DECEMBER 1985

# The Good News
## OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

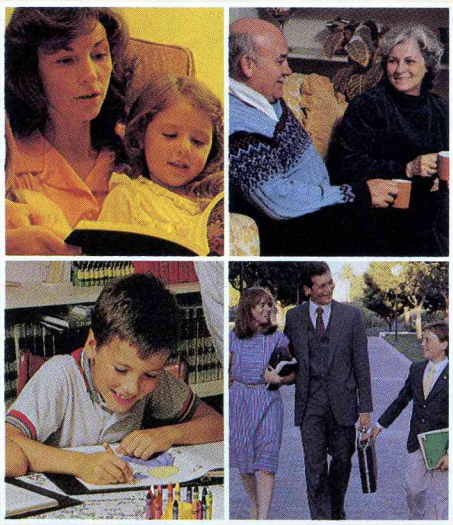



# EXCITING NEWS!
# Terrorism Will Be Stopped

See page 21

# The Good News
OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

DECEMBER 1985 CIRCULATION: 731,000 VOL. XXXII, NO. 10

10

## Contents:


| | |
|---|---|
| Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: Have You Tried to Convert Others? | 1 |
| Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast? Part Two | 3 |
| Is That Really the Best They Can Do? | 7 |
| The Day God Made for Man | 10 |
| Christmas — 2,000 Years Before Christ! | 14 |
| New Wine and Old Bottles | 16 |
| Ministudy: What It Means to Be Born Again | 19 |
| How Terrorism Will Be Stopped! | 21 |
| 1985 Index of *The Good News* | 24 |
| 1985 Index of *The Plain Truth* | 26 |


**COVER:** A tidal wave of terrorism is engulfing the globe. "How Terrorism Will Be Stopped!", beginning on page 21, offers some straight talk about this crisis and what the Bible says will be done about it. Photo by P. Chauvel — Sygma.


**Editor-in-Chief**
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

**Managing Editor**
Dexter H. Faulkner

**Assistant Managing Editor**
Norman L. Shoaf

**Contributors**
Dibar K. Apartian
Jerold W. Aust
K. Neil Earle
John A. Halford
George M. Kackos
Ronald D. Kelly
Graemme J. Marshall
L. Leroy Neff
Bernard W. Schnippert
Richard H. Sedliacik
Clayton D. Steep
Philip Stevens
Earl H. Williams

**Graphics**
Minette Collins Smith

**Editorial Assistants**
Cheryl Ebeling
Robert C. Taylor

**PUBLISHED BY THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD**

**Publisher**
Herbert W. Armstrong

**Treasurer**
L. Leroy Neff

**Director of Publishing Services**
Ray L. Wright

**Production Director**
Roger G. Lippross

**Production Manager**
Ron Taylor

**Circulation Manager**
Boyd L. Leeson

**International Editions**
Dutch: Bram de Bree
French: Dibar K. Apartian
German: John B. Karlson
Spanish: Don Walls



***The Good News*** is published monthly (except combined June-July and October-November issues) by the Worldwide Church of God, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123.


Copyright © 1985 Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved.


Printed in U.S.A. Reentered as second-class matter at the Manila Central Post Office on Jan. 18, 1974.

**Address all communications to the *Good News* address nearest you:**

*United States:* 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123. For literature requests you may call toll free 1-800-423-4444; in Alaska, call 1-818-304-6111 collect.
*Canada:* P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2M2. For literature requests you may call toll free 1-800-663-2345.
*Australia:* P.O. Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Queensland 4220
*Bahamas:* P.O. Box N3934, Nassau NP
*Barbados:* P.O. Box 1021, Bridgetown
*Bermuda:* P.O. Box 908, Hamilton 5-24
*Colombia:* Apartado Aéreo 11430, Bogotá 1, D.E.
*Denmark:* Box 211, DK-8100 Aarhus C
*Fiji:* P.O. Box 3938, Samabula, Suva
*Ghana:* P.O. Box 9617, Kotoka Int. Airport, Accra
*Guyana:* P.O. Box 10907, Georgetown
*India:* P.O. Box 6727, Bombay 400 052
*Jamaica:* P.O. Box 544, Kingston 5
*Kenya:* P.O. Box 47135, Nairobi
*Malaysia:* P.O. Box 430, Jalan Sultan, Petaling Jaya, Selangor
*Mauritius:* P.O. Box 888, Port Louis
*Mexico:* Institución Ambassador, Apartado Postal 5-595, México 06500, D.F.
*New Zealand and Pacific Isles:* P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1
*Nigeria:* P.M.B. 21006, Ikeja, Lagos State
*Norway:* Box 2513, Solli, Oslo 2
*Philippines:* P.O. Box 1111, Makati, Metro Manila 3117
*Puerto Rico:* G.P.O. Box 6063, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936
*Singapore:* P.O. Box 111, Farrer Road Post Office, Singapore 9128
*Solomon Islands:* P.O. Box 508, Honiara
*South Africa:* P.O. Box 5644, Cape Town 8000
*Sri Lanka:* P.O. Box 1824, Colombo
*Sweden:* Box 5380, S-102 46 Stockholm
*Tonga:* P.O. Box 127, Nuku'alofa
*Trinidad:* P.O. Bag 114, Port of Spain
*United Kingdom:* P.O. Box 111, Borehamwood, Herts., WD6 1LU
*Zambia:* P.O. Box 50117, Lusaka
*Zimbabwe:* P.O. Box U.A. 30, Union Ave., Harare

**Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your mailing address. Please include your old mailing label and your new address. U.S. POSTMASTER: Send address change to: The Good News, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123. The publishers assume no responsibility for the safety or return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts.**

PERSONAL FROM Herbert W. Armstrong

# Have You Tried to Convert Others?

Have *YOU* tried to induce others to read *The Plain Truth, The Good News* or tune in to the *World Tomorrow* broadcast? Perhaps your wife — your husband — one of your family — a close relative or friend?

Have YOU tried to get others converted — "saved," as many express it? Have YOU started to "preach"?

If you have, you have probably stirred controversy, antagonism — lost a friend — or even a wife or husband.

But if you haven't — *DON'T!*

### You want to share the truth

I know that many of our readers — yes, *thousands* of you, out of our more than 20 million readers of these magazines — have been led to accept God's TRUTH. You have learned to LOVE your Creator's TRUTH that He reveals — and that we MAKE PLAIN.

The TRUTH becomes the most precious thing in your life. You become excited about it. You are filled with enthusiastic ZEAL over it.

Before, like all unconverted people, you were carnal-minded — SELF-centered, selfish. But *now,* your mind is God-centered. *NOW,* instead of exclusive SELF-concern, you have an enthusiastic, OUTGOING concern for others. Especially those in your own family — your relatives — your closest friends.

You want to SHARE this wonderful TRUTH. You want *them* to inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God. You want to save them from perishing.

Your MOTIVES are well-intended. Your ZEAL is splendid — but you may be like a woman I knew who had more zeal than wisdom.

This woman tried by her TALK to "save" her husband and her teenage son. But instead of arguing them into it, she turned them to hostility, resentment, embitterment against God! This woman tried to save her neighbors — almost her whole town. She only turned them all against her.

But, some will ask, didn't Jesus tell us we are the light of the world — and that we must let our light SHINE?

Oh, yes! But did you notice HOW He said we must let our light shine? LISTEN: "You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may SEE your GOOD WORKS" (Matthew 5:14, 16).

NOTICE THAT CAREFULLY! He did NOT *say* "that they may HEAR your good ARGUMENTS." He said that they may SEE your GOOD WORKS!

But now WAIT A MINUTE!

Should you never tell anyone about *The World Tomorrow,* or let anyone see *The Plain Truth?* Yes, by all means — but be CAREFUL *HOW* you do it. To just MENTION the broadcast to a friend and SUGGEST that he or she might find it interesting is fine. I wish you would. BUT don't go too far! Don't URGE, ARGUE or try to TEACH religion.

NEVER PREACH to unconverted people. We don't on *The World Tomorrow* and in *The Plain Truth*. We want to reach the unconverted on *The World Tomorrow,* as well as the converted.

### We don't "preach at" people

Did you ever notice that the *World Tomorrow* program makes plain the REAL MEANING of today's world news, and that it REPORTS *tomorrow's* world news *before it happens?* Your friends may be interested in NEWS, but not in religion.

Did you ever notice that *The World Tomorrow* is not like the RELIGIOUS broadcasts on the air? It NEVER starts out with religious hymns, and a voice in a sentimental, syrupy tone saying, "Dear friends in Radioland, I trust that this broadcast will bring a blessing to your hearts — isn't it WONDERFUL to know the Lord?"

Do you know what happens when such religious broadcasts start on a radio or television station? Well, MOST people tuned in snap the dial quickly. They either tune to a different program, or they turn it off. Only the "religious audience" — an infinitesimally small part of the whole radio audience — remains. And

they probably tune in specially because they are regular listeners to that particular program.

But do you know WHY millions of people buy and read such magazines as *Reader's Digest, Life, People, McCall's, Ladies' Home Journal,* etc.? These magazines are filled with articles about PEOPLE — about their everyday PROBLEMS — about WORLD CONDITIONS — HUMAN-INTEREST subjects. The MILLIONS are interested in THOSE things.

EVERYBODY is interested in such questions. But only a very small FEW by comparison are interested in a sentimental, emotional RELIGIOUS broadcast that sounds just like a church service.

On *The World Tomorrow* and in *The Plain Truth* we do not drive people away by "PREACHING AT" them. We want ALL people to hear the good news. So we TALK ABOUT THE THINGS ALL PEOPLE WANT TO HEAR! We talk about the VERY questions, problems, conditions and subjects that cause multiple millions to buy and read these other magazines, and the newsmagazines.

But we make these interest-gripping subjects far *more* interesting by injecting *life* and *spark* and *meaning* into them by use of biblical material that ASTONISHES — in a nonreligious-sounding manner — giving the surprising, eye-opening, practical and authoritative ANSWERS to the many increasingly disturbing questions, problems and happenings of OUR DAY.

In this way, we open people's eyes to the real ANSWERS to the *otherwise UN*answerable problems that plague governments, science and people generally.

People are ASTONISHED to learn that such answers are *in* the Bible. They are being told by educators that there are no answers — there are NO SOLUTIONS. Then they hear the ANSWERS on *The World Tomorrow* — answers that MAKE SENSE. It SURPRISES people to learn that the Bible is UP-TO-DATE, dealing with TODAY'S conditions, news, problems.

Then there's a lot in HOW it is done. It is done in the professional MANNER of a network news analyst, or a network documentary — not in a religious sounding manner.

THAT'S THE REASON *The World Tomorrow* has one of the BIGGEST audiences on most television stations for programs of this category.

So, if you want to induce MORE and MORE people to listen to *The World Tomorrow, don't* tell them it is a "religious" broadcast, because it is NOT like any religious broadcast. Tell them it is an exciting NEWS, HUMAN-INTEREST, EDUCATIONAL program that is MORE TALKED ABOUT than any other on the air.

But if you mention religion or the Bible, chances are they won't even start to listen.

*The Plain Truth* follows the same pattern. It's not like any church or religious paper or magazine. It's a WORLD-*NEWS* magazine. It's a magazine about PEOPLE — their problems and interests. It's a human-experience magazine.

You might do many of your friends a great service by letting them see your copy of *The Plain Truth*. Don't URGE them to read it. Don't ARGUE them into it or try to talk them into reading it. If it doesn't grab their interest, FORGET IT! If it does, tell them they may have a year's subscription, already paid — NO COST TO THEM — and show them on the inside front cover the mailing address, so they may write in for it. But remember, THEY must request it *for themselves*.

We try to let our light shine by our GOOD ACTIONS, here at God's headquarters at Ambassador College. We do the same at both campuses — here and in Texas. And we are gaining the respect of our communities.

I learned this lesson about letting people see your *good deeds* rather than your good ARGUMENTS many years ago. Following is the story of my own experience of nearly 60 years ago. Don't you make this mistake!

### A common mistake

The year 1927 was a very eventful year in my life. As soon as I swallowed my bitterest pill of rebellion, surrendered to *obey* the mighty God through faith in Jesus Christ, this new Christian WAY became the most happy, joyful experience of my life. Studying the Bible became a passion. I plunged into it with a fierce zeal.

The all-day sessions at the Portland, Ore., Public Library did not stop with my capitulation to the truth following the six months' anger-inspired study to end my wife's "fanaticism."

No longer was it an intensive study driven by anger and determination to have my own way. Now it was an enthusiastic study of eager anticipation, literally *thrilling* to every new discovery of spiritual "light" and biblical truth.

Now a passion swept over me to "get our families saved."

With the best intentions in the world, I set out on a vigorous campaign. To me, it was the loving and intense desire to *share* the wonders and glories of salvation and Bible knowledge with those we felt we loved most. But to most of them, it was an unwanted effort to "cram my crazy religion down their throats."

I did succeed, apparently, in talking one sister-in-law into a certain start. I had to learn later it was a false start. She was baptized either when I was or very shortly afterward. But, as too often happens when a high-pressure salesman talks one into something he or she doesn't really want, she turned against it all shortly afterward.

I had to learn, however, that even though I had believed I was a pretty good salesman in my earlier business experience, I was unable utterly to "cram my religion down my relatives' throats." My efforts only aroused hostility. They said I was "crazy."

This is a universal mistake committed by the newly converted. Especially is this true where a husband or wife yields to God's truth without the other.

It nearly broke up our mar-

*(Continued on page 12)*

# Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?

## Part Two

*Bible prophecy reveals events of our time and world-shaking events soon to change your life. A major world-shaking event is foretold in the symbolic language of a mysterious, world-dominating, wild beast.*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

The entire beast of Revelation 17 — the revivals of the Roman Empire — is a part of the seven heads of Revelation 13 and Daniel 7 because it comprises the last seven horns.

Yet this revived Roman Empire is "the eighth" system, differing from the seven before it (Revelation 17:11).



Illustration by C. Winston Taylor

### The number of the beast — 666

Where shall we find that mysterious number 666? Does the pope, as some claim, wear it on his crown, identifying him as the beast of Revelation 13? Or must we look for it elsewhere?

Here are all the Bible scriptures speaking directly of this number: "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" (Revelation 13:17-18).

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" (Revelation 15:2).

The Good News *is publishing, serially, Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong's newest booklet* Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?

### Note these points

From these scriptures, we have the following definite points:

1) The beast has a number and may be identified, if we have wisdom, by this number.

2) The number is 666.

3) We are told to count this number — that is, add it up. The

same Greek word is used elsewhere only in Luke 14:28: "Count the cost."

4) This number, 666, is the number of the beast. The only Bible interpretation of this symbol, "beast," is a kingdom or the king who rules a kingdom and therefore really is the kingdom (Daniel 7:17-18, 22-24, 27). Therefore this number 666 must be the number of the KINGDOM, or GOVERNMENT, or EMPIRE, as well as that of the king who founds or rules it.

5) The expression "the name of the beast, or the number of his name" makes plain that the number 666 is the number of the name of the kingdom or empire.

6) The expression "it is the number of a man" shows we must also count this number in the name of the king, or ruler, over the kingdom identified as the "beast."

### The beast is not the woman

In the 17th chapter of Revelation we find a beast, and a woman — a great, wealthy but fallen woman — who was riding the beast.

The Bible describes the symbol "woman" to mean a church (see II Corinthians 11:2, Revelation 19:7, Ephesians 5:22-27). On the other hand, "beast" is a symbol of a kingdom, or empire.

