

Vol. 11, No. 2

1945

FEBRUARY

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THE MESSAGE

MAGAZINE



"The Bible Had Gotten There First"
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VIEWS OF THE NEWS

By the Editor



Miss Minnie Parkerson and Mr. Nathaniel Dickerson, both of Philadelphia, won awards from the Marion Anderson Scholarship Fund, and are shown displaying the notice of their success to Lieutenant Colonel H. La Brum at the Signal Corps Procurement District Office, where they are employed.

GREETINGS TO THE NEW EDITOR

IT AFFORDS us great pleasure to introduce to the many thousands of readers of *THE MESSAGE MAGAZINE* its new editor, Mr. Louis B. Reynolds. The appointment of Mr. Reynolds to this position is one more progressive step in our program of supplying much-needed religious literature to the English-speaking Negroes of the world, and is certain to add strength and increasing success to our beloved religious journal.

Young and full of energy, Mr. Reynolds comes to our editorial office with a wealth of field experience in practical, hard work for the social and religious progress of the Negro people. He is already well known to most of the readers of *THE MESSAGE MAGAZINE* by the many articles that he has contributed to the journal from time to time, and by his inspirational column "Two Minutes with Your Bible." As Mr. Reynolds takes over his new post, we ask for him and *THE MESSAGE MAGAZINE* God's blessing.

Beginning as a quarterly maga-



Louis B. Reynolds

zine 11 years ago, this periodical has grown in circulation by leaps and bounds. Hence it was made a regular monthly journal. Last year the circulation climbed as high as 200,000 copies a month. But on account of the war the circulation has had to be frozen, because the limits of the paper-rationing program do not permit further expansion. As soon as this restriction shall be removed, the circulation of this illustrated religious journal, the best published for the colored people using the English language, doubtless will climb to greater heights. Every good wish for your success, Editor Reynolds!

"The Bible Had Gotten There First"

(Continued from page 3)

continuous production. It has been a best seller in this country every year since 1800. Recent careful estimates indicate that each year sees at least 25,000,000 copies of the Bible, in whole or in part, produced throughout the world. This production is not limited to America, but in normal times includes London, Amsterdam, Oslo, Stockholm, Istanbul, Beirut, Cairo, Calcutta, Shanghai, Sydney, Rio de Janeiro, and work on scores of little presses operated by Christian missionaries in China, India, Africa, and the islands of the sea.

The time when there will be at least some portion of the Bible in every lan-

guage spoken on the globe is not in some far-distant age, but in the foreseeable future. Even now it is possible for nine tenths of the peoples of the earth to have the experience of those who heard the apostles on the day of Pentecost—to hear in their own tongues the wonderful works of God, if only they had access to a copy of the Book and could read, or have someone read to them.

A PAGAN HERITAGE

NOTE an interesting item from *The Converted Catholic Magazine* (December, 1944), which is "edited by former Roman Catholic priests." Editor-in-chief L. H. Lehmann has an article entitled "How the Papacy Came to Power," in which he says:

"The Church of Rome also fixed the birthday of Jesus Christ to coincide with the birthday of the sun-god Mithra on December 25. Likewise the observation of the Sabbath or seventh day of the week (Saturday) as commanded by the fourth commandment of God, was changed by the Church of Rome to Sunday, the first day of the week, which the ancient Romans named after and dedicated to their great sun-god Sol."—Page 200.

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ROBERT LEO ODOM, Editor

R. E. CRAWFORD, Circulation Manager

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No papers are sent except on paid subscriptions, so persons receiving *THE MESSAGE MAGAZINE* without having subscribed may feel perfectly free to accept it.

WHEN THE American armed forces landed on the Marshall and the Gilbert Islands, they found that the Bible had gotten there first—and a long time before. Our nation was struggling with the problem of slavery when the Holy Scriptures were put in the languages of these Pacific isles. Hiram Bingham, a missionary, made the first translation of chapters 1 to 12 of Matthew for the Gilbert natives in 1860, reducing the language to writing for the first time. He accomplished the herculean task of translating the entire Bible in 1893. The Marshalls received parts of Matthew printed on a tiny press in 1858, and the entire New Testament was published in the native tongue by the American Bible Society in 1885.

The task of translating the Holy Scriptures into native dialects is a heroic one, and only the selfless Christian devotion of the missionary translator and his aides makes it possible. In many instances the Bible is the first written record of the language.

The mass production of Bibles and the translation of the Sacred Scriptures into the widely spoken and obscure languages of the peoples of the earth has been primarily the work of the Bible societies in the United States and Great Britain.

