young ones, they cast out their sorrows. Their young ones are in good liking, they grow up with corn; they go forth, and return not unto them."—vss. 1-4

Then the Lord called attention to the different characteristics of other animals— "Who hath sent out the wild ass free? or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass? whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings. He scorneth the multitude of the city, neither regardeth he the crying of the driver. The range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searcheth after every green thing."—vss. 5-8

Again: "Will the unicorn [wild ox] be willing to serve thee, or abide by the crib? Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow? or will he harrow the valleys after thee? Wilt thou trust him, because his strength is great? or wilt thou leave thy labor to him? Wilt thou believe him, that he will bring home thy seed, and gather it into thy barn?" (vss. 9-12) There are what we speak of as domestic animals which, with little effort, can be trained to serve man. But here God called Job's attention to other varieties of animals which are wild and refuse to submit to human training. Who is responsible for these differences?

Neither Job nor we are wise enough to understand the creative processes which brought about the almost endless varieties of creation. There is a poem by Joyce Kilmer entitled "Trees," which states that "only God can make a tree"; and this fact is even more striking when we consider the thousands of varieties of trees, plants, and flowers, as well as the great variety found in the animal kingdom. Only a supreme, intelligent Creator could produce this endless array of created things, with each in its own wonderful way displaying the wisdom and power of its Creator.

Additional Questions

Indicating that Job did not yet realize how little he understood of the wisdom and power of the Creator, further questions were asked him. "Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?" the Lord inquired. (vs. 13) All birds have feathers and wings, but how vastly different they are. The peacock is noted for the beauty of its plumage; hence it is used as a contrasting example with the ostrich, which is rather plain in appearance. What made the difference between the two? The fortuitousness of evolution? No, the wisdom and power of the Creator!

In most cases the birds and lower animals instinctively exercise great care over their young. The birds even watch over and nest on the eggs from which their offspring are hatched. If this maternal instinct of the lower creations were the product of evolution, reason tells us that there would be no exceptions, for the same influences would have governed the evolutionary processes of all. But there are exceptions, and in questioning Job the Creator called attention to one. Referring to what the translators call an ostrich, the Lord said, "Which leaveth her eggs in the earth, and warmeth them in dust [instead of sitting on them], and forgetteth that the foot may crush them, or that the wild beast may break them. She is hardened against her young ones, as though they were not hers: her labor is in vain without fear; because

God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding. What time she lifteth up herself on high, she scorneth the horse and his rider.”—vss. 14-18

Evolutionists would be at a loss to explain why this mother bird takes no interest in her young. God’s explanation alone reveals the reason for this paradox of nature, that explanation being that he “hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding.” But he did give the “ostrich” swiftness and strength so that “she scorneth the horse and his rider.” If we remove God from creation, we would here have another unanswered question.

Instinct or Endowment

In the closing verses of chapter 39, another convincing thought is brought to our attention. Job is asked: “Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south? Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. From thence she seeketh the prey, and her eyes behold afar off. Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain are, there is she.”—vss. 26-30

In calling our attention to the habits of the hawk and the eagle, the Lord reminds us again of the numberless peculiarities which exist in the life habits of the bird and animal kingdoms. There are the migratory birds which move from north to south and from south to north with the changing seasons. There are the swimming birds and the singing birds, the screech owls and talking parrots, the gorgeously handsome birds and the drab, colorless ones.

But why stop with birds? The same variety exists among land animals, trees, flowers, and insects. There is only one thing common to them all, which is that they have life—either

(Continued on page 38)

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WEZO 7:00 a.m.

NORTH CAROLINA

Beaufort WBMA 1400 9:00 a.m.

OHIO

Columbus WTVN 610 6:00 a.m.
Dayton WAVI 10:45 p.m.
Toledo WGOR 1520 9:30 a.m.
Zanesville WHIZ 1240 6:40 a.m.

OKLAHOMA

Norman KNOR 1400 7:30 a.m.
Pawhuska KOKN 1500 8:00 a.m.

OREGON

Portland KYXI 1330 9:30 a.m.

PENNSYLVANIA

Allentown WHOL 1600 9:30 a.m.
Pottstown WPAZ 1370 12:45 p.m.

PUERTO RICO

Aguadilla (Fri.) WABA 8:00 p.m.

