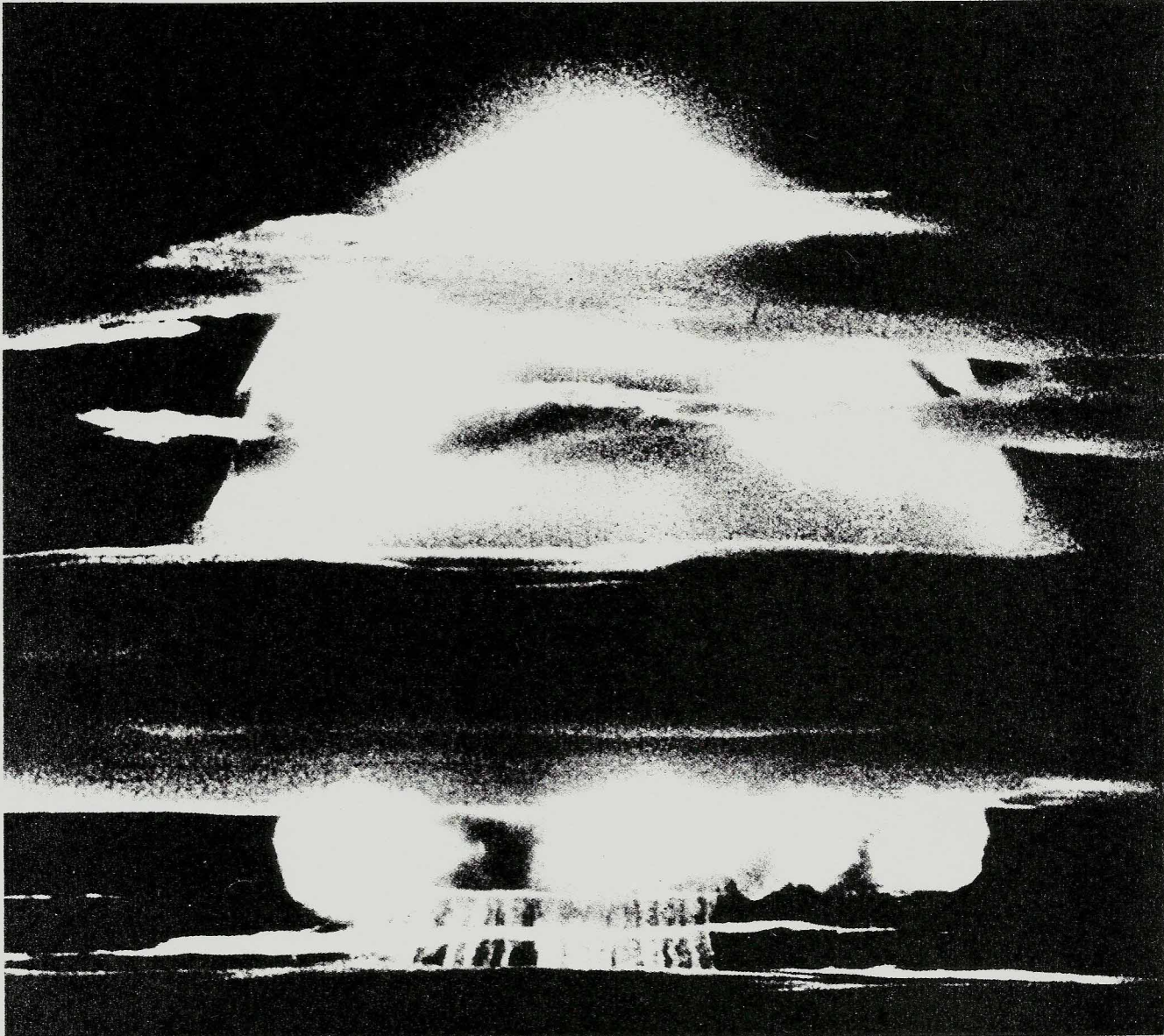


Ambassador College

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



Where Mankind Is Headed!

LESSON 6

an open letter from

THE STAFF

YOU need to *understand HOW* to get the most out of your Bible study.

In Bible study, as well as with anything else, there is a *right* and a *wrong* way to accomplish. There are certain rules which, if followed, will give you a more thorough understanding of God's Word — leave you with fewer questions, begin to help you think and act as God does because you UNDERSTAND what He says in His Word.

The following rules are not necessarily in order — they are certainly not *all* the rules of Bible study — but they are *basic* and *important* and will help you gain more of the Truth from God's Word as you continue to study it with the Ambassador College Correspondence Course.

First, before you begin studying the Bible each day, you should ask God in PRAYER to open your mind to *understand* His Word. David was a man after God's own heart — he studied that portion of God's Word which was available to him in his day. He *meditated*, thought about and considered God's Laws and His ways. He was close to God in every way, and yet many times throughout the Psalms we read how David ASKED God to *guide* him in his study, to *open* his mind, to *reveal* His Truth.

"TEACH ME, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. GIVE ME understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. MAKE ME TO GO in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. INCLINE MY HEART unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness... STABLISH THY WORD unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear... Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: QUICKEN ME in thy righteousness" (Psalm 119:33-40).

Many wise and intelligent men have made a life study of God's Word in its original languages, but did NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND IT! One such individual *translated the entire Bible* from Genesis to Revelation. He *studied* God's Word, but did not get the Message — he did not understand the Gospel! In the introduction to his translation, he explains how *he* feels the Old Testament is merely a compilation of *uninspired* Jewish literature!

Another scholar wrote a six-volume commentary on *every last verse in the Bible*. Yet not by any stretch of the imagination could he be construed to have understood God's Plan! God

(Please continue on page 11)

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON 6

Published at Pasadena, California; Radlett, England; and North Sydney, Australia, by Ambassador College. French and German editions published at Pasadena, California. Spanish edition published at Big Sandy, Texas.

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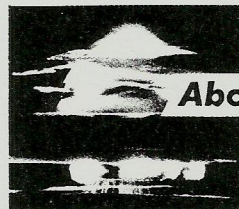
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About Our Cover . . .

This spectacular photo of a hydrogen bomb explosion was taken at 12,000 feet, approximately 50 miles from the detonation site. The huge mushroom cloud rose 40,000 feet. Though only a *test*, this awesome sight is a grim reminder of man's capacity to wipe out all life on earth! Scientists and statesmen are frightened by the facts. They know *where* the arms race is leading. And they know the *only solution* to world chaos and the threat of annihilation lies in the concept of WORLD GOVERNMENT. But the way to it they *don't know*. This lesson reveals the WAY!

U. S. Air Force Photo

WHY GOD MUST INTERVENE

WORLD leaders and scientists are frankly *frightened* by the horrifying prospects of the future. They **WARN** us that man now possesses the means of committing **COSMO-CIDE** — *suicide* of the whole human race. They even talk in terms of “**OVERKILL!**”

These men know the U. S. and USSR already have enough nuclear weapons to **TOTALLY ANNIHILATE** all life from this planet **MANY TIMES OVER!** Just **ONCE** would be enough.

They realize something totally unforeseen must *soon occur* to **STOP** the present trend of world events — or man **WILL** destroy himself!

What Statesmen and Scientists Warn

In 1961, the late President John F. Kennedy warned a hushed United Nations Assembly: “Mankind must put an end to war — or *war will put an end to mankind!*”

“Today,” he said, “every inhabitant of this planet must contemplate the day when this planet may no longer be habitable . . . The mere existence of modern weapons — **10 MILLION**

TIMES more powerful than any that the world has ever seen, and only *minutes away* from any target on earth — is a source of horror . . .”

