

The Bible Standard

"Send out your light and truth! Let them lead me;..."

Psalm 43:3

"LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE"

Isaiah 62:10

INSIDE

Safety In The Time of Trouble	34
The Messiah — God's Servant	38
Hell — Not A Place of Torment	41
A Christian Home	44
Sons of God — Daughters of Men	45
Letter To The Editor	46
Publications	46
Announcements	47



“They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily” (Isa. 2: 19, 21 NKJ).

This text, like Daniel 12: 1, shows us that Jesus’ Second Advent would be accompanied by “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.” Jesus speaks of this same Time of Trouble in Matt. 24: 21, “For then shall be *great tribulation*, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

We are glad indeed for these last few words, for another world-wide Time of Trouble such as we are now experiencing will never need to be repeated. This great time of trouble, prophesied in the Scriptures, was to set in with the ending of the “**times of the Gentiles**” (Luke 21: 24); and these times (of Gentile rulership), according to the Scriptures and Bible chronology, were due to begin to end in 1914 A.D. (see SITS, Vol. 2, The Time is at Hand, Chapter 4). We see the eviction since that time is now working. History demonstrates the fact that “the Time of Trouble such as never was since there was a nation” actually did break out at that very time, for it was in 1914 that the first phase of the great World War broke out, since which time the whole earth, the present order of affairs among men, is being engulfed by the fire of God’s jealousy (not a literal fire), for as prophesied, He has gathered the nations and assembled the kingdoms (by giving to mankind the many modern inventions—methods of rapidly running to and fro [increased travel Dan. 12: 4], means of instantaneous communication, etc.), to pour upon them His indignation, even all His fierce anger: for all the earth is being consumed with the fire of His jealousy (Zeph. 1 : 15-18; 3: 8). If it were not for the wonderful promise v. 9, “For then will I turn to the people a pure language [the pure message of Truth], that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one

consent,” and many other similar promises of God, we might despair indeed. This text proves that the fire is not to be literal fire for after its work of destruction is completed, the people are to receive a pure language with which they will repent and serve the LORD God.

WATCHERS

Christian people who are carefully “watching” the “sure word of prophecy” (2 Pet. 1: 19) will not be overwhelmed by the “day of wrath,” and the “great tribulation” through which the world is now passing; for “the children of light” are not ignorant of “the times and seasons” and “are not in darkness,” that that day should overtake them as a thief (1 Thes. 5: 1-5); furthermore, they know from the Scriptures the glorious outcome which God is to accomplish for the children of men. The Scriptures teach that the rulership of earth has degenerated from the gold to the iron and clay, as pictured in the prophetic vision of the great image (Dan. 2: 32, 33; see SITS, Vol. 1, The Divine Plan of the Ages, Chapter 13, for details), and that “in the days of these kings [represented in the iron mixed with clay] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and . . . it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Dan. 2: 44; 7: 13, 14, 27). God says “it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain [rulership] of the LORD’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains [above all the kingdoms of earth], and shall be exalted above the hills [republics]; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, “Come let us go up to the mountain of the LORD . . . and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion [the glorified Christ, Head and Body—Rev. 14: 1] shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem [the earthly phase of the kingdom]. He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,

THE BIBLE STANDARD—(ISSN: 1556-8555) Publisher, the Laymen’s Home Missionary Movement—Bible Standard Ministries, 1156 St. Matthews Road, Chester Springs, PA, 19425-2700, U.S.A. Editor, Ralph M. Herzig. Periodicals Postage paid at Kutztown, PA. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Bible Standard, 1156 St. Matthews Road, Chester Springs, PA, 19425-2700; Rates: One year’s subscription—\$12.00 (6 issues); single issues—\$2.50 each. Web Site: www.biblestandard.com

and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2: 2-4).

JESUS' SECOND COMING

The wide-awake Christians, "the watchers" realize that, as the Lord said (John 14: 19), the world will never see Him again with their physical, natural eyes, for human eyes are not so constructed as to be able to see spirit beings, and Jesus in His resurrected Divine body "is the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1: 15); it is He "who has immortality [God is excepted here, as in 1 Cor. 15: 27], dwelling in unapproachable light whom no man has seen, nor can see" (1 Tim. 6: 16). These enlightened people of God realize that Jesus gave His flesh "for the life of the world" (John 6: 51) and that He cannot and did not take back this ransom price, but that, "being put to death in the flesh," but made alive in the Spirit (1 Pet. 3: 18 ASV), and that now He is a life-giving spirit being (1 Cor. 15: 45), for "Now the Lord is that Spirit" (2 Cor. 3: 17). They know that He is no longer flesh and blood, for "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption" (1 Cor. 15: 50), and that "though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him [so] no more" (2 Cor. 5: 16), for "a spirit has not flesh and bones" such as Jesus assumed for the purpose of manifesting Himself to His disciples (Luke 24: 39) after He had been put to death in the flesh, but raised a life-giving spirit being, for He was "raised in a spiritual body" (1 Cor. 15: 44), the brightness of God's glory, "the express image of His person" (Heb. 1: 3).

The manner of the first stage of Christ's Second Advent was to be quiet and secret, so far as the world is concerned, and unknown except to His faithful followers; for this was the manner in which He left the earth at the time of His ascension (Acts 1: 11). He was to come again as a thief (Rev. 16: 15), His presence being unknown to the world, for in the days of His presence it was to be as it was in the days of Noah and Lot—the people in general followed their daily pursuits and knew not until sudden destruction came upon them (Matt. 24: 37-39; Luke 17: 26-30).

Keeping these truths in mind, the Lord's faithful watchers (Luke 12: 37), as they look for "the coming [Greek, *parousia*, presence] of the day of God, wherein the heavens [the false religious systems of this present evil world—certainly not the literal heavens, separated by millions of miles of space with nothing between to take fire] being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements [the religious, governmental, financial and labor,] shall melt with fervent heat, the earth [human society as now organized under Satan's control] also and the works that

are therein shall be burned up" (2 Pet. 3: 12, 10), watch for the evidences ("signs") that indicate that it has indeed come. Now, in the light of God's Word, we see these signs on every hand, for many prophecies pertaining to the end of the Gospel Age and the Lord's Second Presence are being fulfilled in our midst.