Radio Broadcast Schedule

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------|--|
| SOUTH CAROLINA | | | | AUSTRALIA | | | |
| Charleston | WOKE 1340 | 7:06 p.m. | | Geelong | 3GL | 10:00 a.m. | |
| Hemingway | WKYB 10 | | | BRITISH WEST INDIES | | | |
| SOUTH DAKOTA | | | | Grand Cayman | Radio Cayman | 11:15 a.m. | |
| Sioux Falls | KELO 1320 | 7:45 a.m. | | CEYLON | | | |
| TENNESSEE | | | | Radio Sri Lanka (Sat.) | | 9:45 p.m. | |
| Knoxville | WKVQ 1490 | 1:00 p.m. | | NEW ZEALAND | | | |
| Memphis | WMQM 1480 | 1:00 p.m. | | Dunedin (Sat.) | 4XD | 6:45 p.m. | |
| TEXAS | | | | Whakatane | IXX | 9:00 p.m. | |
| Fort Worth | KJIM 870 | 6:45 a.m. | | NIGERIA | | | |
| Houston | KODA-FM 99.1 | 9:15 a.m. | | Ondo State (Wed.) | OSBC | 2245 | |
| Pleasanton | KBOP 1380 | 7:45 a.m. | | PANAMA | | | |
| UTAH | | | | Panama City | HOQ 1250 | 10:30 a.m. | |
| Salt Lake City | KWHO | 9:00 a.m. | | PHILIPPINES | | | |
| VIRGINIA | | | | Manila (Sat.) | DWXX | 9:15 p.m. | |
| Alexandria | WXRA-FM 105.9 | 7:35 a.m. | | SOUTH AFRICA | | | |
| Richmond | WGGM | 7:45 a.m. | | Joubert Park | SWAZI Music Radio | | |
| Roanoke | WJLM-FM 93.5 | 9:45 a.m. | | (Wed.) | | 11:30 a.m. | |
| WASHINGTON | | | | TONGA | | | |
| Clarkston | KCLK | 10:00 a.m. | | Nuku 'Alofa (Sat.) | | 5:30 p.m. | |
| Seattle | KMPS 1300 | 10:00 a.m. | | VIRGIN ISLANDS | | | |
| Spokane | KICN-FM 99 | 3:00 a.m. | | St. Croix | WSTX 970 | 9:00 a.m. | |
| Spokane | KUDY 1280 | 9:45 a.m. | | | | | |
| Tacoma | KMO 1360 | 9:45 a.m. | | | | | |
| Yakima | KUTI 980 | 7:15 a.m. | | | | | |
| WISCONSIN | | | | | | | |
| Milwaukee | WZUU | 8:00 a.m. | | | | | |
| WYOMING | | | | | | | |
| Cheyenne | KSHY 1370 | 9:00 a.m. | | | | | |
| Sheridan | KWYO 1410 | 12:00 noon | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| CANADA | | | | SPANISH RADIO BROADCASTS | | | |
| Edmonton, Alta. | CJOI 12:45 p.m. | | | | | | |
| Lethbridge, Alta. | CJOC 7:15 a.m. | | | | | | |
| Vancouver, B.C. | CJJC 800 9:45 a.m. | | | | | | |
| Winnipeg, Man. | CKJS 9:00 a.m. | | | | | | |
| Corner Brook, Nfld. | | | | | | | |
| | CFCB 570 10:30 a.m. | | | | | | |
| Deer Lake, Nfld. | CFDL-FM | | | | | | |
| Port au Choix, Nfld. | CFNW 10:30 a.m. | | | | | | |
| Port aux Basques, Nfld. | | | | | | | |
| | CFGN 910 10:30 a.m. | | | | | | |
| St. Andrews, Nfld. | CFCV-FM | | | | | | |
| St. Anthony, Nfld. | CFNN-FM | | | | | | |
| Stephenville, Nfld. | CFSX | | | | | | |
| Oshawa, Ont. | CKLB 1350 7:15 a.m. | | | | | | |
| St. Thomas, Ont. | | | | | | | |
| | CHLO 1570 10:45 a.m. | | | | | | |
| Montreal, P.Q. | CFMB 5:15 p.m. | | | | | | |
| Prince Albert, Sask. | | | | | | | |
| | CKBI 900 9:15 a.m. | | | | | | |
| Regina, Sask. | CKRM 7:45 a.m. | | | | | | |
| Yorkton, Sask. | CJGX 940 10:00 a.m. | | | | | | |

RADIO SCHEDULE

The BIBLE ANSWERS

MODERN AND RHR REGULAR TELEVISION BROADCASTS AND MODERN CABLE NETWORK BROADCASTS

We regret that we are unable to furnish the date and time of the broadcasts for the stations listed below. The agreement with these stations does not require that the day or time for the programs be specified. We suggest that a telephone call to the local station program director will produce the information. We are informed that some stations play the program several times during the week.

MODERN AND RHR REGULAR TELEVISION BROADCASTS

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------------|--|--------------|---------|-----------|--|
| CALIFORNIA | | | | | | | |
| Los Angeles | KHOF | | | New Bern | WCTI-A | | |
| | KTTV | Channel 11 | | OHIO | | | |
| | | | | Cincinnati | WKRC | | |
| GEORGIA | | | | | WCPO-TV | Channel 9 | |
| Savannah | WJCL | WTOC | | Dayton | WHIO | | |
| ILLINOIS | | | | Lima | WLIO | | |
| Champaign-Decatur- | | | | TEXAS | | | |
| Springfield | WBHW | | | Austin | KTVV | | |
| NEW MEXICO | | | | Houston | KTRK | | |
| Roswell | KSWs | | | Lubbock | KCBD | | |
| NORTH CAROLINA | | | | Lufkin | KTRE | | |
| Hickory | WHKY | | | Tyler | KLTV | | |

MODERN CABLE NETWORK BROADCASTS

Our films will be sent to the cable systems listed below to be shown during the week indicated.

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Lanett, AL | 31 | Peoria, IL | |
| El Cajon, CA | 3 | Rantoul, IL | 17 |
| Lake Elsinore, CA | 10 | Romeoville, IL | 17 |
| Oxnard, CA | 24 | Springfield, IL | 31 |
| Salinas, CA | 24 | Bloomington, IN | |
| Walnut Creek, CA | 31 | Kokomo, IN | |
| Colorado Springs, CO | 3 | Lawrenceburg, IN | 24 |
| Danbury, CT | 24 | Mishawaka, IN | |
| Plainville, CT | | New Haven, IN | 17 |
| Newark, DE | | Des Moines, IA | |
| Ft. Myers, FL | 10 | Spencer, IA | |
| Lt. Walton Beach, FL | | Kansas City, KS | 17 |
| Gainesville, FL | 17 | Overland Park, KS | 12 |
| Melbourne, FL | 3 | Madisonville, KY | 31 |
| Naples, FL | | Baton Rouge, LA | 3 |
| Orlando, FL | 31 | Augusta, ME | |
| Decatur, GA | | Westbrook, ME | |
| Rome, GA | | Cambridge, MD | 24 |
| Decatur, IL | 31 | Ellicott City, MD | |
| Kankakee, IL | 31 | Holyoke, MA | 3 |

Television Schedule

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Leominster, MA | 31 | Eugene, OR | 24 |
| New Bedford, MA | | Butler, PA | |
| Revere, MA | | Ephrata, PA | 10 |
| Westfield, MA | 10 | Grove City, PA | 10 |
| Ann Arbor, MI | 31 | Indiana, PA | |
| Grand Rapids, MI | 10 | Meadville, PA | 10 |
| Wyoming, MI | | New Kensington, PA | |
| Hibbing, MN | | Palmerton, PA | 17 |
| Mankato, MN | 24 | Reading, PA | 3 |
| New Ulm, MN | | Kingsport, TN | |
| Hattiesburg, MS | | Knoxville, TN | |
| Joplin, MO | 3 | El Paso, TX | |
| Ste. Genevieve, MO | | Greenville, TX | |
| Lincoln, NB | | Plainview, TX | |
| Eatontown, NJ | 24 | Lexington, VA | 24 |
| Albany, NY | | Roanoke, VA | 17 |
| Central Islip, NY | 31 | Bellevue, WA | 17 |
| Greenlawn, NY | | Tacoma, WA | 10 |
| Horsehead, NY | 3 | Buckhannon, WV | 24 |
| Johnstown, NY | 17 | Charleston, WV | 17 |
| New York, NY | | Huntington, WV | 3 |
| Schenectady, NY | 3 | Kenova, WV | 17 |
| Garner, NC | 10 | Logan, WV | 10 |
| Columbus, OH | 10 | Milton, WV | |
| Columbus, OH | | Pt. Pleasant, WV | 17 |
| Marietta, OH | 24 | St. Albans, WV | 3 |
| Norman, OK | 24 | Appleton, WI | |
| Tulsa, OK | | Madison, WI | |
| Woodward, OK | 31 | Racine, WI | 3 |