Let us be consistent. The beast of Revelation 13 is not the woman who rode the beast — the beast is the government, and the woman is a church.

The beast of Revelation 13 is the Roman Empire!

This beast had a deadly wound (Revelation 13:3). That means the beast ceased altogether to exist or function as it had since 31 B.C. Yet its deadly wound was later healed, after which (verse 5) it continued to exist another 1,260 years!

Those who believe a church is the beast say this deadly wound came in 1798. But the church did not cease to function in that year. Napoleon's abuse of the pope in 1798 could in no sense be called a wound to death. And those who teach this do not expect that church to continue on another 1,260 years.

### The founder of Rome

The founder and first king of Rome was Romulus. The Roman Empire was named after him. His name, the name of a man, is the name of the kingdom. Every citizen in the kingdom bears the same name — each is a Roman.

When John wrote this Revelation, telling us to count the number of the beast, he wrote in Greek, so we should look for this name, and the number 666, in this language recognized in the Bible, not in the Latin.

*Satan has his civil government. He gave it "his power, and his seat, and great authority." He also has organized religion deceiving the world.*

We are all familiar with the Roman numerals, where letters are used for numbers: I is 1, V is 5, X is 10, etc. But many do not know that the Greek language, the language in which the book of Revelation was written, also uses letters for numbers.

In the Greek, this name was understood in the second century A.D. to have originally been spelled Lateinos. It signifies "Latin man" or "the name of Latium," from which region the Romans derived their origin and their language. This word, too, signifies "Roman."

In the Greek, L is 30, A is 1, T is 300, E is 5, I is 10, N is 50, O is 70, S is 200.

Count these figures. They count to exactly 666!

It is indeed no coincidence that the name of the kingdom, its founder and first king, and of each man in the kingdom, counts to exactly 666!

Certainly the beast stands identified!

### And Mussolini, too

But the same number — 666 — was also branded in Latin on the man who dominated the puny sixth head of the symbolic beast.

Mussolini called himself "Il Duce." Italians shouted "Viva Il Duce!" which means "long live the chief." Everywhere in Italy was found the printed sign, "vv il duce."

The "vv" is the abbreviation used for "Viva." A "V" is used instead of the "U" as is very commonly done. While this is a greeting, or title, Mussolini actually employed "Il Duce" as a name. It is in Latin. Count it.

V is 5, V is 5, I is 1, L is 50, D is 500, V is 5, C is 100, E has no number.

Now count them, and you have exactly 666!

Thus this number 666 is indelibly branded upon the Roman Empire!

But, some will ask, does not this number apply to the pope? Some teach "the words 'Vicarius Filii Dei' are on the pope's triple crown." The pope does, on some occasions, wear a triple crown, but these words are not on it! We should prove all things.

The denomination that teaches this sent Professor C.T. Everson to Rome, where he gained access to and searched the Vatican archives, but he could find no crown or record of such a crown containing these words.

Furthermore, these words are in the Latin, not a Bible language. This is not a name, but a title, and it is the name of the beast, and the number of the name of the man of the beast, we are told to count. Further, this Latin title does not apply to a kingdom, or empire, but alone to a man.

And so the number 666 is branded on the Roman Empire,

on the founder and first king of the Latins, on every Roman, and even on Mussolini.

Could anything be any more conclusive?

### The two-horned beast

Satan has his civil government on earth. He gave this government "his power, and his seat, and great authority."

He also has organized religion as his instrumentality in deceiving the world. In II Corinthians 11:14, we find Satan is transformed into an "angel of light." According to Revelation 12:9 and 20:3, he has deceived the whole world.

How?

Paul tells us in II Corinthians 11:13-15. Satan has his ministers who pretend to be the ministers of righteousness, but are actually false apostles, deceitful workers, calling themselves the ministers of Christ! Therefore they claim to be Christian ministers. They are the many, not the few, because all prophecies say it is the many, not the few, who have been deceived.

Satan's main labor for 6,000 years has been the deceiving of the world.

Now turn to the 13th chapter of Revelation, beginning with verse 11: "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

Who — what — is this "beast"?

Some say it will be the United States aligned with the papacy. Some believe it is a federation of Protestant churches. Others declared it the Pan-American Union. Most church organizations ignore this very vital subject completely, or say frankly, "We do not know!"

Why this widespread ignorance, when the answer is so plain? Yes, why indeed?

### The Bible interpretation

Remember, first, the Bible interprets its own symbols! When men put their own interpretation on Bible symbols, their conclusions are always false! Notice, after John saw one beast, which we have proved to be identified as the Roman Empire, he now sees ANOTHER — a different — beast rise up.

We have learned that "beast" is a symbol for a kingdom, or civil government, and the term represents either the kingdom or its leader, as the case may be (Daniel 7:17, 23). So this other beast with the two horns is the prophecy of another kingdom or government.

In these prophecies, God pictures to us the earthly gentile governments as the wild beasts whose characteristics describe them. This two-horned beast appeared as a lamb. But actually it spoke as a dragon — its true characteristic — for "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34).

What does the word "lamb" symbolize, in the Bible? The answer is, Christ (John 1:29, Revelation 17:14). And "dragon" is a symbol of the devil (Revelation 12:9, 20:2).

So here is some kingdom or government appearing as that of Jesus Christ, or the Kingdom of God.

Christ did not set up a government (kingdom) at His first appearing on earth. After His resurrection the disciples asked Him if He would at that time restore the Kingdom (Acts 1:6), but He did not.

The Church is not the Kingdom. Because some thought it was, Jesus spoke the parable of Luke 19:11-27 to show that He first must ascend to His Father's throne in heaven to receive the royal power to become King of kings, to set up the world-ruling Kingdom of God. But Satan is a deceiver, and he has deceived the world into supposing his (Satan's) system of churches is the Kingdom of God.

Now notice carefully Revelation 13:12: "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him."

The first beast is the Roman Empire. Here is another government pretending to be Christ's government, the Kingdom of God, taking, exercising, using, employing all the power of the first kingdom.

Now when? "He exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed" (verse 12).

So, it was after the deadly wound (of A.D. 476) was healed. It was healed when Justinian brought about the restoration of the Empire in the West in A.D. 554. Consequently this religious government exercised power after A.D. 554 when the Roman Empire was restored.

So here we have pictured a government — a religious government — appearing as Christ's government, masquerading as the Kingdom of God, actually ruling the civil Roman Empire after A.D. 554.

*Satan is a deceiver, and he has deceived the entire world into supposing that his (Satan's) system of churches is the Kingdom of God.*

The teaching in that day was that the Second Coming of Christ is fulfilled in the person of the leaders of the church. The Millennium had begun.

For the entire 1,260 years, the emperors acknowledged the supreme power of religion. The church was organized as a government — as a dual, twofold government (symbolized by its two horns or kingdoms — for "horns" symbolize kingdoms,

also — see Daniel 7:24). It embodied church government, and it also was a state or civil government, always occupying a certain amount of territory over which it, alone, ruled as an independent sovereign state — in addition to actually ruling over the vast civil kingdom called the Holy Roman Empire.

Even today, it is a separate, independent, sovereign state.

Notice, this second beast was to wield power over all the earth, because it was to cause the earth, and them that dwell therein, to worship this first beast "whose deadly wound was healed" — after 554.

In most any encyclopedia, under "Millennium," you will read the history of this very event — of how the "Holy Roman Empire" was called the "Kingdom of God upon earth."

They claimed the Millennium had arrived!

Notice Revelation 13:14: "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast."

Verse 13 says, "He doeth great wonders."

So notice these three points:

1) This beast performs great miracles.

2) He performed them "in the sight of" the Holy Roman Empire, or the first beast.

3) With them he deceived all nations.

### All nations deceived

Where else in the Bible prophecies do we find these same identical facts?

First, note Revelation 17. Here is pictured a woman. In II Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:22-27 and elsewhere, we learn that "woman" is a symbol for church. This woman is a fallen woman — an apostate church — pictured as ruling over many nations (Revelation 17:1, 15).

In Revelation 17:3, this false church is pictured sitting on a beast "having seven heads and ten horns." A woman riding a horse guides, controls, the horse. It does her bidding. Notice, verse 18, that this woman is "that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Notice, verse 2, the inhabitants of the earth have been deceived by this counterfeit Christianity. Also, Revelation 18:3, she has deceived all nations.

Next, notice II Thessalonians 2:3-4. The day of Christ — and the coming of Christ — shall not come, until there be a falling away, and a "man of sin" be revealed. He exalts himself above all that is called God. As God, he sits in a temple claimed to be the temple of God, showing himself to deceive people into accepting him as God. God is our holy Father. This final man, in a religious office, will claim the same title.

This wicked man is to be destroyed at, and by, Christ's coming (verse 8).

Notice verses 9-10: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs [miracles] and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness."

Here is an important religious figure who is prophesied to perform miracles and lying wonders, with which he deceives people everywhere.

### At Armageddon

This deceiving religious ruler will still be active clear down to Armageddon and the Second Coming of Christ!

In Revelation 16:13-16 are described three foul spirits. They come from the dragon, which is the devil; from the beast, which is the civil Roman ruler; and from the mouth of the false prophet associated with him.

"For," continues verse 14, "they are the spirits of devils [demons], WORKING MIRACLES, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." And they are gathered, finally, at Armageddon!

Note it! Yet future, the Roman ruler, as the Roman Empire, is again restored, along with a great religious leader — and all in the power and influence of the devil! Working miracles!

All prophecies concerning them show these powers doing the same things!

Now notice the last battle of "that great day of God Almighty." It is in Revelation 19:19-20.

Here is pictured the beast — "and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image."

Note it! Compare with the two-horned beast of Revelation 13:11-17:

1) Both perform miracles.

2) Both perform them before, or in the sight of, the beast.

3) With them, both the false prophet and two-horned beast deceive them that have the mark of the beast — cause them to receive that mark (Revelation 13:16).

Certainly, then, this two-horned beast, the false prophet, the man of sin and the woman that rode the beast are all picturing a counterfeit Christianity.

Now did the two-horned beast deceive the very ones who have the mark of the beast? He did! Continue in Revelation 13:

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth" — how? — ". . . saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell [trade, earn a living, hold a job], save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (verse 14-17).

So, notice: This two-horned beast not only caused people to

*(Continued on page 29)*

# Is That Really the Best They Can Do?

*Have you ever wondered why most churches observe Sunday rather than God's Sabbath? The reasons they give may surprise you!*

By Clayton D. Steep

A certain group representing many Christian denominations has made up and published a list of "10 reasons we worship on Sunday."

One of our readers of the *Good News of the World Tomorrow* magazine wants to know if these 10 reasons are valid.

That's a good question. Does the observance of Sunday by most churches have any solid scriptural basis?

Let's look at the "10 reasons" given and see.

### Their 10 reasons

1) *It was on Sunday that Jesus rose from the dead (John 20:1).*

Not according to the verse referred to. As a matter of fact, not a single scripture anywhere in the Bible says Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday, as startling as that may be!

A careful reading of John 20:1, as well as of parallel verses in the accounts in Matthew, Mark and Luke, shows that on the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Jesus was *already* risen.

Of course! Jesus Himself foretold He would be in His tomb three days and three nights (Matthew 12:40). Since He was buried in the early evening (Matthew 27:57-60), in order for His words not to fail, Jesus would also have to be resurrected in the early evening, three 24-hour periods after He was put in the tomb. Certainly His resurrection could not have occurred on Sunday morning.

Jesus' resurrection had to take place in the early evening — but which evening?

The plain truth of the Bible is explained in our free booklet *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday*. A copy will be sent to you upon request. Prepare yourself for some shocks — this astounding booklet contains several!

2) *On the first day of the week Jesus appeared to a group of His disciples (John 20:19).*

He surely did. After all, this was the first full daylight period after His resurrection. But is John 20:19 meant to show when Christians from then on are supposed to assemble for worship? If so, then why don't the churches of the world follow it?

They don't, you know. Most churches traditionally gather for worship on Sunday morning. John 20:19 shows the disciples gathered together in the evening — not on the morning — of the first day. The fact is, the disciples weren't even gathered expressly for the purpose of worship. If this were their weekly worship service, why wasn't Thomas there with them (verse 24)?

The Bible, if we will read it carefully, states the reason for their gathering. The disciples, on this first day of the week, were assembled together behind locked doors "for fear of the Jews." This verse gives no indication whatsoever that a religious service was being held.

3) *After one week, Jesus appeared to a group of His disciples on the first day of the next week (John 20:26).*

The reasoning here is not clear. The verse referred to states that "after eight days" the disciples were gathered together and Jesus appeared to them. Count it. One day after today is tomorrow. Eight days after Sunday is Monday, not Sunday.

Rather than showing Christians are to regularly assemble for worship on Sunday, this verse, if it were meant to show anything at all about the subject, would indicate Christians should assemble every Monday! Obviously that is not the intent.

4) *The Holy Spirit was sent as promised on the first day of the*

*week — on the day of Pentecost (Leviticus 23:16).*

The momentous coming of the Holy Spirit is described in Acts 2. On the day it occurred, the disciples and multitudes of Jews were assembled in Jerusalem. What was the occasion? Was it to celebrate that it was the first day of the week?

No! As verse 1 shows, they were all — Jews and Christians alike — celebrating one of God's annual festivals, the one called *Pentecost* in Greek.

This was one of the Holy Days God gave through Moses. Pentecost and the other Holy Days are listed in Leviticus 23. The world thinks of them as being "Jewish," as it does the weekly Sabbath, yet Acts 2 reveals early New Testament Christians observing them.

(Other New Testament verses clearly demonstrate that true Christians are to keep all the annual festivals of God, as our free booklet *Pagan Holidays — or God's Holy Days — Which?* proves. Why not write for a copy? There is no obligation.)

It happened that the annual Holy Day called Pentecost in Acts 2 fell on the first day of the week. It always fell — and still does fall — on the first day of the week once a year. It did so in Moses' time, as Leviticus 23:16 confirms. But did that mean the Israelites were to assemble for weekly worship on the first day of every week instead of the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week?

No, of course not (Leviticus 23:3). Faithful Israelites under Moses, like the early Christians, kept Pentecost once a year on the first day of the week, as God ordained, and kept the Sabbath weekly on the seventh day, as God ordained.

5) *The apostle Peter on that same first day of the week preached the first sermon on the death and resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:14).*

As explained in point No. 4, the importance of the occasion was not that it was the first day of the week, but that it was Pentecost, one of God's annual Holy Days.

6) *The ceremony of Christian baptism was administered for the first time on that same first day of the week (Acts 2:41).*

Same comment as for point No. 5 above.

7) *Christians assembled for worship at Troas on the first day of the week (Acts 20:6-7).*

Notice, in passing, that verse 6 gives further evidence that early true New Testament Christians kept God's Holy Days. Why else would the apostle Paul and companions stay in Philippi until "after the Days of Unleavened Bread"?

Surely no one would dismiss this evidence as being "circumstantial" and at the same time claim validity for any of these "10 reasons" we are examining!

Moving on to verse 7, here again, if this verse is meant to indicate when Christians should regularly assemble for worship, why don't the churches of the world follow it? Why do they traditionally gather together for worship in the morning, when this verse clearly shows an evening gathering?

The fact is that this verse doesn't describe a gathering for the purpose of weekly worship at all. The Christians came together, the Bible plainly says, "to break bread" — to eat a common meal together.

When you get right down to it, though, it is not wrong for Christians to come together to worship God any time of any day of the week — as long as doing so is in addition to worshiping together on God's weekly Sabbath, as God commands.

