

The DAWN

VOLUME NO. IXXII, Number 9
(USPS 149-380), September 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Second-class postage paid at Rutherford, NJ. Published monthly by The Dawn Bible Students Association, 199 Railroad Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073. \$3.00 a year; Great Britain £2. Write to foreign addresses for other prices.

ARGENTINA: El Alba, Calle Almirante Brown 674, Monte Grande 1842, Buenos Aires

AUSTRALIA: Berean Bible Institute, P.O. Box 402, Rosanna, Victoria 3084

BRITISH ISLES: Associated Bible Students, P.O. Box 136, Chesham, Bucks HP5 3EB

CANADA: P.O. Box 175, Elmwood Postal Outlet, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2L 1M0

FRANCE: Aurore, B. Boulier, 8 rue du Docteur Laennec, 95520, Osny

GERMANY: Tagesanbruch Bibelstudien-Vereinigung, Alzeyer Str. 8 (Postfach 252), D 67253 Frenshheim

GREECE: He Haravgi (The Dawn), 33-33 149th Street, Flushing, NY 11354 USA

ITALY: Aurora, Via S. Leonardo 21, Ottaviano 80044, Napoli

SOUTH AMERICA: El Alba, Apartado 1390, Trujillo, Peru

SPAIN: El Alba, Via S. Leonardo 21, Ottaviano 80044 Napoli, Italy

HIGHLIGHTS OF DAWN

Ever Be with the Lord 2

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDIES

Discovering Our Value
in God's Creation 12

Beginning Again 14

Power for Deliverance 16

Becoming God's People 18

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND DOCTRINE

God and Creation—Part 13
Man's Eternal Home 20

They Who Lived and Reigned 27

Gratitude 47

God's Merciful Purpose 52

Weekly Prayer Meeting Texts 51

"FRANK & ERNEST"

Radio Listings 34

"Frank and Ernest" Ad 37

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

TV Listings 36

ENCOURAGING GUESTBOOK

ENTRIES—www.dawnbible.Com 60

OBITUARIES 62

SPEAKERS' APPOINTMENTS 62

CONVENTIONS 63

Ever Be with the Lord

“Afterwards, we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to a meeting with the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

*—I Thess. 4:17,
American Revised
Version slightly
Improved and
Correct**

part from traditional
the faith’s origins.

THERE HAVE BEEN A RASH of best-selling fictional books in recent time with religious themes. Some of these have been number one on the best-seller’s list. A commentary on such books appeared in the *Daily News* on April 17, 2004 in its Religion Section. The commentator wrote:

“The lesson from this week’s best-seller list is simple: God sells. But what worries some scholars is that the hottest religious books de-

part from traditional Christian teaching or distort

LEFT BEHIND

“The latest pulse-pounder in the ‘Left Behind’

*This is a version especially prepared by Jim Parkinson, corrected by manuscripts discovered and published to AD 1999.

series about the end of the world—*Glorious Appearing*—couldn't have appeared more gloriously, at No. 1 on the fiction list of *Publishers Weekly*. It edges out another religion-theme novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, which has ranked among the top three for fifty-four straight weeks.

“Jerry Jenkins, co-author of *Glorious Appearing* with Tim LaHaye, calls the phenomenon ‘God hunger—people looking for something beyond themselves.’

“Yet the success of the books troubles some critics, largely because the authors have made unusual claims that—though they employ fiction—what they're writing is true.

“Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code* is a thriller whose characters malign traditional Christianity as fraudulent, but both liberal and conservative writers say it's rife with errors.

CRITIQUE OF DA VINCI CODE

“Among inaccuracies they list: The characters' claims that belief in Jesus' divinity appeared in the fourth century rather than the first century; that the four New Testament Gospels became authoritative in the fourth century rather than the second century; and that the *Dead Sea Scrolls* and Gnostic writings (deemed heretical by the church) contain the earliest Christian records—though one Gnostic text does have some scholarly promoters.

“At first, *Da Vinci* drew little religious opposition because people ‘didn't subject it to the same kind of scrutiny they would a nonfiction book,’ Garrett says. But when Brown told NBC that

‘absolutely all of it’ is true, the Rev. Darrell Bock of Dallas Theological seminary decided that the novelist wasn’t just having fun but was undermining Christianity.

“Bock wrote the first of several Protestant attack books, *Breaking the Da Vinci Code*.

“Roman Catholics will soon pile on with *The Da Vinci Hoax*. In the foreword, Chicago’s Cardinal Francis George says Brown’s history is ‘preposterous’ but must be counted because it misleads credulous readers. Brown is declining interviews.

THE RAPTURE EXPOSED

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has issued an adult education guide warning against Brown’s plot about Christianity founded upon ‘lies, cover-ups and political intrigues.’ But one of that denomination’s Bible professors, the Rev. Barbara Rossing, believes the *Left Behind* novels are a far worse threat, and explains why in “The Rapture Exposed.”

“Brown’s assertions are easily checked and refuted, Rossing says.

“Meanwhile, the *Left Behind* authors think their 12-book series depicts events of the sort the Bible predicted for Jesus’ Second Coming. Indeed, *Glorious Appearing* centers on Jesus’ return, which the authors expect to happen in the near future.

“Rossing charges that the series preaches despair, and distorts biblical teachings about the future, Mideast politics, and social responsibility.”

The Bible does not need to be fictionalized to make it interesting. It is a fascinating book and the real life stories it contains prove over and over

again the adage, “Truth is stranger than fiction.” *The Dawn* has commented in a previous article on Brown’s *Da Vinci Code*. The new best-seller, the *Left Behind* series, was the subject of another news article which appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* magazine section on April 25, 2004. The title of the article was “Writing for Godot.” The article begins by saying:

TIM LAHAYE’S VIEWS

“In the beginning of the end, as Tim LaHaye tells it, millions of people will disappear off the face of the earth, ‘raptured’ up to heaven. Over the following seven years, tribulations of all kinds—demon locust, seas of blood, nuclear war—will claim billions more. The city of Babylon in modern-day Iraq will be rebuilt, as will the first temple in Jerusalem, on land now occupied by one of the most sacred sites in Islam, the Dome of the Rock. By then, though, all of the Muslims in the world will have been eliminated, either horrifyingly killed or converted to Christianity. Nearly all Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists and other ‘unbelievers,’ even some Christians, face the same fate. Finally, after all the carnage, when the world is ready for Jesus to walk the earth again, the savior’s very words will cause the last of the unfortunates to fall gruesomely dead.

“LaHaye, an early organizer of the Moral Majority and a longtime activist in conservative politics, has brought that vision vividly to life in an astonishingly popular series of page-running action novels collectively known as the *Left Behind* series. Co-authored with Christian novelist Jerry B. Jenkins

(Jenkins does the writing, LaHaye supplies the biblical underpinnings), the books so far have sold about sixty-two million copies, according to their publisher.

“Since 1995, loyal readers of the series have followed the adventures of a gang of clean-cut Christian yuppies as they have battled the forces of evil and the Antichrist across twelve novels, the last of which, *Glorious Appearing*, was published last month. It features a chatty Christ returning to a battered and depopulated earth to lead all believers and many converted Jews into a new millennium. But fans need not despair: No one involved in this publishing phenomenon is ready to call it quits, particularly at a time when popular culture is embracing Christian-themed stories with extraordinary fervor. Two more *Left Behind* books—a sequel and a prequel—are in the works for publisher Tyndale House that will further expand on the struggle between God and the Antichrist.”

Most of the article was about the life of Tim LaHaye, and his success in writing these books. It has become a billion-dollar business. The *Left Behind* titles have become the first Christian book series to be sold in mainstream outlets such as Wal-Mart and Barnes and Noble. In writing about the man and his commitment the article said:

“His Midas touch in the publishing world is not the most important thing to understand about Tim LaHaye, who now lives in Rancho Mirage. It is his commitment to impress his end-is-near worldview upon the rest of the culture. He’s certain that the fictional events of the *Left Behind* books—the Rapture of believers to heaven, the

wholesale destruction of nonbelievers, the emergence of a murderous Antichrist, all of it—will unfold essentially as he describes it, and soon, possibly before he dies. For a man who wants to save as many souls as he can before that happens, time is running out. And no one is more aware of that than LaHaye, who will be 78 years old on Tuesday.”

THE TRUE VIEW OF I THESSALONIANS 4:17

In whatever way the public may view the message being conveyed to them by these books, we know that it is not true. How glad we are to know God’s wonderful plan as revealed in his Holy Word. How glad the world will be to know about that plan when it is revealed to them. How unfortunate that the vast majority of the world of mankind, whatever they believe, has been influenced by Satan and his first lie, “Ye shall not surely die.” (Gen. 3:4) Let us note how that lie has confused the thinking about interpreting I Thessalonians 4:13-18, on which the concept of the rapture is based. Most Christian people believe that these verses are teaching how Jesus will return to take away faithful Christians from earth. Whereas the teaching was intended by the Apostle Paul to be one of consolation to the Thessalonian brethren who were enduring severe persecution. This persecution was so severe that Paul had to leave them before losing his life. Others were not able to leave and some died.

Though these were faithful Christians they did not go to heaven when they died, but as verse 13 explains, they were now “asleep” in death. They also are described as being asleep “in Jesus” (vs.

