



Appendix One

God's Hand in History

Selections from the book by J. Walter Rich

“This matter is by decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”—*Daniel 4:17.*

GOD'S HAND IN WORLD WAR II

It was during the dark days of May 1940, when Britain called upon God to bring relief and victory to what seemed to be an impossible rescue of the British army. On the 15th day of May, representatives of the world's *Evangelical Alliance* met in London; they passed a resolution, calling upon His Majesty, King George VI, through Prime Minister Churchill, to set apart an Empire Day of Prayer. This was done. And May 26 was the day to be observed for that purpose. Within forty-eight hours after the plea for Divine Mercy and Intervention, God began to work; and Prime Minister Churchill, who had feared that he might be compelled to announce the greatest military disaster in Britain's history, did announce on June 4th that 335,000 men facing complete annihilation for lack of

food and ammunition were miraculously saved by way of Dunkerque.

A dense fog settled down over the English Channel; and it did its helpful work in screening, from the many German aircraft, the vessels sent to rescue the men. And the English Channel was more calm than it had been for years. Once before God had protected His people, by hiding them from the sight of their enemies by a cloud (Ex 14:10-20); and again a miracle was wrought at Dunkerque by the same God and through the same means. Had Hitler's forces followed her successes across the Channel, the war would have been over. Why didn't they do it? Only God can answer. The arrangement was in His hand.

GOD'S HAND SEEN IN HUMAN EVENTS

"Thou art the God that doest wonders: Thou hast declared Thy strength among the people."—*Psalm 77:14.*

A man whose duties require him to travel extensively over that great continent, sometime ago, was to make a trip from Argentina to Chili. The trip was to be made by plane. All arrangements were made, and the time came for the trip to start.

On arriving at the airport, he learned that his transportation had been cancelled for some reason; and he was obliged to defer his trip, anxious though he was to proceed. Every avenue just closed up for him; and there was nothing that he could do about it. He simply could not go. Try as he would, he could not understand the why of the delay.

The plane started, and he stood watching it fade away in the distance; but he was left behind. About half an hour later, word was received that the plane had crashed with the loss of all on board. Then he understood it all. A kindly Providence, who does not

always explain His reasons in advance, had closed the door in his face; but it was for his good.

God is no respecter of persons; and what He did for this man, He is repeating for others right along. When your life's record is reviewed, no one knows how many such incidents will be revealed—incidents of which we will most likely know nothing about. It pays to trust God's guiding hand.

“Lord God of Hosts, whose almighty hand
 Dominion holds on sea and land,
 In peace and war
 Thy will we see
 Shaping the larger liberty.
 Nations may rise and nations fall,
 Thy changeless purpose rules them all.”

WEAPONS IN GOD'S ARSENAL

Let no one think that God does not have an arsenal, nor that it is not well-equipped, and that with the most modern, streamlined equipment, yes, and the most effective that can be used. It never yet has failed to bring satisfactory results; nor do we have reason to believe that it ever will fail. It might be well for us to take a stroll through the plant, and observe some of the implements used. Naturally they are not all placed where the public eye can see them; so do not think that, in passing through, you are going to become acquainted with a full assortment of what He has prepared, nor with much that He has preserved in His secret place. Many of His secret weapons will not be known before the time comes, when He wishes to use them.

The prophet, Jeremiah, has been left with the responsibility of introducing us to the fact that He has such a place. Jeremiah says, “The Lord hath opened His armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of His indignation: for this is the work of the Lord God

of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.” Jeremiah 50:25.

God is never unprepared. His weapons are ready, and can be brought forth on a moment's notice. He knows about the treachery of His enemy. So He is ever ready to strike, and to strike effectively. In bringing forth these weapons, the prophet Isaiah says: “The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together; the Lord of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the Lord, and the weapons of His indignation, to destroy the whole land.” Isaiah 13:4-5.

Describing the effect of His approach upon His enemies the prophet continues, “Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt; and they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain . . . they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.” Isaiah 13:6-9.

Our God is a God of love; but there is a limit to His mercy. His “spirit will not always strive with man.” When His anger becomes aroused by man's persistent refusal to listen, there is anguish in His cup of wrath; and, when it is emptied, it is to be drained to its dregs.

When God's people become concerned by the haughty treatment of evil doers, it is well to be reminded that “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against

thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord." Isaiah 54:17.

GOD'S WEAPON: THE WIND

Let us take just one weapon at a time, and note how effectively God has seen fit to use it in His dealings with men and nations in the past. The prophet calls the department where the "wind" is stored "the treasury." Let us make our first visit there. For our purpose, let us speak of the "wind" as God's airline. In going forth to battle, Jeremiah says: "When He uttereth His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens; and He causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth: He maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of His treasures." Jeremiah 51:16.

The clouds are God's chariot, and the "wind" His airline route. And now we see Him going forth to battle. "Who layeth the beams of His chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds His chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind." Psalm 104:3. "And He rode upon a cherub (highest form of angels), and did fly: yea, He did fly upon the wings of the wind." Psalm 18:10. "Stormy wind fulfilling His word." Psalm 148:8.

How effectually God can use the implements of His arsenal! For the following incident, we are indebted to Dr. E.E. Helms, Pastor of the First Methodist Church of Los Angeles:

THE WIND AT YPRES

It was at four o'clock on the afternoon of April 22, 1915, that the Kaiser's army at Ypres [in northwest Belgium] turned loose for the first time the deadly poisonous gas on the allies. It was all unexpected; and the allied armies, all unprotected, fell in windrows. They were piled up like bloated cordwood. All the Kai-

ser's army now needed to do was to march through, take the English Channel, and the world was hers. Then why didn't they do it? And why was this particular time selected to turn loose the gas?

It was not the military, but the meteorological authorities that fixed the hour. Dr. Schmaus, the head of the German meteorological department, announced to the General that the direction of the wind was fixed and settled for thirty-six hours to come; and it would carry the gas out over the allied lines. So the gas was turned loose—when, all of a sudden, it whirled and flung itself back over the German army. And the Kaiser's army, gasping, strangling, staggered by the thousands to their death. Dr. Schmaus in his official report said: "In forty years of Meteorologic records, of the German government, the wind never acted so peculiarly before." And the doubly strange and striking thing was that the wind whirled in only a small area.

THE WIND AT GETTYSBURG

For this account, we are likewise indebted to Pastor Helms, as in the above, for the following information:

"The first day of the battle, the Union forces were pounded into the shape of a fishhook. The Confederates were an enveloping horseshoe. The plan was that Longstreet should attack on one side and Ewell on the other; and that, between them, they would crush the Union army like an eggshell, and the war would be won. Longstreet began to bombard, and kept it up for four hours. He went down to defeat before Ewell began. Ewell, in his official report said, "The wind was so peculiar I could not hear Longstreet's bombardment, and didn't know he was attacking until it was over."

THE WIND AND THE SPANISH ARMADA

It was in the days of the Reformation. Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, was executed. Before her death she bequeathed her claim to the English crown to Philip II of Spain. To acquire the crown, Philip fitted out a powerful fleet to punish England and make the country his own. Great fleets were gathered in the harbors of Spain, a large army was assembled, and the enterprise was blessed by Pope Sixtus V, thus making the affair a sort of crusade.

England was stirred mightily, and well she might be. Philip, the Spanish king, at the time was the most powerful potentate in Europe, commanding the resources of a large part of two worlds. England was not a strong nation, and was no match for the power behind the Spanish throne. To a man, the English arose to defend their island realm against the ambitious project of Spain.

It was July 19, 1588, that the *Invincible Armada*, as it was boastfully called, made its appearance to the watchers on the English cliffs. The English had a small fleet, but it was no match for the enemy against which they fought; however they made a good showing for themselves. Alone, they would have gone down to defeat. Just here God drew from His armory, His tried weapon—the wind. A terrible tempest arose; and many of the fleeing ships of the *Armada* were dashed to pieces on the coasts of Ireland and Scotland. Barely one third of the ships of the *Armada* ever returned to the harbors whence they sailed. When the news of the disaster came to Phillip, he simply said, “God’s will be done; I sent my fleet to fight with the English, not with the elements.” Who can say that God was not watching events, and at the proper time sent forth His weapon—the wind—and brought deliverance to a

struggling people?

Summing up the conquest, the historian says: "The destruction of the Invincible *Armada* was not only a terrible blow to Spanish pride, but an equally heavy blow to Spanish supremacy among the states of Europe. From this time on, Spain's prestige and power rapidly declined.

"As to England, she had been delivered from a great peril; and as to the cause of Protestantism, it was now safe."—*Myers General History*, pp. 558-560.

TO THE WIND - PEACE BE STILL

It is not strange to think that God is the Father (Director) of the wind. To make sure that God has control of the wind, we have only to go to the story given us in the Scriptures, as recorded in Mark 4:35-41:

"And the same day, when the even was come, He saith unto them, let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took Him even as He was in the ship. And there were also with Him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto Him, Master carest Thou not that we perish? And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And He said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

In conclusion let it be remembered that—"The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, *and will not at all acquit the wicked*: The Lord hath His way in the

whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet." Nahum 1:3.

HE SENDETH RAIN

It rains and we are glad. It rains too much and we are sad. Most of us never stop to think that the rain is under control, that it may be withdrawn or increased, but this is true. The rain has a Father (Director). It was Jesus who said, "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven . . . and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Matthew 5:45. God's bounties are not specialized until there comes a crisis; and then His bounties may be either a blessing or a curse. He sends the rain upon the earth, that it may produce even for the unthankful. "The rain cometh down and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater." Isa 55:10.

How helpless is man in the face of circumstances. Should the heavens withhold their rain, the earth fails to produce, and man starves to death. Should more rain come than can be utilized, the same thing happens—man starves to death. Man starves when there is no rain; and he starves when there is too much. And yet he is as helpless as a babe to prevent either. A blessing abused may become a blessing removed; and so God holds a controlling hand over the distribution of the rain. Could we be made conscious of His kindly beneficence and of our dependence upon God, what marvelous changes might be wrought in man's relationship to his God. God is continually dispensing His blessings; and He delights to do so. But when man becomes so neglectful as to become ungrateful or to misuse His bounties, He speaks in a language that cannot be misunderstood. The blessing is removed,

to give time to meditate.

How gently God shows us our neglect. "Take heed to yourselves that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; and then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and He shut up the heaven, and there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you." Deuteronomy 11:16-17. "And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed." Deuteronomy 28:23-24.

A CLOUDBURST THAT MADE HISTORY

What He is able to do for cities and farms, He is able to do for, and with, nations and armies. The following will illustrate: It was during World War I. It was the darkest June of the war. The Axis forces had swept down the Alps to swallow Italy. Venice lay just before the enemy, right in the very heart of Italy. To have lost Venice just at that time would have meant much to the allies. Not only would it have broken the heart of Italy, but it meant that the Central powers would have easily taken Florence, Rome, Naples, Milan—all in Italy. To have had this happen just at this time would have meant the loss of the war to the allies; and all that stood between the Central powers and victory was the Piave River. The river was no barrier to the progress of the invader. A slow sluggish stream, it flowed sleepily toward the sea, a distance of one hundred and twenty-five miles. The banks were low and flat; and, with just a little effort, bridges could be thrown across or pontoons [flat-bottom boats or portable floats used in building temporary bridges] could be quickly pro-

vided for the passage of an army.

The invaders poured over the river by the tens of thousands, taking no provisions with them. Were not the granaries of Italy just before them? Every soldier took with him an empty bag; and every officer's knapsack was empty. Scores of automobiles and trucks went over, expecting to bring back loads of booty. Look, they are only six and one half miles from Venice. The flame of victory is reflected upon the reddened sky; and the air is filled with their shouts of success. Then all of a sudden the unexpected happened. Out of an apparently dead and empty sky a veritable Niagara burst forth. In an hour that sleepy river became a raging, racing, roaring, mad flood of waters. It swept everything before it—boats, bridges, trees, soldiers. Whole battalions of German and Austrian soldiers were carried toward the sea. Here they were cut off from their supplies.

A great terror seized them; and more than forty thousand were killed or captured by the Italians. General Foch, when appraised of the incident said, "General Dias did his best." Without God's having stepped in, General Dias' best would not have amounted to much. General Dias knew that was the case when he sobbingly said, "*Deus facit*" (God did it).