Before Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1453, there had been a few

translations of the Bible laboriously copied by hand. The Syriac version of the New Testament appeared in the second century, and Jerome's "Vulgate" edition, in Latin, the official version of the Roman Catholic Church, in the fourth. In the twelfth century, translations were begun in modern European languages.

On the eve of the invention of printing, 33 languages—22 in Europe, seven in

movement, early in the nineteenth century, came the golden age of Bible translation. In the brief space of 30 years 86 languages received some part of the Bible for the first time, more than in all the 1,800 years before. This was the era of the modern pioneer missionary translators. Among them were William Carey and missionaries working with him at Serampore, India, near Calcutta, who brought out the New Testament in 27 languages



"The Bible Had Gotten There First"

The Work of Translating and Distributing the Book of Books

By the American Bible Society

Asia, and four in Africa—had had some part of the Bible. By 1800 as many as 71 languages and dialects had some printed portion of the Scriptures.

With the rise of the great missionary

and the whole Bible in nine more. Robert Morrison in China, Henry Martyn in Persia, Adoniram Judson in Burma, and Henry Nott in Tahiti are also great figures in the field of Bible translation during this period.

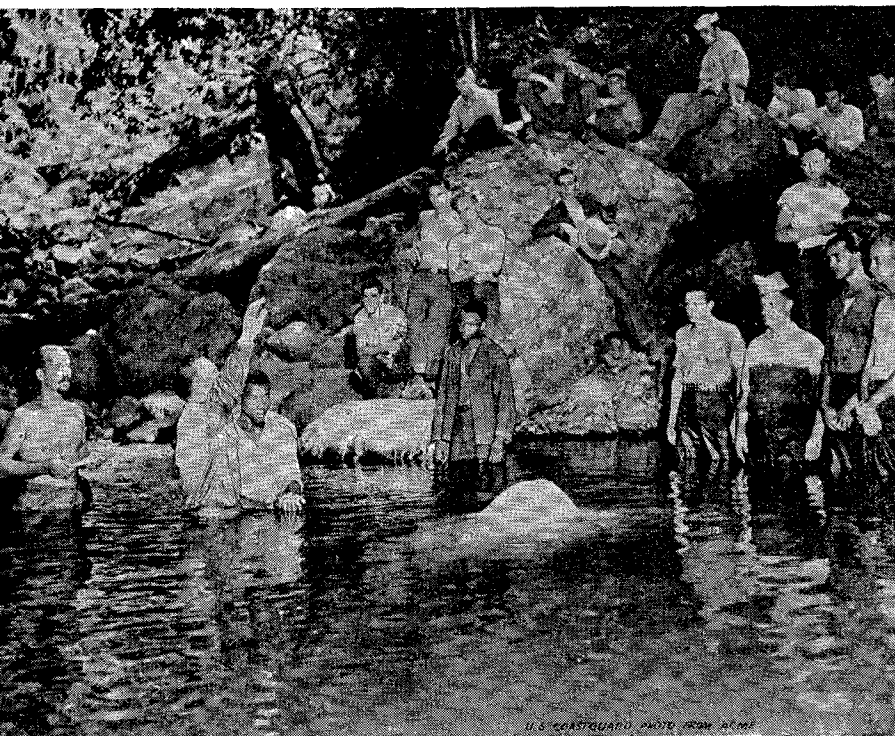
These men and others wrestled with the many colloquial dialects of China and with the tribal tongues of Africa and India. There are more than 300 African languages in which the Bible appears. Thousands of native linguists, who assisted the translators, have made indispensable contributions to this achievement. With the founding of the Bible societies—the British and Foreign in 1804, and the American in 1816, the almost insuperable burden of translating, proofreading, and printing was facilitated, and distribution was vastly extended.

The American Bible Society today reports that some complete portion of Holy Scripture has been translated and published in 1,062 languages and dialects. Its goal is that every man willing to possess the Divine Scriptures may have them in his own tongue and at a price within his reach, however much it may cost the society. In addition to building a network of publishing and distribution centers in our own and foreign lands, the society handles finances, translation committees, composition, proofreading, plates, presswork, paper, binding, and storage.

The Bible is the only book that is in

(Continued on page 2)

Because of so many requests for baptism from Coast Guardsmen at a remote Pacific base, this mountain pool was selected for the administration of the rite. Approximately 30 soldiers are baptized there weekly by immersion, the Bible form of baptism.