14), which means that, although they were asleep in death, they were in the memory of Jesus and the Father. Paul was reminding these brethren at Thessalonica that their brethren who had died would be brought forth in the resurrection. First, however, all would be entering the sleep of death. The resurrection wouldn't take place until our Lord returned. Those who would be living at the time of the presence (Greek, *parousia*) of the Lord (not coming) would not precede those who had fallen asleep in death. Contrary to the concept that when our Lord returns he sweeps up all the faithful living upon earth, Paul says that those asleep in death will be his first concern. These will be raised from the dead.

Those who have been invited to follow Jesus by taking up their cross must do so "unto death." (Rev. 2:10) Thus, those who are of this class and are alive at the time of our Lord's return must die before they can join all the other faithful footstep followers. The important feature of our Lord's return is the resurrection. All those who had previously died will be raised from the dead. Those who are living at the time will die, but will not have to remain in the sleep of death awaiting the resurrection, rather they will be changed immediately to be with the Lord. (I Cor. 15:51-54) Such will be assembled with the other faithful to perform a great work during the kingdom of assisting Jesus in bringing back from the dead all that are in their graves. (John 5:28,29, *Revised Standard Version*) The work of uplifting the downtrodden family of Adam will end after one thousand years of instruction in the way of righteousness and Truth.

THE HOPE FOR THE WORLD

These books teach a now or never situation for mankind. They talk of Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists, and all other nonbelievers either being converted, or horrifyingly killed, in seven years before the rapture. Finally they say that when Jesus walks the earth again (but Jesus said, “the world seeth me no more,” John 14:19) that he will cause the last of these unfortunate to fall gruesomely dead. Fortunately all of this is fiction, even though the author believes that all of the things he has written will eventually unfold, such as the wholesale destruction of nonbelievers and the emergence of a murderous Antichrist. This is not a correct picture of the work God does in the end of this present evil world.

The Bible teaches the fulfillment of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” (Matt. 6:10) It is at that time that God will “pour out” his “spirit upon all flesh.” (Joel 2:28) It won’t be necessary for anyone to say to his neighbor, “Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD.” (Jer. 31:34) As the world comes back from the grave and realizes that it was God’s mighty power that was used to perform this great miracle, they will respond as prophesied by the prophet Isaiah, and say, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” (Isa. 25:9) Furthermore, in that wonderful kingdom, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain [kingdom]: for

the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”—Isa. 11:9

Soon the work of finding a “people” for God’s name (Acts 15:14) will come to a close; and all of those who faithfully followed Jesus by denying self and taking up their cross (Matt. 16:24), will have been assembled by our returned Lord. These are described as living and reigning with Christ a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6) These are the faithful who will be evermore with the Lord. (I Thess. 4:17) Who do they reign over? Their subjects will be the poor downtrodden family of mankind. What father Adam and mother Eve could not do for them, their new parents, Jesus and the church (his bride), will. Truth is better than fiction. ■

Gladness Will Come to Stay

*Some glowing morn when heaven bends caressing,
Earth’s darkest vale to cheer;*

*Waking to know and love our Father’s blessing,
Life will be grandly dear.*

*Fulness of joy will shine away our sorrow,
Sighing will flee away;*

*Tears will not mar life’s beautiful tomorrow,
Gladness will come to stay.*

*Gladness will come, hallelujah it is coming,
Gladness is on the way.*

*God will unveil the fulness of his mercy,
Gladness will come to stay.*

—*Hymns of Dawn*

EXCERPT . . .

The Apostle Paul says, “God ... will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”—I Tim. 2:3-6

At first glance the sequence given here seems contrary to other scriptures which insist that one must have a knowledge of the truth first, then, upon the basis of this knowledge, believe and be saved; for here the apostle speaks of being ‘saved’ first, and then receiving a ‘knowledge of the truth.’

However, in this instance Paul is not using the word saved to describe the eternal salvation which results from believing and obeying the Gospel. Rather, he is telling us that it is God’s will that all who have died in ignorance of the only name given under heaven, or among men whereby we must be saved, shall be awakened from death to have an opportunity to come to a knowledge of the truth. In other words, Paul uses the word saved to describe what Jesus promised when he said that all in their graves would hear his voice and come forth.

The present age, and the present life, is the ‘due time’ for some to comprehend the Truth and thus to believe and obey. During the millennium, and after the unenlightened world is awakened from death, will be the due time for them to have the Gospel ‘testified’ in an understandable manner. Then it will be their due time to obey and live.

—*The Day of Judgment*

Discovering Our Value in God's Creation

Key Verse: *“The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”*

—*Genesis 2:7*

Selected Scripture:
Genesis 2

and created the water, oxygen, and nitrogen, in the correct proportions to support life. The revolution of the Earth and its distance from the sun, plus all the other requirements of temperature and pressure were adjusted to make possible life coming forth of plants and animals. Everything God did to make life enjoyable was so ordered of him.

As our key verse says, man was the zenith of God's Creation and he was brought forth to multiply and fill the earth. God's purpose in all of this creative effort is revealed to us in those statements in the Bible that speak of “from” or “before” the foundation of the

THE BOOK OF GENESIS IS

a record of God's preparation of the planet Earth for habitation. The creative epochs in that book describe the stages of that great work. The Earth was in existence at the time that this work began, but “was without form, and void.” (Gen. 1:2) As the mighty power of God started this work of preparation, there would pass eons of time as he created all the elements comprising Earth (its dust),

world. When Jesus began his ministry, he spoke to the people in parables. "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world." (Matt. 13:34,35) This is a quotation from Psalm 78, verse 2. Jesus himself used this expression when he said, in concluding the meaning of the parable of sheep and goats, "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matt. 25:34) This reveals God's grand objective for mankind which is the establishment of his kingdom upon Earth. Much had to transpire before this stage would be reached.

Our lesson describes, in Genesis 2, how God prepared a perfect environment for man, after telling how the combination of the body formed from the 'dust' (elements) of earth were combined with the 'breath of life' to make man 'a living soul.' It is important to note the careful wording concerning man's creation. He did not receive a distinct and separate entity known as a soul, nor was it an immortal soul. It also tells how God used a part of Adam to make Eve, to provide a helpmate for him. Hence, Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh."—Gen 2:23

Many events had to occur before God's plan could be carried forward, and the first was sin entering into this perfect environment. The sentence of death was imposed, and all of this was in the mind of God. It was written of Jesus, he was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8), and of the church "as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world." (Eph. 1:4) These scriptures reveal what was in God's mind as a plan of salvation. ■

Beginning Again

Key Verse: *“The bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.”*
—Genesis 9:16

Selected Scripture:
Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5,
17,23; 8:14-16;
9:1-16

days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”—Gen. 6:1-5

The bringing forth of a hybrid race, when these angelic creatures took the daughters of men, was something God had not planned. As a consequence, all the earth became corrupted and the earth was filled with violence. Only Noah and his family remained free

IT WASN'T LONG AFTER man's creation that a change took place in Earth's society. The Scriptures say, “It came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those

from the corruption. God then, decided to “destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air.” (Gen. 6:7) He instructed Noah to build an ark, and eventually only Noah and his family, and the animals God instructed him to take into the ark, survived the disastrous flood which came upon the earth to destroy all life therein. It rained forty days and nights. All flesh died in the flood, except Noah and his family and those creatures he had taken into the ark.

It took months for the waters to abate, but when they finally did, God instructed Noah and his family to leave the ark. God blessed them, and said to them, “Be fruitful, and multiply,” and fill the earth. (Gen. 9:1) This was the same mandate given to Adam, and was like a second beginning. It was illustrative of the time that God will deliver all mankind from the death sentence and will give life to all the willing and obedient to his laws. This might appear like a second chance. In reality, it will be a second chance for Adam only. It will be a first chance for all of his progeny.

The deliverance of Noah and his family is also a picture of the deliverance of the church from the corruption of this present evil world. This picture is brought to us by Peter when he writes of the angels that sinned, “Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (I Pet. 3:20,21) Baptism is a picture of death. Those who have been immersed in this Gospel Age are immersed into Christ’s death. The ark pictures Christ carrying over from this present evil world those who take up their cross to follow Jesus. ■

Power for Deliverance

Key Verse: “Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.”
—Exodus 3:10

Selected Scripture:
Exodus 3:1-12

MOSES HAD WANTED TO help his people, Israel, when he had been brought up in Pharaoh’s court by Pharaoh’s daughter. At the age of forty, he slew an Egyptian taskmaster, and then had to flee from Egypt when the matter was made known. He dwelt in the land of Midian, and took refuge in Jethro’s house. He dwelt there forty years when on one occasion, in tending Jethro’s flocks, he saw a burning bush that was not consumed. As he approached to investigate, an angel of the LORD, as spokesman for God, called to him and told him that he was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He told Moses that he had seen the affliction of Israel and heard their cry. He was now going to deliver them. As our key verse says, God told Moses he would send him to Pharaoh to ask him to release the children of Israel.

Moses was overwhelmed by all of this and started to ask many questions. First he said, “Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?” (Exod. 3:11) When God assured him that he would be with him, Moses then asked how the people of Israel would know that the God of their fathers had sent him? They would ask, “What is his name?” (vs. 13) God explained that he was the great

“I AM,” and that this is his name. (vs. 14) He also told Moses to go ahead and assemble the elders of Israel to tell them of this planned deliverance, and that they would be taken to the land of Canaan. They were to go to Pharaoh, but he would not let them go. God told Moses that it would be necessary for him to smite Egypt with all kinds of wonders. Finally, Pharaoh would let them go and they would not go away empty. The people of Egypt would give them of their gold and silver.