THE DAY OF THE LORD

The day of the Lord, with its "sudden destruction," indeed came "as a thief in the night" amid proclamations of "Peace and Safety," and its painful experiences are ever growing more severe and more frequent, "as travail upon a woman with child"; and not a nation on earth has been able to escape it (1 Thes. 5: 2, 3). Trouble is found on every hand, and it is ever more and more threatening. Did not the Lord tell us that "they [the world] shall see [with the eyes of their understanding] the Son of man coming in the clouds [the tribulation of this Time of Trouble] with great power and glory" (Mark 13: 26; Matt. 24: 30)?

This "day of the Lord" is indeed "a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the [Millennial] morning begins to spread upon the mountains [kingdoms]" (Psa. 30: 5; Joel 2: 2); it is "darkness, and not light, even very dark, and no brightness in it" (Amos 5: 20). "A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with the nations . . . Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind [intense and complicated trouble and commotion] shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth [world-wide]" (Jer. 25: 31-33); "for the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and His fury upon all their armies . . . He has delivered them to the slaughter" (Isa. 34: 2). "Hear you, O mountains [kingdoms], the LORD'S controversy, and you [hitherto] strong foundations of the earth [human society]: for the LORD has a controversy with His [professed] people" (Micah 6: 2); for this is "the day of the LORD'S vengeance, the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion" (Isa. 34: 8). "Behold, He [the Lord] comes with clouds [the trouble of this Day of Wrath]; and every eye shall see [Greek, *horao*, the same word used in 3 John 11 'has not seen God'—in the sense of discerning, or attaining to a true knowledge of] Him [shall recognize His presence, power and authority], and they also which pierced Him (Zech. 12: 10): and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him" (Rev. 1: 7).

The above is all in harmony with St. Paul's statement (2 Thes. 1: 6-9) that Jesus will reveal His presence to the world from His position of spiritual control ("heaven")

in consuming wrath and destruction [“in flaming fire, taking vengeance”—fire is used in the Bible as a symbol of destruction]. He is sharing His “power over the nations” with His glorified Church, His Bride, “the Lamb’s Wife,” and their rule over the nations with a rod of iron has begun in the present great Time of Trouble; and “as the vessels of a potter shall they [the nations] be broken to shivers” (Rev. 2: 26, 27; Psa. 2: 8, 9). Indeed the prophecy of Psa. 50: 3, 4 is being fulfilled before our very eyes: “Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence [any longer]: a fire [the destruction of this Time of Trouble, which began in 1914] shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens [the high or ruling powers] from above, and to the earth [the masses of the people], that He may judge His [professed] people [Christendom].”

For some time past we have witnessed “upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves [the restless and lawless elements] roaring [against the bulwarks of the present social system]; men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth [society]: for the powers of heaven [the present false religious systems] shall be shaken”; and as a result many are more and more coming to see that there is a power operating in the affairs of men with which they are not able to cope—that the Lord is present in this great cloud of trouble with His great power and glory (Luke 21: 25-27); for the time has come in which He is “yet once more” shaking “the heavens [the powers of spiritual control], and the earth [all organized and law abiding society], and the sea [the restless, anarchistic masses of mankind], and the dry land [the social aristocracy of wealth and social independence],” even as He said: “I will shake all nations [not just a few in this great Time of Trouble, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be, was to be world-wide—but surely we thank God for His promise that follows, to which this tribulation is but a means to that glorious end], and the desire of all nations [the reign of peace and prosperity—the Kingdom reign of peace on earth, good will toward men—Luke 2: 10, 14; for which we pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven”—Matt. 6: 10] shall come: and I will fill this house with glory” (Haggai 2: 6, 7; Heb. 12: 26-29).

Our text portrays in other words the same conditions as described above. Just as Dan. 12: 1 specifies that Michael [another name for Jesus—the Archangel, the Chief Messenger, of God] shall stand up [assume control at His Second Coming] and there shall be an unprecedented Time of Trouble; so our text specifies that it will

be “when He arises” that the terrible shaking of human society—the nations, etc.—will take place. We have seen this going on ever since 1914. We are not to forget that the Lord’s Second Presence was to be “revealed” to the world “in flaming fire [destruction],” as He would be “taking vengeance” in His consuming wrath against evil and evil-doers. These are being exposed right and left on every hand, even the very highest ranks of human society, from the highest authorities and men in power in governmental, financial, social, educational and religious circles right on down to the masses in general; for this is the time of the Lord’s revealing, in which He starts His great work, which will last throughout the thousand year Judgment Day, of revealing things that were covered, and making known things that were hidden; and already we see many things that were spoken in darkness brought to light, and many things spoken in the ear in closets now proclaimed from the housetops (Matt. 10: 26; Luke 12: 2, 3; 1 Cor. 4: 5).

Furthermore, our text informs us that “when He arises to shake terribly the earth” men “for fear of the Lord” will “go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth.” As Rev. 6: 15-17 (Luke 23: 30) expresses it, they will say to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” This does not signify that people will be so foolish as to pray for literal rocks to fall upon them. Rather, the thought here is that they would desire protection, shielding, hiding, covering from the devastating trouble of the day of the Lord. The “holes of the rocks” and “caves of the earth” symbolically represent the various human organizations, insurance companies, banks, secret societies, trusts, combines, etc., in which men seek this protection.