RAIN DEFEATED NAPOLEON AT WATERLOO

God had said there would not be another great United Empire of the world. There would be smaller nations and fragments; but disunion was to predominate the nations, when Rome was finally divided among the various tribes who would divide the spoils of war. Some great ambitious leaders neglected to know, or paid no attention to what God had said, and planned their program as though God was not to be given consideration. Among them we may mention Charlemagne

in the eighth century, Charles V in the sixteenth century, Louis the XIV in the seventeenth century, Napoleon Bonaparte in the nineteenth century, Kaiser Wilhelm in the Twentieth century, and more recently a man by the name of Adolph Hitler. Needless to say, all these failed. But it is of Napoleon's attempt that we wish to speak; for it illustrates again how God draws upon the weapons of His arsenal, to send defeat or bring relief to His oppressed.

We are interested particularly in why Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo. He had the genius; and he had the men who knew how to fight. But he lost at Waterloo. Napoleon was anxious for the contest. He had ordered the fight to open at six a.m.; and he planned that, by 2 p.m., all would be over. So far as strategy was concerned, it might have been true. Wellington could not win without Bleucher; and Bleucher could not arrive before 5 o'clock. But Napoleon did not begin the battle at 6 o'clock, nor seven, nor eight, nor nine, nor ten, nor eleven. All during the night, God had brought forth His weapon from the heavens. He had sent the rain down through the trees and had made the ground so soft that Napoleon could not use his artillery; and he could not win without its use. Bleucher did arrive at 5 o'clock; and God's prophecy about a United Empire was fulfilled. Napoleon went down to defeat and the nations remained divided. Who sent the rain that prevented Napoleon from winning at Waterloo? and we might ask who sent the rain at Piave?

THY PATH IS IN THE GREAT WATERS

No nation keeps its arsenal supplied with but one weapon of warfare. There are a number of effective weapons that may be brought into use to meet every need and to supply any emergency. There are rifles, revolvers, hand grenades, mortar shells, rifle shells,

swords, daggers, bayonets, tanks, torpedoes, bombs, etc., etc. So God is not confined to one weapon to carry on His work in dealing with nations and individuals. We have just mentioned the wind and the rain. Now let us note that the sea is also a weapon that has been used in the past; and it may be called into service again should the need arise.

THE MASTER OF THE SEA

To make it clear that God is a God of the sea, let us refer to a story that is always so interesting. It is recorded in the New Testament, in Matthew 14:22-33. Jesus had just performed a mighty miracle in having fed from twelve to fifteen thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fishes. The disciples had been sent down to the sea, and told to pass over, while Jesus Himself went up into the mountain to pray. The disciples had had time to make their journey. And they might have been taking a much needed rest. But now it was midnight; and they were in the midst of the ship, in the midst of the sea, and in the midst of a storm. It was no little play storm either. The wind was blowing a real gale; the waves were dashing the ship about, in addition to filling the ship with water.

The disciples were in despair and almost abandoning hope. Then they saw what they thought was a spirit; and their superstitious fear led them to conclude that they had come to the end of their lives. This supposed spirit turned out to be none other than Jesus. He was walking on the water. Never had they seen such a thing before. The Master of the sea was walking on its billows. The sea recognized its Maker; and, at His word, the wind ceased and the sea calmed down to one of its most peaceful conditions. The proud waves of the sea of Gallilee were calmed by just a word from Jesus. The psalmist has written, "The sea is His,

and He made it." Psalm 95:5. And in the fourth commandment we read, "For in six days the Lord made Heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is." Exodus 20:11. Why should it not obey His voice?

The psalmist has written, "They that do go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep." Ps 107:23-24.

ISRAEL CROSSES THE SEA ON DRY GROUND

One of the most outstanding events in all the story of the sea is that where the Israelites had been slaves in the land of Egypt. God had sent Moses down to Egypt to effect their release from this servitude and bondage. They were on their way out of Egypt, and had proceeded as far as the Red Sea. The king of Egypt had changed his mind about releasing them, and followed them with his army. Israel was hemmed in with the sea before them, a mountain beside them, and the Egyptian army behind them.

God told them to stand still and give Him a chance to work with the sea in their behalf. He dropped a cloud between Israel and the Egyptian army, so that neither could see the other. God controlled the sea. And, during the night, He push the waters up on either side of the sea, leaving a path between these walls; and Israel marched over on dry ground. Exodus 15:8. God did His work—His strange work—there in the sea. Nothing has ever happened in all the history of the world that will compare with what God did with the sea for the children of Israel. Truly God does do some marvelous things, and things that we cannot understand. Truly "Thy way is in the sea, and Thy path in the great waters." Psalm 77:19. God used His weapon—the sea—and spared His people the harrowing experience that was to have been meted out by

Pharaoh's army.

SAVED FROM TITANIC DISASTER

No water can swallow any child of God unless it is His best way for him. Jonah was spared a watery grave in a very unique experience, such as none other has ever had. God knows the sea is a dangerous place. It was not made a place for man to live, and man was not made to live in the sea; yet God can and does care for His people, when duty calls them there. Or He may build a fence to keep them from the danger that may come. A man had arranged for passage on the great *Titanic*. At the last minute, he was unable to take passage just then. The *Titanic* struck an iceberg; and nearly everyone was lost. Who can say that God did not have a hand in arranging a changed program to prevent him taking passage on that ill-fated vessel? There are times when in most unexpected ways God reveals the fact that He often stands "within the shadow, keeping watch above His own."

PRAYER STARTS PLANE ENGINE

Listen to this testimony from a service man in World War II—Keith Argraves, of Portland. He says: "God always answers my prayers." Following is a brief account of his experience which provides a background for his statement:

"As one of more than 500 paratroopers flown across the ocean from England to spearhead the invasion of North Africa, he received almost immediate answer to his plea for help when one of the motors of the plane failed. Just before the officer in charge of the group gave the order to jump into the ocean from the crippled plane, God interrupted Keith's audible prayer for help by starting the motor. It did not falter again during the rest of the fifteen hundred mile journey.

"Adventure, heroic service, and divine protection

crowded the next three years of his life. Shot down on a second flight, yet spared while his comrades died about him; protected through a battle in which all his fellow troopers fell; surviving death though wounded and captured at the close of a volunteer 'suicide mission;' cheating death by a narrow margin in three escapes from the enemy; surviving the horror of twenty- six months imprisonment in sixteen Axis prison camps, and in time to give valuable information to his country. His story sounds like a modern recital of the deliverance of the three Hebrews from the fiery furnace and the release of Peter from prison. Now discharged from the service, Cpl. Argraves has the Purple Heart and a presidential citation from the 'suicide' group of which he was a member. Described as 'one of the bravest men in the battalion' by his commanding officer in a conversation with Eleanor Roosevelt, he typifies the brave men who trusted God while facing death in order to help their wounded comrades on the field of battle."—*Snapshots from Life in the Service,* December 1945.

SUBMARINE MENACE

In World War I, it was recognized that submarine warfare was a real menace to allied shipping. Such warfare was at its height. For ten months Hitler's factories had been turning out submarines, to sweep the sea of allied ships and soldiers. To them the work was done and the war was won. The papers were already boasting of winning the war by the use of submarines, unobserved by human eyes.

But God's hand was not tied because of submarines. Something happened. The sea began to behave as it had never done before. The waves rolled and raged and refused to quiet down. To men they were like the waves of the sea of Galilee; and there was nothing that

could be done about it. But God's hand was not shortened, nor His arsenal empty. Those turbulent waves kept the submarines from returning to their bases. They were forced to come to the surface; and, when this happened, they were captured or sunk—one hundred and ninety one, with three thousand of their crews. The backbone of the submarine warfare was broken.

Does not a new meaning come into such statements as these to be found in the Scriptures, after having read these experiences?

“Thou rulest the raging of the sea.” Ps. 89:9.

“But the sea overwhelmed their enemies.” Ps. 78:53.

WATERS OF JORDAN STAYED

One other incident of God's Providential leading and doing wonders for His people in the paths of the waters is given us in the experience of the Israelites crossing the river Jordan on their way to Canaan. It was harvest time; and the river was at its height during this season. God told Joshua to have the feet of the priests touch the water of Jordan. As they did so, the water above them began piling up while the waters beneath ran away and a dry path was made for their passage over the bed of the river. Truly God is the Master of the waters of the deep; and how faithfully do they obey His voice!

A DRINK THAT MADE HISTORY

While we are speaking of God's wonder-working power in the sea, let us associate it with an interesting item of thirst. This particular item reveals His workings in the making of history; and it is a splendid sequel to what has already been given. This item comes to us under the title of *A Drink That Made History*; and it was written by Major Peter W. Rainier, with the British forces in North Africa. Thus it was an event of

World War II. The Major writes:

“Most of the world believes that the Axis advance through North Africa was stopped by the British at Alamein. It wasn't. On July 3rd, 1942, Rommel smashed the allied center, and what was left of three Panzer divisions plunged through. Before nightfall they had covered half the 50 miles between Alamein and Alexandria.

“The following day, one of the most fateful of this war, a fantastic drama was played on the desert sands.

“Rommel's men could see the towers of Alexandria, the goal for which they had striven for two years of bitter desert warfare. Rest, food, water—particularly water for their parched throats seemed almost at arm's length. They started forward.

“But suddenly a dust cloud rose in the desert between them and their prize. It was scuffed skyward by a remnant of our British army—50 tanks, a few score field pieces, lorries filled with weary soldiers.

“In this sector, the enemy had about the same strength as the allies. Their tanks had also been reduced to about 50; and they had an equal number of men, about 5,000. The only difference was in fire power; we had nothing to match the Axis 88's.

“Great was the issue to the valor of so few! Had we failed to stop Rommel's Panzers that morning, Alexandria must have fallen; and all Africa would have been lost. Russia might well have been outflanked in the Caucasus; and the Axis tentacles would finally have stretched across Asia to join Japan.

“All through that hot desert morning the opposing forces pounded at each other. Men on both sides were so close to exhaustion, they could hardly see to aim through the sweat-packed sand caking their bloodshot eyes. Each army was close to the breaking point even

when the battle began. As soon as the grim will to fight had been drained to the last drop, one or the other would collapse.

“The sun was almost overhead; and our men were fast reaching the end of their endurance, when the Nazis broke. Ten minutes more and it might have been us. Slowly, sullenly, the Mark VI tanks lumbered back from their battle smoke.

“And then an astounding, incredible thing happened. Eleven hundred men of the 90th Light Panzer Division, the elite of the Afrika Korps, came stumbling across the barren sands with their hands in the air. To have captured a mere handful of the 90th would have given a British regiment something to boast about for months; but for 1,100 of them to surrender when escape lay open—that was nothing short of a miracle!

“As the Nazis stumbled wearily closer, the plot of their dread desert drama began to unfold. Cruelly cracked and black with coagulated blood, their swollen tongues were protruding from their mouths. Crazy they tore water bottles from the necks of our men; and they poured life-saving swallows between their parched lips. Later I talked with some of them. And this is the story they told:

“When they had broken through at Alamein the day before, they had already been 24 hours without water. But at our overrun defenses they found a six-inch water pipeline. At various points along a ten-mile stretch, where it was above the ground, they shot holes in it and then dropped to their knees to drink the cool, gushing stream. In all, a thousand men drank the water and took great gulps before their parched throats gave a belated warning: *The water was salt.*

“All night those men suffered unspeakably. Only the lure of quenching their thirst in Alexandria sus-

tained them through the hours of the grim desert battle next morning. But, when the Nazi tanks turned tail, the infantrymen could bear the agony no longer. In a mass they started for our side—and freshwater.

“Why was that pipeline full of saltwater? As the officer responsible for supplying the eighth army with water through all its desert campaign, I can give you the answer. The pipeline was a new one. And I never wasted precious freshwater in testing a line; I always used saltwater. If the Panzers had punched through Alamein the day before, that pipeline would have been empty. Two days later it would have been full of freshwater. As it happened (God was directing that warfare), the Nazis got saltwater; and they didn’t detect the salt at once because their sense of taste had already been anesthetized by the brackish water they had been used to and by thirst.

