

**AMBASSADOR
COLLEGE**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



What Is the Christian's Inheritance?

LESSON 13

an open letter from

THE EDITOR

YOU were born into a world which has developed a certain type of civilization. The instant you were born you knew NOTHING! But your eyes opened, you looked about, and knowledge of what you saw began registering in your memory — began putting knowledge into your mind. Your ears heard sounds, and thus additional knowledge entered through the sense of hearing. Very elementary at first, but gradually, each bit of new knowledge, entering your mind through your sense of taste, smell, feel, sight and hearing, was *added* to what had previously been stored there.

Gradually you came to know, and take up with, the customs, ways, generally accepted ideas and beliefs of this world. You accepted them, took them for granted without question.

Some of them were good—but many of them were BAD. But you took them for granted without realizing they were bad.

You were born with a *nature*. We call it human nature. Few people realize what it is. Human nature has a spiritual side, and a physical side. On its spiritual side, it is pure VANITY. Vanity loves and tends to exalt the SELF. It is SELF-centered. It is selfish and greedy. It is this way *naturally*. On its physical side, there are the five senses, and the PULL of these senses to want to be satisfied. Exercise of these senses can produce sensations of pleasure. Some of these sensual pleasures are healthy, uplifting and GOOD. But many are injurious, harmful and BAD. Yet the bad ones cry out for gratification as much — probably far more than the good. Thus human nature exerts an automatic, impulsive PULL toward selfishness, greed, vanity, jealousy, envy, hatred, and toward the lusts (*wrong* desires) of the flesh.

Human nature makes it come *natural* to resent and resist authority over one. A child tends to resist the authority of his parents. We grow up with a natural attitude of hostility toward any authority, all the way up to God.

Human nature wants to *BE* good. It just doesn't want to *DO* good because GOOD is the way of God's invisible, inexorable, spiritual LAW. That LAW is, simply, LOVE. It is love toward God in the form of trusting and willing OBEDIENCE to God's every command and direction, knowing it is for our highest good. It is love toward God in the form of being God-centered—having the mind *continually* (consciously or sub-consciously

(Please continue on page 14)

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON 13

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

© 1958, 1966 by Ambassador College
All Rights Reserved

EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

DIRECTOR

C. Paul Meredith

CO-ORDINATOR

Herman L. Hoeh

Staff Writers

Lawson C. Briggs Richard H. Sedliacik

Circulation Manager

Edward C. Kleier

Art Staff

Arthur Ferdig

Gary D. Merager William S. Schuler

Basil Wolverton

Secretary

Carrol Holbrooks

YOUR ENROLLMENT has been paid by others. Bulk copies for distribution not given or sold.

ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor at the nearest address below:

United States and Canada: Box 111, Pasadena, California, 91109

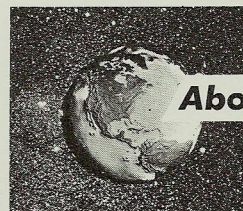
United Kingdom and Europe: BCM Ambassador, London, W. C. 1, England.

South Africa: P. O. Box 1060, Johannesburg, Transvaal, R. S. A.

Australia and Southeast Asia: Box 345, North Sydney, N. S. W., Australia.

The Philippines: Post Office Box 2603, Manila.

NOTICE: Be sure to notify the Correspondence Course Department immediately of any change in your address. Please include both old and new address. *Important!*



About Our Cover . . .

Globe-view of our planet earth set against a background of the starry heavens. The Bible reveals that spirit-begotten Christians are *heirs* with Abraham to receive "the promises." Those promises will soon be inherited when Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Included in the promises is eternal inheritance of the EARTH—not heaven! This lesson gives the Biblical proof!

American Stock Photo

966
EN 1166

IS HEAVEN PROMISED TO THE SAVED?

WHERE will the "saved" spend eternity? Do you *really* know? Of course you've always *heard* that you'll go to heaven, if you are "saved"—and you've probably just accepted it *without question*.

But did you ever stop to PROVE it for yourself? Did you ever look into the *Bible* to SEE whether it *really* does say Christians will go to heaven?

It's time we learned what Almighty God—the FINAL AUTHORITY—reveals about the Christian's promised inheritance! Let's begin to *understand* the astounding truth from your Bible!

God Makes a Promise

There is a *promise* in your Bible which tells WHAT the saved shall inherit for eternity—and *where* they will be! That promise was made to all Christians. Yet the promise of this place was not made *directly* to Christians. It was made to ABRAHAM, from whom Christ—as an *heir* of Abraham—descended!

As soon as one becomes a Christian—as soon as he is truly Christ's—he becomes a co-heir *with Christ* of this promise (Rom. 8:17). Therefore, the promise which was made to Abraham and his heir, Christ, also applies to every Christian.