8) *Paul preached to the assembled Christians at Troas on the first day of the week (Acts 20:6-7).*

Same comment as for point No. 7 above.

9) *Christians at Corinth were instructed to make contributions on the first day of the week (I Corinthians 16:2).*

But notice that this was not to happen after Paul arrived on the scene (latter half of the verse). Why not, if Paul was merely talking about putting money in an offering plate that was passed during services?

Because this verse is not referring to that at all. There is nothing in this verse about assembling together for worship. The subject of I Corinthians 16:1-3 is the collection for the poor saints at Jerusalem (see also Romans 15:25-28). Foodstuffs and other items had to be gathered together on the first day of the week — a workday! — so that when Paul arrived, the work would already be done.

10) *On the isle of Patmos Jesus appeared to the apostle John and gave him the Revelation on the first day of the week (Revelation 1:10).*

Here is a classic example of reading something into a verse of Scripture. Revelation 1:10 says nothing about the "first day of the week." It simply mentions "the Lord's Day." If indeed it were speaking of a particular day of the week, which day is the "Lord's Day"? Jesus gave the answer in Mark 2:28: Jesus is "Lord of the Sabbath." That is His day — the true "Lord's Day"!

As far as Revelation 1:10 is concerned, though, the subject is

**Does the observance of Sunday by most churches have any scriptural basis? Not even the Catholic Church attempts to justify Sunday observance purely on the basis of what the Bible says. It is not possible.**

not a day of the week but rather the time of God's intervention in world affairs, called in many Bible prophecies the "Day of the Lord."

### No justification for observing Sunday

So there you have it — the 10 presumably best (if there are other reasons, why wouldn't they also be given?), most convincing, most conclusive, most persuasive, "biblical" reasons for the traditional Christian observance of Sunday.

No wonder not even the Catholic Church, with the vast theological resources at its disposal, attempts to justify Sunday observance purely on the basis of what the Bible says! Realizing it is not possible to do so, the Catholic Church freely admits that it — not the Bible — is the authority for changing the Christian day of worship.

As the text of one of its public study courses states: "If we followed the Bible only, we would keep holy . . . Saturday. . . . Well, did Christ change the day? . . . We have no record that He did. . . . The Church . . . transferred the obligation from Saturday to Sunday" (*Father Smith Instructs Jackson*).

### What the Bible really says

Now compare the above "10 reasons" for Sunday observance with the following 12 reasons for keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, and see for yourself which day has biblical approval.

1) The seventh-day Sabbath was ordained way back at the very beginning, at the time of the creation of humankind — thousands of years before the existence of Moses or the Jewish people (Genesis 2:1-3).

2) Jesus declared, "The Sabbath was made for man" — that's all mankind, not just the Jews or any other particular group (Mark 2:27).

3) God made a perpetual covenant with His people Israel that they should keep the Sabbath *forever*. That means that their descendants — including the apostles and Christians who happened to be Israelites at any point in history — must keep the Sabbath. The Sabbath is an identifying sign between God and His true people (Exodus 31:12-18).

4) Jesus, who today "lives in" Christians (Galatians 2:20), who "is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), kept (and keeps!) the Sabbath (Luke 4:16).

5) Jesus declared He is Lord, not of Sunday, but "of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:28).

6) After everything temporary and ritualistic had been "nailed to the cross," Jesus' followers kept the Sabbath "according to the commandment" (Luke 23:55-56).

7) The apostle Paul stressed the necessity of keeping the commandments of God (I Corinthians 7:19), one of which, of course, is devoted to the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11).

8) Paul and his companions at Philippi sought spiritual rejuvenation, not on the first day of the week, but on the Sabbath (Acts 16:12-13).

9) Paul regularly preached to Jews and gentiles on the Sabbath (Acts 13:14-15, 42-44, 17:2, 18:1-11).

10) Paul instructed gentiles not to let anyone judge them for, among other things, keeping the Sabbath with full understanding of what it foreshadows (Colossians 2:16-17).

11) The correct translation of Hebrews 4:9, as many versions of the Bible attest, is, "There remains therefore a keeping of the Sabbath for the people of God." (See, for example, *New Testament From Aramaic* by Lamsa.)

12) In the world tomorrow, under the rule of Jesus Christ, all nations — Jews and gentiles alike — will worship God every Sabbath day (Isaiah 66:22-23).

And there is much, much more. We will send you the documentation — a total, airtight case for keeping the seventh-day Sabbath made holy by God — if you will request our free booklets *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* and *Has Time Been Lost?* Just mail the literature request card in this issue or write to our address nearest you (see inside front cover for a list). □

# Does It Matter Which Day?

Some claim that, according to Romans 14:5-6, it really doesn't matter which day of the week a person observes as his weekly "day of worship," as long as he does it "to the Lord."

Even a casual reading of Romans 14, however, reveals that the subject being dealt with is not at all which day to worship.

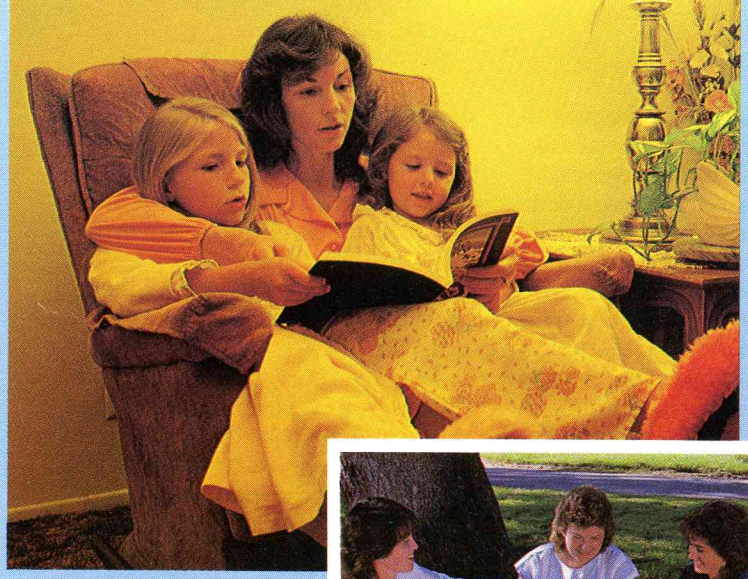
Rather, the subject is human opinions about "food and drink" (verses 1-4, 17). More particularly, it concerns when and what to eat and when to abstain from food, or fast (verse 6).

The people to whom the apostle Paul wrote the book of Romans were divided in their opinions on this matter, just as people still are today. Paul told them that pure human opinion concerning vegetarianism and eating or fasting on certain days should be kept private. It is a matter between an individual and God.

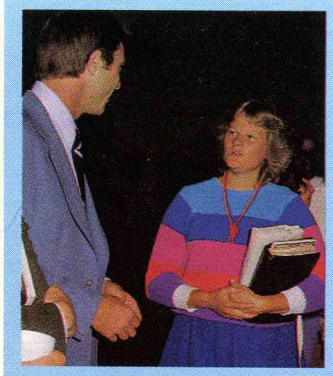
That's why, speaking about eating or fasting on specific days of the week or month, Paul said that whatever a person feels he needs to do, he ought to do "to the Lord," seeking God's will (verses 5-6).

There should among Christian brethren be no divisive judging or condemning of one another over such a physical issue. "Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food," Paul warned (verse 20).

Romans 14:5-6 says nothing about which day Christians should worship on. Scores of other scriptures, however, make it clear that God's people are to keep Saturday, the seventh-day Sabbath ordained by God, holy! □

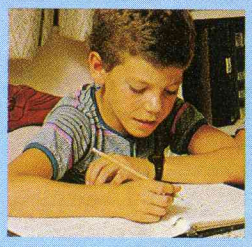




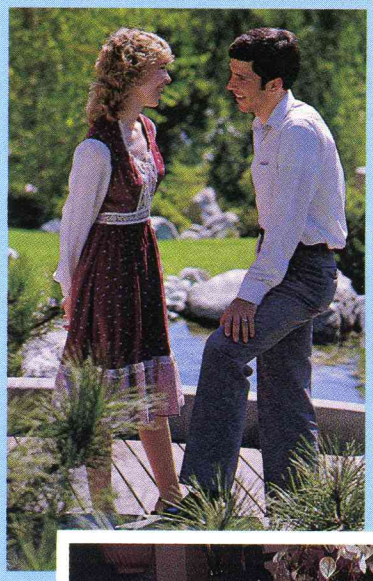




















Photos: G.A. Belluche Jr., Kevin Blackburn, Nathan Faulkner, Hal Finch, Warren Watson

# The Day God Made for Man

By John A. Halford

The Pharisees had done it again!

Jesus and His disciples were taking a refreshing walk through the grainfields one Sabbath. Jesus, as was His custom, was probably using the time to teach His friends more of the truth. As they walked, some of the disciples casually plucked off a few heads of grain to munch on.

The Pharisees were outraged. These self-righteous religious leaders prided themselves on their strict observance of the Sabbath. In their ignorance, they had made the Sabbath a spiritual obstacle course with hundreds of picky dos and don'ts.

In their view, picking a few ears of grain was a serious breach of the law. "Why did you let them do it?" they asked Jesus accusingly (Mark 2:23-24).

So once again Jesus had to correct them. "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath," He said (verse 27). Jesus reminded them that God did not make man just so there would be someone to keep the Sabbath. Rather, God made the Sabbath for the benefit of mankind.

### Many misunderstand

Many people have since misunderstood what Jesus meant by this. They think that by "liberalizing" the Pharisees' strict rules, Jesus was giving us license to do whatever we like on the Sabbath. Jesus' words, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath," have often been abused, and have become a catchall to justify doing anything and everything people want to do during the time that God has set aside as holy.

And that, of course, was not what Jesus meant.

Jesus Christ had the deepest respect for the law of God. He observed the Sabbath carefully. He knew it was one of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11). To break it would have been sin, and Jesus never sinned. If He had, He would have incurred the wages of sin — death (Romans 6:23) — and thus He couldn't have died for *your* sins.

But Jesus, unlike the Pharisees, never lost sight of the purpose of the Sabbath day. He remembered why it was created.

### The first Sabbath

In the first chapters of the book of Genesis, we read how God, through Jesus Christ, made the world as we know it today. In six days of stupendous creativity, He sorted out the chaos and confusion that was left over from Satan's rebellion and restored light and life to this planet. Then, sometime on the day that we now call Friday, God stooped in the dust and molded a creature in His own image, and breathed the breath of life into him (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7). Later, He created a wife for him, also made in the image of God.

A wonderful plan was beginning to unfold.

The Bible shows us that God rested on the day after the day He created Adam and Eve, setting aside the time as holy forever.

Exodus 31:17 tells us that on that Sabbath God was "refreshed." But what does this mean? God surely wasn't tired, was He?

No, God never runs out of energy. But neither is He a robot — an automaton. God enjoys moments of relaxation, when He can pause and enjoy the fruits of His labor.

God was pleased with His creation. As He looked at the earth, once again green and beautiful, teeming with life in all its wonderful variety, He had the satisfaction of knowing it was good (Genesis 1:25).

Most wonderful of all were Adam and Eve, living, breathing, thinking beings, made in God's own image. As God watched them explore their new environment, He saw that that was indeed *very* good (verse 31).

Adam and Eve may not have known it then, but God had plans for them. They were filled with wonder and excitement of their new physical life, but their Creator knew the real reason why He had created them.

So, as the sun set on the evening of the sixth day, God finished the physical creation. The seventh day would be different — devoted not to physical activity, but set aside as a Sabbath — a day of rest — a time to think about what happens next.

God had not yet completed the creation of Adam and Eve. Although they were finished physically, there were some vital spiritual details that had not yet been created. In this they were unlike

the creatures around them. Although they ate food and breathed air like the animals, there was a great difference.

Adam and Eve were made after the image of God and were destined to live forever, if they so chose. But first they had to qualify. The newly created man and woman needed to be reminded that there is more to life than mere physical pursuits. God set aside the seventh day as holy time for that purpose.

When Adam and Eve listened to Satan and were persuaded by him to choose their own way rather than God's way (Genesis 3:1-6), they cut themselves off from knowledge that could have shown them the way to eternal life. To this day the vast majority of Adam's descendants are totally unaware of the real reason why they exist.

(If you haven't already read it, send for a free copy of our eye-opening book *The Incredible Human Potential.*)

### A break from routine

In a materialistic world, spiritual values are elusive. Left to ourselves, most of us would never take time out of our busy schedules to concentrate on spiritual values for a while.

We see this clearly by the way most professing Christians "observe" Sunday. They may go to church, but the rest of the day is spent doing their own pleasure — sports, watching television, going to the beach, working around the house.

Certainly that accomplishes the purpose of providing a physical break from routine, but there is more to a real Sabbath than that. That is why God made the Sabbath a commandment.

"Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day" (Exodus 20:9-11).

That's not a suggestion — it is an order. God wants us to take seriously His command to keep the Sabbath. It is not just like any other day, to be used in any way you please. Although the Pharisees went overboard and made the Sabbath a burden, our modern world has gone to the opposite extreme.

### More than just "a day off"

God kept the first Sabbath with Adam and Eve, and He found it refreshing. Probably He used that time to teach them more about life and how to live it.

God has never changed. He would enjoy spending the next Sabbath with you. He has the time set aside for that purpose.

God is ready to use next Sabbath to teach you, through His Word as you study the Bible, and through His true ministers as you attend services in His Church. He will be with you as you fellowship with His people (Matthew 18:20). He will listen to you as you pray (plenty of time on the Sabbath — so there is no excuse not to, right?). God would find it refreshing to open your mind to more of His truth and to teach you what you need to know so that you can inherit the wonderful eternal life that He is eager to share with you.

But not if you spend the time working, or on the golf course, or fixing the roof, or doing the week's grocery shopping.

If you keep the Sabbath properly, then when the sun sets next Saturday evening and the Sabbath is over, your mind could be tuned to the real purpose of your life. The worries, fears and problems of living in this world will be placed in perspective. You will be ready for another week of accomplishment — of life being lived for its real purpose.

That purpose has never changed. The Sabbath has never changed, and the reason for observing it is the same today as it was in the first century, when Jesus taught, "The Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27). □

# PERSONAL

*(Continued from page 2)*

riage — even though Mrs. Armstrong did NOT attempt to inject her new religious belief into me. In our case the marriage was saved only because I accepted the challenge to study into it myself, confident I could prove she was wrong.

But most mates will not study into it. Most unconverted mates, especially if the converted one tries to talk the other into his or her religion, will break up the home.

In the more than 58 years since my conversion, I have known of dozens and scores of marriages that have ended in divorce *because the newly converted mate tried to talk the unconverted one into accepting it.* In a very few, if any, instances has the unconverted mate been talked into accepting it.

Of all things evil and harmful a newly converted Christian can do, the very WORST is to try to talk your husband or wife into your religion. WHATEVER else you do, let me *plead* with every such reader, *NEVER* commit this tragic sin. If you love your husband or wife, *don't do it!* If you love your Savior who died for you and now lives for you, *DON'T DO IT!*

### Each one must decide

Remember these scriptures: "No one can come to Me," said Jesus, "unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (John 6:44, 65).

Again, Jesus said: "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did *not* come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, daughter against her mother . . .' and 'a man's foes will be those of his own household.' . . . He who loves father or mother [or wife or husband] more than Me is not worthy of Me. . . . And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:34-38). God made every

human being a free moral agent. Thank God He did! No one has power to force on *you* any unwanted religion.