Satellite Transmission Schedule

Our film has been included in the Modern Cable Network Satellite Transmission for the following dates and times:

Eastern Time

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| December 4, Tuesday | 12:00 P.M. |
| December 9, Sunday | 8:00 A.M. |
| December 22, Saturday | 10:00 A.M. |
| December 31, Monday | 1:00 P.M. |

We suggest that you tune in your local cable station on the date and at the time listed. Your station may be one that carries the program. Note that the time given is Eastern time. You will have to make adjustment according to your time zone.

animate or inanimate. Unbelieving human wisdom, in its folly, contends that all these myriad forms of plant and animal life just happened to develop as they did; but no one has ever been able to explain how they live. The origin of life is unknown, apart from the explanation given to us in the Scriptures that "in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Accepting this fact, as the many otherwise unanswerable questions asked Job impel us to do, then we know the answer to them all. And the answer is simple, which is that the infinite wisdom and almighty power of a personal God and Creator is responsible for the awe-inspiring works of creation which are so marvelously displayed in the heavens, on the earth, and in the sea.

Job also reached the conclusion that the only answer to all the mysteries of creation is that they are the work of an intelligent Creator. For Job, this was also the answer to the problem of human suffering. How could he question the wisdom of the great Creator in permitting him to suffer for a while? Surely the infinite wisdom displayed in all the creative works of God knew what was best for him. Should we not all reach that conclusion, and especially so if we would know the meaning of our existence and be inspired with hope as we contemplate the eternal destiny which the Creator has designed for his human creation?

Job said to God, "I know that thou canst do everything," (ch. 42:2) If we know this, then we have a foundation of faith upon which we can build a true knowledge of God and of his all-wise and loving design in man's creation. If we believe that he can do everything, no explanation of his plans and purposes which he has given in his Word will be disbelieved; no instruction will go unheeded or disobeyed; and no promise he has made, regardless of how far-reaching or seemingly impossible of accomplishment, will be doubted.

The wisdom and power of God are wonderfully displayed in his created works with which we are surrounded. However, had we no further revelation of God than these, we would have many reasons to wonder about his justice and love. God reveals these attributes to us through his written Word, and in this revelation we also find many reassurances of his wisdom and power. Indeed, it is the revelation of his grand design for his human creation which we find in the Bible that stamps this marvelous Book as the Word of God, his revelation to his servants here on earth.

RADIO TOPICS FOR DECEMBER

2—The Increase of Christ's
Kingdom
9—God So Loved

16—The Prince of Peace
23—Goodwill Toward Men
30—Thy Kingdom Come

"THE PRINCE OF PEACE"

To be discussed by

'FRANK and ERNEST'

CKLB—1350—7:15 a.m.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Tune in this discussion, and
send for a free copy of "Jesus,
the World's Savior." Write to:

"FRANK and ERNEST"
Box 60, Dept. N, General Post Office
New York, N.Y. 10001

FOR YOUR NEWSPAPER

To the left is a suggestion for a small advertisement in your local newspaper. This outline is designed for two inches in one column.

DECEMBER SPECIAL: On Sunday, December 16, "Frank and Ernest" will discuss a topic of interest to many. Attractive circulars will be available for announcing this program, and you are invited to send for as many as you can use. They are free. Address your request to: The Dawn, East Rutherford, New Jersey 07073.

Christian Life and Doctrine

“Hope Springs Eternal”

“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”—Luke 2:11

ALL the so-called Christian world knows that the celebration of Christmas stems from the fact that more than nineteen centuries ago a babe was born in Bethlehem whose birth was announced by an angel, with the promise that he was to be the Savior of the world and to bring peace to the nations. So they love to recall, even though briefly, this hope of salvation and this promise of peace. They know that the angel's message has not been fulfilled this year, just as the people in other years—yes in the more than nineteen hundred other years since Jesus was born—have known that whatever bright hopes they may have held likewise went tumbling into a chasm of despair.

But, thanks to the indomitable spirit of optimism which fills the human breast, each year these hopes are picked up again, dusted off, and in the reflection of their lustre the world for a little while dreams of—yes, even practices in a measure—that peace and good will announced by the angel! We have called this optimism. Alexander Pope described it in another way. He said, “Hope springs eternal in the human breast,” and then added, “Man never is, but always to be, blessed.”

The Poet Was Wrong

We agree with the poet that hope does “spring eternal in the human breast.” Up to the present time it has also been true that human expectations of a better time coming, man's dream of a “golden age,” his quest for an elixir of life, have

failed. But this will not always be so. Pope put it too strongly when he wrote that man "never" is blessed, with the implication that he never will be. That would most certainly be true if man were left to his own resources, but man's Creator, who sent an angel to announce the birth of Jesus, more than two thousand years prior announced to Abraham that it was his intention to bless all the families of the earth.—Gen. 12:3

Since God has promised to bless mankind, we can rest assured that they will be blessed! This design of the Creator to bless mankind with peace, happiness, and life is the great theme song of the entire Bible. Its first faint notes are heard in promises recorded in the early chapters of Genesis, and it reaches its grand crescendo in the closing chapters of Revelation, where we are given the assurance that "there shall be no more death," and where we are told of God's wonderful provision for the "healing of the nations."—Rev. 21:4; 22:1, 2

The promises of God which assure us of a coming time of blessing for all mankind—a year-round season of peace and good will, continuing for eternity—are associated with a personality, One whom he would send and empower to accomplish his purpose toward the human race. This promised One is first identified as a "Seed"—the "Seed" of the woman. (Gen. 3:15) Later the same One is identified as the "Seed" of Abraham.—Gen. 22:18

When the patriarch Jacob was on his deathbed he uttered a prophecy concerning his son Judah, saying that a lawgiver would not depart from this tribe until Shiloh come and that unto him shall the gathering of the nations be. (Gen. 49:10) Shiloh means tranquil or peaceful.