Moses said, “they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice.” (chap. 4:1) So the LORD gave him signs to perform as proof that he was sent by God. The first sign was that Moses was to throw down his rod and it became a serpent. He then was to pick up the serpent by the tail and it would become a rod. (vss. 2-5) This pictured how all the evil in the world is because God has let go his authority on earth. By taking hold of the serpent, God’s authority is to be reestablished when evil is subdued in his kingdom.—Rev. 20:2

If they would not accept that sign, a second sign was to be given by Moses putting his hand into his bosom, and upon withdrawing it, it was leprous. He put the leprous hand into his bosom, and it came forth whole and clean. (vss. 6-8) This symbolized God’s Divine power without sin (as was Jesus). This power was then manifest in the form of selecting from sinful mankind a people for his name. Finally, it will be manifest in the glorified Christ.

In the event that Pharaoh would not accept those two signs, a third sign was given to Moses. He was to take the water of the river and to pour it upon the dry land, and it would turn to blood. This sign indicated that the water of Truth is viewed by earth’s society as being bloody. The basis for God’s plan is the ransom sacrifice of Jesus as represented by his shed blood. The plan of salvation appears bloody to the world. ■

Becoming God's People

Key Verse: *“That thou shouldest enter into covenant with the LORD thy God, and into his oath, which the LORD thy God maketh with thee this day: That he may establish thee to day for a people unto himself.”*
—Deuteronomy 29:12,13

Selected Scripture:
Deuteronomy 29:2-15

IN THIS LESSON MOSES

is recounting what had transpired to the nation of Israel after being delivered from bondage to Pharaoh and his taskmasters. Forty years had elapsed since that day, and they were about to enter the promised land. Previously, when they had been delivered, Moses led them to Mt. Sinai in Horeb. They made a covenant with God to be his people. Then while Moses was in the mount for forty days and nights, getting the two tables of the Law, they fell into idolatry. Moses came down from the mount and saw what was going on and

broke the two tablets of the Law in his anger.

After those who were responsible for this idolatry were slain, Moses ascended the mount to receive a second set of tablets of the Law. These were not broken, but were put into the Ark of the Covenant for safe keeping. Prior to entering the land of Canaan, God had spies sent into the land, one selected from each tribe. (Num. 13) The report brought back by the spies was in conflict.

Ten said that it would be impossible to overcome the inhabitants, and brought an evil report. Only two spies, Joshua and Caleb, said that they could take the land. (vss. 30,31) The people preferred to believe the evil report and rebelled against Moses. God, in his anger, would not let them enter the promised land until all the adults died who believed the evil report.—chap. 14:29

They had reached that point now, and Moses was re-dedicating the children of those who had fallen in the wilderness. He said unto them, as recorded, “Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Ye have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt unto Pharaoh, and unto all his servants, and unto all his land; The great temptations which thine eyes have seen, the signs, and those great miracles: Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day. And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.”—Deut. 29:2-5

Moses told them how God had conquered kings bent on destroying them, and how he took their land and gave it to certain tribes of Israel. Moses admonished them saying, “Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do.” (vs. 9) He then told them how they would be cursed if they broke God’s laws, and how they would be blessed if they kept them.

Becoming God’s chosen people was a great blessing, but it also brought responsibility. If they failed in their responsibility to observe God’s laws, they could perish like many cities did, and be wiped off the face of the earth, like Sodom and Gomorrah. Moses concluded by saying, “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”—vs. 29 ■

Man's Eternal Home

*“God blessed them,
and God said to
them, Be fruitful
and multiply, and
fill the earth and
subdue it.”*

—*Genesis 1:28,*

*Revised Standard
Version*

AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER most people are confronted with the question, “Where will you spend eternity?” Many times this question is asked with the implication that, unless there is a reformation of heart and life, eternity will not be pleasant.

Our text implies that God's design for man is that he should spend eternity right here on the earth. This was God's ‘blessing’ upon our first parents—they were to fill the earth and subdue it—that is, bring it all under control through cultivation, to be utilized for the sustaining of the millions which would result from God's blessing upon his command to ‘multiply.’

GOD'S MANDATE

We must recognize that the Divine commission to multiply was limited to the filling of the earth. Since the Creator was capable of providing for the

propagation of the race by the creating of mother Eve, we know that in the outworking of the Divine purpose human ability to reproduce will be caused to cease when the earth becomes adequately filled. The Bible does not tell us how this will be done, nor do we need to know. It will be in God's way, and his ways are always better than ours.—Isa. 55:8,9

There is nothing in the Genesis record of Creation that suggests that the Creator had any other purpose in the creation of man than for him to live forever on the earth. However, this plainly stated truth concerning God's design for his human creatures to inhabit the earth forever has been lost sight of as a result of Satan's great deception concerning the Divine penalty for sin.

Satan's lie, "Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4), meaning, as expressed in modern times, "There is no death," implies that when one experiences what is called death he actually enters into another life, the environments of which are quite different from those of humans here on earth. So the question, "Where will you spend eternity?" implies that it is not possible to spend it on the earth as a human being.

The plain statement of the Bible is that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23), but the great mass of professed Christians say no, this is not really so—the penalty for sin is torture. The Bible records the deaths of many of its personalities—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the prophets, the kings of Israel—to mention a few in the Old Testament. In its obituary notices pertaining to most of these is the simple statement that they "slept with their fathers." Abraham's father was a heathen. All of

those who are said to be sleeping with their fathers were of the too-good-for-hell type, yet many of them were certainly not-good-enough-for-heaven. The inspired writers of the Bible insist that they are sleeping—unconscious, that is, in death.

WHAT ABOUT HEAVEN?

A prevailing Christian view is that all those who are not sufficiently wicked to be tortured in hell-fire forever, go direct to heaven when they die—that this is where they will have their eternal home. The Bible contains promises of heaven, but that all those not sufficiently wicked to be tortured in hell forever will spend eternity there, is another error arising out of Satan's lie, 'Ye shall not surely die.'

Note briefly some of the Bible's testimony concerning heaven. Jesus said to his disciples, "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) Few have noticed the full implication of Jesus' promise to 'prepare a place.' Obviously if this place was not prepared until after Jesus came to earth, it could not be a place to which all the righteous from creation down to his day had been going when they seemed to die. It is acknowledged that this place promised by Jesus is a heavenly abode, and Jesus said, "No man hath ascended up to heaven."—John 3:13

Jesus prefaced his promise to prepare a place for his followers with the statement, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you." (John 14:2) Jesus did not promise these mansions to his followers. He simply

observed that they already existed in his Father house. It seems reasonable to conclude that the Father's house is the entire universe. It all belongs to him, and is all his domain. In this domain are mansions, or dwelling places—planes of existence, or spheres of life.

The earth is one of the spheres of life. This is the sphere of life in which God designed that his human creatures should spend eternity—the mansion which God created for man. And he “created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited.” (Isa. 45:18) However, as Jesus said, there are many mansions—many spheres of life. They are higher than the human, and our finite minds can but vaguely comprehend them. But they do exist—‘If it were not so, I would have told you,’ said Jesus.

A HEAVENLY HOPE FOR SOME

But, as Jesus promised his disciples, he was going away to prepare still another place for his followers. Much is said in the Bible, especially in the New Testament, concerning this place. It is vaguely foretold in the Old Testament, and in the New is referred to as an “inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven.” (I Pet. 1:4) Those for whom this place is prepared are said to be “partakers of the heavenly calling.”—Heb. 3:1

The use of the word calling, or invitation, implies that this place is not prepared for all. And herein lies the truth concerning this aspect of the Creator's plan for the rescue of his fallen human creatures from sin and death. Heaven is not designed as an alternative for hell-fire. Nor is it the

plan of God that all who are saved will be transferred from earth to the place prepared by Jesus.

Those who are invited to this “high calling” (Phil. 3:14), and accept the invitation through belief in Christ and full devotion of their lives to the service of God, are described by Paul as “new creature[s].” In other words, beginning with Jesus, a New Creation is being developed. Paul explains that the followers of Jesus who have become ‘new creature[s]’ are ambassadors for Christ, and ministers of reconciliation. He explains that “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,” and that now these New Creatures are fellow workers with God and with Christ. See II Corinthians 5:14 to 6:1

The Scriptures reveal that those who become New Creatures in Christ Jesus are a “little flock.” (Luke 12:32) The eternal home of these will be in heaven, or in the spiritual realm. Heaven is not a substitute for life on earth, but because in the Divine plan for restoring the fallen human race to life on earth there is a provision for the selection of a few of earth’s billions to be associated with Jesus in the work of restoration. In order to be efficient workers in this Divine arrangement, these are transferred from the earthly mansion to the place which Jesus prepared for them.

