

a herald of Christ's presence

THE DAWN

"I AM THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD: HE
THAT FOLLOWETH
ME SHALL NOT WALK
IN DARKNESS."

--John 8:12

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THE DAWN

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Israel Fulfilling Prophecy

FOR many centuries the Jewish people have been scattered throughout the earth. They have not existed continuously as a nation, but as a people they could not be destroyed. In many instances they have been tolerated among the nations rather than loved. Moses prophesied, "Thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee."—Deut. 28:37

The Jews are witnesses of God throughout all the ages, because everything that he has said about them has been fulfilled, is in the course of fulfilment, or will be fulfilled in the future. What is happening with the Israelites today is an evidence that we are living at the end of an age, when the Lord is about to manifest his kingdom authority and glory to all the nations, both Jew and Gentile.

In Hosea 9:10 Israel is likened to a fig tree. As one of the signs of the end of the age, and the time of his second presence, Jesus gave a parable concerning the fig tree. We quote, "When his

branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh. So likewise ye, when ye see all these things, know that it [the messianic kingdom] is near, even at the doors."—Matt. 24:32, 33

The fig tree is Israel, and Israel today is revived. Israel now has a part among the nations of the world—a free part. She has ambassadors in the capitals of the world, and most nations of the world have their envoys in Israel. She is no more crushed as a vassal nation, but is accepted as a free nation among the nations.

Restoration

IN THE 37th chapter of Ezekiel we are given a prophecy of the restoration of Israel to the Promised Land and to favor with the Lord. Here "the whole house of Israel" is likened to a valley of dry bones. (vs. 11) These bones are seen to come together, to be covered with flesh and skin, and finally to receive the Spirit of God, the spirit of life.

In this prophecy the different lands, or nations, in which the Jews have lived in their disper-

sion, are referred to as "graves." (vs. 12) This expression cannot be taken literally. If they were literal graves then one could not see the "bones" in them. Graves symbolize death, and the national hopes of the Jews in their dispersion were dead, and remained so until the Lord's due time came for their restoration.

Now many of their national "graves" have been opened. More than two million Jews have already left these "graves" and have returned to their Promised Land. Up to this time, however, only a few recognize the meaning of what is really happening. They do not know that the hand of the Lord is directing their destiny.

However, eventually they will know this. The prophecy declares, "I . . . shall put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord." (vss. 13, 14) But before the people of Israel thus receive the Spirit of the Lord they must go through a period of much tribulation.

This time of great trouble is described in the 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel. In the 38th chapter we are given a description of an attack upon Israel from the "north," which is led by "Gog." With "Gog" are allies described as Persia, Ethiopia, Phut, Gomer, and Togarmah. (vss.

5, 6, margin) It may not be possible to identify exactly who are represented by these names, but this is not necessary in order to understand the real point of the prophecy.

According to verse 8, this attack from the "north" (vs. 15) takes place after Israel has been "brought back from the sword" and is dwelling safely in the land. This is still future. Israel is not yet recovered from the sword. The Israelites have possessed the land by means of their military strength. Today they are depending upon the same source of security as the other nations of the earth, which is the power of the sword.

Because of this, Israel is not now dwelling "safely." The people are in constant fear of being attacked. Just what developments will occur in the international picture to change this, we will know only when they occur. But the prophecy reveals clearly that when they do dwell "safely" a vicious attack will be made upon them under the leadership of Gog from the "north."—vss. 14-16

This will be a great time of trouble for Israel; perhaps the worst she has ever experienced. But the Lord will intervene on her behalf. He has promised, "I will call for a sword against him [Gog] throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword will be against his

brother." (vs. 21) We already see the confused intentions of the various nations of the earth, and these seemingly will increase in connection with the final effort to exploit the people of Israel.

Verses 22 and 23 read, "And I will plead against him [Gog] with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord." It would be unwise to attempt to interpret in advance these symbols of trouble which will come upon Israel's enemies, but the prophecy is clear that God will intervene in favor of his people.

This attack upon Israel will take place when they are unable to protect themselves, when the overwhelming power of their enemies would dislodge them from their position in the Promised Land. And it will be through the miracle-working power of God on behalf of Israel that the eyes of many nations, even their enemies, will be opened. And Israel also will then know that God is for them, and has delivered them. We read, "So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen [the Gentiles] shall know that I am the

Lord, the Holy One in Israel."—Ezek.39:7

The Israelites will then also know that it was the Lord that "gathered them unto their own land." The Lord further promised, "Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my Spirit upon the house of Israel." (vss. 28, 29) Through another of his holy prophets, the Lord assures us that he will pour out his Spirit "upon all flesh."—Joel 2:28-32

On the Day of Pentecost the Apostle Peter quoted the prophecy of Joel and indicated that, beginning then, the Lord's Spirit was being poured out upon his "servants and on his handmaidens." (Acts 2:18) These "servants" are the ones reached by the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the Gospel Age. Through the Gospel, the Lord has called these from among both Jews and Gentiles, and they will be associated with Jesus in the spiritual, or invisible phase of his kingdom. The Bible assures us that these will be raised from the dead in the "first resurrection" to live and reign with Christ a thousand years.—Rev. 20:6

Prior to the Gospel Age the Lord was selecting and preparing a class to be the human representatives of the kingdom. These were almost exclusively Israelites by birth. They proved their loyalty to Jehovah, and, when raised

from the dead as perfect humans, will be the glory of Israel, and the "princes" of Israel and the whole world.—Heb. 11; Ps. 45:16

Jesus prophesied, "Many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets" in the kingdom. (Matt. 8:11; Luke 13:28,29) This "kingdom of heaven," as it is often called, will not be in heaven, but is so designated to emphasize that it is not a man-made government, but is of heavenly origin, a kingdom that is established by "the God of heaven."—Dan. 2:44

This kingdom of the Lord is pictured in the Bible as a great "mountain" that fills the whole earth. We read that "in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. . . . He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."—Isa. 25:6-8

These wonderful blessings of plenty, of health, and of everlasting life will flow out first to the Israelites, who have returned to their Promised Land, and also will be made available to the people of the whole earth. The promise God made to Abraham was that through his "Seed" ALL the families, or nations, of the earth would be blessed. The ful-

filment of prophecy in the affairs of Israel today is a strong proof that these promised blessings are near.

Isaiah wrote that death would be swallowed up in victory. (Isa. 25:6-8) This will be true in the most absolute sense, for even those who have died will be restored to life—both Jews and Gentiles. Jesus gave his life "a ransom for all," and the Prophet Isaiah wrote that "the ransomed of the Lord shall return, . . . with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."—I Tim. 2:4-6; Isa. 35:10

To Be a Blessing

IN ANOTHER prophecy the Lord says of Israel, "It shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen [the Gentiles] . . . so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing." Then the Lord outlines what the Israelites are to do in order to be a blessing to others. We quote, "These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates: and let none of you imagine evil in his heart against his neighbor; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the Lord."—Zech. 8:13, 16, 17

There is no doubt that the Israelites, under the leadership of

their Ancient Worthies, raised from the dead, will learn and practice these ways of righteousness, and thus become an example which will lead to the blessing of others. Gentiles also, as the blessings of the kingdom are extended, will learn to know and serve the true God. The promise is that then the Lord will "turn to the people" a pure "language," or message of truth and righteousness, "that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent."—Zephaniah 3:9

The time for the preparation of the ruling personnel in the kingdom of God is fast coming to a close. God's dealings with Israel in the past, and the fulfilment of his promises on behalf of this people now, is one of the keys which helps to unlock the meaning of the Holy Scriptures. That meaning to us is that the long-promised kingdom of God is at hand.

Today the world is faced with unsolved and unsolvable problems. The very existence of the

human race is threatened. Many of the thinkers of the world are saying that the next ten years might well be the most nerve-racking ever experienced by humanity. Is there a way out? The Bible assures us that there is. It is the way of Christ's kingdom, that kingdom which, throughout the thousand years of its rulership over the earth, will re-establish the will of God in the hearts and lives of the people, and thus assure the blessings of peace, health, and everlasting life promised over and over again in the Word of God.

Instead of fearing the future, therefore, let us look ahead with confidence, even with joy, that the world's tomorrow will be a glorious one because it will be God's tomorrow. "Tomorrow never comes," they say, but God's tomorrow will come. His integrity and almighty power give us this assurance, and in this assurance may we continue to rejoice, and as time, means, health, and strength afford, tell the whole world these blessed tidings!

GOD BLESS THEE

God grant you grace, this coming year
For every time of need;
And strength to follow day by day,
Where'er your path may lead.

God shower upon you blessings rich,
To cheer you hour by hour,
And fill your heart and keep you through
His Holy Spirit's Power.

THE CREATOR SERIES**Lesson I**

There IS a God!

MANY great scientists of modern times have openly stated their belief in the existence of a supreme, intelligent Creator, among them Dr. Albert Einstein. A. Cressy Morrison, former President of the New York Academy of Sciences, said, "By unwavering mathematical law we can prove that our universe was designed and executed by a great engineering Intelligence."¹

We cannot establish the existence of God through the medium of our five senses. We can neither see, feel, smell, taste, nor touch him. While God is invisible to our natural eyes, we can, nevertheless, discern him in the visible things he has created.¹ This is accomplished by means of our reasoning faculties. The more we ponder over the significance of the marvelous things of the material world with which we are surrounded, the more unwise it seems to deny the existence of a supreme, intelligent Creator.²

We sometimes speak of what a person has made as being a "creation." Actually, however, man's ability to "create" is limited to the use of materials already in existence. Strictly speaking, man does not create a house; rather, he builds a house, using materials which have already been created.

But even the building of a house

calls for plans, specifications, measurements, and the use of proper materials. A foundation has to be laid, and firmly secured. The superstructure must be properly built upon the foundation. The house needs a roof, and the various rooms must be built according to a plan and specifications. A house does not just happen to come into existence. Every house, or any other building, evidences the work of an intelligent designer and builder. So the earth itself, the home, or "house" provided for man, also reveals the existence of a Designer and Builder.³

And what great wisdom is displayed in the creation of the earth! Think of the ingenious circulatory system by which the land surfaces of the earth are watered to make possible the growth of vegetation and food!⁴ What an endless variety there is of trees, of fruit, of flowers, and all so intricately designed and exquisitely beautiful!

Man can make an artificial flower, but he cannot give it life. We can admire the blade of grass and the mighty trees of the forest, but we cannot create them, nor do we understand what makes them live. We may plant an acorn in the ground, and discern that later it has grown into a sturdy oak. We can marvel

about this, but cannot explain how it happened. Some may say it is simply nature, but the wise will say it is an evidence of the existence of nature's God.⁵

The human mind seems still more hopelessly inadequate when it peers into the heavens and there, too, sees displayed the mighty works of an Intelligent Creator.⁶ The astronomer's telescope reveals the tremendous reaches of the universe, and

its countless millions of stars and planets. We know that all these are governed by fixed laws, and reason tells us that these laws could only have been established by divine intelligence. If our reason leads us to such a conclusion, then we will reverence our great Creator, and will want to learn all we can about him, so that we can know him intimately, do his bidding and copy his ways.⁷

STUDENTS' HELPS

QUESTIONS

THE following questions are answered in the preceding short article. Can you answer them?

What is the thinking of many of our modern scientists concerning the existence of a supreme, intelligent Creator?

Can we establish the existence of God by means of any of our five senses? What does the Bible say?

Do humans have the ability to create?

How does the need for planning in the building of a house prove the existence of the Creator?

Do any of us know the secret of life?

What does reason tell us concerning the laws which govern the universe?

BIBLE PROOF

¹Romans 1:20 ⁵Psalms 107:43

²Psalms 53:1 ⁶Psalms 19:1, 2

³Job 38:4-8 ⁷Proverbs 1:7;

⁴Job 38:25-28 John 17:3

REFERENCE MATERIAL

"The Divine Plan of the Ages," chapter 2.

"The New Creation," pages 20-22.

⁸From the book, "Man Does not Stand Alone."

LESSON SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT THOUGHTS

We perceive God through the visible things of his creation.

Man can build, but he cannot create the material he uses.

The earth, man's "house," or home, was designed by God, the Creator.

All the inflexible laws which govern the universe reveal the existence of a Lawgiver.

God Revealed in Animal Life

THERE is a poem which states that "only God can make a tree,"^a and this thought is even more conclusive when we think of the almost countless varieties of trees which God has made. This same faith-strengthening reasoning can be carried over into the animal kingdom. Only a supreme, intelligent Creator could produce the myriad varieties of animals, birds, and fish, and provide the appropriate food and surroundings enabling them to continue their existence.

The peacock is noted for its gorgeous plumage, while the ostrich is rather plain in appearance, although its feathers are much in demand. By comparison with the ostrich, the peacock moves about quite slowly, but the ostrich is able to run at great speed. What determined these differences? Reason tells us that here is displayed the planning and work of an intelligent Creator.

In most cases the birds and lower animals instinctively exercise great care over their young. The birds sit on the eggs from which their offspring are hatched. But with the ostrich it is different. The mother ostrich simply buries her eggs in the sand and then leaves them, evincing no interest in what thereafter might happen. The warmth they need for incubation is in the sunbaked sand. But the eggs are hidden from most danger, and, un-

like most other birds, the mother ostrich is not on hand to afford protection for her young.¹

Did this maternal indifference of the ostrich just happen to be? Oh, that is just a matter of instinct, some may answer. But why should there be such a variety of instincts in the animal creation? Besides, what is instinct? The dictionary says that instinct is "the hereditary factor in behavior." But from whence came this hereditary factor that enables fowl, animal, and fish to survive?

Reason tells us that instinct is a creation of God. This is particularly apparent when we consider the widely variant instincts with which the animal creations have been endowed. What causes young salmon, after spending four years in the ocean, to seek and travel up the identical river where they were born, there to spawn and die? From whence came the "instinct" which causes some birds to migrate from north to south, and from south to north, with the changing seasons? How do they know that it will be warm in the south, and that they would freeze or starve to death in the north?

Innumerable pages would be required to call attention to all the fascinating varieties of "instincts" displayed throughout the animate creative works of God. To say that such variety came about by mere chance is to stifle reason and to

distort the good judgment with which we have been endowed by the Creator.

And herein is another proof of the existence and work of the Creator. The lower animal creations do not understand why they act as they do, but man has been given

the ability to understand, if he will, and choose his ways. He may go south or remain north in the winter as he reasons and decides which move to make. Thus man is set apart from the other animate creations, and this also we see as an evidence of the existence of a wise and loving Creator.^{2/18}

STUDENTS' HELPS

QUESTIONS

The following questions are answered in the preceding short article. What do these answers mean to you?