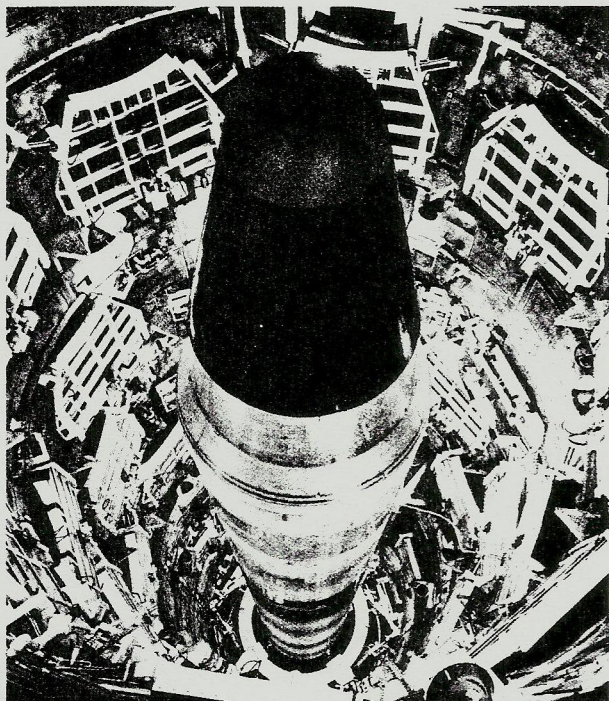
Such is the terrifying state of the world you live in!

“Together,” said Mr. Kennedy grimly, “we shall save our planet — or *together we shall perish in its flames!*”

What President Kennedy told the United Nations in 1961 is *more true today* than ever before. His warning of possible world annihilation was not the ranting of a wild-eyed fanatic, but is the *day-to-day* **REALITY** of the world in which you live!

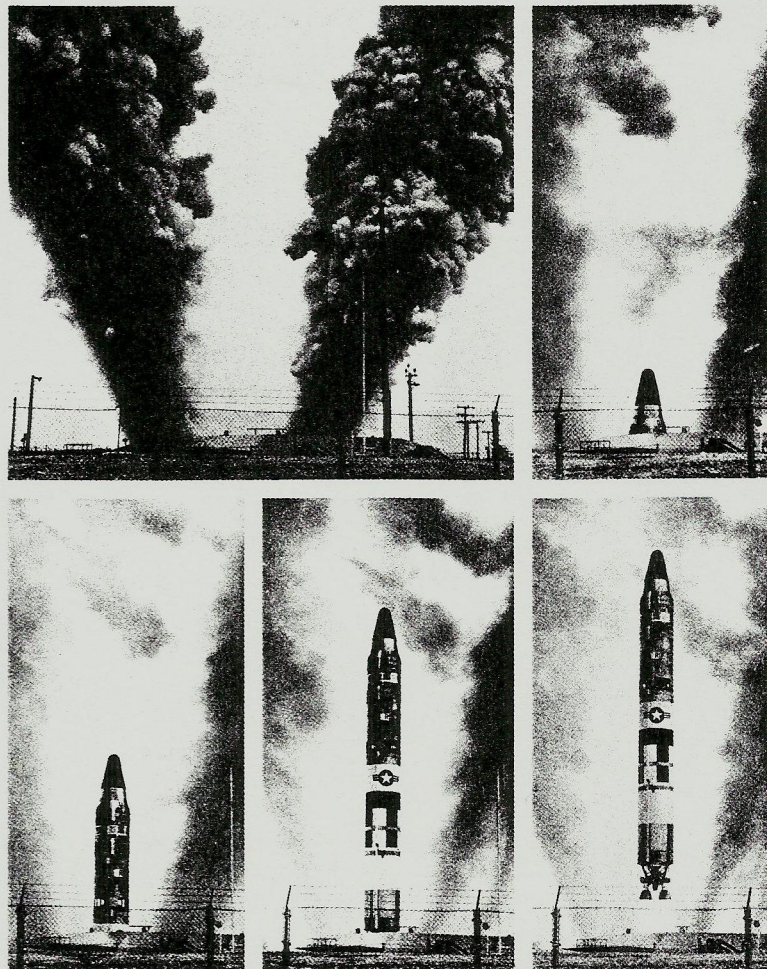
Dr. M. S. Livingston of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and President of the Federation of American Scientists said: “It appears unlikely that the world will avoid a nuclear holocaust if another 15 years pass without arms control agreements.”

Philip Noel-Baker, British authority on world disarmament, told U.S. Congressmen: “I believe that within 10 years we will *all be dead and the earth will be an incinerated relic.*”



Martin Co. Photos

MIGHTY TITAN II — Hundreds of nuclear-tipped defensive missiles are hidden in concrete silos beneath U. S. soil — poised and ready for almost instantaneous launching! Sequence of photos at right shows spectacular test launching of U. S. Titan II.





Wide World Photos

AIR, WATER POLLUTION — New York City under dense blanket of smog. At right is South Platte River north-east of Denver, Colorado — one of hundreds of polluted streams and rivers supplying U. S. citizens with "drinking" water. Pollution of man's natural resources is a growing threat to civilization!

These are not the rantings and ravings of fanatics and extremists, but the convictions of world-renowned statesmen and scientists who are authorities in their fields! They all speak fearfully of the **END OF THIS WORLD** — the *end of human civilization!*

Other Ways to Annihilation!

There are at least *five other causes*, beside nuclear annihilation, that seem inevitably to point to the utter destruction of mankind in the not too distant future! Consider these briefly:

Human life is sustained by air, water and food. Today man is polluting his life-sustaining supply of these three necessities at a fast-accelerating rate. Air pollution — which includes gasses, smoke, smog, strontium 90 fallout from nuclear test explosions, etc. — not only threatens man's health, but renders plant life sick. And our rivers and lakes have been so seriously polluted that water supplies in many places are reaching a *crisis stage!*

Man has also depleted and ruined the soil out of which food must grow. He uses artificial fertilizers and poisonous sprays which rob vegetables, grains and fruits of life-sustaining minerals and vitamins so necessary to our good health. Then food processors further extract these vital elements out of grains, rice, sugar, etc., in their greed for greater profits.

Add to these the worldwide revolution in the weather — droughts and floods — resulting in mass starvation in some parts of the world, and widespread epidemics of disease. Then if all these fast-accelerating evils do not destroy humanity soon, experts say the effects of the **POPULATION EXPLOSION will!**

When we take a hard, cold, realistic look at present conditions and trends, they do point inevitably to a fast-approaching **WORLD CRISIS** of combined **NUCLEAR WAR**, starvation, uncontrollable disease epidemics, crime and violence, and the *extinction of human life* on this planet!

Man has **NO SOLUTION** to these terrifying problems! The farther he goes, the *more destructive* are his efforts.

Leading scientists look at this terrifying world picture and say they are frankly frightened! They warn us that man's *only hope* lies in the formation of a super **WORLD GOVERNMENT**, wielding all the military power over the nations!

But the nations, hostile against one another, could never form such a government. And the humans in authority would be no more able to cope with all these nonmilitary evils that threaten the extinction of mankind than present leaders.