THE PREPARATION OF EARTH’S SPIRITUAL LEADERS

To help us grasp this thought, the Bible presents it from various standpoints. One is the thought of a kingdom, or a government, which will be established in the earth, and for a thousand years will

administer righteous laws under which mankind will be disciplined and trained, and thereby gradually have the righteousness of the Divine requirements of justice and love written in their hearts. We pray for this in the words, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."—Matt. 6:10

Those for whom Jesus promised to prepare a place will share with him in the work of bringing about this full reconciliation of humanity with God. They will be joint-heirs with Jesus in his kingdom. Consequently they will be highly exalted in the Divine arrangements. Jesus promised, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." (Rev. 3:21) Jesus also promised, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."—Rev. 2:10

The expression 'crown of life' suggests the highest, the very zenith of life. As we have seen, the many mansions in the Father's house are planes of life. Jesus went away to prepare a place for his associates which was to be crown of them all. The Apostle Peter wrote, "whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature." (II Pet. 1:4) The Heavenly Father always possessed the Divine nature, and Jesus was exalted to this highest of all stations of life when he was raised from the dead, and highly exalted above all "principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named." (Eph. 1:20,21) In this exalted position, "at the right hand of the throne of God," he "prepares" a "place" for his followers,

that they might be with him where he is.—Heb. 12:2; John 14:3

This prize of the High Calling is not an alternative to an eternal home on earth. It is not a case of man having sinned, and therefore he is provided with an eternal home at the right hand of God. God's provision for his human creatures as a whole still is that upon condition of obedience to him they may live on the earth forever. The redemptive work of Christ makes this restoration possible—"As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (I Cor. 15:22) The followers of Jesus, for whom he prepares a place, are to be associated with him in restoring mankind to that which was lost through the disobedience of our first parents. The harmony of the Bible is discernible only when we recognize this distinction between God's promises to mankind in general, and those which apply exclusively to the followers of Jesus. ■

"All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you.

"They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

"Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

"The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made."

—Psalm 145:9-13, New International Version

They Who Lived and Reigned

“I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, . . . and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”
—Revelation 20:4

THE PROSPECT OF LIVING

and reigning with Christ is set before his followers in various ways. It is the “prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:14) From another standpoint it is the “heavenly calling.” (Heb. 3:1) It is an “inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.” (I Pet. 1:4) Paul wrote, “It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him.”—II Tim. 2:11,12

In our text, John describes those whom he saw reigning with Christ, and says that they were the ones who had been ‘beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God.’ The word beheaded, from the natural standpoint, is not a pleasant one. Most of us would rather not think of scenes in which victims have their heads severed from their bodies. But the Lord uses it, and possibly one reason

is that there are certain aspects of the Christian life which are not pleasing to the flesh, experiences from which the flesh shrinks; experiences, nevertheless, which must be borne with fortitude if we are 'to live and reign with Christ.'

Crucifixion was quite generally practiced under the Roman law, although in Rome some of the prisoners considered worthy of the death penalty were beheaded. However, as nearly as we can ascertain at this time, not many of the early Christians were literally beheaded. Evidently, therefore, the Lord used the expression in a figurative sense; even as crucifixion was thus used by Paul when he wrote, "I am crucified with Christ."—Gal. 2:20

Crucifixion and beheading both describe the taking of life, but each from a different standpoint. In the crucifixion symbol we are represented as daily taking up our cross, dying daily with Christ, until the death of the flesh is fully consummated. The beheading symbol highlights the fact that we surrender our will to the LORD, and accept Christ as our Head. Thus the "old man" dies, while the "new man" follows the directives of its Head, endeavoring to be obedient to his every wish.—Col. 3:9,10

Paul's detailed lesson in I Corinthians, chapter twelve, reveals many of the things involved in our beheading. It is in this chapter that he uses the figure of a man to represent Christ and his church. In this illustration Jesus is the Head of the body, and the individual members of the church are represented by the other parts of the body. It is a simple illustration, with vital meaning for all those who aspire to live and reign with Christ.

Paul writes, "As the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many."—vss. 12-14

We enter the body by means of baptism, or burial—not baptism in water, but the burial of our will, and the acceptance of the will of Christ, our new Head. We read, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death?" (Rom. 6:3) In other words, we know in advance that when we accept the headship of Jesus, by being baptized into his body, we place ourselves in a position to die. Indeed, we can hardly imagine one who is beheaded not dying.

We know that Christ's will for us is the same as was the Father's will for him. "The head of Christ is God." (I Cor. 11:3) Jesus buried his will into the will of his Father when he said, "Lo, I come: . . . I delight to do thy will, O my God." (Ps. 40:7,8) Jesus knew that the Father's will for him, as outlined in the "volume of the book," was for him to die. He did not understand this clearly prior to his consecration, but soon thereafter he did, and the entire course of his ministry was one of daily dying, until on the cross he cried, "It is finished."—John 19:30

When we are baptized into Jesus Christ, as members of his body, it is a baptism into death. It is not only the death of our own wills in the acceptance of the headship of Christ, but eventually the death of our bodies also, which are presented as "a living

sacrifice.” (Rom. 12:1) These are made acceptable through the merit of Christ. It is a serious step to take, and only by Divine grace is anyone able to carry through victoriously to the end. But great is the reward for those who do, for they shall live and reign with Christ a thousand years.

OUR BRETHREN

Paul reminds us of the unity and cooperation of the various parts of the body. “If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”—I Cor. 12:15-18

Here, every beheaded Christian is presented with a heart-searching lesson in humility and the acceptance of the LORD’s will. There is nothing in worldly associations to compare with this. It is contrary to the natural trends and desires of the fallen flesh. In the world, for example, no one is condemned for ambitiously seeking a place of prominence and authority among his fellows. Men think it nothing wrong for a candidate for office to travel throughout the country endeavoring to impress the people with his greatness. A man will spend millions of dollars or more to convince the voters that he is qualified to be president of the United States.

But this viewpoint is entirely out of place for the beheaded Christian. Having accepted Christ

as our Head, and become members of his body, we leave the choice with the LORD as to just what place we will occupy in the body. Can we imagine the hands and feet of a natural body arguing as to which should become the eye? This may seem incongruous, but it is just this that Paul brings to our attention to impress us with the need of accepting the will of the LORD in this as well as in all other matters.

And Paul makes another application of the illustration—‘Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body.’ This suggests what is sometimes observed among the brethren; namely, that if one cannot have the position in the church to which he aspires he becomes discouraged, and begins to think that he does not belong at all. Such is the reasoning of the deceitful heart, and it sometimes happens that later a brother with this viewpoint will be found creating a little body all of his own, not realizing perhaps, that the position he really coveted was to be the head.

Nor should any member of the body undervalue, in any manner, the importance of the other members. Here, also, is a lesson in humility and brotherly interest in all the body members. Those who are truly of the body, regardless of the position they may occupy, will highly “esteem” every other member, regardless of the lowly position some of them may seem to occupy.—Phil. 2:3,4

It is a privilege to be in this body at all. It came about by the grace of God, through Christ, and since God has placed every member in the body as it has pleased him to do, how fitting that we recognize the importance of all our brethren in Christ, regardless of their abilities, *(Continued on page 38)*

DAWN BOOKLETS . . .

ARCHEOLOGY

PROVES THE BIBLE

Designed to increase faith

ARMAGEDDON, THEN WORLD PEACE

Discusses prophecies of our day

THE BLOOD OF ATONEMENT

Basis of reconciliation with God

BORN OF THE SPIRIT

When and how?

CHRIST'S THOUSAND- YEAR KINGDOM

Christ's reign will bless mankind

THE CHURCH

The true church—how to join

COMING BACK FROM HELL SOON

A new approach to an old subject
(Available in large print)

CREATION

Examines the Genesis record

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

Presents hope for the unsaved
dead

DIVINE HEALING

When sickness and death will end
(Available in large print)

FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

Understandable and Scriptural

THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL AND THE WORLD

A bright hope for Jew and Gentile

GOD AND REASON

How God will bring peace

GOD'S PLAN

Illustrated by charts

GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN

A series of twenty-three lessons

GOD'S REMEDY FOR A WORLD GONE MAD

A clear and concise presentation
of the doctrine of the kingdom
(Available in large print)

GRACE OF JEHOVAH

God's appeal is through love

HOPE BEYOND THE GRAVE

The Bible's teaching on the soul,
spirit, heaven, hell, and paradise

HOPE FOR A FEAR-FILLED WORLD

Mankind will not be destroyed

HOW GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

Comforting and reassuring

ISRAEL IN HISTORY AND PROPHECY

Significance of the present
rebuilding of Israel

JESUS, THE WORLD'S SAVIOR

Portrait of his qualifications

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Evidence that it is near

LIFE AFTER DEATH

A bright future for all mankind

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Identifies the true witnesses of
Jehovah and Jesus

... INFORMATIVE AND DEVOTIONAL

OUR LORD'S RETURN

Reveals the manner and purpose

PARADISE WITHOUT POLLUTION

God's solution to man's problems

PEACE THROUGH CHRIST'S KINGDOM

The world's only hope

REINCARNATION VERSUS RESURRECTION

Shows that life after death is through the resurrection

A ROYAL NATION

Deals with British-Israel doctrines

SCIENCE AND CREATION

Harmony of science and the Bible

SPIRITUALISM—ITS CLAIMS

Can the dead communicate?

THE TRUTH ABOUT HELL

What the Bible really says

WHEN A MAN DIES

Solves the riddle of death

WHY GOD PERMITS EVIL

A satisfying message of comfort

YOUR ADVERSARY, THE DEVIL

Who is he? Who created him?

ALL BOOKLETS 25¢ EACH, FIVE FOR \$1 POSTPAID.

FREE TRACTS

Has Christianity Failed?
The World of Tomorrow
Hope for a Fear-filled World
Hope of Universal Peace
Why God Permits Evil

God's Plan
Homecoming of our Dead
Human Destiny
Israel Fulfilling Prophecy
God's World of Tomorrow

Do You Know?
The Truth about Hell
Where Are the Dead?
Prophecies Fulfilled
Death Itself Will Die

FREE CATALOGS

DAWN PUBLICATIONS — Booklets, books, and free tracts.