Every individual makes his *own* decision. A religious difference between husband and wife is a serious handicap. The Bible *forbids* a converted person from marrying an unconverted.

But if such difference already exists, do not make matters worse by *talking* religion to your mate. Do all your *talking* to God in prayer.

Let your mate *see* your happy, pleasant, cheerful, joyful, loving WAY of life — not *hear* your arguments or nagging! Allow your mate complete religious latitude and freedom — whether to be converted, religious, irreligious or atheistic!

I am glad I learned that lesson early. I have had to maintain certain business connections with many people, since being plunged into God's work. I must maintain contacts with television people, publishers, professional people. I get along splendidly with them. A big reason is that I never talk religion to them.

I never try to talk *anyone* into accepting Bible truth or being converted. I go *to* the world over the air and in print, and everyone is free to listen or read — or to dial out or not read. No one gets our literature unless he or she personally requests it. We try never to force God's precious truth on anyone. That's GOD'S WAY!

### How Paul worked

Do you know how the apostle Paul won individuals to Christ? Not the way people attempt to do it today. He said "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save *some*" (I Corinthians 9:22).

When he talked to an unconverted Jew, do you suppose he spoke as Christians who think they are "witnessing for Christ"? Do you suppose Paul said to the unconverted Jew: "Have you received Christ as your personal Savior? Oh, *won't* you just kneel with me right here, dear brother, and give your heart to the Lord right now?" Or, do you suppose he said: "Look here, my Jewish sinner-friend, you're on the way to hell. Your religion is all wrong. Every day you reject Christ as your Savior you are crucifying Him afresh. You are worse than a thief or a murderer. I'm going to keep after you, and pester you with all of my arguments, and drum them into your stubborn ears, and beat them into that stiff, rebellious mind of yours until I *force* you to become a Christian."

No, that is not the way Paul spoke to unconverted Jews. Paul said, "To the Jews I became *as a Jew*" (verse 20). Paul spoke to others *from their point of view!* He talked to a Jew just like *another Jew* — from the *Jewish viewpoint* — showing sympathy and understanding of the *Jews'* way of looking at Christianity. They were — and mostly are today — hostile to the idea of Jesus being the promised Messiah.

Paul did not rouse hostility — he put it down. He got on the inside, so to speak, just as *one of them*, so that they were *sympathetic* toward him, not hostile. He became *as* a Jew, "that I might win Jews." Even so, he gained only a small minority, yet it was a large number.

Perhaps you have had your eyes opened to the fact that sin is the transgression of God's law. Most professing Christians have been taught, and consequently sincerely believe, that "the law is done away." Paul was inspired to write that the carnal mind is hostile to God and to God's law — "It is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).

If you say to your unconverted mate who is hostile to God's law: "You're just a rebellious *sinner*, and your church is just one of these false worldly churches. You've got to *repent* and obey God's commandments if you are going to be saved" — you have not only aroused hostility, you have yourself *been* hostile, and you probably have broken up your marriage.

How did Paul talk to such people? Listen: "And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews . . . to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (I Corinthians 9:20-22).

### Don't antagonize others

One of the first principles of successful advertising I learned early in my career is that to get results you must *first* learn the attitude of your reading audience toward whatever product or service you are advertising. You must not antagonize those whom you expect to persuade. You must approach them from *their* point of view — not from *yours*, especially if your viewpoint is contrary to theirs. To win them to *your* point of view, you must approach them from *their* viewpoint. Otherwise you only arouse hostility.

I know that these words are addressed to a very large number who have made this terrible mistake. That is why I have devoted so much space to this point.

If you believe God's truth, and your husband or wife does not, NEVER TALK RELIGION to him or her. If your mate normally thinks and speaks only of material and worldly things, then you must speak of material things to your spouse.

If the *World Tomorrow* broadcast has, probably because of your own aggressiveness in trying to get your mate to listen, become a sore spot, go off to some private room to hear the program. Keep the volume turned down. *Make every effort NOT to antagonize* your husband or wife.

And again, when you *talk* about it, talk to God in prayer. Let your mate see your *good works*, in a manner that he or she will naturally approve.

Avoid every hostility. Be *pleasant*. Keep *cheerful! Be happy!* Radiate JOY! Give LOVE and warm affection! Do everything to cause your husband or wife to *like* you! *THAT IS THE CHRISTIAN WAY!* □

# CHRISTMAS 2,000 Years Before Christ!

*How did customs, celebrated long before the birth of Jesus, come to be called "Christmas"?*

By Clayton D. Steep



It was that festive season again. The little children were filled with anticipation and excitement.

The whole family was busy putting up decorations. Boughs of holly and evergreen were assembled and placed about the house. The mistletoe was hung. A tree was chosen and decorated with sparkling trinkets and ornaments.

It was a season of giving and receiving presents, a time to sing songs, admire all the pretty lights and burn the Yule log. There were to be parades with special floats, sumptuous meals and merrymaking.

A modern Christmas celebration?

Not at all!

At the end of December and the beginning of January all these festive celebrations were taking place in various nations of Europe centuries before Jesus Christ was born!

### An "old-fashioned" Christmas

Where Christmas customs came from is really no secret. You can read the origins of Christmas customs in encyclopedias and other reference works.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica,* for example, draws attention to these facts: "Christmas customs are an evolution from times that long antedate the Christian period — a descent from seasonal, pagan, religious and national practices, hedged about with legend and tradition" (15th edition, article "Christmas").

In ancient times, many people, realizing their dependence upon the sun for light, heat and the growing of crops, watched the sun's yearly course through the heavens with deep interest. At different seasons, feasts and celebrations were observed to help, it was thought, the solar orb on its way.

The end of December was an especially significant time in the Northern Hemisphere. The days were short. The sun was at its lowest point. Special festivals of thanksgiving and encouragement to the sun were celebrated.

When, at the winter solstice, the days began to lengthen, there was great celebration lasting into

Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

the first part of January. The sun — the light of the world — had been (re)born!

Such festivities, once meant to honor the sun and its god, were freely adopted by the spreading and increasingly popular "Christian" religion. Why not, in the same way, honor Jesus — the real light of the world (even though He was not actually born in December)? Through the centuries different combinations of customs developed in different nations. But the fundamental origin of the celebrations goes back at least 4,000 years.

### Trees and candles

The modern Christmas tree is supposed to have originated in German lands in the Middle Ages. But long before that, the ancestors of the Germans customarily decorated their homes with lights and greenery at the winter festival.

Since evergreens were green throughout the dead of winter, the ancient Germans looked upon them as especially imbued with life. It was in honor of the tree spirit or the spirit of growth and fertility that greenery was a prominent part of ancient pagan winter celebrations.

The Romans trimmed trees with trinkets and toys at that time of the year. The Druids tied gilded apples to tree branches. It is difficult to trace back exactly where the legend first gained popularity, but to certain peoples an evergreen decorated with orbs and other fruit-like objects symbolized the tree of life in the Garden of Eden.

Branches of holly and mistletoe were likewise revered. Not only did these plants remain green through the winter months, but they actually bore fruit at that time, once again honoring the spirits of fertility. Still today, catching someone under a branch of mistletoe can serve as a convenient springboard for romantic activity. Few people stop to wonder what in the world such strange customs have to do with the birth of Jesus.

The ancients lit festive fires in late December to encourage the sun, just as Christmas bonfires, candles and other lights burn today at the same time of the year. Use of the "Yule log," part of the "Yuletide" season, hearkens back to the ritual burning of a carefully chosen log by the Druids. The word *yule* comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word *hweol,* meaning "wheel," a wheel being an appropriate symbol for the sun.

### Holiday cheer?

You thought the Christmas shopping spree was a 20th-century phenomenon?

Listen to how fourth-century writer Libanius described end-of-the-year gift-giving and partying in the ancient non-Christian Roman Empire: "Everywhere may be seen . . . well-laden tables . . . The impulse to spend seizes everyone. He who through the whole year has taken pleasure in saving . . . becomes suddenly extravagant. . . . A stream of presents pours itself out on all sides" (quoted in *Christmas in Ritual and Tradition*).

Of all times in the year, it was indeed the season to be jolly. Then, as now, in a constant round of partying, it was common — yes, expected — to seek the "spirit" of the season in whatever intoxicating drink was at hand. Drunkenness was widespread. Fortunately, however, the modes of transportation in those days did not lend themselves to the high rate of drunken-driver-induced traffic fatalities that are part of the Christmas season in many nations today.

### And Santa Claus?

An important part of the pagan harvest festivities — beginning in October-November with what has become Halloween — involved good and bad spirits. In many lands, mythical visitors — usually bringers of good or evil — became the center of attention in the winter season. Through blending pagan legends with traditions about saints, certain similar figures emerged.

We recognize them today in different nations as Santa Claus, Father Christmas, St. Nicholas, St. Martin, the Weihnachtsmann, Père Noël. Whatever name is used, all these winter visitors fulfill a similar role.

These fictional persons — "Christianizations" of the pagan Germanic deities — perpetuate certain folk rituals wherein varying degrees of rewards and punishments were dealt out to celebrants. Through the centuries these customs came to be centered around children.

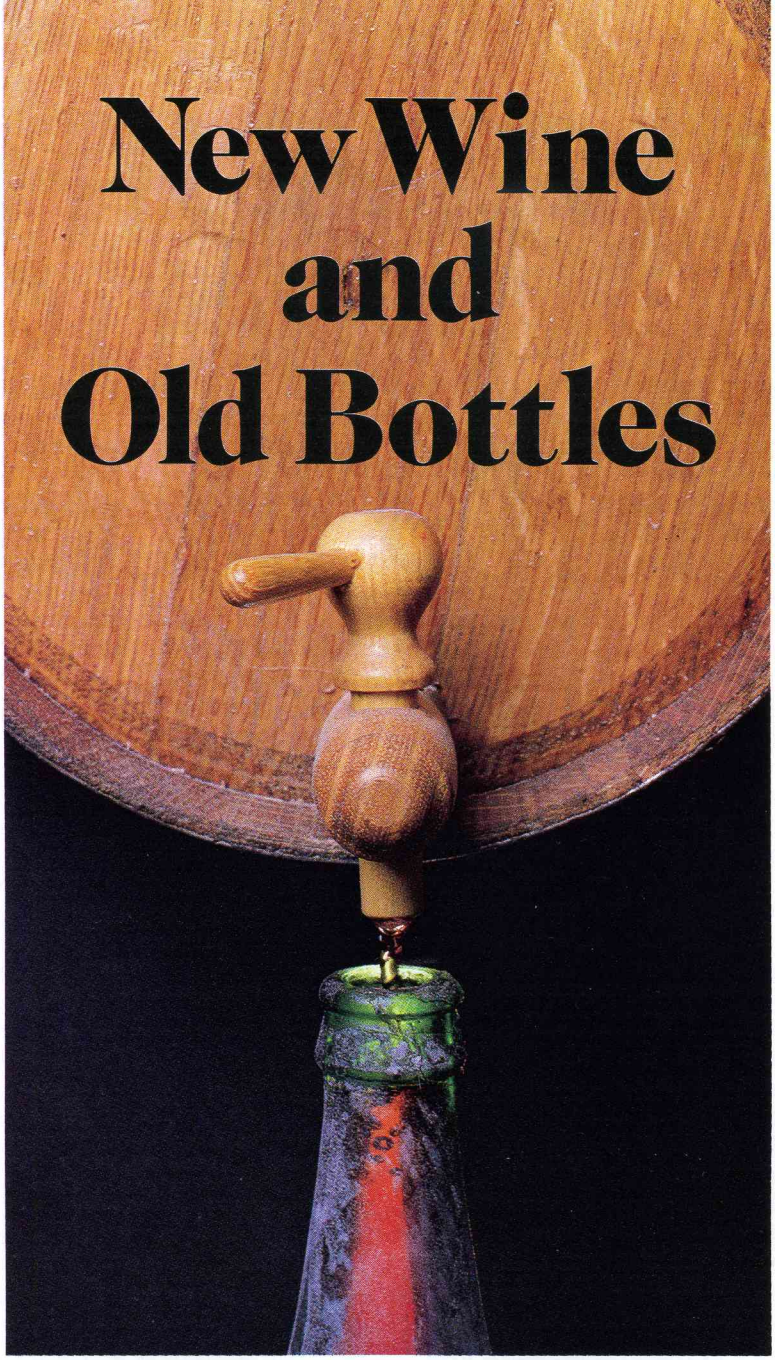
It is not hard to see a connection between Santa using the chimney, the shoes and stockings hung by the fireplace and the ancient superstitions about hearth spirits. The fireplace served as the natural entrance and exit of the gods of fire and solar gods when they visited homes. For thousands of years, especially among the Chinese, it was customary to sweep and scour the house in preparation for the visit of the hearth spirit.

Each year, dressed in a pointed fiery red cap and red jacket, this fire-god traveled from the distant heavens to visit homes and distribute favors or punishments. Today he is welcomed in the Western world each Christmas season.

Popular Christmas customs, as we can see, plainly reflect non-Christian legends and practices. Since Jesus was not even born in December to begin with, the logical question to ask is: What is there that is *Christian* about Christmas? Did you know, for example, that some of the very Christmas customs observed today were once banned by the Catholic Council of Rome, the English Parliament and the Puritans of New England?

More important, what does the Bible say about Christmas? Should a Christian have anything to do with such holidays? For the answers write for your free copy of our booklet *The Plain Truth About Christmas.* Just mail the request card in this issue or write to our address nearest you (see inside front cover for a list of our addresses). □

# New Wine and Old Bottles



*Jesus Christ expects His followers to become totally committed to all of God's laws and way of life. The transition can be very difficult!*

By John A. Halford

Are you thinking about making some big changes in the way you live?

You have begun to understand the truth about how a real Christian ought to behave. You have realized that a lot of empty tradition has infiltrated what is known as "Christianity" today, while some of Christ's most important teachings are ignored.

Perhaps you have read Jesus' challenging words found in Matthew 15:9: "In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

And so perhaps you have decided it's time to make some changes. Perhaps this year you and your family are (sssh — don't let the neighbors know!) — not going to keep Christmas!

Of course, it might not only be Christmas. The decision to obey Jesus Christ will mean that you must change many aspects of your life, some small, others major. You might have to change the day that you have kept "holy," or some of the things that you eat. Maybe you must alter the way you budget your money and eliminate many words from your vocabulary. But since it's that time of year, let's focus on Christmas.

What's so bad about Christmas? Christmas, of course, is not a Christian festival. It never has been and never will be.

### Hard to change

Most ministers of whatever denomination admit that Jesus could not have been born on December 25. That day was kept as a pagan festival long before Jesus' birth. Jesus nowhere told us to celebrate His birthday — to do so is one of those "commandments of men" that He warned His true followers against.

So you have decided not to observe it this year.

It isn't quite as easy as that, is it? Christmas has become so much a part of most people's lives that not to observe it can mean a major disruption. No Christmas cards. What will Aunt Tess think? No relatives over for Christmas dinner. No decorations. No lights or Santa Claus. You'll have to try to avoid the office party, and you'd better write to the school explaining that you don't want little Fred to play an angel in the Christmas play. And no tree.

I remember the first time we didn't have a tree. It had always been a feature in our house. We would go to a lot of trouble to decorate it beautifully, and then put it in the front window for all to see. A good-looking tree was a status symbol in our street and, though I do say it myself, ours was one of the best and most impressive.

But we read in the Bible where God made some pretty pointed remarks about decorated trees. Check it for yourself in Jeremiah 10:3-4. God said it was a futile, pagan custom — a clear case of worshiping Christ in vain. So — no tree. Even though we knew

Photo by Hal Finch

we had done the right thing, we really missed that tree. The neighbors all had them, sparkling in their windows, but our window remained dark.