So it's "**WORLD GOVERNMENT — OR ANNIHILA-**

TION!" on the one hand, and it's "WORLD GOVERNMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE!" on the other hand!

That is the stark paradox of TERROR facing all mankind today! No wonder God Almighty says "THE WAY OF PEACE THEY KNOW NOT" (Isa. 59:8.)

Only Two Alternatives

Let's face it. Right now there are only two alternatives before mankind. Either there *does exist a living* GOD of Supreme mind and total POWER, who very soon *will* step in and interfere in the affairs of this world, and SAVE HUMANITY FROM ITSELF, or else the result of extinction pictured above must inevitably soon occur!

There is *no other* alternative!

One may blind his eyes to existing FACTS and TRENDS and say, "Aw, come on! I can't see that this world is any worse than it ever was — NOTHING's going to happen! If we just blind our eyes to conditions and don't worry, perhaps they'll just go away!"

But these conditions and trends *won't just go away!* Not unless they are CAUSED to go away!

Needed: "A Strong Hand From Someplace"

An accurate appraisal of man's ONLY HOPE for survival appeared in a leading U. S. newsmaga-

zine in 1965. This appraisal indicated that, among government officials, the prevailing view is gaining acceptance that tensions and world problems are becoming too deep-seated to be solved except "by a strong hand from someplace."

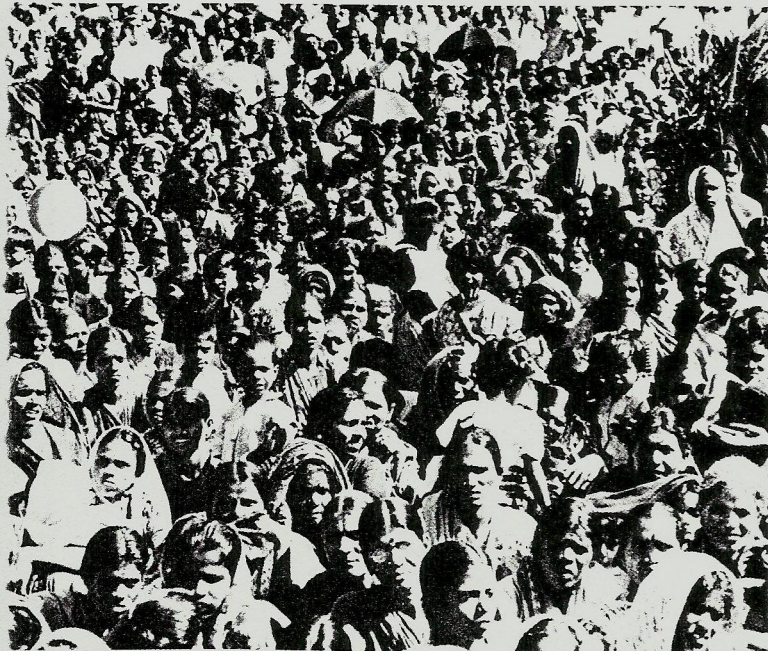
That STRONG HAND is coming — but from a source most people least expect! The prophet Isaiah reveals that source in your Bible: "Behold, the LORD GOD will come with STRONG HAND and his arm shall rule for him . . ." (Isa. 40:10).

Your Bible shows there is *hope* for mankind! God Almighty is going to intervene with a STRONG HAND to *save humanity from cosmocide!* He will not allow the scientific genius of man to destroy all life from this planet!

The Great God of your Bible says He is going to send Jesus Christ again — this time to SAVE us from ourselves and to establish the GOVERNMENT OF GOD on earth!

THINK OF IT!

The glorified CHRIST — coming in all the splendor, supernatural POWER and GLORY of GOD ALMIGHTY — coming to *save* mankind alive — coming to STOP escalating wars, nuclear mass-destruction, human pain and suffering — coming to usher in PEACE, abundant well-being, happiness and JOY for all mankind!



Wide World, UPI Photos

POPULATION, DROUGHT, FAMINE — This crowd of people in India is symbolic of the underfed millions of the world. Hungry girl at right lives in drought-stricken Bihar, India. The population explosion, coupled with drought and resultant famine, are unalterable threats to man's survival!



Perfect World Government

Yes, Jesus CHRIST is *soon* going to return to this earth! He is coming in POWER and GLORY! And he is coming to *RULE ALL NATIONS!*

The ONLY HOPE for justice — for PEACE — for TRUTH — for *right solutions* to all this world's problems, is the coming of Jesus Christ to set up RIGHT WORLD GOVERNMENT — the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

God shows in His inspired Word to mankind how utterly *helpless* man is in governing himself and his fellows. 6,000 years of human experience has now brought mankind to the very brink of world suicide. The world's leading scientists and statesmen admit the ONLY HOPE, now, is world government.

World leaders have attempted to form a WORLD ORGANIZATION of nations. They call it "The UNITED NATIONS." And during its inception, chiefs of state *warned* that THIS WAS THE WORLD'S *LAST CHANCE!*

But the United Nations has *failed!* The UN has NO POWER over the nations! It has no POWER to settle disputes, stop wars, or *prevent* wars. The so-called United Nations are NOT united. This effort of *men* has degenerated into a sound-



Wide World

Former Soviet Premier, Nikita Khrushchev, jumps to his feet waving a finger and shouting his Communist views at a session of the UN General Assembly.

ing board for Communist propoganda. MAN HAS FAILED HIS "LAST CHANCE"!

Now GOD must step in — *or we perish!!*

WHY Supernatural FORCE

World leaders today are close to UNANIMOUS in concluding that *man's only hope* of being saved alive for even another generation lies in establishing an all-powerful super WORLD GOVERNMENT! Yet all confess the nations are utterly unable to bring it about.

Sir Winston Churchill, speaking in Copenhagen, said: "The creation of an authoritative all-powerful world order is the ultimate aim toward which we must strive. *Unless some effective world SUPER GOVERNMENT* can be brought *quickly* into action, the proposals for peace and human progress are dark and doubtful." (Emphasis ours.)

Clement Attlee, former British Prime Minister, said: "The world needs the consummation of our conception of *world organization through world law if civilization is to survive!*" Again he said, "We have not an awful lot of time. There is too much dangerous stuff in the world, and there are too many fools about, trigger-happy idiots and the like."

We could reproduce such quotes from world leaders for the next hundred pages. But ALL KNOW that man is utterly helpless and unable to bring about such a solution.

Would the United States say to the leaders of other nations, "We are ready to relinquish all sovereignty over ourselves, and place our great nation UNDER THE ABSOLUTE RULE of leaders from Russia, China, France, Egypt, and other countries"? Would the leaders in the Kremlin step down, and relinquish all Communist sovereignty to a government headed by leaders from the United States, and these other countries?

And, if MEN should undertake to establish a super WORLD Government, wielding all the MILITARY POWER over all nations, WHAT FORM OF GOVERNMENT would the nations submit to? The men in the Kremlin would never step down in submission unless this world government would be RUSSIAN COMMUNISM — and even then, these men in the Kremlin would insist on having all the POWER in *their* clutch. But the Chinese Communists would not submit to that — they would demand that the new World Government be *their* brand of Communism.

Look at former President Charles de Gaulle of France. There would have been a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE, turning the Common Market into one overall political and military government *before* now, except that De Gaulle would not submit to anything he, himself, did not head.