DAWN VIDEOS — Bible Answers TV programs and convention discourses.

DAWN AUDIO TAPES — Bible lectures and General Convention cassette tapes. The Dawn magazine is also available on cassette tape.

SEND YOUR REQUEST TO:

The Dawn, 199 Railroad Ave., East Rutherford, NJ 07073
phone (201) 438-6421 and 1-888-440-DAWN,
fax (201) 531-8333, e-mail DawnBible@aol.com

Visit the Dawn web page at www.dawnbible.com

FRANK AND ERNEST . . .

EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS NOTED

ALABAMA

Guntersville
 WTWX 95.9 FM 6:45 a.m.
 Ozark WOZK 900 9:00 a.m.

ARIZONA

Phoenix (Sat.)
 KXEG 1280 8:30 a.m.

ARKANSAS

Little Rock KAAV 1090 6:30 a.m.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles (Wed.)
 KTYM 1460 3:00 p.m.
 Riverside (Sat.)
 KPRO 1570 8:00 a.m.
 San Francisco
 KDIA 1640 9:30 a.m.

COLORADO

Buena Vista
 KDMN 1450 9:30 a.m.
 Colorado Springs
 KWYD 1580 9:30 a.m.
 Denver KRCN 1060 9:30 a.m.
 Vail KSKE 610 9:30 a.m.

FLORIDA

Ft. Lauderdale (Sat.)
 WLVJ 1040 10:00 a.m.
 Jacksonville WIOJ 1010 7:45 p.m.
 St. Petersburg
 WTIS 1110 5:00 p.m.

GEORGIA

Augusta WGAC 580 7:45 a.m.
 Tucker WGUN 1010 11:00 a.m.

IDAHO

Boise KIDO 580 8:00 a.m.

ILLINOIS

LaSalle WLPO 1220 9:45 a.m.
 Marion WFRX 1300 9:15 a.m.
 Mitchell KXEN 1010 8:30 a.m.

INDIANA

Hammond WJOB 1230 8:30 a.m.

IOWA

Waterloo (Sat.)
 KXEL 1540 11:00 p.m.

LOUISIANA

Metairie WVOG 600 7:15 a.m.
 New Orleans (Sat.)
 WWL 870 11:30 p.m.

MASSACHUSETTS

Needham
 WBNW 1120 8:30 a.m.

MICHIGAN

Detroit (Sat.)
 WCHB 1200 9:30 a.m.

NEW JERSEY

Camden (Tues.)
 WTMR 800 2:30 p.m.

NEW YORK

Buffalo WHLD 1270 9:00 a.m.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro (Tues.)
 WEAL 1510 8:45 a.m.

NORTH DAKOTA

Fargo WDAY 970 8:15 a.m.

OHIO

Cincinnati WSAI 1530 9:30 p.m.

OREGON

Portland KKPZ 1330 6:45 a.m.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia
 WNWR 1540 6:45 a.m.
 Pittsburgh KQV 1410 7:30 p.m.
 Red Lion WINB 1.357 4:15 p.m.

... RADIO BROADCASTS

TENNESSEE

Nashville WSM 650 7:45 a.m.
Nashville (Sat.)
WWCR 9.475 4:15 a.m.

TEXAS

Wichita Falls
KSEY 93.9 FM 8:00 a.m.

VIRGINIA

Brookneal WODI 1230 3:00 p.m.

Chester WGGM 820 7:45 a.m.
Falls Church
WUST 1120 7:15 a.m.

WASHINGTON

Spokane KAQQ 590 7:00 a.m.

WEST VIRGINIA

Wheeling WWVA 1170 6:15 p.m.

... WORLDWIDE

BRITISH WEST INDIES

Trinidad
Radio Trinidad 610 6:45 p.m.

CANADA

Grand Forks, BC
CKFG 1340 9:00 a.m.
Winnipeg, MB CKJS 810 11:00 a.m.
Meadow Lake, SK
CJNS 1240 7:15 a.m.
North Battleford, SK
CJNB 1040 7:15 a.m.

CHILE (Spanish)

Talcahuano Radio Almirante Latarre

COSTA RICA (Spanish)

San Jose Radio Sonorara
105.9 FM 6:15 a.m.
700 AM 6:15 a.m.

GHANA

Kumasi (Sun. & Wed.)
Spirit 88 FM 5:00 a.m.

INDIA

Sri Lanka (Wed.)
Shortwave 9770 kHz 6:30 p.m.

MEXICO (Spanish)

Culiacán Ranchera
XECQ 920 7:45 a.m.
Guadalajara
XEWK 1130 8:30 a.m.

NIGERIA

Radio Africa (Thurs.) 7:45 p.m.

PANAMA (Spanish)

Panama City (Fri.)
Radio Newspaper 1060 6:15 p.m.

PERU (Spanish)

Trujillo 105.7 FM
9:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

PHILIPPINES

Manila
DZAR 1026 kHz 7:45 a.m.

SOUTH AFRICA

Radio Africa #2 (Mon.)
15190 kHz 8:30 a.m.

UGANDA

Radio Africa #4
FM 89.4 10:45 a.m.

WEST AFRICA

Radio Africa (Thurs.)
7190 kHz 7:45 p.m.

BIBLE ANSWERS TV PROGRAMS

ARIZONA

Phoenix Chan. 22 10:00 a.m.

CALIFORNIA

Anaheim (Wed.) Chan. 3 4:30 p.m.

LaPalma (Thurs.)

Chan. 35 8:30 p.m.

Santa Barbara (Wed.)

CMAC Chan. 17 3:00 p.m.

and 3:00 a.m.

FLORIDA

Gainesville Chan. 53 6:00 a.m.

Jacksonville (Sat.)

Chan. 47 7:30 a.m.

INDIANA

Salem WHAN Ch. 17 1:00 p.m.

NEW YORK

New York (Thurs.)

WLNY Chan. 55 6:30 a.m.

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte

WAXN Chan. 64 7:00 a.m.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

WTVE Chan. 31 11:00 a.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Spartanburg

WASV Chan. 62 8:00 a.m.

TENNESSEE

Nashville (Thurs.)

Chan. 58 6:30 a.m.

BIBLE ANSWERS

now on

URBAN AMERICA NETWORK

Sundays—10:30 a.m. C.T.

Satellite Network

Check local papers and program listings for
UAN (URBAN AMERICA NETWORK)



**FOR YOUR
NEWSPAPER:**

To the right is a suggestion for an advertisement in your local paper which you may want to sponsor.

“Send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.”

—*Psalm 43:3*

FRANK AND ERNEST

Each week interesting Bible topics are discussed on radio:

**WFRX-1300 AM
SUNDAY 9:15 A.M.**

SEPTEMBER:

5-Sifting Superstition from Religion
12-Your Adversary the Devil
19-Faith of Our Fathers
26-The Rich Man and Lazarus

Send for the FREE booklet offered after each broadcast:

FRANK AND ERNEST
Box 60, Dept. N
New York, NY 10116
Phone: 1-800-234-DAWN

(Continued from page 31) or of the place which God has assigned to them in the body.

Paul suggests the proper viewpoint in this matter. "Those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."—I Cor. 12:23-26

How different is this from the backbiting efforts so often seen in the world to attain positions of honor and authority among men! What a tremendous change must take place in the human heart for one to be truly beheaded and accept the headship of Christ, with all that it implies of humbly submitting to the Divine will, and of rejoicing to associate with those whom the LORD has called, regardless of their talents, or of how they may measure up to our ideals.

One of the things a worldly-minded person likes people to know is that he is personally acquainted with this, that, and the other great personage in the world of government, or of the theatre, or of sports. A man who has been entertained by the president, or by one or another of the few kings that are left, or by a prince, is considered quite important. But how different among the members of the body of Christ. Of Jesus himself it was asked,

“Have any of the rulers . . . believed on him?” (John 7:48) No, of course not! His disciples were just plain people—fishermen, and the like. There was a physician—Luke—and later there was Paul, a “Pharisee” of the Pharisees. (Acts 23:6) But generally speaking, if we were asked to mention the celebrities whom we know, and who are associated with us, we probably could name none, but we would name those in the humblest walks of life. These are a royal company.

What a royal company! All of them are associates of a King. Indeed, they are on the most intimate terms with him. He speaks for them at the throne of heavenly grace; he is their Elder Brother; their Bridegroom to be. Indeed, these lowly, unknown ones from the world’s standpoint are all of a royal line, children of the great King Jehovah, and in training to live and reign with Christ a thousand years.

FOR THE WITNESS OF JESUS

In Paul’s use of the body illustration he makes it clear that every member in the body has a work to do. We cannot be in the body at all unless we work. Looking to the Head for guidance, we hear him say that we are to be his witnesses. The Truth is to be ministered to one another, and to the world. It is this important work of bearing witness to the Truth that helps to emphasize the need for the harmonious working together of all the members of the body. Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. . . . Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through

their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”—John 17:17-21

In general, the world as a whole will not be convinced that God sent Jesus to be their Redeemer and Savior until during the kingdom. But we are now in training for that future work of enlightening the world, and the LORD is giving us practical tests as to our enthusiasm for his cause by bidding us to be his witnesses now. It is for this, the Revelator says, that we are beheaded.

As beheaded followers of the Master we of necessity must be members of his body, else we have no head at all. This means that all the beheaded ones will work together in the common witness work. As individuals we bear witness to the Truth, but if we are to live and reign with Christ we must, as individual members of his body, learn to be subject one to another, and above all to our new Head, Christ Jesus.