BEWARE of Those Tumors!

A TUMOR is a growth of new cells in the body which develops without control and serves no useful function. Many tumors are easy to recognize, and others are not. A tumor has to be differentiated from a swelling due to infection or irritation. This is not difficult, for the latter clears up in time.

Tumors are divided into two great classes: (1) benign, simple, or innocent tumors, and (2) malignant, invasive, or spreading tumors. These two kinds may arise either from the tissues that make up an organ or from the tissues that hold the organ together. An innocent tumor seldom changes its character, but occasionally it may do so. A benign, or simple, tumor grows by expanding locally, and may cause symptoms by pressing on vital structures, by bleeding, or by pain. A malignant tumor grows by invading or mixing into the surrounding structures, parts of it floating in the

Malignant Growths, Like Weeds, Must Not Be Permitted to Spread

By J. MARK COX, M. D., D. N. B.

blood stream, or in the lymph stream, or dropping to another place to grow.

Consider a small seed potato in the ground. It will increase in size as it grows and thus pushes the surrounding ground out of the way. A benign tumor can be likened to such growth. It even looks like the tissue in which it grows.

A malignant tumor is different. Consider the roots of a tree as a comparison for a malignant tumor. These roots grow down, around, and through everything in their way. They extend in different directions, as do the pincers of a crab. This type usually grows rapidly

and sets up secondary growths in the lymph nodes and distant organs. They do not look like the tissue of the organs of which they are parts. Such tumors cause bleeding when they ulcerate, pain when they invade nerve structures, wasting away when they spread, and death when they invade a vital organ.

Tumors are insidious when they cannot be seen on the outside of the body. Many are found by routine examination, but others are discovered only when there is pain, bleeding, or wasting away. Then they may be large or well advanced. Tumors in the various parts of the body have different symptoms. These are related to the organs they occur in or near. The first symptoms may be bleeding, pain, noticeable lumpy mass, or a loss of weight. Tumors of the stomach may first be indicated by blood in the stools; those of the lower bowel, by constipation and diarrhea; those of the prostate, by pain; and those of the uterus and breast, by a lumpy mass.

Tumors are treated at present by surgery only when they are not too far advanced. X-ray and radium treatments are used in conjunction with surgery when the tumor is malignant and operable. X-rays and radium are used alone when the tumor is inoperable and is in a place inaccessible to surgery. Benign tumors ordinarily do not kill unless they press on a vital organ, as when one presses on the covering of the brain. Malignant tumors are always fatal when they have spread. Surgery usually can cure the effects of a benign tumor, and usually can cure a malignant tumor when it is removed with much of the surrounding tissue and no spread has taken place. X-rays and radium shrink a tumor, but do not cure it. They prolong the life and decrease symptoms.

If you have not been examined recently, you ought to have this done. A periodic physical check up is important. If you have any bleeding from an opening of the body, any pain, a noticeable lumpy mass, or any unknown loss of weight, have yourself examined by a competent physician. It may be a tumor that can be remedied in its early stage.

Medical science is equipped to do much toward the prevention of cancer and other forms of disease. It remains for the public to avail themselves of the services of competent physicians and nurses. Especially needful is a periodic examination in order to discover any ailment in its incipient stage.

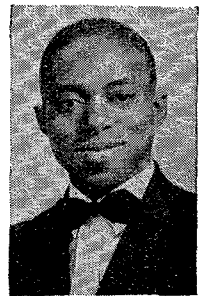




The Indispensable Event of All Ages

He Said: "I Will Come Again"

By ERNEST E. ROGERS



Ernest E. Rogers

"The Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works." Matthew 16:27.

BEFORE His crucifixion Jesus said to the group of disciples gathered together with Him at the last supper that He had with them before His death: "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek Me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you." John 13:33.

These words filled the hearts of those believers with heaviness and despair, and while they were yet questioning where He was going that they could not follow, the Lord gave them one of the most glorious promises recorded in the Scriptures: "If I go, . . . I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3.

The second coming of Christ is indispensable to the Christian by providing hope of reuniting the ties of family relationships that long have been sundered by death. Paul calls our attention to this, saying: "This we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [go ahead of] them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17.

From these words it is plainly seen that the second coming of Christ will mean the perpetuation of our human relationship by the knitting together of our broken human ties. Thus our human loves and affections shall be made eternal.

The second coming of Christ is also indispensable to the completion of man's redemption. The apostle Paul, writing about the faith of the saints of old who died in the hope that Christ would redeem their bodies from the power of death, tells us: "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. . . . But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city." Hebrews 11:13-16.