Wide World Photo

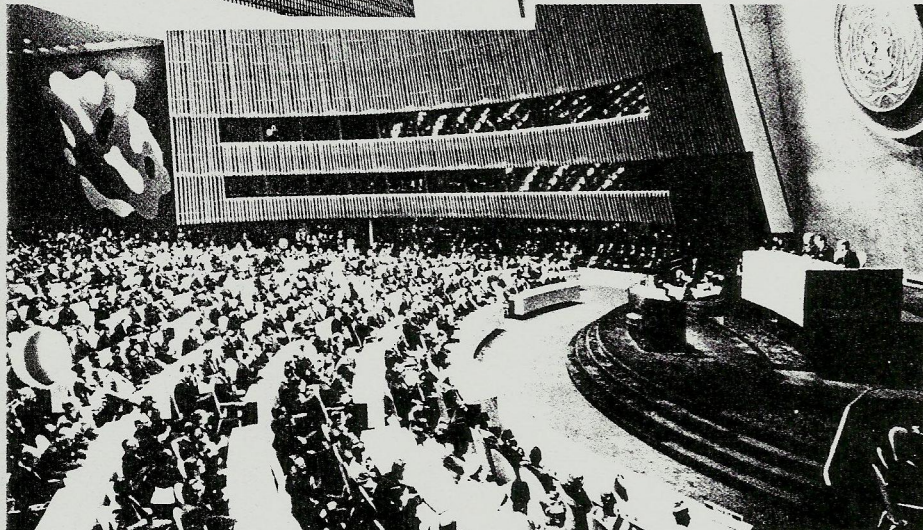
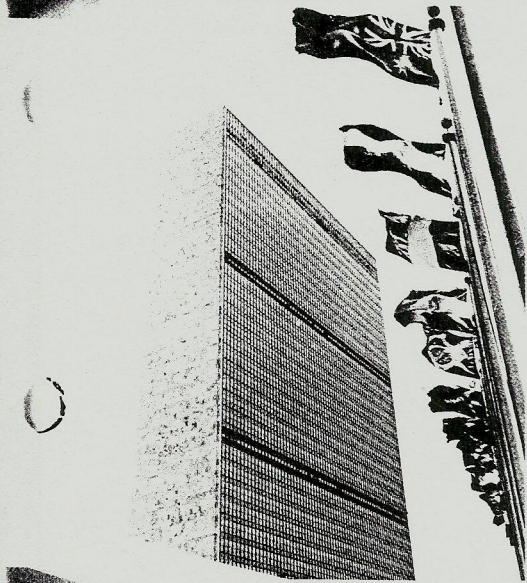
The Pope speaks out shortly before his trip to the U.N. in 1965.

POPE WARNS: "PEACE... OR END OF CIVILIZATION!"

Open wars and uneasy truces plague the United Nations. Wars and flare-ups continue to rage in spite of UN efforts toward world peace. Amid many apparent United Nations failures, Pope Paul saw the need in 1965 to speak before the UN and remind the world that, without peace, civilization will end! But does the world know the way to peace?

Left, the United Nations Building. Below, General Assembly in session. Right, American chaplain conducts burial service in Korea for U.S. soldiers. This war was a major test for United Nations. Only U.S. prevented a total fiasco!

United Nations Photos



The Germans wouldn't accept De Gaulle as their new *Führer*, and the French won't accept a German *Führer* sitting in full authority over them.

Most European nations would never accept "Democracy" as the form of World Government, and the United States would accept nothing else.

Could ANYTHING be more IMPOSSIBLE than for *this* world's nations to get together, in a new WORLD GOVERNMENT of some form, each surrendering all its power and sovereignty to it?

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

And even when ALMIGHTY GOD, the Creator and Ruler over the entire UNIVERSE, does supernaturally intervene to set up His WORLD GOVERNMENT — His PERFECT Government — the

nations will be ANGRY! (Rev. 11:18.) The nations will try to FIGHT Jesus Christ! Men will say, "We *don't want* God to rule over us!"

That's why Christ is coming in all the POWER and GLORY of God's SUPERNATURAL FORCE! That's WHY He will begin His rule "with a *rod of iron*."

What a paradox that man will never submit to having PEACE, PROSPERITY, HAPPINESS, and ABUNDANT WELL-BEING *unless* he is FORCED into it!

Now we're ready to begin this vital lesson. Proceed by following the instructions given in Lesson One. If you have not been looking up the answers in your Bible and perhaps even WRITING them down, *now would be a good time to BEGIN!* Once you've done it this way, you'll understand *why* we say this is the best method of studying and *retaining* the truth of the Bible.

LESSON 6

Christ to Conquer and RULE the Nations

The Bible is full of the GOOD NEWS that Jesus Christ is coming again! And when He comes, it will be to *take over* and CHANGE this world! This time Christ is coming to solve all the world's problems by giving us RIGHT GOVERNMENT!

1. To whom did God reveal what is to *happen* in these "latter days"? Dan. 2:28. What was the dream God gave King Nebuchadnezzar? Verses 31-35.

2. Were there to be *four successive* world-ruling kingdoms? Verses 37-40. (A later lesson will explain the full significance of these four empires, and which ones they were.)

3. In the days of the last ten kings (represented by ten toes in verse 42) which are yet to arise *out of* the fourth kingdom, is God going to set up a KINGDOM that will *never be destroyed*? Verse 44.

4. Is a *stone* to destroy these last ten kings? Verse 34. Who is this stone? Acts 4:10-11.

5. Where else is this same event described? Rev. 17:12-14. Are ten kings mentioned here?

6. Is the great personage mentioned in Revelation 19:11 to MAKE WAR? What is His title? Verse 16. Is He also called "the Lamb"? Rev. 17:14. Who is the Lamb of God? John 1:29. Do these verses plainly show that it is Christ who will come with an army of angels to CONQUER the *rebellious* nations of the earth?

7. What will be the PURPOSE of Christ's coming? Rev. 19:15. What will happen to those who *oppose* Him? Verses 17-18.

COMMENT: The phrase "flesh of all men," in Revelation 19:18 does *not* refer to ALL people

on earth, but to ALL who are in the *armies* gathered against Jerusalem to fight Christ (Zech. 14:12). This will be explained further in the next lesson.

8. Does Revelation 11:15-19 speak of this *same* time of Christ's coming to establish His Kingdom? How can we be absolutely certain of this? Verse 15.

9. Is the angel of Revelation 11:15 the *last of seven* angels to sound? Rev. 8:2, 6. Will the dead in Christ also be resurrected at the sounding of the last — the *seventh* — trumpet? Rev. 11:18; I Thes. 4:16 and I Cor. 15:52.

COMMENT: It is at the *sounding* of the last, or seventh, trumpet that the rebellious kingdoms of this world BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF CHRIST, and the saints are raised immortal to *join* Him in the air as He descends to the earth!

10. Will the *born again* saints have *plenty* to do when Christ and His army of angels subdue the nations? Dan. 7:18 and Rev. 20:4, last part. What does the word "take" in Dan. 7:18 signify?

COMMENT: Those born of God at Christ's return will have an *ACTIVE PART with Christ in taking over and ruling the kingdoms of this world!*

HOW Christ Is Coming

Exactly HOW will Christ return? Will He come *silently* as a "thief in the night"? Is He returning *secretly* to "rapture" away His Church?

He will — *if* His purpose is to go away again and let this dying world *perish* in NUCLEAR COSMOCIDE! He will — *IF* He's the maudlin Jesus so many talk about today! He will — *IF* He's

the Christ pictured by this world's Christian-professing religions!