We missed it so much that we cheated a bit. We put up a few decorations — not a tree, mind you, just a few bits and pieces to make the place look more cheerful. And we had a Christmas dinner, only we didn't call it that. It was only a "celebration."

We felt guilty about it, because we knew we had compromised. It was just that the old way seemed so comfortable, and without a tree and all the rest of the paraphernalia, Christmas just didn't seem like — er, Christmas.

Jesus Christ knew this would happen. He explained to His disciples that they would indeed miss some aspects of the old way of life, and that even as they learned the truth from Him they would look back nostalgically from time to time.

You will find what Jesus said in Luke 5:36-39. Before we read it, let's put the incident in its right context.

When Jesus began His public ministry, He immediately came into conflict with the Pharisees, a religious sect who prided themselves on the way they kept God's laws. They had become so fanatical in their self-righteous attempts to be perfect that they had added many traditions to the basic law of God. The Pharisees thus made the keeping of God's law into a burden.

Jesus came to teach the truth. He understood not only the letter but also the spirit of God's law. Of course, He never broke any of the commandments in any way, but to the Pharisees He seemed to be an outright liberal. And, horror of horrors, here He was in Luke 5:29 enjoying a meal with a tax collector and some other sinners. It really was too much!

Not only did Jesus eat with sinners, but He didn't seem to fast like the Pharisees thought He should. Their custom dictated that they fast twice in the week. They equated their fasting with righteousness. The Pharisees had had no great love for Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, but even the disciples of John fasted sometimes. But Jesus and his disciples never seemed to fast. Why not?

Jesus explained that fasting is a way to get close to God (Luke 5:34-35). While Jesus, who was God in the flesh, was with His disciples, there was no need to fast. When, in the future, Jesus would be taken away from them, His disciples would certainly seek to get close to Him and His Father by fasting occasionally.

Then Jesus went on to teach an important lesson: "No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old" (verse 36).

Any seamstress understands that. New, unshrunk material cannot be used to patch old, worn garments. When it shrinks, it will tear the old cloth even worse than before.

Jesus' second analogy is not quite so easy for us to follow in the 20th century: "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins" (verses 37-38).

In New Testament times glass bottles were rare, so wine was often transported in animal skins, usually from goats. They made a strong, airtight and moisture-proof container, but you had to be careful. New wine that had not finished fermenting gave off gas that would expand the skins. A new wineskin had some "give" to it, and would allow for the expansion. But old, used skins lost their elasticity. They would burst. The wine would be spilled and the wineskin ruined.

But why tell people that? Jesus Christ's business was not to give the multitude helpful household hints. Jesus was using a familiar situation to teach an aspect of Christian living.

### Withdrawal symptoms

When someone begins to understand the teachings of the Bible, it is a totally new experience — unlike anything he or she has ever known — like new wine or an unused piece of cloth.

Now, what most of us do is try to fit this new truth into our old way of life. That is only natural, because it is hard to change, and no one likes to admit having been wrong. The old way of life is familiar and comfortable, and we want to hang on to as much of it as possible.

How about you? Perhaps you have fond memories of the Easter sunrise service, the fun of Halloween and those beautiful candlelight carol services down at the old family church. The truth comes smashing into inherited religious ideas and preconceived notions of right and wrong. It challenges comfortable beliefs, making you question things you have always done.

This new way — even if it is right — sometimes seems like an unwelcome intruder, and you find yourself resenting it.

Jesus warned us that that could happen: "And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better' " (verse 39).

It is not surprising that so many people, even though they acknowledge the truth, still prefer to cling to their old beliefs. Or perhaps they do as my family did when we met the truth halfway, with a sort of "unChristmas" celebration.

We didn't enjoy our "unChristmas." You never can if you know that you are compromising with what is right. We were trying to put our new wine in the old bottle, and we spoiled everything.

### All the way

Don't make that mistake. If you are beginning to understand what it means to be a real Christian, realize that it is going to demand positive action on your part. You can't have it both ways, observing this world's customs and still expecting the blessing of the world tomorrow.

"Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not the things which I say?" Jesus thundered

(Luke 6:46). He expects total commitment. He demands that we come out of the Babylon of confusion that characterizes so much religion today.

So along with the excitement of learning new truth comes the responsibility of making some painful decisions. Don't compromise. God does not want to take from us anything that is good. His way of life is filled with exciting experiences that mean something and lead somewhere, not empty, senseless but often very expensive rituals.

As you take the plunge and follow God's way of life, you will begin to miss the "old wine" less and less. You will see it for what it is — a hollow counterfeit of the real thing.

God is showing you the way to freedom from all that. Instead of looking back at the fraudulent ways of this world, you will begin to anticipate the excitement of helping others learn the truth in the world tomorrow. □



# So You're Not Keeping Christmas?

By Henry Sturcke

The halls are decked with boughs of holly; the stockings are hung by the chimney with care. The wistful voice of Tiny Tim mingles with the strains of "Silent Night" as he wishes a blessing on us, every one. All the world seems at peace.

Except you.

You, who can no longer in good conscience take part in the singing, the party-going, the exchanging of gifts and greeting cards.

There are times you may wish you didn't know what you know.

But you *do* know.

You know about the 4,000-year history of Christmas, about the origins of the Yule log and mistletoe, about the fact that Jesus wasn't born on or anywhere near December 25. Most of all, you know what God says about taking pagan days and dressing them in a cloak of sanctity.

And because you know, this can be the most miserable season of the year. At no other time do you feel so out of step with the society around.

But there's a danger in that.

### Two pitfalls

God opened your mind to understand the truth about Christmas — along with other biblical truths — for a reason. But even though you've been called out, there's still a strong urge to conform.

Many recognize the origins of today's Christmas observances, but these people still compromise. "What's the difference?" they ask. Yet it must make some difference — some of them are your hottest antagonists! That you dare act on what you know torments them.

They urge you to compromise — but you must not (Romans 12:2).

Let's say you resist the urge to conform, obeying God instead. That's good. For some, that's even exhilarating. You see, some are nonconformists by nature. It doesn't bother them at all to be out of step with this world; that lets them feel exclusive and superior. They might even be disappointed if society abolished Christmas tomorrow — they would no longer be unique.

How will they feel in the world tomorrow, when false religious observances will be wiped out, replaced by God's Holy Days (Zechariah 14:16-19)?

Rather than feel smugly superior to the rest of humanity, we ought to be profoundly sorry that they cannot see and obey the truth at this time — that they even harrass us when we do obey.

Note I Peter 4:16: "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."

If we do suffer harrassment, even persecution, for not celebrating Christmas, we're warned to avoid another wrong reaction: shame.

This was driven home to me one day as I walked my son and his friend home from kindergarten. "What's Santa bringing you, Erik?" the friend asked my son.

How would Erik react? This was his first exposure to people his own age who kept Christmas. Would he be awkward and ashamed about being "different"?

No. Erik answered simply, "We don't celebrate Christmas."

No conformity, no superiority, but most of all, no embarrassment. Children learn from their parents — but this time I learned from him.

In I Peter 3:15, we're told: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." Never with superiority, never with shame!

### Get in step with God

Make no mistake. We must answer for what we do, not only to people who ask why we're different, but also to God, if we deny the truth He's given us (Matthew 10:33, II Timothy 2:12).

In John 15:18-20, Jesus tells us we're not of this world, and that we will be persecuted as He was. God's people have always seemed out of step to the society around them. But in reality, it's the world that's out of step with God.

God has called us out of this world and all of its false ways. That means resisting the temptation to conform with this world. That also means avoiding the traps of a superior attitude — or an embarrassed, inferior attitude — toward others. □

Illustration by Monte Wolverton

Prepared by Richard H. Sedliacik

# What It Means to Be Born Again



Nicodemus was a high-ranking Pharisee deeply interested in the teachings of Jesus Christ. One night he came to Jesus secretly, not wanting to be seen talking to Him.

During that meeting, Jesus revealed a profound truth — something that completely mystified Nicodemus. "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," said Jesus (John 3:3).

Totally perplexed, Nicodemus asked: "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (verse 4).

Nicodemus understood what it meant to be born. But he did not understand how anyone could be "born again." He thought Jesus was referring to a second human birth.

But Christ was actually describing two different kinds of birth — one physical, the other spiritual. He was comparing spiritual birth to physical birth, the physical being a type of the spiritual.

When one is born of his mother he is composed of flesh. But "that which is born of the Spirit is spirit," said Jesus (verse 6) — no longer composed of flesh, but of spirit.

That's the plain teaching of the Bible. The second birth is not some kind of emotional experience, as so many have erroneously believed! Let's begin to understand the awe-inspiring truth revealed in the Bible.

Simply look up and read in your Bible the scriptures you are directed to after each question. Comments following the questions will elaborate on the verses just read. (This study is based on the Revised Authorized Version of the Bible, but you may use any translation.) Now let's begin this eye-opening study.

**1.** After whose "image" and "likeness" was man created? Genesis 1:26-27.

In God's pattern for all life, kind reproduces like kind. Just as each form of plant or animal life reproduces after its own kind, so humans reproduce humans. But unlike any of the animals, man was created in God's own image and likeness. God made man like Himself — same form and shape. But why?

The astounding truth is that God's purpose is to create man after the *God* kind! This includes God's character as well as composition.

Notice again in Genesis 1:26 what God said: "Let Us make man in Our *image.*" The original Hebrew indicates far more than merely God's outward apprearance. "Image" also refers to mind and character. God wants us to develop His holy, righteous character during this mortal life. But more about this later in the study.

**2.** Even though man is made in the likeness of God, are both of the same composition? John 4:24, Genesis 2:7, 3:19.

There is a vast difference between spirit and dust. Although man was created in the very shape and likeness of God, he was not created out of spirit. He was made out of the dust of the ground, subject to death and decay. But God's purpose is to one day make him a spirit being.

**3.** How does I Corinthians 15:46-49 corroborate this marvelous truth?

Clearly, man is much more than any animal. Man has the potential to become divine spirit — just as God is spirit.

Astonishing as it may sound, God is now in the process of creating His greatest creation of all — His supreme masterpiece. God's purpose is to create, from mortal mankind, individuals composed of spirit possessing perfect spiritual character. Notice the overwhelming proof:

**4.** What interesting comparison is drawn in Isaiah 64:8? Did Job realize God was forming a special creation in his life? Job 14:14-15.

Notice especially the latter part of verse 15: "You shall desire the work of Your hands." The "work" was Job. Job knew he was being molded and shaped spiritually by the hands of the Master Potter.

**5.** Are true Christians being fashioned by God for a specific purpose? Ephesians 2:10.

"We," then — if we are indeed Christians — are God's "workmanship." We, today, are in the process of being "created" — why? — "for good works." God, through the power of the Holy Spirit He places within us (after repentance and baptism), is forming in us His holy, righteous character. With our cooperation

through obedience to Him, God is creating in us His own character-image.

The Gospel message Jesus brought to mankind reveals that God is in the process of reproducing Himself through mankind. Jesus' Gospel is the good news of the "kingdom of God" (Mark 1:14). But the Bible shows that Kingdom is dual. It is not only the ruling government that Christ will establish on earth when He returns, it is also the Family of God.

And, incredible as it may sound, Jesus taught that humans can be born into the Family, or Kingdom, of God!

At present there are only two members in the God Family — God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son (John 1:1-2, I Corinthians 8:6). But God is planning to expand His Family.

**6.** Does God plainly show that it is His purpose to increase His divine Family by bringing many spiritual children into it? II Corinthians 6:18, Hebrews 2:9-11, Revelation 21:7. Is Jesus Christ actually the "firstborn" of many children of God? Romans 8:29.

To be conformed to the image of Christ means to become like Him — to be glorified as He is now glorified — to be a member of the divine Family of God even as Christ now is.

Few have really grasped the tremendous significance of this marvelous truth. But this is what salvation is all about. Our awesome potential is to become God's literal, Spirit-born children — members of God's own divine Family!

**7.** Are true Christians already, during this mortal life, God's children? I John 3:1-2, Romans 8:14-16. Are they inheritors of the Kingdom of God, or only heirs to it? Verse 17.

Although they are now the children of God, Christians are only heirs — ones who shall, in the future, inherit the glory of God's Family with Jesus Christ. Why only heirs? Because they are now only Spirit-*begotten* children (I Peter 1:3). They are *un*born children of God. It is when they are *born* of God that they will become inheritors of God's Kingdom — divine members of the Family of God.

Before the second phase of our creation — our spiritual creation — can begin, God the Father must first beget each of us by placing His Holy Spirit within our minds. Thus our minds can be compared to an egg or ovum, and the Holy Spirit to an impregnating seed or germ of eternal life.

Receiving God's Spirit is the begettal of the spiritual life of God within our minds. And as a newly begotten physical embryo begins to grow in its mother's womb, we must begin to grow in God's spiritual character after we are begotten by His Spirit (I Peter 2:1-2, II Peter 3:18, Ephesians 4:11-15). This growth comes from Bible study, prayer and walking with God in obedience to Him as we are empowered by His Holy Spirit within us.

And so all Spirit-begotten Christians are the unborn children of God the Father in the same sense that an unborn human embryo or fetus is the child of its parents.

**8.** Can anyone, while still flesh and blood, inherit or enter God's Kingdom? I Corinthians 15:50. What must happen to us to be born as divine members in God's Family? Verses 51-53.

"That which is born of the Spirit is spirit," said Jesus (John 3:6). But we have not yet been born of the Spirit. We are still flesh and blood — capable of pain and bleeding when injured.

But when born into the God Family, we will be free of pain and suffering (Revelation 21:4). And with our new spirit bodies, we will be unfettered by the physical limitations of time and space.

**9.** To what did Jesus compare one who is born of the Spirit? John 3:8.

The effects of the wind are easily discerned, but the wind itself cannot be seen. When one is born again — born of the Spirit of God — he will be invisible to mortal eyes like the wind.

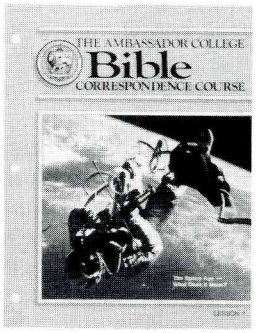
After Christ was resurrected — born again — was He able to pass through solid walls? John 20:19, 26.

Obviously, any human who claims to be born again is in error, for he is still flesh and blood.

Jesus Christ is the only one who has ever been born again. He said we must be "born of the Spirit" — composed of spirit — to see or enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5). When the glorified Christ returns to earth, the Spirit-begotten children of God who have died through the ages will all be resurrected to spirit life, and those still alive will be instantly changed into spirit (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Then, at that moment, they all will be born again, this time as glorified immortal members of God's own Family, and they will begin to reign on earth with Jesus Christ!

(Be sure to request our free booklet *Just What Do You Mean — Born Again?* for a more detailed explanation of this subject.) □




## ENROLL IN FREE BIBLE COURSE

The short study you've just completed is a sample of the study method used in each monthly lesson of the eye-opening Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. You can enroll in this free course by writing to the *Good News* office nearest you. See inside front cover for addresses.

# How TERRORISM Will Be Stopped!

*Here is some straight talk about escalating terrorism — and what the Bible says will be done about it!*

By Keith W. Stump

A tidal wave of terrorist activity is engulfing the globe. Never before have law officials been so alarmed over the potential for widespread death and destruction at the hands of terrorists.