At various times in the experiences of the natural descendants of Abraham it looked as though the "Seed" of promise had come. Moses was one of these. He was a great deliverer and lawgiver. Under his leadership the people were freed from Egyptian bondage and brought into covenant relationship with God. But Moses made it plain that he was not the

promised One, that a greater than he would come, raised up by God to give the people life, on condition of their obedience. Moses referred to this coming One as a great "Prophet."—Deut. 18:15-19

Joshua, in turn, was a great deliverer, and as his name implies, a savior of his people, in that he led them safely across the river Jordan into the Promised Land, drove out the Canaanites, and apportioned the land to the various tribes according to God's wishes. But he was not the Messiah.

The nation of Israel, to whom the promises of God were originally made, reached its zenith of glory and power under the leadership of Solomon. The glory of Solomon, and of the nation under him, became world renowned. The Queen of Sheba, hearing of the fabulous riches and great wisdom of this Jewish king, went to see for herself and reported that the half had never been told. Even Jesus referred to the glory of Solomon. But Solomon was not the promised Messiah. He died, the nation was rent in two by opposing factions and went rapidly into decline.

In 606 B.C. the last "prince of Israel" was dethroned, and the nation was taken into captivity in Babylon by the heathen king, Nebuchadnezzar. Seventy years later King Cyrus issued a decree permitting the Israelites to return to their own land, and thousands of them did, but they never regained their national independence. They continued to be a subject people and were vassals to Rome when Jesus was born.

But through all the long centuries of their varying experiences, the devout among the Israelites clung to God's messianic promises. They continued to look for the birth of the One who was to be their King and Deliverer, and the One who would extend the sphere of his influence to embrace and bless all the nations of the earth. Their poets sang about this glorious One, and their prophets foretold his coming.

Isaiah wrote—and shortly his words will again ring out in the beautiful “Messiah” as it is sung throughout the land—“Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.”—Isa. 9:6, 7

To Be Born in Bethlehem

The Prophet Micah was also inspired by God to foretell the birth of Jesus, and not only his birth, but the very city in which he would be born. He wrote, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”—Micah 5:2

In a prophecy recorded in the 9th chapter of the Book of Daniel a time measurement is given, pinpointing the date when the Messiah would appear. It is a period of sixty-nine symbolic “weeks,” or 483 years, “unto Messiah the Prince.” (Dan. 9:25) This time measurement was to begin with the year in which a decree would be issued granting the Jews permission to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and its walls. This was the decree which later was issued by Artaxerxes.

The devoutly studious among the Jews would know of this prophecy, and those living at the time when the measurement was about to run out would naturally be in high expectation of that great event—the long-promised coming of their Messiah and King. Because of this, we read concerning the time when Jesus was born that the people were “in expectation” of him.—Luke 3:15

In time and on time the promised King was born. The announcement of the angel—“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ [the promised Messiah] the Lord”—emphasized the reality of the event, in contrast with the mere promises of God which had gone

before. True, those promises were sure, and the people, basing their hopes upon them, believed that the Messiah would come. But through many long centuries, generation after generation of expectant Israelites went into death without seeing their divinely inspired hopes come to fruition.

But think of the ecstasy which must have filled the hearts of those Judean shepherds when they heard the angel announce, "Fear not, for unto you is born this day, in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Yes, to them, a few humble shepherds of Israel, had come a message which had been denied previously to all their patriarchs, leaders, judges, prophets, and kings, for these sheeptenders heard the angel say, "He is born."

Let it be said to the credit of the Israelites that as a nation they had never assumed that they could accomplish God's purposes for him. If temporarily they had high hopes concerning the ability of one or another of their leaders, such as Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, or others, it was because they believed God had appointed them and would empower them to act for him. But this has not been generally true in connection with the professed followers of Jesus during the present age.

We all know the story of Jesus' rejection as the Messiah of promise by the majority of the nation to which he presented himself. His disciples, like all the other devout of Israel, had long waited for the consolation of Israel by the coming of the promised King; but temporarily their hopes were dashed when he was taken from them and crucified. Later two of them said, "We trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel." (Luke 24:21) It was, but they had not yet learned just how it was to be done.

The disappointment of the disciples when Jesus was crucified has been repeated in connection with the expectation of thousands of his followers since, and for the same reason, namely, a misunderstanding of the divine plan of redemption and salvation centered in him. Jesus' disciples soon

had their hopes revived by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. In this they were given indisputable evidence of his divine appointment. The Early Church accepted this miracle as one of the cornerstones of their Christian faith. The whole Christian community since then has continued to acclaim the fact of Jesus' resurrection.

Even in the professed Christian world of today, in which faith in the miraculous is probably at an all-time low, the Easter celebration of the resurrection is almost as deeply ingrained in the customs of the people as is Christmas. No, the frustration of hope in connection with the establishment of peace and good will as announced by the angel is not due to the fact that "The Prince of Peace" was crucified, for all believe that he was raised from the dead.

"On His Shoulder"

We have already noted the fact that the Israelites clung resolutely to their belief that the power of God, acting through his promised Messiah, would fulfill all the glorious promises he had made. It was this thought that Isaiah expressed when concerning the coming King he prophesied, "The government shall be upon his shoulder." Soon after the death of the apostles and of the Early Church trained under their leadership, the Christian community began to lose sight of this viewpoint and finally came to believe that through themselves and through their association with the world and with civil governments, peace on earth would be established.

This was not the divine plan. Nor did the apostles entertain any such viewpoint. The great inspiration of the Early Church was its faith in the promises of Jesus to return, to take his faithful followers unto himself by raising them from the dead, and together with them to establish the messianic kingdom. Just as the prophets of God had foretold the suffering and death of Jesus, they also had prophesied like experiences for his followers and that this would continue for an entire age in the plan of God—this Gospel Age.

So those first Christians did not try to conquer the world for Jesus. They preached the Gospel far and wide, as Jesus had commanded, but they did not expect that their witness would fulfill the angel's message of "peace on earth." The Apostle Paul wrote, "Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake." (Phil. 1:29) They expected no more than this from the world.

Their present reward for faithfulness was their joy and peace in the Lord and in the assurances of his promises to again "send Jesus Christ," knowing that until then, and only then, would the prophetic testimony pertaining to the blessing of all the families of the earth be fulfilled. The angel announced that Jesus would be a Savior, and the glorious day of salvation for the whole world which he will usher in at a time subsequent to his return is described by the Apostle Peter as "times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."—Acts 3:19-21

Year after year the nations strive for peace but fail to attain it. Having lost sight of the fact that the messianic purpose of God to establish peace is to be accomplished by the returned Messiah, and not by human efforts, to the people generally the Christmas celebration has become merely an expression of what they would like the world to be, rather than a demonstration of their faith in what they know it will be. But even the wish keeps the thought alive, and in this we rejoice.