The expression, beheaded for the witness of Christ, strongly implies that this is the main purpose of our beheading. We are not beheaded to attend meetings, or to study the Bible. We attend meetings and study the Bible in order that we may become more fully acquainted with the will of God for us, that thus we may be more completely in line with the directives of our new Head, Christ Jesus. In our beheading we gave up our own plans and ways, and we need earnestly to seek the plans and ways of the LORD that we may work in harmony with him, and in close cooperation and harmony with our fellow members of the body.

TESTS OF CONSECRATION

Witnessing for Jesus as beheaded members of his body is a voluntary service. The influence impelling us to faithfulness is love. The message we bear is so wonderful that it is a joy to tell others about it, but the results are not always joyful. The world is in darkness, and the darkness hateth the light, and as we let our light shine the world frowns upon us. We are not accepted among our friends as we once were. Some may even speak evil of us and persecute us. These situations are not pleasing to the flesh, and there may come the temptation merely to adhere as best we can to the righteous principles of the Truth, but not bear witness to it.

Then there is the temptation to become “weary in well doing.” (Gal. 6:9) Witnessing for Jesus and for the Word of God is not an incidental thing in the beheaded Christian’s life. It is his chief vocation, his chief business. Other things are more or less incidental. But sometimes there is a tendency to reverse this arrangement using less and less of time and strength for the main issue of our consecrated lives, and more and more for the less important things.

Jesus mentioned this danger in his parable of the Sower. In his reference to the seed, which fell among thorns, he said, “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.” (Matt. 13:22) Here is the case of one who has progressed to the extent of bearing Christian fruit, and then allowed other interests to enter in, to the point of ‘becoming unfruitful.’

Then there is the danger of discouragement. The cold indifference of the world to the Gospel of the kingdom does not inspire enthusiasm, but has a tendency to dampen zeal. We labor for years, perhaps, and see no tangible results from our witness work. Under these circumstances the flesh would say, What's the use? Why should I continue to spend my time, my strength, my money, when nothing is being accomplished? But the new mind, consulting the Head, is reminded that the results of our witness work are not our responsibility, that it is God who giveth the "increase."—I Cor. 3:7

We are not invited to witness for Jesus and the Word of God because our help is needed, but because we need the opportunity thereby to prove our zeal for the Truth, and our joy in the fact that God intends to bless all the families of the earth—a joy that impels us even now, and at great cost, to tell as many as we can about it. The only ones who will live and reign with Christ a thousand years are those who demonstrate their enthusiasm for the purpose of that reign, and for this cause we now are being beheaded, for the witness of Jesus and for the Word of God.

Another temptation that comes to some in connection with the witness work is the inclination to boast of the great works they are doing. Or, deep down in our hearts, we might feel a sense of great satisfaction that we have done so much for the LORD, even though we may not have expressed our feelings to others.

If we find ourselves being tempted along this line we should recall Jesus' parable in which we are represented as "unprofitable servants." (Luke

17:10) If we have spent much time and strength in the service of the LORD, it is only what we agreed to do when we made our consecration to him and were beheaded, therefore we have nothing to boast about, for we are still ‘unprofitable servants.’ What marvelous grace is here manifested! The Lord has taken us into partnership with him, made us one of his coworkers, yet from the beginning to the end of our earthly course we are a liability to him—servants which do not bring him a profit.

A moment’s reflection reveals the reason for this. On the night Jesus was born, God used the angels to make the announcement to the shepherds. First one spoke, proclaiming the glad tidings, and then a whole multitude of the angelic hosts sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:10-14) God could have continued to use the angels to proclaim the Gospel. With no difficulty at all God could arrange for the angels daily to proclaim the glad tidings of the kingdom, and with a display of glory the like of which the world has never known. How insignificant and weak our efforts seem when we compare them with what God could do in other ways, but for the fact that he is giving us an opportunity to prove that we are worthy to live and reign with Christ a thousand years.

LOVE THE MOTIVE

“God is love.” (I John 4:8) His plan for the blessing of the world is prompted by love. To be in harmony with him, our efforts to cooperate in his plan must be motivated by love. This is the vital lesson Paul so effectively sets forth in I Corinthians,

chapter 13, “Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, . . . and have not charity [love], it profiteth me nothing.” (vs. 3) Jesus told the rich young ruler that if he bestowed all his goods to feed the poor he would have “treasure in heaven.” (Mark 10:21) Paul knew this was one of the ways of expressing the terms of the narrow way. He knew that we cannot lay up treasures in heaven except through the sacrifice of all that we have and are for the blessing of others and the glory of God. But Paul knew also, that unless our giving, our sacrificing, is prompted by the spirit of unselfishness, by love, it will profit us nothing—no treasure will be laid up in heaven.

“Though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity [love], it profiteth me nothing.” (I Cor. 13:3) Paul knew that giving our bodies ‘to be burned’ is what is involved in our being beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the Word of God. Paul writes, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”—Rom. 12:1

Presenting ‘bodies’ in ‘sacrifice’ is a thought that Paul got from the services of the typical Tabernacle, in which animal sacrifices were burned on the brazen altar in the court. He knew that, antotypically, Christians are also called upon to offer bodies to be burned—not the bodies of animals, but their own; not on literal altars and by literal fire, but on the altar of God’s service, and by the fiery trials of hardship and persecution which must inevitably accompany such sacrifices.

Paul knew that there was no other way into the glories of the kingdom, to live and reign with Christ a thousand years. But he also knew that there is much martyrdom that is prompted by motives other than Christian love.

However, there is no profit in sacrifice, no laying up of treasures in heaven, if we have not love. This does not mean that if we have love we will hold back from sacrifice. Rather, the more fully we are filled and controlled by love, the greater will be our determination to give all we have and are in sacrifice, knowing that it will be acceptable to God through Christ.

Love not only prompts to sacrifice, but also controls the way we sacrifice and serve. "Charity [love] suffereth long, and is kind," says Paul. (I Cor. 13:4) As beheaded members of the body of Christ, we serve one another. Are we doing it kindly, sympathetically? Are we patient with others' weaknesses as we would like them to be patient with ours? Is the spirit of kindness manifested in our witnessing to the world?

Love should enter into, and control, all our activities, all our associations. To the extent that it does, we will not be envious of others; we will not be boastful and puffed up; our conduct will be such as becometh the children of God; we will not be easily provoked, nor insisting on our rights, nor will we think evil of others.

Love "rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth." Love "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity [love] never faileth." (vss. 6-8) Love, filling our hearts and controlling our words and acts, is

the great principle and power that makes our feeble efforts in God's service acceptable through Christ. If we are truly beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the Word of God it is because we are motivated by love. This is why we may confidently hope for the glorious consummation of living and reigning with Christ a thousand years. ■

The Prospect

*Come, all ye saints, to Pisgah's mountain, Come,
view our home beyond the tide:*

*Millennial Canaan is before us, Soon we'll sing
on the other side.*

*O! there see the "white throne of glory," And
crowns which the saints then shall gain,*

*And all who shall love Christ's appearing, Shall
be blessed by his glorious reign.*

*Thence springs of life will e'er be flowing, Rob-
ing the earth in living green,*

*Visions of beauty rise before us, When the King
and the saints shall reign.*

*Soon our conflicts and toils will be ended; We'll
be tried and tempted no more,*

*And mankind of all ages and nations, Shall be
blessed in that triumphant hour.*

*O! the prospect! it is so transporting,
Reapers, hasten the gath'ring, we pray;
We rejoice in the glory that's promised,
And the dawn of millennial day.*

—*Hymns of Dawn*

Gratitude

GRATITUDE IS DEFINED in *Webster's Dictionary* as “a sentiment of gratefulness to a benefactor, a state of being grateful or being thankful.” Gratitude is like a fragrant flower that also is a delightful expression of every true and noble heart.

Gratitude is closely akin to love, and where they dwell together in the consecrated heart there is little room for the Adversary to gain an advantage. On the contrary, ingratitude signifies a blindness of mind in respect to justice. It speaks of a low standard of character, in which the fruitage of the Spirit of the Lord has not been well developed. Where ingratitude gains a foothold, it admits such qualities as selfishness, pride, anger, malice, hatred, strife, evil surmisings, slander, backbitings and various other works of the flesh, and the Devil.

“Only fear [reverence] the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.” (I Sam. 12:24) Samuel addressed these words to fleshly Israel, appealing to them that they remember the great things that God had done for them—as a ground for gratitude and faithfulness—including their delivery from Egypt, their guidance through the wilderness, and entrance into the promised land.

If we apply these words to spiritual Israel, with what greater force do they come to us! The LORD has not delivered us from Egyptian bondage, but from the greater bondage of Satan, sin, and death. He has led us “out of darkness into his marvellous light”; lifted our feet from the “horrible pit” and the “miry clay,” and placed them upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. He has established our goings, and has “put a new song” into our mouth, even praise and gratitude unto our LORD God, for all his loving-kindness.—I Pet. 2:9; Ps. 40:2,3

The ‘new song’ is not one of doubt or fear concerning anguish of sinners, but a song of God’s righteousness (absolute rightness), his mercy and love, so reasonable and harmonious in every detail; with this song we are filled with gratitude. This song has brought new life, joy, aspirations, and hopes to us and others. We can never thank our Father enough for the blessings we have received at his hands, and for all that he has prepared for us. He not only forgave our sins, but also accepted us in Jesus, and invited us to joint-heirship with Christ. He not only has given us “exceeding great and precious promises” (II Pet. 1:4), to cheer our hearts in our present wilderness journey, but has in reservation for us a glorious heavenly inheritance—incorruptible, immortal, beyond the veil.