Terrorism threatens to escalate out of control. Some experts feel that terrorism is about to become the single biggest problem facing the Western world. More and more people are going to be touched by its devastating effects in the months and years just ahead.

Clearly, we are entering an age of terror!

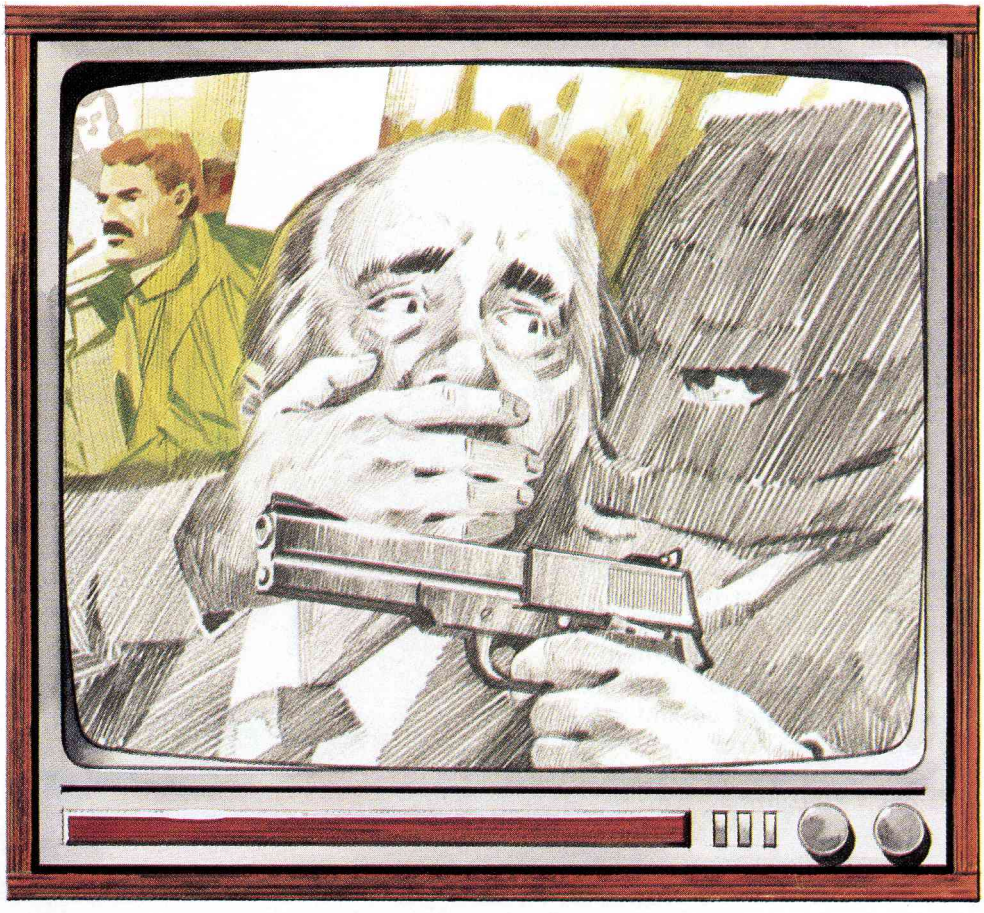
But why — amid all the media discussion of terrorism — has there been no mention of what the Bible has to say on the subject? Is the Bible relevant to the pressing problems of our 20th-century world? Or is it, as most people believe, merely an outdated volume of inspirational quotations?

You need to understand the facts about this frightening specter of terrorism — and the biblically revealed solution — the only solution — to it!

### Dramatic violence

Why this modern-day scourge of terrorism?

This world is filled with a multitude of causes, small and great, just and unjust. The prospects for success for many of these causes, however, are doubtful at best. Opposition or indifference to them is simply too overwhelming in many cases to permit the indi-



Illustrations by Ken Tunell

viduals and groups involved to achieve their goals.

Terrorism — the use of brutal, indiscriminate violence to further a cause — is the last-resort weapon of the weak against the strong. It is employed by individuals and organizations to publicize their causes and achieve ends that otherwise would be unattainable. Relatively powerless politically and militarily, terrorists see no other way of striking out at their enemies.

Terrorism, moreover, is dramatic, spectacular violence designed both to generate fear and to gain instant worldwide recognition for a cause. Terrorist acts have an enormous emotional and political impact, out of all proportion to the actual strength of the terrorist group. By one daring act, an obscure, rag-tag band, with the help of modern mass media, can achieve notoriety far beyond its power and numbers.

Compounding the problem, terrorists today are becoming more deadly than ever, with growing sophistication in weaponry and tactics. The day of the crude pipe bomb and Molotov cocktail has given way to portable missile launchers and precision explosive devices. The trend toward greater international contact and exchange of arms and expertise is enhancing terrorists' capabilities and effectiveness.

Police officials are preparing for the worst.

### Preventive measures?

What can be done to stem the epidemic of terrorist bombings, hijackings, hostage-taking and assassinations? Experts talk of preventive measures, of retaliation and stiffer punishments for terrorists, of stepped-up intelligence activities, of strong-arm rescue operations, of curbs on the media to deny terrorists publicity.

But the truth, of course, is that there are no proven and infallible human measures to absolutely protect against terrorist situations. Precautions can be taken only up to a point.

Terrorists, knowing when and where and how they will strike, always have the advantage. It is virtually impossible to guard against a determined and prepared terrorist.

One man, with a device made from materials bought at the nearest hardware store, can hold an entire city for ransom. A small hit squad can throw an entire country into turmoil. It is that simple.

The experts agree: Anything is possible in the world of terrorism. There is no limit to the terrorist imagination.

The message is clear. In this world, terrorism can never be completely stamped out. Authorities fear that terrorist groups will now feel compelled to commit acts of even greater and more dramatic violence in order to stay in the headlines.

Privately, many experts are saying that they fully expect that a terrorist group will soon either steal or manufacture an atomic bomb and use it as part of some monstrous blackmail scheme. Underground pamphlets have already been uncovered in Europe containing plans for crude atomic weapons.

Escalating terrorism on a worldwide scale is inevitable!

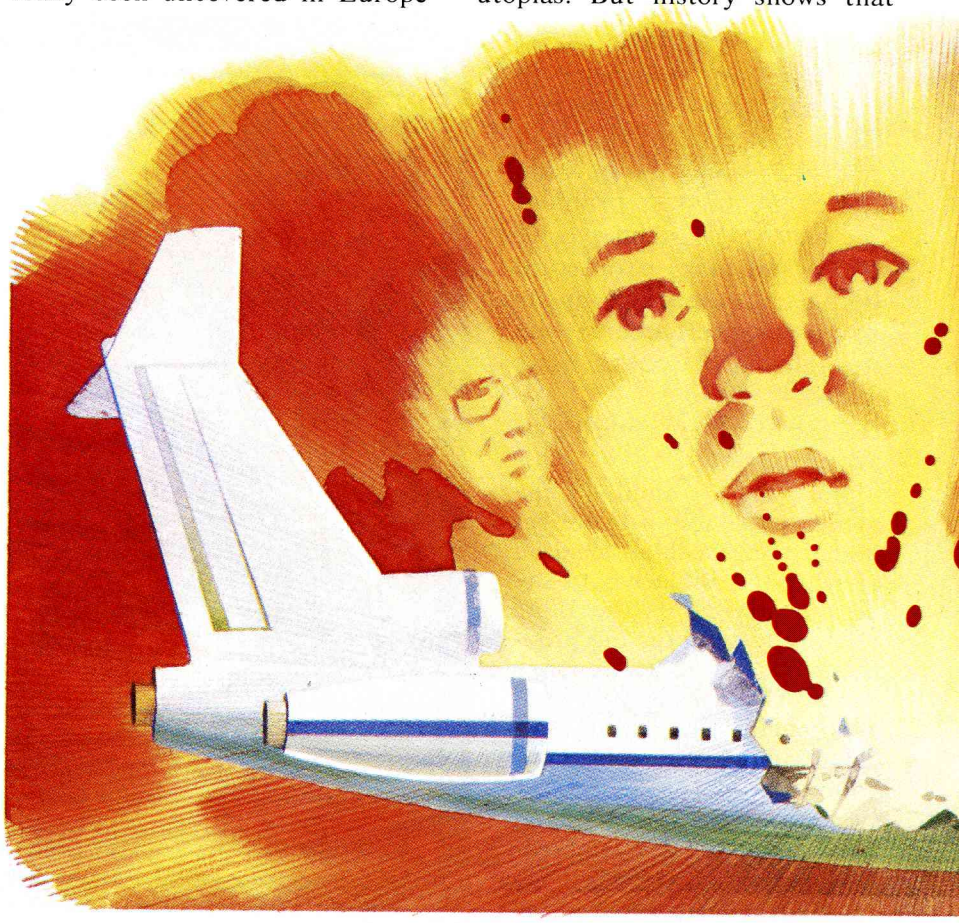
### Far-reaching implications

Where is all this leading? The prospects are grim.

The personal suffering of innocent victims caught up in terrorism is just part of the picture. Terrorism can — and will — have much more far-reaching and devastating ramifications.

Remember, it was a bloody act of terrorism at Sarajevo that triggered World War I. And it was the Nazi campaign against alleged leftist-backed terror in Weimar Germany that helped Adolf Hitler (no stranger to terrorist tactics himself) to seize power.

Terrorism presents a major threat to Western civilization. Understand this: Terrorists view chaos and anarchy as a prerequisite for the overthrow of established governments and the emergence of their various envisioned utopias. But history shows that



terrorists usually succeed only in creating what they hate the most — despotism and even greater repression.

Violent disorder, history reveals, is more likely to spawn tyranny than paradise. In the face of terror-generated chaos and an impending breakdown of society, frustrated and angry citizens invariably call for strong measures to reimpose order — even inviting authoritarian government and restrictions on civil liberties. Historically, freedoms have been suppressed in the name of law and order.

Terrorist disruptions, in short, might well be used as an excuse by would-be strongmen to seize power and impose their iron-fisted rule over nations, promising security. Few newsmen have stopped to consider the potential of such a scenario in the wake of escalating world terrorism.

Bible prophecy — as regular readers of this magazine know — reveals that we are headed for a new dark age of political despotism and barbarism — on a scale unmatched in history! Rampant terrorism on the world scene will undoubtedly play its part in paving the way for prophesied end-time tyrants to assume broad "emergency" powers — as did Adolf Hitler and others through history.

### Perilous times

The scourge of terrorism was predicted centuries ago in the pages of the Bible.

Jesus prophesied that conditions in the latter days would mirror the chaotic state of the earth in Noah's time — an evil and corrupt world filled with violence (Luke 17:26, Genesis 6:5, 11).

The apostle Paul also warned, "In the last days perilous times will come" (II Timothy 3:1). The meaning of this prophecy goes far beyond mere incidental crime.

"Make a chain," cried the prophet Ezekiel, "for the land is filled with crimes of blood, and the city is full of violence" (Ezekiel 7:23).

Bible prophecies picture an end-time world filled with lawlessness, aggression and hate, a world split by factions and international disputes, an era of rampant, indiscriminate violence and murder inspired by Satan the devil, the original murderer (John 8:44).

We are living in those very days!

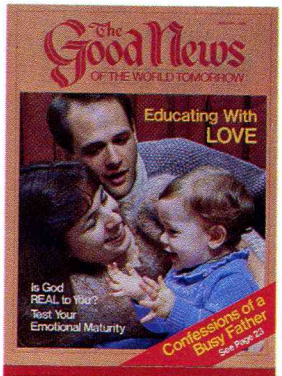
Man, apart from God, cannot control terrorism. As long as the evil influence of Satan remains on the earth, terrorism and crime will continue to escalate, despite man's attempts to stem it. Force will continue to rule the world. Man will continue to answer violence with violence. This is yet Satan's world (II Corinthians 4:4).

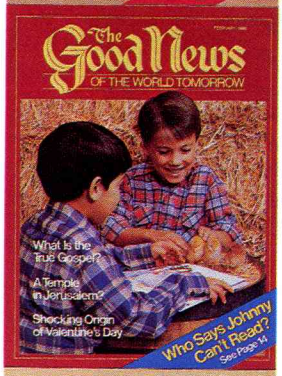
Is there any way out of this madness? Is there any way to halt the violence?

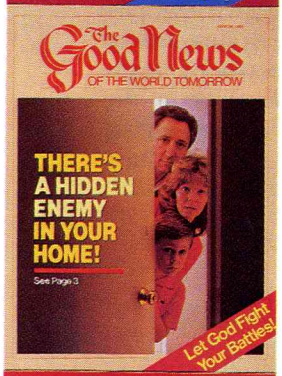
The vast majority of people, even professing Christians, fail to realize that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a message about the coming restoration of God's government over this earth. Only