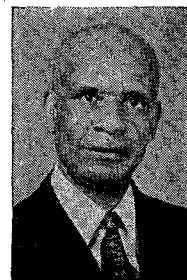
The promise of Jesus was: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2, 3.

The final phase of our redemption will be in the resurrection of the saints, and the changing of their vile bodies into the likeness of the Son of God. (Philippians 3:20, 21.) Until that is achieved, our redemption is not complete.

You cannot call the redemption of the faithful of old complete as long as their bodies lie mingled with the dust of the earth. You cannot regard the redemption of your loved ones as being complete as long as they are held as prisoners by Satan in the dungeon of death. No, their redemption is not complete, and will not be complete, until Christ shall appear in the clouds of heaven. "Then shall He send His angels, and shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven." Mark 13:27.

The second coming of Christ is also indispensable to freedom from sin. Since the day Adam fell the human race has been waiting for complete restoration from the power of evil. Paul expresses this thought in these words: "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Romans 8:19-23.

SIGNPOSTS ON THE HIGHWAY OF TIME



Emanuel Wilkins

THIS IS an age of travel. Every possible means has been provided to make traveling safe and enjoyable, by a network of very modern highways, carefully drawn road maps, and signposts giving directions and distances. Thus the traveler directs himself with ease, and can always measure his progress by the signposts.

The people of God are traveling on the great highway of time. They have ever been "strangers and pilgrims" since the fall from "the first dominion." There has ever been an inward longing for the "better country." (Hebrews 11: 8-10, 13, 14, 16.) The Bible is their infallible road map, and fulfilled prophecies are their signposts.

It was while Israel was in her 70-year sojourn in Babylon that the Lord, through the prophet Daniel, gave the world a list of the signposts marking the centuries down to the close of time. By prophetic symbols He told of the rise and fall of earthly empires until the time when they shall give way to the glorious government of Jesus Christ.

In a vision Daniel was shown four universal empires symbolized by four great beasts. One after another the beasts arose, each doing his work. The angel clearly explained to Daniel the meaning of the vision. Thus he said: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever." Daniel 7: 17, 18. "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon the earth." Verse 23. So the beasts represent world kingdoms reigning upon the earth until earthly powers shall be no more. And these kingdoms are signposts on the great highway of time.

As to the manner in which the great beasts appeared, the prophet states: "I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another." Verses 2, 3.

The Bible frequently uses winds as a symbol of wars (Jeremiah 25: 31-33), and the sea and waters for nations or peoples (Revelation 17: 15). So the prophet saw the clashing of nations at war, and out of these conflicts arose the kingdoms symbolized by the four beasts. "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made to stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it." Daniel 7: 4.

In his interpretation of the vision to Daniel the angel explained that "the

fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces." Verse 23. Then if the fourth beast is the fourth kingdom, it must be true that the first beast of the series is the first kingdom that ruled the world.

So the first beast, which was lionlike and had eagle's wings, is symbolic of the first universal empire that ruled this world. It was Babylon, which achieved world dominion under her proud king Nebuchadnezzar. But Babylon, although strong and despotic, was not to stand unchallenged. In the vision Daniel saw "another beast" come up, "a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it." Verse 5.

Babylon dominated the world from 606 to 538 B. C. It was on the night of king Belshazzar's drunken feast, in 538, that the proud nation was humbled to the dust by the Medes and Persians. For "in that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old." Daniel 5: 30, 31.

But Medo-Persia, though strong and imperial in her reign, was destined to fall before another power. The seer states, "After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; and the beast had



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The lion—Babylon, 606-538 B. C.

before it; and it had ten horns." Verse 7.

The fourth beast in the prophecy symbolizes the fourth universal kingdom that ruled this world, which was imperial Rome. It was at the battle of

Can We Know Where We Are?

By EMANUEL WILKINS

also four heads; and dominion was given to it." Daniel 7: 6. Just two centuries after the fall of Babylon the haughty kingdom of Persia was faced with the military aggression of Greece. The rapidity of the Greek conquests under her young general Alexander is symbolized by the "four wings of a fowl" which were on the back of the leopard beast. The decisive battle of Arbela, in 331 B. C. settled the fate of the Persian Empire and secured the world dominion for the Greeks.