While addressing Gentile converts, God says through Paul, in Galatians 3:16, 29, "Now to ABRAHAM and his *Seed* [Christ] were the promises made . . . And if *ye* be Christ's, then are *ye* Abraham's seed [children] and *heirs* according to the PROMISE."

Do you *comprehend* what that means? Let's understand! "If *ye* be Christ's"—that is, if you are *truly Christians*—then you are ABRAHAM'S CHILDREN—you are accounted by God spiritually as children of Abraham—and are now "*heirs* according to the *promise*"—you are now an *heir*, a beneficiary—you will receive the *fulfillment* of the *same* PROMISE that God made to Abraham!

Notice that the Christian is *not yet* a possessor of his inheritance—he is *now* an *heir*—and what he will inherit (possess) if saved, is the *same inheritance* promised to Abraham. Whatever shall be the inheritance of the saved is a definite, SPECIFIC PROMISE of God which was made to the *Israelite* forefather, Abraham.

Abraham is referred to in the Bible as the "FATHER" of the *faithful* (Rom. 4:11; Gal.

3:7, 9). Abraham is the father of all those who are *full of faith*! If one is converted, whether he be Jew or Gentile—regardless of race or color or sex—if one is Christ's, then he becomes one of Abraham's children, and an *heir* of the PROMISE made to Abraham. The converted Christian is to INHERIT what was *promised* to Abraham.

If you'll look into your Bible to find out what God promised to Abraham—to find out WHAT is the inheritance of those who are saved—to find out WHY we have to be Abraham's children to inherit this promise—WHEN and HOW we shall inherit the promise—you're *in for a shocking surprise!*

There is no other question more IMPORTANT in your life—this matter concerns *your eternity*—and yet you probably never thought to really look into it for yourself—IN YOUR OWN BIBLE!

The statement we read from the Book of Galatians actually sums up the WHOLE of the Gospel—it is a condensed statement of the very *purpose* and *plan* of God for mankind! Your hope of ETERNAL LIFE—of salvation—depends altogether on what is stated in that greatly *misunderstood* passage!

Christ Confirmed the PROMISE

In order to understand this important question, notice what is written in Romans 15:8: "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to *confirm* the PROMISES made unto the fathers."

In bringing a *new message*—the GOSPEL—Jesus came to confirm the promises made to the fathers.

But WHO were the *fathers*?—and WHAT are the *promises* made to them?—heaven?—purgatory?

Your salvation depends on the answer!

The inspired words of Peter relate that "The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of OUR FATHERS, hath glorified His Son Jesus" (Acts 3:13).

The fathers, then, were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. If you are Christ's—if you are a *Christian*—you are an heir to inherit—not what men might devise in their imaginations—you are an heir *according to the promise!*

If you're an heir, you are going to *inherit*



Wide World, Matson Photos

Above, remains of the Babylonian temple at Eridu, in southern Iraq. Here early Babylonians used to worship Enki, pagan god of the deep. God called Abraham out of such religious *confusion* and idolatry. Right, ruins of ancient Babylon, capital city of King Nebuchadnezzar's vast empire. God likens it to the confused *spiritual* "Babylon" in which we live today.

something. If you're an heir according to the promise, you are going to *inherit whatever was PROMISED TO THE FATHERS* — not something else.

That promise to Abraham is *important!* Whatever it is—*that* is what you shall inherit—if you are saved! You find the account of that PROMISE MADE TO ABRAHAM in the Book of Genesis.

Abraham OBEYED

Now notice the 12th chapter of the Book of Genesis, verse 1: "Now the Eternal had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a *land* that I will show thee."

We find that God called Abram—as his name was originally—out of the land of Babylon where he lived—surely symbolic of the spiritual "Babylon" in which *we* live today—just as, today, God calls you and me out of *this* world—*this Babylon!*

Abraham didn't quibble or argue. Verse 4 says: "So Abram *departed*." He went to a CERTAIN LAND, where God led him—the land we call Palestine today! ABRAHAM OBEYED GOD. "So Abram departed!" it is written. That is why he was made *father* of the precious promises on which your eternal salvation rests! He *obeyed*—immediately he DEPARTED! Yes, just as you and I too must *obey*, if we, *with* Abraham, are to inherit the promises!

Men today have NO CONCEPTION of what is in store for the one who is really *saved*. The inheritance that awaits *you*—if you surrender to God—if you OBEY as Abraham obeyed—if you rely, not on *your* faith, but on the very FAITH OF CHRIST—and if you are BORN AGAIN—that inheritance surpasses anything you have ever conceived of SO FAR, that you haven't the slightest conception of your *true potential destiny!*

As we read in I Corinthians 2:9, "Eye hath



not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him . . ." The inheritance which God has prepared for us cannot even be conceived of by the natural mind of man—but God *does* reveal it to us "BY HIS SPIRIT!" (I Cor. 2:10.)

Now *what* did God promise Abraham? We are about to see. But first, *read* these instructions.