“The balance of that crucial desert battle was so even that I believe the enemy without the salted torture might have outlasted us; and then defenseless Alexandria would have fallen into their hands. On so small a turn of fate is history written.”—*Readers Digest, January 1944.*

It is not difficult to read between the lines of this story and see the hand of God throwing the balance in the scale of that evenly fought battle toward the allied forces. Truly God is seen within the shadow, *keeping watch.*

THERE SHALL BE FAMINES

More than once have men and nations been called upon to go through the agonies of famine. Not always is it for any cause of their own. Such a famine is bad enough; but, when an individual or a nation brings about a famine because of their wickedness and their iniquities, then it is doubly tragic.

One condition is especially assuring for the man or woman who knows God. And there are promises given by the great Provider: "They shall not be ashamed in the evil time; and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied." Psalm 37:19. Or again, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalm 37:25.

FAMINE IN CANAAN

It is to be remembered that Abraham went into the land of Egypt, because there was a famine in Canaan. Later his grandson, Jacob, sent his sons into Egypt to buy corn for the same reason. Just previous to this famine in Canaan, Joseph, Jacob's son, had been sold into Egypt by his hateful brothers. And now, through God's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream by Joseph, Egypt has laid by provision for a coming famine; and Jacob and the wicked brothers of Joseph are to benefit by God's prearrangement for their safety. Genesis 12, 41-42.

As an illustration of God's provisional care for Israel as they traveled through the wilderness toward the land of Canaan, God fed them with manna; thus He sustained them for forty long years of desert life. Read Exodus 16.

It was one of God's promises to Israel that, after landing in Canaan, He would keep their land productive, in return for their faithful obedience. The record states: "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God . . . Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store . . . The Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee. The Lord

shall open to thee His good treasure, the heaven to give thee rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow." Deut 28:2, 5, 11-12.

The provisions of this promise were more than Israel was willing to execute; so time and again we find them in the midst of some very severe famine. One of these famines has already been referred to, that which took place during the days of Jacob and lasted for seven long years. In Israel, another famine was induced by Ahab himself, in allowing the prophets of Baal to carry on idol worship directly opposed to God's direction. In this instance, the prophets of Baal were destroyed; and then the famine was brought to an end by God's sending rain upon their land again.

FAMINE, WHEN JERUSALEM WAS BESIEGED

A final Biblical pronouncement of judgment against Israel for their infidelity is given by Moses when he told them of the curses that would follow them in case they failed to remain true and loyal to God. Included in these curses was the pronouncement of a dreaded famine that would be visited upon them. "Famine" is named as one of the weapons that may be drawn from God's arsenal. And its severity is described when they were to be besieged and famine would wear down their city and nation. The words of the prophecy are, "And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee. And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which

the Lord thy God hath given thee. And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the Lord thy God hath given thee . . . So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave. So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates. The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not venture to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter . . . and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates." Deuteronomy 28:51-57.

Remember this prediction was to apply if they failed to obey God. They failed; and here is a brief sketch of its fulfillment. God's weapon of "famine" was drawn; and the stroke is described thus:

"The city was invested at the time of the Passover, when millions of Jews were assembled within its walls. (This is the destruction spoken of by Jesus, in Matt. 24, and took place in A.D. 70.) Their stores of provisions, which if carefully preserved would have supplied the inhabitants for years, had previously been destroyed through the jealousy and revenge of the contending factions; and now all the horrors of starvation were experienced. A measure of wheat was sold for a talent. So fierce were the pangs of hunger that men would gnaw the leather of their belts and san-

dals and the coverings of their shields. Great numbers of the people would steal out at night to gather wild plants growing outside the city walls, though many were siezed and put to death with cruel torture; and often those who returned in safety were robbed of what they had gleaned at so great peril. The most inhuman tortures were inflicted by those in power, to force from the want-stricken people the last scanty supplies which they might have concealed. And these cruelties were not infrequently practiced by men who were themselves well fed, and who were merely desirous of laying up a store of provision for the future.

“Thousands perished from famine and pestilence. Natural affection seemed to have been destroyed. Husbands robbed their wives, and wives their husbands. Children would be seen snatching food from their aged parents.” *Great Controversy*, pp. 32-33.

At the trial of Jesus before Pilate, the Jews had cried out in vengeance, “His blood be on us and on our children.” Matthew 27:25. Little did they realize that their judgment would come upon them in the form of a famine predicted fourteen centuries before, for just such an impious act as crucifying the one who had made the prediction to them through His delegated servant—Moses. How effectively do the weapons drawn from God’s arsenal work to accomplish His purposes.

POTATO CROP LOST WORLD WAR I

A famine is brought about by an absence of food production. Therefore the production of food is an essential occupation, and especially in the time of war. Germany went about this task very methodically and scientifically. By the spring of 1917, German scientists had solved the problem of growing food and grain as it had never been solved before. The announcement came out that that year would see the best po-

tato crop ever grown. In each hill of potatoes, they had placed an element that would kill every enemy of the potato either under or above ground. How those potatoes grew! Every thing went well until those uncounted acres of potatoes were in blossom; and then a blight heretofore unknown swept over those potato fields. And the glowing prospects of the potato crop faded. The Colorado beetle, a pest unknown till then, did the work. And Kaiser learned what Napoleon had learned, that a famine is a bad thing for a country in time of war. General Ludendorff claimed that the failure of this potato crop in 1917 cost the war.

This will help us to read, with new interest, those statements that come to us from the Scriptures:

Genesis 45:6 "There shall neither be earing or harvest."

Isaiah 17:11 "Harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief."

Genesis 8:22 "Seedtime and harvest shall not cease."

Proverbs 20:4 "Therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing."

Jeremiah 8:20 "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

A FAMINE FOR BIBLES COMING

A greater and still more grievous famine is still in the future. A famine for food is bad enough; but a famine for having the needs of the soul supplied is much more serious and important: *a famine for hearing the Words of God*. Because of our constant and continued disregard for the Word of God, a time will come when we will wish we had it so much; but our wants then must go unsatisfied. Read these solemn and stirring words: "Behold the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a fam-

ine for bread, not a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst." Amos 8:11-13.

Our only refuge then will be to call on the reserve that we have the opportunity of supplying now. That famine is sure to come; and it will find many without a reserve. Proverbs 1:23-33. Read these verses carefully and prayerfully; and act now upon the message they bring to your own soul. Just in passing, don't forget that famines for bread are not all in the past. Jesus said, "There shall be famines" in answering the question of His disciples, "What shall be the sign of Thy coming?"

THE CLOUDS IN OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE WARFARE

Think if you can what the history of this earth might have been had there been no clouds. So many times we would have missed the presence of God; for He has revealed Himself in the midst of the clouds on numerous occasions. Not only has the glory of God been made manifest by His presence in the cloud as it hung over the sanctuary and mountain top, but the finest presentation of art and the most beautiful blending of colors has been revealed and associated with the glories of the sunset. Who has not stood and drunk deeply into his innermost soul the beauties presented in the glories of a gorgeous commingling of colors as they have hung suspended in the glowing heavens?

Clouds! how much would we miss of the beautiful without them! It was early in the history of the race that God called the attention of man to the unfolding of His providences, as He set His bow in the clouds as

a continual reminder to man that the earth would not again be destroyed by a Flood. Every time one sees the rainbow, he is reminded of God's promise; and there it is in the clouds, ever before our eyes.

CLOUDS HID ISRAEL FROM PHARAOH

Not only has the cloud been a revelation of God's presence, it has brought terror to those who disregard His unseen presence. Think of how Israel was delivered from the army of Pharaoh as they left Egypt to cross the Red Sea. Israel was in a place where the Egyptian army could chasten them, but they did not. God sent His cloud and it settled gently and quietly between Israel—and the Egyptian army; but that was not all. The side of the cloud toward Israel was light while the side to the Egyptians was black. Israel could see plainly; and, during the night, while God was working for them, they could see and marched across the bed of the Red Sea on dry land while their enemies were whiling the time away in impenetrable darkness, unable to move either forward or backward. God's hand was manifest in this unusual display of His wonder-working power. Light and protection on the one side, and darkness and despair on the other. Chariots and horsemen could not have done more for Israel than did the cloud in this remarkable deliverance. No wonder the psalmist could so truthfully write, "Who layeth the beams of His chambers in the waters, *who maketh the clouds His chariot*: who walketh upon the wings of the wind." Psalm 104:3.

Clouds have not only revealed the glory such as is manifest in the sunset, they have also veiled, from our sight, views that angels have gloried in seeing. A moment ago we read, from the psalmist, that *the clouds are His chariot*; and now let us read that "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of

angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place." Ps. 68:17.

You have been in trouble. Your life's sky was cloudy. You thought God had forsaken you, and left you to your fate. Remember God is in, and has been behind, many a cloud; and He has stood there "within the shadow, keeping watch above His own." Above you, you could not, and did not, see His kindly hand at the time. "And now men see not the bright light which is in the clouds." Job 37:21. Your eyes were too filled with tears, and your heart was too heavy to look up; but it is still as true, as when the words were first penned, that "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Rom. 8:28. None but God will ever know how much good the clouds have been to our lives. Remember that God still stands behind the promise made when He put the rainbow in the clouds.

God has revealed Himself in the clouds in warring nations. Aerial warfare has just demonstrated its power in war. Up until the atomic bomb made its appearance, aerial warfare was conceded to be the real combat instrument that would decide and locate the visitor. Warfare from the sky! And while God does not delight in war, He does use aerial forces as acceptably as He does the infantry and the navy.

CLOUDS BAFFLE ARMEN

In World War I, the world recognized that Hitler's army was superior to the allies in the air. Her planes were better; and her pilots were better trained. But, during the last few months of that titanic struggle, they were worsted in air battles. The head of the aerial fighting department of the Axis army said in his reports, "The allies do not have superior air ships nor air fighters; but it was the clouds that defeated us. Nearly ev-

ery time we had a bevy of the enemy ships in a pocket ready to take them, one of those accursed clouds would be hanging handy by, and would envelop them as thick as a blanket. The devil himself couldn't find them; and they would escape at leisure. It was the accursed clouds that did it."

Could we have a better protection than an angel or a group of angels? To have the clouds, God's chariots, God's angels, as a close ally is a blessing that cannot be looked upon without having a thrill caused by the sense of security.

A CLOUD DESTROYS AN ARMY

It was during Reformation times. Many of those who had accepted the Christian faith were often pressed by their enemies. And it is under just such a stress that we now recite an instance of how God in a marvelous way defended His people by the ministry of "His clouds." The enemies of these Christian people had come into the home valley of these mountain dwellers, and were seeking them out to destroy them. Following these Christians into their mountain fastnesses, the leader knew approximately where they were; but there was a real mountain barrier between them. In seeking a way to get to them, he discovered that a convulsion of nature had rent the mountains and left a long, narrow, dark chasm that formed the one and only path leading to his prey. He ordered his army to enter this chasm, not knowing how few of them would ever return again. The pathway through this chasm was a rocky ledge on the side of the mountain, so narrow that not more than two abreast could advance along it. If assailed either in front or in the rear, or from above there was no possible escape for them; nor was there any room for the attacked to fight back. It was into this terrible defile that the destroying army

was led. Their prey was ahead of them; and, to all human reasoning, there was no possible way for them to escape. Just one stroke by his soldiers and the work of destruction would be over—so thought the leader of this intruding army. And what was there to turn them back? God had said of another such incident, “I will put My hook in thy nose, and My bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.” 2 Kings 19:28. But what weapon was God going to use to turn them back? Will some mighty angel smite them as he did Sennacherib’s army? No angel blocked the pass as in the case of Balaam. Will thunderbolts and hailstones be rained upon them as upon Sisera? No thunder came; and the hailstones fell not. Will He send the wind or a quake? The wind did not blow and the earth did not quake. But God has not come to His limit by the nonuse of any or all of these. Here He chooses one of the lightest and frailest of all His weapons to be drawn from His wonderful arsenal. And yet no weapon could have more effectually protected those Christian people than the one chosen; and it brought the march of that enemy hest to an instant halt.