How does the endless variety of life in the animal kingdom prove the existence of a Supreme, Intelligent Creator?

What determined the great differences of appearance and abilities between the peacock and the ostrich?

What is indicated by the mother ostrich's lack of interest in her young, in contrast with the maternal instincts of other birds?

What is instinct, and why do the lower animals possess it?

What is the true explanation as to why man is able to reason rather than to be guided by instinct?

BIBLE PROOF

¹Job 39:13-18.

²Job 32:8.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

¹"Trees" by Joyce Kilmer

²"The New Creation," pages 55-58.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT POINTS

Reason tells us that the great varieties of species found in the animal kingdom, and all fixed, did not develop by chance, but through the guidance of a Supreme Intelligent Creator.

The instincts of the lower animals are endowments of a Creator, not the haphazard process of nature.

One of the great distinctions between man and the lower animals is seen in the differences between instinct and reason, both being endowments by the Creator.

God Revealed in Man

ALL animate and inanimate it lacks feelings of any kind. If a things of which man has knowledge proclaim to reason that there is a God. The intricacies of the life principle are quite beyond the ability of the human mind fully to understand. This is true in the earthly realm from the lowest form of shell fish right on up to man, the highest order of animate life. This is particularly true of man, whose body, animated by the breath of life, is one of the marvels of the universe.¹

And one of the amazing things about humans is their ability to reason upon available facts and to reach logical conclusions. We are living in the day of electronic computers. Data is fed into these computers for the purpose of obtaining certain information, and in a relatively short space of time they produce the answers sought. It is claimed by authorities that an electronic computer capable of reaching all the conclusions potentially possible to the human brain, would need to be as large as the Empire State building in New York City. And this electronic marvel can process data only in response to facts fed into it by an intelligent human being.

And yet, how small is the human brain! Besides, even though a computer can be constructed by human wisdom to do the mechanical reckoning heretofore done by the brain,

computer informs its owner that he has prospered in business, it registers no joy; if he is bankrupt, it displays no sorrow.

But in man's little brain there is the potential mathematical ability of the most complicated electronic computer ever built, and a thousand times over; plus a sympathetic understanding of the implications in the conclusions at which it is capable of arriving. Could such a capability just happen to function?² The obvious answer is no; that here is irrefutable proof of the existence of a Supreme, Intelligent Creator.

Besides, by noting the reasoning characteristics of man, as translated into human behavior, we learn something about the Creator, for the Bible tells us that man was created in the image of God.^{3/A} All creation reveals the intelligence of the Creator, and his ability to reason.⁴ Man's puny mind, while not able to understand a great deal about God's creation is, nevertheless, able to reason upon the basis of his limited knowledge, and to reach the conclusion that there is a God.

Man today is fallen and imperfect.⁵ Many humans are even degraded and debauched. However, there are many noble specimens of humanity all around us, and in these we see the qualities of sympathy, justice, and love. Since man

was created in the image of God, we therefore conclude that the Creator is sympathetic, just, and loving.

Man has also been endowed with the ability to conceive the idea of a great God and Creator over all. This not only sets man apart from all the lower forms of animal life,

but is an additional proof that he is a created being, and not an accident of an unguided evolutionary process. From the dawn of biblical history man has been a worshiping creature;⁶ and, among the truly wise of the human race, is no less so today. Prof. Pasteur, the noted bacteriologist, testified that he prayed while he worked.⁷

STUDENTS' HELPS

QUESTIONS

THESE questions are based on the foregoing brief discussion of the manner in which man, as a created being, is himself one of the proofs of the existence of the Creator. Can you answer them?

What is implied by the fact that the intricacies of life are quite beyond the ability of human wisdom to understand?

How does the human brain compare in ability with modern electronic computers? Give an example.

What characteristic of the human brain is totally absent in the

mechanism of an electronic computer?

What can we learn about God by noting the reasoning and behavior of the noble-minded among the human race?

What is indicated by man's inherent desire to worship a higher power than himself?

BIBLE PROOF

¹Psalm 139:14, 15 ⁴Isaiah 1:18

²Job 38:36 ⁵Psalm 51:5

³Genesis 1:27, 28 ⁶Genesis 4:3-5

REFERENCE MATERIAL

⁴"The New Creation," page 39.

⁷"The New Creation," page 44, paragraphs 1 and 2.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT THOUGHTS

While man's ability to reason and make decisions is in itself an evidence that he is the handiwork of a divine Creator, even more so is his ability to react emotionally to his reasoning and to the circumstances with which he is surrounded.

Since, as the Bible declares, man was created in the image of God, all the kindly qualities of the noble-minded reflect, in more or less degree, the goodness and love of our Creator.

The Creator's Wisdom

IN MYRIAD ways God's wisdom is displayed in his creative works. One of these is the occasional exception to the laws by which all inanimate things of creation are governed. For example, the general law is that substances expand with heat and contract with cold. An exception to this is in the freezing of water. If water contracted as it froze, ice would then be heavier than water, and the end of winter throughout half of the earth would find the rivers and lakes solid cakes of ice. But God's exception to this law of nature averts such a catastrophe.

Wisdom beyond our comprehension is displayed in all created things. We are particularly interested in divine wisdom as we see it in operation in connection with his provisions for man, whom he created in his image, and to be king of earth.¹ One evidence of this is in the relationship of parents to children. God endowed the lower animals with certain instincts which cause them to make essential preparation for their young, and to care for them for a short time after they are born, but this instinct is devoid of lasting interest in, and love for, the offspring.

How different in the case of humans! A human child is helpless when it is born. It needs the loving and tender care of its mother, and

generally gets it. The love of both parents for their child generally increases, and the child learns to appreciate and love its parents. God's wisdom designed it so, and it is related to the fact that we are created in the image of God. The Creator loves his children, and is pleased when they realize their dependence on him, and out of this there grows love and loyalty.¹

God's wisdom is displayed by permitting man to be subjected to temptation, as he was in the Garden of Eden. The universe is filled by created things compelled to obey the Creator's law. The stars are given no choice as to the orbit in which they will travel, or how fast they will revolve in that orbit. But the Creator was not limited to exacting this sort of obedience. He created man in his own image and gave him a choice between obedience and disobedience.²

God's wisdom enabled him to know in advance that, through lack of experience, man would choose the course of disobedience and thus incur the penalty of death, as had been stipulated. God's wisdom decreed that all of Adam's children would share in this death condemnation. By this wise arrangement, it was possible for one man—even Jesus Christ, who was made flesh for this purpose—to redeem Adam from death, and his entire progeny who lost life through and in him.³

By this wise arrangement, each generation of Adam's children has had an opportunity to experience the disastrous results of disobedience to divine law. Thus far few have known the true significance of their plight, but the Creator's wisdom has arranged their awaken-

ing from the sleep of death at a time when the educational program of Christ's kingdom will be in operation, and then they will learn. Thus they will, by experience, have learned both good and evil, and will be in a position to make an intelligent choice between the two.^{4/B}

STUDENTS' HELPS

QUESTIONS

Here are a few questions based on the preceding short article pertaining to divine wisdom. How many of them can you answer?

What is one of the exceptions to the laws of nature which reveals the wisdom of the Creator?

How is the wisdom of God displayed in the parental relationship of humans to their children?

Was it wise for God to permit our first parents to be tempted?

If so, can you explain why?

When will the human race as a whole have an opportunity to benefit from the Creator's wise permission of evil?

BIBLE PROOF

¹Isaiah 49:15; Psalm 103:13

²Genesis 2:16, 17; Joshua 24:15

³Acts 15:18; Romans 5:12;
I Corinthians 15:21, 22

⁴Isaiah 26:9; Isaiah 29:24

REFERENCE MATERIAL

^A"The New Creation," page 39.

^B"The Divine Plan of the Ages," chapter 7.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT POINTS

The occasional exception to be noted in nature's laws is one of the proofs that these laws were framed by a supreme Lawgiver.

Parental love for children demonstrates that man was created in the image of God.

God's wisdom is displayed in permitting man to choose obedience or disobedience, for it is through the permission of evil that true, free-will obedience to the Creator is demonstrated and attained.

God's Eternal Justice

THROUGHOUT all the ages of human experience, innocent men, women, and children have suffered. Is it just for God to permit an innocent infant to be afflicted with a painful disease, and ultimately to die? There are thousands of situations in which the question of God's justice is raised. Assuming that God is all-powerful and therefore able to control human experience, why does he permit the innocent to suffer? In the absence of a satisfactory answer to this question, some might well question the existence of God.

The operation of God's justice in his dealings with his human creatures can be understood only in the light of his plan as a whole. One would properly question the motives of a surgeon who cuts into a human body to remove a malignant growth, or a diseased organ, were it not known that the objective sought is the person's health and well-being. The healthy unaffected organs of the body might well suffer as the malignancy is being removed, but those involved understand the reason, and are quite willing to have it so.

The principle of justice is well illustrated by the balanced apothecary's scale. With the scale, the illustration is in equality of weight. In God's relationship to man, it is in equality of dealings. The Creator

is the source of life and its blessings, so he has the right to decide the terms upon which these blessings may be obtained and maintained.¹ Adam was God's creation. He owed his life to his Creator.

Adam also owed obedience to his Creator, and the Creator, in his wisdom, exacted the death penalty for disobedience, not because he was vindictive, but because it would result in the greatest good to Adam and to his progeny.² Think of the havoc that would be wrought if the earth were to disobey the laws of gravitation by which it is kept in its proper orbit! So, if man were permitted to live in disobedience to divine law, there would be no end to the chaos and suffering that would result.

Man was justly condemned to death. The penalty was death, so if man was to be rescued from death the demands of divine justice against him must be satisfied. The Creator's wisdom provided the way, which was through Christ, the Redeemer. Jesus became a substitute in death for Adam, and for the unborn race in his loins when he sinned. The Bible refers to this as a ransom, or corresponding price.³

While God's love is involved in this plan, it is his justice that opens the way for man's release from sin and death. Meanwhile, the human race has continued to suffer, the

innocent with the guilty. The just compensation for this will be in the blessed experiences of the enhanced joy which will be made available to all as they are restored to life. Then, as they look back upon the experiences through which they

passed during the reign of sin and death, they will thank God for them, for thereby they will be led to a more profound appreciation of their loving Creator, whom they will have the opportunity of obeying and serving forever.⁴

STUDENTS' HELPS

QUESTIONS

Here are some of the questions answered in the foregoing short article on the topic, "God's Eternal Justice." Do you know the plan of God well enough to answer these questions?

Why has the suffering of the innocent caused some to question the existence of God?

How only can we understand the operation of God's justice in his dealings with the human race?

Explain the principle of justice. How is it illustrated by the apothecary's scale?

Explain the wisdom of the just penalty of death which resulted from Adam's disobedience.

Explain how justice operates to provide the release of the human race from death.

What compensation will there be for the sufferings of the human race during the reign of sin and death?

BIBLE PROOF

¹Acts 17:24-28; Job 12:10

²Genesis 3:17-19

³I Timothy 2:3-6

⁴Isaiah 35:10; Isaiah 29:24;

Revelation 21:4

REFERENCE MATERIAL

"The Divine Plan of the Ages,"
pages 149 to 159.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT THOUGHTS

A proper understanding of the operation of God's justice is possible only in the light of the divine plan of redemption from death.

All life is dependent upon God, who justly demands the obedience of his intelligent creatures.

What now appears unjust in human experiences will be understood and appreciated in the age of restoration from death.

Ruling, Judging, Restoring

"I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts."—Jeremiah 31:33

FOLLOWING the transgression of our first parents, God said that the "seed" of the woman would bruise the serpent's head. (Gen. 3:15) This highly figurative statement really meant the stamping out of all unrighteousness in the earth, and ultimately the destruction of Satan himself. Later the Lord promised that the "Seed" of Abraham would bless all the families of the earth, and in the light of the divine plan it becomes plain that this blessing involves the reconciliation of the human race to God, and all the willing and obedient being blessed with health, happiness, and everlasting life.—Gen. 12:3; 22:16-18

In the outworking of his plan for the accomplishment of this grand design God furnished an opportunity to the nation of Israel to attain righteousness and life by their own efforts to keep his perfect Law. Because of inherited sin and imperfections the people failed, demonstrating the necessity of a Redeemer from sin, and of the provisions God had made for the reconciliation and restoration of the people during the thousand years of the messianic kingdom.

One of these provisions is the New Covenant, concerning which the Lord said, "The days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be

the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”—Jer. 31:31-34

In this prophecy the Lord foreshows that the law of the New Covenant, instead of being written on tables of stone, is to be written in the hearts of the people, and in their inward parts. This is one of the ways by which the Bible describes the restoration of mankind to the original perfection and godlikeness in which Adam was created. This promised writing of the law in the hearts of the people is not an instantaneous work, but the work of an entire age, the Millennial Age, “the times of restitution of all things.”—Acts 3:21

How is this great work to be accomplished? Our finite minds cannot understand the details, but the Scriptures inform us of the agencies and methods to be employed. Basically, it will be accomplished by the Holy Spirit, for we are informed that the Lord will pour out his Spirit upon all flesh. (Joel 2:28) To help us grasp in some manner at least just how the Spirit, or power of God will manifest itself in the lives of the people during the Millennium, the Bible speaks of the rulership of Christ’s kingdom, and reveals that the thousand years of that kingdom will also be a time of judgment.

Thus we have the Millennial Age presented to us as a time when Christ will reign, when he will judge, and when he will write the divine law in the hearts of the people. These are not three separate works, but co-operative methods by which man is to be restored to the image of God, and qualified to have his lost dominion restored to him. It is not that Christ will be King part of the time, Judge part of the time, and Mediator of the New Covenant part of the time. It is the ideas suggested by these various terms that are important, for they help us to understand how the great objective of the new age will be accomplished.

The Kingdom and Judgment

FIRST let us consider what is implied by a kingdom. This word denotes rulership, control. The basic thought is contained in The Lord's Prayer—"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done." The thousand-year rulership of the messianic kingdom will put down all insubordination to the Creator's law so that, at the end, there will be no opposition to his will.—Matt. 6:10

Paul wrote that Christ will reign until all enemies are put under his feet, and that "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." (I Cor. 15:25, 26) During Christ's reign, no insurrection against divine law will be tolerated. His rulership will be absolute. Thus the people will be restrained from following their sinful propensities, and any attempt to do so will result in disciplines, while willing obedience to the kingdom laws will result in rich rewards of peace and happiness.

