

The **WATCHTOWER**

Announcing
**JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM**

JULY 15, 1953

Semimonthly

**LAUNCHING THE KINGDOM
GOVERNMENT**

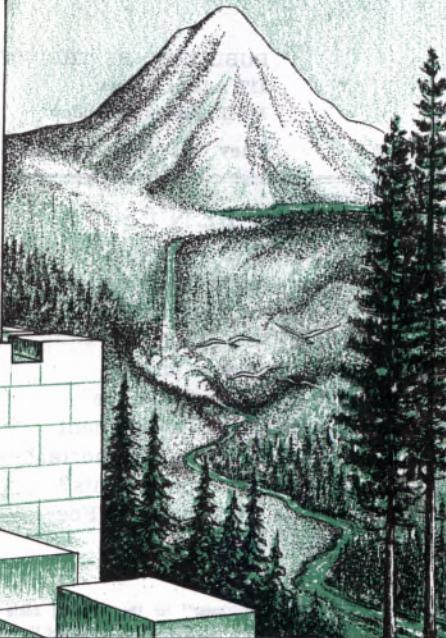
**THE DIVINE NAME OF
FIRST IMPORTANCE**

HUMAN SOUL, MORTAL OR IMMORTAL?

POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY OR PRINCIPLE?

ST. PETER'S THE SITE OF PETER'S TOMB?

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"YOU ARE MY WITNESSES," SAYS JEHOVAH.—Isa. 43:12

THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER"

Literal towers in Bible times were elevated vantage points from which watchmen could observe happenings, warn of danger, or announce good news. Our magazine figuratively occupies such a vantage point, for it is founded on the very pinnacle of wisdom, God's Word. That elevates it above racial, national and political propagandas and prejudices, frees it from selfish bias. It is not bound by any traditional creed, but its message advances as the light on God's purposes and works increases.—Habakkuk 2:1-3.

It sees things Scripturally. When it observes this generation afflicted with greed, delinquency, hypocrisy, atheism, war, famine, pestilence, perplexity and fear, and persecution of unpopular minorities, it does not parrot the old fable about history repeating itself. Informed by Bible prophecy, it sees in these things the sign of the world's time of the end. But with bright hope it also sees opening up for us just beyond these woes the portals of a new world.

Thus viewed, "The Watchtower" stands as a watchman atop a tower, alert to what is going on, awake to note signs of danger, faithful to point out the way of escape. It announces Jehovah's kingdom established by Christ's enthronement in heaven, feeds his kingdom joint-heirs with spiritual food, cheers men of good will with glorious prospects of eternal life in a paradise earth, comforts us with the resurrection promise for the dead.

It is not dogmatic, but has a confident ring in its voice, because it is based on God's Word. It does not privately interpret prophecy, but calls attention to physical facts, sets them alongside prophecy, and you see for yourself how well the two match, how accurately Jehovah interprets his own prophecy. In the interests of our salvation, it keeps sharp and faithful focus on Bible truth, and views religious news generally.

'Be watchful in these perilous times,' God admonishes. So keep on the watch by regularly reading "The Watchtower".



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"They will all be taught by Jehovah."—John 6:45, NW; Isaiah 54:13

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Abbreviations used in "The Watchtower" for the following Bible versions

AS	American Standard Version	LXX	The Septuagint Version
AT	An American Translation	Mo	James Moffatt's version
Da	J. N. Darby's version	NW	New World Trans. (2nd Ed.)
Dy	Catholic Douay version	Ro	J. B. Rotherham's version
ED	The Emphatic Diaglott	RS	Revised Standard Version
Le	Isaac Lesser's version	Yg	Robert Young's version

Unless otherwise indicated, the Bible used is the King James Version

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POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY OR PRINCIPLE?

ALL intelligent creatures, as free moral agents, have the choice of being governed by principle or by passion. To be governed by principle means to act upon knowledge of the facts according to reason and conscience. To be governed by passion means to act because of outside influence, to let personal considerations dictate, such as wealth, fame, power, safety or gratification of the senses or instincts. Adam, our first parent, chose to be governed by passion, by outside influence as represented in his wife, Eve, instead of by principle as represented in God's will and law. The vast majority of his offspring have followed his example.—Gen. 3:17; Matt. 7:13, 14.

Particularly strong is the temptation to be governed by outside influence and passion, instead of by a sense of duty and principle, felt by those in governing positions. By reason of their power they have many opportunities to use their positions for their own benefit rather than to dispense justice. Such misuse of political office often takes the form of political expediency. God's Word, the Bible, records more than one instance of where those in responsible positions acted from expediency instead of from principle. Aaron allowed himself to be influenced by the people to make the golden calf, and Saul was likewise influenced to disobey God's command regarding the rooting out of the

Amalekites.—Ex. 32:1-6, 21-24; 1 Sam. 15:13-23.

The most notorious example in all history, however, of a ruler's compromising what he knew to be right for the sake of political expediency is that given to us by Pontius Pilate. Pilate had taken up his duties as governor of Judea A.D. 26 and repeatedly clashed with the Jews, he being a stubborn ruler and they a fanatically religious, stubborn people. In his own stubbornness Pilate at times had the blood of the Jews shed needlessly, on one occasion even mixing their blood with that of their sacrifices.—Luke 13:1, 2.

In view of these events it can be appreciated that when the Jewish mob came to him that passover night A.D. 33 with Jesus, Pilate preferred not to have anything to do with the matter and told them to punish Jesus according to their law. But the mob wanted to put Jesus to death and so had to have Pilate's authorization. (John 18:31) After questioning Jesus and finding no fault in him Pilate was ready to release him, but that was not what the mob wanted. Hearing that Jesus was a Galilean he sent him to Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great and tetrarch of Galilee, glad for the excuse to shift the responsibility.—Luke 23:1-7.

Herod was pleased to see Jesus, expecting to see a miracle performed, but, finding Jesus uncommunicative, returned him to Pilate. While this gesture resulted

in Pilate and Herod's becoming friends "with each other on that very day, for before that they had continued at enmity between themselves", it still left Pilate with the responsibility of making a decision regarding Jesus. There could have been no question in his mind regarding the innocence of Jesus, "for he was aware that out of envy they had handed him over." In fact, three times he said to the Jewish mob: "Why, what evil did this man do? I found nothing deserving of death in him; I will therefore punish him and release him."—Matt. 27:18; Luke 23:8-22, NW.

Pilate, who could show himself so stubborn in dealing with the Jews, showed himself peculiarly weak and lacking in firmness when principle was involved. The fickle populace, which just four days ago hailed Jesus as King, was now clamoring for his life as a result of the rabble-rousing of the religious leaders. (Luke 19:38, NW) Fear of another uprising no doubt played its part in causing Pilate to yield, even as Matthew's account indicates. (Matt. 27:24) But evidently still stronger was Pilate's love of his position and his regard for Caesar's favor upon which that position depended, a fact noted by the apostle John. So when the crowd taunted him with, "If you release this man, you are not a friend of Caesar. Every man making himself a king speaks against Caesar," Pilate weakened. He knew he was doing wrong by yielding; his very act of washing his hands in public revealed the presence of a guilty conscience. And so political expediency was responsible for the perpetration of the greatest crime in history, the foulest murder, the violent ending of the only perfect life that had ever been lived, that of none other than the

Son of Jehovah God.—Matt. 27:24; John 19:12-16, NW.

There have been many Pilates down through the centuries; rulers who have sacrificed innocent servants of Jehovah God because of political expediency, among which might be included those who have acted as 'swords of the church' of Rome during the Dark and Middle Ages. And there are many Pilates with us today; minor officials in such democratic lands as the United States, Canada, Switzerland and Italy who yield to religious pressure to persecute Jehovah's servants, necessitating appeals to the Supreme Courts, which courts in many instances have shown themselves to be above political expediency. On the other hand there are lands where the leading or major government officials have shown themselves to be Pilates in being willing to sacrifice the interests of Jehovah's servants in the interests of political expediency. Christians suffering under such conditions can take comfort in Jesus' words that Jehovah God, in his due time, will avenge all such injustices.—Luke 18:7, 8.

To follow principle costs something. It means loving the truth, even though it is unpopular. It means fearing God, not men. And it means hating unjust gain, not going after it. (Ex. 18:21; Prov. 29:25, AS) But it is the price that all must pay, especially those in positions of responsibility and authority, for being free moral agents; and not only so that we might have a clear conscience now but also that we might gain the approval of the Judge of all the earth, our Maker. The way of political expediency is the easy way that leads to death. The way of principle is the hard way, but with proper knowledge it leads to life.—Matt. 7:13, 14; John 17:3.

Adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God?—Jas. 4:4, NW.

THE DIVINE NAME *of* FIRST IMPORTANCE

THE chief concern of most professed Christians as regards their religion is the "saving of their souls". They give little or no thought to the glorifying and vindicating of the name of their Creator, Jehovah. They have little concern whether or not men "may know that thou alone, whose name is Jehovah, art the Most High over all the earth". (Ps. 83:18, AS) All such reveal a woeful lack of understanding of their relationship to their Maker; a failure to appreciate how far superior He is to any of his creatures, and that he is the only true God.

But does not the Bible place emphasis on the salvation of creatures? Do we not read time and again about what we must believe and do if we would be saved? True, but God's Word also shows that the honoring of Jehovah's name and its vindication, which involves also the triumph of righteousness, is of far greater importance. Salvation of creatures is merely incidental thereto, or at best wholly dependent upon Jehovah's vindication.

WHY MERCY AND DELIVERANCE

A careful study of God's Word shows that it is because his name and supremacy are involved that he has extended mercy and provided deliverance to members of the human race. When Adam and Eve rebelled Jehovah could immediately have wiped them out, together with the adversary, and started anew. Why did he not do so? Because by causing Adam and Eve's

deflection the adversary had challenged Jehovah's supremacy, had challenged his ability to put men on earth that would maintain integrity, had challenged Jehovah's ability to carry out his purposes. That is why God mercifully permitted our first parents to live so many years after they had sinned.—Gen. 2:17; Job, chapters 1 and 2; Prov. 27:11; Isa. 46:11.

In dealing with haughty Pharaoh Jehovah showed much patience. Why did he not destroy Pharaoh at once? For the same reason: "For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, so that you would have been effaced from the earth; but this is why I have spared you: to show you my power, and to have my fame recounted throughout all the earth." (Ex. 9:15, 16, AT) And those words, by the way, have even more force as applied to the greater Pharaoh, Satan the Devil.

That is why Jehovah delivered the nation of Israel from Pharaoh's pursuing army; even though they "rebelled against the Most High at the Red sea. Yet he delivered them for his name's sake, in order to make known his might". Yes, not just because he remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and so had pity on their descendants, but that he might redeem them unto himself, "to make himself a name by doing great and terrible things for them."—Ex. 2:24, 25; 2 Sam. 7:23; Ps. 106:7, 8, AT.