Final Instructions

This lesson is intended to direct you to the *Bible*—to help you learn the truth of God's Word. Here is the method of study.

Is your Bible in front of you? If not, *get* your Bible—or Bibles, if you have more than one translation—*before you do another thing!* Have a good dictionary, a concordance if you own one, and your notepaper all placed in front of you on a desk or table.

Remember—you must open your Bible to *every passage*. Never say to yourself, "Oh, I think I know what this scripture is referring to"—and then pass over it. You need to "*keep your nose in the Bible,*" so to speak. You must read and reread and think out each passage. *Meditate* on this new knowledge in your leisure time during the following twenty-four hours, and in your time of prayer—before you *forget* it!

Make God's Word a *PART of you!* Don't forget, this is a *Bible Study Course*—not just a study of these words we send you.

Here is the method of making effective notes: Write down neatly on your paper the title of the lesson and *underscore* it. Next write down the lesson number. As you come to each question section, write down its heading. Then, *underneath*, number each question and write down the scriptural answer to each, together with any pertinent ideas that come to your mind.

Be *SURE* to *WRITE OUT* the scripture which answers each question. If you have not done so before, *begin to do it now!* Writing down every word of each Bible passage, and any comments you wish to make as you go along, will help you greatly in *reviewing* and *remembering*.

This lesson, like all others, is extremely important to you. Have you *prayed* to God for understanding? If not, then go to a private place, kneel down, and ask God for *spiritual understanding* and wisdom. Ask Him to *help* you grasp and apply in your own life the knowledge this lesson will reveal to you in the Bible.

And now for the lesson itself!

LESSON 13

The "Promised Land"

1. Did God call Abraham out of the land in which he had been residing? Gen. 12:1. Did God, at this same time, *PROMISE* that He would lead Abraham to another land—a *particular* land? Same verse.

2. Does the Bible record that Abraham *argued* with God about leaving the land, like most people do today, when they are called upon to give up the bad habits they have acquired in this world and follow where God leads them? Or did Abraham just *do as God commanded him?* Gen. 12:4. What land did God lead Abraham into? Gen. 12:5.

COMMENT: Canaan is the present land of Palestine.

3. Now just what *did* God promise ABRAHAM? Gen. 12:7.

COMMENT: "Seed" means "offspring." So the promise was the *inheritance* of the LAND OF PALESTINE by Abraham's offspring.

4. Abraham then went down into the land of Egypt for a short time. When he returned to Palestine, what did God tell Abraham to do? Gen. 13:14-15. Did God reiterate His promise that He would give Abraham's seed this particular land? Did God also promise Abraham that he, too, would receive this land? Verse 15. And that Abraham's offspring would be multiplied? Verse 16.

COMMENT: PALESTINE was *promised* by God to Abraham a second time for emphasis. Notice that Palestine was *PROMISED*. That is why it's called "the *promised land!*"

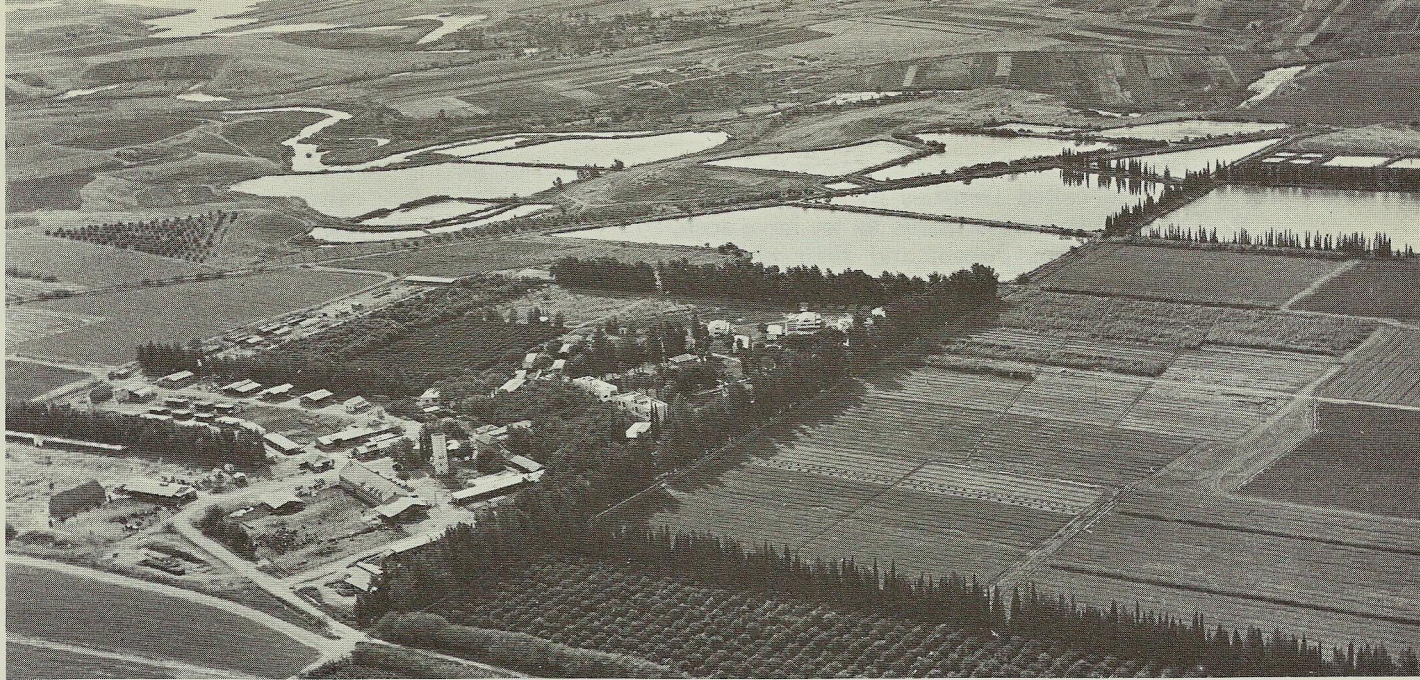
5. For *how long* is it promised—*FOREVER?* Gen. 13:15.