What this will mean in changing the viewpoints and motives of the people can be seen more clearly by noting the fact that, hand in hand with the strict imposition of divine law to control the lives of the people, there will also be the work of judging, for the new age is also to be "the judgment day." The word judgment, as used with respect to the work of the Millennial Age, implies enlightenment, disciplines, rewards for faithfulness, and punishment for wilful sin.

Isaiah 26:9, 10 reads, "With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Let favor be showed to the [wilfully] wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord."

Another prophecy of the judgment day reads, "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."—Rev. 20:12

Paul, in his sermon on Mars' hill, in a reference to the idolatry of the people, said, "The times of this ignorance God winked at;

but now commandeth all men every where to repent: because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained [Jesus Christ the righteous]; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”—Acts 17:30, 31

And then we have the promise of the coming work of judgment, which was given by Jesus. We quote, “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment [Revised Version].”—John 5: 28, 29

Thus Isaiah, John, and Paul all indicate that enlightenment will be an important aspect of the work of judgment. Isaiah wrote that the people will “learn righteousness.” John states that the “books” of divine revelation will be opened; and Paul contrasts the “times of this ignorance” with the day the Lord has appointed in which to judge the world.

Isaiah speaks of the time of judgment as one in which favor will be shown, although the wilfully wicked will not benefit from it, for they will refuse to behold the majesty of the Lord. John reveals that with the opening of the books of divine revelation, a “book of life” will also be opened, that the names of those who conform to the things “written in the books” might have their names enrolled therein.

Enlightenment and Blessing

SO THE day of judgment will be one of enlightenment and blessing. The knowledge of the Lord will then fill the earth, as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:9) The rule of righteousness will be rigid and unyielding, but the people will be taught the advantages of obedience and righteousness. A blind obedience will not be required. Those who obey the kingdom laws understandingly and willingly will recognize the Lord’s blessings upon them. Those who knowingly and wilfully oppose, will be punished. If their disobedience continues, they will be punished with “second death.”

And how unerring the judgments will be! There will be no opportunity to feign obedience. Referring to Jesus, the supreme Judge, Isaiah wrote, "The Spirit of the Lord shall be upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of the eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove [margin, argue] with equity for the meek of the earth."—Isa. 11:3, 4

What remarkable changes will be brought about by the rulership and judgments of Christ and his church! When men transgressed God's law, he "gave them up" or permitted the people to follow their own sinful ways. (Rom. 1:24) Throughout all the six thousand years of human experience selfishness has been, in the main, the motive for all that has been said and done. Over and above this is the fact that Satan has exercised his influence in the hearts, and over the lives, of the people. The result of this has been a drifting farther and farther away from God, and a sinking deeper and deeper into degradation and sin.

But, with the rulership of the messianic kingdom, all this will be reversed. Satan will be bound. (Rev. 20:2) Instead of his evil spirit of sin and selfishness dominating the minds of men, the Spirit of the Lord will make itself felt through the agencies of the kingdom. The people will be instructed in the ways and will of the Lord. Evil will be restrained and wilful transgression punished, while righteousness will be rewarded.

It will be under this hallowed influence and judgment work of the kingdom that the law of God will be written in the hearts of the people. They will learn the rightness of God's ways, and will want to do his will, and with this wholehearted desire for righteousness becoming the motivating principle of life, divine power will assist in removing inherited imperfections, and thus the law of God will not only reign supreme in the hearts of those thus restored, but will find expression in their every thought, word, and act, to the great joy and blessing of all with whom they come in contact.

It will require the entire Millennium to complete this work on behalf of the entire human race. The work of "making" the New Covenant will begin, as the prophecy states, "with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah." This indicates that, geographically, the messianic kingdom authority will first manifest itself in the land of Israel, the Promised Land. This is why so many of the natural descendants of Abraham are now being settled in that land. But it will quickly spread, for "all the families of the earth" are thus to be blessed. When God changed Abram's name to Abraham he revealed that the "seed" to be blessed would not be merely one nation, but "many nations."—Gen. 17:5

The ancient servants of God, who received the testimony that they pleased him, and thus proved worthy of a "better resurrection," will be perfect when awakened from the sleep of death. Since at heart they loved God and his law more than life itself, they will, from the first, be in the New Covenant relationship, and in their perfection and righteousness of heart and body, will exemplify it before all over whom they rule as "princes."—Heb. 11:13, 35, 39, 40; Ps. 45:16

When the dead are awakened from the sleep of death they will be, at heart, and in their general outlook and demeanor, essentially the same as when they died, so the work of writing the law in the hearts of the people will need to continue throughout the age until all have been awakened from death, and taught to obey and respond heartily to the law of God.

Throughout the Millennium Christ will serve as Mediator of the New Covenant, and his glorified church will be associated with him. At the close of the age, when all the willingly obedient of mankind will have been restored to human perfection, with the law of God written in their inward parts, a Mediator will no longer be needed, for all will have the ability to live in complete harmony with every divine requirement.

The Creator does not coerce the minds of his intelligent creatures. He permitted our first parents to sin, and has allowed the people to continue in their evil ways from one generation to another throughout the ages. The Creator knew that this expe-

rience with evil would serve his human creatures well when they would have the opportunity to observe and experience the blessings of the way of true righteousness.

Thus, experimentally, mankind will have a knowledge of both good and evil, and will be given a free choice between the two. Those who choose to be willing, wholehearted, and loyal subjects of the kingdom will reap the rich rewards of righteousness. At the close of the thousand years they will be fully reconciled to God, and restored to absolute human perfection, mentally, morally, and physically. They will be at peace with God, and with one another, and all tears will be wiped away.—Isa. 25:8; Rev. 21:1-5

Those who then choose to continue in their evil ways of opposition to divine law will be destroyed from among the people. (Acts 3:23) These are the ones who, in “the land of uprightness,” or when righteous laws of the kingdom prevail throughout the earth, will attempt to “deal unjustly,” and refuse to behold “the majesty of the Lord,” and to bow to his holy will. (Isa. 26:10) These will not be permitted to live and mar the happiness of those who turn to righteousness and are restored to perfection.—Isa. 11:9; Micah 4:3, 4

With the kingdom and judgment work fully accomplished, and all who choose righteousness fully reconciled to God, and his law written in their inward parts, “they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jer. 31:34) “Who shall not fear [reverence] thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.” —Rev. 15:4

“Wisdom is radiant and fadeth not away;
And easily is she beheld of them that love her,
And found of them that seek her.”

—Solomon

“The Joyful Sound”

A 1960 General Convention Discourse

“Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.”—Psalm 89:15

THE Bible uses various symbols to help us grasp the meaning of the truth and its value to us as new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is likened to bread by which we are nourished. Jesus, quoting Moses, said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matt. 4:4) It is referred to as water. Paul wrote of our being sanctified and cleansed by “washing of water by the Word.” (Eph. 5:26) The truth serves to protect us, so Paul urges that we put on “the whole armor of God.”—Eph. 6:11

In our text the truth of the divine plan of redemption and salvation is spoken of as a “joyful sound,” suggesting the happy and exhilarating effects of harmonious music. In this same vein David wrote that the Lord has put a “new song” in our mouths, “even praise unto our God.” (Ps. 40:3) This “new song” is also referred to in Revelation 5:9 and 14:3. In Revelation, chapter 15, the overcomers of the Gospel Age are represented as singing “the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints [margin, nations]. Who shall not fear [reverence] thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”—vss. 3, 4

Here the joyful sound, the new song, or song of Moses and the Lamb, is shown to be a declaration of the “great and marvelous” works of the “Lord God Almighty,” and that “just and

true" are his ways. This song also asserts that eventually "all nations shall come and worship" before the Lord, and this will be due to the fact that his "judgments are made manifest." A song that contains such soul-satisfying information could not be other than a joyful sound to all whose ears are attuned to hear it, and whose hearts are in the right attitude to appreciate it.

Noise and Confusion

HOW much in contrast is the position of the world of mankind—those who do not know the joyful sound which heralds the marvelous works of the Lord God Almighty. Since sin entered into the world more than six thousand years ago Satan has continued to deceive the people of all nations, thus leading them away from God and into darkness and confusion. All sorts of messages are being proclaimed by those walking in darkness, but they are confused and contradictory, a jargon of voices making a great deal of noise, but no harmony.

In the marginal translation of Psalm 40:2 this condition is referred to as "a pit of noise," and at one time we were in this pit. But we longed to hear something besides noise, and in the Lord's due time he "inclined" unto us and heard our cry. In response he brought us up out of the "pit of noise," and put a new song in our mouths.—vss. 1-3

This new song is the joyful sound of the truth. It is the great theme song of God's love, the first notes of which were sounded in the Garden of Eden, when God said that the "seed" of the woman would "bruise" the serpent's "head." (Gen. 3:15) The melody of this joyful sound was heard more distinctly in the promise God made to Abraham that through his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed.—Gen. 12:3; 22:18

A new variation of this melody was added when God confirmed his promise to Abraham by his oath. When the promise to bless all the families of the earth was reaffirmed, the Lord said to Abraham that his seed would "possess" the "gate" of his enemies. (Gen. 22:16-18) To "possess," or control, the gate of an ancient city, implied rulership over the city. Here, then, was a promise that the seed of promise was to exercise rulership, or dominion, and that it would be by means of this rulership that the people

of all nations would be blessed. Thus we might think of it as the kingdom theme, and it soon became a very pronounced aspect of the joyful sound.

Jacob prophesied that the promised ruler in the divine plan would come from the tribe of Judah. Shiloh was to be his name, and unto him, Jacob prophesied, would be the gathering of the people. (Gen. 49:9, 10) Later the promise of a coming Ruler was narrowed down to the family of David, who himself was of the tribe of Judah. God's covenant with David pertaining to the future Ruler of the world is described as "the sure mercies of David." (Isa. 55:3, 4; II Sam. 7:12-16) So far as the literal ruling house of David was concerned, it was overthrown in 606 B. C., but Isaiah foretold that it would be re-established by Jesus.—Isa. 9:6, 7

The ancient servants of God, who had confidence in his promises, looked for the coming of this Great One, this Messiah whom God would send to be King and Ruler of the world to bless all the families of the earth. To them this hope of Israel was indeed a joyful sound. The nominal house of Israel had little respect for God's promises, and therefore did not know this joyful sound, but with the true Israelites of each generation it was different. They walked in the light of the Lord's countenance and rejoiced in the prospect of his fulfilled promises.

True, the Ancient Worthy class did not understand all the details of the divine plan as it was centered in Jesus, the anti-typical David, but they did rejoice to know that a kingdom was to be established by a Great One from the seed of Abraham, and that if faithful they would have some prominent part in that kingdom. They were blessed in this knowledge of the joyful sound, and rejoiced in the assurance that in the Lord's righteousness they would one day be exalted.—Ps. 89:16

Writing particularly concerning God's faithful servants in the patriarchal age, Paul said, "These all died in faith, not having received the [fulfilment of the] promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country

from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."—Heb. 11:13-16

In the Scriptures a city symbolizes a government, a kingdom, and the whole Ancient Worthly class will be the earthly rulers in the messianic kingdom, those "princes in all the earth" mentioned by the Psalmist. (Ps. 45:16) It was this inspiring hope that gave them strength to endure. Through their faith in God's promises they "subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: and others had trials of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover, of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."—Heb. 11: 33-40

A New Age Begins

WHILE the Ancient Worthies rejoiced in their hope of the coming messianic kingdom, and expected to be raised from the dead to have a prominent part in that "city," they did not know that a still higher position was to be given to the faithful servants of God of a coming age. They did not know about that "better thing for us," and that their being made perfect in the "better resurrection" would have to wait until the "us" class of the Gospel Age was completed and exalted.—Heb. 11:35

This new age began with the coming of Jesus, the antitypical David. The angel said, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and

bring forth a Son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”—Luke 1:30-33

With the birth of Jesus began the fulfilment of all those wonderful promises of God which combined to produce that joyful sound which so gladdened the hearts of the Ancient Worthy class. Jesus came to be the King of promise, and he came to be the channel of blessings that eventually were to flow to all the families of the earth. Paul wrote, “To Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”—Gal. 3:16

Andrew joyfully announced to his brother Simon, “We have found the Messias.” (John 1:41) We can imagine the rejoicing among that little company of disciples in their realization that the Great One of promise was actually in their midst and that they had the high honor of being directly associated with him. God’s promises were coming true and it was given to them to be eyewitnesses to the fact that now the messianic promises were being translated into reality, for the King had come.

The chief aspect of Jesus’ message throughout his brief ministry was the kingdom. He encouraged his disciples to believe that they would be associated with him in the kingdom. They rejoiced in this prospect, and two of them made bold to seek special places of honor in the kingdom—one on his right hand, and the other on his left hand. (Mark 10:35-37) Jesus did not tell these two that they would not have an exalted position in his kingdom. Instead he emphasized the severe tests of worthiness of joint-heirship with him, and explained that the exact positions of his associates in the kingdom would be assigned by his Heavenly Father.

Not the “Due Time”

THE disciples did not realize that Jesus would not establish his kingdom at that time. In order to prepare them somewhat for the disappointment which he knew they would experience when he was taken from them and crucified, Jesus related a parable

of "a certain nobleman" who went into a far country to receive a kingdom and to return. (Luke 19:11, 12) But these ardent disciples had not yet received the Holy Spirit to enlighten them, and they did not perceive from this parable that Jesus was to die, hence their great disappointment when he was put to death by his enemies.

After his resurrection Jesus joined two of his disciples as they journeyed to Emmaus. They thought him to be a stranger, and in telling him of the death of Jesus they said, "We trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel." (Luke 24:21) The implication here is that now they were not sure. They had heard the reports that Jesus had been raised from the dead, but were not convinced that these were true. Certainly a dead Messiah could not set up a world government and bless all the families of the earth.