The Greek Empire maintained its unity only a short time after the death of Alexander. The kingdom was divided among his four leading generals, the divisions being symbolized by the four heads on the beast. Eventually the Greek power, too, must give way to another. The divine outline of the signposts on the highway of time called for a fourth world monarchy. Said the prophet: "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were

Pydna, in 168 B. C., that the scepter of power passed from the Greeks to the Romans.

True to the symbol, Rome was "dreadful and terrible" in her rule. Her bloodthirsty emperors literally "stamped" every earthly thing out of existence that dared defy their despotic rule. But as Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece had passed into oblivion, so must Rome pass, for "the ten horns out of this [Roman] kingdom are ten kings [kingdoms] that shall arise." Verse 24.

Through a long series of invasions by hordes from northern and western Europe between A. D. 351 and 476, imperial Rome was broken into smaller nations. In the old dominion 10 kingdoms arose: namely, the Lombards, the Franks, the Burgundians, the Ostrogoths, the Visigoths, the Vandals, the Heruli, the Suevi, the Alamanni, and the Anglo-Saxons. True to this same prophecy, three of these were "plucked up," but the remaining seven kingdoms are modern nations now occupying western Europe. These are to stand as separate powers until human governments shall be no more. They must continue until the glorious kingdom of Christ shall be set up. Then "the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High." Verse 27.

This interesting outline of world his-



The bear—Medo-Persia, 538-331 B. C.



The leopard—Greece, 331-168 B. C.



The monster beast—Rome, 168 B. C. - A. D. 476

tory in prophetic symbolism is God's outline of the signposts on the highway of time. We have literally passed them one by one—Babylon (606 B. C.), Medo-Persia (538 B. C.), Greece (331 B. C.), Rome (168 B. C.), and the ten divided European states (A. D. 476).

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Bible prophecy is to the Christian what a map is to our valiant airmen. Our picture shows Lieutenant William Hill explaining a navigational chart to trainees at the Central Instructor's School, recently established at Tuskegee Army Air Field.

ONE OF the sweetest words to the human ear is "home." The best place on earth is home. And in the beginning our Creator provided for man a home. Unlike the dwellings of today, which are structures of cold bricks and dead timber, the first human habitation was a living home. Its walls were the tall and stately trees of the forest. The ceiling thereof was the open, star-studded canopy of heaven. The floor was covered with a green carpet of grass.

The first home was the Garden of Eden. In this Paradise the first man and woman—Adam and Eve—were placed. It was in the mind of God, the Divine Architect, that as the ages of eternity should roll by the whole earth might become like the Garden of Eden. "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else." Isaiah 45: 18. "The earth hath He given to the children of men." Psalm 115: 16. It was to be inhabited by holy, sinless beings. (Ecclesiastes 7: 29.) Through transgression man lost his Paradise home. (Genesis 3: 22-24.) The dominion was seized by the usurper, who has claimed it as his own (Luke 4: 5, 6) and has sown therein the seeds of discord, strife, and trouble of all sorts, sickness, disease, and death (Matthew 13: 36-39).

This world is very much unlike what it was formerly. It came forth pure and

"Nevertheless we, according to His [God's] promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3: 13.



J. Gershom Dasent



When Eden Comes Back to Earth

The Home of the Redeemed

By J. GERSHOM DASENT

undefiled from the hands of the Creator. It was then pronounced "very good." (Genesis 1: 31.) God's stamp of approval was placed upon everything on the earth, in the sea, and in the sky. Very little of the original beauty of it is seen at the present time; but instead the awful effects of sin are manifest on every hand. Man has lost his purity, his self-control, and his place, and like a wanderer he moves about over the earth.

In its present condition the earth is not fit to be the permanent dwelling place of the Christian. It is not the mind of God that His faithful people should enter into such a heritage as this present world is. Nevertheless, His original plan in the

creation of this earth for a suitable dwelling-place for His people has not been changed. He has promised that "the righteous shall inherit the land; and dwell therein for ever." Psalm 37: 29. "The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Verse 11. Christ has repeated to us this assurance. (Matthew 5: 5.)

This world, as it now is, is quarantined because of the disease of sin. Sin is contagious, and the government of heaven has sent a warning against this habitation: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father

is not in him." 1 John 2: 15. The patriarch Abraham, known as "the father of the faithful," heeded this admonition. It is written concerning him that "he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11: 8-10. In writing about the faithful of that generation, the apostle says: "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." Verses 13-16.

Moses, the veteran leader of the hosts of Israel, chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." Verses 25, 26.

Many are the faithful servants of God, of whom it is said that "they died, not having received the promises;" but they looked forward to the day when they and those who should come after them shall enter together into their eternal home. "Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled." 1 Peter 1: 3, 4.