BUT He *ISN'T* THAT KIND OF CHRIST!

1. Does the Bible say Christ's return from heaven will be accompanied by a TREMENDOUS SHOUT? I Thes. 4:16. What other *loud* noise will herald His approach? Same verse. Obviously Christ will not come *quietly*!

2. What is to come on the world *unexpectedly* as a "thief in the night"? Is it the "Day of the Lord?" I Thes. 5:2-3. Is this what Christians are to be watching for — or are they to be watching for and expecting a "secret rapture"? Verses 4-6.

3. And yet *is* Christ pictured as coming as a "thief in the night"? Rev. 16:15. Why?

COMMENT: Both the "Day of the Lord" and Christ's return will come upon the world *unexpectedly* as a "thief in the night." Only those warned and *watching* will be ready for both! (I Thes. 5:4-6.)

Because most people are not watching and praying, because the "Day of the Lord" — during which Christ returns — will catch the world *off guard*, Christ also is said to come as a "thief in the night." But, as we have just seen, this does NOT mean He will come either quietly or secretly — only *unexpectedly*!

4. Is all to be quiet when Christ gathers "His elect" from the four quarters of the earth? Matt. 24:31. See also I Cor. 15:52.

5. Did Paul speak of Christ coming "*with*" His saints? I Thes. 3:13. From where does He bring them — from heaven, or from the *atmosphere* of the clouds where they have risen to meet Him? I Thes. 4:16-17, 14. Doesn't this plainly occur at the SAME time He comes to be King over all the earth? Zech. 14:4, 9.

COMMENT: You may wish to *review* the section in Lesson 2 entitled "How Christ Will Return," in conjunction with the above. (For additional proof on this subject, be sure to write for the free article, "The 'Secret Rapture'... Fact or Fiction?")

What IS the "Day of the Lord"?

Jesus Christ came over 1900 years ago as a *meek* lamb to be slain for the sins of the world. But when He comes again, He will be WRATHFUL — ANGRY — AGAINST THE SINS OF THIS WORLD!

1. Does Revelation 6:16-17 foretell a "day" of God's "*wrath*" on this world? Did Zephaniah foretell this *same* time of God's WRATH? Zeph. 1:14-15 and 2:2-3. Turn also to Isa. 13:6-7 and Ezek. 7:19.

COMMENT: You probably have heard very little or nothing about the DAY OF THE ETERNAL

— and yet this "DAY OF THE LORD" is described in more than 30 different prophecies scattered through both the Old and New Testaments!

2. Is the "Day of the Lord" plainly a time of God's WRATH on the inhabitants of the *whole earth*? Rev. 6:15. Exactly WHY will God have to punish mankind? Zeph. 1:17.

COMMENT: This is the time of God's WRATH sent upon the *sinner*s of this world! God says HE will bring distress upon defiant and sinful men who hate truth and peace, and love *evil*. This is the time of the PLAGUES God shall send to *punish* the whole world for its sins!

The wrath of the "Day of the Lord" begins with the seven "trumpet" plagues which are unleashed consecutively over a period of months (Revelation, chapters 8, 9, 11:15-19) culminating in the Second Coming of Christ.

3. Many believe that men will soon find the *way* to peace. Do Isa. 59:8 and Rom. 3:16-17 indicate this? Will there be WORLDWIDE FIGHTING in these end times? Matt. 24:7. Will the nations be *angry* when Christ returns? Rev. 11:18. When people are angry they *fight*! Will they even try to *fight Christ*? Rev. 17:14.

4. Let's continue to notice why Christ must punish mankind and take over this world's kingdoms. Is it because mankind has been SINNING? Rom. 3:23. What *is* sin? I John 3:4. Which law? Matt. 19:17-19 and Rev. 11:19.

COMMENT: Jesus plainly enumerated *six* of the TEN COMMANDMENTS and taught throughout His ministry that it is a SIN to *break any one of them*! In the days of Moses, God personally wrote the Ten Commandments in stone and had them placed in the "Ark of the Testament" (II Chron. 5:10; Deut. 10:4-5).

5. Are *disobedient* power-mad dictators today bent on destroying the earth? Rev. 11:18, last part. Will they DESTROY ALL LIFE if God does not soon intervene in world affairs? Matt. 24:22.

COMMENT: In love and in *tender mercy*, God has given this stubborn, misguided human race every chance for 6,000 long years to *turn* to the ways of His Law. Instead, men have *turned their backs* on their Creator — they have REFUSED to follow the ways which would *result* in the fulfillment of man's desires. Men continue to devise forces which now threaten the annihilation of the human race — unless God DOES intervene!

But God has promised to SAVE this evil world *from itself* and bring us LASTING WORLD PEACE! He is about to step in and speak to this rebellious and hell-bent world in the *only language it will understand*. God will now use SUPER-NATURAL FORCE to *punish* this world for all its sins!

As any loving parent punishes his child who

will not listen to kind and loving admonition, so now God must punish this world with just judgments — with PLAGUES so terrible that the world will at last be *forced* to turn from its wicked ways and seek God and HIS WAYS which lead to peace and everything good.

6. Will those who turn to God *now* and begin OBEYING Him — those who *come out* of following the pagan Babylonish ways of this world — be SPARED from having to *suffer* God's wrath? Rev. 18:4.

The Seven Last Plagues

We have seen that Christ will return and stand on the earth at the sounding of the *seventh* trumpet (Rev. 11:15; Zech. 14:4-9). But the rebellious nations will be *angry* at Christ and will attempt to FIGHT Him!

1. What will Christ then begin to do to the nations — send even *greater* plagues? Rev. 11:18 and 15:1. Are these seven last plagues to be poured out in Christ's *presence*? Rev. 14:10.

COMMENT: All of the preceding six trumpets have heralded the unleashing of different types of grievous plagues upon this rebellious world. But notice that the *seventh*, or last, trumpet (Rev. 11:15) *consumates* — COMPLETES — this wrath! How? By ushering in the terrifying "SEVEN LAST PLAGUES"! The Moffatt translation renders the last part of Revelation 15:1: "For they [the seven last plagues] *complete* the wrath of God."

2. Are these plagues of wrath compared to "vials" about to be poured out? Rev. 15:7. (Some translations use the word "bowl.") Are they poured out upon the earth? Rev. 16:1. *Read* the rest of this chapter to get the story flow.

3. Will the seven last plagues be poured out in *one day*? Rev. 18:8.

COMMENT: This scripture shows that all seven vials will BEGIN to be poured out in ONE 24-hour day, though some of these symbolic vials of wrath will continue to be administered *past* this 24-hour period.

This 24-hour day is the *climactic* part of the much longer "Day of the Lord" which will have begun with the seventh seal (Rev. 8:1) which ushers in the seven consecutive trumpet plagues. And it will be *during this one day* that the "Babylonish" leadership of this sinful world will be utterly destroyed!

4. Upon whom is the FIRST vial poured? Rev. 16:2.

COMMENT: It will be poured upon all who are participating in this world's false, paganized, civil-religious system.