CIVILIZATION GOES UNDERGROUND

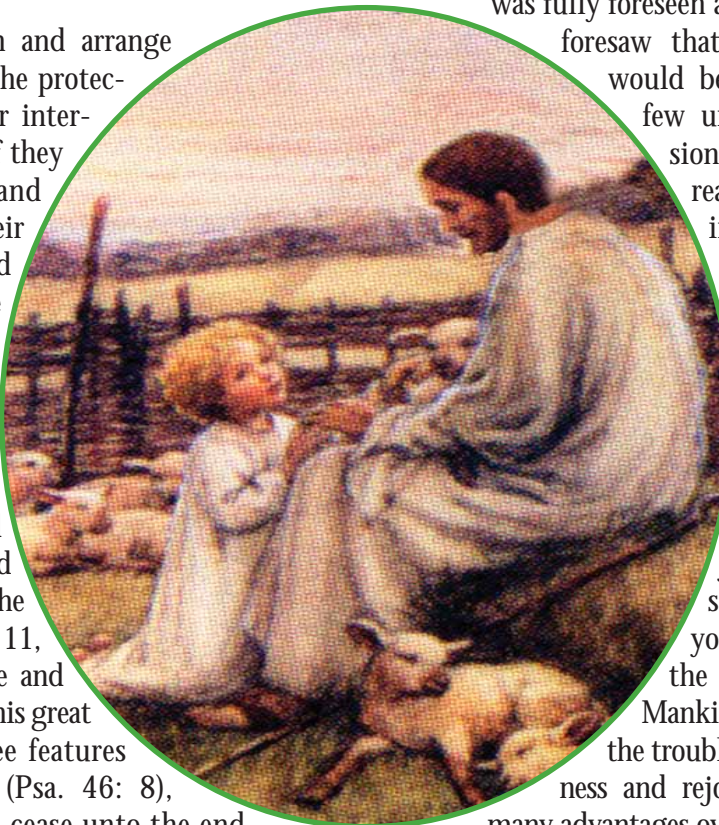
As men’s hearts are more and more “failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21: 26), it is remarkable to note how they are literally going into the holes of the rocks and into the caves of the earth, thus indicating also a literal fulfillment of this prophecy. Man with modern civilization boasts of the conquest of space, but he is being forced more and more to seek refuge underground for fear of the devastation which modern warfare would bring with it. Note these instances: AMERICA BUILT A HIDEOUT IN THE HEART OF ROCK RAVEN, a Mountain sixty-five miles from Washington, D.C. According to The Defense Department it took three years to build. It has six stories of underground offices,

subterranean water reservoir, and banks of mysterious antennas, dishes and massive, steel doors. It has been designated a backup command center since it was hewn out of the mountain in 1951. The hideout has direct communication with the White House. Another underground location is Mount Weather, located in the Blue Ridge mountains. The facility is a major relocation site for the highest level of civilian and military officials in case of national disaster.

NO REAL SAFETY WITHOUT GOD AND CHRIST

But though men may plan and arrange ever so well and wisely for the protection of themselves and their interests in this day of trouble, if they do not recognize God and Christ, if God is not in their thoughts (Psa. 10: 4), and they do not abide by the principles of truth and righteousness, their plans will ultimately prove futile.

The three parts of this great Time of Trouble—World War, World Revolution and World Anarchy—are pictured in the vision of Elijah (1 Kings 19: 11, 12) by the wind, earthquake and fire. After the desolations of this great Time of Trouble in its three features have all run their course (Psa. 46: 8), Jehovah will make “wars to cease unto the end of the earth” (v. 9), and will say to those remaining on earth at that time, “Be still, and know that I am God” (v. 10). Humbled by their experiences in this great Time of Trouble, they will then be ready to hearken to “the still small voice” (1 Kings 19: 12). They will finally have been convinced that the only feasible way of correcting earth’s



problems is by the setting up of a strong and righteous government, which will subdue all classes, and enforce principles of righteousness, until gradually the stony-heartedness of men will, under favorable influences, give place to the original image of God. This is just what God has promised to accomplish for the human race, by and through the Millennial reign of Christ, which Jehovah introduces by the lessons of this trouble day (Ezek. 11: 19; 36: 25, 36; Jer. 31: 29-34; Zeph. 3: 9).

Though this day of trouble comes as a natural and unavoidable result of man’s fallen, selfish condition, and was fully foreseen and declared by the Lord, who foresaw that His laws and instructions would be disregarded by all but the few until experience and compulsion force obedience, yet all who realize the state of things coming should set themselves and their affairs in order accordingly. We say to all the meek—to those who are teachable and leadable, both in the world and among professed Christians: “Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice; seek righteousness, seek humility, it may be that you will be hidden in the day of the LORD’s anger” (Zeph. 2: 3). Mankind in general will not escape the trouble, but those seeking righteousness and rejoicing in meekness will have many advantages over others. Their manner of life, their habits of thought and action, as well as their sympathies for the right, which will enable them to grasp the situation of affairs, and also to appreciate the Bible account of this trouble and its outcome, will all conspire to make them suffer less than others—especially from harassing fears and forebodings. * * *

STRENGTH SUFFICIENT

*Oh, ask not thou, “How shall I bear
The burden of tomorrow?”
Sufficient for the day the care,
Its evils and its sorrow,
God imparteth by the way
Strength sufficient for the day.*

Poems of Dawn
Page 153

THE MESSIAH — GOD'S SERVANT

Continued from our last issue.

“Looking for and hastening . . . of the day of Lord . . . the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat” 2 Peter 3: 10-12.

Saint Peter's statement here respecting the end of the world, has led Christians in general to accept the theory that God has decreed that shortly, or at some time, our earth is to be burned up. The early Church expected and prayed for the second coming of Messiah, to establish the Kingdom of righteousness, to overthrow sin and to release mankind from its bondage and weakness and from the power of death, and would bless the whole earth, restoring all things to the glorious condition represented in miniature in Eden: man in perfection, with a Paradise home (Acts 3: 19-21).

CENTURIES PASSED

The manifestation of Messiah's Kingdom did not come and those expectations yielded to another suggestion. That Jesus had not meant what the Apostles had understood, but meant that the Church should convert the world under His supervision, thereafter during a period of a thousand years reign over a converted race, and that then He would come and give their work His stamp of approval and wind things up by taking all the saintly to heaven, setting fire to the earth entirely to consume it. Both Catholics and Protestants have been operating in harmony with this erroneous thought. Catholics claim that the Kingdom of Messiah was set up long ago and that the popes and cardinals are representatives of Jesus and the Church. They claim that the Pope is Christ's Vicegerent—that is to say, he reigns instead of Christ, as His representative. They claim that “the thousand years” are already in the past, since 1799, and that we are now in the “little season” mentioned in Rev. 20: 3, in which Satan was to be loosed, at the close of the thousand years. Many of them understand that Protestantism in general, and particularly Socialism and Free Masonry, are organizations of Satan, which will soon be destroyed in the burning up of the world. Protestants are also much confused on the subject. They claim that we are in the reign of Messiah, but they are not sure when it

began or when it will end. Before Luther's day the Catholic view prevailed, but, according to Luther's preaching, the Papal claims were false, and later the Papal system was branded as Antichrist. Since then Protestants are in uncertainty. Some recognize the Church of England and its kingly head as God's Kingdom in the earth, but they admit that it has not yet conquered the earth, nor is God's will done as in heaven, even in the British Isles. In the past the Church of Russia made a similar claim to being the Kingdom of God, and honored the Czar as the reigning representative of Messiah; Emperor William, of Germany, also had on his coins the legend that he was reigning “by the grace of God”—that his kingdom was a part of Messiah's Kingdom. These theories of Catholics and Protestants are now being gradually ignored.