A cloud, a white cloud, no bigger than a man’s hand to begin with, was seen to gather on the mountain summit. It was unobserved by the army, but keenly watched by those praying Christians. It began to form at about the same time the army was entering that dark defile. Bigger and Blacker grew that cloud. It began to descend; it came rolling down the mountain side, wave upon wave, like an ocean tumbling out of heaven. It fell right into the chasm where the army had entered, sealing it up and filling it from top to bottom with a black fog. In just a moment, that host was in the night. They were bewildered and stupefied. They could not

advance; and they could not retreat. They could not see either before or behind.

The Christians looked upon this blocking of the invader as an act of God in their behalf; and who can say that it was not? This incident gave them power to repel the invader. Climbing the slopes above the enemy, and coming from their hiding places in all the mountain fastnesses, they spread themselves over the mountain, the paths of which were familiar to them. And while the army stood riveted beneath them, caught in the double foils of the defile and the cloud, they tore up large stones and sent them thundering down into the ravine. Those enemy soldiers were crushed where they stood. Nor was this all. Some of those Christian soldiers entered that defile with sword in hand and attacked them in front. Panic impelled them to flee; but to flee was worse than the sword that faced them or the rocks that came bounding down upon them. They threw each other down in the struggle. Some were trodden to death; others were rolled over the precipice and crushed on the rocks below. Or they drowned in the torrent that rushed below them. Thus again did God keep watch within the shadow, and drew forth His cloud to care for His trusting people (*History of the Waldenses,* by J.A. Wylie).

CHRIST COMES UPON THE CLOUDS

An incident, associated with the work of Jesus Christ, will have to do with the clouds. It is still future. He said to the high priest and to the Jews who were condemning Him to death, "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man . . . coming in the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:64. That coming will be the greatest event of the future. Nothing that ever transpires on this earth, even to the dropping of the atomic bomb, will ever mean more to the men and women of this world than

the coming of Jesus in the clouds of heaven. Every man, woman, and child will be directly effected by it; and it will be the line that marks the pathway of the future. To know God and to be ready for Jesus when He comes in the clouds will mean an eternity of peace, gladness, and contentment. To be unprepared means to suffer an eternal loss. The history of this old world will end with a blaze of glory accompanying Jesus when He returns with all His holy angels with Him. Be sure that you know Him as a personal Saviour before He returns, riding upon His chariot-clouds of angels.

Do not wonder at God's dealings with the fleecy clouds. One hundred and sixty-two times does the Book speak of God's doings with the clouds. "Who maketh the clouds His chariot." Psalm 104:3. "The Lord rideth upon a swift cloud." Isaiah 19:1. "He spread a cloud for a covering." Psalm 105:39. "The clouds are the dust of His feet." Nahum 1:3. "And His strength is in the clouds." Psalm 68:34.

SMITE THEM WITH BLINDNESS

To be physically blind is a real calamity; but there is a blindness that is even worse. Someone has said that there is none so blind as the man who will not see. Evidently the Prophet Ezekiel had this group in mind when he said, "Son of Man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house." Ezekiel 12:2. Let us hope that none of our readers belong to this group of "blind people." A splendid prayer for every one of us is: "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law." Ps. 119:18.

BLINDNESS SPARES FAMILY TROUBLE

One of the first reports that comes to us from the Bible, in which blindness was used as a weapon from

God's arsenal, is that recorded in Gen. 19:1-11. Lot and his family were living in the city of Sodom. A couple of strangers presented themselves at the gate of the city; and hospitable Lot took them home with him for the night. The arrival of these guests at Lot's home became known; and, as the evening hours set in, his home was besieged by citizens from every quarter of the city. They demanded that the guests be turned over to them, which Lot refused to do. They insisted in their demand, and attempted to use force to obtain their purpose.

The guests were angels of God; and, when these wicked citizens were about to prevail, these angel guests took hold of Lot, drew him into the house, and closed the door. The rabble still fought to have their request granted; and the angels smote them with *blindness*. They wearied themselves to find the door, never succeeding. Lot and his family were protected by the ministry of blindness brought forth from the arsenal of God's weapons. This assault was effectually checked by God making seeing eyes blind; nor is it the only time that we find God using this procedure in carrying on His strange work.

BLINDNESS USED TO CAPTURE AN ARMY

A second instance of God's intervening in behalf of His people by using blindness is told in 2 Kings 6:8-20. The king of Syria was endeavoring to invade Israel. His plans were made known to Elisha, who in turn informed the king of Israel; and thus he was unsuccessful in making any headway. More than once his plans had been frustrated; and, in his perplexity, he inquired if there might not be some traitor in his own camp. He was told that such was not the case; but that Elisha knew of his plans, as they were worked out in his own bedchamber, and passed them on to

the king of Israel. And that was why he was no more successful than he was.

Naturally the Syrian king wanted to locate and capture Elisha, which he attempted to do, when he was informed of his abiding place. Sending a great army for the purpose of this capture, they surrounded the city at night and sought by every means to make their effort succeed. In the morning the servant of Elisha arose and saw this great host, with horses and chariots surrounding the city; and he came to his master, to know what should be done.

Confidently the prophet said, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." Then Elisha prayed a simple prayer, and asked God to open the eyes of the young man that he might see. He saw; and the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire about Elisha. They were there all the time, but the young man had not seen them. He too was blind.

The army of the king of Syria approached and Elisha prayed again, asking the Lord to smite this army and their leaders with *blindness*; and God answered Elisha's prayer in the way that he requested. They were not able to see. They were blind.

This was of more value to Elisha than an armed host. He talked to the men who sought to capture him. He told them they were not in the right way, and that the city they had surrounded was not the right city. Kindly he said "Follow me, and I will take you to the man you seek." He led them to Samaria and the king of Israel.

**BLINDNESS STARTED A GREAT MAN
ON THE RIGHT ROAD**

There are times when God uses His arsenal weapons to effect the conversion of an individual. Such an

occasion is brought to us in the conversion of Saint Paul, one of the most prominent of Bible characters. Paul had been an ardent Pharisee, and a great advocate of their teachings and doctrines. He had been at the forefront in opposing those who believed in Jesus Christ. He had letters in his pocket, authorizing him to arrest men and women in Damascus should they be found following the teachings of Christ. On the way to Damascus from Jerusalem just at noon, he and his companions were riding along on horseback, when all at once a bright light from heaven shown upon them. Paul was struck with this light and fell from his horse. He got up, but he could not see. He had been blinded. Whether it was the excessive brightness of the light that blinded him we do not know; but we do know that, for three days, he was led about by his friends as he groped along with them in darkness, so far as physical sight was concerned. One thing that happened, along with his loss of physical sight, was an opening up of his spiritual perception; and, from that time forward, he was a real shining light—not to blind the eyes of men and women, but to give vision so that they might see. There are times when physical blindness becomes the avenue of giving spiritual sight to those who never knew God before.

It was Fanny Crosby who once said that she never would have been able to write her poems, so many of which later became hymns, if she had not lost her eyesight.

ISRAEL BECAME SPIRITUALLY BLIND

Blessings abused become blessings removed. Ignoring the light that heaven had placed in the possession of Israel, it became darkness to them. Rejecting what once they knew to be right was looked upon as foolishness. By perverting the light that God had given,

it became a mysterious darkness, the haze of which made them spiritually blind. The prophet alluded to this when he wrote, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isa. 5:20.

Because of their blindness of heart, Israel failed to recognize Christ when He came; and, being blinded, they turned against Him, and finally called for His crucifixion. Spiritual blindness is a terrible thing, and will lead to terrible results. To prevent such a condition, our only safety lies in accepting and walking in every ray of light that God shines upon our pathway. Physical blindness cheats us out of present blessings. Spiritual blindness will cheat us out of eternal blessings and enjoyment. Prejudice is one of the most hideous monsters of spiritual blindness. Ever keep the mind and heart open for any new revelation of light, and you will have reason to rejoice.

SNOW AND HAIL FROM HEAVEN

As the rain has been used of God to replenish the earth, that it may bring forth bread to the eater and seed to the sower, and as an instrument of punishment as at the flood, so snow may be used for both a blessing and as a weapon from the armory of heaven.

Snow is used as a comforter or blanket on the earth, to protect both plant and animal life from the excessive cold that is in various parts of the earth. It provides warmth. As cold as it is, it also can, and has been, used as an instrument of punishment.

Napoleon had shown himself a real conqueror in having subdued so much of Europe and placed it under his control. His ambitions stirred him on to the conquering of Russia also. This he assayed to do. He is credited with saying that "God is on the side of the

heaviest battalions.” And he was right; only he forgot that God has His munitions where His battalion strength is not always known. And it is stored where the puny hand does not have access, and could do no harm if he did.

SNOW DEFEATS NAPOLEON

It was this same Napoleon who started with a half million picked soldiers of France, on an expedition to Moscow. He dreamed of conquering Russia and then the world. As he marched his forces along the way to Moscow, a snowflake struck him in the face. He laughed and brushed it aside. He had seen many a snow storm; and evidently he thought snowflakes “can never turn back my military strength.” A dozen snowflakes fell; and again he laughed, but not so loud. Those snowflakes were joined by others and then by others. And millions and millions of snowflakes fell. They kept multiplying until avalanches of them covered the earth far and wide. They piled upon each other until the roads became blocked and horses and men began to flounder, to plunge, and die beneath literal mountains of snowflakes. The result? Nearly half a million soldiers lay frozen on the plains of Russia; and Napoleon returned home with just a few stragglers—a defeated man. The snowflakes had bested him. He could fight with men and nations; but he could not make battle against God’s weapon of countless snowflakes.

Snowflakes have set the pace in giving us the symbol of purity, in furnishing us that beautiful expression, “white as snow.” God has arranged, in His great out-of-doors program, to remind the human family of the ever present knowledge of the promise He has made to us. “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.” Isaiah 1:18. Over broad stretches of the earth every year, a veritable carpet of snow has

been spread; so it would be with difficulty that any one should forget. Even in the tropical climates, there are those venerable mountain peaks that rise high above, with their crests covered with the eternal snow. What a beautiful sight to look over an orange grove to a snow capped mountain in the distance, and there see the evidence of God's forgiving love spread out in panorama before us. "Sins as scarlet—white as snow." Even the raiment of the righteous will be "white as snow." That is purity unequalled. The countenance of the angel that met Jesus, when He was resurrected, was like lightning; and his raiment as "white as snow."

TREASURES OF HAIL

One of the plagues visited upon the land of Egypt, because of Pharaoh's refusal to let the children of Israel go, was a grievous hailstorm. More than once, God has brought forth His hail from His armory; and He will do so again. Concerning the Egyptian visit of hail, after Pharaoh's refusal to be a man of his word, God said to Moses: "Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt. In that Bible narrative of centuries ago, the hail smote both man and beast which was in the field. The Lord asked Job if he had seen the treasures of the hail which He had "reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war." Job 38:22-23.

May God open our eyes to know and understand that the weapons of His indignation are not rusty, out of date, and ineffective. Let us live in such a way that He will delight to save us from the sting of death.

ANGEL MINISTRY

“He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.” Ps 91:11.

“The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.” Ps 34:7.

Another agency that God has used through the centuries (in His care for His children, His soul-saving work, and holding in check the agency of evil) has been that of the angels. Early in the history of the world, we find them ready to execute the Divine commands; and they have faithfully performed their tasks with neatness and dispatch. The Bible record gives us this word about their work. “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” Hebrews 1:14. In the early history of the kingdom of Israel, angel ministry was especially to be noticed.

A DUMB ANIMAL SPEAKS

Once before this, a dumb animal—the serpent—was given the power of speech. A second illustration of such ministry was given in connection with a wayward man of God—Balaam by name. Balaam had been a privileged man in many ways; and God had taken occasion to use him as a prophet. Balak, king of the Moabites and a distant relative of the Israelites, knew of the work of Balaam and sent messengers offering him financial aid if he would come down and curse the Israelites.

He knew he should not do such a thing. But the lure of money got into his eyes and heart; and he wanted to go and do that very thing. He asked God if he should go; and the Lord told him “No” twice. A third time the bribe was enlarged; and, being pertinent enough to ask for the third time what he had been refused twice before, he was told to go. He started;

and, on the way, he was met by an angel of God. The beast he was riding on turned aside twice, because an angel stood in the way.