COMMENT: The inheritance is to be an *eternal* inheritance, which of necessity involves and *includes everlasting life!*

6. If one inherits a piece of LAND, the deed must describe the exact *boundaries* of the property. What is the description of the land we may hope to inherit? Gen. 15:18.

COMMENT: We have all seen enough maps to know that the boundaries here described are NOT up in *heaven*, but are the boundaries of a LAND RIGHT *HERE ON EARTH*—and the promise—the *promise of eternal inheritance*—is the LAND OF PALESTINE, from the Nile to the Euphrates River, *HERE* on this earth! God help us to put our *trust* in the sure Word of God, *not* in the FABLES OF MEN!

Other scriptures to be studied in this lesson show that this promise was only the *beginning*.



Ben-Haim Photo

The lush Jordan Valley in Palestine today — part of the inheritance promised to Abraham's descendants.

This promise *expands* and spreads until ultimately it includes inheritance of the **WHOLE EARTH!**

Obedience Before Inheritance

In making this promise to Abraham, God conditioned it on *obedience*. Abraham **DID OBEY!**

First, he *left* his native land, his friends and relatives, his old ways of life—he **FORSOOK ALL** and followed where God led. Did God stop here in testing Abraham, and *confirm* this priceless promise? Or, did God test Abraham further before doing so? Let us examine.

1. How did God test Abraham? Gen. 22:1, 2.

COMMENT: The proper translation of the word "tempt," used here, is "try." God tempts no man to cause him to fall. When the King James Translation of the Bible was made, the word "tempt" meant "try," or to "test." Thus the translators used the word "tempt."

2. Did Abraham, unlike the first time, stop to reason it out, or make excuse, or rebel? Or did he dutifully **OBEY** God—even rising early in the morning to do so? Gen. 22:3.

3. Did God thus take Abraham's only son? Gen. 22:10-12.

COMMENT: God did not take the son—God merely wanted Abraham's *willingness to OBEY*, in and through faith. Because Abraham was *faithful*—full of faith—the Bible refers to Abraham as the symbolic "father" of *all* who are full of faith in this same sense.

4. But *after* Abraham **HAD** obeyed—**HAD** been put to the test and found faithful—were there any *other conditions* to the promise? Gen. 22:15-18. Underline heavily in your Bible the words, "*because thou hast DONE this thing,*" in

verse 16, and the words, "*because thou hast OBEYED MY VOICE,*" in verse 18.

COMMENT: Now the **PROMISE WAS UN-CONDITIONAL**. Abraham already **HAD PERFORMED HIS PART** of the *covenant*—this agreement.

5. What other scripture shows us this promise is now **ABSOLUTELY SURE?**—did Abraham faithfully obey God in *every way*? Gen. 26:5.

COMMENT: It should be remembered that God's law — God's commandments — have been in effect from the very time of creation. "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). The same fundamental, eternal **SPIRITUAL LAWS** that Adam transgressed when he sinned are the *same* laws and commandments Abraham obeyed and kept—long before the sacrifices and rituals of Moses were instituted.

6. Were these *same* promises passed on down to Isaac, Abraham's son? Gen. 26:1-4. Why? Verse 5. Were *all* nations to be blessed through Isaac, as they were through Abraham? Verse 4.

7. Were these *same* promises then passed down to Jacob, Isaac's son? Gen. 35:9-12. Note verse 11, then read comment below.

COMMENT: The explanation of verse 11 is this: the *United States* is the "nation" referred to here, and the *British Commonwealth* is the "company of nations." If you have not yet done so, send for Mr. Armstrong's *free* booklet, *The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. It fully explains this marvelous truth.