DAYS OF ENLIGHTENMENT

In the light of our day none dare preach such theories. With present-day enlightenment it seems foolish to declare that the various kingdoms of Europe are Messiah's Kingdom, and that they are establishing a reign of righteousness. The costly preparations for war made by these very nations discredit entirely the claim that they are parts of Messiah's great Kingdom of righteousness and peace. All denominations engaged in missionary work are professing the thought that soon the world will be converted and reigned over by the Church for a thousand years; that the second coming of Christ will then take place, and then will come the consummation and the burning of the world. How strange! How illogical! The heathen, according to reliable government statistics, are twice as numerous today. Eight hundred fifty-six thousand a little over a century ago; now there are 1.2 billion. How long would it require, at this rate, to convert the world? If the heathen were converted to the same condition of civilization enjoyed in Europe and America, could we claim then, that God's

will was done on earth as it is done in heaven? Assuredly not. Thank God, the second coming of Messiah will not delay until the world is converted and God's will fully done and the plan of salvation ended. Quite to the contrary; His coming is for the very purpose of bringing all things into subjection to the Father's will. He comes that He may reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, in association with His Church. He will not reign through a representative or vicegerent, but personally, and "unto *Him* every knee shall bow and every tongue confess" to the glory of God.

THE JUDGMENT DAY

The faithful Church, sharing in her Lord's resurrection, the First Resurrection, to glory, honor and immortality, will be His associate kings and priests, to reign for a thousand years—Rev. 20: 6. The supposition that the earth will be destroyed by fire, either soon or ever, would be contrary also to the statement that "the earth abides forever," and the declaration that God formed it not in vain, but formed it to be inhabited (Eccl. 1: 4; Isa. 45: 18). One of the very strong passages which seems to teach that the earth will be devoured by fire is found in Zeph. 3: 8, "Wait upon Me, says the Lord, until the Day that I rise up to the prey, for My determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them Mine indignation, even all My fierce anger; for the whole earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy"—anger. That the fire of God's anger, which will come upon the world, will not destroy the physical earth, with all its inhabitants, but will destroy the present evil institutions; shown by the succeeding sentence, which declares: "for then... that they may all call upon the name of the Lord to serve Him with one consent." If the fire of this text were literal, the earth and its people would be no more, but as symbolical fire it is perceived that it is a burning against unrighteousness, iniquity, sin, the overthrow of all institutions of evil, and the awakening of humanity and preparing them to hear the Voice of God, the language of the Truth, the Divine Message.

THE DAY OF THE LORD

What we have seen prepares us for the somewhat more difficult statement of St. Peter: "The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which 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. . . 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 dwells righteousness" (2 Pet. 3: 10-13). To harmonize these words of St. Peter with other Bible statements, we must consider the "fire" here mentioned to be symbolical. Not only is the earth to be consumed, but the heavens also. The "heavens" will take fire first and be dissolved. What heavens shall we suppose are here referred to?—not the literal, starry heavens, nor even our atmospheric heavens, nor yet the heaven of Divine Presence and Glory. Teachers as light bearers are the symbolic stars, heavens. (Dan. 12: 3; Mal. 4: 2; Matt. 13: 43; Jude 13; Rev. 1: 20; 9: 1; 12: 1; 22: 16). Accordingly the church systems, the ecclesiastical powers, are symbolically referred to as the "heavens," at the present time, by their teachings—light shining—etc., supervising and overruling the temporal and social arrangements which are represented by the "earth." The "earth" represents organized society (Eccl. 1: 4; Isa. 60: 2; Gen. 4: 14; 6: 11-13; 9: 11; Matt. 5: 13), as in contrast with the "sea," which symbolically represents disorganized society, the uncivilized and all who are rebellious against governmental rulership (Psa. 46: 2, 3; Luke 21: 25; Rev. 20: 13; 21: 1). When the "heavens" (erroneous religious powers) of the present time shall be "dissolved," it will be with a great noise, with great confusion, commotion. Ecclesiastical institutions of the present time are in a very troubled condition, and they are in danger of immediate collapse. The principal outcry is that few attend church services, and that the collections are small. St.

Peter's words indicate a moral disintegration within these ecclesiastical systems. The Scriptures show us that a great Federation is seemingly bringing Ecclesiasticism into greater power than it has exercised in years. Other intimations of Scripture lead us to see that the federative organization is attempting a rigid control of the world through affiliation with political and civil power, and that a considerable measure of success leads to intoxication on the subject and to take away the liberties of the people entirely, the result of which will be a great explosion, or a great "earthquake," in the symbolical language of Scripture. It will be then that the "heavens" will take fire and be consumed with a great noise, commotion, disaster, *etc.* The commotion will include the social order. The elements will melt with the intensity of the heat, the friction, the strife, which will then be engendered.



The elements of society are those mutual advantages and assistances of good people, upon which the stability of government rests. The Bible clearly intimates that the condition of affairs symbolized by the melting of society and the disintegrating of its elements in the great heat of strife at that time will be the result of superstition and selfishness. The end will be anarchy, or as the Bible declares, "Every man's hand will be against his neighbor." Selfishness will be the predominating, ruling principle. The question arises, why would God permit the fall of our Christian systems, which certainly have done much that is morally helpful to the world? And why should He permit the overthrow of the present order of things, which certainly is much more advantageous than anarchy and disorder? The Bible answer is that God is not forcing this issue, but is merely allowing mankind to work out these results. The trouble and disaster will come as the natural result of ignoring the principles of Divine Law. Religious Sectarianism is unauthorized to claim that it is God's Kingdom, invested with Divine power and authority to rule the world. This untrue claim and the attempt to enforce it will bring upon it the "fire" which will consume. The world, neglectful of the Golden Rule, and obeying the false standard that "might makes right," will overthrow society by precipitating a conflict between the two great parties—the capitalists, trusts, rulers on the one hand, and labor unions and the masses of humanity on the other hand. Each will feel that a death struggle has arrived and that the battle must be fought. Each will feel unwarrantedly self-confident of victory. According to the Bible, the result will be the complete wreck of our present society, symbolically pictured as "fire."