THE STORY FLOW OF REVELATION

CHAPTERS 6-11, 14-16

THE SEVEN SEALS

- 1st — False Prophets
- 2nd — War
- 3rd — Famine
- 4th — Pestilence
- 5th — Tribulation
- 6th — Heavenly Signs

7th — The Seven Trumpet Plagues ("Day of the Lord" begins)	1st	} Injure the earth, sea, trees and rivers.
	2nd	
	3rd	
	4th	} First Woe
	5th	
	6th	} Third Woe or The Seven Last Plagues.
	7th	

5. What are the SECOND and THIRD vials poured out upon, and what do they cause? Rev. 16:3-7. Notice that all these vials will produce *supernatural effects* on the earth. Truly God is soon going to SUPERNATURALLY INTERVENE IN WORLD AFFAIRS!

6. What does the FOURTH vial produce? Rev. 16:8-9. Will the heat be *very intense*? How intense will God cause the light of the sun to be for a short time? Isa. 30:26.

7. What effect will all this have on the earth's population? Isa. 24:6. Will comparatively *few* mortal people be left at the start of Christ's rule?

COMMENT: Note particularly that NOT ALL PEOPLE WILL DIE! Other scriptures show there will still be *several million* left. (More about this in a later lesson.) With these, as His subjects, Christ will begin His rule on earth.

8. What, again, is the *reason* God will have to punish mankind so severely? Isa. 24:5.

COMMENT: Sin is the CAUSE of ALL human suffering and woe! Christ will have to execute the wrath of Almighty God on this earth because of man's *sins* — disobedience to God's Laws. The world is in reality *bringing this wrath upon itself because of REFUSING TO OBEY GOD!* And so God will have to punish the world *severely* to bring it to its senses. Yet, in spite of the severity of this fourth plague, people still WILL NOT REPENT! (Rev. 16:9.)

9. The FIFTH vial will be poured out on the area of the earth which will be most actively promoting the fight against Christ's rule. What

is this area called? Rev. 16:10. Will this plague finally compel these people to repent of their evil deeds and submit to Christ? Verse 11.

COMMENT: God's Word clearly shows that the earth's inhabitants will *refuse* to yield to Christ's authority when He comes. That's why Jesus Christ will have to **POWERFULLY SUBDUED** the world and **FORCE** mankind, at first, to *submit* to His rule.

It is amazing to see, in advance, just how this world *will react* to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

(To be continued)

an open letter from

THE STAFF

(Continued from page 2)

tells us plainly that it is not the *wise*, the mighty or the noble that He is calling to an understanding of His Word (I Cor. 1:25-27).

You and I *can understand* the Bible today, but not because of any special intelligence we may have. It is because He is *calling us* and because **WE HAVE ASKED** God to open our minds and give us *His* understanding of His Word!

Realize that you do not know, *of yourself*, how to understand the Plan of God and **ASK** Him to make it plain! Just get down on your knees and sincerely ask God to guide you in your study of His Word. He will open your mind to understand things that the most intelligent minds of mankind have not been able to understand.

Prayer will open to you an understanding of God's Word that Einstein did not have. *Prayer* will open your mind to understand God's Word in a way that the graduates of Harvard and Yale, Oxford and Cambridge, the great universities of Europe and Asia, are not able to understand.

PRAYER — your contact with God — is *vitally* important in your study of His Word — His contact with you — or you may spend endless hours of studying His Word in *vain* like the self-righteous Pharisees. The time spent, the verses covered, your understanding of the Greek or Hebrew languages and your memorization of verses in the Bible, will be of **NO AVAIL** at the return of Jesus Christ — *unless* you ask in **HEART-FELT PRAYER** for God's guidance in your Bible study!

The **SECOND** rule really goes hand-in-hand with the first. Before you rise from your knees in prayer, you should fully recognize in your own mind and heart that your *purpose* for this Bible

study is not just to gain academic knowledge, not only to prove or disprove a certain doctrine or fact — but to get you closer to the stature of the fullness of the very **CHARACTER of Jesus Christ!** The only way this can be done is if you *allow yourself TO BE CORRECTED!*

God's Word is written to each of us individually — it is personal, direct. Therefore your attitude should be the same as Jeremiah's. Turn to Jeremiah 10:23-24 and incorporate the intent of these verses as a meaningful part of your prayer! "O Lord, I know that the way of man is *not in himself*: it is **NOT IN MAN** that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, **CORRECT ME**, but with *judgment*; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing."

Don't just go through this mechanically, but really mean it! Don't just do this because this editorial *says* to do it, but because *you want correction from your Creator!*

In order for your attitude to be proper in your approach to God's Word, turning to one other scripture will clearly help you in understanding what your approach should be — in educating your attitude to be right before you begin studying each day:

"Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that *ye* build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but *to THIS MAN will I look*, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and **TREMBLETH AT MY WORD** . . . Hear the word of the Lord, *ye that tremble at his word!*" (Isa. 66:1-2, 5.)

This Bible that you are studying is the *very MIND and THOUGHTS of your Creator-God!* It is not to be argued about. It is not meant to be a club to chastise **OTHER** people with. Apply the scriptures which refer to **YOU, to yourself, and YOURSELF ONLY!**

Another rule is in a way an extension of the proper attitude explained in the last rule. Your approach to God's Word should be *completely POSITIVE!* Notice the example of the Bereans in Acts 17:11 — "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and *searched the scriptures daily*, whether those things **WERE SO.**"

This was a *positive* attitude! The Bereans were not searching the Scriptures to prove Paul was *wrong!* They were **NOT** negative, angry or bitter.

So if you have heard something about the Bible that you do not fully understand, your approach in your own personal Bible study should be to *prove* that it is so!

The common *misunderstanding* of I Thessalonians 5:21 which says, "Prove all things," is that this *proof* must entail a deep research into the Hebrew or Greek backgrounds, and into encyclopedias and historical references, lexicons and musty historical records. This is erroneous. If your research takes you into references of this sort, and you are endeavoring to *prove* POSITIVELY God's Truth, this is perfectly all right — but it is *not always necessary!*

This word "prove" is POSITIVE. That is the one main point of this particular law of Bible study. But the word itself means *to put to the test*. For example, there are *proving grounds* on which the modern automobiles manufactured in Detroit are *tested*. Notice further:

In the parable Jesus Christ gave regarding the wedding supper, there is a reference to a man who had just bought five yoke of oxen. The excuse he gave for not coming to the supper was that he wanted to *prove* these oxen (Luke 14:19). The word "prove" here is translated from the *same Greek word* used in I Thessalonians 5:21. Yet this man did not mean that he was going to his local library and look up in some dictionary a description of oxen to find out for sure *whether they WERE oxen*. It meant he wanted to be excused from the wedding supper so that he might take the oxen out into the field, yoke them up, hook a plow behind them and find out whether they would be able to do what oxen are supposed to do!

For another example, God commands us in the book of Malachi to prove Him in tithing. What He wants us to DO is *not* to technically search lexicons to find out Greek and Hebrew derivations, but — just as the principle is throughout the entire Bible — to *DO what He says to DO!* "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE ME [TEST ME] now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10). This is a POSITIVE *going forward*, a finding out of what God DOES say and then *DOING* it — not a search for *error* or *disproof*.

Another important rule we must keep in mind is that the Bible *never contradicts itself!* Jesus said: "*The scripture CANNOT be broken*" (John 10:35). You *cannot* prove *any* inspired scripture to be untrue, and you *cannot* find one scripture that *really* contradicts another. Malachi 3:6 — "For I am the Lord, I CHANGE NOT" — MEANS what it says. And Hebrews 13:8 — "Jesus Christ the SAME yesterday, and today, and forever" — also MEANS what it says.