In the same tenor are Jehovah's words to a backsliding Israel: "For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off." (Isa. 48:9, AS) By the prophet Ezekiel Jehovah repeatedly emphasizes this fact that he showed mercy to

his people for his name's sake: "But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations." "And ye shall know that I am Jehovah, when I have dealt with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord Jehovah." "But I had regard for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations, whither they went. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: I do not this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for my holy name, which ye have profaned among the nations, whither ye went." (Ezek. 20:9, 44; 36:21, 22, AS) No question as to which came first, the honor of his name or the salvation of his creatures, as far as Jehovah is concerned, is there?

Consider the instance of the three Hebrews who were thrown into the furnace. Higher critics have used this incident, among others, to discredit the authenticity of the book of Daniel, claiming that such a miracle was without real point and therefore most likely merely an invention. But thereby they only reveal their lack of understanding, for by this miracle the name of Jehovah was greatly magnified. Note the decree that Nebuchadnezzar, ruler of the world power of Babylon, made as a result of that remarkable deliverance of God's servants: "Every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dung-hill; because there is no other god that is able to deliver after this sort." (Dan. 3:13-29, AS) Yes, the three Hebrews had assured the king that Jehovah could deliver them if it pleased him to do so; and it pleased Jehovah to do so, not just to spare their lives, but primarily to make Nebuchadnezz-

zar know that the God of the Jews was indeed the supreme living God.

APPRECIATED BY MEN OF OLD

Novel as this thought, that the vindication of Jehovah's name is more important than the salvation of creatures, may be to most professed Christians, God's servants in times of old fully appreciated this fact. Consider Moses: When Jehovah expressed his determination to destroy the nation of Israel because of their rebellion at the time the ten spies gave a bad report, Moses pleaded for God's mercy on the basis of his name's being involved: "If thou shalt kill this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying, Because Jehovah was not able to bring this people into the land which he sware unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness." On the basis of that argument Jehovah showed mercy even as he did on a previous occasion when the same issue arose—due to the Israelites' making the golden calf and worshiping it.—Ex. 32:7-29; Num. 14:11-35, AS.

In view of the fact that Joshua was trained by Moses it need not surprise us that he also appreciated the importance of Jehovah's name. When the small army he sent to take Ai was defeated Joshua was grief-stricken; he could not understand it. In deep sorrow he appealed to Jehovah: "Oh, Lord, what shall I say, after that Israel hath turned their backs before their enemies! For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and will compass us round, and cut off our name from the earth." And was that the extent of Joshua's concern? Not at all. His chief concern was, "and what wilt thou do for thy great name?" Yes, that was the crux of the matter, 'Jehovah, what will

happen to your name if your name-people are wiped out?"—Josh. 7:7-9, AS.

Jehovah was not oblivious to the fact that his name was involved, but because an Israelite had taken some booty from the city of Jericho, which had been wholly devoted to destruction by Jehovah, he permitted Israel to suffer a setback. After the offending Achan was duly punished, Israel again proved victorious, to the honor of Jehovah's name.—Josh. 7:10 to 8:25, AS.

Samuel, the last of the judges, had the same appreciation as did Joshua, the first of them. When the Israelites feared they would be destroyed because they had rejected Jehovah as King and asked for a human king, Samuel assured them, "Jehovah will not forsake his people for his great name's sake, because it hath pleased Jehovah to make you a people unto himself." (1 Sam. 12:22, AS) Again Jehovah showed mercy because of his name.

**APPRECIATED BY
DAVID, JEREMIAH, HEZEKIAH**

David was outstanding for his appreciation of the importance of Jehovah's name. Seeing and hearing Goliath taunt the armies of Israel incensed David: "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" Though a mere youth and armed with but a shepherd's staff, a sling and a few smooth stones, David faced Goliath in confidence, saying to him: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a javelin: but I come to thee in the name of Jehovah of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will Jehovah deliver thee into my hand." Why was David so confident that Jehovah would give him the victory? Because it was Jehovah's purpose to have all the earth "know that there is a God in Israel", and that victory does not depend upon carnal

weapons but upon Jehovah.—1 Sam. 17:26, 45-47, AS.

Whatever the circumstances, David looked to God for help on the basis of His name. "He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." "For thy name's sake, O Jehovah, pardon mine iniquity, for it is great." "For thou art my rock and my fortress; and for thy name's sake thou wilt lead me and guide me." "For thy name's sake, O LORD [Jehovah], save my life! In the vindication of thyself bring me out of trouble!"—Ps. 23:3; 25:11, AS; 31:3; 143:11, AT.

Another sweet singer of Israel, Asaph, likewise appreciated this claim on Jehovah's mercy on the basis of his name: "Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name; and deliver us, and forgive our sins, for thy name's sake. Wherefore should the nations say, Where is their God? Let the avenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed be known among the nations in our sight." (Ps. 79:9, 10, AS) The prophet Jeremiah prayed a similar prayer: "Though our iniquities testify against us, work thou for thy name's sake, O Jehovah; for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee. Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake."—Jer. 14:7, 21, AS.

King Hezekiah also showed that he appreciated that deliverance was for Jehovah's name's sake. When Sennacherib boasted that 'none of the gods of the nations have been able to deliver out of my hand, neither can your God Jehovah', Hezekiah prayed to Jehovah: "Of a truth, Jehovah, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the countries, and their land, and have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone; therefore they have destroyed them. Now therefore, O Jehovah our God, save us from his hand, that [we might be spared alive? No, but that] all

the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art Jehovah, even thou only." And Hezekiah's prayer was answered, Jehovah's angel slaying 185,000 of the flower of Sennacherib's army, because Jehovah's name was involved. That name is indeed a strong tower.—Prov. 18:10; Isa. 36:13-20; 37:10-38, AS.

APPRECIATED BY CHRIST
AND HIS APOSTLES

Christ Jesus also appreciated that the salvation of creatures was not the most important thing. As he himself stated, he came, first of all, "not to be ministered to, but to minister" and, secondarily, "to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many." (Matt. 20:28, NW) To minister and serve in what way? By bearing witness to his Father's truth and by glorifying his Father's name. That is why he said to Pilate: "For this purpose I have been born and for this purpose I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth." And that is why he was able to pray on the night of his betrayal, even before he had given his life as a ransom in exchange for many: "I have glorified you on the earth, having finished the work you have given me to do." He glorified his Father's name in two distinct ways: first, by learning obedience by the things he suffered, thereby proving the Devil a liar when he boasted he could turn all men away from God; and also by 'making manifest his Father's name to the men his Father had given him'.—John 17:4, 6; 18:37; Heb. 5:8, NW.

And he impressed upon his immediate followers this same appreciation of the importance of bringing honor to his heavenly Father. In his sermon on the mount he commanded them to let their light shine

before mankind. Why? So that glory and praise might be given to his Father who is in the heavens. (Matt. 5:16, NW) He expressed the same thought but with a different illustration in the counsel he gave his apostles on the last evening he was with them: "My Father is glorified in this, that you keep bearing much fruit and prove yourselves my disciples."—John 15:8, NW.

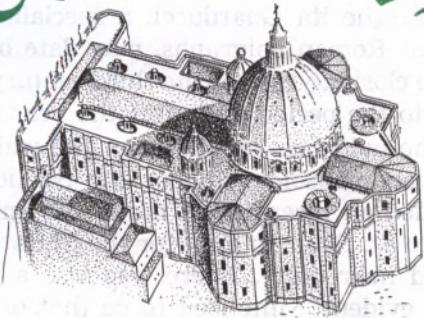
The apostle Paul expresses himself similarly at Hebrews 13:15 (NW), saying: "Through him let us always offer to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips which make public declaration to his name." Yes, letting our light shine, bearing fruit, offering sacrifices, all for the same purpose, that of bringing honor to Jehovah's name. No wonder Peter wrote: "You are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies' of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."—1 Pet. 2:9, NW.

Jehovah God and Christ Jesus both bear testimony to the chief importance of Jehovah's name as compared with the salvation of creatures, as do also many of Jehovah's servants from Moses to the apostle John. Those who are truly wise will therefore make Jehovah's name superior in their lives by doing all they can to make known that name, by bringing honor and praise to it and by endeavoring at all times to conduct themselves in harmony with the righteous principles that Jehovah's name stands for. Only by following this course can we appeal to Jehovah for mercy and deliverance "for his name's sake". Jehovah's name is superior. Our salvation is incidental and dependent upon its vindication.

*For this cause have I made thee to stand, to show thee my power,
and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.*

—Ex. 9:16, AS.

St. Peter's



The Site of Peter's Tomb?

WAS Peter ever physically present in Rome? While there has been much tradition to that effect, some of it going back to the second century A.D., actual proof has been wanting. According to tradition Peter was martyred at the site of the ancient Circus of Nero, where it is claimed he was also buried. It is said that the site of his tomb was revered since the second century and that on it Constantine built the first St. Peter's basilica begun A.D. 323 but not completed until after his death.

In c.1503 the present basilica of St. Peter was begun, and completed after 127 years, in c.1630, at a cost of \$48 million. Incidentally, the drive for funds for the building work, carried on in Germany by the sale of indulgences by the monk Tetzel, was one of the immediate causes of the German Reformation by Luther. According to *Life*, United States weekly picture magazine, its length is 710 feet, height, 452 feet, maximum width, 450 feet. All of which makes it the world's largest basilica.

To provide added space so as to be able to comply with the wishes of Pius XI to be buried alongside Pius X in the burial vaults

beneath St. Peter's, excavations were begun in 1939, and finding the area promising in archaeological interest digging was greatly extended. In 1946, the *Illustrated London News*, September 7, under the heading, "The Most Important Archaeological Discovery Made During the War: Roman Tombs Beneath St. Peter's, Rome," told of the finding of a complete Roman necropolis or cemetery beneath St. Peter's containing pagan and Christian tombs dating back from the middle of the second to the end of the third century A.D. A number of beautiful sculptured sarcophagi, bearing the names of those entombed, skeletons, jewelry, etc., were found.

According to this journal: "The present discoveries dispose of the tradition that the Basilica of Constantine was founded on the site of the Circus of Nero and Caligula in which, according to tradition, the martyrdom of St. Peter took place. It has come as a surprise that no trace has been found under St. Peter's of the Circus or of the Via Cornelia, both of which ancient topographers show as under the Vatican basilica." However, it seems that the Circus was not far away, since one inscription requested burial "in the Vatican near the Circus".

In its March 27, 1950, issue, *Life* devoted some dozen pages to these discoveries under St. Peter's, and gave a report by a Monsignor Kaas (since deceased) who had charge of the work. After telling of the circumstances causing the work to be started and the difficulties, especially with water, so much so that a water diviner was resorted to but without any success, Kaas goes on to say that "any believer who has passed through the excavated necropolis" and who finds himself in "the immediate vicinity of the place assigned by Christian tradition to St. Peter's tomb, succumbs to the silent but eloquent logic of his surroundings".