Now again, the third time, the beast turned aside; and, in doing so, it crushed Balaam's foot against the mountain wall. In his anger at the animal, he threatened to take its life had he a sword with which to do it. Just then his eyes were opened; and he saw the angel standing before him with drawn sword. He would have been the victim, had not the ass turned aside. It was at this time that the power of speech was given to the dumb animal; and he rebuked the madness of the prophet for his blindness and greed.

Man can depart from God only so far; and their lives hang on a very narrow margin. At this time, only a direct interposition of God spares them to go on. "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him and delivereth them." But when their fear of God is gone, which comes by a refusal to do God's bidding, their lives are very much endangered. Read Numbers 22:23-35. Angels can and do protect. And they can and do destroy, which will be noted in our next story.

AN ANGEL DELIVERS ISRAEL

Israel was having trouble with Sennacherib, king of Assyria. He had sent an insulting letter to Hezekiah, king of Judah, in which he defied the king by saying, "Let not thy God in whom thou trusteth deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria." 2 Kings 19:10. Hezekiah took the letter, went up into the house of the Lord and spread the letter before the Lord. Then he prayed; and God heard his prayer and answered it by sending deliverance in a way that could hardly seem credible. His answer was "He shall not come into this city, nor

shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and he shall not come into this city, saith the Lord. For I will defend this city, to save it, for Mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake." And then what was He going to do about it? The answer follows. God drew upon His reserve strength in war, and sent an angel which effectively kept that city from harm; and the king of Assyria went home a defeated man. Here is what happened. "And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand." Jerusalem was not entered, just as God said it would not be. Regardless of the weapon drawn upon, His work is accomplished without fail.

After the great earthquake and fire of 1906 in San Francisco, a news boy was showing a dazed man the way; and, as they were walking along, the boy said, "It took men a long time to put all this stuff up; and God tumbled it down in little over a minute. Say Mister, 'taint no use for a feller to think he can lick God." And why would it not be well to write this in large letters; so all nations could see and know assuredly that 'Taint no use for a nation to think it can lick God."

MAN SAVED FROM HUNGRY LIONS

One of the most interesting and thrilling incidents of angel ministry is that given to us concerning Daniel, who had been such a man of God and of prayer, both in his private and official life as prime minister of the great Medo-Persian Empire. He was a man of prayer and made no attempts to conceal that fact. With his windows open, he earnestly prayed three times each day. His enemies were so certain of him in this, that they besought the king to make a law which would

forbid anyone from praying to any God, save to the king for thirty days. Unsuspectingly the king obliged these men, never dreaming that it would effect his prime minister. Daniel prayed just as his enemies felt sure that he would pray. When informed of the real purpose of Daniel's enemies in having the law made, the king did everything he could to save his friend. Among this people, there was an understanding that once a law was made it must not be changed; so naturally the king, of all men, must not insist on such a thing.

Daniel was put in the lion's den according to the penalty enacted for disobedience; and his enemies were jubilant. Evidently they had looked upon Daniel's prayers as so much wasted time, perhaps as too many people still look upon prayer. But Daniel's prayers were a power with God; and God had an approach to even hungry lions that they never suspected. When Daniel went into the lion's den, an angel slipped in there with him. Those lions were more civilized in their treatment of their angel visitor than were the men of Sodom in their treatment of the angels who planned to spend a night with Lot in his home. Those lions were as timid and self-controlled as kittens in the presence of Daniel's unobserved guest. In the morning the king hastened to the lion's den, to get firsthand news of his loved official. To his great surprise and joy, Daniel answered him when he called; thus he knew that everything was all right. Daniel called back, "My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me." Joyful news. The king commanded that Daniel be taken from the den; he came out of it all without a scratch.

His enemies contended that it was because the lions were not hungry. "If for that reason, they will not

hurt you if you are lowered into their presence,” said the king. This was done to test the truthfulness of their argument. But it wouldn’t work; for, before they reached the bottom, they were torn to pieces. God was vindicating His interest and power to care for those who take time to pray to Him in earnest. Have you ever tested your prayers as to their sincerity and worthwhileness? It might not be a bad thing to do.

MAN DELIVERED FROM PRISON

In the days of the apostles, Peter was put in prison by Herod, who had beheaded James; he took Peter with the thought that he, too, should die. He was put in prison. And, to make sure that he did not get away, he was chained to two stalwart soldiers; and the keepers stood guard at the door. Peter had a friend that insisted on going in to visit him while he was in prison. The keepers couldn’t keep him out. And, once in, they couldn’t keep him in. He just did whatever he wanted to do, in spite of all their efforts to prevent him. This friend was an angel.

Peter’s friends had been talking to God in behalf of Peter. They wanted something done to help him, though they didn’t know what it could be. But God has so many ways to get things done, that He was not taxed to know what to do. He decided to send Peter’s friend into the prison, but He didn’t give him the key; so the angel went into the prison without a key and found Peter sleeping in there between the two soldiers. With the presence of the angel, the prison was filled with light; but the soldiers slept on. The angel went over to Peter, woke him up, and told him to get up quickly. The chains fell off Peter’s hands and feet. He put on his shoes and coat, because it would be cold outside. The angel started out and told Peter to follow.

Peter followed the angel; for no one bothered him.

Soon they came to the prison doors which swung open to let them out, just as though it was an electric controlled door opener. Every thing moved with the precision of a fine clock. They soon came to the city gate; and that too opened just as though someone saw them coming and opened the gate for them. They passed through; and all the while Peter could hardly believe what was happening.

Presently the angel left Peter; and then he remembered where he was, and went to the house where he had met with his friends before for prayer. Peter had actually been taken out of the prison by the angel. How wonderful it all seemed to him. He went to the door of his friends and knocked. A damsel heard Peter knock and went to the door, to let him in. As soon as she found out who it was, she was so pleased she forgot to open the door; she ran back into the house, leaving him standing there wondering. God had sent His angel; and Peter was not in prison. Enough said.

MAN KEPT SAFE IN DANGEROUS BATTLE

From *Time* magazine of October 22, 1945, we take this very striking story of Angel Ministry. It is the experience of a young man by the name of Desmond T. Doss, a corporal in World War II. Here follows the story as given:

“Like his Master he was a carpenter. He was also a Seventh-day Adventist and a pacifist. Desmond T. Doss, of Lynchburg, Va. He explained simply: ‘It is right there in the ten commandments. Thou shalt not kill.’ But Doss did not object to serving as an Army Medical Corpsman. When he was sent overseas, he asked for assignment in the front lines. He felt that God would not let him perish by the sword, since he did not live by the sword; and he had a deep sense of duty to his fellow men.

“Like most other soldiers, he knew terrible fear. He conquered it with prayer. During the fighting on Guam and Leyte, he became famous among the tough men of the 77th Division for his serene recklessness in the face of death. In the nerve wracking weeks of the Okinawa campaign, his fame grew.

“One day last April he climbed a 400 foot escarpment with an assaulting infantry battalion. At the top the attack faltered—under the storm of artillery, mortar and rifle fire. But Doss stayed at the exposed summit for hours, lowered 75 wounded men down the rock walls to safety before descending himself, haggard, dirty, miraculously alive. For weeks, after that, he was in and ahead of the front lines. Twice he was wounded. Grenade fragments ripped his leg, knocked him down and out of action. But when other corpsmen tried to carry him back, he crawled off the litter and sent them to another wounded man. Then a shell burst shattered his arm. He lashed a rifle stock to the arm and managed to crawl hundreds of yards to safety.

“One sunny day last week, 26 year old Cpl. Desmond T. Doss stood at attention on the White House lawn. President Harry Truman placed a pale blue ribbon around his neck and shook his hand warmly. As he stepped back—the first conscientious objector in U.S. history to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor—generals, admirals, cabinet members, his proud parents, and his pretty wife applauded enthusiastically.

“As a Seventh-day Adventist, a conscientious objector, and a veteran, Desmond T. Doss has something to say about war: ‘Everybody has got to get back to believing in God, and the other fellow and his rights.’

“That might have sounded irrelevant to some, but Desmond Doss knew better.”

It would be difficult to get Cpl. Doss to believe that God did not send an angel to protect him as surely as he protected Daniel from the hungry lions. It would be difficult to exhaust the list of angel ministries that have been recorded for our encouragement.

THERE SHALL BE EARTHQUAKES

How frail and puny is man in the face of anyone of the weapons that God calls forth from the armory of His indignation. The earth shakes herself; and man bows to the inevitable. He cannot shake off the tremor, nor can he quiet the earth from her nervous disorder.

EARTHQUAKE LOCATED BY PROPHECY

God said, "There shall be earthquakes;" and there have been—there is no mistake about that. Christ declared that earthquakes are a sign of His second return to this earth. One of these He mentioned in particular. It was to precede the darkening of the sun which took place on May 19, 1780, and was the opening event of the sixth seal. This great earthquake, known in history as the great Lisbon earthquake, took place November 1, 1755. Lisbon is the capital of Portugal. This great Lisbon earthquake, then, marks the time specified by the synchronization of history and prophecy. In history, it was the occurrence of a great earthquake. In prophecy, it was the opening of the sixth seal. We stand aghast as we gaze upon the fulfillment of the Word of God, as it takes its place in connection with the events that are within our own historical age. History and prophecy synchronize. God desires that men should see and know these things as they are pictured upon the pages of God's great lesson book.

Of this earthquake, Sears, in his *Wonders of the World* pp. 50, 58, 381 says:

"The great earthquake of Nov. 1, 1755, extended

over a tract of at least 4,000,000 square miles. Its effects were even extended to the waters in many places where the shocks were not perceptible. It pervaded the greater portion of Europe, Africa, and America. But its extreme violence was exercised on the southwestern part of the former. In Africa, this earthquake was felt almost as severely as it had been in Europe.”

Mr. Barretti says that 90,000 persons are supposed to have been lost on that fatal day. God speaks in the language of the earthquake. This one was a sign.

EARTHQUAKE MARKS A MAN'S CONVERSION

It is not always that earthquakes bring about the results that we are to relate in this story. Two earnest men had been working diligently in their witnessing for Christ in a town in Asia Minor, Philippi by name. A young woman possessed of a spirit of divination was healed, for which these two men were cast into jail. After the authorities had whipped them, instruction was given to the jailer to keep them safely. Undaunted, these Christian men began to sing and praise God at midnight in the jail; and God heard their prayers.

A great earthquake shook the very foundations of that jail to such an extent that the doors of the building were opened and the bands were loosed from every inmate; and all the prisoners had an opportunity to escape. The jailer, fearing the prisoners had fled, was just at the point of taking his life, when Paul called out—he was one of these Christian men. Silas was the other—“Do thyself no harm; for we are all here.” Tremblingly, the jailer came into the jail and fell down before Paul and Silas. He brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Gladly they answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

Gratefully the stripes of the whip lashes were washed; and that jailer was baptized before the morning sun arose. The best entertainment he could afford was given these preachers of Christ; and there was great rejoicing in that man's home as well as in the hearts of Paul and Silas. It was the earthquake that brought about the incident leading to the conversion of the jailer and those of his home. Truly, God can speak in the language of the earthquake; and men have heard His voice and transformed their lives by the incident. Read Acts 16:16-35.

EARTHQUAKE MARKS DEATH OF JESUS

God's law, so marvelously made known from the crest of Sinai, was broken; and Jesus, in seeking to restore man to favor with God, was obliged to give His life to redeem those who had sinned (to sin is to transgress God's law. 1 John 3:4). In the end, He was compelled to wear a crown of thorns in mockery. His back was bared to the smiters; and blood freely flowed from the wounds caused by the strokes of the whips. All nature looked aghast upon the scene; and, as if to blush, the heavens were blackened because the sun was hidden from sight, and the earth trembled and shook greatly in sympathy. An earthquake came when God proclaimed His law, telling man how to live. Another came, when, because that law had been broken, Jesus died upon the cross. Matt 27:45-53.

We are assured that God was especially present in both these instances of the earthquake; for, in the latter, the record states that "the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city and appeared unto many." Matthew 27:52-53. The dead do not come forth in any ordinary happening. This earthquake marked the special provi-

dence of God in the resurrection effected at this time, but not more than was shown by His presence when the law was given from Sinai. The giving of the law and the death of Christ both merited the marking of each event by drawing upon the special providence of God to designate the time, by the mighty power required to shake the earth. God can speak the language of the earthquake.