The very *source* of truth is God's Word (John 17:17) — and unless your approach to it and your study of it is from this point of view, you will not gain a *true* understanding from it.

If you have difficulty in understanding any particular scripture — if it *seems* to say something different from another scripture, you may just need to study further. Always remember



PROVING GROUND

— Just as automobile manufacturers must put their products to the test, so God commands us to test His Word by putting it into PRACTICE in our daily lives.

Ford Motor Co.

beyond any shadow of a doubt the principle that *God never contradicts Himself!* Therefore, your understanding of the particular scripture or the translation you are reading is either incorrect or misunderstood.

Let's understand what seems to be a contradiction appearing in Proverbs 26:4-5. Verse four reads, "ANSWER NOT a fool according to his folly." Yet, the very next verse tells us, "ANSWER a fool according to his folly."

Actually, these two verses are not contradictory — BUT COMPLEMENTARY! The use of either verse — that is, its principle applied to a particular use — depends on the *set of circumstances*. Both these verses contain gems of wisdom that each one of us needs to learn to properly apply in answering other people's questions.

The LAST PART OF EACH VERSE holds the KEY which unlocks the meaning of these verses, and shows them to be practical, usable and wise PRINCIPLES — not *contradictory* statements! Notice now the *Bible* explanation of these two verses.

Verse four reads, "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him." The last part of the verse holds the KEY: don't degrade yourself by descending to HIS LEVEL in an ARGUMENT! Don't harangue — don't bite back — don't try to "argue back" with someone who is obviously trying to stir up contention.

The perfect example of this is found in Luke 20:1-8. Here Christ was teaching in the temple. The Pharisees came to Him with these words: "Tell us, BY WHAT AUTHORITY doest thou these things? or WHO is he that gave thee this authority?" (Verse 2.)

Quite obviously, they weren't interested in learning anything — they weren't coming as humble individuals hungering after new knowledge. THEY WERE THERE TO ARGUE WITH CHRIST!

Notice how Christ handled the situation: "And he answered and said unto them, I will also ASK YOU ONE THING; and answer me: The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?"

"And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not? But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet. And they answered, that they could not tell whence it was.

"And Jesus said unto them, NEITHER TELL I YOU by what authority I do these things" (Luke 20:3-8).

Christ answered their question *with a question!* To answer their question directly would have only resulted in a verbal battle. An argument would have ensued. Christ avoided strife by NOT answering them according to their folly.

Now, understand verse five in Proverbs 26. Again, the last part of the verse holds the KEY: "Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit." In this case, if you don't answer his question — if you don't accept his challenge — he will THINK HIMSELF to be wise!

The Apostle Paul had this problem. *False apostles* in Corinth were claiming THEY WERE the true Apostles of Christ. The congregation was being LED ASTRAY! Now was not the time for silence — or clever questions! Now was the time to SMASH the contentions — to ANSWER these false apostles' baseless claims!

Notice II Corinthians 11:23-24, 27 — and how he answered these *foolish men*: "Are they ministers of Christ? (I SPEAK AS A FOOL) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one... In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness."

Paul showed the people HE was their true minister! He answered and debunked the claims of these false ministers.

So you see, there is no contradiction after all! But rather much wisdom in these two proverbs — wisdom we need to APPLY in our daily lives!

Another rule of Bible study that often solves many problems is understanding what the Bible does say. Many times our misunderstanding comes from the confusion that this world causes — from a misinterpretation, a direct twisting of a scripture to conform to the doctrines promulgated by this world's ministers.

God warns: "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! Woe unto them that are wise in THEIR OWN eyes, and prudent in THEIR OWN sight!" (Isa. 5:20-21.) Many who claim to be representatives of God — the "interpreters" of His Word — TWIST and WREST that Word to their own destruction and the destruction of their hearers!

So always remember to ask yourself — and answer — the question: "What does the BIBLE say?"

John 3:6 is a good example of this. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." This is a very clear scripture, explaining that flesh is flesh and Spirit is spirit! That's what the Bible says! But that's not what people say the Bible says!

Sometimes you may have to refer to a reference work (which subject we will cover a

little later on) for scriptures such as I John 5:7. Or perhaps a note in the *center column* of your Bible will help you understand a scripture that *seems* to contradict what you know to be the truth.

Take for example Luke 17:20-21 — “The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, *the kingdom of God is WITHIN you.*”

Here, the Bible *does* say, “The kingdom of God is *within* you.” But here it is only the King James *translation* which says this — not necessarily God’s original Word. So, since it is not clear in the *King James* translation, other aids are necessary to find out what it does say.

This leads automatically to the next rule of Bible study which is: Check the *context*!

Context means, con — *with*, text — *subject matter*. In order to check the context you merely read the *verses which come WITH* the text that is in question. You read the verses *BEFORE* and the verses *AFTER*. In this example of Luke 17:21, you need to also ask yourself a number of questions regarding the context. The text that is with (con) Luke 17:21 is Luke 17:20! This verse *just before* answers the question regarding verse 21, but in order to *answer* that question you must *ask* yourself the question, “WHO?”

In other words you must ask yourself, if “the kingdom of God is *within* you” — WHO is the YOU that the Bible is referring to? In this case verse 20 explains that it is the *Pharisees!* Now you KNOW that certainly Jesus Christ wasn’t saying that the Kingdom of God was inside of PHARISEES! Therefore, the con (*with*) text helps you to see that there must be a *mis-translation* in this particular verse.

And sure enough, when you check the center column of your Bible you will find that the word “within” should be translated “among” — referring to Jesus Himself as a Representative of God’s Kingdom who was at that time “among” the Pharisees!

In order to understand any scripture thoroughly, in its context, you need to ask yourself — and answer for yourself — all the following questions: WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? WHO? How? When you have answered these questions regarding any particular text, and you have read all of the accompanying verses *with* the text in question, *you will have* GOD’S answer to the problem. Sometimes an *entire chapter* is the context you must consider to come to right understanding.

There are even *lies* written in the Bible and you have to be careful that you ask yourself *exactly* what the Bible says in the *entirety* of the context of any one statement. *The Bible says*, “Ye shall NOT surely die” (Gen. 3:4).

This is a *Biblical* statement! But in order to find out whether it’s true or not you have to find out WHO said it. In this particular case the same verse explains that Satan the Devil said it, but in order to find out whether it is true or not (because sometimes even Satan tells the truth) you have to go back in the *context* until you come to Genesis 2:17 where the Creator-God is quoted as saying, “THOU SHALT SURELY DIE!” — then you know what the *Bible, in its ENTIRETY and in its truth, DOES SAY!*

This brings us to the next rule of Bible study. Remember that no one scripture can *of itself*, taken *OUT of context*, be used to establish the Truth. “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any *private interpretation*” (II Pet. 1:20).

God has put His Bible together in a very unusual manner. He has written it so that men could study it intricately in its original languages, poring over its pages for their entire lifetime — *and yet never come to a knowledge of the truth*. Many people have memorized great sections of the Bible and yet not come to realize what those sections mean. You must take the whole Bible in its entire context, getting *all of the scriptures on any one subject* BEFORE you can come to the knowledge of that particular subject from God’s point of view.

THAT’S THE WAY THIS COURSE IS WRITTEN! *This is what makes this course different from all others.*

“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? . . . For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little. . . .”

Continuing from Isaiah: “. . . But the word of the Lord *was* unto them [those who flagrantly *DISOBEY*] precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken” (Isa. 28:9-10, 13).