Then it was that Jesus, quoting from the prophecies concerning his own suffering and death, asked, "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" (Luke 24:26) Later they learned that the stranger who had walked with them was in reality the resurrected Jesus. Then they said "one to another, Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?"—vs. 32

Their hope was revived, and the joyful sound again rang out in their hearts. Now they were beginning to see that it was essential that Jesus should die, else the world of mankind would not be redeemed from death, and the promised blessing of all the families of the earth could not be fulfilled. This aspect of the joyful sound became clear to those early disciples at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Now they also understood that in order to reign with Christ it was necessary that they suffer and die with him. They learned that the foretold sufferings of Christ included their share in this phase of the divine plan. They learned that the kingdom of the Messiah could not be established in power and great glory until all the body members of Christ had proved their worthiness to live and reign with him by being faithful unto death. They learned also that as joint-heirs with Jesus in his kingdom, they

would be a part of the seed of Abraham through which all the families of the earth would be blessed.—Gal. 3:27-29

Christ's Second Presence

WHEN Jesus appeared to his disciples for the last time, he commissioned them to be his witnesses throughout the earth, and then they saw him taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight. Two angels then appeared and explained to the disciples that Jesus would come again. (Acts 1:6-11) When they received the Holy Spirit, the hope of Christ's return became very precious to them. They knew that not until then would the glorious kingdom of promise be set up in the earth; that not until then would all the families of the earth be blessed.

So the joyful sound of the Gospel was now more nearly full and harmonious than ever before. The Messiah of promise had come. He had, in keeping with the prophecies and the divine plan, given his life as a ransom for all. The work of selecting from the world of mankind those who will live and reign with him had begun; and now they understood that at the end of the age he would return.

Before he was crucified, Jesus told his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Spirit would call to remembrance many things which he had said to them. Can we doubt that now the disciples recalled that wonderful promise made by Jesus, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:2, 3) What a song of love this now must have been as they continued to proclaim the Gospel of the kingdom, and waited for the return of their Lord!

Nineteen centuries have passed since Jesus went away into that "far country" to receive a kingdom. And now the Scriptures reveal that he has returned. No, we do not see him in the flesh, for he gave his flesh for the life of the world. (John 6:51) Paul explained that we no longer know Christ after the flesh. (II Cor. 5:16) Now he is a glorious divine being, invisible to human eyes. But his presence is clearly discernable through the "sure Word of prophecy," and we rejoice that our loving Heavenly Father has given us the needed spiritual vision to discern that we are

now living in the days of our Lord's second presence (Luke 17:26), that "the day of the Lord" has not come upon us "as a thief in the night."—I Thess. 5:1-4

Kingdom Theme Revived

WITH the rise of the papacy, the counterfeit kingdom of Christ, the kingdom theme song of the Scriptures was suppressed. While individuals and small groups of ardent believers continued to rejoice in the hope of our Lord's return and the establishment of the real messianic kingdom, these were charged with heresy and persecuted. Nor did the Reformation do much to change this situation. The Miller movement publicized the teaching of Christ's second advent, not to establish a kingdom for the blessing of all the families of the earth, but rather to destroy the earth.

Not until the end of the thirteen hundred, five and thirty days mentioned in Daniel 12:12, which was the year 1874, the due time for our Lord's return, was the hope and proclamation of the kingdom restored to the Lord's faithful people. There the faithful watchers began to realize the blessedness which was foretold as coming to those who "waiteth, and cometh" to this time. This blessedness was experienced in discerning the harmony of the joyful sound, and in the hearing and appreciation of this glorious theme song of God's love for the sin-cursed and dying race.

The blessedness of those who would know the joyful sound of divine truth in this time of our Lord's second presence was foretold by Jesus. Speaking of the time of his return, he said to his disciples, "Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."—Luke 12:37

When, in fulfilment of this promise, Jesus girded himself and served a little group of faithful watchers back in the early seventies of the last century, how wonderfully the divine plan opened up to them! Records of that time indicate that the object of our Lord's return was one of the first great truths that was restored to them, that object being, as set forth by Peter, to usher in the "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

Now it could be seen that the second coming of Christ, instead of marking the end of all hope for the unconverted world, signaled the ushering in of a time of opportunity and blessing for “all the families of the earth,” that blessing which was promised to Abraham as coming through his seed. In the light of this glorious restitution hope for the world, the death of Jesus as the world’s Redeemer took on a depth of meaning previously impossible to discern. It was now seen that Jesus’ death guaranteed an opportunity of life for all mankind, the living and the dead, and that provision had been made in the divine plan for this truth to be made known to all “in due time.”

Other features of the divine plan then fell quickly into place, each in its own way contributing to the harmonious melody of that joyful sound which then began to burst upon the ears of “the blessed people of God.” The fall of man; the giving of the Law to the typical house of Israel; God’s dealings with and promises to the prophets and other Ancient Worthies; the birth, baptism, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus; his nature when here on earth; his present highly exalted divine nature; the call of the church; the harvest at the end of the age, and the glorification of the church—all these scriptural truths took on a clearness of meaning which previously had been hidden.

Now all the doctrines of the Bible were seen in the light of the grand finale of the plan of salvation, the blessing of all the families of the earth during the “times of restitution of all things.” While these doctrines were not new, when understood in the light of the new day which then began to dawn, they seemed new. And, those who were walking in the light of God’s countenance began to sing this “as it were a new song,” this harmonious melody of divine love, the joyful sound.

The High Calling

PROFESSED believers in Christ had for a long time held to the hope of going to heaven when they died, and the Bible does surely teach a heavenly reward for all consecrated followers of

(Continued on page 34.)

TEN CENT BOOKLETS—12 for \$1.00

Israel in History and Prophecy—64 pages—Reveals the prophetic significance of the present rebuilding of Palestine.

Christ's Thousand-Year Kingdom—64 pages—Shows that the reign of Christ is for the blessing of "all the families of the earth."

Our Lord's Return—48 pages—Reveals manner and purpose of Christ's return.

A Royal Nation—Refutes the theory that the "ten lost tribes of Israel" are the kingdom people of the Bible.

God and Reason—96 pages—An outline of God's plan of salvation together with an examination of many prophecies.

The Truth About Hell—64 pages—Examines every text containing the word hell.

The Grace of Jehovah—64 pages—Shows the love of God in his provision of salvation for Adam and his race.

Creation—112 pages—Examines the Genesis account of creation.

Hope Beyond the Grave—96 pages—Presents the teachings of the Bible concerning the soul, spirit, heaven, hell, and paradise.

God's Plan—48 pages—A brief outline of the divine plan of salvation, illustrated by charts.

When a Man Dies—48 pages—Answers the question, Where are the dead?

FIVE CENT BOOKLETS—25 for \$1.00

These publications contain 32 pages.

Armageddon, Then World Peace—Discusses prophecies relating to our day, showing the manner in which God's hand is in the affairs of men.

Jesus, the World's Savior—A portrait of the character and work of Jesus.

The Light of the World—Identifies the true witnesses of Jehovah, and of Jesus.

The Church—Identifies the true church, and explains how to become a member.

Born of the Spirit—Shows the difference between Spirit begetting and Spirit birth.

What Can a Man Believe?—Calls attention to the testimony of all God's Holy prophets.

The Blood of Atonement—Shows that there is no salvation outside of Christ.

The Day of Judgment—Presents hope for the unsaved dead.

Reincarnation Versus Resurrection—Shows that the dead will return in the resurrection, not as other people, but as themselves, and will know one another.

Your Adversary the Devil—Answers the questions, Who is the Devil, and Who created him?

Divine Healing—Gives assurance that eventually all the sick will be healed.

Spiritualism—Answers the question, Can the living talk with the dead?

Peace Through Christ's Kingdom—Points out from the Bible the world's only hope of lasting peace.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—An understandable presentation, and scriptural.

Does God Answer Prayer?—A comforting and reassuring presentation.

Hope for a Fear-filled World—Reveals the "silver lining" to present dark "clouds."

Informative and Devotional

GOD'S PROMISES COME TRUE

This is a book for children. It contains forty-eight Bible stories, with illustrations. Among the stories are, "The First Ship-builder," "A King Who Ate Grass," and "The Most Important Baby." Cloth bound, \$2.00.

DAILY HEAVENLY MANNA

A devotional book containing a Bible text and comment for each day in the year. It also has ruled pages for birth-day records. Bound in durable water-proof cloth, \$1.00

TABERNACLE SHADOWS

An unusual book which presents the typical significance of the various sacrificial services of the tabernacle erected by Moses in the wilderness. It is cloth bound and is priced at 50 cents.

"BEHOLD YOUR KING"

This book deals with prophecies pertaining to the manner, time, and purpose of our Lord's return and second presence. It identifies the fulfillment of prophecies in the major world events of our day. One hundred and fifty-two pages, cloth bound, 50 cents.

IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Various booklets and books are available in the following foreign languages: German; Italian; French; Lithuanian; Greek; Danish; Polish; Roumanian; Hungarian; Hebrew; Slovak; Finnish; Spanish; Dutch; and Swedish. Details concerning literature available in any of these languages will be furnished upon request.

HYMNS OF DAWN

Here is a choice collection of three hundred and sixty favorite hymns, with music. It contains many of the best loved hymns of all denominations. Bound in cloth, \$1.00

OUR MOST HOLY FAITH

This book contains a compilation of articles and sermons by Pastor Charles Taze Russell—seventy-four articles and eleven sermons. It contains more than seven hundred pages, and is cloth bound. Price, \$2.00

"THE BOOK OF BOOKS"

A unique publication which explains the format and general themes of the Bible, tracing them from book to book, and from the Old Testament to the New Testament. It contains three hundred and twenty pages, and is bound in cloth. Price, \$1.00

"HOPE"—This little booklet is prepared specially for mailing to relatives and friends of the deceased. They are priced at twelve for twenty-five cents. This price includes envelopes in which they can be mailed.

the Master who are faithful even unto death. But this teaching could not be understood clearly, and in all its beauty, apart from its relationship to the coming kingdom blessings of restitution for the world of mankind. Previously it had been thought of as God's provision for all believers, and as an escape from the torments of a creedal hell.

But how wonderful it was to realize that those who are "partakers of the heavenly calling" are a part of the coming priesthood through whom mankind is to be blessed. A realization of this explained why the followers of Jesus are called upon to suffer and to die—that it is because they have the privilege of sharing with their Master in the "better sacrifices" of the Gospel Age, the great sin-offering work which is to deliver the world of mankind from the thralldom of sin and degradation and death.—Heb. 3:1; I Pet. 2:5; Rom. 12:1; II Tim. 2:11, 12

Yes, this too was a sweet melody of truth which has rejoiced the hearts of all who have heard and appreciated it; those to whom the Lord has given a hearing ear. Now we know that if we are faithful in adding to our faith virtue, and all the other Christian graces, and do not fall away from our steadfastness, we shall have "an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," not as subjects of that kingdom, but as co-rulers with our Master, sharing with him in the blessing of "all the families of the earth."—II Pet. 1:4-12

The Voice of God

PAUL tells us that God, who in times past had spoken to the fathers through the prophets, had "in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." (Heb. 1:1, 2) God's voice was heard through his Son at the first advent. And truly God has again spoken through his Son. The result is that all his past messages, beginning in the Garden of Eden when he said that the "seed" of the woman would "bruise" the serpent's head, down to those thrilling last chapters of the Book of Revelation, have become harmonious and understandable, a joyful sound indeed to all those whose ears are attuned to it.

And it was indeed "meat in due season" that the returned

Lord served through "that servant." Peter had said concerning Christ that his return would mean times of restitution of all things; and how appropriate that Jesus should reveal this to the faithful watchers when first he returned. This was essential that a world-wide proclamation of this glorious truth should be made.

Peter's words, "until the times of restitution of all things," do not imply that the very moment of our Lord's return would be marked by a resurrection of all the dead. Jesus came at his first advent to die for the world, but he was present for more than thirty years before he laid down his life on the cross as man's Redeemer. His second presence is for the purpose of establishing his kingdom and restoring the redeemed world to life, but that work will not be fully accomplished until the close of the millennial age.

While no one has yet been restored to human perfection, the great increase of knowledge along all lines has gradually awakened the people of the world to the fact that they are being denied their rights, and has caused them to long for, yea, to clamor for, the universal blessings of earth which they now recognize to be their inalienable rights. This has produced confusion throughout the earth, and is resulting in the overthrow of the systems of selfishness which stand in the way of the kingdom of Christ and the blessings of joy and life it will dispense to the people. Yes, the old "building" is being demolished in preparation for the new, even the long-promised kingdom of Christ, and this is a necessary part of the work of the new day.

Not Coming, But Here

THE joyful sound of truth concerning the seed, the Messiah, the great King of glory, proclaimed to the ancient servants of God that the coming of the promised One was future. The apostles rejoiced to realize that the antitypical David had come and had died as the world's Redeemer. Yet he returned to the heavenly courts; and now they also looked forward to his coming, his second coming, when he would set up his kingdom, and when through him all the families of the earth would be blessed.

But now his second coming is a reality. We are not looking for that event, for it is in the past. Through the sure "Word of

prophecy," we have seen him as the "Chief Reaper" in the "harvest" which "is the end of the age." We are rejoicing in the "meat in due season" which he has served to the "household of faith." Because he has come, the joyful sound of truth has become more joyful than ever.

Through the prophecies we also see earth's new King destroying the "kingdoms of this world." Yes, our King is indeed "marching on," even as we sing. Yes, Christ is come, and this inspiring note is added to the joyful sound of truth, the new song which the Lord has permitted us to hear, appreciate and understand, and has commissioned us to sing. And may we sing this song with all the volume and enthusiasm we can muster. No music as harmonious or sweet, and soul stirring has ever before been heard. Not only does this joyful sound cause our hearts to rejoice, but our rejoicing increases as we sing this new song aloud, that hearing ears everywhere may be glad with us.

"With this blessed hope before us,
Let no harp remain unstrung;
Let the mighty ransomed chorus
Onward roll from tongue to tongue."

This is a digest of an article which appeared in our July, 1949 issue, and now republished by request.

"This Thing is from Me"

STATEMENTS such as this, made by the Lord to his people, should bring home to us with blessed reality the fact that everything which concerns us is of even greater concern to the Lord, and that he is qualified to know what is best for us. Of his ancient people the Lord said, "Thou wast precious in my sight." (Isa. 43:4)

Can we doubt that the same is true of us? Through his Word the Lord is whispering these same reassurances of his love to us. This should enhance the value of our every experience, as daily we seek to carry out our covenant of sacrifice.

Do we have temptations? Well, the Lord knows about them, and

has promised that when they become too severe he will provide a way of escape. (I Cor. 10:13) So, he might well be saying to us:

"I want you to know that when the enemy comes in like a flood, this thing is from Me, and that I have permitted it in order that you might realize more fully your own weaknesses, and learn to depend more confidently upon My grace to help in your every time of need. (Heb. 4:16) I want you to learn that your safety as a new creature in Christ depends upon your looking to Me for strength, for while I want you to do the best you can to fight off all the enemies which assail you as a new creature, I want you to realize also that the battle is not won by those who think they are strong apart from Me, but by those who look to Me to do their fighting for them."