Meanwhile let those whose hearts have been made to burn within them through the assurance that there has been no miscarriage of the divine plan—either because of human indifference or for any other reason—be more than ever faithful in proclaiming the good news. Perhaps not many will give ear to the message just now. The deferred hopes of the people, repeated from century to century, have dulled the ears of many. But there are still some who have a "hearing ear," and whose hearts are made glad when they learn that the glorious announcement of the angel on the night Jesus

was born is to be translated into reality, that both peace and salvation are soon to come to the nations.

If the fulfillment of God's promises has seemed long in coming, let us remember that in individual experience it has not been any longer than the life span of any believer. Each of the patriarchs waited a lifetime and then died in faith without seeing the fulfillment of God's promises. The same was true of the ancient prophets and other faithful ones of the past.

The shepherds were enraptured by the angelic announcement given to them, but they did not see its fulfillment. Nor did the apostles and other faithful ones throughout the age. But hope has continued to spring eternal in the hearts of all who have put their trust in the promises of God. This hope has been more than merely a longing for something better: it has been a conviction born of faith in the integrity of God and in his ability to fulfill all his good purposes.

Meanwhile, God has watched his people with pleasure as he has seen them give evidence of their faith in him by their loyalty to his precepts, a loyalty which, in the experience of many, has led them into death. All, indeed, have died trusting in the promises of God. But they are not forgotten, for the plan of God is to awaken his people from the sleep of death that they might participate with his Messiah in carrying out the glorious things which they believed.

And herein, briefly stated, is the explanation for the seemingly long delay in the fulfillment of God's messianic purposes. It is simply that throughout the ages, and from each generation, he has been selecting, proving, and training those who will serve as the personnel in his messianic kingdom arrangements. What a wise procedure! How the experiences of men and nations, as recorded on the pages of history, prove the need for righteous rulers who have proved their loyalty to God and their genuine love for man!

Those thus selected and tested, from Abel to John the Baptist, will be awakened from the dead and serve as the

human representatives of the kingdom. Those during the present age who have proved their fidelity to God and their willingness to die with Christ will be associated with him in the spiritual phase of the kingdom. Together these resurrected faithful ones, under the headship and leadership of Christ and empowered by the Spirit of God, will govern all nations. Then the whole world from the heart will be able to join the anthem of the angels, singing, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men!"

The Day Is at Hand

He cometh to his own—our glorious King!
Can human tongue or pen show forth such glory?
Through earth and sky let our glad praises ring—
O saints of God, tell forth the wondrous story!
He cometh now to reign! What wealth of joy
To all the world! Thy matchless name confessing,
O Son of God, we sound thy glory forth
O'er land and sea—thy promised reign of blessing!

DAWN RECORDED LECTURE SERVICE

The General Convention tapes for 1979 are now available. Send your request to the Dawn Recorded Lecture Service, 199 Railroad Ave., East Rutherford, NJ 07073. Recorded tapes will be sent to you **two** at a time. Upon return of these to us, we will send you **two** more, etc. **This is a free service of the Dawn.** The talks are furnished on 7" reels and cassettes.

If you desire to purchase tapes, please advise us which type you want (reel or cassette) and they will be made up especially for you. Recordings of testimony meetings and 8-track tapes are not available.

Purchase prices are as follows:

| | Cassettes | | Reel to Reel |
|-----|-----------|--------|--------------|
| 120 | \$4.00 | 7 inch | \$3.50 |
| 90 | 3.00 | | |
| 60 | 2.00 | | |

Encouraging Letters

"I Thank God"

Dear Sirs: Please send to me, at the above address, the following two booklets: "God's Remedy for a World Gone Mad" and "Coming Back from Hell Soon." I want you to know that I thank God for leading me to The Dawn. It has truly opened my eyes at a time when they were closing in despair. Praising the Lord, I remain, Yours sincerely.—NY

Blessed His Life

I saw your program last Sunday morning, and it blessed my life. Please send me the booklet, "Science and Creation," offered on your program. God's blessing be upon all of you.—SC

For Use in Sunday School Class

Dear Sirs: I want 12 copies of your booklet "Archeology Proves the Bible, for which I enclose my check to help pay the postage. When I received a copy of this booklet some time back, I was so enthused, and then seeing "Masada" on television—that was the story of Masada in your booklet, page 34—I have convinced my Sunday School class that we can use it along with our lessons. Four

others who sent for the booklet after I told them about it are also in the class, so have their booklets. If you will send me another catalog like the one I received, I will turn it over to our teacher. We are an adult class, mostly retired. We select books to study from, so who knows where this will lead? Sincerely.—NM

"Tremendous Help to Me"

Dear Sirs: Greetings in the name of the Lord! I am writing this letter in appreciation of your programs on television, as these Bible discussions have been a tremendous help to me. The broadcasts have been an inspiration in my life; they have opened up my understanding as to Christ's purpose on earth and his will for us. My greatest satisfaction is that during your discussions I have learned many new things which I never before considered, and that is what Bible study is all about—learning, sharing, and growing in the Scriptures. If possible, I would like to receive the four booklets I have listed. I would also like a catalog of all the books you have. Thank you again! May the Lord richly bless you and your work.—IN

Inmates Saw Film

Dear Sirs: I am the chaplain at a correctional institution. We showed the film "Why God Permits Evil." The inmates here were helped by it. I now request 150 copies of your free booklet also entitled "Why God Permits Evil." This is a serious concern to our inmates. Please help us. Yours truly.—FL

"Praise God!"