COMING REIGN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Lord through the Prophet points out that on the ruins of our present civilization, when mankind will be sick at heart with the failure of what they had considered to be "the Brain Age," they will look to the Lord, to whom they should have looked sooner. They will perceive the coming reign of righteousness and will say, "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him and He will deliver us" (Isa. 25: 9). Then the Prophet declares, "The desire of all nations shall come" (Hag. 2: 7). All nations are needing these blessings of prosperity, and God desires that all shall have these very favors, and they will be obtainable through Messiah's Kingdom. Then the blessing of mankind will begin. The Messianic Kingdom, invisible but all-powerful, will be thoroughly manifest in its dealings; and its righteous judgments will have control. The blessing will come through Israel, extending to and including "all the families of the earth." We have not forgotten our text. What we have said is in line with it. It requires the addition of one word to make its meaning clear. The Mystery of God (Eph. 3: 3-6; 5: 23-32) which had been kept secret from the foundation of the world, shall be finished, completed, no longer a mystery. "And the angel swore . . . that the time should be no longer [delayed]" (Rev. 10: 6, 7). This has no reference to the end of time. Time can never end. Other Scriptures show that we are living at the end of the age. With the completion of the Church will begin the fulfillment of all the glorious promises of the Bible respecting the lifting of the curse from the earth, and the Divine blessing upon all earthly things.

* * *

THE MESSIANIC REIGN

Lo! in the clouds of Heaven appears
 God's well-beloved Son.
 He brings a train of brighter years,
 His Kingdom is begun.
 He comes a guilty world to bless
 With mercy, truth and righteousness.

O Father! haste the promised hour
 When at His feet shall lie
 All rule, authority and power
 Beneath the ample sky;
 When He shall reign from pole to pole,
 The Lord of every ransomed soul;

When all shall heed the words He said,
 Amid their daily cares,
 And by the loving life He led,
 Shall strive to pattern theirs;
 When He who conquered death shall win
 The mightier conquest over sin.



HELL NOT A PLACE OF TORTURE

“Let death seize upon them, and let them go down alive into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them” (Psa. 55: 15).

MANY who believe that hell is a place of eternal torment have difficulty in understanding how King David, a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13: 22), could pray for his enemies to go down alive, into hell. You would think that he would have prayed for God to spare them, so that later they could perhaps be converted before death and thus be saved from this imagined awful fate. If the claims of main-line churches, as based on and derived from the creeds of the Dark Ages, are true, this would be indeed a terrible prayer for David, as a man of God, to make.

Hell, for many, means a place of unmitigated and eternal woe, where untold millions of people writhe in agony, tortured by literal fire, or in anguish, tormented by the gnawing of conscience, which some say is even worse. They think that God has decreed that this is the fate of all except Christians. They believe that under this fearful sentence, the vast majority of the human race are hastening to their dreadful doom; yet feeble indeed are the efforts put forth to rescue them.

Many mainline churches that continue to hold this “Hell-fire” doctrine in their creeds still have plenty of time for social enjoyment and festivity, which time according to their creeds should, instead, be spent in almost frenzied endeavors to save the perishing ones from eternal torment. Moreover, they still have ample financial means to spend in gratifying the pride of life and the lust of the eyes (1 John 2: 16), which funds might better be applied in efforts to “save souls.” Witness, for example, their costly churches of fashion with provisions for many kinds of social activity, the grand organs and choirs, the costly apparel, the hunger for financial and other gain and the strife for worldly honors. We must conclude that the majority of Christians do not really believe in the hell of torment that is depicted by their creeds and their “Hell-fire”

preachers. Neither do they believe that God in His love and mercy would send any to such a fate.

THE TRUE MEANING OF HELL

But let us look at the true meaning of the word hell, into which David prayed that his enemies, dying suddenly, should go. In the King James Version, the word hell occurs 31 times in the Old Testament, and in every case it is translated from the Hebrew word *sheol*. *Sheol* is translated also by the English word grave 31 times and by the English word pit 3 times. The Hebrew word *sheol* does not mean a lake of fire and brimstone, nor anything at all resembling it. On the contrary, instead of the Scriptures picturing it as a place of blazing fire and torment, it is described in the context as a state or condition of “darkness” (Job 10: 19-22). Instead of a place where hideous shrieks and groans are heard, it is described as a state or condition of “silence” (Psa. 115: 17); rather than setting it forth as in any sense a place of pain, suffering or remorse, some Scriptures describe it as a state or condition of “forgetfulness” (Psa. 88: 11, 12). “The dead know not any thing. . . There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave [*sheol*], where you are going” (Eccles. 9: 5, 10). The meaning of *sheol* is that of a person’s unconscious condition in death.



The Greek word *hades* occurs 11 times in the New Testament; the KJV translates it 10 times by the English word hell and once by the English word grave. From the connections and circumstances in which these

11 uses occur, we can readily see that the Greek word *hades* corresponds to the Hebrew word *sheol*. For instance, Acts 2: 27, “You will not leave my soul in *hades*,” is quoted from Psa. 16: 10, “You will not leave my soul in *sheol*.” In addition 1 Cor. 15: 54, 55, reads, “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O grave [*hades*], where is your victory?” It is an allusion to Isa. 25: 8, “He will swallow up death forever,” and to Hosea 13: 14, “O death, I will be your plagues; O grave [*sheol*], I will be your destruction.” Note that in the margin for 1 Cor. 15: 55 KJV the word hell is given instead of grave, as an alternate translation for *hades*. Moreover, in Psa. 49: 15; 55: 15; 86: 13; Isa. 14: 9 and Jonah 2: 2, the margin shows that the Hebrew word *sheol* may be translated either hell or the grave.