But what about the non-Catholic? How valid are these findings for him? "Nonbelievers may not view this affirmation in the same light," says Kaas; but he argues that the evidence challenges "nonbelievers for proof to the contrary of archaeology's affirmation". To the same effect is the report published in the *New York Times*, December 20, 1951, which quoted the Vatican's claim to "scientifically unquestionable" evidence. But the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, December 21, 1951, under the heading, "Vatican Scientists Report Tombless Burial of St. Peter," stated: "Pilgrims who visit the Vatican grottos will be able to get within 10 feet of the place where Vatican authorities say St. Peter was buried, but they will not be able to see his tomb. For there is no tomb." So it seems that, rather than a tomb, what was discovered was a "grave made of rough masonry, like those for the poorest" and of which only one side wall remained.—*Times*, December 21, 1951.

The same issue of the *Times* states that "all around was palpable evidence that Christians paid veneration to this spot, since the second half of the first century". Other reports stated that veneration was paid as far back as the second half of the second century. All these dispatches, note, were of December, 1951. But along comes a dispatch about a year later, *Times*, November 24, 1952, under the heading: "St. Peter's Tomb May Be Source of New Finds. Evidence linking tradition of St. Peter's burial to a generation closer to his own lifetime than recent excavations under St. Peter's Basilica have done may be forthcoming soon, Vatican officials said today.

"Archeologists recently discovered the first written evidence under the basilica that the spot was considered the burial spot of St. Peter at least as early as the first years of the fourth century. The evi-

dence, presented this week in the Pontifical Roman Academy of Archeology by Professor Margherita Guarducci, a specialist in ancient Roman epigraphs, may date back to the closing years of the third century or even to the period just after the year 250.

"The evidence—tracings on the wall of a pagan mausoleum under the basilica—included an inscription" that "was an appeal to St. Peter to pray for the Christians buried near him". There was also a portrait, evidently intended to be that of Peter, with the word "Petrus".

Regarding other writings at the place, the *New York Tribune*, December 21, 1951, stated: "The scribblings—similar to the hundreds which can be found even today on various walls of the present basilica in the wake of American soldiers' visits during World War II—include evidence that the early visitors believed that St. Peter could be venerated at the spot."

Why should reports first tell of the spot as being venerated the second half of the second and even the first centuries, and then about a year later state that previous information indicated only the first part of the fourth century but now there is evidence that shows veneration in the second half of the third century? Does not all such betray a desire to make the evidence fit tradition instead of letting the evidence speak for itself? None of the inscriptions states that Peter was buried there. And granting that they prove that Peter was venerated at that spot they merely prove that the tradition existed in the second half of the third century, not that the tradition itself is true.

THE SCRIPTURAL TESTIMONY

Since traditions regarding Peter's having been in Rome do not go back to his day, let us note what God's Word has to say on the subject, since it was written in Peter's time. Search as we may, not a hint

do we find that Peter was ever in Rome, let alone that he was bishop there. And not only are the Scriptures silent as regards his being there, giving no evidence either direct or circumstantial to that effect, but they give the strongest kind of circumstantial evidence that Peter was never in Rome.

Paul wrote a letter to the Romans and in it he sends greetings to twenty-six different individuals and yet does not mention Peter. Can we for a moment imagine that Paul would entirely ignore Peter if Peter was in Rome and Paul was writing to Peter's congregation, which is what the Christians of Rome would have been, had Peter been there and been their bishop? And not only bishop but also the vicar of Christ! Does it make sense to hold that Paul would have dared to purposely ignore Christ's successor?—Rom. 16:1-24.

Further, Paul's letter is full of corrective instruction. Why should it be necessary for Paul to instruct the Roman Christians in so many matters if Peter, the vicar of Christ, was present with them? Could we imagine Paul's trying to set straight the disciples of Jesus while Jesus was with them, as though Jesus had been neglecting to properly teach them? Is it reasonable to conclude that if the Roman Christians were under the tutelage of any vicar of Christ Paul would have found it necessary to write them?

Also note that time and again in his letters from Rome Paul mentions others that are there with him, some of whom also sent greetings along with Paul. Is it not strange, if Peter was also in Rome as the vicar of Christ and head of all the Chris-

tian congregations, that Paul did not arrange to have Peter also send along his greetings, benedictions, etc., to the various congregations to whom he wrote?

According to the New York *Times*, the identification of St. Peter's Basilica as the burial place of the apostle Peter "is regarded as destroying doubts that were cast during the period of the Reformation and thereafter on the historical data attesting to Peter's physical presence in Rome. The whole line of papal succession may be held to hinge upon this point". If that is true, is it not strange that so much definite information should be uncovered regarding pagan persons, their names, tombs, actual remains, inscriptions, etc., and yet God should allow the evidence of Peter's burial at the site of St. Peter's to be so dubious, equivocal and ambiguous as to make any deductions regarding it mere speculation?

If the "whole line of papal succession may be held to hinge" on whether Peter's remains lie buried beneath St. Peter's or not, then it must be admitted to be without foundation, for the recent diggings under the basilica have yielded nothing that would strengthen the position of the Roman Catholic Church in this respect.

So what conclusion must we reach? That on the one hand archaeology at best only supports the fact that there was a tradition that Peter could be revered on Vatican hill, not that the tradition of Peter's being in Rome is true, nor that he was buried there. And on the other hand, that the Scriptures furnish the strongest kind of circumstantial evidence that Peter was never in Rome. St. Peter's therefore is not the site of Peter's tomb.

As Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet and did obeisance to him.

But Peter lifted him up, saying: "Rise; I myself am also a man."

—Acts 10:25, 26, NW.

Jehovah's Witnesses Neither Capitalists nor Communists

IT IS a well-known fact that after World War II the conditions in Finland have been such as to favor communism. Where the large manufacturing plants and false religion have long held rule in unrighteousness and dishonesty, there have sprung up powerful Communist strongholds. One of such "red camps" is situated in the city of Kemi, in northern Finland, about sixty miles from the polar or Arctic circle. In their midst is a very active company of Jehovah's witnesses, some 60 strong, with many full-time ministers.

¶ A man and wife, serving as full-time ministers in such a Communist factory community, got into a difficult situation because a witness for Jehovah from Helsinki, who is technical manager for a large American oil company, paid them a visit in what the Communists call his "dollar smile", meaning his American car. From that moment the doors of the community were closed to our pioneer ministers; everybody being now convinced that Jehovah's witnesses were spies for American capitalists. People did not want their literature and those who had begun to study with them told them they did not need to come any more.

¶ Then help came from an unexpected quarter. Six miles away from this community lived the city fire chief, who was also a Communist; in fact, their local leader and an idol next only to Stalin. This fire chief not only obtained the book "*Let God Be True*", but ar-

ranged to study the Bible in his home with the aid of a minister of Jehovah.

¶ One autumn evening after the study had been held the minister was ready to leave on his bicycle when the fire chief noticed that it was raining hard and that the storm was increasing in violence. So he ordered an ambulance, put the bicycle in the back and then drove the minister to his home. As the ambulance appeared in front of the minister's home, the curious neighbors, in spite of storm and rain, came to see what was going on. Imagine their surprise when they saw their idolized Communist leader and the minister whom they had labeled an "American capitalistic agent" together lift the bicycle out of the ambulance!

¶ This little scene opened the door for many opportunities to witness. As the witnesses went about their preaching work the next day they met faces friendly and curious. They went from one coffee table to the next writing up subscriptions, distributing literature, and, above all, talking about the Bible. The people learned that even as Jehovah's witnesses had nothing in common with communism they had nothing in common with capitalistic imperialism. As a result, in a short time five Communists left their organization and came out into the freedom of God's children, no longer Communists.

The Ceremony Is a Religious One

At the coronation Britain's queen received the Church's full blessing, and even more. The Sunday *Chronicle* of March 8 put it this way: "And now comes the most exalted moment. The Queen is to be raised to the mystic company of the Lord's Anointed, thus becoming Queen, not only by the will of Man, but in the sight of God. . . . That which is to come is a mystery, not to be seen by man; and few will hear the voice of the Archbishop as, dipping his fingers into the Spoon, he says: 'Be thy Hands anointed with Holy Oil, be thy breast anointed with Holy Oil, be thy Head anointed with Holy Oil as Kings, Priests and Prophets were anointed.' As the Dean returns the Sacred Oil to the Altar, the congregation again see their Queen, now to the eye of faith mystically transfigured. She is ready to receive in the investiture the emblems which may be held or worn only by the Lord's Anointed, the vestments resembling those of a Priest which are put upon her by the Dean." The further religious significance of this ceremony is shown in the "Sword of State", with which she is to, among other things, "protect the Holy Church of God," and "the crown of glory and righteousness" which she is to receive, "which to her many peoples bears a significance beyond all earthly authority and power." Participation in the pageantry is, therefore, a religious act as well as a political one.

Launching the Kingdom Government

JEHOVAH God declares in his Word, the Bible, that his purpose in creating the earth was to have it inhabited by

perfect, faithful men and women. He says: "I have made the earth, and created man upon it: . . . I am Jehovah; and there is none else." Further magnifying Jehovah and his purpose with regard to the earth, the faithful witness Isaiah emphasizes that he is "the God that formed the earth and made it, that established it and created it not a waste, that formed it to be inhabited". (Isa. 45:12, 18, AS) To this end he created a perfect man and woman and gave them a command to multiply and fill the earth with a righteous race of people.

² However, before any children were born to this perfect pair they disobeyed their Maker and fell away to sin. Under the influence of the rebellious spirit creature who had been appointed as their guardian, Adam and Eve foolishly chose to forsake the governmental arrangement provided by Jehovah for their well-being. Violating the principles of faith and obedience to Jehovah's requirements, they chose the course that led them to sin, slavery and death. No longer could they hope to enjoy the delights of intimate association with their Creator and the wonderful blessings of the beautiful garden home that had been especially prepared for them. Instead, they became the unhappy subjects of a rebel government, facing a sentence of death for

"And a great sign was seen in heaven, a woman . . . And she gave birth to a son, a male, who is destined to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. And her child was caught away to God and to his throne."

—Rev. 12:1, 5, NW.

unfaithfulness. Nor were they blessed with being able to pass on to their children the wonderful heritage of life

as Jehovah had originally purposed. Instead of a blessing from their Creator for themselves and their children, they came under a curse that included the earth on which they lived. The way of rebellion could give them none of the blessings or bright prospects for the future that had been held out for the human family by Jehovah God their Creator.