One of the most important rules to keep in mind in our study of God’s Word is that the *Bible interprets itself!*

Many listeners to *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast write in and comment how much they enjoy *Mr. Armstrong’s interpretation* of the Bible — in spite of the fact Mr. Armstrong explains over and over again to the radio audience that it is *NOT his interpretation* that is being heard over *The WORLD TOMORROW, but only PLAIN BIBLE TRUTH!*

In your edition of the King James Bible the book of Revelation will probably be entitled, “The Revelation of *St. John the Divine.*” This



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BIBLE REFERENCE WORKS — Some of the many Bible study helps and translations available in bookstores. Though not an absolute necessity to understanding God's Word, some can be helpful in your study — if you can afford them.

is an excellent example of MAN's *interpretation*. Now in order for you to understand *what* the book of Revelation is — *whose* revelation it is, *to whom* it was written and *what* it is about — all you have to do is read the first few verses of THE BOOK ITSELF! In fact, the very first words of the very first verse *directly contradict* man's *interpretation* of the Bible with the plain Bible statement that this book is, "THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST"! (Rev. 1:1.)

Romans 3:4 is a good clear principle to live by in this rule of Bible study — "...let God be true, but every man a liar."

The book of Revelation has long been an enigma to most people. GOD SAYS it is a book of *revelation*. *The world* says it is a book of *hidden mystery*. *People* have come up with many weird interpretations for the book of Revelation — yet the book of Revelation is *vivid* in its own clear description and needs no interpretation! Let's continue in the first chapter of Revelation.

As you read in verse 12 that John saw seven *golden candlesticks*, you don't have to *wonder* what these seven golden candlesticks are — all you have to do is *READ ON* until you come, in the *context*, to verse 20 where it tells you plainly that the seven candlesticks ARE the *seven churches*!

In verse 16 it states that John saw *seven stars* in the hand of the Son of man. There is no need to go into great, eloquent illustrations of what the seven stars are, because again verse 20 reveals the plain Bible truth — no interpre-

tation necessary — that the seven stars ARE the *angels* of the seven churches. And so it goes through the rest of the Bible.

At this point we need to discuss briefly the use of other translations in conjunction with the King James Version. Though not an absolute necessity, they can be helpful in your study of God's Word.

Even though the original Word of God was inspired in the Hebrew and the Greek, God has allowed it to be translated into nearly every language spoken by mankind. If we were going to be particular about which language we used or which translation, then we would all have to learn Hebrew and Greek and study the Bible in its original languages.

The King James Version was written over 350 years ago. In the time since, the English language has undergone many changes. Sometimes those texts which are vague and unclear in the King James can be cleared up very easily by just reading a *more modern translation*, such as the Moffatt, the Revised Standard Version and others.

However, there is one thing to note about the King James translation, and that is regarding italics. This word *italic* is written in italics. Words that look like this in your King James Version are NOT translated from the original languages, but have been *supplied* by the translators in an attempt to help you understand the meaning of the sentence. However, since the translators themselves did not really understand all of God's inspired Word, they did not always

supply the correct words. So some of the words in italics are INCORRECT and actually *hinder* your understanding!

On the other hand, NOT *all of the words which ARE supplied* by the translators are in italics. Take I John 5:7 for instance, where the reference to three who bear witness in heaven is a completely erroneous reference inserted by a monk-copyist in the Middle Ages.

Often these difficulties will be cleared up by merely reading another translation and comparing it to the King James. Any questions arising after a thorough reading through several translations of any one verse will be few, and can be handled by studying further in other Bible helps.

If there are *words* that you have difficulty in understanding, remember not only to look them up in an English dictionary such as Webster's, but also if possible in a *Bible dictionary*, or in a *Bible concordance* so you can learn the *original* meaning of the word.

Sometimes people will look up a word in a modern dictionary only to find a definition that is not at all the *sense* of the word as used in the King James Version.

Take for example the word "conversation" in I Peter 3:1. Conversation to us today means talking between two people. A modern dictionary will give this definition. However, in the time of King James this particular word meant *the entire conduct* of a person, and that is the actual meaning in the *Bible* usage of this word. So on occasion, you may need to understand the meaning of the *original* Hebrew or Greek word, and not just the meaning in a modern dictionary.

One word of caution, however, needs to be made here about delving into Bible reference works. And that is, DON'T ESTABLISH DOCTRINE with "Bible Helps"!

Clarke's Commentary and the commentary by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown are good reference works — as is Halley's *Pocket Bible Handbook*. Sometimes in the back of Bibles there will be sections called "Bible Helps." Even the marginal references in the center of your Bible pages, which *sometimes* prove to be very helpful, are *often misleading* and may lead you astray!

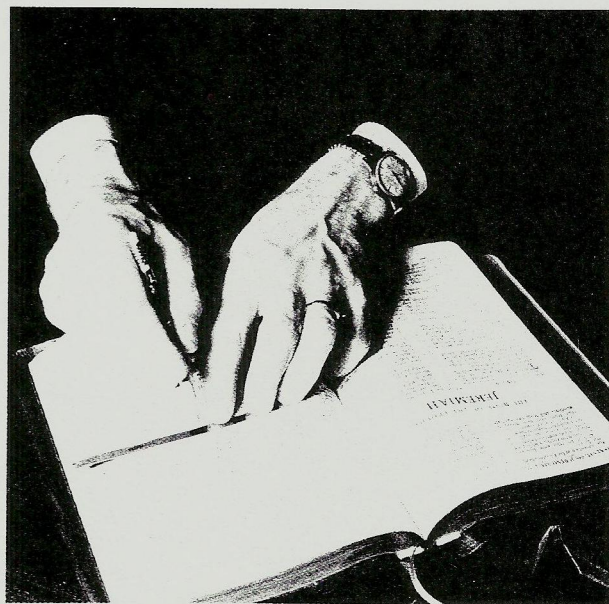
Therefore, all of these Bible helps should be used ONLY to establish historical or technical grammatical facts related to the Bible and MUST NOT be used to *establish doctrine*, or to *interpret the meaning of the Bible itself!*

One last point that needs mentioning concerns the *marking* of your Bible. Perhaps you have thought the Holy Bible should not be marked.

What is *holy* about the Bible is not the paper, ink and leather out of which it is made, but the *words of truth* — the *spiritual facts and principles* contained therein!

Any *physical* tool you can employ — such as marking with a pen or colored pencils — to help you remember and apply these spiritual truths in your life, is right in God's sight! He expects you to USE His written Word to worship *HIM* — not physical paper and ink!

Sometimes we hold back from marking the Bible, thinking we'll do it later — especially when we're listening to a point that we need to remember about a particular scripture — but we never seem to get around to doing it. It always seems so difficult to get out the pencil and ruler, and have our hands clean. So over years of experience, many here at Ambassador College have found that the best way to mark the Bible is to *JUST MARK IT!*



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Don't be afraid to MARK your Bible!

When you find out, for instance, that the word "conversation" in I Peter 3:1 ought to be "conduct," the thing you need to do is to IMMEDIATELY WRITE DOWN "conduct" in the margin, draw a line to, and circle the word "conversation" in the verse. This way you will always be reminded of it when you refer to that verse again.

Apply all of these rules diligently and your Bible study will be both interesting and very rewarding. You'll be amazed at how astonishingly *plain* and *simple* God's Plan and purpose will become as you CONTINUE to study your Bible with the Ambassador College Correspondence Course!