THE LAST GREAT EARTHQUAKE

As mighty as have been the visitations of earthquakes in the past, God is holding in reserve His final shaking of the earth, which is to take place in the seventh plague to be visited upon guilty man. The time is designated. It is still in the future. By comparison, nothing like it has ever taken place upon the earth. The record states:

“And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great . . . and the cities of the nations fell; and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” Revelation 16:18-20.

At least twenty times quakes are mentioned in the Scriptures as the hand of God has guided the destiny of men and nations, using them for correction or vindicating His providence. No one can say, without disquietude, that God has not marshaled the rumbling of the earth in the doing of His strange work in the earth.

With a new understanding and meaning does the quaking of the earth come home to our hearts, as we have gone over these records; and, as we read God's book more in detail, let us seek to understand His

footsteps as they are traced in the trembling, shaking earth. Let us resign ourselves to the fact that we too will shake as does the earth, when our names are brought forth in the judgment, unless we have learned to read His Providence aright. It is better to tremble at God's warnings now than to tremble at His judgments later.

GOD'S MARVELOUS WORKS AND WONDERS

"Behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid." Isaiah 29:14. At such marvels and wonders, we can ask who only can perform after this sort; and immediately we get the reply: "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things." Ps. 72:18.

As we have related these experiences, we are assured that none other can deliver and do exploits such as have been recorded. None other has an arsenal to draw upon that is ever ready with the proper weapon to be used at any moment and for any emergency, as does the God of heaven. His angels are ever present; and, at a moment's notice, they are ready to punish or bless, as may best meet the needs of the Master's purpose. None other can roll back the waters of a torrential river or make walls of water in a tropical sea. None other can make friends with hungry lions or send dust for rain. But there are other wonders to be noted, marvels of which we could not give birth to thought, much less to its execution.

SAVED BY A BUTTERFLY

We have heard of men being spared by a spider weaving her web during the night. But who ever heard of a man being spared by a butterfly? Here is the story

as related by W.A. Spicer, in his book, *Providence of the Great War*, p. 66. Speaking of the work of one of the soldiers whose work required that he make trips along the firing line, he says: "At a certain place he saw a butterfly hovering. It was always in the same place; and he wondered at it, even amidst the dangers of his position . . . As he walked over the way amidst severe firing, the butterfly fluttered immediately in front of him, so that he seemingly would run into it. Interested, he halted and stood to look closely at it. The next instant a great shell passed just before him.

"Had he taken the next step forward, it would surely have been his last. He thanked God for the little butterfly that had been the means of saving him."

FINDING GOD

There are miracles; and there are miracles. We have just been introduced to a number of them; but here is one to come that seems to bypass and route others in importance. It really brings a tear even to a proud, hard heart. When a man finds God, even the angels are made to rejoice; and, in point of importance, it must not be given second place. Following is a poem written by Pvt. J.J.W. while on the Anzio beachhead, in Italy. It follows:

With a Friend

"Lord God, I have never spoken to you,
But now I want to say, 'How do you do.'
You see, God, they told me you didn't exist,
And like a fool, I believed all this.

"Last night, from a shell hole I saw your sky;
I figured right then they had told me a lie.
Had I taken time to see things you made,
I'd have known they weren't calling a spade a spade.

"I wonder, God, if you'll take my hand?
Somehow, I feel that you'll understand.

Funny, I had to come to this 'hellish' place
Before I had time to see your face.

"Well, I guess there isn't much more to say,
But I'm sure glad, God, I met you today.
I guess 'zero hour' will soon be here.
But I'm not afraid, since I know you are near.

"The signal!! Well, God, I'll have to go.
I like you lots, this I want you to know.
Look now, this will be a terrible fight;
Who knows? I may come to your house tonight.

"Though I wasn't friendly to you before,
I wonder, God, if you'd wait at your door?
Look, I'm crying! Me! Shedding tears!!
I wish I had known You these many years!
Well, I'll have to go now, God—goodbye.
Strange, now, since I met You—I'm not afraid to die."

A later report states that Private J.J.W. was killed the next day after writing this poem.

PROPHETIC PREDICTIONS: GOD'S WORD

Most people never think of the Word of God as being an instrument or weapon for doing things; whereas, it is one of the most potent factors for accomplishing things there is in the world. As a weapon it is compared to a sword. Saint Paul speaks of it as such. He says: "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12. Again he writes: "And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, *which is the Word of God.*" Eph 6:17.

DESTRUCTION OF A GREAT CITY FORETOLD

Perhaps one of the best illustrations of how true the Word of God is, and how wonderfully its predictions come true, is related in the history of that great

city, Babylon. It was one of, if not the greatest, city of ancient times. Located on the Euphrates River, in the form of a square, 60 miles in circumference with streets running at right angles for a distance of fifteen miles in each direction, the city was surrounded by a wall estimated to be between 200 and 300 feet in height, with a width of 87 feet. Just outside of this wall and surrounding the city likewise was a mote, or ditch, of equal cubic capacity to the wall itself. Within the city were two hundred and twenty five square miles of territory, laid out in luxuriant pleasure gardens and grounds, interspersed with lovely buildings. Diagonally through the city flowed the Euphrates River with walls on either side of the river, as massive as the walls about the city. The gates at the end of the streets were made of solid brass. Within the city were the hanging gardens, regarded as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The tower of Belus, three miles in circumference, has two royal palaces. One palace is three and one-half miles in circumference; and the other is eight miles. The subterranean tunnel, under the river that connected the two palaces, was arranged perfectly for convenience, ornament, and defense. It had a capacity for producing food supplies; and it had enough food stored away for twenty years. To an observer, it might be said truthfully that the city could stand forever. The whole earth lay prostrate at her feet, and added to her might by the tributes that were constantly pouring into her treasury. She stood the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldee's excellency. This was the picture when the word of the Lord came to the prophet Isaiah and made a prediction against this impregnable, indestructible city. Here is the message that came:

“And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of

the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But the wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall be there, and satyrs shall dance there. And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged." Isaiah 13:19-22.

What a daring declaration for a prophet, a man without an army, with nothing to back up his prediction against a city with the power that Babylon had. Humanly speaking, for a man to make such a statement could mean nothing more than that he was completely demented and was in need of a straight jacket, to keep him from harming someone. But God made the statement. It was His word. Was it true? and how could it be?

Of Babylon God had said, "After thee shall arise another kingdom, inferior to thee." Not only did God say that Babylon was going to be destroyed, but He names the man that would plan the strategy that would take the city; and, further, that man was named one hundred and twelve years before he was born. Can you predict anything so outstanding as this? And yet it came to pass, every word of it; and the ruins of old Babylon stand today as a mute testimony to the accuracy of the prediction made by God through Isaiah.

MAN NAMED 112 YEARS BEFORE HIS BIRTH

Let us state, in passing, that the man who was to overthrow Babylon was Cyrus, whom God named 112 years before he was born and 174 years before the



WE CAN TRUST BIBLE PROPHECIES

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets." Amos 3:7.

overthrow actually took place; for Cyrus was 62 years old when he captured Babylon. A further history of the early days of Cyrus would be, and is, more than a thrilling episode in the affairs of men.

WORLD EMPIRES NUMBERED

Another interesting incident of the effectiveness of the Word of God is obtained from a further perusal of this same line of prophetic predictions. Through the prophet Daniel, God gave to Nebuchadnezzar, the great king of Babylon, an outline of the future empires of the earth, represented by the great metallic image of Daniel 2. We have mentioned one further step, when reference was made of what God said to Nebuchadnezzar about another kingdom, an inferior one, arising after Babylon was no more.

That step was taken when Cyrus overthrew Babylon; but that was not all. Babylon was represented by the head of gold. Medo-Persia by the breast and arms of silver. And now God says through Daniel, "And a third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth." This was fulfilled under the leadership of Alexander the Great; and, at this time, Grecia was the new world empire. Then a fourth kingdom of iron was to bear sway; and that part of the prediction was fulfilled when the iron monarchy of Rome held sway over the earth, later to be divided into ten distinct kingdoms that were to be the successors of these mighty world empires. Never again was there to be a world dominion, though it has been attempted by at least six different men at as many different times. These men included Charlemagne, Louis XIV, Charles V, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, and Hitler.

None of them succeeded; and no one ever will succeed. God has said: "They shall not cleave one to an-

other.” The ten different divisions of Rome are represented by the nations of Europe today. These nations include England, Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and the three that have been rooted up—the Vandals, Ostrogoths, and the Heruli.

It is this remarkable bit of information that comes to us from the Word of God and helps us to know where we are in the stream of time. Notice this statement, “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and 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.” Dan. 2:44.

Today we are facing the stern fact that the nations of this earth have come to their end. Should any doubt this statement, let them think of the atomic bomb and the influence it has had upon world civilization; and its makers will tell us that we are within two to twenty years of a total collapse of the very last and best thing that man has been able to produce. Truly God’s Word is no trifling thing; neither does it deal with trifles. It is one of the weapons of God’s arsenal; and, the more we know about it, the more we will discover that it is as effective as any other instrument that God ever brought forth to execute His strange work.

THE GOD THAT ANSWERETH BY FIRE

God is not confined to the use of one element in directing affairs by the use of weapons drawn from His armory. Up to now, much that has been considered has had to do with various conditions of water—sea, rain, cloud, hail, snow, etc. In the fire, we have a new element. Both water and fire are helpful; and again both may be very disastrous, as we shall note.

Both water and fire have been, and are, used as agents of cleansing. At one time God used water in

ridding the earth of its evil occupants. At its conclusion, He placed His bow in the heavens, with a promise that never again would He destroy the earth with a flood. The next cleansing will be by fire.

ABEL'S OFFERING ACCEPTED

The first suggestion, given us in the Scriptures as to the use of fire, is the incident relating to the offerings brought by Cain and his brother Abel. Abel's offering was accepted by God, which was a living sacrifice brought from his flock, while Cain's offering was unacceptable, being an offering of fruit. Fruit in no way typifies the price of what sin had brought into the world. The thought is that God accepted Abel's offering by consuming it in the flame upon the altar; this, shortly after, led to the first murder ever committed.

COVENANT CONFIRMED BY FIRE

The first actual mention of fire, we find in the Scriptures, is in making the covenant between God and Abraham. God had promised that Abraham was to have a son; and, in confirming the promise, an oath is put in the record and is confirmed: "When the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces." The margin reads, "a lamp of fire." Genesis 15:17. The pieces are portions of the bodies of the sacrificial animals mentioned in verses 9-11. A covenant thus made represents the very highest authenticity; and the element that confirms such a covenant allows for no careless trickery or deceit. Fire, in addition to being an agency of cleansing, is also an agency of purging. So we find in the record, "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver . . . that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:3.

THE FIRE THAT DIDN'T BURN

There are certain elements here on the earth that do not burn. We mention some of them as earth, the metals, rocks, asbestos, etc. Fire does not feed upon them. They are not combustible. It is unusual to find a fire, however, that does not burn objects that are combustible. One such instance is given us in the Scriptures that is worthy of note: The children of Israel were slaves in the land of Egypt. God does not believe in slavery, much less His own people. He sought to release them of this condition; and, seeking to work through human agencies, He sought and found a man—Moses, whom He chose to lead in making this deliverance. At the time Moses was in the land of Midian, caring for a flock of sheep. We do not know how many there were; that is immaterial. One day God appeared to Moses in a very unusual, but attractive, way. A desert bush, by some means, was apparently being burned.

Moses was near and observed the sight. He noted that, though the fire burned, the bush was not consumed. He marveled at the sight and drew near, when a voice spoke to him, from the bush, and told him to remove his shoes from his feet; for the ground upon which he stood was holy. This explained the enigma. God was revealing Himself to Moses and inviting him to go as His representative to deliver Israel. Moses accepted, but never forgot the remarkable sight of the fire that never burned. Some things at times seem to be contradictory. For instance Saint Paul writes: "For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:29. In this instance, God was present in the flame, but it did not consume. The following circumstance illustrates the same miracle-working power.