Dear Fellow Christians: I am a fallen Christian who needs help from the servants of our Lord and Master. I saw your program on TV, and it inspired me to seek the Lord, and the booklet you offered would indeed be a help. Thank you, and praise God!—NY

Sunday School Lessons Used

Gentlemen: Thank you for The Dawn. It is a very good and helpful magazine. We have used the International Bible Studies in our class for as long as I have been in it, which is over 30 years. Our wonderful teacher, who has been in the class for 60 years, gave us subscriptions to The Dawn one year, and I have subscribed each year since. I thank you again for The Dawn. Sincerely.—OH

Likes "Revealed Truth"

Gentlemen: I have recently been listening to your "Frank and Ernest" broadcast over radio station KSTL, St. Louis, and I appreciate your method of teaching the revealed truth of the Holy Scriptures. Please send me your booklet entitled "The Truth About Hell." I am enclosing a gift for your very worthwhile radio ministry. Yours in Christ.—IL

"Such a Good Magazine"

Enclosed please find my check for renewal of my subscription to The Dawn. I don't want to miss an issue. It is such a good magazine, and I have read it for many years. I have also read many of your books and booklets. They are all so enlightening. Keep up the good work!—MO

For Troubled Friends

Dawn Publications: Have read your booklet "Life After Death" and sent it on to a friend who was recently bereaved. Would you please send me a copy of "God and Reason" and also "The Truth About Hell." I may send for more copies, as I find these a beautiful way to help friends in trouble of one kind or another. Thank you! Sincerely.—NJ ☐

The Harvest Work in Many Lands

DURING the year there have been many activities here and abroad that are of interest to other co-workers in the harvest. We are recording the reports of some of these activities for our mutual encouragement and enjoyment.

From India

Brother S. J. Sundararajan: The work at Bangalore continues to improve, brethren working in their respective areas. Many Hindus are now studying the Bible, and some were baptized and attending study classes in Tamil and Kannada languages. Field workers visit hospitals and homes, distributing free tracts and booklets.

Brother W. Charles Jayappa: Much interest to hear the word of truth is shown, and a request has been made to Brother Jayappa from the brethren at Madras to serve them every three months. Work continues in the following places: (1) Pandavapura (2) Hassan (3) Mandya (4) Mangalore (5) Chamarajanagar (6) Udipi (7) Malpe (8) Maddur (9) Malavalli (10) Dharwar (11) Gadag (12) Hublie (13) Bangalore (14) Kolar. Distribution of literature: (a) Vernacular tracts, approximately 5,000—Judgment, Armageddon, Then World Peace, The Second Coming of Christ, The Truth about Hell, Where are the Dead? Church Union, Three Worlds, Chart of the Ages, Signs of the End, The End of the World, Clarification of the Bible Students and Jehovah's Witnesses, Hope for a Fear-Filled World; (b) English tracts, 300; (c) Telgu, Tamil, Malayalam, 200; (d) English booklets, 275; (e) Kannada booklets, 100—Christ's Thousand-Year Kingdom, Hope for a

Fear-Filled World, Royal Priesthood, Israel, God's Plan, Hope Beyond the Grave; The Divine Plan of the Ages, 475; English Dawn magazine, 12 dozen per month; Wisdom of Light, 12 thousand per year—lessons are printed in the Wisdom of Light from The Dawn magazine. Brother Jayappa has daily meetings in different homes. On Sundays he has meetings in his own home.

Brother Daniel: According to Brother Daniel's report a rival group is trying to discourage some that are attending studies. This was reported to the Dawn and suggestions were made as to what steps might be taken; valuable books and tracts of old publications were sent from the Dawn by air-mail to help the situation. Aside from the opposition, the Lord's work continues to be proclaimed in all areas.

Brother Gilbert: Report indicates a great deal of trouble in India—floods, earthquakes, terrible cyclones. Many thousands wiped out. There is trouble on the political side. The two ruling powers are bitter enemies. Supporters of Indira Gandhi tearing, breaking, and burning public properties, stone-throwing, windows broken in the post office when Brother Gilbert was in the building, police killed, many by shooting. Much unrest in India, confusion and disorder. A clear picture of Satan's rule coming to an end.

The Bombay Convention was held in February, the annual convention in May.

Film slides of the Holy Land are being shown in new classes, after explaining the Chart of the Ages. A request made for 35mm filmstrips on Palestine.

Brother Gilbert continues to proclaim the good news. The true message has given many the needed consolation and better hopes.

Brother Fernandes: The past year evidently surpassed any previous year in the distribution of truth literature received from the Dawn and the Bible Students from U.S.A. and

Australia. Also distributed 20,000 4-page tracts on important Bible subjects in the three main South India languages.

The booklet "Hope" was translated from English into Tamil. 5,000 copies were printed and distributed free of cost. "The Creator's Grand Design" (320 pages) was translated and released at the annual convention January 12 and 14.

New Zealand

During the past year or so a renewed effort has been made to reach the people of the South Pacific Islands. Advertisements offering free booklets have been placed in newspapers in Fiji, Tonga, New Guinea, and the French possessions, Tahiti (French Polynesia) and New Caledonia. Also, inquiries have come from other islands, including the Gilbert Islands, the Solomon Islands, and the New Hebrides. Results have been far beyond expectations. Thousands of booklets and tracts have been distributed, as well as a number of books.

That reading matter is not quickly destroyed in these countries is evidenced by the fact that we are still receiving coupons from daily newspaper advertisements of a little over a year ago. So if the truth literature distributed is given anything like its rightful value, it will be preserved to be read for a long, long time.

Total names received amount to over 1,200. About two-thirds of these were from Papua, New Guinea, which has a population greater than that of all the other islands named above combined, but with a higher illiteracy rate. It is a nation emerging from paganism, with a background of superstitious beliefs regarding their ancestors and ancestor worship; so it is not surprising that the subject of life after death is much in their minds. Of course this applies to other island groups too, but in most cases these have had "civilization" for a much longer period. But missionary teaching, such as the hell-torment fallacy, holds many in fear of the future for themselves as well as for their ancestors. The

majority of booklets distributed have been those on the subject of life after death and secondly "God and Reason," followed by others.

The Frank and Ernest programs can be heard in some of the islands from Radio Tonga, and this also is a witness and may bring some greater interest. How grand to know that soon the Sun of Righteousness will beam forth to these people and to every nation. Indeed, we rejoice to know that Jesus is the true Light which will lighten everyone who has been born since creation.

England

Brother Krumpolt visited Ireland and England, as well as France and Germany. A report of his visit was carried in the September issue of The Dawn.

Brother and Sister Nekora also were in Ireland, England, and Scotland during the month of June, visiting the friends. The reports we have received are that they were a very great blessing to the brethren.

Brother and Sister Nail fulfilled a commitment from last year to attend the annual home gathering in Yeovil. The gathering is held in Sister Stracy's home, "Patmos." It was well attended and all received a rich spiritual blessing. After the home gathering, Brother and Sister Robinson and Brother and Sister Nail spent eight days traveling together by car, visiting the friends in Scotland and England. The British friends are looking forward to additional advertising in the Reader's Digest. Some are also interested in reviving the obituary work.