MINISTERS KNOW THE TRUTH ON HELL

Do not the clergymen that preach “Hell-fire” know that *sheol* and *hades* can be properly translated either hell or the grave, as shown in these texts in their own Bibles? If they do, why do they not declare it? Every minister, unless he has not investigated the matter, knows this to be true. With very few exceptions they know that when a person—whether good or bad—dies, he is really dead, as set forth by the Bible hell (*sheol* or *hades*; Gen. 37: 35; 42: 38; 44: 29, 31; Job 14: 13; 17: 13; Psa. 86: 13; Isa. 38: 10; Acts 2: 29-34). That he is “asleep” in the unconscious sleep of death, waiting for the resurrection (Dan. 12: 2; John 11: 11-14; Acts 7: 60; 1 Cor. 15: 6, 18, 20, 51; 1 Thes. 4: 13, 15; 2 Pet. 3: 4). “The dead know nothing” (Eccles. 9: 5). “His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, but he does not perceive it” (Job 14: 21). For in death there is no remembrance of you; in the grave, [*sheol*] who will give you thanks?” (Psa. 6: 5). “Let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave [*sheol*]” (Psa. 31: 17). “The dead praise not the LORD” (Psa. 115: 17). “His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish” (Psa. 146: 4). “For the grave [*sheol*] cannot praise you, death cannot celebrate you; those who go down into the pit cannot hope for your truth. The living, the living man, he shall praise you” (Isa. 38: 18, 19).

The “Hell-fire” speakers know also that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6: 23), that “the soul who sins shall die” (Ezek. 18: 4, 20), that “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15: 3). The Bible

informs us that Jesus spent time in hell that “You make His soul an offering for sin” (Isa. 53: 10, 12) and “you will not leave my soul in Hades, or grave [the hidden state, sleep of death]” (Acts 2: 27). Why do they not tell the people the truth on these subjects? Why do they not tell them that death means the cessation of life, until the resurrection awakening? Why do they wrest and twist God’s plain statement to Adam that if he disobeyed he would “surely die” (Gen. 2: 17) into meaning that Adam would have eternal life in torment? Why do they preach Satan’s lie (Gen. 3: 4), “You will not surely die”—you are immortal and God Himself cannot destroy you? Is it because they believe they can “scare” more people into making “decisions for Christ,” winning more converts? There is nothing in the Bible that teaches that *sheol* or *hades* refers to eternal life in torment. When Jesus was dead, in hell, He was not in a condition of torment; He was in the tomb waiting for His resurrection on the third day (Matt. 12: 40; 16: 21; 20: 19; Mark 9: 31; Luke 9: 22; 18: 33).

One of Christendom’s famous evangelists, who drew thousands to hear him, was asked privately if he did not know that the words *sheol* and *hades* referred to “the unseen state,” or the grave, and if so, why did he preach that hell is a place of eternal torture. He admitted that he knew the truth regarding the Bible hell, but said that it was not popular and that if he were to preach it, he would be rejected by the mainline churches and lose his great influence for good there. Furthermore, he stated, “My bread is not buttered on that side.” As a hireling and false shepherd, he was willing to blaspheme God’s Holy Name in order to ride on the wave of popularity and to “save (rather—scare) souls from a burning hell”! We are not saying that all “Hell-fire” preachers are hypocrites, but surely some of them are. We believe that some of them are either ignorant or deceived by Satan’s delusions and verily think they are doing God’s will in preaching the doctrine of eternal torment instead of death—cessation of life—as the punishment for the wicked.

THE GREEK WORD “GEHENNA” EXAMINED

Much confusion has been caused by the mistranslation of another Greek word, *gehenna*, which in some Scriptures is also translated “hell.” It occurs in the following passages—twelve times: Matt. 5: 22, 29, 30; 10: 28; 18: 9; 23: 15, 33; Mark 9: 43-48; Luke 12: 5; James 3: 6.



Gehenna is the Greek mode of spelling the Hebrew words *ge-hinnom*, which are translated “Valley of Hinnom.” This valley lay just outside the city of Jerusalem, and served as a place for burning refuse. The offal, garbage, *etc.*, were destroyed there by the worms and by the fires that were kept continually burning, brimstone being added to assist combustion and to insure complete destruction. What a fitting illustration Jesus found in *Gehenna* to portray God’s utter, complete and eternal annihilation of the wicked! God will not preserve the wicked in eternal fire; fire is a symbol not of preservation of life but of destruction of life. “The LORD preserves all who love Him: but all the wicked will He destroy” (Psa. 145: 20).

SAVING SOULS FROM DEATH

“Saving souls” is a blessed work; but it is a mistake to think that they are saved from eternal torment. “Let him know, that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death” (James 5: 20). The death (not torment) from which he is thus saved is “the second death” (1 Tim. 2: 6; Heb. 2: 9). Hell (the “grave”—*sheol* or *hades*) will also be destroyed (Hosea 13: 14; Rev. 20: 13, 14). Jesus “gives light to every man coming into the world” and will “draw all men” unto Him (John 1: 9); but “every soul, which will not hear [obey] that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people” (Acts 3: 23). “Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more” (Psa. 104: 35). The fate of the incorrigible sinners is for them to be “cut off” (Psa. 37: 22, 28)—the person or soul is “cut off” (Lev. 22: 3; Num. 15: 30). They are “twice dead, plucked up by the roots” (Jude 12). The wicked shall go into annihilation, non-existence—“they go to nothing, and perish” (Job 6: 15-18); “the wicked shall not be” (Psa. 37: 10, 36); “they shall be as though they had not been” (Obadiah 16).

THE LAKE OF FIRE—THE SECOND DEATH

Does the Bible teach that there is a lake of fire? Yes, but the Bible also explains what it is—“the second death” (Rev. 20: 14, 15; 21: 8); it is not a second life. Fire is used as a symbol for destruction (Zeph. 3: 8, 9; Matt. 3: 10-12). Those who teach eternal torment as the wages of sin base their teachings on misunderstandings and misapplications of parables and figurative statements of the Bible; and they apply their Dark-Age errors to the Bible hell, making it appear that hell is a place of eternal torment. Rev. 20: 10 shows that the devil, the beast and the false prophet will also be cast into the lake of fire (utter, complete and eternal annihilation), into which death and hell (*hades*) will also be cast. For an explanation concerning the

Greek word translated “torment” in Rev. 20: 10, please see the *Life-Death-Hereafter* book, and the booklet “*The Hell of the Bible*.” The “Hellfire” preachers usually emphasize the parable of the rich man in hell (Luke 16: 19-31) and treat it as a literal and actual happening. The Bible, to the contrary, shows that it is a parable and was given to illustrate something that Jesus had just taught. For a full explanation and proper application of this parable, please see *BS #371* a copy free on request.