To have faith that God's hand is in all our affairs, it is essential to keep in mind that he is training us for the great work of the future. One of the necessary lessons to learn in order to be qualified for this exalted office is that of humility, and it may be that the Lord will use very commonplace experiences to teach us humility. To those of us who need such an experience, the Lord may be saying:

"Are your surroundings in life such as are humiliating to bear? Has your lot been cast with people who do not appreciate you, nor understand you; people who never consider your preferences, nor your tastes, and who are always putting you in the background, and them-

selves in front? Do not blame your associations, this thing is from Me. I am with you in all your humiliations, helping you to bear them and from them, to learn the needed lessons. I am training you to be a ruler, to exercise tremendous responsibility; but I want you to do it for My glory, not your own. So remember, dear child of Mine, you are not in your present environment by accident, it is from Me, for I knew that only under such circumstances can you be properly trained for kingdom glory."

Again, and to some of us the Lord may be saying:

"Are you in financial difficulties? Are you finding it more and more difficult to 'make both ends meet'? This thing, too, is from Me, for I want you to put your trust more fully in Me and to realize that I know exactly what is best for you. I realize that it may be embarrassing at times not to have all the money you think you need. The lesson I am endeavoring to teach you is that of trust in Me and in My ability to provide all your needs; and a joyful acquiescence in your lot in life which I am permitting, for this thing is from Me."

Are we passing through a night-time of sorrow, due to the loss of some beloved one, or to circumstances which seemingly no one can understand? Again we hear the Lord saying:

"This thing is from Me. I have permitted earthly comforters to fail you in order that you might learn to look to Me for consolation. Perhaps you have not realized—but I have—that as long as you had all your dear ones with you and your

trusted friends were always able to console you in your trials, you didn't think of Me very often. But at one time you made a covenant with Me, and I accepted you into My family. You have been very dear to Me. I have wanted to do more for you, to bless you more richly, but you were getting along so well, your life was so filled with your friends, and you were so satisfied with your successes, that I was largely shut out of your thoughts and ways. You didn't realize your need of Me. I do not rejoice in your trials, but I know, and you will learn, that in turning to Me you will find comfort and solace beyond anything your earthly friends could possibly furnish. I want you to know that I am your everlasting portion, and I want you to draw nigh to Me in order that I might draw nigh unto you."—James 4:8

Has someone circulated falsehoods about us, belittling our abilities perhaps, or even misrepresenting our characters? The Lord permits these experiences also, for they are among the all things which, by his overruling, are working together for our good. From this standpoint, therefore, he might very well be saying:

"Leave those who misrepresent you to Me. I will deal with them according to their responsibility in the matter. There is a lesson in this experience, a lesson which I want you to learn. It is another way in which you can learn the much needed lesson of humility—Christ-like humility. In this experience 'consider Him that endured such

contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.' (Heb. 12:3) When Jesus was contradicted, yes, even when he was reviled while hanging on the cross, he reviled not again, committing himself rather into My care and keeping; and this is what I want you to do."

Even though we have covenanted to do the Heavenly Father's will, we sometimes go along from day to day making our own plans, and neglecting to take into consideration whether or not our plans are in harmony with his will. Of course we want him to bless the plans we make, and if he does not, then we wonder why. Again let us hear the voice of the Lord, for he may be saying to us:

"Have your plans been all upset? This thing is from Me. It was well that you asked Me to bless your plans, but in your consecration to Me you expressed your determination to do My will, to follow the plans that I would make for you. I have been ready at all times to direct your steps, but often you have not given Me an opportunity to do so, and now that your own arrangements are not working out so well, I want you to know the reason, and try to do the better way, that is, to consult Me with respect to every detail of your life. I can assure you that when you do this, My blessing will make you rich—rich in peace and joy, and in the realization that I am ever by your side, and that I will withhold no good thing from you as long as you walk uprightly."—Psalm 84:11

Under the burden of care, we are apt to wonder why we do not have the joy and peace in the Lord that once enriched our lives. In our distress we turn to the Lord, and through his Word hear him say:

"This thing is from Me. I have been telling you right along that you should cast all your care upon Me, for I am abundantly able to take the responsibility for the successful outcome of every service I ask you to render for Me. (I Pet. 5:7) Not only do I want you to ascertain My will with respect to all the affairs of your consecrated life, but doing this, to let Me also be responsible for the outcome. Then you will have peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Every truly consecrated child of God is alert to serve him and his people in any and every way possible. Those who do not desire to be active in his service may very well doubt the genuineness of their consecration. However, for many the opportunities of service often seem quite limited. We long to do more for the Lord than we are doing, or have the opportunity to do. It may be through lack of physical strength; or it may be due to obligations toward those for whom the Lord expects us to care; it may be financial inability, or other handicaps. Do we, then, wonder why it is that, although our hearts long to do much in the Lord's service, we are deprived of the opportunity? In this experience

also, the Lord may very well be saying to us:

"This thing is from Me. I know of your desire to do some great work for Me, and yet I have permitted you to be laid aside on a bed of weakness and pain, for there is a lesson in this which is most essential for you to learn. Deep down in your heart, why are you so anxious to be busy in My service? Is your motive entirely that of love for Me, for the brethren, and for all who may be blessed at your hands through the ministry of the truth? If there is the slightest trace of a motive in your heart that is not unselfish and pure, prosperity in My service would be very injurious to you, and I love you too much to permit you to be injured.

"And then, in order for Me to bless you in My service, it is essential that you lean upon Me for strength, and look to Me for guidance. This experience of waiting, which you are now having, will help you to realize your own weakness, and your great need of Me. My strength will be made perfect in your weakness, but only if you realize your weakness. (II Cor. 12:9) When you come to the point where you tremble when you think of self, and realize how very little you can do for Me in your own strength, then I will be able to use you for doing great things for Me—if not this side of the veil, then surely when I have exalted you to glory to live and reign with My beloved Son.

"And if, in My providence, it takes all your time and strength and means to meet your responsibilities toward those depending

upon you, this thing is from Me, too. If you discharge your responsibilities as unto Me, I will accept your service as though it were done directly in My vineyard. I know that in your heart you want to render direct service to Me, and that is proper. I delight in that attitude, and will be very near to you and bless you. But keep alert; it may be that the time will come when I will open the way for you to serve Me in more direct ways. Watch and pray lest you settle down into a life of worldly indifference simply because at present you are deprived of the privilege of working directly for Me.

"If, in your case, it is a matter of wishing that you had large sums of money you could devote to My service; well, I appreciate that, but what are you doing with that little bit you do have? I have been saying over and over again to My people that those who are faithful in that which is least will be faithful also in that which is much. (Luke 16:10) After all, dear child of Mine, My most important consideration for you is that you prove faithful, and you can do that with a few pennies just as well as though you possessed a large fortune which could be devoted to My service."

The Lord's providences over his people are truly marvelous. Frequently those who have had little or no opportunity for service, suddenly find that glorious privileges in the harvest open up before them. These changes of circumstances should also be accepted as coming from the Lord; so again we hear him saying to us:

"This thing is from Me. You have

profited as a new creature by your past position in life, and now I have answered your prayers for greater opportunities of service. But it is well to remember that you will need My help now more than ever before; for, in the use of these larger privileges of service, there may be a tendency for you to develop a feeling of self-sufficiency. I want you to keep close to Me and to be very attentive to all of My instructions. I want you to tremble at My Word, not in fear of what I might do to you, but because you are anxious lest a promise being left you of entering into a full rest of faith in the doing of My will, you should even seem to come short of it.—Heb. 4:1

"So dear consecrated child of Mine, since you have agreed to acknowledge Me in all your ways (Prov. 3:6), just remember that I am directing you in all things, and that there isn't a single experience that comes into your life of which I am not aware, and have either permitted it or ordered it because I knew that it would be for your good as a child and heir of Mine, and a joint-heir with My beloved Son, Jesus. (Rom. 8:16, 17) Never doubt My interest in you, nor My ability to care for you. As each new blessing comes to you, as trials weigh down upon you, keep your ears attuned for My reassuring message. This thing is from Me. Yes, from Me, the God of your salvation, the God of mercy and abundant grace, who daily lifts up His countenance upon thee to give thee peace."—Num. 6:24-26

Reassuring indeed are the Lord's words, as he talks to us out of the Scriptures.

Vineyard Echoes and Prospects

MANY joys result from serving the Lord. The service itself is a joy, and that joy is increased as we can see evidences of the Lord's blessing upon the efforts we make to show forth his praises. This is as it should be, for we are now being prepared for the future world-wide work of reconciliation, when we will have the privilege of causing the knowledge of the Lord to fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.—Isa. 11:9

Every individual disciple is called to be an ambassador of Christ. (II Cor. 5:14—6:1) We are invited to lay down our lives in his service. Following in the footsteps of Jesus is not merely a case of living a righteous life while we are waiting to grow old and die. We are, indeed, called to righteousness, and with the merit of Christ serving as a "robe" to cover the unwilling imperfections of the flesh, we are to continue presenting our "bodies living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God," and with the realization that this is the only reasonable thing we can do in view of God's great love for us.—Rom. 12:1

As individual servants of the Lord, there are various ways in which we can, and do, labor together in his "vineyard," co-operating in various aspects of the work which would be beyond our ability, as individuals. The brethren of The Dawn are pleased thus to co-operate with their brethren in these national, and sometimes international, efforts to proclaim the glorious Gospel of the kingdom. Having had many opportunities along this line during the year beginning with October 1, 1959, and ending September 30, 1960, we are glad to publish a brief report of these activities we have shared together.

The Dawn Magazine

SO FAR as The Dawn Magazine itself is concerned, there is little to report concerning it. Shall we say that each month The

Dawn is its own report. However, more and more of the brethren are finding that the regular visits of The Dawn through the course of a year constitute a very effective witness for the truth, and are sending in subscriptions for their friends and relatives. Through association with the brethren, and by mail, we frequently learn of those whose first contact with the truth was through the pages of The Dawn.

Because of the enthusiastic voluntary service of The Dawn staff, both in the office and printing plant, we have been able throughout the years to continue providing in each monthly issue of the magazine approximately twice as much reading matter as otherwise would be possible, and at no increase in the one dollar a year subscription rate. This is an encouraging example of what can be accomplished in the publishing field through the co-operation of consecrated hands and hearts.

Because of this large volume of material we are able to publish each month, coverage of a variety of subject matter is possible. There is room for devotional and doctrinal articles, particularly suitable for those who are well established in the truth. There is also room for articles on one aspect or another of the divine plan—articles especially designed for beginners in the truth, and as a witness to those who may never have heard the good news of the kingdom.

There is also room for articles dealing with the “signs of the times.” We are hopeful that 1961 will see more articles of this nature in The Dawn. However, it is not our purpose to speculate on the meaning of prophecies which are not yet fulfilled. Nor will we attempt to associate all the current details of world events with one or more of the Bible’s prophecies, except, of course, in cases when the application is so obvious as to leave little room for doubt.

Beginning with the March issue, there will be a series of articles dealing with Jesus’ parables. We trust that all our readers will find these articles spiritually profitable. The first one will deal with “The Parable of the Sower,” and the second, “The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares.”

There will also be a “Vineyard Echoes” section wherein we will endeavor to report from time to time various items of in-

terest with respect to the general work; and also especially interesting experiences of individual brethren and ecclesias. We will be glad to learn of experiences which will be of encouragement to the brethren generally, and we will pass along through "Vineyard Echoes" as many of them as we can.

There will be, as usual, the radio, television, and speakers' schedules; also the announcements of local, district, and general conventions. The announcements of books and booklets are important for those who are becoming interested in the truth. All these "good things" should, we think, make The Dawn an effective instrument for bearing witness to the truth, and for helping to build up the brethren in the most holy faith.

It is our hope that The Dawn will continue to be more and more widely used in the harvest field. Are all the "truth people" of your acquaintance receiving The Dawn? Are your friends and relatives to whom you have witnessed the truth receiving it? If you are being blessed by the ministry of The Dawn, you will want to share your blessings with others.

The Radio Ministry

AS ALL are aware, the radio ministry of the truth continued throughout the year. Beginning with the first week of November, 1959, a group of nearly sixty stations of the ABC Network was added to the list, and these were carried for an entire year. Many new listeners were thus reached. However, the situation in the radio field is undergoing change, and it is not possible to use as many stations as we did in the past.

But the Lord is still blessing the radio ministry. Throughout the year many thousands of requests for literature were received, and many have rejoiced to find the truth. The volume of mail response is not nearly so great now as it was before the advent of television, as is reflected in our statistical report, but is, nevertheless, encouraging, and indicates that the radio ministry should be continued. A more complete analysis of the radio work and prospects will be found in The Dawn for last October.

The Television Ministry

A RATHER full report of the television work and prospects was also published in The Dawn for October, 1960. We will add

here, that four more new half-hour films have now been completed and are already in use, and that more are in the course of preparation. For the time being, at least, we are not purchasing time on TV stations for the showing of the films, but are contacting as many stations as possible with the view of having the programs televised without charge. Thus far the Lord is blessing this effort.

In discussing the television ministry in *The Dawn*, we have from time to time mentioned the efforts of the Chicago Ecclesia along this line. Recently the Chicago brethren voted to turn over their films to *The Dawn* to help augment our series of fifteen-minute programs. We appreciate very much this hearty spirit of co-operation on the part of our Chicago brethren. We have found, thus far without exception, that when time on a television station is made available for our programs, the station managers will keep that spot available for us as long as we can continue to supply films. So the gift of the Chicago films will be a big help in expanding the television witness.

Public Meetings

THE opportunities for holding public meetings is still with us, and while the attendance at these meetings is not so great as it was years ago, nevertheless it is sufficiently large to make these efforts very encouraging. Our statistical report reveals that during the year many thousands heard the truth at public meetings, so let us keep up this good work!

Preparations are now being made to provide film presentations of the truth for "public meeting" use. Two of our new TV films which are now in course of preparation will be produced in color for this purpose. The two films will, together, provide an hour's presentation of the truth. While all the arrangements for the use of these films have not yet been completed, we are hopeful of being able to provide projectors and arrange for brethren to use them, so that the friends in almost any part of the country may avail themselves of this service.