³ Did the treachery of that unfaithful trio move Jehovah to destroy them and abandon his purpose toward the earth? Did their lack of faith make the word and purpose of Jehovah null and void and of no effect? Certainly not! In fact, with full confidence as to the outcome, Jehovah deferred the execution of sentence against them to permit a full-scale proving of his universal supremacy. This made it possible for them to continue working in defiance of their Maker. The appointed spirit son who led the rebellion Jehovah later significantly named the Devil and Satan. Even then, at the dawn of man's history, Satan was looking far ahead and was determined to gain for himself the worship of all earth's billions, with a place in the heavens like the Most High himself. His centuries-old efforts to control the people of the earth by means of false worship, oppressive government and regimentation are now rapidly approaching their end.

1. For what purpose did Jehovah create the earth and man?

2. What course did Adam and Eve choose, with what result to themselves and their offspring?

3. Why did Jehovah defer executing the unfaithful trio, allowing Satan to work toward what goal?

⁴ Immediately after that infamous rebellion in Eden Jehovah openly prophesied that the time would come when he would crush all his opposers and finally carry out his original purpose to make the earth a beautiful home for faithful men and women. He has given us positive assurance through his written Word that his purpose is to launch a righteous world government that will provide prosperity, peace, happiness and everlasting life. 'Of the increase of that government and peace there will be no end,' we are told. (Isa. 9:6, 7) What a wonderful prospect that is for troubled humankind today, especially for those who have faith in Jehovah's promise and look forward to it with confidence, worshiping him in spirit and in truth! That righteous kingdom government of God has not been formed or launched with haste. Jehovah has given the rebel Satan sufficient time to make good his boast that he could turn all men against their Creator. For nearly 6,000 years, yes, right down to our present generation, Jehovah has allowed Satan to remain to prove his defiant challenge. Satan has failed! Now his time is up! And as we briefly review the pages of history we shall observe the incessant attempts of Satan to establish his supremacy and control over the earth. We shall see that his campaign has been fruitless, and time after time loyal servants of Jehovah have remained faithful to His worship, resisting every temptation and pressure brought against them. Finally, we shall see how Jehovah brings his purpose to a climax in our time by the launching of his Kingdom government of righteousness and peace.

⁵ There never has been a time in the history of humanity when Satan has turned all men against Jehovah, although for a period of 1,656 years from the time of

4. Regarding what did God give positive assurance and despite what efforts on the part of Satan?

5. What was the result of satanic control of mankind from Adam to the Flood?

Adam until the Flood only ten persons are mentioned in the Bible as remaining faithful to Jehovah. So, it appears that Satan had much his own way during that time. But what was the result of that long period of satanic control over mankind? Once again Jehovah spoke out in condemnation of the rebel system and all those who supported it. "And Jehovah 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. And Jehovah said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the ground; . . . But Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah." (Gen. 6:5, 7, 8, AS) To accomplish this destruction Jehovah brought a flood of water over all the earth, and only eight souls survived.

⁶ After the destructive fury of the flood had subsided, the eight survivors came forth to start life afresh upon a cleansed earth. Since this family of survivors was devoted to the worship of Jehovah one might reason that conditions would grow better. But Satan soon rallied the wicked forces of his organization, which had been badly upset by Jehovah's action, and spurred it on to greater activity. His goal has always been to influence, control and corrupt mankind. He seemed to give special attention to one of Noah's sons, Ham. Noah's other two sons, Japheth and Shem, continued faithful to Jehovah, but Ham and his offspring were caught in the influence of the wicked one and soon turned back from the worship of the Almighty God, Jehovah.

⁷ As time passed, some of Ham's descendants journeyed toward Egypt. There they set up the first great world power.

6. What caused the post-flood world to become corrupted?

7, 8. (a) What can be said about the first world power, and why was it made prominent in the Scriptures?

(b) What nation became the second world power?

As their monuments and inscriptions show, these men were laboring under the influence of Satan the Devil. They had entirely forsaken the pure worship of Jehovah and, instead, worshiped demon gods associated with the Devil in his efforts to dominate the world. The Egyptians raised an army of horsemen and chariots, built schools of learning and gave special attention to commerce. This nation is prominently mentioned in the Bible because of its efforts to destroy the offspring of Abraham that dwelt there for a time, and to whom Jehovah made precious promises in relation to the government he purposed to launch for his kingdom. Yes, the kingdom that was destined to bring blessings to all the families of the earth.

⁸ By a demonstration of his mighty power Jehovah humiliated the Egyptians and their false gods by delivering the children of Israel, as they were now called, and bringing them to the land promised to Abraham and his seed. With them then he launched a typical theocracy. That government, ruled by Jehovah, was administered through earthly representatives. It came to be known as the nation of Israel. Its people at once became the targets of Satan's attacks. Satan evidently thought this was the government Jehovah intended to launch to carry out his purpose to fill the earth with righteous human creatures; so he tried to destroy it and its people, but he failed, as did Egypt. The rulers of Egypt were cruel, wicked men and greatly oppressed the people. Their government, which became the first world power, was a complete and miserable failure. It was conquered by Assyria, the second world power, likewise under the influence of Satan.

⁹ The government of the Assyrians featured military power. Their aim was to rule the world by the strength of military

might. After a successful campaign, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, invaded Palestine with a great army to destroy the nation of Israel and its theocratic government. He sent a boastful and insulting message to the king of Judah, Hezekiah, saying: 'Your God cannot save you from the might of Assyria and its gods.' (2 Ki. 18:33-35; 19:14-19, AS) Faithful Hezekiah went to the temple of Jehovah, spread this message before him and asked for help and guidance. Jehovah answered his prayer by sending an angel, who destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night. Sennacherib was greatly humiliated and hastened home to seek comfort from his gods. While he was worshiping the god Nisroch, two of his own sons killed him. (2 Ki. 19:35-37, AS) The Assyrian power did not create a government that brought peace and happiness to the people.

¹⁰ The next world power discussed in the Bible is Babylon. Mighty Babylon, whose rulers were proud and wealthy, in its governmental setup specialized in religion, religion of the basest kind. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon at its inception, said in his heart: "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; . . . I will make myself like the Most High." (Isa. 14:4, 13, 14, AS) His ambition was to overthrow the typical theocracy of Palestine and thus make himself the undisputed ruler of mankind. In this attempt he pictured Satan, who helped him carry out his ambitious plans. Satan turned the children of Israel away from the true, clean worship of Jehovah; and because of their deflection Jehovah permitted Nebuchadnezzar to destroy their land and take them off into slavery for seventy years.—Jer. 25:11, AS.

¹¹ As the end of the period of captivity approached, the king of Babylon made no

9. What was Assyria's outstanding feature, and how did Jehovah deal with it?

10, 11. (a) What was the third world power, and in what did it specialize? (b) In what way did its ruler picture Satan, and why did Jehovah cause Babylon to be overthrown?

move to release the Israelites, thinking to hold them permanently as slaves, to the ultimate reproach of Jehovah. But Jehovah promised he would release his people from slavery and restore them to Jerusalem at the end of the seventy years. Therefore he stirred up the Medes and the Persians to attack and conquer mighty Babylon and permit the captive Israelites to return to their own land. This was done on time! The religion of Babylon did not do her people or anyone else any good; rather it did much harm. To this very day the effects of their satanic doctrines are felt among men. They permeate the doctrines of Christendom and lead men into darkness and destruction. Proud Babylon's false religion was not a blessing, but resulted in a curse.



¹² The fourth attempt of Satan at world power was in the setting up of the Medo-Persian empire. This outfit had, as its specialty, law, boasting that the laws of Persia never changed. Alas, with all their so-called 'perfect laws', the Medes and Persians did not have a government that could bring peace and happiness to the nation or the world.

While it is true that Jehovah used Cyrus, the founder of the Medo-Persian empire, and also later Ahasuerus, to render valuable service to his people Israel, still they worshiped demon gods, and their rulers were fallen, selfish men who could not enact or administer righteous laws that would bring permanent relief to ailing mankind. Medo-Persia fell

^{12. (a) What was the fourth world power, and in spite of services rendered God's people what kind of government was it? (b) What was the fifth world power?}



away to its successor in the chain of world powers, Greece, the fifth.

¹³ Evidently the Greeks felt that culture and education were what man needed to ensure peace and happiness everywhere. They gave this world many philosophers who taught false doctrines that confused the people. Some of their doctrines still afflict humanity in their efforts to learn the way to life and peace. The culture and education of Greece did absolutely nothing to help mankind better its condition. Finally proving ineffective at world rule, Greece gave way in power to Rome.

¹⁴ Rome, too, was interested in and steeped with commerce, education and religion, but the dominant force of this sixth world power was politics.

We note in passing that many Christian congregations were established in the scattered provinces of Rome by Christ's apostles. After the passing of the apostles, ambitious men, who outwardly accepted Christianity, began to twist the teachings of the Lord Jesus and his apostles. They did this in order to draw disciples after themselves. (Acts 20:29, 30) As these men grew in power they were called 'bishops'. They disagreed on many important doctrines, and as a result religion became a divisive factor in the nation. Emperor Constantine took note of this existing condition and called the 'bishops' of the various factions to a conference at Nicaea for the purpose of creating a fusion religion. Constantine was a pagan politician and presided at this meeting. These men did not look to the Bible for some way to settle their differences on these doctrines; they thrived on



^{13. What did the Greeks stress, and to what power did their government give way?}

^{14. (a) What was the dominant force of the sixth world power? (b) What steps did Constantine take to end religion's divisiveness, and with what results?}

many words and silver-tongued oratory. Among them was an invisible but very much interested delegate, Satan the Devil, the god of this world or system of things. (2 Cor. 4:4) At this council of Nicaea Satan's far-reaching scheme to turn men away from the Bible was set into motion. Three of his pet doctrines, the trinity, immortality of the soul and eternal torment, were endorsed. This wily devil knew that men believing these false doctrines would not and could not understand Jehovah's purpose to fill this earth with a righteous race of people. How is this so?

¹⁵ Belief in the ungodly trinity would prevent one from understanding the Scriptural doctrine of the ransom. A perfect man was needed to redeem mankind from Adamic sin and death, and none of Adam's children could provide the price of the ransom. (Ps. 49:1, 2, 7) In order to redeem mankind it was necessary for Jesus to become a man and die. But for this to occur it would mean a dissolution of the trinity. As for the immortality of the soul: if the soul were immortal the precious doctrine of the resurrection would be utter nonsense, because one cannot resurrect a person who is not dead. The doctrine of eternal torment is a fiendish one, for it pictures Jehovah as a cruel monster, and not a God of love, which he is. So Rome did much harm to Christians and brought relief to no one. As this wicked empire deteriorated into decay, the next and seventh world power made its appearance in the form of the British Empire, later joined by America to form the Anglo-American world combine, a great Protestant, democratic power.