DAVID’S PRAYER FOR HIS ENEMIES

David saw the activity of the wicked, described in Psa. 55 and prayed that they would soon die, and thus be prevented from working more mischief. Had David prayed that they might go to a place of eternal torture it would reveal a dreadful condition of mind and heart; and it would be ten thousand times more awful for Jehovah to plan and provide such an endless torture, as some teach. St. Paul’s thought was similar to David’s when he declared in (Gal. 5: 12), “I would they were even cut off which trouble you,” *i.e.*, let them go down quickly into the sleep of death. In addition, Jehovah says, “I took them away as I saw good” (Ezek. 16: 50). The key is here found in the fact that the future Age is for the world’s trial and is the Thousand-year Judgment Day (2 Tim. 4: 1; 2 Pet. 3: 7, 8; Rev. 5: 9, 10), the Millennial Age. Then, all who have not had a full and complete opportunity for salvation in this life, including David’s enemies, shall have that opportunity during the Thousand years to know God and His Truth. It will then be under favorable circumstances for them to have that opportunity to gain everlasting life through Christ (1 Tim. 2: 4, 6; Psa. 136; Rev. 20: 2, 3).

The more we study the Bible and learn of God’s wonderful and glorious character of wisdom, justice, love and power, the more we love Him. The doctrine of eternal torment (usually miscalled hell) violates His character in every one of its teachings. If professed Christians would be honest with themselves and true to God, they would soon learn that “their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men” (Isa. 29: 13, NKJ). If all would decide to let God be true, though it would prove every man a liar (Rom. 3: 4), there would soon be a casting aside of the manufactured creeds and traditions inherited from the heathen. Then the Sacred Word would be studied and appreciated as never before, and instead of God’s character being misrepresented and stained, it would be properly honored and praised. Remember, God is not a God of torment.

* * *



A CHRISTIAN HOME

“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth.”
Eccl. 12: 1

The arrangement of years gone by, when the mothers of the human family were considerably separated from the selfishness and strife of business and occupation in the world, is now a thing of the past. This has resulted in a more rapid decline into extreme selfishness and sin, not only to the mother herself but, wherever this arrangement of the mother remaining in the home is interfered with, it results in more or less of disadvantage to the children.

Mothers should appreciate the great power for good which the Lord has placed in their hands! That they could realize that the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that influences the world! To understand this and to use the opportunity providentially placed in their hands would be a proper response to the Divine arrangement. The trouble is that the counsel of the Lord's Word and the arrangements of Divine providence on this as on other subjects usually pass measurably unheeded. The poor world is doing perhaps as well as it knows

Christian mothers and fathers, especially those whose eyes of understanding are opening to a larger appreciation of the Divine character and plan, should be swift to avail themselves of their privileges in the training of their children—their responsibilities. Let none think that the work is small and insignificant and without its influence. Children brought up to reverence and to be obedient to God, to their parents, and to the Golden Rule would be commendable. Regularity, punctuality and truthfulness, prepares them for their own blessing in life, and their influence will extend to the community.

Even if there were no such desirable input to be exercised outside the family circle, the proper training of children means so much to the general peace, comfort and love constituting a home. The father should take his responsibilities as the head of the family and the mother and father cooperate together for the guidance of the family. In the past the mother had the major part of the responsibility for the training of the children, but now she has the additional role of being a co-breadwinner of the family due to world economic change. Therefore, the father is no longer the sole financial support and must assume many of the home duties as well as more dedication to the bringing-up of children than previously. The responsibility for training the children in most families is now a share-and-share-alike accountability. With the Christian, the added assistance and guidance which the

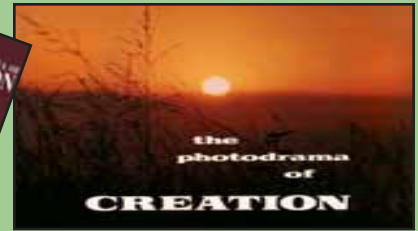
Lord provides is indispensable to keeping the home on an even keel. Many homes without the Lord's help are without rule and order, and therefore, are not safe havens for the family. Many parents, with false conceptions of kindness and indulgence, allow the children to grow up devoid of the proper respect for God, for parents and for the rights and interests of others. This is the reason for much of the lawlessness and growing spirit of anarchy everywhere manifest in the world today.

“IN THE DAYS OF YOUR YOUTH”

The Golden Text of our lesson should be made prominent in every family. The child who learns to remember and reverence his Creator, who learns also of his own imperfections and how they were incurred, and that the death penalty is the curse resting upon himself and all the world, blighting every earthly prospect, will be in an attitude to receive the message of salvation from the curse—to learn of how God in His love has provided Jesus as the great Redeemer, and that the deliverance secured through His death will eventually extend to every member of the human family. Respect for parents follows naturally as a result of reverence for God.

Those of us who have had the good fortune to be born of Christian parents and to be reared under Christian influences, and in God's providence, quite early in life, have been led to see the privilege, as well as the blessing, of consecration to God. Looking back we can see with increasing clearness the many pitfalls and snares and sad experiences which were thereby averted and the great blessings secured. With this as our background, we extend our sympathies toward all who by the grace of God flee from sin and remain close to the Savior and hold His hand. The heavenly Father is especially interested in those who seek the Lord early in life, before the evil days come. We feel a deep interest, therefore, in all the younger readers of this magazine, especially of those who have felt the love of God working in their hearts and who have responded to that drawing influence and have made a full consecration of themselves to walk in the steps of the Captain of our Salvation—steps of self-denial, self-sacrifice, steps which lead, by advancing bit by bit, toward the Kingdom. We extend to all earnest travelers who are so walking, our earnest greetings and salutations in the Lord; congratulation on the steps already trod and best wishes for progress in the future.

* * *



Sons of God, Daughters of Men *Genesis 6: 2-5*

Long before man's creation, angels were created, yet sin was unknown until Adam's day. The beginning of sin, according to the Bible, was in the Garden of Eden. Lucifer, an angel of very high rank, had long cherished in his heart ambitious designs. If opportunity ever offered, he would show God and the angels his grand schemes. His thought is expressed by the Prophet: "I will ascend above the stars [angels], I will be as the Most High"—an Emperor. When Lucifer beheld the first human pair, he was tempted to try his experiment. They were a new order of beings in God's moral image. They had procreative powers, which no angel possessed. Their offspring filling the Earth would be his subjects, through whom he would work out his ambitious schemes. Thus Lucifer became Satan—God's opponent.—Isaiah 14:12-14.