Spain

As far as we know, we do not have brethren living in Spain. Until recent years the country has been closed to us as far as witnessing work is concerned. But not long ago the largest station in Spain, Radio España, gave us permission to air our fifteen-minute Spanish-language Frank and Ernest program. We must submit a copy of the script with each program so

that government officials can pass on the content of the program. The cost is very high. Responses are directed to a post office box in Madrid, and they will be sent to us at regular intervals. We are thankful to the Lord for this very unusual opportunity to witness to the truth in a previously closed country.

Denmark

Sister Edith Hasselgard writes: "I can tell you that the advertisement in the Danish April issue of Reader's Digest yielded 77 responses. The other day I contacted the post office, Klampenborg, and they were willing to let a postman distribute 100 copies of the 'Hope' booklet in our village, Tarbaek. Next week I shall inquire at another post office of our municipality in order to get a lot of the booklet 'Jesus, the World's Savior' distributed. When we have opportunity of distributing the booklets, the two sisters in Copenhagen and I are happy to do this small witness service."

A later report indicates that over 1,000 booklets "Jesus, the World's Savior" have been distributed by various post offices.

The Netherlands

As a result of an ad in the Dutch Reader's Digest, we received the following letter from **Brother J. J. Schut**: "The response to the ad was great! I have sent out about 650 'God and Reason' booklets. As a result of this effort I have also met some interested people who want to enter into some phase of the witness work. I hope to do some advertising on my own with a different booklet, and I believe that two of the newly interested would be glad to help. We are also looking forward to another ad in Reader's Digest."

Poland

Sister Alpha Koterba, a member of the Dawn staff, recently traveled in Poland. She reports that the witness activity is very limited because of the government. But the friends do manage to talk to their neighbors and associates at work. Funerals offer a special opportunity for witnessing. Meetings

are held on a regular basis, even though the authorities make it difficult. The brethren generally are scattered; but for their General Convention most of them manage to get there, even if they have to walk many miles. The conditions in Poland are better for the friends than in Russia, where the government's heavy hand is most oppressive. These friends who do not enjoy the same freedoms that we do need our sincere prayers.

Greece

Pilgrimage report of Brother Hatgis in Greece, June to September 1979:

It is a great privilege to serve the Lord's people in the truth. We read in Psalm 97:11, "Light [truth] is sown for the righteous, and gladness [joy for the truth] for the upright in heart." Those who have been enlightened by the truth have the same mind, the same disposition, which comes from God, who is light. And light is truth, because truth comes from God; and Jesus manifested God's grace and truth through his words and deeds. (John 1:17) The true disciples of the Lord in any land can usually be recognized when you come in contact with them.

Every year many events take place among the friends in Greece. A few are enlightened by the blessed truth first heard through the advertisements and the sacrifices of the Lord's people. Some have gone on to symbolize their consecration by water immersion.

This year two families in a small town of Macedonia came out of the J.W.'s. They saw the advertisement that the Athens Ecclesia had placed in the newspapers and magazines. They wrote and received the booklets, and from the address they came in contact with the Athens friends. An elder went to their home, meetings were started, and soon the truth enlightened their hearts and minds.

We had a blessed meeting and fellowship with these new friends in their home in Macedonia, and they planned to symbolize their consecration at the Athens Convention,

September 9th. One of them, a 17-year-old girl, said to me, "I cannot understand why my girl friends with whom I grew up together as a J.W. refuse to associate with me. Their words and their ways rend my heart," and her eyes were full of tears. We remember Jesus, who was called a "Samaritan," and it was said that he "had a demon."—John 8:48

Many of you will remember Nick Hassiotis, the Greek brother who came to the meetings in New York last May. He returned to Greece. He had learned about the truth from his father when he was young. He is married and has three children and lives in a town in Thessali called Lamia. While on my way to Larisa and Thessalonica to serve the brethren there, I stopped for a night in his home. After dinner we had a meeting for three hours, with all his family sitting in. We spoke about God's plan and purposes, and especially the work of the Gospel Age. His daughters, ages 12 and 14, were very attentive, and so was his wife.

The subject of water immersion came up, and Brother Nick raised the question of how he could symbolize his consecration now that I was with him. I suggested that he come to Athens to the regular meeting place. There facilities were available for the immersion. This was done, and the baptism was performed in a large bathtub.

In Larisa, Thessali, the meeting this year took place in a couple's home—husband and wife with their two sons. They came to the meeting last year in another town and were full of enthusiasm for the truth. They desired their home to be used for meetings, because it is in the center of town, and the friends now prefer this home. All came from different directions, and we had a blessed meeting and blessed fellowship.

Then I went to Thessalonica. The class consists almost entirely of sisters. There are two brothers—one is the elder, and the other is the treasurer. There were two elderly sisters who were sick—one bedridden—and I visited them to encourage them. We had two meetings in Thessalonica. The

lonely sister from Philippi came to the Thessalonica meeting instead of my going to Philippi, a two-hour ride. Having learned of my recent hospitalization, she wanted to spare me the trip.

Our next visit was to a town in Macedonia called Drama. The ride from Thessalonica by bus is two hours. I arose early and with Brother Gonos, an elder from Athens, took the bus and in a short time we were there. The two families who had left the Society came together, and the meeting started at 10:30 a.m. After lunch, the rest of the day was left for conversation and questions. All that day was spent studying the harmony of the truth the Lord has revealed to us. With tears we departed, and two of them—father and son—later came to the Athens Convention, September 9, to symbolize their consecration by water immersion. Every other week Brother Gonos visits them and leads a meeting, studying the truth and rejoicing in the Lord.

After this wonderful experience, we returned to Thessalonica. My feet were swollen from standing and riding long distances, standing up from 6:00 in the morning to 11:30 in the night. Sister Sophia, my hostess, brought me hot water in a basin for my feet; and I went to bed feet first, as they say, tired.

The friends in Patras continue to grow in grace and zeal. Last year two newly interested, having received the booklets and then coming in contact with the Patras Ecclesia, symbolized their consecration. This year two more newly interested ones were added, and there are now twelve who attend the meeting. We held two meetings in Patras, one Saturday night and one Sunday morning. They advertise in the local newspapers and with zeal and faithfulness continue to hold meetings, rejoicing in the Lord. They all send their love and greetings to all, especially to the Dawn friends for helping them with the printing of booklets and volumes and the Greek magazine "He Haravgi"—Dawn.