Jacob—whose name was later changed to *Israel*—had twelve children. Each gave rise to one of the twelve tribes of *Israel*—known collectively as the **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL**, or *Israelites*. One of these tribes originated from the brother *Judah*—known as the "Jews." All peo-

ple of the earth who have not descended from Abraham, are called Gentiles by the Bible.

8. The promises were made, as we have seen, to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and *their children*. Their children are ISRAELITES, not Gentiles. There is a mistaken idea, today, that Christianity is a *Gentile* religion. But through whom does *Christ* plainly say salvation is? John 4:22. And what does Paul say about this? Rom. 2:10.

COMMENT: The SCEPTRE promise, through which Christ and salvation were promised, went specifically to the house of Judah, whose people are called JEWS. The Bible reveals that the COVENANTS and the PROMISES pertained to all of ISRAEL. So we read in Romans 9:4: "Who are ISRAELITES; to whom pertaineth the adoption and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, AND THE PROMISES."

Christians Are HEIRS to the Promise

Since these promises were made specifically to Abraham and his blood descendants, how can *all* Gentile nations also be BLESSED through these promises? Let's understand.

1. Did God promise Abraham that *all* nations of the earth would be blessed through his one "seed"? Gen. 12:3 and 22:18. Who is this "seed"? Gal. 3:8, 16.

COMMENT: The word "seed" in Gen. 22:18 refers specifically to Abraham's *One Seed*, who is Christ — not to Abraham's *multiple* "seed," or *remainder* of his blood offspring (Gen. 13:16 and 17:8).

2. Doesn't Luke 3:23, 34 prove that Jesus was a *blood offspring* — a SEED — of Abraham?

COMMENT: Joseph was actually the *son-in-law* of Heli (see margin of your Bible) who was the father of Mary. Jesus' bloodline was through His *mother* Mary who descended from Abraham (verse 34).

3. How did Paul say that Gentiles could share in the promises made to Abraham? Gal. 3:28-29.

COMMENT: Unless a Gentile becomes a *spiritual* Israelite through Christ, he has ABSOLUTELY NO HOPE of becoming an HEIR to the *spiritual* promises made to Abraham! This is made possible only through becoming "Christ's" — by becoming a *spirit-begotten* CHRISTIAN!

4. What did Paul say the *converted* Ephesian Gentiles used to be *in times past*? Eph. 2:11-12.

COMMENT: This doesn't sound like Christianity is a *gentile* religion. THIS doesn't sound like the NEW Covenant is a GENTILE covenant! While these particular Ephesians Paul was here talking to were Gentiles in the *flesh*, they had become *spiritual* Israelites through Christ. But they were "STRANGERS from the covenants of

promise; having *no hope, and without God* in the world," *before* conversion!

5. But *now*, through Christ, are they made near? Eph. 2:13. Are they strangers and foreigners any more? Verse 19. Are they fellow citizens with the saints, and of the *spiritual* Household of God? Same verse.

COMMENT: And so today, WHOSOEVER WILL from *every* nation, may come and take of the waters of eternal life *freely*, because God has kept His promise, and the promised Seed, Christ, has come.

What a glorious, matchless privilege to be taken into the very Household of God—to be able to call the Eternal Creator our FATHER! For the *unconverted*, Adam is the human father, and Satan is the spiritual father. But through Christ, Abraham becomes our fleshly father, and God becomes our spiritual Father.

For we read in Galatians 3:7: "Know ye therefore that they which are of FAITH, the same are the *children of Abraham*." That's why Abraham is called the "father" of the faithful (Rom. 4:11)—whether Jew or Gentile!

Again, in Romans 8:14: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the SONS OF GOD." Yes, now *begotten* sons, to become actual BORN SONS at the time of the resurrection, when we shall *inherit* the Kingdom of God! The Kingdom of God is the *family* of God—the GOD FAMILY! It's a glorious *family relationship*! This glorified *inheritance* surpasses anything you have ever conceived of in your mind!

But what is the difference between inheriting the *earth* and the *Kingdom* of God—where shall we inherit the Kingdom? Let's study further and see.

NO Man Has Ascended to Heaven—Except Christ

We have clearly seen, from the Bible, that the EARTH IS THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAVED — *not* heaven. But does the Bible specifically say we CANNOT go to heaven?

1. What does John tell us under divine inspiration? John 3:13.

COMMENT: The Bible plainly states that NO MAN has ever *ascended* up into the heaven where God is, *except* Christ!

2. What did Christ tell His disciples? John 13:33.

COMMENT: Even Christ's own disciples were told they could *not* go up into heaven where He was going. (Send for Mr. Armstrong's *free* booklet, *Where Are Enoch and Elijah?*)

3. But DID Christ give them an idea of where they would be and *what* they would be doing? John 14:2, 3. Read also Mat. 25:31, 34.