DELIVERED FROM A BURNING FIERY FURNACE

There is another instance where the fire does not

burn some things but the same fire does burn other things. Could you explain such a circumstance and not consider God?

A heathen king, an idol worshiper, erected a great image in one of the provinces of his kingdom; then he invited all his lords and great men to a festival of worship. To add to the glory of the incident, much music was provided; and it was furnished by the best instruments and players of that ancient day. The program was announced, very similar then to what we use today. First, some numbers were arranged for; and, after that, the devotees were to bow the head and pay homage to this great image that had been erected. Naturally the program contained an announcement of the penalties that would befall those who might desist from honoring the king at this supreme hour of worship.

The announcement read, "To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: and whosoever falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." Dan. 3:4-6.

There were just two choices: worship the image and live or refuse and die. Most everyone chose the easy way, just as they do now. There is always a big response to idol worship, when such demands are made; and, unless men love God well-enough to risk their lives in obeying, they will bow. There are times when God uses fire to test the loyalty of His people. Here is one of those times.

Doubtless the king was well-pleased to see the large response to his program. Only three men of that vast

audience chose to stand for God, refusing to break His command which directly forbids image worship. The king was pleased; but God was greatly dishonored by the proceedings.

The men were given a second opportunity to comply, which they refused even before the music started. They had no knowledge of what God was going to do for them. They knew only that they were going to be true and loyal; and, whatever the cost, their decision was final. They assured the king that their God was able to deliver them if He so chose; but, whether He did or not, was not their concern. They stood true. The furnace was heated seven times hotter than its usual temperature.

Strong men were chosen to be the executioners. These three men were bound, hand and foot, and cast into the furnace with heat so great that the men who threw them into the fire perished in performing the task. The bands that bound these men were burned in an instant; and they were seen walking freely in the midst of that blazing furnace. He, who had worked wondrously at the burning bush in the desert, was at work again in a very similar way. Unobserved He slipped into the furnace with His tested and tried men—men who would rather die than to dishonor their Master by worshiping an image. It is for this reason that four men, instead of three, are seen walking about in the furnace as comfortably as the king had ever walked the floor of his own palace. No one could explain the strange incident.

After God had shown His ability to care for His own, and had walked about in the furnace with them, they were commanded to walk out of the fire. They did. Not a hair was singed; and not even the smell of smoke was to be found on their garments. None but

God can deliver after this sort. At one time He would command the fire to consume the offering of Elijah and lick up every thing about it. Here He commanded the flame to bathe the faces of these three men, as if with a cooling breeze; and not a particle of harm was done to them. Who can do the wondrous things that our God can?

**GOD ANSWERS PRAYER
BY SENDING A CONSUMING FIRE**

For years the king of Israel had permitted, if not fostered, the worship of idols among the people; and the priests of Baal (idol worshipers) had practically taken over the religious life of the people. Naturally God was displeased with this; but, since the king did not rebuke such worship, conditions were made difficult for those who believed and worshiped the true God. A crisis was reached. God sent the prophet Elijah to Ahab, the king; and a challenge is given to those who fostered idol worship. The priests of Baal are called together; and Elijah presents the challenge in the following words: "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him." 1 Kings 18:21. The test was to be made by fire. Each group was to build its altar and place the wood and sacrifice upon it; and the God that answered by burning the sacrifice was to be declared the true God. To this they all agreed.

The four hundred and fifty priests of Baal were to start the test, since they were in the majority. Everything in readiness, they began to pray to Baal to hear their prayer and answer by consuming their sacrifice. Their prayers were unanswered; and the longer they prayed, the more troubled they became. As a last resort, they leaped upon the altar and cut themselves with knives. Blood flowed freely, in an effort to get a

response from Baal; but he answered not.

Elijah mocked them; he told the suppliants to pray louder; because he said their god might be asleep and needed to be wakened. Perhaps he had gone on a journey and was ignorant of their pleading. This only increased their fervor, but with no better results. Their god could not, and did not, answer their request. Baal was defeated; he could not, according to the agreement, be regarded worthy of their worship.

Then Elijah built an altar; he placed the wood and offering in place. To be sure that no question could be raised as to its fairness, Elijah proceeded to do a thing they did not do; twelve barrels of water were poured over the altar. The offering, the wood, and the altar were drenched with water. Elijah stepped back; and, with a fervent short prayer, he talked with the God of heaven. Scarcely had he begun, the heavens opened and flames of fire descended upon the altar; and everything was completely burned. Even the water was licked up and evaporated with the terrific heat brought to bear upon the offering. Yes, it was an unusual occasion. Never before or since has such a scene been presented to the sons of Adam. God was drawing upon His weapon—the fire—taken from His armory. Be sure to read this story as found in 1 Kings 18; and become acquainted with the Maker of heaven and earth, whose instruments are ever ready to be drawn at His call.

SATAN WILL USE FIRE TO DECEIVE

It is fire that God is going to use to put an end to Satan—the same kind of fire that destroyed the cities of the plain—Sodom and Gomorrah. Rev. 20:10. To lessen the degree of his humiliation in the eyes of men, Satan will attempt to use fire in his last work here upon the earth. In his control of earthly governments,

the prophet says of him: "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast." Rev. 13:13-14.

In Elijah's day, fire was brought from heaven to make known the true God. Satan brings down fire to deceive men. The difference is as great as day and night. Be careful when you see someone playing with fire. Its purpose is to deceive. God has told us this much, in advance, to warn us that there is danger in coming fire displays.

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:34.

"There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, and persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

—*Matthew 10:29-30*

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake His way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon Him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

—*Isaiah 55:6-7*

"They that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord and thought upon His name."

—*Malachi 3:16*



Appendix Two

How You Can Know Him Better!

Abbreviation of the book, Steps to Christ, by E.G. White

– Part One –

How Can I Come to Christ?

Nature and revelation alike testify of God's love. It is transgression of God's law - the law of love - that has brought woe and death. Yet even amid the suffering that results from sin, God's love is revealed. "God is love" is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass.

Jesus came to live among men to reveal the infinite love of God. Love, mercy, and compassion were revealed in every act of His life; His heart went out in tender sympathy to the children of men. He took man's nature, that He might reach man's wants. The poorest and humblest were not afraid to approach Him. Such is the character of Christ as revealed in His life. This is the character of God.

It was to redeem us that Jesus lived and suffered and died. He became a "Man of Sorrows," that we might be made partakers of everlasting joy. But this great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father's

—Summary of the book, Steps to Christ, in the author's own words.

heart a love for man, not make Him willing to save. No, no! "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." John 3:16. The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption.

What a value this places upon man! Through transgression the sons of man become subjects of Satan. Through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ the sons of Adam may become the sons of God. The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God.

Man was originally endowed with noble powers and a well-balanced mind. He was perfect in his being, and in harmony with God. His thoughts were pure, his aims holy. But through disobedience, his powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil.

It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them. There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness. To all, there is but one answer, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. Let us avail ourselves of the means provided for us, that we may be transformed into His likeness and be restored to fellowship with the ministering angels, to harmony and communion with the Father and the Son.

How shall a man be just with God? How shall the sinner be made righteous? It is only through Christ that we can be brought into harmony with God, with holiness; but how are we to come to Christ?

Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.

But when the heart yields to the influence of the Spirit of God, the conscience will be quickened, and the sinner will discern something of the depth and sacredness of God's holy law, the foundation of His government in heaven and on earth. Conviction takes hold upon the mind and heart.

The prayer of David, after his fall, illustrates the nature of true sorrow for sin. His repentance was sincere and deep. There was no effort to palliate his guilt; no desire to escape the judgment threatened inspired his prayer. David saw the enormity of his transgression; he saw the defilement of his soul; he loathed his sin. It was not for pardon only that he prayed, but for purity of heart. He longed for the joy of holiness, to be restored to harmony and communion with God. A repentance such as this is beyond the reach of our own power to accomplish; it is obtained only from Christ.

Christ is ready to set us free from sin, but He does not force the will. If we refuse, what more can He do? Study God's Word prayerfully. As you see the enormity of sin, as you see yourself as you really are, do not give up in despair. It was sinners that Christ came to save. When Satan comes to tell you that you are a great sinner, look to your Redeemer and talk of His merits. Acknowledge your sin, but tell the enemy that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" and that you may be saved (1 Timothy 1:15).

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” Proverbs 28:13. The conditions of obtaining the mercy of God are simple and just and reasonable. Confess your sins to God, who only can forgive them, and your faults to one another. Those who have not humbled their souls before God, in acknowledging their guilt, have not yet fulfilled the first step of acceptance. We must be willing to humble our hearts and comply with the conditions of the Word of truth. The confession that is the outpouring of the inmost soul finds its way to the God of infinite pity. True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. All confession should be definite and to the point. It is written, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.

God’s promise is, “Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13. The whole heart must be yielded, or the change can never be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness.

The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.

In giving ourselves to God, we must necessarily give up all that would separate us from Him. There are those who profess to serve God while they rely upon their own efforts to obey His law, to form a right character and secure salvation. Their hearts are not moved by any deep sense of the love of Christ, but they seek to perform the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires of them in order to gain

heaven. Such religion is worthless.

When Christ dwells in the heart, the soul will be so filled with His love, with the joy of communion with Him, that it will cleave to Him; and in the contemplation of Him, self will be forgotten. Love to Christ will be the spring of action. Such do not ask for the lowest standard, but aim at perfect conformity to the will of their Redeemer.

Do you feel that it is too great a sacrifice to yield all to Christ? Ask yourself the question, "What has Christ given for me?" The Son of God gave all - life and love and suffering - for our redemption. And can it be that we, the unworthy objects of so great love, will withhold our hearts from Him? What do we give up, when we give all? A sin-polluted heart, for Jesus to purify, to cleanse by His own blood, and to save by His matchless love. And yet men think it hard to give up all! God does not require us to give up anything that it is for our best interest to retain. In all that He does, He has the well-being of His children in view.

Many are inquiring, "*How* am I to make the surrender of myself to God?" You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair.

What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise.

You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can *choose* to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.

Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not *now choose* to be Christians.

Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.

As your conscience has been quickened by the Holy Spirit, you have seen something of the evil of sin, of its power, its guilt, its woe; and you look upon it with abhorrence. It is peace that you need. You have confessed your sins, and in heart put them away. You have resolved to give yourself to God. Now go to Him, and ask that He will wash away your sins and give you a new heart.

Then believe that He does this *because He has promised*. The gift which God promises us, we must believe we do receive, and it is ours. You are a sinner. You cannot atone for your past sins; you cannot change your heart and make yourself holy. But God promises to do all this for you through Christ. You *believe* that promise. You confess your sins and give yourself to God. You will to serve Him. Just as surely as you do this, God will fulfill His word to you. If you believe the

promise, - God supplies the fact. Do not wait to *feel* that you are made whole, but say, "I believe it; it is so, not because I feel it, but because God promised."

- Part Two -

How Can I Remain True to Christ?

Jesus says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. There is a condition to this promise—that we pray according to the will of God. But it is the will of God to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life. So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we *have* received them.

Henceforth you are not your own; you are bought with a price. Through this simple act of believing God, the Holy Spirit has begotten a new life in your heart. You are a child born into the family of God, and He loves you as He loves His Son.

Now that you have given yourself to Jesus, do not draw back, do not take yourself away from Him, but day by day say, "I am Christ's; I have given myself to Him," and ask Him to give you His Spirit and keep you by His grace. As it is by giving yourself to God, and believing Him, that you become His child, so you are to live in Him.

Here is where thousands fail; they do not believe that Jesus pardons them personally, individually. They do not take God at His Word. It is the privilege of all who comply with the conditions to know for themselves that pardon is freely extended for every sin. Put away the suspicion that God's promises are not meant for you. They are for every repentant transgressor.

Look up, you that are doubting and trembling; for Jesus lives to make intercession for us. Thank God

for the gift of His dear Son.

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or trace all the chain of circumstances in this process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. A change will be seen in the character, the habits, the pursuits. The contrast will be clear and decided between what they have been and what they have become. Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him. There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation. The loveliness of the character of Christ will be seen in His followers. It was His delight to do the will of God.