SERVICE

As fully consecrated children of God we gratefully comply with the scripture, “Only fear [reverence] the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart.” (I Sam. 12:24) We also remember the statement, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

(John 14:15) To us, these commandments of the Lord amplify and enlarge his love. Daily we see the depth of meaning attached to these commands; they are not at all grievous to us—indeed, we rejoice to go forward day-by-day in complete agreement with our Lord’s heartfelt sentiments, “I delight to do thy will, O my God.”—Ps. 40:8

The psalmist, on many occasions, very beautifully expresses the desires and delights of our hearts; for example, “Thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.”—Ps. 145:10-13

These words are being literally fulfilled today, for the LORD is bringing to the attention of his saints (his fully consecrated people) an increasing measure of present Truth, to the intent that they may have its light upon their pathway, making manifest unto them the glorious character of our God, through a knowledge of his great plan of the ages. And the LORD is putting it within the power of his saints thus to glorify his name, and to speak forth the Truth to others.

To some he has granted the ability for public speaking and the opportunity to use it, and to declare his praises in this way. To others he has imparted a talent for private conversation, that they may thus tell of his kingdom, speak of his glorious majesty, and make known his wondrous plans to such as have hearing ears. Others have been given the privilege of declaring the LORD’s message

through the circulation of the printed page, or by means of personal correspondence, and through the internet.

We may rest assured that none can be of the company of the LORD's saints today, and know of his goodness, wonderful honor and majesty, without having an earnest desire to tell the good tidings of great joy to all who have ears to hear. And those who are most earnest, most zealous in proclaiming the message, are sure to have the most blessing in their own hearts and in their own experiences.

All the royal priesthood, the truly consecrated church of God, are ministers or servants of God, and of each other. The LORD has put all such into the ministry; and this is a ministry, a service of kindness and of love toward the LORD, in honoring his name and declaring his Truth and his righteousness, indeed, to declare the whole counsel, or will of God, as they have opportunity.

A share in this glorious ministry, at any self-denial, at any self-sacrifice, belongs to each one of us, and this is a great privilege, honor, and responsibility. It is a ministry, or service, which, in proportion as it is neglected, brings us corresponding loss in spiritual progress and character.

GIVE THANKS

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD.” (Ps. 92:1) “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thess. 5:18) “Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: . . . if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be

numbered.” (Ps. 40:5) “I will mention the loving-kindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us.”—Isa. 63:7

In counting our many blessings we gratefully include those faithful ones we know, of like precious faith, and our hearts’ sentiments are expressed by the Apostle Paul. “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet [or proper], because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity [love] of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth.”—II Thess. 1:3 ■

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING TEXTS

SEPTEMBER 2—“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the Truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.”—I Peter 1:22 (Z. ’03-207 Hymn 23)

SEPTEMBER 9—“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life.”—Philippians 2:15,16 (Z. ’03-358 Hymn 154)

SEPTEMBER 16—“The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.”—Psalm 29:11 (Z. ’96-163 Hymn 136)

SEPTEMBER 23—“Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”—Jude 3 (Z. ’03-423 Hymn 266)

SEPTEMBER 30—“The love of Christ constraineth us.”—II Corinthians 5:14 (Z. ’03-55,58 Hymn 244)

God's Merciful Purpose

“See what marvellous love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called God’s children; and that is what we are.”
“And if children, then heirs too—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ; if indeed we are sharers in Christ’s sufferings, in order that we may be also sharers in his glory.”

—*I John 3:1;*
Romans 8:17,
Weymouth

THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED belief that our natural birth made us children of God is unscriptural and untrue. We were actually born in sin and shapen in iniquity. (Psalm 51:5) “God, being rich in mercy, on account of his great love with which he loved us,” . . . “Has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies, by Christ.”—Eph. 2:4; 1:3, *Wilson’s Emphatic Diaglott*

The Apostle Paul also wrote concerning the faithful in Christ Jesus, the true church, in a collective sense, “He [God] predestined us to be adopted by himself as sons through Christ, such being his gracious will and

pleasure, to the praise of the splendour of his grace with which he has enriched us in the beloved One. It is in him, and through the shedding of his blood, that we have our deliverance, the forgiveness of our offences, so abundant was God's grace, the grace which he, the Possessor of all wisdom and understanding, lavished upon us, when he made known to us the secret of his will. And this is in harmony with God's merciful purpose for the government of the world when the times are ripe for it, the purpose which he has cherished in his own mind of restoring the whole creation to find its one Head in Christ; yes, things in heaven and things on earth, to find their one Head in him."—Eph. 1:5-10, *Weymouth*

By Divine grace, the Scriptures have revealed to us a great and wonderful eternal purpose in Christ Jesus. Reference is made to "the much diversified wisdom of God, according to a plan of the ages, which he formed for the Anointed Jesus our Lord." (Eph. 3:10,11, *WED*) This Divine plan, so fully and beautifully elaborated upon in the inspired Word, is permeated with the marvelous love of the Heavenly Father.

All the fully consecrated children of God are a wonderfully privileged people, ever grateful for the Divine grace so richly lavished upon them. Having been called out of darkness into the glorious light of Truth, as revealed in the inspired Word, they rejoice in the exceeding great and precious promises of God, and in their experiences as God's children. They count it a joyous privilege, and a great honor, to be baptized into Christ, and collectively to be all one in Christ Jesus; also to be Abraham's seed, and heirs in a very special sense.

CHILDREN

“Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” (Gal. 3:26) Earlier in this letter the apostle has stressed the need of the Gospel of Christ; also that justification is by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law. Through one man (Adam), and his disobedience, “sin entered into the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” (Rom. 5:12-19) Every member of the fallen race, whether Jew or Gentile, bond or free, male or female, has been condemned through Adam, and thereby being “by nature children of wrath” it required wondrous Divine grace and mercy to be manifested on our behalf before any could become children of God.

So, “when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem [publicly purchase and take possession of] them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” (Gal. 4:4-6) These blessings come to all such through their faith in Christ Jesus, not only to those who were of the Law, but to those also who are of the faith of Jesus. And, “to as many as received him [at Pentecost, and since], he gave authority to become children of God, to those believing into his name; who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”—John 1:12,13, *WED*

It is a great privilege to receive Jesus; also to believe on him, which, according to *Young’s Analytical Concordance* means to “adhere to, rely on, and trust” him. This involves our accepting the

invitation to follow him—denying self, and taking up our cross daily. We thus fully consecrate ourselves to do God’s will, and in effect exclaim: “Not my will, but thine be done.” Then he is pleased to beget us as New Creatures to the spiritual nature. “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth.”—James 1:18

BAPTIZED

“As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Gal. 3:27) This verse refers to the real and essential baptism, which is to precede the symbol of water immersion, and the Apostle Paul deals very thoroughly with this matter in Romans 6:3,4: “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” This overwhelming, or burial, of ourselves which resulted in our becoming body members of Christ, took place when we made a full surrender of our will to God, consecrating our all to follow Jesus, and to prove faithful unto death. “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death.” As a result, God begets us by the holy Word of Truth, “That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Henceforth Jesus, in every particular, is to be our Head, our Leader, our Ruler. Reckonedly, we are dead to our own will. “Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”—Col. 3:3

The result of this and essential baptism is that we “have put on Christ.” “For all of you who had yourselves baptized into Christ have taken on the character of Christ.”—Gal. 3:27, *Moffatt*

There is to be a putting off and a putting on. For example, "Cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, . . . put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." (Rom. 13:12-14) "Put off, according to the former course of life, that old man, corrupted by deceitful desires, . . . and be you clothed with that new man, who, according to God, has been formed in righteousness and holiness of the truth."—Eph. 4:22,24, *WED*

ONENESS

As Paul says, "In him the distinction between Jew and Gentile, slave and freeman, male and female, disappear, you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:28, *Weymouth*) Irrespective of who or what we are, the Scriptures clearly teach what is required of us, and this includes our repentance (to change the mind); conversion (to turn about); full consecration; justification by faith (declared right, on account of the faith); complete sanctification. "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular," or, individually.—I Cor. 12:27

Our Father gave Christ Jesus "to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body." (Eph. 1:22,23) "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, . . . and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many."—I Cor. 12:12-14

To be called into this wonderful relationship is indeed the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus; and because we fully appreciate this great privilege, we give diligence to make our calling and election sure, and assist others to do the same.

The building up of the body of Christ is a great and important work in which it is our privilege and responsibility to take part. Our Father's purpose in this connection is beautifully described in Ephesians 4:11-16, *WED*: "And he gave indeed the apostles, and the prophets, and the evangelists, and shepherds and teachers, for the complete qualification of the saints for the work of service, in order to the building up of the body of the Anointed one; till we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a full grown man, to the measure of the full stature of the Anointed one; so that we may be infants no longer, tossed and whirled about with every wind of that teaching which is in the trickery of men, by cunning craftiness in systematic deception; but being truthful in love, we may grow up in all things into him, who is the Head, the Anointed one; from whom the whole body, being fitly joined and united, by means of every assisting joint, according to the proportionate energy of each single part, effects the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

HEIRS

"If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Gal. 3:29) The grandeur and immensity of this verse is completely beyond the comprehension of any who are natural minded. Even the spiritually begotten and

enlightened of God cannot visualize the full significance of these words of the apostle, and the extent of the exceeding greatness of Divine favor toward us, so that in the ages to come, God “might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”—Eph. 2:7

Three very interesting and important features are here recorded: ‘If ye be Christ’s,’ then, ‘are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.’ If we experience the first condition and belong to Christ, then, as emphatically indicated in this verse, we are, without any possible doubt, Abraham’s seed and heirs.