Ordinarily we think of public meetings as being held in auditoriums, but in this day of small things it has been found that friends and neighbors will often come to a private home to hear

a message of truth. We believe that this will be particularly true with respect to the contemplated film presentations. While we cannot at this time promise a starting date for the use of our new films for this purpose, we will be glad to hear from any of the brethren who would like to arrange for one or more showings in their neighborhood.

Magazine Advertising

AS HAS previously been reported, the use of national magazines for advertising free literature is proving to be a worthwhile method of giving a general witness for the truth. The brethren in Great Britain, Germany, and Greece are now using this method, and are being greatly encouraged by the results. During the year ended September 30, 1960, we used the magazine "Grit" in the United States, and "The Family Herald" in Canada, for this purpose. The total response from the two magazines was approximately 1,300. We know of at least one person who has accepted the truth as a result of this effort.

Although outside the fiscal year covered by this report, we will mention that we arranged for an advertisement in LOOK magazine in October. This also brought a good response—more than 1,500. We are still getting requests for literature from the advertisement which appeared in LOOK. We believe that the Lord will be pleased to have us continue to utilize this additional means of bearing witness to the truth, and we will do so as circumstances permit.

The Pilgrim Service

THE service of visiting speakers was richly blessed throughout the year. Brothers J. Y. MacAulay and Samuel Baker were in this service almost continuously, and there were trips of two or more months each by Brothers G. P. Ostrander; Wilfred Price, and R. J. Krupa (Brother Krupa served overseas). Brethren serving for periods of two weeks, and less than two months at a time, were: Everett Murray; J. H. L. Trautfelter; W. A. Baker; W. C. Bertsche; Chester A. Sundbom; Albert Sheppelbaum; Felix S. Wassmann; Charles T. Chambers; Peter Kolliman; Jens Cope-land; Wilfred A. McNee; Arthur H. Krumpolt; Ludlow P. Loomis;

J. A. Meggison; G. R. Pollock; Earl S. Fowler, and Stephen Roskiewicz.

There was also a large number of brethren who filled week-end speaking appointments, and others who served a few days at a time. The services of these were also richly blessed by the Lord, and those whom they served were spiritually refreshed and blessed. The appointments for many of these brethren were made through the Pilgrim Department of The Dawn, and others by several of the larger ecclesias.

Free Literature

FREE literature includes tracts, kingdom cards, radio and public meeting circulars, as well as consolation folders which the brethren mail to relatives of the deceased. Our statistical report reveals that a very large quantity of free literature was printed and distributed during the year. As always, the Lord has blessed this work, and the brethren continue to be enthusiastic in their efforts.

From time to time we add a new tract to our collection, and there is one now available. Its title is, "Israel Fulfilling Prophecy." This is a timely topic, and should appeal to many. We will gladly send samples upon request, or the brethren may order in quantities, as they desire.

Recorded Lecture Service

THIS is one of the newest departments of the work, and it has proved to be a rich blessing to many of the brethren, especially the isolated, and those associated with the smaller ecclesias. During the year approximately 2,800 lectures recorded on tape were sent on loan to those receiving this service. In addition to the United States, some were sent to Canada, some to England, some to Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

In England, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, these are redistributed. If you live in any of these countries, have a tape recorder, and would like to receive these recordings, the addresses are as follows:

DAWN RECORDED LECTURE SERVICE

294 Hume Street, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia
Box 1358, C. P. O. Auckland, New Zealand
15 Southwood Gardens, Ilford, Essex, England
6569 Argyle Street, Vancouver 15, British Columbia, Canada

Wherever you live, The Dawn Recorded Lecture Service is available to you. There are discourses on a wide variety of topics, and by many brethren. Elders from coast to coast, and from England, have co-operated in helping us build up a library of recordings—those suitable for the friends, and others for the public. The recording which is prepared each year for the Memorial Service is especially appreciated, and by a large number of brethren.

We have had requests, and filled them, for funeral discourses. This, of course, has been in situations where it was impossible to secure a speaker in person. In one instance a man made his own funeral arrangements in advance. He had accepted the truth through the radio ministry, and was concerned lest his family might arrange for a minister to conduct his funeral service who would preach eternal torture. He wanted his friends and relatives to hear the truth instead.

The Follow-up Work

THE work of calling on those who have requested free literature is being continued by a considerable number of the brethren, and in many parts of the country, and rich blessings are reported. The endeavor made in these calls is to stimulate whatever interest the free literature may have engendered, and to put additional literature into the hands of those who desire it.

Many copies of "The Divine Plan of the Ages" are distributed through these personal calls. When circumstances indicate it, the brethren also introduce The Dawn Magazine. If you have not participated in this work, but have the opportunity to do so, we suggest strongly that you try it. A blessing awaits you.

Booths at Fairs

FOR most of the brethren this is a new opportunity of service that seems to be opening up, although the friends in California

have maintained a booth at the Sacramento State Fair for a number of years, and with an encouraging measure of success. Now this service is being taken up by the brethren in other parts of the country. The Chicago Ecclesia maintained booths at a number of fairs throughout the Central West in 1960; and the friends in Connellsville, Pennsylvania, had a literature booth at a nearby county fair. The Phoenix, Arizona, brethren also participated in this service in their area.

In the East, a number of ecclesias in the New England area arranged for a booth at the "Eastern States Fair," which was held in West Springfield, Massachusetts. The blessings enjoyed through this effort were such that plans are already being made for extended efforts along this line during 1961.

For some time the brethren of The Dawn have been investigating the possibility and advisability of maintaining an exhibit at the New York World's Fair, which will be held during 1964 and 1965. If this becomes possible it should result in virtually a world-wide witness for the truth. Much preparation will be required, and in many ways. Truth literature in various languages will be needed. We mention the matter here merely that the brethren everywhere may be thinking and praying about it. If it materializes, we will need the co-operation of the brethren generally to make it a success. Many helpers will be needed, and the financial cost will be high. It may not be possible at all, but it is a joy merely to contemplate such a project for the Lord and his truth.

A Good Year

ALL in all, 1960 was a good year from the standpoint of the Lord's service. There were discouragements. Jesus and the apostles experienced these also. So have all the Lord's people in every part of the age. We do not expect that the Lord will deal with us any differently than he did with others whom he called to run for the prize of the high calling.

But let us continue to rejoice in whatever experiences the Lord in his wisdom may permit, for, as our Morning Resolve states, "faith can firmly trust him, come what may." Years ago some of the Lord's people used the expression, "Pushing the

Gospel cart up Zion's hill." It is symbolic, of course, but it does remind us of the privilege we have of putting our "shoulder to the wheel" while "together" we sing the great theme song of Zion, even the loving-kindness of our God, as revealed through his divine plan of the ages. The statistical report follows:

STATISTICAL "GOOD HOPES" REPORT

October 1, 1959—September 30, 1960

	Receipts	Expenditures
General Fund	73,447.23	
Radio Fund	65,185.05	111,193.00
Television Fund	12,212.53	33,559.14
Traveling Speakers' Fund	5,897.68	7,621.57
Overseas Fund	20,388.51	19,583.59
Recorded Lecture Fund	326.50	520.00
Free Literature Fund	2,069.67	11,625.00
Subscription Fund	291.68	300.00
Publications, Subscriptions, Etc.	24,757.38	34,193.00
Bequests	12,755.47	
Total Receipts and Expenditures	217,331.70	218,595.30

FREE LITERATURE: During the year 10,783,730 tract pages of free literature were provided, made up of tracts, kingdom cards, public meeting cards, radio and TV circulars, and consolation folders.

FREE BOOKLETS: Approximately 55,000 free booklets were mailed in response to requests from the radio and television audiences; and from tracts, kingdom cards, circulars, consolation folders, and magazine advertisements.

MEETINGS SERVED: Class meetings numbering 1,459 with a total attendance of 70,262 were served. There were also 60 public meetings, with a total attendance of 6,939.

Further details concerning the various aspects of the general ministry are presented in the article, "Vineyard Echoes," beginning on page 1. We seek an interest in the prayers of the brethren everywhere that we may use whatever funds are donated to the Lord's glory, and to the blessing of his people.

'Frank and Ernest'

BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Sundays Unless Otherwise Noted

ALABAMA

Birmingham WSGN 610 9:45 a.m.
Calera WBYE 11:05 a.m.
Decatur WMSL 1400 12:15 p.m.

ARIZONA

Phoenix KOOL 960 8:45 a.m.

ARKANSAS

Helena KFFA 1360 11:05 a.m.
Jonesboro KBTM 1230 12:05 p.m.
Magnolia KVMA 630 12:00 noon

CALIFORNIA

Chico KPAY 1060 10:30 a.m.
El Centro-Calexico

KICO 1490 10:30 a.m.
Los Angeles KABC 790 10:45 a.m.
Marysville KMYC 1410 10:30 a.m.
Napa KVON 1440 10:30 a.m.
Paso Robles KPRL 1230 10:30 a.m.
San Francisco KGO 810 10:15 a.m.
San Luis Obispo KVEC 920 6:30 p.m.
Tulare-Visalia KCOK 1270 10:30 a.m.

CONNECTICUT

Waterbury WWCO 1240 2:05 p.m.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington WOL 1450 11:00 a.m.

FLORIDA

Belle Glade WSWN 900 12:05 p.m.
Daytona Beach WROD 1340 12:05 p.m.
New Smyrna Beach
WSBB 1230 12:05 p.m.
Palatka WSUZ 800 12:05 p.m.

GEORGIA

Atlanta WGUN 1010 12:00 noon
Savannah WCCP 1450 12:15 p.m.
Thomson WTTA 1240 12:05 p.m.

ILLINOIS

Chicago-Evanston
WEAW 1330 9:15 a.m.

IOWA

Clinton KROS 1340 7:15 p.m.

KENTUCKY

Bowling Green WLBj 1410 12:15 p.m.
Louisville WTMT 620 10:00 a.m.
Newport WNOP 740 9:00 a.m.
Winchester WWKY 1380 10:30 a.m.

MAINE

Bangor WABI 910 12:05 p.m.

MASSACHUSETTS

New Bedford WBSM 1420 11:00 p.m.
Orange WCAT 1390 9:15 a.m.

MICHIGAN

Detroit WKMH 1310 10:00 a.m.
Grand Rapids WMAX 1480 9:05 a.m.
Muskegon WMUS 1090 12:05 p.m.
Saginaw WSGW 790 10:30 a.m.

MINNESOTA

Duluth-Superior WQMN 1480 11:05 a.m.
Long Prairie KEYL 11:05 a.m.
Minneapolis KEVE 1440 11:05 a.m.

MISSOURI

Hannibal KHMO 1070 11:05 a.m.
Joplin WMBH 1420 12:15 p.m.
Kansas City KCMO 810 9:30 a.m.
St. Louis KXOK 630 8:15 a.m.

MONTANA

Miles City KATL 1340 9:15 a.m.

NEVADA

Reno KBET 1340 10:30 a.m.

NEW JERSEY

Atlantic City WLDB 12:05 p.m.
Newark WNTA 970 10:00 a.m.

NEW MEXICO

Roswell KGFL 1400 10:05 a.m.
Silver City KSIL 1340 11:15 a.m.

BROADCAST SCHEDULE**NEW YORK**

Albany	WOKO	1460	12:05	noon
Babylon	WGLI	1290	9:30	a.m.
Jamestown	WJOC	1340	12:05	p.m.
Malone	WICY	1490	12:05	p.m.
New York	WNTA	970	10:00	a.m.
Rochester	WHEC	1460	11:05	a.m.
Syracuse	WSOQ	8:30	a.m.	

NORTH CAROLINA

Beaufort	WBMA	1400	9:00	a.m.
Belmont-Charlotte				
	WCGC	1270	12:30	p.m.
Elizabeth City	WGAI	560	12:05	p.m.
Fuquay Springs	WFVG	1460	12:05	p.m.
Leaksville	WLOE	1490	12:05	p.m.
New Bern	WHIT	1450	12:05	p.m.

OHIO

Akron-Canton	WHLC	640	7:30	a.m.
Cincinnati	WNOP	740	9:00	a.m.
Piqua	WPTW	1570	12:45	p.m.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City	KTOK	1000	10:05	a.m.
Tulsa	KTUL	1430	11:05	a.m.

OREGON

Astoria	KAST	1280	10:30	a.m.
Portland	KGON	1520	9:30	a.m.
The Dalles	KODL	1230	9:15	a.m.

PENNSYLVANIA

Allentown	WHOL	1600	12:05	p.m.
Pittsburgh	WEPP	1080	12:05	p.m.
Scranton	WICK	1400	12:05	p.m.
Tyrone-Altoona	WTRN	1290	12:05	p.m.
Washington	WJPA	1450	12:05	p.m.
Wellsboro	WNBT	1490	12:05	p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Bennettsville	WBSC	1550	12:45	p.m.
Charleston	WOKE	1340	12:35	p.m.

TENNESSEE

Memphis	KWEM	990	12:00	noon
Nashville	WNAH	1360	12:00	noon

TEXAS

Lampasas	KCYL	1450	12:45	p.m.
Livingston	KLBS	1220	8:45	a.m.
Lubbock	KDAV	580	9:45	a.m.
Pampa	KPDN	1340	11:05	a.m.
Sherman-Dennison				
	KRRV	910	11:05	a.m.
Wichita Falls	KWFT	620	10:15	a.m.

UTAH

Salt Lake City	KSOP	1370	9:30	a.m.
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VIRGINIA

Charlottesville	WCHV	1260	12:05	p.m.
Richmond	WLEE	1480	9:45	a.m.
Waynesboro	WAYB	1490	12:05	p.m.

WASHINGTON

Bellingham	KPUG	1170	11:15	a.m.
Centralia-Chehalis				
	KELA	1470	10:30	a.m.
Olympia	KGY	1240	10:30	a.m.
Seattle	KTW	1250	1:30	p.m.
Spokane	KLYK	1230	10:30	a.m.
Tacoma	KTNT	1400	10:00	a.m.

WEST VIRGINIA

Huntington	WPLH	1470	10:15	a.m.
Wheeling	WWVA	1170	9:30	a.m.

WISCONSIN

Eau Claire	WBIZ	1400	11:05	a.m.
Fond du Lac	KFIZ	1450	11:05	a.m.
Janesville	WCLO	1230	11:00	a.m.
Reedsburg	WRDB	1400	11:45	a.m.
Showano	WTCH	960	9:30	a.m.