COMMENT: "Mansions"—rooms—in the "Fa-

ther's house"—God's Temple in the Old Testament times—were occupied by God's priests. These *rooms* represented POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY.

When Jesus will have returned to this earth, as King of kings, RULER of all nations on earth, then He will say to the saved: "Come, ye blessed . . . inherit THE KINGDOM, prepared for you." The Kingdom of God is the divine, ruling FAMILY of God. It will rule all nations, here ON EARTH! The saints will have *positions of authority* in that Kingdom. To enter into—to inherit—the divine Kingdom of God is a destiny of such marvelous GLORY that your mind cannot grasp it now! And our inheritance, as divine members of the very GOD FAMILY, shall be the earth for an *everlasting possession*.

What's wrong with the earth?

Absolutely nothing but *sin*—rebellion against God and His eternal SPIRITUAL LAWS that govern peace and happiness and joy! Happiness and joy—a GLORIFIED condition such as you may inherit—is not a matter of geographical location! It is a spiritual condition! There will be NO SIN in that happy world tomorrow! No liars—no murderers—no thieves or robbers. Think of it—there'll be NO SATAN to deceive people, no locks on doors—no jails, no hospitals—no poorhouses! No strife, no war—no sickness or disease—no poverty nor hunger, nor want!

Fulfillment of Promises Just AHEAD

Has Abraham already inherited the promises?

First, notice the inspired words of the first Christian martyr, Stephen, full of faith and the Holy Spirit—Stephen who *paid with his life* for these inspired words of Scripture. They are in the Book of Acts.

1. Has Abraham yet *received* the inheritance God promised to him? Acts 7:2-5. Note especially verse 5.

COMMENT: Abraham *never received* the promised inheritance—though God's promise was made UNCONDITIONAL because Abraham *had obeyed* God!

2. Was Abraham merely a *sojourner*, during his lifetime, in the land that God had promised to him? Heb. 11:8-10. Note verse 9 particularly. Even as he lay dying, had he, as yet, *received* the promises? Verse 13. But does verse 8 point out that Abraham will, in the future, receive the fulfillment of these promises? Note the words "*after receive*"!

3. Does the Bible say that Isaac and Jacob were heirs to this *same* promise? Heb. 11:9. Have they received it, as yet? Verse 13.

COMMENT: Do you grasp what these inspired

Scriptures of God say? They say in plain language that all these died, *not* having received their inheritance—the very FATHERS to whom the promises were made did *not* "go to their 'reward' at death!" THUS SAYS THE LORD!

4. Was Abraham *still dead* during the time of the apostles? John 8:52, 53. Then Abraham has NOT received the promises *to this day*, has he?

COMMENT: All through the New Testament you read that Christians who become Abraham's "children" through Christ are *not now* inheritors—they are spoken of only as heirs. An HEIR is one who has *not yet* come into his inheritance. So the dead in Christ even of our age have *not* received their inheritance either!

Now WHY has Abraham, even to this day, as yet not inherited the promise? Listen! Christ came to CONFIRM—*make possible—the fulfillment* of the PROMISE of eternal inheritance of the earth made to Abraham. This constitutes one of the "*better promises*" of the *New Testament*! Christ, in *confirming* these promises made to Abraham, preached always the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD which is to occupy and govern the *earth*—the *same* earth that has been promised to Abraham for an eternal inheritance.

Abraham will soon be BORN *into* the Kingdom of God! Abraham's inheritance is thus to be the KINGDOM OF GOD! The *same* INHERITANCE you and I may have by becoming Abraham's seed, through Christ.

To Inherit the Kingdom of God

1. Does Matthew 6:33 verify the fact that it is the *Kingdom of God* we are to strive to enter—and *not* heaven?

2. Does Matthew 7:21 also verify the fact that the inheritance of the saved will be the Kingdom of God? It is the Kingdom of heaven—and *not* in heaven!

3. Does Ephesians 5:5 plainly show that the sinner will have NO *inheritance* in the Kingdom of God? Don't these preceding scriptures plainly show that the inheritance of the saved *is* the KINGDOM OF GOD?

4. But that Kingdom, Jesus said, is *not* of this world—THIS AGE! In His great prophecy of events now making the headlines in world news today, what did Jesus say in Luke 21:31?

COMMENT: The Kingdom of God will *rule the world*. It is not yet established—but today it is "NIGH AT HAND"—and *IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK!*

Why is it that Abraham and all the "*heirs* according to the promise" must *remain* heirs for



The EARTH—God's Beautiful Creation ...Polluted By Man



American Stock, H. Armstrong-Roberts Photos

The earth is the Christian's inheritance — not heaven. And why not the earth? There's nothing wrong with it — except man's sins which have made it a desert wilderness and a slum-covered, garbage-riddled hulk! Christ is coming soon to *straighten out* what man has made crooked.

a short time longer? There are several reasons. Let us see.