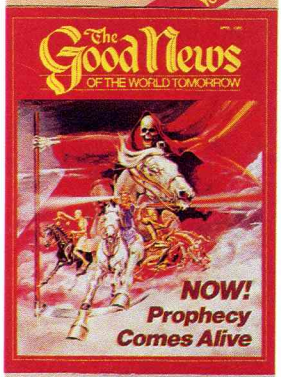
*(Continued on page 29)*

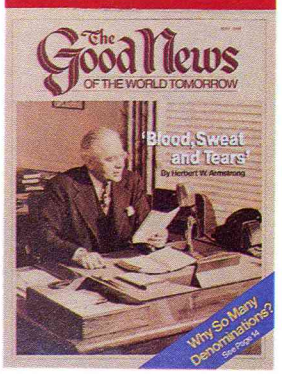




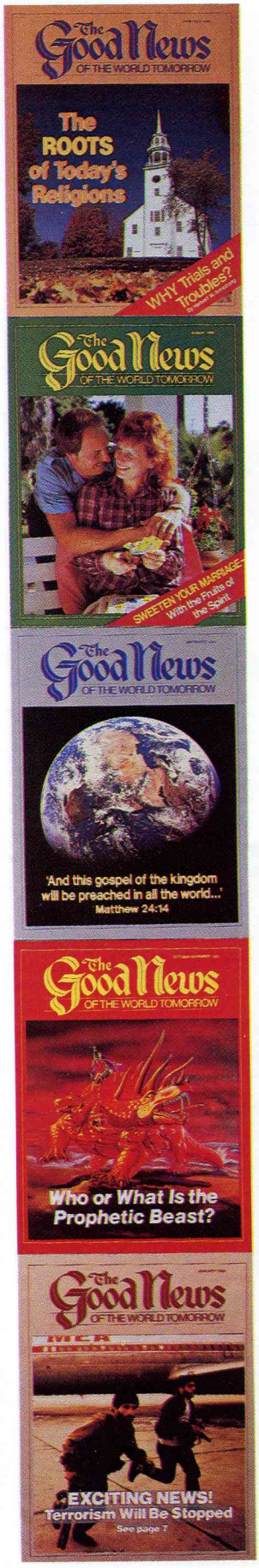



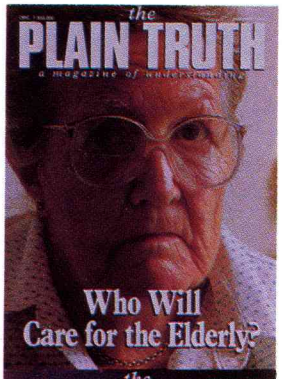



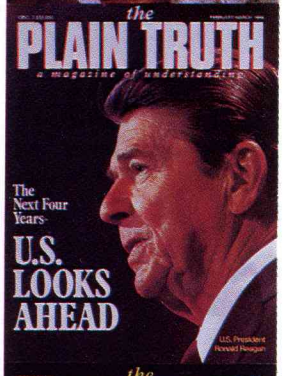

# 1985 INDEX OF THE GOOD NEWS

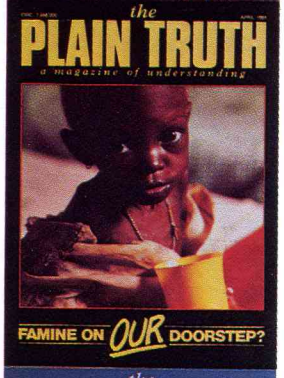

| Subject | Title | Author | Issue | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baptism | Ministudy: Why Water Baptism? | Richard H. Sedliacik | March | 23 |
| | Prove All Things: What the Bible Says About Baptism | Bernard W. Schnippert | January | 28 |
| Beast | Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast? | Herbert W. Armstrong | Oct.-Nov. | 3 |
| | Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast? Part Two | Herbert W. Armstrong | December | 3 |
| Bible Study | Making the Bible Work for You | Earl H. Williams | February | 25 |
| | Sharing: Are You a Tourist in the Bible? | John A. Halford | August | 25 |
| Born Again | Ministudy: What It Means to Be Born Again | Richard H. Sedliacik | December | 19 |
| Calling | Prove All Things: The Christian Calling | Bernard W. Schnippert | Oct.-Nov. | 28 |
| Character | Danger of Make-Believe | John A. Halford | March | 6 |
| | GN Focus: Does God Know What You Will Do Tomorrow? | John A. Halford | April | 9 |
| | GN Focus: How Mature Are You Spiritually? | John A. Halford | February | 9 |
| Child Rearing | The Delightful Literature of Childhood | Joan C. Bogdanchik | February | 14 |
| | Educating With Love | Joan C. Bogdanchik | January | 14 |
| | Proper Speech Begins at Home! | Joan C. Bogdanchik | June-July | 9 |
| | Sharing: Little Gifts of Greatness | Bernard W. Schnippert | February | 21 |
| | Sharing: Teaching Children About Money | Dexter H. Faulkner | Oct.-Nov. | 19 |
| Christ | What Do You Mean — "In Jesus' Name"? | John A. Halford | May | 10 |
| | What Was Jesus Like as a Human? | Clayton D. Steep | May | 8 |
| Christian Attitude | "Blessed Are the Pure in Heart" | Philip W. Shields | Oct.-Nov. | 25 |
| | You Can Be Positive in Today's World | Colin Adair | March | 25 |
| Christian Fight | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: Let God Fight Your Battles! | Herbert W. Armstrong | March | 1 |
| Christianity | The Roots of Today's Religions | Roderick C. Meredith | June-July | 23 |
| | Why So Many Denominations? | Herman L. Hoeh | May | 14 |
| Christmas | Christmas — 2,000 Years Before Christ! | Clayton D. Steep | December | 14 |
| | New Wine and Old Bottles | John A. Halford | December | 16 |
| | So You're Not Keeping Christmas? | Henry Sturcke | December | 18 |
| Church | Prove All Things: What and Why the Church? | Bernard W. Schnippert | May | 28 |
| Conversion | Are You Willing to Change? | Roderick C. Meredith | Oct.-Nov. | 7 |
| | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: Conversion Is a Process! | Herbert W. Armstrong | February | 1 |
| | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: Have You Tried to Convert Others? | Herbert W. Armstrong | December | 1 |
| | Prove All Things: What It Means to Be Converted | Bernard W. Schnippert | August | 28 |
| | Unconditional Surrender! | Jerold W. Aust | August | 26 |
| Coveting | Coveting — Roadblock to Contentment | H. Freeman Terry | January | 26 |
| Easter | Does Easter Commemorate the Resurrection? | Herbert W. Armstrong | April | 2 |
| Emotional Maturity | Test Your Emotional Maturity | David Albert | January | 24 |
| | There's a Hidden Enemy in Your Home! | Herbert W. Armstrong | March | 3 |
| Family | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: Where This Breakdown in Family Life Is Taking Us | Herbert W. Armstrong | August | 1 |
| | Sharing: Confessions of a Busy Father | Earl H. Williams | January | 23 |
| | Sharing: It's Nice to Be Needed, But . . . | Ronald D. Kelly | May | 23 |
| Feast of Tabernacles | Keeping God's Feasts — Yesterday and Today | Ronald D. Kelly | September | 12 |
| | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: The Anticipation Cannot Equal the Realization | Herbert W. Armstrong | September | 1 |
| | Sharing: Getting There | Bernard W. Schnippert | September | 32 |
| God | Is God Fair? | Herbert W. Armstrong | June-July | 2 |
| | Prove All Things: Who and What Is God? | Bernard W. Schnippert | February | 28 |
| | Why God Is Not Real to Most People | Herbert W. Armstrong | January | 2 |
| Gospel | What Is the True Gospel? | Herbert W. Armstrong | February | 3 |
| Grace | GN Focus: I Wish There Was Another Word for Grace | John A. Halford | January | 9 |
| | Grace — Do You Really Understand It? | Douglas G. Peitz | January | 7 |
| Growth | When All Is Said and Done, Will You Hear the Words: "Well Done"? | Robert C. Smith | January | 4 |

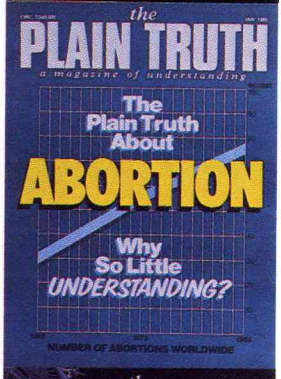
| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guilt | Are You Letting Guilt Destroy You? | George M. Kackos | April | 21 |
| Guy Fawkes Day | Guy Fawkes Day | John Ross Schroeder | Oct.-Nov. | 12 |
| Halloween | What's So "Hallowed" About Halloween? | Clayton D. Steep | Oct.-Nov. | 10 |
| Holy Days | Are the Holy Days to Be Kept Today? | K. Neil Earle | September | 8 |
| Holy Spirit | Ministudy: The Evidence of God's Holy Spirit | Richard H. Sedliacik | June-July | 21 |
| | Ministudy: What Is the Holy Spirit? | Richard H. Sedliacik | April | 19 |
| | Ministudy: Why We Need God's Holy Spirit | Richard H. Sedliacik | May | 17 |
| Joshua | Joshua — A Man Overshadowed by His Deeds! | Ronald D. Kelly | May | 24 |
| Kingdom of God | Ministudy: An Exciting Preview of God's Coming Kingdom! | Richard H. Sedliacik | September | 27 |
| | "The Train's Done Gone" | William J. Kessler | April | 14 |
| Last Great Day | "The Last Day, That Great Day" | Clayton D. Steep | September | 29 |
| Love, Christian | Sharing: The Most Important Ingredient | Clayton D. Steep | April | 13 |
| | Wanting the Best for Others | Philip Stevens | August | 23 |
| Love, God's | Ministudy: God's Law of Love — Basis of True Christianity | Richard H. Sedliacik | January | 17 |
| Man | Prove All Things: What Is Man? | Bernard W. Schnippert | April | 28 |
| Marriage | Sweeten Your Marriage — With the Fruits of the Spirit | Earl H. Williams | August | 6 |
| Overcoming | How to Be an Overcomer | Herbert W. Armstrong | August | 2 |
| | Tap the Power of the Universe! | John A. Halford | August | 14 |
| Pentecost | Pentecost in God's Master Plan | Jerold W. Aust | May | 7 |
| | What Does Pentecost Mean to You? | Herbert W. Armstrong | May | 4 |
| Prayer | Make Your Prayers Count! | Clayton D. Steep | August | 10 |
| Prophecy | Prophecy Comes Alive! | K. Neil Earle | April | 4 |
| | Where Are We Now in Bible Prophecy? | Herman L. Hoeh | August | 4 |
| Repentance | Ministudy: Do You Understand Real Repentance? | Richard H. Sedliacik | February | 19 |
| Resurrection | Prove All Things: The Resurrections | Bernard W. Schnippert | June-July | 28 |
| Rulership | Ministudy: Are You Preparing to Rule With Christ? | Richard H. Sedliacik | August | 21 |
| Sabbath | The Day God Made for Man | John A. Halford | December | 11 |
| | Is That Really the Best They Can Do? | Clayton D. Steep | December | 7 |
| | Ministudy: Are You Passing God's Test? | Richard H. Sedliacik | Oct.-Nov. | 23 |
| | Rejoice in God's Sabbath! | | Oct.-Nov. | 14 |
| Satan | What Satan Doesn't Want You to Know | Clayton D. Steep | March | 9 |
| Sin | Prove All Things: Sin — A Matter of Life and Death | Bernard W. Schnippert | March | 28 |
| Success | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: The Way of Life That Causes Success | Herbert W. Armstrong | Oct.-Nov. | 1 |
| Temple | Coming — A Temple in Jerusalem? | Ronald D. Kelly | February | 6 |
| | Coming — A Temple in Jerusalem? Part Two | Ronald D. Kelly | March | 14 |
| Ten Commandments | Are the Ten Commandments in Force Today? | L. Leroy Neff | June-July | 14 |
| Terrorism | How Terrorism Will Be Stopped! | Keith W. Stump | December | 21 |
| Time Management | Do You Have Time . . . ? | Graemme J. Marshall | May | 20 |
| Tithing | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: How Your Financial Future Is Determined | Herbert W. Armstrong | April | 1 |
| Trials | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: Why Trials and Troubles? | Herbert W. Armstrong | June-July | 1 |
| Trust | Can You Be Trusted? | Richard Rice | January | 11 |
| Truth | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: How and Why We Know We Have the Truth | Herbert W. Armstrong | January | 1 |
| Valentine's Day | Valentine's Day — Christian Custom or Pagan Pageantry? | Herman L. Hoeh | February | 11 |
| Work, God's | The Abundant End-Time Harvest | Richard Rice | September | 15 |
| | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: "Blood, Sweat and Tears" | Herbert W. Armstrong | May | 1 |
| World Events | Watch World Events | Gene H. Hogberg | March | 18 |
| World Tomorrow | Century 21 — What Will It Be Like? | Herbert W. Armstrong | September | 2 |
| | Coming Soon — A New World Order! | Keith W. Stump | September | 6 |
| | Education for the World Tomorrow | Dan C. Taylor and John A. Halford | September | 18 |
| | The Joy of Teaching — Outside the Classroom | John A. Halford | June-July | 7 |
| | The World Tomorrow Is for Young People | Frank W. Nelte | September | 22 |
| Worry | What Worries You? | Clayton D. Steep | June-July | 4 |