All the holy angels were bewildered. His was the first rebellion against the Almighty's laws. No punishment followed, and the angels queried whether or not God was able to enforce His laws. Centuries rolled on; the human family was wasting; God's penalty, "Dying, thou shalt die," was gradually being enforced. Satan realized that his kingdom of dying subjects would make but a poor showing ever. He conceived a plan to outwit God and develop a new order of beings—hybridized humans, infused with superior vitality.

The angels possessed a God-given power of materialization. They could appear in human bodies resembling those of men. The Bible attests this (Genesis 18). The angels were permitted contact with the fallen race to prove whether they could bring mankind back to God.—Hebrews 2: 5.

The record of Genesis 6: 2-5 is that the "sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair, and they took unto themselves wives of all they preferred." Thus the angels became the fathers of a new race, distinct from Adam's. The record is that these were giants, physically and intellectually—"men of renown," who filled the Earth with violence.

Questions on Lesson 15

1. Were angels created before men? Par. 1
2. Where did sin begin?
3. Who was Lucifer? What were his designs?
4. What was Lucifer tempted to do when he beheld the first pair?
5. In what way did Adam and Eve differ from the angels?
6. How did Lucifer become Satan?
7. What effect did Lucifer's sin have upon the holy angels? Par. 2
8. What did Satan realize when he saw God's penalty upon the human race?
9. Could the angels materialize? Did they? Par. 3
10. Why were the angels permitted contact with the human race?
11. How did the evil angels become fathers of a new race? Par. 4
12. How did this race differ from the human family?
13. With what did they fill the earth?



GEN. 6: 2

SONS OF GOD

DAUGHTERS OF MEN

The *Photo Drama of Creation* and *Study Guide* may be purchased separately or as a set. *Photo-Drama* \$7.50; *Study Guide* \$5.75 or \$12.00 for the set.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Greetings:

Three months ago I stumbled upon your magazine, The Bible Standard, and requested one of your publications out of curiosity. I was absolutely delighted and astounded with what I read, and cannot begin to tell you how much I appreciate your ministry. Here's why:

Five years ago I was at home in New Orleans (since destroyed by hurricane Katrina), thumbing through the pages of my Bible when my eye fell upon Hebrews 2: 3; "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation:" I have read that verse many times and thought I understood it well, but what seemed to leap off the page was the phrase, "so great salvation," and I thought, what is so great about our salvation other than the fact that Jesus died for our salvation? That alone makes it great, but that was not the strong impression I received, and I soon found myself strangely obsessed with the subject of our salvation. The scriptures began to take on a new light as I read them concerning Jesus and the Church. I was absolutely astounded to find that salvation could not be offered to the Old Testament saints before Jesus' Atonement, nor was salvation ever offered to Israel under the terms and conditions of the Old Covenant, contrary to popular belief. Next, I discovered the exclusiveness of the call to the Church and the hitherto unnoticed greatness of that call. I immediately told my wife of the insights gained

from the Word of the Lord, but she rejected it as being unheard of. So did my friends. But far from being discouraged I pursued my studies. You cannot imagine how astounded I was when reading those very same things in your book, "At-One-Ment Between God and Man." Furthermore I was shocked to learn those things were written around the turn of the twentieth century, a full one hundred years ago. I wondered why the church as a whole does not seem to know of our great destiny as recorded in the Scriptures, and how we could have turned to a myopic belief that simply going to heaven was the end all and be all of our salvation. Instead, slogans have replaced the meat of the Word such as, "Absent from the body, present with the Lord," "Once Saved Always Saved," etc.

I have been a student of the Word for over forty-seven years, but I have gained an astonishing new perspective in reading the scriptures in only three short months. Thanks to our Lord and the wonderful work He has done through you. Please accept the enclosed donation as a small token of my appreciation.

Your brother in Christ
R. L., West Valley City, UT

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Please note that there has been a price increase on some of our publications.

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SERVICES BY VISITING MINISTERS

Ralph Herzig

Windsor Locks, CT Convention, May 15, 16, 17

Janusz Puzdrowski

Sheffield, England, May 17

Leon Snyder

Erie, PA, May 13; Windsor Locks, CT Convention, May 15, 16, 17; Wrentham, MA, May 19; Springfield, MA, May 20; Pittsfield, MA, May 21; Stanford, NY, May 22; New Haven, CT, May 24; Chester Springs, PA, May 27; Carlstadt, NJ, May 31

Donald Lewis

Windsor Locks, CT Convention, May 15, 16, 17; Denver, CO, June 13, 14

Robert Herzig

Windsor Locks, CT Convention, May 15, 16, 17; Lauderdale Lakes, FL, June 7

John Wojnar

Windsor Locks, CT Convention, May 15, 16, 17; Springfield, MA, June 7

Thomas Cimbur

Windsor Locks, CT Convention, May 15, 16, 17

James Shaw

Mustang, OK, May 24; Independence, KS, June 14

Robert Steenrod

Windsor Locks, CT Convention, May 15, 16, 17; Indianapolis, IN, May 24; Cincinnati, OH, June 7

Daniel Herzig

Windsor Locks, CT Convention, May 15, 16, 17

Jon Hanning

Detroit, MI, May 9; Windsor Locks, CT Convention, May 15, 16, 17; Columbus, OH, June 28

EVANGELISTS' SERVICES

Kenneth Arends

Minneapolis, MN, June 6, 7

David F. Hanning

Detroit, MI, June 27

Michael Hanning

Chester Springs, PA, May 10; Columbus, OH, May 31

Jesse Julien

Pittsfield, MA, June 14

David Lounsbury

Carlstadt, NJ, May 3

Walter Markiewicz

Osoyoos, BC, Canada, June 13, 14; Moscow, ID, July 11, 12

Roger Mullen

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William Sturges

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Lawrence Williams

Columbus, OH, May 24; Derry, PA, June 28; Erie, PA, July 12

Michael Williams

Athens/Nelsonville, OH, May 3; West Frankfort, IL, June 14; Derry, PA, July 26

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Summer: July 31, August 1, 2;

Fall: October 31, November 1

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Velbert, May 30, 31, June 1; Diez, October 9, 10, 11

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Krakow, August 21, 22, 23

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