5. Has the Kingdom of God, of which Christians are HEIRS, been established upon this earth yet?—what did Christ tell His disciples when they thought He would establish His world-ruling Kingdom in their day? Luke 19: 11-13, 15.

COMMENT: Christ represented Himself here as the young nobleman going to the far country—heaven—to receive the right to *rule* the Kingdom, showing it would be set up and would take over the rule of all nations at His SECOND COMING. The point is that the Kingdom of God has *not yet* been established on this earth so that Christians may inherit it!

6. Does Matthew 6:10 also prove that God's Kingdom is YET to be established *on our earth*?

7. Is the record of each who is to receive this inheritance being kept in heaven? I Pet. 1:3, 4. *When* is the salvation of the saved revealed? And *when* is the possession of the inheritance given? Verse 5.

COMMENT: Note that the record of the inheritance is “reserved”—is kept—in heaven, and that salvation, and therefore the *possession* of the inheritance, is to be “revealed”—given—“in the *last time*”—at the soon-coming END OF THIS AGE. This is additional proof that the Kingdom has *not yet been established*!

8. But there's still another reason why we *cannot inherit* the Kingdom at this present time. We are now composed of flesh and blood. Can we inherit the Kingdom while we are composed of this material? I Cor. 15:50.

COMMENT: No flesh and blood can *inherit* the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is *not a human kingdom*—there are *no humans* in it—it is a DIVINE KINGDOM—the God Kingdom! Our human bodies must be changed to another kind of material to become a *part* of that Kingdom!

9. Does Paul say our flesh-and-blood bodies will be *changed*? I Cor. 15:51, 53. Since we will be born of the Spirit then, of what will our bodies be composed? John 3:6. What is this process called—being “born again”? John 3:3. And if we are in this manner “born again,” can we “see”—*enter*—the Kingdom of God? Same verse.

COMMENT: Our living human bodies will then be *changed* into SPIRIT BODIES—bodies which can *inherit* the Kingdom of God. Our present flesh is corruptible, subject to aging and decay. But spirit things and spirit beings are ETERNALLY NEW.

10. How *long* will it take us to be changed from our present material substance into spirit? I Cor. 15:52, the first nine words.

COMMENT: Now we begin to see why Abra-

ham, and his children through Christ, have not as *yet* inherited the promises!

Inheritors at the Resurrection

But to go further. We cannot come into *eternal* inheritance until we come into *eternal life*. And what is our only HOPE of inheriting eternal life? The *resurrection* from the dead! For it is appointed to *all* once to die (Heb. 9:27)—everyone of us must die—even though it be for only a split second. Without a *resurrection* no one would *live* again.

Is your hope of a resurrection well founded? Do you actually have the PROMISE from God, Himself, that He will resurrect you? Here's what God says.

1. Did God, Himself, inspire the apostle Paul to pose the question, “*if* there be no resurrection of the dead . . .”? I Cor. 15:13. What does God say of Christ, *if* there is no resurrection? Same verse.

2. If this be the case, is our faith in a future resurrection in *vain*? I Cor. 15:14. And are those who are asleep in Christ PERISHED? Verse 18. Strong scripture, that!

COMMENT: The dead *in Christ* are UTTERLY PERISHED—*unless* there is to be a RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD! How *different* from the modern fables to which a deceived world has been turned today!

So Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are DEAD. And, unless there is to be a *resurrection*—a rising up *from* the grave—they are PERISHED!

3. What did *Jesus* say to show there surely will be a resurrection? Mat. 22:31-32. *What* is being discussed here—a RESURRECTION of the dead? Note very carefully the first five words!! Didn't God say He considers Himself as being the God of the *living* Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the *yet to be* RESURRECTED Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who have been DEAD all these hundreds of years? Verse 32.

COMMENT: By *twisting* this text many try to prove Abraham is not dead, but has already gone to and come into his promised inheritance, and will NEVER be resurrected—just the *opposite* of what Jesus meant!

HOW Christ Made Our Inheritance Possible

1. What is *sin*? I John 3:4. What is the *penalty*—“the wages of”—*sin*? Rom. 6:23. Has *all* mankind sinned? Rom. 3:23.

COMMENT: God is Creator and Owner of the universe and all that is within it. He is also the great *Lawgiver*. Whoever is *not obedient* to Him, SINS! Sin causes so much sorrow, suffering, unhappiness and anguish, all who dis-

obey God are worthy of death—*eternal* death! And *all* have sinned. ALL are therefore *worthy of eternal death*. If *we* were to PAY the penalty of our *own* sins, none of us would have eternal life—none could inherit the Kingdom of God as an eternal inheritance.

2. But did Christ give Himself—shed His *lifeblood*—in our place, so that we need not have to pay the penalty of our sins and thus be deprived of eternal inheritance—the Kingdom of God? I Tim. 2:5, 6 and Rom. 5:8-10.