¹⁶ The special features of the preceding

six world powers, namely, commerce, military power, religion, established laws, culture, education and politics, were now all incorporated into this seventh power, and to all of this was added 'democracy'. Now Satan thought he really had a combination that would succeed in establishing peace and unity on earth. But this power has done little indeed to advance peace and happiness. Although claiming to be Christian, this combination has not relieved the world of its sorrows.

Why, look! in one generation man has engaged in two most destructive world conflagrations, wars that upset the economy of all nations, killed millions of the flower of youth and have sown such seeds of discontent that now in the offing is another world struggle. The nations of the world are now divided into two camps carrying on a cold war that soon may become hot. Thinking men fear that such a conflict will destroy civilization as we now know it. In all of this we see that Satan's methods of government have been tried and have been found wanting.



¹⁷ According to Bible chronology, the "appointed times of the nations", mentioned by Jesus at Luke 21:24 (NW), began 607 years before Christ and extended over a period of 2,520 years to A.D. 1914. In that very year the first world war erupted to the horror of the so-called "Christian nations" that claimed that they constituted 'God's kingdom on earth'. Sober-minded people then realized that the claims of Christendom were fraudulent, and they became perplexed. At that time Jehovah's witnesses preached that the kingdom of God was the only hope for mankind and

15. (a) How are Constantine's three pet doctrines proved false? (b) What became the seventh world power?

16. What characteristics does the seventh world power have, and what belies its claim to be Christian?

17. (a) When did the "appointed times of the nations" begin, and end? Instead of God's kingdom what have the nations accepted since 1914?

that it was at hand and they urged all nations and peoples to accept it. Did the nations do so? No! Instead they persecuted Jehovah's witnesses, sending many to jail and trying their utmost to stop the preaching work. They accepted the League of Nations instead of God's kingdom. Why, some of the clergy were so certain the League would bring peace and happiness to the world they called it 'the political expression of God's kingdom on earth'. But when World War II broke out that League went into the abyss, or state of inactivity; it could do nothing in the way of preserving peace. At the end of the war the politicians and clergymen attempted to revive the dormant League and called it "United Nations". This setup still lives, even though finding it difficult to do so, but still can do little to preserve peace in the world. The reason is that the men and nations that make up this union are selfish, fallen creatures who have forgotten Jehovah; they cannot bring order out of confusion.

¹⁸ Nations have failed to bring peace and happiness to the earth, because they have operated on the satanic theory that self-interest and competition would bring out the best in men. Instead of bringing out the good in men, this policy has made men cruel, dishonest and aggressive, developing the spirit that led to wars of conquest and thus brought much sorrow and suffering to all. In direct contradistinction, Jehovah's Kingdom government will operate on the basis of love and co-operation and will bring peace and happiness to the people.

¹⁹ The Bible record shows that governments created by men under the influence of Satan cannot bring the desired consequences. If the present system of things continues, the destiny of humanity can only be total annihilation. Were such to

be the case, how would God then carry out his declared purpose to fill the earth with the descendants of Adam and Eve? Well, would he create another human pair and begin again? To do so would prove Satan's side of the issue, that he could turn all men away from their Creator, something he has never succeeded in accomplishing. Jehovah God will show his supremacy over Satan by redeeming the children of Adam and, through them, carrying out his purpose toward this earth. This program requires a redeemer and a perfect government administered by righteous men. Arrangements toward this end have been made, and so the original purpose of Jehovah relative to this earth and man will be fulfilled to the complete satisfaction of Jehovah's infinite wisdom.

PREPARING THE KINGDOM GOVERNMENT

²⁰ A great deal of painstaking labor is required to prepare a vessel for launching. So with the launching of a government. Soon after the "covering cherub" in Eden led the first human pair into the way of death Jehovah declared his purpose to launch a government that would rid the universe of that deceiver. At Genesis 3:15 it is written: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." The faithful prophet Enoch foretold the destruction of the wicked. Jude refers to this in his epistle: "Yes, the seventh man in line from Adam, Enoch, prophesied also regarding them, when he said: 'Look! Jehovah came with his holy myriads, to execute judgment against all and to convict all the ungodly concerning all their ungodly deeds that they did in an ungodly way and concerning all the shocking things that ungodly

18. Why have the nations failed to bring peace and happiness and why will God's kingdom succeed?

19. How will Jehovah show his supremacy over Satan?

20. What were the first two declarations of Jehovah's purpose to establish a righteous government and to end all wickedness?

sinners spoke against him.' "—Jude 14, 15, NW.

²¹ In the days of Noah Jehovah caused a picture to be made of the launching of the Kingdom government. Conditions on earth at that time were so bad that Jehovah determined to wipe all living creatures off this globe by a flood of waters. Noah was instructed to build an ark to save his household and certain animals. He followed the instructions given to him by Jehovah, built the ark, a watertight seaworthy vessel with room for his family of eight, including himself, and the animals and space for ample supplies of food and water. Then when the mighty deluge burst forth the ark was launched, and for a year it rolled and tossed in the turbulent roar of water, carrying its burden safely through the inundation and storm, and landed safely on a cleansed earth when the waters subsided; and once again the true worship of Jehovah was renewed on earth.

²² Let us now follow through with the picture there made. Jehovah's Kingdom government, launched on troublous seas, will survive the terrific storm and flood of Armageddon and will protect all people of good will who take their stand for it and enter into God's "ark" of his new system of things. After Armageddon has completed its destructive work the Kingdom government will guide the people in the way of life and eternal happiness.

²³ Reverting again to the picture, we learn that some years after the Flood, 427 years, to be exact, Jehovah revealed to his friend Abraham his purpose to bless all the families of the earth through the seed of Abraham. (Gen. 12:1-3) At that time the seed was not identified nor was the nature of the blessings disclosed. Jehovah

ratified the law covenant with the natural offspring of Abraham about 430 years later. (Gal. 3:17) Then he launched a typical theocratic government amid such a manifestation of divine power that Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling." Paul wrote that this was a demonstration or picture of what will take place when the real Kingdom government will be made manifest to mankind.—Heb. 12:18-28, NW.

²⁴ It appears that the Israelites thought the Law covenant was the instrument Jehovah would use to fulfill his promise to bless all the families of the earth. In the days of King David a typical theocratic kingdom was set up in the house of David. Now look at what they had: a covenant, a king of Jehovah's choosing, a theocratic government; and they were the natural seed of Abraham. Still the promised blessings did not come through this arrangement. Why not? First, the laws on which the covenant was based were perfect, but the people were imperfect and for that reason alone they could not keep the law and thus gain the blessings God promised. Instead of bringing life to Israel, the Law covenant became their tutor or schoolmaster teaching them they were sinners and were in need of a redeemer to bring life to them. Furthermore, the royal theocracy instituted with the house of David was only a shadow or type of the real one that was to be set up with Christ the Greater David.

²⁵ The typical theocracy was overthrown in the year 607 B.C., and from that time forward Gentile nations were permitted to rule the world for a period of 2,520 years, according to Bible chronology. At the end of this period of Gentile supremacy over the earth David's rightful heir would be seated upon his throne and the real King-

21, 22. What fitting picture of launching his government did God make with Noah?

23. (a) What purpose did Jehovah reveal to Abraham, and exactly when? (b) What covenant did God make with Israel, and when and under what circumstances?

24. In spite of what advantages did the promised blessings fail to come by Israel, and why?

25. What events marked the beginning and the end of Gentile supremacy?

dom government of promise would be launched.—Ezek. 21:25-27.

²⁶ Isaiah, an inspired prophet of Jehovah, wrote about the Kingdom government Jehovah purposed to launch and which would care for the interests of the people on earth. At Isaiah 9:6, 7 (AS) we read these cheering words: “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this.” The appointed ruler of the new world and its perfect government has all the qualifications necessary to fulfill Jehovah’s divine purpose relative to our earth and man upon it. In Psalm 72 we are assured that the King of the new world will remove all oppressors and bring peace to the poor and needy. He will have dominion from sea to sea and his enemies shall lick the dust in destruction. The prophet Daniel was moved to write that the new world’s King would destroy the organization of Satan, visible and invisible, after which he would take over the affairs of the world and fill the earth with the glory of Jehovah.—Dan. 2:44, AS.

RANSOM PROVIDED

²⁷ Jehovah God’s perfect law requires a life for a life. (Deut. 19:21) Adam, a perfect man at creation, brought the curse of sin and death upon all his offspring through one trespass. For this reason no son of Adam could redeem himself or provide a

26. Jehovah’s ruler has what qualifications, and how will he rule?

27. (a) How was the ransoming of the human race made possible? (b) What is required of those who would be saved with everlasting salvation?

ransom for his brother. (1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12, NW; Ps. 49:7) How, then, could mankind ever be saved? By a stupendous miracle Jehovah transferred the spiritual life of his only-begotten Son, the Logos, to the womb of the virgin Mary and brought forth a perfect human child. The full-grown, perfect man Jesus then died for the sins of the children of Adam. (John 1:14; Heb. 2:9; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6, NW) Therefore all who believe in Christ, mankind’s Savior, are released from the inherited condemnation they had from sinner Adam. (Acts 13:38, 39, NW) This does not in any sense mean they are then saved everlasting, or with everlasting salvation, but that they are in the way to everlasting life. (Rom. 3:25, 26, NW) The teaching that merely believing in Christ brings salvation has resulted in many pernicious doctrines, such as ‘deathbed repentance’ and ‘once saved, always saved’. Accepting Jesus as savior does not at once change the disposition or personality of the believer. It should turn him away from his former life of sin. But in order to obtain everlasting life an individual must maintain his integrity to Jehovah faithful to the end. At Romans 5:1, 2 (NW) it is written: “Therefore, now that we have been declared righteous as a result of faith, let us enjoy peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have gained our approach by faith into this undeserved kindness in which we now stand, and let us exult, based on hope of the glory of God.” This means that we do have access to everlasting life, and if we remain faithful we shall be saved with everlasting salvation.—Matt. 24:13.

PREPARING KINGDOM HEIRS

²⁸ A child of a ruling king or monarch, who some day will reign in the place of his father, is thoroughly trained for that posi-

28. Why was Jesus permitted to suffer, and in what sense was he perfected?

tion by competent instructors. This training begins in childhood and continues until the parent is satisfied that his son and heir is qualified for the kingly position. It is written: "For it was fitting for the one for whose sake all things are and through whom all things are, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Chief Agent of their salvation perfect through sufferings. Consequently he was obliged to become like his 'brothers' in all respects, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, in order to offer propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the people." (Heb. 2:10, 17, 18, NW) If it was necessary for Jesus, the perfect Son of God, to be tested and tried before he could be appointed heir of all things and head of the new Kingdom government Jehovah purposed to launch, how much more is it necessary for those who will be his joint heirs, offspring from Adam, to be tested and proved qualified. Of Jesus it is written, at Hebrews 5:8, 9 (NW): "Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered, and after he had been made perfect he became responsible for everlasting salvation to all those obeying him." Now Jesus was really always perfect in the sense of being flawless in physical and mental ability and construction, so his suffering did not make him perfect in that sense. Well, how then was he perfected by the things he suffered? In this way: he was trained or equipped for the position he was destined to occupy as the head of the Kingdom government Jehovah was preparing for the blessing of mankind. Yes, his faithfulness in all his suffering made him complete as the 'right hand' Son of Jehovah to execute his purposes and righteous laws.