It is comforting and encouraging to every Christian to know that this world in its present condition is not to be his permanent abode. This quarantined habitation of sin must be fumigated and cleansed. This was done once with water (2 Peter 3: 3-6; Genesis 6 and 7; Matthew 24: 37-39). Soon after the Flood evil reappeared and increased abundantly. In the final cleansing God will use fire, the most destructive of all germicides, so that the work of destruction will be final and complete. (2 Peter 3: 7, 10.) "He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1: 9.

Our Heavenly Father will make this earth a suitable dwelling-place for His children. All sin must be removed from it and destroyed root and branch. "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." Malachi 4: 1.

"The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the

heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless, we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3: 10-13.

The work of rehabilitation will be very pleasant and enjoyable. It is described by the pen of Inspiration thus: "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. . . . And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect

shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain. . . . The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord." Isaiah 65: 17-25.

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. . . . Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. . . . No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy

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TWO MINUTES WITH YOUR BIBLE

By LOUIS B. REYNOLDS

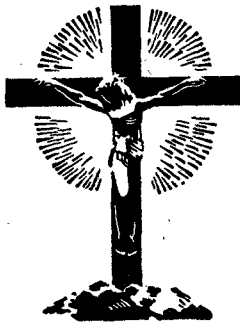
CHANGED BY BEHOLDING

"But we all, . . . beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image." 2 Corinthians 3: 18.

PERFECTION in Christian living is achieved only as the individual follows the example of Christ. It is an established maxim that by beholding we become changed. As on the film of a camera, so the image of Jesus is clearly imprinted upon the soul.

The ultimate goal of spiritual growth is to be "like Him" in conversation, in deportment, and in character. (Colossians 1: 27.) We must develop "till we all of us arrive . . . at mature manhood and the stature of full-grown men in Christ." Ephesians 4: 13, Weymouth's translation.

"Men wonder," said Napoleon while on St. Helena, "at the conquests of Alexander. But here is a Conqueror [Christ] who draws men to Himself



for their highest good; who unites to Himself, incorporates to Himself, not a nation, but the whole human race!"

The young Indian who spent years gazing at a natural stone face eventually resembled it. Just so, by beholding Christ we are transformed from "one degree of radiant holiness to another." 2

Corinthians 3:18, Weymouth's translation.

"As we make Christ our daily companion," declares a modern religious writer, "we shall feel that the powers of an 'unseen world are all around us; and by looking unto Jesus we shall become assimilated to His image. . . . The character is softened, refined, and ennobled for the heavenly kingdom."

SMITH: This is a time for everyone in the group to contribute something to this part of our program.

STONE: Just a moment! Do you mean to take up a collection? I did not bring an offering with me.

SMITH: No, I do not mean a contribution of that kind. You remember that sometime ago we suggested that each of us study the parable Jesus told about the talents, and we agreed to exchange the lesson gained from it.

WILKINS: The lesson, did you say? I gained so many lessons from that parable that I am convinced that I did not know as much about talents as I thought I knew. Now, take the talent of speech for example. Everybody likes to talk. These little tongues of ours go from early in the morning until late at night. Some people even talk in their sleep. But do you know that the power of speech is a talent that can be one of the greatest blessings to the world?

TROY: How true! And we can improve that talent in many ways. God gives the power to speak, but we need to train ourselves to speak distinctly so as to give sense and understanding to our speech. Then, too, we ought to learn to speak in pleasant tones, to use pure and correct language and to employ words that are kind and courteous. Of Christ it is said that grace was poured into His lips, that He might "know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary." Isaiah 50: 4.

LINDSEY: Speech truly is a talent, and the day is coming when we must give account of our words. I am determined to watch for opportunities of speaking to others about the religion of Jesus. This is the very highest work in which we can employ this wonderful gift. But now I have a contribution to make. I found out that our influence is also a talent that God has entrusted to man.

WILKINS: Our influence! Whoever heard of influence being a talent? Would you associate that with speaking and singing and playing the piano, and the like?

LINDSEY: Let us think it over. Every person is gifted with an atmosphere surrounding him by which he consciously or unconsciously affects those with whom he comes in contact. That atmosphere we call influence. It can be a blessing or a curse to our associates. It is not only a gift, but a very powerful one; and it is our responsibility to use it for blessing others.