There are two errors against which the children of God especially need to guard: The first is that of looking to their own works, trusting to anything they can do, to bring themselves into harmony with God. All that man can do without Christ is polluted with selfishness and sin. It is the grace of Christ alone, through faith, which can make us holy.

The opposite and no less dangerous error is that belief in Christ releases men from keeping the law of God; that since by faith alone we become partakers of the grace of Christ, our works have nothing to do with our redemption.

Obedience is the fruit of faith. Righteousness is defined by the standard of God's holy law, as expressed in the ten commandments (Exodus 20:3-20). That so-called faith in Christ which professes to release men from the obligation of obedience to God, is not faith,

but presumption. The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been - just what it was in paradise before the fall of our first parents - perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled. The way would be open for sin, with all its train of woe and misery, to be immortalized.

Christ changes the heart. He abides in your heart by faith. You are to maintain this connection with Christ by faith and the continual surrender of your will to Him; and so long as you do this, He will work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure.

The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer. This is evidence that Satan's delusions are losing their power. No deep-seated love for Jesus can dwell in the heart that does not realize its own sinfulness. The soul that is transformed by the grace of Christ will admire His character. A view of our sinfulness drives us to Him who can pardon; and when the soul, realizing its helplessness, reaches out after Christ, He will reveal Himself in power. The more our sense of need drives us to Him and to the Word of God, the more exalted views we shall have of His character, and the more fully we shall reflect His image.

The change of heart by which we become children of God is in the Bible spoken of as birth. Again it is compared to the germination of the good seed sown by the husbandman. It is God who brings the bud to bloom and the flower to fruit. It is by His power that the seed develops.

As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that

heaven's light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ.

Do you ask, "How am I to abide in Christ?" In the same way as you received Him at first. "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him." Colossians 2:6. By faith you became Christ's, and by faith you are to grow up in Him - by giving and taking. You are to give all - your heart, your will, your service - give yourself to Him to obey all His requirements; and you must take all - Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper - to give you power to obey.

Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee." This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.

A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust. When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence, it is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ.

When Christ took human nature upon Him, He bound humanity to Himself by a tie of love that can never be broken by any power, save the choice of man himself. Satan will constantly present allurements to

induce us to break this tie - to choose to separate ourselves from Christ. But let us keep our eyes fixed upon Christ, and He will preserve us. Looking unto Jesus, we are safe. Nothing can pluck us out of His hand. All that Christ was to the disciples, He desires to be to His children today.

Jesus prayed for us, and He asked that we might be one with Him, even as He is one with the Father. What a union is this! Thus, loving Him and abiding in Him, we shall "grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Ephesians 4:15.

God is the source of life and light and joy to the universe. Wherever the life of God is in the hearts of men, it will flow out to others in love and blessing.

Our Saviour's joy was in the uplifting and redemption of fallen men. For this He counted not His life dear to Himself, but endured the cross, despising the shame. When the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart, like sweet fragrance it cannot be hidden. Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. It will lead to love, tenderness, and sympathy toward all the creatures of our heavenly Father's care. Those who are the partakers of the grace of Christ will be ready to make any sacrifice, that others for whom He died may share the heavenly gift. They will do all they can to make the world better for their stay in it. This spirit is the sure outgrowth of a soul truly converted. No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus. If we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, we shall have something to tell. We shall seek to present to others the attractions of Christ and the unseen realities of the world to come. There will be an intensity of desire to

follow in the path that Jesus trod.

And the effort to bless others will react in blessings upon ourselves. Those who thus become participants in labors of love are brought nearest to their Creator. The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor. Strength comes by exercise. We need not go to heathen lands, or even leave the narrow circle of the home, if it is there that our duty lies, in order to work for Christ. With a loving spirit we may perform life's humblest duties "as to the Lord." Colossians 3:23. If the love of God is in the heart, it will be manifested in the life. You are not to wait for great occasions or to expect extraordinary abilities before you go to work for God. The humblest and poorest of the disciples of Jesus can be a blessing to others.

Many are the ways in which God is seeking to make Himself known to us and bring us into communion with Him. If we will but listen, Nature speaks to our senses without ceasing. God's created works will teach us precious lessons of obedience and trust.

No tears are shed that God does not notice. There is no smile that He does not mark. If we would but fully believe this, all undue anxieties would be dismissed. Our lives would not be so filled with disappointment as now; for everything, whether great or small, would be left in the hands of God.

God speaks to us through His providential works and through the influence of His Spirit upon the heart. God speaks to us in His Word. Here we have in clearer lines the revelation of His character, of His dealings with men, and the great work of redemption. Fill the whole heart with the words of God. They are the living water, quenching your burning thirst. They are the liv-

ing bread from heaven.

The theme of redemption is one that the angels desire to look into; it will be the science and the song of the redeemed throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Is it not worthy of careful thought and study now? As we meditate upon the Saviour, there will be a hungering and thirsting of soul to become like Him whom we adore.

The Bible was written for the common people. The great truths necessary for salvation are made as clear as noonday. There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. But there is little benefit derived from a hasty reading of the Bible. One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained.

Keep your Bible with you. As you have opportunity, read it; fix the texts in your memory.

We cannot obtain wisdom without earnest attention and prayerful study. Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages, we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given. Angels from the world of light will be with those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance. How must God esteem the human race, since He gave His Son to die for them and appoints His Holy Spirit to be man's teacher and continual guide!

Through nature and revelation, through His providence, and by the influence of His Spirit, God speaks to us. But these are not enough; we need also to pour out our hearts to Him. In order to commune with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning

our actual life.

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.

Our heavenly Father waits to bestow upon us the fullness of His blessing. What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children. What can the angels of heaven think of poor helpless human beings, who are subject to temptation, when God's heart of infinite love yearns toward them, ready to give them more than they can ask or think, and yet they pray so little and have so little faith?

The darkness of the evil one encloses those who neglect to pray. The whispered temptations of the enemy entice them to sin; and it is all because they do not make use of prayer. Yet prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence.

There are certain conditions upon which we may expect that God will hear and answer our prayers:

One is that we feel our need of help from Him. If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions.

Another element of prevailing prayer is faith. When our prayers seem not to be answered, we are to cling to the promise; for the time of answering will surely come, and we shall receive the blessing we need most. But to claim that prayer will always be answered in

the very way and for the particular thing that we desire is presumption.

When we come to God in prayer, we should have a spirit of love and forgiveness in our own hearts.

Perseverance in prayer has been made a condition of receiving. We must pray always if we would grow in faith and experience.

We should pray in the family circle; and, above all, we must not neglect secret prayer, for this is the life of the soul. Family or public prayer alone is not sufficient. Secret prayer is to be heard only by the prayer-hearing God.

There is no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God. In the crowds of the street, in the midst of a business engagement, we may send up a petition to God and plead for divine guidance.

Let the soul be drawn out and upward, that God may grant us a breath of the heavenly atmosphere. We may keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun. Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He is not indifferent to the wants of His children.

We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God. If Christians would associate together, speaking to each other of the love of God and the precious truths of redemption, their own hearts would be refreshed and they would refresh one another.

We must gather about the cross. Christ and Him crucified should be the theme of contemplation, of conversation, and of our most joyful emotion. We should

keep in our thoughts every blessing we receive from God; and, when we realize His great love, we should be willing to trust everything to the hand that was nailed to the cross for us.

The soul may ascend nearer heaven on the wings of praise. As we express our gratitude, we are approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts.

Many are at times troubled with the suggestions of skepticism. God never asks us to believe, without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith. Disguise it as they may, the real cause of doubt and skepticism, in most cases, is the love of sin. We must have a sincere desire to know the truth and a willingness of heart to obey it.

—Summary of Steps to Christ in the author's own words.

A low-cost copy of the complete book is available from the publisher.

“Thus saith the Lord: Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered; for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.”
—*Isaiah 49:25*

“In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence, and His children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.”
—*Proverbs 14:26-27*

“Trust ye in the Lord forever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.”
—*Isaiah 26:4*

“The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it.”
—*Proverbs 10:22*

“He shall save His people from their sins.”
—*Matthew 1:21*



Appendix Three

Bible Promises Which Solve Problems

How to find peace of heart

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee. *Isaiah 26:3*

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Romans 5:1*

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. *Colossians 3:15*

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for Thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety. *Psalms 4:8*

The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace. *Psalms 29:11*

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. *John 14:27*

How to find forgiveness from God

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:9*

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. *Isaiah 55:7*

How to forgive others

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any

man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. *Colossians 3:13*

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. *Mark 11:25*

How to be like Christ

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: *1 Peter 2:21*

He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked. *1 John 2:6*

But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. *Mark 10:43-44*

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. *John 13:15*

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. *Hebrews 12:2, 3*

When you need a lot of help

But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:19*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. *Ephesians 1:3*

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. *1 John 3:22*

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. *2 Corinthians 9:8*

When you need guidance

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. *Psalms 119:105*

When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life. *Proverbs 6:22, 23*

Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee. *Psalms 119:11*

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word. *Psalms 119:9*

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, if ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. *John 8:31, 32*

Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors. *Psalms 119:24*

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. *2 Peter 1:4*

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. *Psalms 23:3*

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. *Isaiah 30:21*

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. *Joshua 1:8*

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be per-

fect, throughly furnished unto all good works. *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

When you feel weak

God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty . . . That no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus. *1 Corinthians 1:27, 29-30*

My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen Thou me according unto Thy Word. *Psalms 119:28*

For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. *Isaiah 30:15*

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love . . . *Ephesians 3:16-19*

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. *Isaiah 40:31*

The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace. *Psalms 29:11*

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness. *Isaiah 41:10*

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. *Isaiah 40:29*

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. *Psalms 18:2*

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. *Ephesians 6:13*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be

afraid? *Psalm 27:1*

When you need more faith

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. *Hebrews 11:1*

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. *Romans 10:17*

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. *1 Peter 1:7-9*

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. *1 John 5:4*

When you don't feel like obeying God's Word

But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be My people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. *Jeremiah 7:23*

Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse: A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known. *Deuteronomy 11:26-28*

O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea: *Isaiah 48:18*

If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it . . . He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him. *John 14:14, 21*

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. *Acts 5:29*

And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked. *1 John 2:3-6*

Teach me to do Thy will; for thou art My God: Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. *Psalms 143:10*

Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess. *Deuteronomy 5:33*

When you feel like doing something wrong

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. *Proverbs 14:12*

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. *Romans 12:1, 2*

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 2:5*

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee. *Isaiah 26:3*

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: *Colossians 3:2, 5*

When you are tempted by Satan

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. *1 Peter 5:8-9*

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and

he will flee from you. *James 4:7*

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. *Revelation 12:11*

The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. *Proverbs 18:10*

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Romans 6:23*

When you are discouraged

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. *John 14:1*

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. *John 14:27*

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. *Galatians 6:9*

Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord. *Psalms 31:24*

The Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be thou discouraged. *Deuteronomy 1:21*

When you are fearful

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. *2 Timothy 1:7*

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. *Romans 8:15*

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. *1 John 4:18*

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. *Psalms 91:1*

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. *Psalms 91:10-11*

Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken. *Proverbs*

3:25-26

In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. *Psalm 56:11*

When you need courage

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord. *Psalm 27:14*

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. *Isaiah 43:2*

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. *1 Peter 4:12-13*

Fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. *Isaiah 51:7*

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee. *Deuteronomy 33:27*

Thus saith the Lord . . . As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you. *Isaiah 66:12-13*

I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness . . . for these things I delight. *Jeremiah 9:24*

Behold, I have refined thee . . . I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction . . . For Mine own sake, even for Mine own sake will I do it. *Isaiah 48:10-11*

I, even I, am He that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of man that shall die, and the son of man which shall be made as grass; and forgettest the Lord thy maker . . . and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? *Isaiah 51:12-13*

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. *Psalm 34:17-18*



I believe in miracles

I've seen a soul set free!

Miraculous the change in one

Redeemed through Calvary!

I've seen the lilly push its way

Up through the stubborn sod--

I believe in Miracles

For I believe in God!



“Make the promises of God your own. Then when test and trial come, these promises will be to you glad springs of heavenly comfort.” — Letter 25, 1903