²⁹ Jesus is well qualified to be High Priest and to help all those who will be his joint

heirs in the Kingdom arrangement. Said the apostle Paul: "Seeing, therefore, that we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold onto our confessing of him. For we have as high priest, not one who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tested in all respects like ourselves, but without sin. Let us, therefore, approach with freeness of speech to the throne of undeserved kindness, that we may obtain mercy and find undeserved kindness for help at the right time." (Heb. 4:14-16, NW) It must also be understood that Satan the Devil will use every means at his disposal to try to turn these aside from their faithful service to Jehovah, but he will miserably fail to thwart God's purpose to make up his Kingdom government with these joint heirs. Concerning the rulers under Satan's control it is written: "These will battle with the Lamb, but, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, the Lamb will conquer them. Also those called and chosen and faithful with him will do so."—Rev. 17:14, NW.

³⁰ There are some interesting points to gather from this text in Revelation just quoted. The called ones were justified or relieved from Adamic sin and condemnation and were begotten as sons by means of God's spirit before they were called to be members of the heavenly kingdom. (Rom. 5:1; 8:16, 17; 1 John 3:1) Those who were called as spiritual sons of God were chosen, and if they remain faithful to Jehovah to the end of their earthly lives they will be privileged to be with Christ in the Kingdom as joint heirs. Jehovah determined that all who would be associated with Christ in His kingdom must be patterned after the image of the Son. "Moreover, those whom he foreordained are the ones he also called; and those

29. What qualified Jesus to help his joint heirs, and what makes certain that Satan will fail to turn these aside?

30. By what course does one become of the "called and chosen and faithful"?

whom he called are the ones he also declared to be righteous. Finally those whom he declared righteous are the ones he also glorified." (Rom. 8:30, NW) Being freed, then, from Adamic sin by faith does not mean and could not mean that one is fully and finally saved. Such must be called, chosen and remain faithful to Jehovah even until death. "Prove yourself faithful even with the danger of death, and I will give you the crown of life."—Rev. 2:10, NW.

³¹ During the thousand years of the reign of Christ all seeking eternal life will be taught to know that the bride of Christ is composed of those who were formerly condemned children of Adam, but by Jehovah's undeserved kindness they fought the good fight against Satan and his demons and proved themselves worthy of their calling. Therefore they in turn, that is, those on earth, can be assured that these sympathize with all who desire to do the will of Jehovah in the new world. Jehovah's purpose to have Christ's associates in the Kingdom government taken from among the condemned descendants of Adam shows his wisdom, justice and love. Men can say during the reign of Christ: "We have a priestly company able to understand our weakness, because they were at one time as we are now. They can and will be patient with us."

KINGDOM GOVERNMENT NOT LAUNCHED AT PENTECOST

³² In the twentieth chapter of the book of Acts we are told that after the death of the apostles certain ambitious men would worm their way in among the congregations of Christians and try to draw disciples after themselves by twisting and perverting the teachings of the Lord Jesus.

31. During Christ's reign what will men be able to say regarding their priestly rulers, and why?

32. By what erroneous teaching have men made themselves seem important?

(Acts 20:29, 30, NW) In time they taught that the Kingdom government was launched at Pentecost and there also a "battle royal" began between Christ and Satan the Devil. The avowed purpose of this battle was to determine who was supreme in the affairs of men, Jehovah God or Satan. By teaching this false doctrine the clergymen made themselves seem very important, for they taught that Jehovah looked to them to help him in the struggle to win men away from Satan. This caused much confusion among Christians and brought great reproach and slander upon the name of the Almighty God, Jehovah!

³³ The Scriptures show Christ did not go into action against Satan immediately upon his return to heaven by resurrection. David said in the 110th Psalm: "Jehovah saith unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." (AS) Being seated does not indicate action; rather the opposite. However, Jesus did not remain idle while waiting for the time to go into action against the Devil. He was guiding and helping the members of his body still on earth, for he said: "Look! I am with you all the days until the consummation of the system of things." (Matt. 28:20, NW) God's purpose was that Jesus should wait at the Father's right hand until the time came for his enemies to be made the stool for his feet, and THEN he would stand up and go into action, just as Daniel said: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." (Dan. 12:1) But, more about this trouble later.

33. What scriptures prove the Kingdom was not launched at Pentecost?

³⁴ Let us turn our attention now to the time when Jesus met his death as a man. The night before he was killed Jesus told the apostles he would soon leave them, but they should not be troubled, for he was going to prepare a place for them and he would come and take them to that place when it was ready for them. Peter wanted to go with his Master right then, but Jesus told him he could not follow at that time, but would have to wait and come later, when the time was ripe. You see the thing is, the place just was not prepared for the followers of the Master at that time. Jesus plainly told them: "In the house of my Father there are many abodes. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going my way to prepare a place for you. Also, if I go my way and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you home to myself, that where I am you also may be." (John 13:33, 36; 14:2-4, NW) Jesus spoke about his Father's house; this refers to his organization, and he said that in it there are many places for service, but at that particular time there was no place for the apostles or other followers, for Satan the Devil, the god of this world or system of things, was still the ruler of this world, with whom Jesus had no dealings; he had no hold on Jesus. (John 14:30) However, the time would come when Christ would cast Satan and his demons out of heaven; then he would take his faithful followers to their eternal home. In the meantime, they were to remain in the sleep of death. The apostle Paul did not expect to receive his heavenly reward at the time of his death, for he said, at 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NW): "I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the due time for my releasing is imminent. I have fought the right fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed

the faith. From this time on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me as a reward in that day, yet not only to me, but also to all those who have loved his manifestation."³⁵

³⁵ The typical theocracy of Israel was overthrown in 607 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and then the "times of the Gentiles" referred to by Jesus at Luke 21:24 began. There he said: "And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." To picture for us the degrading effects of Gentile rule over our earth, and to give us information concerning the length of this rule, Nebuchadnezzar was reduced to the condition of a beast and remained as such for seven years. According to Jewish reckoning this would be 2,520 days; then Nebuchadnezzar was restored to his throne. In the counting of time in prophecy a day stands for a year. (Ezek. 4:6) So the Gentile times began 607 years before Christ and ended 1914 years after Christ; and then the Kingdom was given to him "whose right it is".—Ezek. 21:27.

KINGDOM GOVERNMENT BORN

³⁶ In the very beginning of man's life, back in the garden park of Eden, Jehovah promised that he would create a government that would destroy Satan and his government or seed, and in the last book of the Bible we have a record of the birth of that government. Revelation 12:1, 5 (NW) reads: "And a great sign was seen in heaven, a woman arrayed with the sun, and the moon was beneath her feet, and on her head was a crown of twelve stars, and she was pregnant. And she gave birth to a son, a male, who is destined to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod."

35. From when and to when did Gentile rule extend, and how was this pictured?

36. When was the Kingdom government first promised, and how is its birth described at Revelation 12?

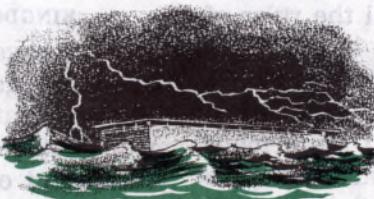
34. (a) What had to precede Jesus' taking his followers to their eternal home? (b) How did Paul show he did not expect his heavenly reward at death?

Verses three and four of this same chapter read: "And another sign was seen in heaven, and look! a great fiery-colored dragon, . . . And the dragon kept standing before the woman who was about to give birth, that, when she did give birth, it might devour her child." However, the dragon failed in its purpose and the newly born child was caught up to the throne of Jehovah.

³⁷ This man-child was the kingdom of Jehovah that was to be given to Christ, Jehovah's beloved Son and Heir. The fiery-colored dragon represented Satan the Devil waiting to destroy the Kingdom government just born. If Satan had had a particle of sense and decency, he would have abdicated at once as a miserable failure; but, instead, he chose to fight against this new government just launched by Jehovah in the hands of his Christ. The result was war in heaven in which Satan and his demon associates were defeated and hurled out of heaven and down to the vicinity of the earth, where he now shows his wrath and anger by seeking to destroy the 'seed of the woman' yet on earth. But, with all his ranting and raving in maniacal schemes, he cannot harm Jehovah's new government or destroy its members on earth. Under Jehovah's protection this government, launched in 1914, will complacently ride through all the raging storms of trouble the wicked one may raise up in his effort to save his dying organization. But, just as the ark of Noah's day sailed safely through the terrific tempest of wind and rain that destroyed the old world and landed its passengers and cargo safely on a cleansed earth, so will Jehovah's government survive. The storm of Arma-

geddon will destroy Satan's organization, but will not harm the government Jehovah has launched for his kingdom in the new world beyond that battle. At Armageddon Satan will witness the complete destruction of his wicked system of things, after which he and his demons will be abyssed for a thousand years.

³⁸ The situation now, according to chronology of the Bible and secular history, is that Satan and his angels are expelled from heaven forever and Christ Jesus is the king of the new world since A.D. 1914. The following quotation from the book "*The Kingdom Is at Hand*", page 189, paragraph 2, will be of interest here. "In the days when the complete organization of God's adversary is in power and actively ruling and bruising and breaking in pieces all humankind, it is then that the God of heaven cuts out his 'Stone' and sets up the kingdom of the Seed of his 'woman'. This kingdom takes the place over mankind that was vacated by [the Devil] when he quit Jehovah's organization at Eden." So the place being now ready that Jesus went to prepare for his dead faithful followers, they were called forth from the sleep of death to be united forever with their Lord and Head Christ Jesus in heaven. The remnant of his joint heirs still on earth were not taken to heaven at that time, but were separated from the doomed world of Satan and brought into a special and close relationship with the now enthroned and reigning Lord Jesus at the temple. They were commissioned to do a particular work before being taken into the heavenly kingdom with Christ and the



37. (a) What course did Satan take toward the Kingdom, and with what result? (b) What will perish at Armageddon, and who will survive it?

38. (a) Just what was the place Jesus went to prepare for his followers, and how was the preparing of it pictured? (b) What has been the portion of the remnant on earth since then?

other members of the bride class.—1 Thess. 4:15, 16, NW.