SMITH: I knew a woman once who criticized everything she saw anyone do. Nothing was done exactly right unless she did it. Her influence was so powerful over her family that everyone of them



The Sweet Chariot Hour is an instructive and inspirational radio feature, broadcast from Station KPAS (1110 kilocycles) of Pasadena, California, every Saturday evening from 6:30 to 7:00, Pacific War Time. It offers to all readers of THE MESSAGE MAGAZINE a FREE Correspondence Course of Study in the Holy Scriptures, with no fees collected and no postage charges made. Thirty printed lessons are supplied. The only textbook is the Holy Bible. A certificate is issued upon completion of the course. Address a card to The Sweet Chariot Hour, Box 455, Pasadena, California.

Are You Using Your Talent?

By the Sweet Chariot Hour Group

was given to free indulgence in unkind criticism, suspicion, jealousy, and discontent. What a pity that there are so many guilty of using the precious talent of influence in the wrong way!

STONE: It is bad enough to lose one's own soul, but to cause the loss of others is worse. I pray that my influence may never be a savor of death unto death, but rather that it may be a silent power to draw others to Christ.

SMITH: I learned something from this parable that I never shall forget.

WILKINS: What is it? Another talent?

SMITH: Yes, it is, and I do not think you would ever guess what it is. It is time, *t-i-m-e*.

LINDSEY: You must explain that one. I accept speech and influence as talents, but not time. Jesus has said that we shall have to give an account of how we use our talents, but surely we can spend our time as we please.

SMITH: Oh, no! Our time also belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Life is too short to be trifled away. Man scarcely has begun to live when it is time to die. Because our days here are few, we must make the most of them by being co-workers with God in His great plan of redemption. Moses' prayer to God was: "The days of our years are threescore

years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. . . . So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalm 90: 10, 12.

WILKINS: I agree with you that success in life depends upon the right use of time. Many who have been ruined through idleness might have been blessings to the world had they been faithful stewards of their time. The Lord tells us to redeem "the time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5: 16.

TROY: What a beautiful lesson this parable has for parents! Children need to be taught that time is a precious talent entrusted to them by God. Moments are frittered away in aimless talk, morning hours are wasted in bed, and hours are spent in doing some task that can be done in half the time, which ought to be used in doing something to honor God and bless humanity.

LINDSEY: I have another contribution to make, but must save it until another meeting. But let me say here that I shall never forget that speech, influence, and time are talents God has entrusted to us. I will do my part to use each of them in such a way that when the Lord shall return for a reckoning, I can return to Him His own with much gain.

Signposts on the Highway of Time

(Continued from page 7)

Humanity has long since passed the last signpost on the highway of time. The world is now over 1,400 years in the divided state of the fourth monarchy. The next universal change will be from a human form of government to a divine one. "The kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Daniel 2: 44. The time will soon be here when it shall be said: "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ: and He shall reign forever and ever." Revelation 11: 15.

Human governments are no longer stable. The world today is seeking a satisfactory system of readjustment. Nations are passing through the fires of reconstruction only to find themselves in greater confusion. The whole social fabric is in the process of universal decay. The end of all things is right upon us. Let us, therefore, prepare for citizenship in God's new kingdom of glory which is to come at the second advent of Christ. (Matthew 25: 31-34.)

When Eden Comes Back to Earth

(Continued from page 9)

and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isaiah 35: 1, 5, 6, 9, 10.

The glory of the world to come has been beautifully described thus: "In the Bible, the inheritance of the saved is called a country. (Hebrews 11: 14-16.) There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home. One commentator remarks:

"My people shall dwell in a peaceful habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places." Isaiah 32: 18. 'Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.' Isaiah 60: 18. . . . Pain cannot exist in the atmosphere of heaven. There will be no

more tears, no funeral trains, no badges of mourning. 'There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, . . . for the former things are passed away.' Revelation 21: 4. 'The inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.' Isaiah 33: 24."—E. G. White, "The Great Controversy," pp. 675, 676.

The capital city of the new earth will be the New Jerusalem, which the apostle John saw in vision: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be

their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21: 1-4.

There we shall see Eden restored, for John says: "And He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him." Revelation 22: 1-3. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Verse 14.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS ANSWERED

These timely and helpful suggestions given to the readers of THE MESSAGE MAGAZINE are presented by Eva B. Dykes, Ph.D. Address your questions to Dr. Dykes in care of this magazine.