To belong to Christ involves our doing his will, which, in effect, is the Father’s will. We are Christ’s because we do not belong to anyone else. No man can serve two masters. We do not compromise with error, nor with the world. “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” (Rom. 8:9) We empty ourselves more and more of self, that we may be able to receive an increasing measure of the holy influence. Being dead to self, we live unto our risen Lord Jesus.

“If you belong to Christ, certainly you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to promise.” (Gal. 3:29, *WED*) In full assurance of faith we are to hold fast to this marvelous statement. This sublime Divine favor comes to us, not on account of any merit of our own, but because we truly belong to Christ.

In this connection, very illuminating verses are: “Now 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.” “And if

ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."—Gal. 3:16,29

The Greek word here translated 'heirs' means those who receive a lot, or portion. (*Young's Analytical Concordance*) If we are in Christ, then the Divine promises to him are inherited, or possessed, also by us, his body members. As in a natural sense it is customary for a wife to share her husband's name, position, and possessions, so also with the bride of Christ.

Our Lord Jesus, because of his obedience to the Father's Word and will, is "appointed heir of all things," including God's wonderful oathbound promise to Abraham. (Heb. 1:2) And many are the scriptures which describe the children of God as heirs, and also make reference to their inheritance, or possession. For example, "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body [of Christ], and partakers of his promise in Christ by the Gospel." (Eph. 3:6) "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:7) Being begotten again, "to a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and unfading, preserved in heaven for you."—I Pet. 1:3,4, *WED*

Seeing that God has appointed Jesus heir of all things, we, his body members, are heirs with him in this vast and glorious inheritance, including the Divine nature and the Abrahamic promise. The great work to be done by the spiritual seed of Abraham is the blessing of all the families of the earth. What a glorious prospect is before us. May we prove worthy to enter fully into our inheritance! ■

ENCOURAGING GUESTBOOK ENTRIES—www.dawnbible.com

The International Bible Studies that summarize the lesson are very helpful. I use this to assist in my Sunday School class. Thank you for this blessing.—MS

Enjoy *The Dawn* magazine and other publications. The hope of the kingdom of God being established in the near future, on earth as well as heaven, is such a blessing to all believers. I have been associated with the Bible Students since 1994 and appreciate all the spiritual food published for our edification. Keep up the work and may God continue to bless the harvest work.—AL

Thanks to you all in this Bible association. My deep love for teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. His pure love for all God's creation has

given me meaning for existence. God is real. Jesus Christ is indeed the promised Son of our LORD Almighty. Jesus Christ is the dew of heaven.

You all are saying the Truth, you are true witnesses of the Lord. My conclusion is drawn from reading your two books, the *Book of Books* and *The Creator's Grand Design*. In fact, those books can turn any unbeliever to the Lord.

Dawn Students, may God continue to shower his blessings upon you all as you tell his Truth and spread the Gospel of our Lord to wondering ones. Amen!

Your sister in Christ—
TX

I read about your website in the *Harris Farmer's Almanac* for 2004, and decided to

visit your website for the first time. I have found it to be informative. Thank you for the Word of God online. God bless.—MN

I enjoy reading your articles and sharing the word with my small prayer group. God's blessings.—PANAMA

I continue to be very thankful to the Dawn Bible Students for many years of providing rich treasures from the Lord's storehouse, and my prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless their efforts throughout the years that remain.—IL

I thank the Lord and then all you nice people for all your hard work. My search for the Truth is turning out to be indescribably beautiful. May God bless you all.—MEXICO

I've read the complete *Studies in the Scriptures*

series and I love them. I used to be a JW and I'm so glad that I found that [Charles] Russell did not believe in the doctrines the Witnesses teach. [Charles] Russell definitely had the light in his day, more so than most people still have today. I can learn a lot from the Dawn literature. Agape.—ME

In my continuous search and rejoicing in the Truth, I have rested here with the Dawn as my supplier of meat in the Word. Thank you so much for your faithfulness and love.—GA

After finding a copy of *The Dawn* at my library's free magazine box, I subscribed. I enjoy the articles very much and my life has changed with the new knowledge acquired. Finally, I realize the beginning of true knowledge. Psalm 111:10. Keep up the good work.—MI

SPEAKERS' APPOINTMENTS

The speakers listed below are routed through the Pilgrim Department of The Dawn. Their visits are furnished free upon request. Write to: The Dawn Pilgrim Department, East Rutherford, NJ 07073. A visit will be arranged whenever possible.

M. Balko

Clay City, IN September 24-26

K. Fernets

Moldova, Romania,
Ukraine September 15-30

S. Jones

Seattle, WA September 4-6
Moorehead, MN 19
Wheaton, MN 20
Lanesboro, MN 21
LaSalle, IL 23
Clay City, IN 24-27
Reynoldsburg, OH 29
Greenfield, OH 30

The speakers listed below, in cooperation with the Dawn, are invited by individual classes, or their services have been arranged by their home classes:

M. J. Balko

St. Petersburg, FL September 12

B. Clark

Clay City, IN September 24-26

R. Goodman

Seattle, WA September 4-6
Milwaukee, WI 18,19

R. Gorecki

Seattle, WA September 4-6
Clay City, IN 24-26

L. Young

Louisville, AL September 5

OBITUARIES

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

Sister Bernice Kosek, Detroit, MI—July 1. Age, 85

Sister Mae Clay, Cincinnati, OH—July 6. Age, 88

CONVENTIONS

These conventions are listed by request of classes who sponsor them. So your convention can be placed in these columns in time, make your request in writing three months before the date of the convention to Dawn Magazine, 199 Railroad Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073.

JACKSON LABOR DAY CONVENTION, September 4,5—Fa-Ho-Lo Camp & Conference Center, 3000 Mt. Hope Road, Unit 1, Grass Lake, MI. Contact Mrs. Ray Lumley. Phone: (517) 782-7252

NEW YORK LABOR DAY CONVENTION, September 4,5—Wellesley Inn, Two Bridges Road & Exit 52, Route 80, Fairfield, NJ. Contact Ann Truth Post. Phone: (845) 634-5876

SEATTLE LABOR DAY CONVENTION, September 4,5,6—Bastyr University, 14500 Juanita Drive NE, Bothell, WA. Contact Laurie Flinn. Phone: (253) 939-9838

HUNTSVILLE CONVENTION, September 10,11,12—Holiday Inn Research Park, 5903 University Drive. Contact Philip Mosley, 1006 Mill Race Circle, Guntersville, AL 35976. Phone: (256) 582-3640

MILWAUKEE CONVENTION, September 18,19—Lake Lodge, 1235 East Howard Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. For additional information, contact George Kuzmin (414) 425-2268, or Chris Kuenzli (414) 257-2672

CLAY CITY CONVENTION, September 24,25,26—Canyon Inn inside McCormick's Creek State Park. Contact Sondra Clark, 7861 Clearwater Parkway, Indianapolis, IN 46240. Phone: (317) 578-2634

DETROIT MONTH-END CONVENTION, September 26—Redford YWCA, Grand River at Beech Daly. Contact Norm Zendler. Phone: (248) 399-8843

LOS ANGELES QUARTERLY CONVENTION, September 26—Contact Peter Knapp. Phone: (562) 425-2407

GRAND RAPIDS CONVENTION, October 9,10—Kenowa Hills Middle School, 3950 Hendershot Avenue. Contact Joanne Houlmont, 6825 Clubhouse Drive, West, Canadian Lakes, MI 49346. Phone: (231) 972-4259

PITTSBURGH AREA CONVENTION, October 9,10—Sewickley Grange Hall, Route 136, West Newton, PA. Contact John Krasonic, Sr. Phone: (724) 872-6215

NEW ENGLAND CONVENTION, October 15,16,17—Ramada Inn, Crooked Street, Plainville, CT. Contact Mrs. Richard Suraci, 171 Johnson Road, Hamden, CT 06518. Phone: (203) 248-3793

SAN LUIS OBISPO CONVENTION, October 16,17—Masonic Temple, 859 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo, CA. Contact Lynn Murray. Phone: (805) 544-3037

ORLANDO CONVENTION, October 30,31—Garden Club of Sanford, 200 Fairmont Drive (corner of 17-92), Sanford, FL. Contact Helen Jeuck, 587 Queens Mirror Circle, Casselberry, FL 32707. Phone: (407) 699-8303

SAN DIEGO THANKSGIVING CONVENTION, November 25, 26, 27, 28—Doubletree Club Hotel, 1515 Hotel Circle South. Phone: (800) 489-9671 or (619) 881-6900. Contact hotel directly for reservations.

PHOENIX NEW YEAR'S CONVENTION, December 31, January 1,2,3—LaQuinta Inn, 2510 W. Greenway Road. Phone: (602) 993-0800. Contact hotel directly for reservations. For other information, contact Janell Porcolab, 21941 N. 107th Drive, Sun City, AZ 85373. Phone: (623)362-2056