³⁹ The temple of Solomon in Jerusalem was a picture of the spiritual temple of Christ, the Greater Solomon, that he would build out of living stones. (1 Pet. 2:5, 6, NW) David planned to build that temple, but Jehovah did not permit him to do so, because he was a man of many wars and he was used by Jehovah to defeat all the enemies of Israel before Solomon began the work of building the temple. Christ Jesus did not erect his spiritual temple until his enemies were put under his feet. This was done when Satan and his angels were hurled out of heaven and down to the vicinity of the earth, Jehovah's footstool, at the end of the war in heaven that began A.D. 1914. The record states that Solomon began building the temple in the fourth year of his reign. In like manner Christ the Lord began building his spiritual temple in the fourth year of his reign, A.D. 1918. There were many persons at that time who professed to be among the joint heirs of Christ, members of this temple class, but who proved themselves to be selfish, seeking their own gain, and these were rejected when judgment began at the temple. It was thus completely cleansed of all unrighteous ones and then the work of preaching the good news of Jehovah's launched Kingdom government was started in real earnest and with telling effect.

PREPARING FOR THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

⁴⁰ Now, at this crucial time in history, Satan's wicked system of things is going through its death throes and struggling to stay alive. While this continues and worsens, Jehovah's servants are busy in their work of searching for and feeding the Lord's other sheep, who will be carried alive through the battle of Armageddon

and who form the nucleus of the new earth. The work they do now is a world-wide service, just as Revelation 7:9 indicates when it says that they will come from all nations and tribes and people. All of these people participate in an educational work well organized. Missionaries are instructed for service in many lands at the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead, in South Lansing, New York. These join the many thousands of others as good-will companions of the anointed remnant of the body of Christ now on earth in forming a New World society that is carrying on a campaign of education for life in the new world. They recognize the Kingdom government that was launched in heaven in 1914 and seek to live always in harmony with its principles. Thousands of people are aided by this society and are studying the Bible to learn about the government of Jehovah. The prophet Isaiah referred to this work in the thirty-second chapter of his prophecy, verses one and two, in these words: "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in justice. And a man shall be as a hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, as streams of water in a dry place, as the shade of a great rock in a weary land."

—AS.

⁴¹ Christ Jesus is on the throne of the new world in heaven, and on earth he has the remnant of the anointed members of his body, together with many young men who are in positions of responsibility in Jehovah's service organization. These are referred to by the prophets as *sarim*, which means "heads or captains over various numbers of workers". The Hebrew word is also translated "princes". These *sarim* are very busy all over the world helping the other sheep organize their service and

39. In what respects was Christ's spiritual temple foreshadowed by Solomon's temple?

40. How is a New World society now being formed as foretold at Isaiah 32:1, 2?

41. (a) Who are the *sarim*? (b) How long will the gathering of the other sheep continue, to be followed by what?

carry it on effectively. Under Jehovah's protection this work will continue until all the other sheep have been gathered into the "one flock" under "one Shepherd", then the battle of the great day of God Almighty will begin. That will be the worst trouble man will ever have experienced or will ever see. It will destroy every vestige of Satan's organization both visible and invisible.

⁴² The New World society now operating in the earth will survive Armageddon and be joined by the faithful men of old, who the psalmist says will be made "princes in all the earth". (Ps. 45:16) Just how many of them there will be and exactly when they will be brought back from the memorial tombs where they sleep in death, we do not know; but when they do return, they will quickly learn about the new world they longingly looked forward to in the days they spent on earth in times past. These faithful ones will be made up of men and women and it is to them that the apostle Paul refers in Hebrews, chapter eleven. Among them will be men trained to care for the affairs of the new world in many capacities. Look at Moses, the lawgiver. Where among the judges of this world could we find a man as well qualified to administer justice? He was well trained during the years he led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the border of the Promised Land. Then there was Joseph as a food administrator. He saved Egypt from famine and starvation by carefully storing up extra food during the years of plenty and then distributing it during the years of famine. David was a man used to administer righteous laws for the good of the nation over which he ruled as king. Moreover, the righteous government that Jehovah launched with his kingdom in 1914 will have a well-qualified and capable adminis-

trator, one that will get results, Jesus Christ.

⁴³ Satan the Devil rebelled against Jehovah's righteous arrangements for mankind, thinking he had a better method of dealing with human creatures. For about 6,000 years he has largely dominated the human race and his influence among men has caused trouble, sorrow, pain and death. He has reproached the name of Jehovah and persecuted all who stood for that name. Now his time is up and shortly he will see his wicked organization destroyed at the battle of Armageddon, following which he will be sealed in the abyss of inactivity. As stated in preceding paragraphs, that battle will be the most terrible trouble the earth will ever have witnessed. Jehovah has given us several pictures of it and its severity; for example, the flood of Noah's day, when all creatures on earth, except those in the ark, were destroyed by the watery deluge. Noah was a preacher of righteousness and warned the people of the coming disaster, but they went right ahead with their affairs of life and paid no attention to the warning Jehovah sent them. When the flood came it was too late to seek refuge in the ark, and all, save eight souls, went down to death.

⁴⁴ Another interesting picture of Armageddon is found in 2 Chronicles, chapter twenty. Three nations, representing the three divisions of Satan's organization, religion, politics and commerce, united to destroy Jerusalem and the typical theocracy that had been launched for Israel. King Jehoshaphat was fearful of this great army made up of men of Moab, Ammon and Mount Seir, and called the people to the temple to pray for Jehovah's protection. Jehovah told the people of Israel not to

42. When will the faithful men of old join the New World society, and with what qualifications?

43. What result has Satan's influence had upon man, and how was the end of his organization foreshadowed in Noah's day?

44. What interesting and fitting picture of Armageddon is given at 2 Chronicles, chapter 20?

be afraid because of the armies of the enemy, for the battle was not theirs but God's. They were just to sing the praises of Jehovah and leave the rest to Him. This faithful course resulted in their deliverance. Moab and Ammon turned and fought against Mount Seir, and when they had destroyed her they fought against each other; and when they had finished that fight, there was not much left for Jehovah to destroy. All the while this fight was being waged the servants of Jehovah were singing his praises. So now, at Armageddon, the different parts of Satan's organization will turn against and fight each other while Jehovah's witnesses will be singing his praises and proclaiming the doom of Satan and his system of things.

⁴⁵ With the lethal weapons such as the atom bomb and the more powerful hydrogen bomb at his disposal, Satan will suffer complete defeat. All the power he has built up on earth via his dupes will be destroyed with him. The only place of safety will be inside the confines of God's system of things. He has promised to protect his servants as completely as he did Noah and his family during the flood. (Isa. 26:20, 21) All the armies and weapons of man will prove weakly ineffective to protect and save this old world. It will pass away in the worst trouble ever witnessed on earth.
—Matt. 24:21, 22.

⁴⁶ With Satan and his wicked organization annihilated, the New World society made up of the anointed remnant, the captains or *sarim* now serving in official capacities and the great crowd of other sheep, later augmented by the resurrected faithful men of old, will make rapid progress in building up the new system of things on the earth. Just think; all the resources of mankind, both physical and financial, will be available for reconstruction work! The

earth will be made beautiful with lovely homes for all living. People will not learn about war, but under peaceful conditions Jehovah will reissue the Edenic mandate for man and woman to multiply and fill the earth as originally given to Adam and Eve. This time a people devoted to Jehovah and governed by righteous laws enacted for this new world under the Prince of Peace will happily carry out this mandate. There will be much for everyone to do; instructors will be busy teaching those coming forth in that rising generation; building beautiful homes will require much work; also, subduing the earth and making it like the paradise garden of Eden will take work, but it will be a happy task for mankind under the perfect conditions that will then prevail.—Isa. 65:17-19, 21-23, AT.

⁴⁷ Finally, at the proper and due time, the dead in the graves, or memorial tombs, will return to join the living, with the hope of perfect and everlasting life before them. Think of the many happy family reunions as the dead return to life! These, though, will have much to learn about the new world and the things that happened while they were resting in the sleep of death. It will be a great privilege to aid all such in their efforts to learn the way to life. What a happy time all dedicated servants of Jehovah will have in co-operating with one another in learning perfectly the ways of Jehovah and beautifying the portion of the earth assigned to them! When the thousand-year reign of Christ is ended, then the whole earth will be as beautiful as Eden was, the sample Jehovah gave us a long time ago. At that time Satan and his incorrigible demons will be released from the abyss, where they have been incarcerated for the thousand years of Christ's reign, and will proceed in a vile attempt to overthrow the new world, but it will

45. In spite of what will Satan be unable to protect his world?

46. What blessings await Armageddon survivors?

47. (a) What will the end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ see? (b) What futile attempt will be made at that time, to be followed by what?

fail. We read in the Bible that the end of his host on earth will be by fire coming down from Jehovah out of heaven, and he himself and his demons will be executed with "second death", annihilation. (Rev.

20:7-10) That will ultimately end all rebellion and wickedness. The earth will be filled with perfect men and women who will live forever and rejoice in the vindication of that holy name JEHOVAH!

The Human Soul MORTAL OR IMMORTAL?

MOST religious people believe the soul to be immortal. A Catholic question and answer book replies to the question, "Is it revealed doctrine that the soul of man is immortal?" the following: "The account in Genesis of man's formation proves it. . . . Both Old and New Testaments insist upon the immortality of the soul." In the Roman Catholic "Old Testament" the words *immortal(ity)* and *incorruption* occur in only two apocryphal books, the Wisdom of Solomon and Ecclesiasticus. Even so, these references do not once mention such a thing as an immortal soul, nor do they say that any man has immortality or ever had it.

Turn to the inspired Scriptures and scan them minutely with the help of an exhaustive concordance of the Holy Bible. Then you will demonstrate to yourself that not once in all the Holy Scriptures does the expression "immortal soul" occur, neither any other expression to say that the human soul is immortal. To the contrary, all the Scriptural expressions from Moses onward pointedly declare that the human soul is mortal and dies, ceasing to exist.

However, our religious critics speak of the human soul as immortal and say "the body is naturally mortal; the soul by its very nature immortal". But in answer to the question, "What indications have you

that the soul is immortal?" our priestly critics write six paragraphs of a total of thirty-two lengthy lines but do not produce a single inspired scripture from God's Word. It ought to be enough, then, if we produce just one scripture to prove that the human soul is subject to death and destruction. First, we quote Ezekiel 18:4, 20 from the Catholic *Douay Version*:

"Behold all souls are mine: as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, the same shall die. The soul that sinneth the same shall die." Notice that repeated statement, "the soul that sinneth the same shall die." Showing that the soul is not the same as the spirit, the inspired Scriptures nowhere say that the spirit dies, but they repeatedly say that the soul dies.

When confronted with this plain scripture, our priestly critics say: "The word soul here does not refer exclusively to the immortal part of man's nature." To what part, then, does it refer? Where do the inspired Hebrew Scriptures from Moses to Ezekiel say anything about an immortal part of man's nature? Ezekiel wrote the words, "the soul that sinneth the same shall die," before ever Pythagoras the pagan philosopher began to write and teach immortality, and before the deuterocanonical or apocryphal books were writ-

ten. If Ezekiel did not mean what he wrote, then why did he not say: 'The man that sinneth, his body shall die'?