WYOMING

Cheyenne	KVWO	1370	10:05	a.m.
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CANADA

Calgary, Alta.	CKXL	1140	10:45	a.m.
Corner Brook, Nfld.				
	CFCB	570	10:30	a.m.
Hamilton, Ont.	CHML	900	9:45	a.m.
Prince Albert, Sask.	CKBI	900	10:30	a.m.
St. John's, Nfld.	VOCM	590	10:30	a.m.
Vancouver, B. C.	CJOR	600	9:00	a.m.
Dauphin, Man.	CKDM	730	10:30	a.m.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

THE MEMORIAL SUPPER: The date for the 1961 Memorial Supper is Thursday evening, March 30. There will be a Memorial Supper article in the March issue of The Dawn, entitled, "In the Upper Room."

A NEW TRACT: The Highlights of Dawn article in this issue, entitled, "Israel Fulfilling Prophecy," will be available in tract form for free distribution. You are invited to order as many as you can use. There is no charge.

TELEVISION FOLDERS: We will gladly furnish folders for announcing The Bible Answers television programs wherever they may be shown, and in any quantity desired. This is a golden opportunity for service when these programs are televised in your area.

THE 1961 GENERAL CONVENTION: It is not too early to begin making plans to attend the 1961 General Convention. It will again be held in Bloomington, Indiana, and the date is August 5-10.

THE RADIO MINISTRY: A number of additional stations have been added to the "Frank and Ernest" schedule since the list was published last month. If these programs have not been heard recently in your area we suggest that you check the schedule on the two preceding pages. It may be that there is now a station in your territory. Advertising circulars are also available to announce these programs. See page 64.

TV LISTING

Half-hour Programs

- Steubenville, O.—WSTV-TV, Channel 9, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Chico, Calif.—KHSL-TV, Channel 12, Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
El Paso, Texas—KELP-TV, Channel 13, Saturdays. (Hour to be announced later.)
Buffalo, N. Y.—WKBW-TV, Channel 7, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Alexandria, Minn.—KCMT-TV, Channel 7, Sundays, 12:00 noon.
Hastings, Neb.—KHAS-TV, Channel 5. The program will be used as a fill-in until a regular time is available.
Victoria, B. C.—CHEK-TV, Channel 6, Sundays, 3:30 p.m.
Salt Lake City, Utah—KUTV-TV, Channel 2, Sundays, 11:00 a.m.
Springfield, Mass.—WHYN-TV, Channel 40, Sundays, 12:00 noon.

Fifteen-minute Programs

- London, Ontario—CFPL-TV, Channel 10, alternate Sundays, 12:00 noon.
Spokane, Wash.—KREM-TV, Channel 2, Saturdays, 10:45 a.m.
Kansas City, Mo.—WDAF-TV, Channel 4, Sundays, 11:45 a.m.

RADIO TOPICS FOR JANUARY

- 1—"The Word of God"
8—"Worlds and Ages"
15—"Our Day in Prophecy"
22—"The Seed of Blessing"
29—"The Bible's Harmonious Message"

A Lamp in the Darkness

**"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
(Psalm 119:105) "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."
—I John 1:5**

GOD'S intelligent creatures, angels and men in harmony with him, are represented as enjoying the light of his presence. Father Adam, when he left the hands of his Creator, enjoyed the light of God's presence to the extent the Creator saw fit to impart such light, and not until sin entered the world did a measure of darkness overtake our first parents.

Darkness stands for sin, ignorance, and erroneous ideas concerning God and his will for his creatures. Indeed, any condition resulting from the loss of a measure of divine favor is one of "darkness." It is only "the path of the just" that "shineth more and more unto the perfect day."—Prov. 4:18

As a result of sin, humanity is taking a long and wearisome journey in the "darkness." The Bible also shows this nighttime is not to last forever. The long experience of man's stumbling in a condition of darkness and alienation from God is to be followed by a day when the light and knowledge of the glory of God shall come to all people.—Isa. 40:5

A Lamp for the Righteous

AS THOSE taking a journey through a perilous country at night realize the great value and advantage of a lamp, so God, realizing the needs of his people, has provided for them a lamp to lighten their pathway. The Psalmist wrote, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet." Again, "The entrance of thy words giveth light." (Ps. 119:130) The light shining from God's Word explains to us the reason for the long reign of darkness and sin in the midst of which we find ourselves; how it all came about, and what remedy will be applied in due time.

When Jesus came to provide the needed sacrifice for sin—so necessary before mankind could be set free—he said: "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." (John 12:46)

The light truly shined in darkness, but the darkness comprehended it not. Jesus came even to his own people, Israel, but "his own received him not." (John 1: 5, 11) And he reproved them, saying: "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."—John 5:40

In spite of the fact that only a remnant of natural Israel received Jesus, the work of redemption—thanks be to the Father—was successfully accomplished. "For since by man [Adam] came death, by man [Christ Jesus] came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (I Cor. 15:21, 22) This making alive is to be followed by the restitution (restoration) of all things, when the willing and obedient will be richly blessed during the thousand years of Christ's kingdom.—Acts 3:21

A Firstfruits—James 1:18

OUR lamp of divine truth shows that before the setting up of Messiah's kingdom and the scattering of the darkness that has covered the earth for the last six thousand years, God's purpose is to take out from the world a "little flock" to be joint-heirs with his Son in the kingdom. (Luke 12:32; Rom. 8:16, 17) This class comes into relationship with God through Christ in spite of all the prevailing darkness, superstition, ignorance, and deception abroad in the earth.

The Apostle Paul declares: "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ... should shine unto them." (II Cor. 4:4) In order that those who now believe and respond to God's grace might see the path of life and be steered safely through all the darkness and deception of this present evil world, God has provided for them the "lamp" of his Word. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet."

The Master said: "He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness." (John 8:12) The Apostle Peter wrote, "We have the prophetic Word more confirmed (by the vision) to which ye do well, taking heed, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawn."—II Pet. 1:19, Diaglott

Jesus, our Head and forerunner, was the first to walk in the narrow way of sacrifice illuminated by the light of God's Word. When at the age of thirty he came to John at Jordan to symbolize his consecration faithfully to carry out the will of his Father even unto death, the language of his heart was that of the Psalmist: "Lo, I come, in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God." (Ps. 40:7, 8; Heb. 10:7) And the Father showed his acceptance of the offering of his well beloved Son, by anointing him with his Holy

Spirit. This caused the "lamp" of God's Word to shine out for him with increased brightness—"I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed."—Ps. 132:17

At Pentecost, as a result of making a similar covenant of sacrifice to do God's will and follow in the footsteps of the Master, the waiting disciples also received the Holy Spirit, making them members of the church, members of the Anointed, members of "the Christ." For these, too, the lamp of the Word began to shine out with increased brightness, as Jesus intimated it would. (John 16: 13) The anointing of the Holy Spirit has also come upon all those since the day of Pentecost, who have come into Christ. Obedience to God's will through a willingness to be led of the Spirit in the narrow way puts, as it were, a "lamp" into our hands whereby we can see wonderful truths in God's Word, marvelous features that are unseen and eternal.

Wandering Into Darkness

AFTER considerable numbers during the lifetime of the apostles had been translated out of darkness into God's marvelous light, and were brought into Christ and received benefit from the lamp of divine truth which had shone so brightly, there came a change. After the apostles had passed away, Satan, in a particular sense, began a series of continuous and

resolute attacks upon the faith once delivered unto the saints, with a view to putting out the bright light of divine truth shining forth from God's holy Word.

Addressing the elders of the church of Ephesus, Paul said: "After my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:29, 30) The result was that after a few centuries, as both prophecy and history show, the professed church of Christ got into a condition of confusion, worldliness, darkness; and that period is now looked back upon as the Dark Ages.

However, God having purposed to take out from the world "a people for his name" to be partakers of the divine nature, and joint-heirs with Christ in the millennial kingdom for the blessing of all families of the earth, he could not under any consideration allow this feature of his great plan to fail. (Acts 15:14; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:29) Hence we find that after a few centuries of great darkness, God, through the direction of the great Head of the church—Christ Jesus—raised up, from time to time, special servants, through whom important features of the inspired Word were, by degrees, uncovered from the rubbish of the Dark Ages, and

the lamp of divine truth was gradually made to shine more and more brightly for the fully consecrated children of God. But the world is still a "dark" place respecting divine truth.

The Traditions of Men

AT VARIOUS times during the history of the Christian church, able and learned men have been drawn to Christianity by some of its naturally attractive and desirable features, and have become its nominal adherents. Instead of coming to the Word of God as a little child, there has been an approach to it from the angle of earthly learning and the wisdom of man.

Some of the saddest and most extreme conclusions of modernism have been reached by those who think that some of the erroneous and unreasonable teachings of the creeds have the support of certain statements in the Bible. The many traditions of men which have floated down from earlier ages, particularly those which contradict the Word of God, have great weight with vast masses of people today, causing faith in the inspired Word to be sadly lacking.

Scribes and Pharisees of old were reproved by Jesus in these words: "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" "Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradi-

tion." (Matt. 15:3, 6) And the Apostle Paul has given timely warning to the true church: "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."—Col. 2:8

The Meek

REGARDING the light of God's Word shining with increased brightness for the guidance and sanctification of the footstep followers of Jesus, the truth of Psalm 25:9 should always be remembered, "The **meek** will he guide in judgment: and the **meek** will he teach his way." Evidently it has seemed best, from the divine standpoint, to hide the deep things of God from the wise and prudent, and to reveal them only unto babes. (Matt. 11:25) So, in spite of great activity and deception of the Adversary to prevent the execution of the divine plan, the Lord's purposes of grace and truth have gone successfully forward.

For the true child of God, the light of the "lamp" continues to shine with increasing brightness, as the Scriptures indicate it would do. For these, the trustful followers of Jesus, possessing hearts open to receive the wisdom that comes from above, the "lamp," God's Word, illuminates the narrow way to life, and shows up the pitfalls and danger spots

along the Christian way, none of which could be discerned merely by worldly wisdom. "God is the Lord, which hath showed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, unto the horns of the altar."—Psalm 118:27

Burning and Shining Lights

TRUE Christians should be burning and shining lights in the world and amongst all with whom they have to do. The exhortation is: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works ["good business," Young], and glorify your Father which is in heaven." "Shine ye as lights in the world, holding forth the Word of life." (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15, 16, margin) As the Bible is the lamp provided by the Lord for all those who walk in the narrow way, so each of these in turn is a lamp which should shed forth upon others the light, the knowledge, and the spirit of the truth.

The Holy Spirit of truth is not at present being poured out upon all mankind, but merely upon the Lord's servants and handmaidens. It is an anointing for these, and upon these, evidencing to them that they have been begotten to the new nature, and making of them light bearers for the benefit of others. They are burning and shining lights, sympathetic and helpful lights, so that they might show forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness

into his marvelous light of truth. —I Pet. 2:9

While keeping our lamps trimmed and burning, seeking to glorify God as lights in the world, we must not forget that the Bible assures us that we shall be no more successful now in converting the world than was our Master. His perfect, pure light shone in darkness, "and the darkness comprehended it not." (John 1:5) The religionists of his day instigated his crucifixion.

It is a mistake, therefore, to suppose that the Lord's consecrated people, letting their light shine faithfully before men, could convert the world. Such was not God's intention. The church, not the world, is in a special sense being tested at the present time. The opposition of the world, and the evil spiritual powers of darkness serve to test us as "new creatures," to test our loyalty to God and to his truth.

Whoever receives the light of truth intelligently must rejoice in it; and, rejoicing in it, he must let it shine out upon others. Should he cover his light with a bushel, he will demonstrate his lack of courage, lack of appreciation, lack of earnestness—qualities which the Lord is now specially seeking in those whom he has invited to be sharers with Jesus in the glories of the mediatorial kingdom to be established soon. It is important, there-

fore, that we give light before men; that we be willing, indeed glad, if need be, to suffer for our loyalty to the Lord and to his message.

Light to Dispel All Darkness

"THE light of the world is Jesus." "That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." (John 1:9) Thus far Jesus has not been dealing with the world in this respect, but merely with the blessed ones who have the eye of faith and the ear of faith. "Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." (Matt. 13:16) The time for the enlightenment of the world will be after the special "Gospel Age" call of the church.

Then the church, as the bride, will be with the heavenly Bridegroom in his throne. Then, all now found faithful in the matter of letting their light shine, and in making their calling and election sure, will be associated with the heavenly, glorified, great Light, Jesus, as members of his body.

It is now mankind's daily experience to witness that the day repeatedly follows the night, and at the dawn of every morning to see the sunrise scatter the darkness. So, on a far greater and more wonderful scale, the long night-time of sin, sorrow, pain and death, is to be followed by

the long-prayed-for, and sorely needed millennial day, when the great Sun of Righteousness—the Christ, head and body—will arise with healing in its wings for the blessing of all the families of the earth.—Mal. 4:2

"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." (Matt. 13:43) Because of that glorious sun, sorrow and sighing will flee away; ignorance and superstition will vanish; sin and darkness will be no more; every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

In due time the light of the completed work of the Millennial Age, when "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea," will be fully realized by all. (Hab. 2:14) Then all the willing and obedient will know him fully—from the least unto the greatest. (Jer. 31:34) We can indeed rejoice in the vision of that wonderful time as described by the Revelator: "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." And again, "There shall be night no more; and they need no light of lamp, neither light of sun: for the Lord God shall give them light."—Rev. 21:4; 22:5, R. V.

Encouraging Letters

Dear Brethren: Warmest brotherly greetings in our Saviour's name. I have no need to tell you how delighted I was to receive your long letter containing so much information about the results of your advertising efforts. The latest booklet you are offering, that is, "Life After Death," is beautiful. I like it very much. Could you please send me fifty copies. Also, kindly let me have fifty copies of "Israel in History and Prophecy." I shall be glad also to receive a thousand tracts. I will do my best to get them distributed. Pushing tracts through letter boxes may be an old-fashioned method of disseminating the message of truth, but you never know who may read one, and how it may be passed around. We are living in exciting times. Men are talking, and asking, and wondering about the increasing ferment and uproar in

their world. Everything that has been stable, settled, and accepted as normal, is being challenged, exposed, and shaken. People are wanting to know the why and wherefore of this rumpus, so I await your printed matter. What we can do is to bear our fervent, but feeble witness to the truth by all the ways and means at our disposal. Grant that our Father will give us continued grace and joy in doing what we can to honor his great name.—T. W., England

Dear Brethren: Greetings in the Master's name! Thank you very much for your interesting letter keeping us in touch with the work in which we have so much delight. The Gospel of the kingdom must be preached. Our brethren in the U. S. A. have been very generous to provide this literature for us, so we must do our part by distributing it. "Ye are the light of the world," let us thus therefore continue to show forth our Father's praises, and glorify his name.—H. B., England

SPEAKERS' APPOINTMENTS

G. A. FORD

Letchworth	Jan.	8
Dewsbury	Feb.	5
Eastleigh		12
Luton		26

J. H. MURRAY

Ipswich	Jan.	8
Luton		22

W. F. READER

Letchworth	Feb.	5
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AVAILABLE IN GREAT BRITAIN: All books and booklets listed on pages 32 and 33 are available in Great Britain, and also the six volumes of "Studies in the Scriptures." The prices are:

Five cent booklets, three pence; ten cent booklets, six pence; fifty cent books, 2/6; one dollar books, 5/; two dollar books, 10/; Scripture Study sets, 19/9; One year subscription to The Dawn Magazine, 5/.