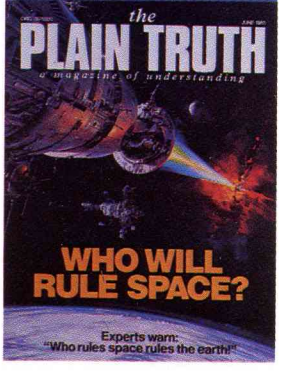





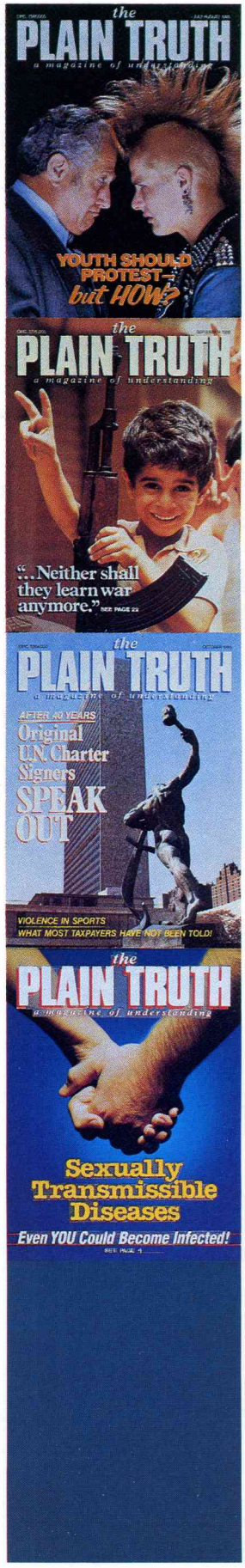




# 1985 INDEX OF THE PLAIN TRUTH


| Subject | Title | Author | Issue | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abortion | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: A New Truth About Abortion | Herbert W. Armstrong | September | 1 |
| | The Plain Truth About Abortion! Why So Little Understood? | Ronald S. Toth | May | 2 |
| Acid Rain | News Overview: Acid Rain — The Burning Issue | | July-August | 42 |
| Africa | International Desk: Good News for Black Africa | John A. Halford | Feb.-Mar. | 31 |
| | News Overview: Why Overpopulation Threatens Africa | | January | 44 |
| Agriculture | News Overview: China, India Enjoy Bumper Crops | | October | 42 |
| | News Overview: Farmers Risk Chemical Poisoning | | April | 39 |
| | News Overview: Greater Plant Variety Needed | | July-August | 44 |
| Alcohol Abuse | News Overview: Alcohol Abuse and the Unborn | | October | 42 |
| Armageddon | Just What Do You Mean . . . "Armageddon"? | Keith W. Stump | June | 33 |
| Armstrong, Herbert W. | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: Men Did Not Teach Me What I Preach | Herbert W. Armstrong | May | 1 |
| Aswan Dam | News Overview: Aswan Dam: Mixed Blessing | | October | 43 |
| Australia | The View From Down Under | Ronald D. Kelly | July-August | 34 |
| Bhutan | Rich Little Poor Land! | John A. Halford | October | 22 |
| Bible | News Overview: Norwegians and the Bible | | April | 41 |
| | What's Your Bible IQ? | Richard H. Sedliacik | January | 36 |
| | Why Bring the Bible Into That? | John A. Halford | Nov.-Dec. | 7 |
| Business and Industry | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: What's Wrong With Business and Industry? | Herbert W. Armstrong | Feb.-Mar. | 1 |
| Canada | Canada's Troubled Economy | K. Neil Earle | Feb.-Mar. | 15 |
| | News Overview: Quebec Still *Canadien* | | Nov.-Dec. | 42 |
| | The Queen's Visit — To Canada and Beyond | Gene H. Hogberg | January | 2 |
| Child Rearing, The Plain Truth About | Part Three: Five Basic Rules of Parenting | | January | 15 |
| | Part Four: Preschool Years: Preparation for Life | | Feb.-Mar. | 35 |
| | Part Five: Overlooked In-Between Years | | April | 25 |
| | Part Six: The Teen Years | | May | 17 |
| | Part Seven: Coping as a Single Parent | | June | 37 |
| | Part Eight: Children of the Inner City | | July-August | 15 |
| | Part Nine: Today's Child-Care Crisis | | September | 15 |
| | Epilogue: The Happy Conclusion | | September | 29 |
| Child Sex Abuse | Child Sex Abuse — What You Can Do About It! | Dan C. Taylor | June | 11 |
| | News Overview: Combatting Sex Abuse | | June | 41 |
| Children, War and | "The Way of Peace They Know Not" | Dan C. Taylor | September | 22 |
| Christ | Jesus' Birth — The Untold Story | Keith W. Stump | Nov.-Dec. | 19 |
| | The Miracles of Jesus — Fact or Myth? | John Ross Schroeder | July-August | 7 |
| | New Testament — Fact or Fiction? | John Ross Schroeder | Feb.-Mar. | 25 |
| | The Virgin Birth — Fact or Myth? | John Ross Schroeder | June | 19 |
| Christianity | How Would You Know a Real Christian? | Roderick C. Meredith | April | 34 |
| | What Has Christianity Done for You Lately? | Clayton D. Steep | January | 19 |
| Cocaine | News Overview: Cocaine Users Confess Helplessness | | January | 45 |
| | Snow Fever | Donald D. Schroeder | January | 22 |
| Computers | News Overview: Computers: Progress Amid Perils | | May | 40 |
| | News Overview: Next Frontier: Thinking Machines | | January | 45 |
| | News Overview: Quakes and Computers | | October | 41 |
| Conflict | An Alternative: The Conflict Resolution Center | Michael A. Snyder | October | 37 |
| Counterfeiting | News Overview: Color Copiers Threaten Currency | | September | 42 |
| Crime | News Overview: Violent Crime and You | | October | 43 |
| Death, Life After | Do the Dead Know What the Living Are Doing? | Patrick A. Parnell | Feb.-Mar. | 13 |
| | Who Says Time Is Closing in on You? | Keith W. Stump | May | 15 |
| Depression | Finding a Way Out of Fear and Depression | Donald D. Schroeder | May | 31 |
| | The Love That Conquers Fear and Depression | Donald D. Schroeder | July-August | 9 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Disarmament | News Overview: Disarmament Research Institute | | Nov.-Dec. | 41 |
| Drugs | News Overview: Amsterdam's Drug Dilemma | | July-August | 42 |
| | News Overview: Drug-Use Epidemic | | September | 43 |
| Earthquakes | News Overview: Chile's Costly Earthquakes | | September | 42 |
| | When an Earthquake Strikes . . . | Mario Seiglie | September | 39 |
| Easter | Increase Your Bible IQ: Easter Before Christ? | Richard A. Sedliacik | May | 36 |
| Education | Do You Remember When? | Dan C. Taylor and Norman L. Shoaf | July-August | 13 |
| | Where in the World? | Keith W. Stump | May | 9 |
| | Why Good Teachers Are Hard to Find | Ronald D. Kelly | September | 34 |
| Elderly | Who Will Care for the Elderly? | Ronald S. Toth | January | 4 |
| Energy | News Overview: Firewood: The Other Energy Crisis | | May | 39 |
| | News Overview: Fusion Energy and Your Future | | May | 41 |
| Ethiopia | News Overview: Ethiopia's Grim Plight | | Feb.-Mar. | 43 |
| | News Overview: Where U.S., Soviets Work Together | | June | 40 |
| Europe | International Desk: Old Barracks and the New Europe | John A. Halford | May | 28 |
| | Europe Says — "40 Years Is Long Enough!" | Gene H. Hogberg | June | 5 |
| | News Overview: Common European Currency | | April | 39 |
| | News Overview: Forty Years Later, Europe's War Wounds Still Hurt | | Feb.-Mar. | 41 |
| | News Overview: Pope Calls for European Unity | | October | 41 |
| | A United Europe — Nearer Than You Think! | Ronald D. Kelly | Nov.-Dec. | 15 |
| Family | The Art of Grandparenting | Ronald D. Kelly | April | 7 |
| | The Family — God's Plan for Mankind | Herbert W. Armstrong | Feb.-Mar. | 10 |
| Famine | Famine on Our Doorstep? | Gene H. Hogberg | April | 2 |
| | News Overview: The Silent Disaster | | April | 41 |
| Finances | News Overview: Coming: The Smart Card | | Feb.-Mar. | 43 |
| | News Overview: Italy Battles Tax Dodgers | | September | 43 |
| | News Overview: When Big Banks Totter | | January | 43 |
| | What Most Taxpayers Have Not Been Told! | Clayton D. Steep | October | 7 |
| | You and Your Money | Ronald D. Kelly | May | 22 |
| | 1985 — Turning Point for World's Economy? | Michael A. Snyder | Feb.-Mar. | 19 |
| Future | What Is Now Prophesied! | Herbert W. Armstrong | June | 7 |
| | What's Prophesied for Russia & China | Keith W. Stump | Feb.-Mar. | 22 |
| Gam Udawa | Success Story: Gam Udawa | | July-August | 25 |
| Gibraltar | News Overview: Agreement May Rock Gibraltar | | June | 40 |
| Government | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: What's Wrong With Government? | Herbert W. Armstrong | January | 1 |
| Hong Kong | News Overview: Hong Kong: Union Jack to Come Down in 1997 | | January | 45 |
| Human Potential | How Much Is Human Life Worth? | John Ross Schroeder | June | 31 |
| | The Key to Human Survival! | Herbert W. Armstrong | May | 5 |
| Hypertension | News Overview: Hypertension and Your Heart | | April | 40 |
| Illness | News Overview: Allergic to the 20th Century? | | June | 41 |
| | News Overview: Human Illness Linked to Drugged Livestock | | May | 39 |
| | News Overview: Malaria Makes a Comeback | | Feb.-Mar. | 41 |
| | News Overview: One in Six Has Mental Disorder | | May | 40 |
| India | Inside the New India | Keith W. Stump | June | 22 |
| | News Overview: India's Emerging Influence | | April | 40 |
| Israel, Identity of | Drought, Famine, War . . . Has God Lost Control? | Roderick C. Meredith | May | 12 |
| | International Desk: Did God Set Fire to York Cathedral? | John A. Halford | January | 31 |
| IUD | News Overview: Dangers of IUD Use | | Nov.-Dec. | 43 |
| Japan | International Desk: The Other Bomb | John A. Halford | July-August | 28 |
| | News Overview: The Graying of Japan | | July-August | 44 |
| Justice | Why So Much Injustice? | Donald D. Schroeder | October | 32 |
| Labor | News Overview: Dramatic Shifts in U.S. Work Force | | Feb.-Mar. | 42 |
| | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: What Is Wrong With Organized Labor | Herbert W. Armstrong | April | 1 |

# THE PLAIN TRUTH Index, continued


| Subject | Title | Author | Issue | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leadership | Promises! Promises! Promises! | Earl H. Williams | January | 7 |
| | Why the World Crisis in Leadership? | Keith W. Stump | September | 7 |
| Love | Will Man Ever Love His Fellowman? | Michael A. Snyder | April | 15 |
| Man | What Is Man? What Makes Him Unique? | Richard H. Sedliacik | January | 27 |
| Marriage | News Overview: Young People Postpone Marriage | | Nov.-Dec. | 43 |
| Menopause | The Changing Years — Prepare Now! | Ronald D. Kelly | Feb.-Mar. | 7 |
| Minerals | Minerals — Crumbling Bedrock of U.S. Economy | Gene H. Hogberg | Nov.-Dec. | 22 |
| Morality | Sex Without Marriage! The Costs in Shattered Lives and to Society | Donald D. Schroeder | April | 11 |
| | The Truth Behind America's Moral Crisis | Gene H. Hogberg | Feb.-Mar. | 2 |
| Mystery of the Ages | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: Mystery of the Ages | Herbert W. Armstrong | July-August | 1 |
| | Introduction: How the Seven Mysteries Were Revealed | Herbert W. Armstrong | September | 5 |
| | Chapter 1: Who and What Is God? | Herbert W. Armstrong | October | 5 |
| | Chapter 2: Mystery of Angels and Evil Spirits | Herbert W. Armstrong | Nov.-Dec. | 9 |
| | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: God's Invisible Agents | Herbert W. Armstrong | Nov.-Dec. | 1 |
| New Caledonia | News Overview: Trouble in Paradise | | September | 41 |
| Niger | News Overview: Niger's Uranium to Iran? | | Feb.-Mar. | 42 |
| Nuclear Warfare | Nuclear Warfare — What Scientists Did Not Foresee 40 Years Ago | Gene H. Hogberg | Nov.-Dec. | 3 |
| Nuclear Waste | News Overview: Dilemma Over Nuclear Wastes | | June | 41 |
| | News Overview: Safe Nuclear Storage? | | January | 43 |
| Organ Transplants | Organ Transplants — How Far Dare We Go? | Jeff E. Zhorne | September | 10 |
| Overpopulation | International Desk: The World's Children: Liability or Legacy? | John A. Halford | April | 22 |
| Packaging | You Call That "Progress"? | Clayton D. Steep | Feb.-Mar. | 5 |
| Piracy | News Overview: The New Pirates | | October | 43 |
| *Plain Truth, The* | Why *The Plain Truth* Stands Above Politics | Keith W. Stump | July-August | 39 |
| Positive Attitude | Being Positive in a Negative World | Jeff E. Zhorne | January | 10 |
| Religion | Is Religion Just for Women? | Carn Catherwood | October | 21 |
| River Thames | News Overview: "Seal" of Approval on River Thames Reclamation | | January | 44 |
| Sexually Transmissible Diseases | Sexually Transmissible Diseases — Even You Could Become Infected! | Donald D. Schroeder | Nov.-Dec. | 4 |
| Sleep | News Overview: Needed: Quality Sleep | | May | 41 |
| Space | News Overview: Space: Brazil's Next Frontier | | July-August | 43 |
| | Who Will Rule Space? | Ronald S. Toth | June | 2 |
| Sports | Violence in Sports — Is There a Better Way? | Ronald D. Kelly | October | 12 |
| Sri Lanka | Sri Lanka — A Time of Testing! | | July-August | 22 |
| Stress | Best Strategy for Beating Stress | Norman L. Shoaf | April | 18 |
| Success | What Is True Success? | John Ross Schroeder | September | 21 |
| Thailand | International Desk: One Nation's Heritage and Hope | John A. Halford and Leon Sexton | October | 26 |
| Toys | News Overview: Toys and Violence | | Nov.-Dec. | 41 |
| Trials | Where Is God When Little Children Suffer? | Patrick A. Parnell | Nov.-Dec. | 31 |
| | Why Pray: "Lead Us Not Into Temptation"? | Clayton D. Steep | January | 34 |
| Turkey | Turkey — About to Erupt in the News! | Keith W. Stump | April | 5 |
| United Nations | News Overview: UNESCO Troubles: Harbinger for U.N.? | | July-August | 43 |
| | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: 40th Anniversary Conference of Drafting U.N. Charter | Herbert W. Armstrong | October | 1 |
| | The United Nations After 40 Years: Original Signers Speak Out | Gene H. Hogberg | October | 2 |
| | The United Nations at 40 | Gene H. Hogberg | July-August | 3 |
| West, Decline of the | V-E Day 40 Years Later — A Final Warning to the West! | K. Neil Earle | June | 15 |
| West Germany | After Bitburg — What Is a West German? | Gene H. Hogberg | September | 3 |
| World Tomorrow | Personal From Herbert W. Armstrong: No Political Elections in the World Tomorrow | Herbert W. Armstrong | June | 1 |
| Youth | For Teen Eyes Only | Dexter H. Faulkner | May | 7 |
| | Youth Should Protest — But How? | John A. Halford | July-August | 19 |

# Beast

*(Continued from page 6)*

receive the mark of the beast (compare Revelation 19:20), but also perpetrated the forming of an image that caused the martyrdom of saints. As many as would not worship this image were caused to be killed. This false church did not kill them — she caused them to be killed.

History shows that the civil government martyred millions who were declared "anathema from Christ" or "heretics."

Compare with the woman who rode the beast in Revelation 17: "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (verse 6). Certainly these are one and the same.

### The image of the beast

Now this ecclesiastical organization, which is a twofold government, deceived the people by saying they should make an image of the beast. Note it (Revelation 13:14) — that is how it deceived people.

What is an image? The dictionary says a "likeness," a "copy, representation, model, semblance, counterpart." So here is a church saying, "Let us make a model, or counterpart, of the civil Roman government" — for that is what the beast is.

Jesus Christ proclaimed the Kingdom, or government, of God — divine government by will of God and by God's law — not paganized human government by will of man and man-made laws. His Church includes all Spirit-begotten saints who have and are led by the Holy Spirit. Christ is its only Head, and His Kingdom is not of this world!

Where, then, did human church government derive its present form? "The first pope, in the real sense of the word, was Leo I (440-461 A.D.)," says the *Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature,* Vol. 7, page 629. To him the form of government of the Roman Empire was the most marvelous thing on earth. He applied its principles to the church, organized the church into a government, forming the papacy.

This church government is the image of the beast.

Says Myers' *Ancient History:* "During the reign of Leo I, the Church set up, within the Roman Empire, an ecclesiastical state [government] which, in its constitution and its administrative system, was shaping itself upon the imperial model."

This church government, then, according to this historical authority, is in fact a model, a counterpart, an image of the beast, which is actually the Roman Empire government.

The *Britannica* calls it an ecclesiastical world empire!

This image — man-designed and man-ruled church government — compelled people to worship the church! And since the church was organized into a worldly government, this was worship of the image — false worship — idolatry!

But this church became a mother, and daughter churches came out of her in "protest," calling themselves "Protestant." And all have worldly, political church government.

"Upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS" (Revelation 17:5). Her daughters are called "harlots." Together, they are called "BABYLON." They are pagan, teaching pagan doctrines and customs, cloaked in the name of Christianity! And all nations are deceived!

Yes, human-organized churchianity, not Bible-designed spiritual-organism government, is the image of the beast. It is the pagan political counterfeit of God's true government.

"Come out of her," God says (Revelation 18:4). God help us to heed! □

*(To be continued)*

*Correction: The photo credit on page 12 of the October-November* Good News *should read, "Farnham — Fotobank/England Scene."*

# Terrorism

*(Continued from page 23)*

when Satan — the ultimate terrorist — is finally restrained (Revelation 20:1-3) and God's millennial rule is established on earth will violence be eradicated and lasting peace be realized worldwide.

Man, by his own puny efforts, could never unseat Satan. Only Jesus Christ can do that — and He will!

But for the moment, God is permitting this world to go its own disobedient way, to learn for itself the bitter lesson that Satan's way of rejecting the laws and government of God can in the end bring nothing but calamity.

But the day is soon coming when violence will be dealt with firmly and decisively. Purveyors of death and destruction will be dealt a punishing blow.

The returned Jesus Christ "shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4).

Satan's way of vanity, jealousy, lust, hatred and greed will be replaced by God's way of loving, giving and serving.

This is the only real solution to the rampant violence that is now engulfing the world.

This magazine announces the good news of a coming new age, a new civilization, a new government for this earth. For a detailed look at how that government will eradicate violence, terrorism and other evils of this world, request our free publications *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like* and *World Peace — How It Will Come.* Just mail the request envelope in this issue or write to our address nearest you (See inside front cover for a list).

There is good news beyond the bad news — terrorism's days are numbered! □

# COMING
## IN THE GOOD NEWS

### ◆ 1986 — What Will It Bring?

**What do the next 12 months hold in store for this world? The future is no mystery for God. He has revealed coming events through Bible prophecy!**

### ◆ What Is the Mark of the Beast?

**Without this brand, you may be tortured to death! But with it, you shall suffer the seven last plagues of God! Herbert W. Armstrong's series continues.**

### ◆ A Special Approach to Sex Education

**Here's how to banish parental embarrassment and end forever the feeling of awkwardness when explaining the role of father and mother in reproduction.**

### ◆ The Blessings of Abundant Living

**Turning to God's truth means giving up your own life — rejecting your former ways. Yet that is exactly when truly enjoying life really begins!**

### ◆ What Is God's Name?

**Does it make any difference what names you use for the Father and Son? Is salvation based on the pronunciation of God's name in a certain language?**

The Good News
Pasadena, CA 91123

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
**PAID**
Worldwide Church
of God

US-D