BIBLE TRUTH ABOUT SOUL SIMPLE

When we accept the Bible and what God says in it, then the truth becomes simple. Adam became a living soul when God breathed the breath of life into his human form. Consequently when the sinner Adam died, the human soul died. It ceased to exist. God nowhere threatened to torture Adam's soul in fire and brimstone after his death. God did not thus threaten Adam, because God knew that the human soul Adam was not immortal and indestructible. Instead of eternal torment of the soul, the apostle Paul says: "For the wages sin pays is death." (Rom. 6:23, NW) There is no life everlasting for the wicked: "The Lord keepth all them that love him: but all the wicked he will destroy." (Ps. 144:20, Dy) To observe that the soul is not immortal but mortal, note the following inspired scriptures in the Catholic Douay Version Bible (Murphy edition).

"Let my soul die the death of the just." (Num. 23:10) "His soul fainted away, and was wearied even until death. He said: Let my soul die with the Philistines." (Judg. 16:16, 30, marginal reading) "Deliver our souls from death." (Josh. 2:13) "Their soul shall die in a storm." (Job 36:14) "He spared not their souls from death." (Ps. 77:50) "To deliver their souls from death; and feed them in famine. Our soul waiteth for the Lord." (Ps. 32:19, 20) "My soul is sorrowful even unto death." (Matt. 26:38) "He who causeth a sinner to be converted from the error of his way shall save his soul from death."—Jas. 5:20.

It is a dodging of the facts to say that death means everlasting life in misery and torment. The Scriptures nowhere teach that the difference between death and

everlasting life is happiness, and that death means life without happiness. God's Word of truth does not present such a contradiction of terms. The combining of the human body with the breath of life by God's power produces the human soul. Man thus becomes a living soul. But if the spirit or breath of life is separated from the human body, the living soul ceases to be. The soul ceases to live; it dies, just as God's Word everywhere says. The breath of life does not retain the properties of the living human soul. Neither does the dead human body, for it cannot see, hear, feel, taste, smell, think, love, hate or work. It is nonsensical, hence unscriptural, to say that a soul inside man's body operates by man's organs and sense faculties while in his body, but, when it is separated from those organs and faculties at death, such independent soul can still carry out those same operations.

We have by no means exhausted all the Bible proof, but enough has been produced in the above paragraph to prove that Pythagoras, Socrates and Plato did not bring life and immortality to the light of men, for their teachings about immortality of the human soul are false. Satan the Devil did not bring light upon the subject when he lyingly said in Eden: "No, you shall not die the death."—Gen. 3:4, Dy.

Not before Christ Jesus died as a human sacrifice and was resurrected and ascended to God's presence to present the value of his sacrifice for us was there any basis for eternal life for any of Adam's offspring. By accepting the benefits of his sacrifice "men of good will" may gain eternal life on this earth perfected under God's kingdom; and even the human dead will be resurrected to this gracious opportunity. Christ's ministry was a ministry of everlasting life for mankind in general, to be gained under his kingdom for blessing all the families of the earth.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE PARENTS?

¶ Not only is juvenile delinquency increasing, said the Plainfield, New Jersey, police chief (*Plainfield Courier-News*, January 22), it is becoming more vicious. He added in words worthy of attention everywhere: "People in Plainfield must be made to realize that juvenile delinquency is a Plainfield problem. It's not something that happens only in Elizabeth, or Newark or Brooklyn [larger neighboring cities]. It is going on right here in Plainfield. And not just in the poorer sections. The problem exists in all sections of the city, even the best." In Plainfield, as elsewhere, however, indignant parents say—not here, not our children. He retorted: "Parents don't know what their children do. They have turned over to social agencies the job they should be doing as parents. . . . Social agencies are expected to do the job parents don't have time for."

¶ Several boys had broken into one of the city's schools, relieved themselves in corridors and smeared filth over the blackboards and walls. Five boys aged 11 and 12 smashed bottles and blanketed a 100-foot stretch of one of the city's avenues with glass before the police interrupted their efforts to "have some fun". Four high-school-aged girls, none from poor families, went on a three-month shoplift-

ing spree to get clothes and spending money. They told their parents they borrowed the new clothes, and the parents never questioned their stories. The *Courier-News* says these are not isolated complaints, just samples of the stream that comes into police headquarters.

¶ Homer Wieder, chairman of the Plainfield Municipal Youth Guidance Council, has also been a teacher, supervisor and administrator in elementary and secondary schools, organized the Parent Child Assistant Committee of Plainfield and has been connected with the Union County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Drawing on this experience, he got to the root of the matter when he said, "We must re-educate our children to respect authority." He said children have no more respect for authority, either at home or in public. "About 20 years ago a change came over our social thinking," he said. "We became too sympathetic with our children, we tried to protect them too much, we stopped being realistic. . . . When we were children, we knew what would happen if we got home too late, no one had to tell us. We just knew. We also knew what would happen if we did something wrong in school. Today, children know nothing will happen."

Social Agencies as Delinquency's Foes

¶ "It is difficult to think of children as burglars, gangsters, drug addicts or murderers. Such has become the reality, however," said an Associated Press report, January 3, that told of a million children getting into trouble with the police every year. A letter to the *New York Times*, January 13, commented that this is despite the efforts of the social work agencies, and gave the following illustration of this delinquency: "I live in what was formerly New York's famous 'dead end' neighborhood. One warm evening late in the past summer I was an interested eavesdropper, via my living room window, on a meeting between two gangs of teen-agers who were planning a gang fight for the following night. After all the details of the projected mayhem were ironed out one of the older boys (about 18 years of age) asked that both gangs provide volunteer 11-year-olds so that in the event of police interference the gangs could have on hand expendable members for any arrests. Then came the punch line. In the words of the gang leader—'All they gotta tell the social worker in court is that they hate their mothers and they'll be out in a couple hours.'" The agencies have not succeeded in taking over the job in which the parents failed when they did not exercise the authority that the Book inspired by the Maker of man says they should. It is the rejection of that Book's instruction that has caused both groups to fail.



Questions from Readers

- How can it be said that Christ's second presence is as an invisible spirit and not as a visible body, in view of Revelation 1:7?—J. E., Illinois.

John 14:19 clearly states that Christ will not come again in visible form: "A little longer and the world will behold me no more." (NW) After his death as a human creature he was raised a spirit creature, invisible to human eyes, and it is in this invisible spirit form that he will remain at the time of his second presence. This is not contradicted by Acts 1:11 (NW), concerning Jesus' ascension: "This Jesus who was received up from you into heaven will come thus in the same manner as you have beheld him going into heaven." It does not say that those disciples who saw him ascend would see him come again, nor does it say that those who would be on earth at the future time would see him in a visible form. They were not discussing his *form* at all relative to his second presence, but spoke of his coming as being in the same *manner* as his departure. The way he went away was quiet, with no great demonstration from heaven, and without being observed by the unbelieving world under Satan. That agrees with the way other scriptures say he would come again and be present.

But how does this view harmonize with Revelation 1:7? is the question. That text reads (NW): "Look! he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him." Revelation is written in symbolic language, and this verse is partly symbolic. Throughout this book clouds are used symbolically and hence represent something other than literal clouds in the sky. If Christ came in a human body certainly not every eye on earth could see him at once; so that must not be literal. Those who pierced him are dead and could not see him. So the seeing and the piercing of him must be in a symbolic way.

Jesus' disciples asked him: "What will be the sign of your presence and of the consummation of the system of things?" In reply Jesus foretold happenings and conditions that would be a visible reflection of his invisible second presence. If his presence were to be visible in human form, the many physical evidences would not be needed as a sign signifying his presence. Among these evidences was the earth-wide preaching of the good news of Christ's kingdom. (Matt. 24:3-21, NW) This preaching, along with the other visible, foretold evidences, enlightens many to see with the 'eyes of their heart' the second presence of Christ. (Eph. 1:18, NW) But for the majority their eyes of understanding will not discern his invisible presence until it is manifest in the great tribulation of Armageddon. Then all tribes of the earth will grieve because of the destruction wrought against them, a selfish grief for their own plight and not a repentant grief for their own wrongdoing. Then, at the latest, every eye will see him at work in Armageddon's destruction, and will know he is present and that Jehovah is supreme.—2 Thess. 1:6-10; 2:8.

How do some of these symbolically pierce him? By persecuting his followers now on earth. Jesus foretold that at this time he would separate the people as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. The sheep are given life because they gave Christ food when he was hungry, gave him drink when he was thirsty, received him hospitably when he was a stranger, clothed him when he was naked, tended him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. But since Christ is not physically present to be so treated, the sheep ask when they did such things for him. He replies: "To the extent that you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." The goats were condemned because they did none of these things for Christ, since they did none of those favors for his followers. (Matt. 25:31-46, NW) When Saul of Tarsus was persecuting Christ's followers Jesus appeared to him miraculously and said: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul asked the identity of the speaker, and the reply was: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." (Acts 9:4, 5, NW) So by persecuting and piercing Christ's followers persons on earth today can be classed as "those who pierced him".

MAKING A WISE CHOICE

WHERE will you be staying when you come to New York city to attend the 1953 international assembly of Jehovah's witnesses? At a hotel? Or in a room in a private home?

¶ A hotel, no doubt, offers greater privacy, but fewer opportunities for witnessing. The friendly personal touch experienced in private homes is not to be found in hotel rooms or lobbies. Hotel atmosphere is not as conducive to Kingdom-preaching. In private homes, on the other hand, it becomes increasingly difficult not to witness. The publisher meets the landlady face to face, and New Yorkers are not only hospitable but an extremely inquisitive people. They will want to know something about your home state, what you do for a living, how you became one of Jehovah's witnesses, what Jehovah's witnesses believe, etc. One cannot help but witness.

Many of these persons are of good will, already progressing in the truth; while others are rendering their first Christian gesture

toward getting acquainted with Jehovah's witnesses. Some were landladies during the 1950 assembly at Yankee Stadium, and today they are Kingdom publishers.

Let us bear in mind the good name we bear as one of Jehovah's witnesses by always showing Christian consideration to others, by expressing appreciation for kindnesses and hospitality, by notifying them about the day and hour of our arrival, and change of plans, if any. Many times landladies go to considerable expense and inconvenience to prepare accommodations for us. Some get new wallpaper and even new bedding. It would be wrong not to accept such kindnesses because of some personal, petty reason. It would be doing wrong to householders who have done good to you. At the same time it would be doing injury to the good name of Jehovah and his witnesses, and to the rooming committee and workers who spent many hours locating rooms and processing request forms. Be wise in choice, in conduct, and in consideration.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES

Week of August 16: Launching the Kingdom Government, ¶ 1-26.

Week of August 23: Launching the Kingdom Government, ¶ 27-47.