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Questions

Dear "Frank and Ernest": I have been listening to your program and am very interested. People in general are daily asking questions about the subjects you deal with. Will you please send me the booklet offered, "Hope Beyond the Grave." I know it will help me answer the awkward questions of the world.—South Africa

Touched

Dear "Frank and Ernest": I have listened to your broadcasts for a long time. I am so profoundly touched that I thank God for them. I humbly ask you to send me your booklets, "When a Man Dies," and "God and Reason." God be with you in your good work. Sincerely yours in Christ.—South Africa

Found the Truth

Dear Brethren: To find the truth was a burning desire in my heart. I had looked for it here and there in the denominational churches, but my efforts were futile. The result of all my seeking was nill until the real light appeared to me through The Dawn. As nature awakens at the first rays of the sun and feels itself alive, and as the nightingale salutes with a sweet trilling the breaking of dawn, so now my heart, out of religious confusion, rejoices in this living and heavenly truth. As Bible Students we must keep in action the teachings of our Master, and make the Word of God our

daily food. The Lord's kingdom is near. The light of truth shines in our hearts.—Sicily

Surprised

Dear "Frank and Ernest": I have been listening to your broadcast, and am surprised to hear that people have an opportunity for life after death. Kindly send me the booklet, "When a Man Dies." I am a Christian, and have a good knowledge of the Bible, but I have always understood that after death there is no hope of salvation, so will you please send me your booklet. Yours faithfully.—South Africa

Enjoys "Visits"

Dear "Frank and Ernest": We appreciate your Sunday broadcast each week. I am writing this on behalf of my blind daddy. We have received quite a few of your books and pamphlets, and I have read them all to daddy. But we do not have your book, "The Truth About Hell." Please send it. A Mr. Smith of Washington and a Mr. Walters of Virginia, recently visited Dad and me. We had a wonderful time and appreciated their visit very much. We both love every Sunday because we also enjoy your "visits" in our home. I am eleven years of age. Thanking you for past favors, I am very sincerely yours.—D. C.

(Brothers Alfred Smith and George Walters are the ones referred to in the above letter. Brother Smith has since passed beyond the veil.—Editors)

Fellowship Through Dawn

Dear Brtehren: Loving Christian greetings! Enclosed is postal order for renewal of The Dawn Magazine, which is always welcomed with joy. It brings me into fellowship with others of "like precious faith" far and near. My prayer is that you may continue to receive God's blessing in your labors of love to bring blessings to others. Yours by his grace.—England

A Great Comfort

Dear Brethren: Christian love! I am enclosing postal order to renew my subscription to The Dawn Magazine. I have received it for many years, and always look forward to it with much joy. It is a very great comfort to me. I am eighty-seven years old, and cannot longer get out to meetings. May God bless you all in your good work.—England

Wants Many Tracts

Dear Brethren: Greetings of Christian love! Thank you for your letter. Regarding the booklet, "Life After Death," I have enjoyed reading it very much. It is truth in a "nut shell." Please send twenty of these, and also a large supply of tracts for distribution. May God continue to bless you.—South Wales

A Cripple Blessed

Dear "Frank and Ernest": I enjoyed your program today, as I always do. I am a cripple, and unable to attend church. You kind friends explain things found in the Bible so plainly, and I find your programs such a great help. Please send me the booklet, "The Truth About Hell."—Kansas

From Far Away

Dear Brethren: Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am happy to write and let you know that I heard your radio program yesterday, and was delighted with it. I am a West Indian, a native of the British West Indies. I always have the Lord's presence in my heart. The Lord willing, I expect to listen to you next Sunday morning. Please send me your booklet, "Hope Beyond the Grave."—New York

Rejoicing in the Presence

Dear Brethren: Christian love! Thank you for your letter. It is most interesting to see the progress that is being made in the work. How we rejoice to see the plain facts of the Lord's presence. Indeed, everything points out that our divine King is marching on, and we must march in step with him. Although I am in ill health, occasionally I could do some witness work, so would you please send me a supply of tracts for that purpose.—England

Contradicts Creeds

Dear "Frank and Ernest": I write in response to your radio program, and shall be grateful if you will forward me your booklet, "When a Man Dies." I am interested in the hope, as you explained, of life to be offered to those who die without having heard the Gospel. You also mentioned that those in death are unconscious. This is in direct contradiction to the creedal teachings. Please enlighten me further by sending your booklet. Faithfully yours.—South Africa

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, Pilgrim Department, East Rutherford, New Jersey. A visit will be arranged when possible.

H. E. ANDERSON

New Haven, Conn. Jan. 22
Waterbury, Conn. 22

W. A. BAKER

*Phoenix, Ariz. Jan. 1, 2

W. C. BERTSCHE

*Phoenix Dec. 31-Jan. 2
Tucson, Ariz. Jan. 3
Oklahoma City, Okla. 7, 8
Tulsa, Okla. 9
Joplin, Mo. 10
St. Louis, Mo. 11

F. A. BRIGHT

Reading, Pa. Jan. 22

O. D. DEIFER

*Chicago Dec. 31-Jan. 2
Indianapolis, Ind. 3
Muncie, Ind. 4
Cincinnati, O. 5
Columbus, O. 6
Steubenville, O. 7, 8
Ebensburg, Pa. 9

THOMAS HICKS

Catawissa, Pa. Jan. 15

A. H. KRUMPOLT

Wilmington, Del. Jan. 8

R. J. KRUPA

*Chicago, Ill. Jan. 1, 2
Washington, D. C. 15

C. S. LIVERMORE

Wallingford, Conn. Jan. 15
Bridgeport, Conn. 15

L. P. LOOMIS

Buffalo, N. Y. Jan. 1, 2
London, Ont. 3
Detroit, Mich. 4
Toledo, O. 5
Akron, O. 6
Cleveland, O. 7, 8
Erie, Pa. 9
Steubenville, O. 10
Pittsburgh, Pa. 11
Monessen, Pa. 12, 13
Allentown, Pa. 14, 15

J. Y. MAC AULAY

*Phoenix Dec. 31-Jan. 2
Yuma, Ariz. 7, 8
San Diego, Calif. 14, 15
Los Angeles area 17-26
San Luis Obispo 28, 29
Tehachapi, Calif. 30
Bakersfield, Calif. 31

M. C. MITCHELL

*Chicago, Ill. Jan. 1, 2
Wilkes Barre, Pa. 15

CHARLES SMITH

Groton, Conn. Jan. 14
New London, Conn. 15

F. S. WASSMANN

Paterson, N. J. Jan. 15

C. R. WEIDA

York, Pa. Jan. 15
Lancaster, Pa. 15

W. N. WOODWORTH

*Chicago, Ill. Jan. 1, 2

*Convention, see announcements.

The listings in this schedule have been arranged by local ecclesias co-operating with The Dawn.

NICK BARACOS Washington, Pa. Jan. 15	GEORGE O. JEUCK St. Petersburg, Fla. Jan. 8	NORMAN F. RICE San Bernardino, Calif. 8
WALTER Blicharz Columbus, Ohio Jan. 8	RUSSELL L. JURD Riverside, Calif. Jan. 15 Ontario, Calif. 15	BERT ROSE Flint, Mich. Jan. 1
CARL BOUGHTON Pittsburgh, Pa. Jan. 8 Steubenville, O. 15 Monessen, Pa. 29	ADAM MISKAWITZ Aurora, Ill. Jan. 8	W. STROMBERG Minneapolis, Minn. Jan. 8
CHARLES M. CHUPA Adrian, Mich. Jan. 15	N. MOLENAAR Ventura, Calif. Jan. 8	J. I. VAN HORNE East Liverpool, O. Jan. 8
EARL L. FOWLER Santa Ana, Calif. Jan. 22	HARRY PASSIOS Cleveland, Ohio Jan. 15	HOWARD YOUNG Duquesne, Pa. Jan. 1 Steubenville, Ohio 8 Monessen, Pa. 22
THEODORE HACK Gary, Ind. Jan. 15	E. K. PENROSE New Albany, Ind. Jan. 29	L. B. ZBIK London, Ont. Jan. 8
	LEO B. POST Milwaukee, Wis. Jan. 8	



WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING TEXTS

DECEMBER 5—"Choose ye this day whom ye will serve;...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."—Joshua 24:15 (Z. '01-284 Hymn 299)

DECEMBER 12—"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."—Proverbs 23:7 (Z. '01-325 Hymn 198)

DECEMBER 19—"Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off."—I Kings 20:11 (Z. '94-155 Hymn 183)

DECEMBER 26—"Be thou strong and very courageous."—Joshua 1:7 (Z. '02-285 Hymn 294)

CONVENTIONS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, Dec. 31-Jan. 2—Central Masonic Temple, 912 N. LaSalle St. Mr. D. J. Morehouse, 2617 N. Springfield Ave.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA, Dec. 31-Jan. 2—Osborn School Auditorium, Central Ave. and Osborn Road. Mr. Z. Roguski, 2236 West Rancho Drive.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK, Jan. 1—Mr. T. L. Thomas, 55 Philadelphia Street.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Jan. 8—Southern Hotel, South High and East Main Sts. Mrs. Josephine Ewing, 273 So. Algonquin.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, Jan. 8—I. O. G. T. Hall, 2933 Cedar Ave. Mrs. C. R. Newham, 678 40th Ave.

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, Jan. 8—Woman's Club, 311 N. Jefferson St. Mrs. C. A. Sundbom, 207 Alice St.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, Jan. 8—Craft Village, 2710 Fourth St., North. Mrs. C. Dodd, 1000 30th Ave., North.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, Jan. 15—YMCA Bldg.,

East 22nd St. and Prospect Ave. Mrs. A. F. Jarmon, 1229 E. 114th St.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, Jan. 22—Central Masonic Temple, 912 N. LaSalle St. Mr. Leonard Jezuit, 10742 S. Talman Ave.

NEW ALBANY, INDIANA, Jan. 29—Amalgamated Bldg., 1614 East Spring St. Miss Nellie K. Goodbub, 620 Culbertson Ave.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, Jan. 31—Macca-bees Bldg., Woodward Ave. at Putnam. Mr. C. M. Chupa, 5666 Belmont, Dearborn 6.

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, Feb. 11, 12—California State Grange, Wisteria Hall, 3830 U St. Mrs. E. F. Lankford, 6000 19th Ave.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, March 26, 27.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, March 26.

WINNIPEG, CANADA, Mar. 31-April 2.

MIAMI, FLA., April 8-10—Annual Florida Bible Students Convention. Mr. Don Roark, 6125 Montgomery Drive.

"OUR DAY IN PROPHECY"

To be discussed by

"FRANK AND ERNEST"

WNTA-970 kc.—10:00 A. M.

Sunday, January 15

The Bible foretold the major world developments of our day. It also forecasts the future experiences of the human race. Hear "Frank and Ernest," and send for a free copy of the book, "God and Reason." Address:

"FRANK AND ERNEST"

Box 60, Dept. N, General Post Office
New York, N. Y.

For Your Newspaper

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

FEBRUARY TOPIC: On Sunday, February 19, "Frank and Ernest" will discuss the topic, "The Bible Versus Evolution." The radio audience is increased by the distribution of circulars advertising these special monthly topics. These circulars are available free. Send for as many as you can use. Please send your order as soon as possible.

An Excellent Gift Especially for Children

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This is a book of Bible stories for children—forty-eight illustrated stories, many in two colors. The stories, beginning with creation and including the more important episodes recorded in both the Old and New Testaments, are told in a style which makes them easily understood by children, and also interesting to grown-ups. Above all, they are free from the traditional errors of the Dark Ages. This Gospel-pure book is appropriate for every gift occasion.

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- Thy Kingdom Come, cloth, 50 cents each.
- The Battle of Armageddon, cloth, 85 cents each.
- The Atonement Between God and Man, cloth, 85 cents each.
- The New Creation, cloth, 85 cents each.

Question Books for Volumes 1-3, 10 cents each;
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to us the

SCRIPTURES

clearly teach

That the church is "the temple of the living God"—peculiarly "his workmanship"; that its construction has been in progress throughout the Gospel age—ever since Christ became the world's Redeemer and the chief corner stone of this temple, through which, when finished, God's blessings shall come "to all people," and they find access to him.—1 Cor. 3:16, 17; Eph. 2:20-22; Gen. 28:14; Gal. 3:29

That meantime the chiseling, shaping, and polishing of consecrated believers in Christ's atonement for sin progresses, and when the last of these "living stones," "elect and precious," shall have been made ready, the great Master Workman will bring all together in the first resurrection; and the temple shall be filled with his glory, and be the meeting place between God and men throughout the Millennium.—Rev. 15:5-8

That the basis of hope for the church and the world lies in the fact that "Jesus Christ, by the grace of God tasted death for every man," "a ransom for all," and will be "the true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," "in due time."—Heb. 2:9; John 1:9; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6

That the hope of the church is that she may be like her Lord, "see him as he is," be a "partaker of the divine nature," and share his glory as his joint-heir.—1 John 3:2; John 17:24; Rom. 8:17; II Pet. 1:4

That the present mission of the church is the perfecting of the saints for the future work of service; to develop in herself every grace; to be God's witness to the world; and to prepare to be the kings and priests in the next age.—Eph. 4:12; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:6; 20:6

That the hope for the world lies in the blessings of knowledge and opportunity to be brought to all by Christ's millennial kingdom—the restitution of all that was lost in Adam, to all the willing and obedient, at the hands of their Redeemer and his glorified church—when all the wilfully wicked will be destroyed.—Acts 3:19-23; Isaiah 35