The convention: The Greek friends have not had a convention since 1926, when we were all in the Society. After 1926, changes of government and dictatorship had forbidden religious conventions or even home meetings for Bible study without a permit from the religious hierarchy. It was an exceptional time back in 1962, when Brother Woodworth visited Greece and gave a public talk in a theater, with a police permit and protection. There were 700 who attended that meeting. It was advertised in the newspapers and on the radio. There were some disruptions, but the police quieted them down and the meeting was concluded.

I assisted the friends in preparing the convention program for this year. Early in August the programs were sent to the friends. The Hotel Plaka, in the center of Athens, was secured. It has a large hall, and rooms also were rented for two nights. The Athens Ecclesia subsidized the rooms and meals for all who attended the convention. Certain friends from the U.S.A. assisted financially. It was a one-day convention, Sunday, September 9th.

Saturday afternoon the friends started arriving from all over Greece—from Thessalonica, Thessali, Macedonia, Drama, Philippi, Patras, Crete—and from Germany and the U.S.A. We were fifty-two brothers and sisters. Early Sunday morning all were in the meeting hall. Everything was prepared and at 8:30 the meeting started. We recorded Greek hymns on cassettes, and all the friends, with their hymn books (without music) in their hands, followed the cassette music. This was a fine start for a day filled with blessings. Greetings were received from the Dawn and other brethren in the United States. This love was enthusiastically returned. The convention also voted to send their love to the friends in Agrigento, Italy, who were meeting in convention the same day.

After the evening meal the convention closed with a love feast. But the convention had not really ended, because the next morning three brethren who had been considering

symbolizing their consecration with water immersion asked to be immersed. This was done, and there were thirty-five present at this final service of the convention.

We will close with an allegory that was quoted by one of the convention speakers. The thought was that each one should apply it to himself.

Footprints in the Sand

One night I had a dream. . . .

I dreamed that I was walking along the beach with the Lord; and across the sky, scenes from my life flashed before me. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to me, the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand.

I noticed that many times along the path of my life, there was only one set of footprints in the sand. I also noticed that it happened at the lowest and saddest times of my life.

I questioned the Lord about it. "Lord," I said, "you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, in times when I needed you most, you left me?"

The Lord replied, "I would never leave you during your times of trials and sufferings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Sister Hatgis and I are happy to be back among you, and I am very happy also to report these blessings to you.



1980 MEMORIAL SUPPER DATE

The proper date for the observance of the annual Memorial Supper will be after 6:00 P.M. on Sunday, March 30.

Speakers' Appointments

MINISTERING THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRIST

These speakers are associated with the Pilgrim Department of The Dawn. Their services are furnished free upon request. Address your request to Dawn Bible Students Association, East Rutherford, NJ 07073. A visit will be arranged when possible.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|--|---------|
| P. HATGIS Sayville, NY | Dec. 9 | G. PASSIOS Staten Island, NY | Dec. 2 |
| G. JEUCK Baltimore, MD | Dec. 16 | L. POST Berwick, PA | Dec. 9 |
| K. NAIL Allentown, PA | Dec. 16 | F. WASSMANN Philadelphia, PA | Dec. 16 |
| J. PANUCCI New Haven, CT | Dec. 16 | | |

Weekly Prayer Meeting Texts

DECEMBER 6—He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.—Proverbs 25:28 (Z. '01-295 Hymn 183)

DECEMBER 13—Lay not this sin to their charge.—Acts 7:60 (Z. '01-331 Hymn 267)

DECEMBER 20—Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.—II Timothy 2:15 (Z. '02-318 Hymn 220)

DECEMBER 27—Little children, keep yourselves from idols.—I John 5:21 (Z. '02-284 Hymn 202)

Conventions

PHOENIX, AZ, Dec. 29-31—YMCA, 350 N. First Ave., Phoenix. Mildred Enteman, 542 W. Southern Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85041

Seminole Blvd. (alt. 19), Seminole, FL. Mrs. Lloyd Hagensick, 518 81 Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702
Phone: (813) 577-7106

CHICAGO, IL, Dec. 29-Jan. 1—Hinsdale High School South, Clarendon Hills Rd. & Elm St., Darien, IL. Mr. John Trzyna, 4614 N. Potawatomie Ave., Chicago, IL 60656
Phone: (312) 625-4366

PALO ALTO, CA, Jan. 26, 27—Masonic Lodge, 651 Roble Ave., Menlo Park, CA. Irene Altuvilla, 1201 Sycamore Ter., Sp. 67, Sunnyvale, CA 94086
Phone: (408) 296-1913

ST. PETERSBURG, FL, Jan. 13—Heilman Mobile Home Park, 8300

ST. PETERSBURG, FL, March 1-3, 1980—Florida General Convention.

Obituaries

The following brethren have recently finished their Christian course. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to the families and friends in their loss of these dear ones.

Brother Alfred Hawkins, Aldergrove, B.C.—September. Age, 99.

Brother Vincent Rutkowski, Detroit Polish Ecclesia—September 12. Age, 88.

Brother Carl Wesolowski, Detroit Polish Ecclesia—September 15. Age, 86.

Brother LeRoy H. Hart, Tacoma, WA—October 20. Age, 90.

Sister Inga L. Ostness, Tacoma, WA—October 24. Age, 85.

Sister Eva May Dowling, New York City Ecclesia—October 29.

Age, 89. A faithful member of the Dawn family for 24 years.

Sister Flora Parsons, Portland, OR—October 29. Age, 95.

Sister Viola Klepper, Phoenix, AZ—October 30. Age, 81.

We appreciate information concerning any brethren to be included in this list.

“I Wish I Knew What To Do”

HOW often we hear this statement made by those who are zealous for making known the glad tidings of the kingdom. May we suggest that one thing practically all can do is send one or more Dawn gift subscriptions to their friends. Just think, one gift subscription means that The Dawn enters the home twelve times during the year as your messenger of truth. Isn't this something worthwhile doing? Each subscription is only one dollar, and you can have six entered for five dollars. And it is simple to do when you use the coupon.

DAWN BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

East Rutherford, New Jersey 07073

Dear Friends: I appreciate the privilege of proclaiming the truth through the pages of The Dawn magazine. Please enter the following subscriptions to begin with the January issue.

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