I am 15 years of age and find myself changing from the once happy and care-free person that I was to a self-conscious person becoming more and more self-centered as the days pass by. My former friends no longer attract me. In fact, I like more and more to be alone. Instead of finding pleasure in the same things I used to enjoy, such as bicycling, hiking, and playing volley-ball, I prefer reading and daydreaming. I like to read romantic love stories, and am so impressed by them that I think only of the emotional experiences of the characters in them. I even live through these stories, which seem so real that the world in which I live seems unreal and uninteresting. I am also very timid and self-conscious, and hate to meet strangers. My parents tell me to "snap out of it," but their advice does not help me at all. Probably you can help me to find out exactly what the matter is and suggest a solution to my problem.

You are at that period of life known as the middle adolescent period. You are in a process of growth, and growth always implies change. If you would study the growth of any plant from the time it first raises itself above the soil to the time of full growth, you would note many interesting changes. So it is with man. The child of eight differs from the youth of 15; the youth of 15, from the young woman of 21. Do not then become unduly alarmed over your condition. Acquiring the right men-

tal attitude will help you to pass through this period safely.

This is my advice. Try to forget self more and more. Force yourself to take an interest in others, especially in children. If you have younger brothers and sisters, play with them and try to make them happy. (Find your neighbors' children, if you have none in your family). Play with them, especially in the open; take them to the "zoo" and to other places of interest to them such as museums and parks. Also do as many things as possible for your parents by the way of lightening their burdens at the home.

As for reading those "romantic love stories," why not put them aside? The more you read them, the more you will think about them. Being very imaginative, you will re-live their plots until you become in your imagination the heroines. The experiences portrayed in such stories excite your imagination to an unnatural pitch so that a harmful mental reaction results and you begin to daydream. Substitute for these stories, books of nature and travel. Read the biographies of interesting people with the fascinating accounts of their youthful experiences and the way they overcame obstacles. Such a reading course as this, combined with an interest in children and an active participation in the duties of home, will aid you to pass through this critical period of life successfully.

NEWS NUGGETS

★ There were 74 chaplains in the Regular Army, and 72 in the National Guard, when the United States entered World War I in 1917. During that war 2,363 chaplains were commissioned in the United States Army forces, of which 57 were Negro chaplains. Of the total number 23 died in service, 27 were wounded, and 59 received decorations from the United States Government or its allies. At the end of December, 1943, there were 6,998 chaplains in the United States Army forces. At that date 19 chaplains had been killed in battle, one missing in action, 19 wounded in battle, and 33 detained by the enemy. Decorations had been bestowed upon 81, and citations had been given to four.

★ "Before mobilization, the [United States] Army had 13,000 Negroes in its ranks. By March, 1944, that handful had become an army itself—some 664,000 Negroes, draftees mostly."—"Newsweek," July 10, 1944.

★ Pius XI, Roman bishop, is now in the process of beatification, and may

later be proclaimed a saint by his church. At present 83 persons listed by the Roman Catholic Church as popes have been canonized as saints for the members of that sect to worship.

★ The alien population of the United States now stands at about 3,400,000, which is the lowest record in 35 years. Last year a total of 435,483 foreigners were naturalized as citizens of the United States.

★ The National Odd Shoe Exchange, 6267 Clemens Ave., St. Louis 5, Missouri, conducts a unique service. According to Ruth C. Rubin, director of the institution, its objective is to help "persons who, through disease or injury, wear shoes of different sizes, and persons who, because of amputation, wear just one shoe." A file is kept of persons wearing two sizes, with the exact measurement of both feet. When two persons are found who might be able to exchange shoes with each other, they are notified.

★ Dan Cupid finds a way even if he has to make one. Marriage by mail has been approved by the United States Army in case the state in which the contract has been made recognizes the wedding as valid. A Pennsylvania couple, on December 3, 1943, by means of a document mailed back and forth for signatures, expressed their desire "to enter into the bonds of matrimony and become man and wife." The instrument went on to say that "whereas, it is impossible for them to procure a marriage license and be married by a civil or religious ceremony," they "do hereby mutually covenant, promise, and agree that they are now and henceforth will be husband and wife." The man is a soldier serving overseas in the United States Army Air Corps.

★ The American people have money to burn. The manufacture of cigarettes in this country during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, reached 258,000,000,000, about 13,000,000,000 more than the record-breaking output for 1943, according to "Time," August 7, 1944.



Mrs. Anna B. Ford, widow of Lieutenant Edward L. Ford, of Baytown, Alabama, has received the Purple Heart award of posthumous honor for her husband's heroic death. He was killed in action over Italy in June 1943. The award was presented to her with formal ceremonies at the Tuskegee Army Air Field.