COMMENT: By DYING—by shedding His *lifeblood*—Christ was able to pay for ALL the sins of mankind for *all time* because He was GOD *incarnate*—GOD MADE FLESH! (John 1:14.) God, the Father, also created all things by Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9; John 1:1-3). Therefore, as God and our Maker, Jesus' *physical* life was of GREATER VALUE than the sum total of *all* human lives!

This is *how* Christ CONFIRMED—made possible—our *inheritance* of the Kingdom for eternity. Through His *death*, He made it POSSIBLE for us to have *eternal life*—to exist for all eternity!

3. Did Christ leave a *will*, or last testament, at the time of His death? Heb. 9:15. Notice the word “testament.” A “testament” is a “will.” What does it *promise* those who are called to salvation? Same verse. When a person makes a will, must he DIE *before* it comes into force? Verses 16-17. Are those who are to receive salvation called *heirs*? Heb. 1:14.

COMMENT: Christ wished to make eternal inheritance of the Kingdom of God available to all people. He did this by making a *will*—a *testament*. This is why the last fourth of your Bible is called the “New Testament.” It teaches you HOW you may become an *heir* to the *promise* of *eternal inheritance* in the Kingdom of God which is to be established upon this earth!! A testament, or will, is of no effect unless the one making it *dies*. Christ *died* so that you may INHERIT the promises *from Him*!

What We Must DO!

And now comes the CRUX OF THIS WHOLE LESSON! Is there anything that we must DO in order to inherit these priceless promises? Ponder this section well, for it reveals what we must *do* in this life to become *heirs* and finally INHERITORS of God's Kingdom.

1. Did God the Father *give* His only begotten Son so that we might become heirs to the promises? John 3:16.

2. Did Christ voluntarily *give* Himself as our sacrifice in order that we might have this privilege? Luke 22:42. Was His body *disfigured* more than that of any other man? Isa. 52:14.

Did His perspiration appear as *blood* at Gethsemane, shortly before He became our sacrifice? Luke 22:44. (His profuse sweat was tinged with blood!)

3. Is it because of Christ's suffering and death for us that God says we have been “bought” by *Him*? I Cor. 7:23. And is it God, therefore, whom we are now to *serve*? Same verse. But what do some thoughtless people say? Mal. 3:14. Do some even go so far as to deny the Lord that “bought” them? II Pet 2:1.

4. What does Christ tell us, by example, to do if we are to receive—enter into—the *eternal inheritance*? Mat. 19:17. Isn't this exactly the *same* thing that Abraham did? Gen. 26:5. Note the word “*commandments*.”

5. Did Paul *serve* God? Acts 27:23. Doesn't he point out that even the service we give to our earthly bosses is to be considered as service rendered unto *God*? Col. 3:22-24.

6. Are we to be obedient in *all things*? II Cor. 2:9. Even in the *thoughts* we allow ourselves to think? II Cor. 10:5.

7. Why is obedience to God necessary today as it was in Abraham's day? Rom. 7:7, 12.

COMMENT: Keeping the Law—God's commands—is the *only* way we may live in *harmony* with others, and with God. It's the ONLY way we can develop the *character of God*—with the *help* of God's Holy Spirit—so we can be BORN of God and *inherit* His Kingdom for eternity!

We Receive the Promises WHEN Jesus Returns

1. *When* will Abraham and his children through Christ receive the promises? Will there be a *signal* given for this great event? I Cor. 15:52. Is this the *last trump*? Same verse. Our bodies are then changed from mortality to *what*? Verse 53.

2. And what *else* is to happen at that very same time? I Thes. 4:16, 17. Will Abraham and his children through Christ—both the dead and the living—finally be “saved”—caught up in the resurrection to be with Christ *wherever He may be* from thenceforth? Verse 17. Since Christ has already been here once, doesn't this all happen at Christ's *Second Coming*? Same verses.

3. And *where* does Christ go in that day? Zech. 14:4. Does He also begin to establish His world-ruling *government* at that time? Zech. 14:9, and all verses to the end of the chapter. And will all the saints, or Christians—Abraham and his children through Christ—the HEIRS who are to inherit this *earth* forever—be with the returning Christ? Verse 5, last part.

COMMENT: Yes, at the last trump, Christ will return to this earth—this time as “KING

of *kings* and LORD of *lords*," to reign and to rule all nations of the earth for the first time. When He comes to set up His Kingdom, *then* Abraham and his children in Christ who have died shall be *RESURRECTED TO IMMORTALITY*, to *inherit the promise* of the KINGDOM OF GOD—a world-ruling *government* headed and ruled by Christ, occupying the very *LAND promised to Abraham*—the land of PALESTINE, from the Nile to the Euphrates River. And this KINGDOM, composed of *immortals* which flesh and blood cannot enter, shall rule over all other *fleshly* nations of the earth during the Millennial Utopia!

The Promise Is NOT Heaven!

Jesus said: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit *the earth*" (Mat. 5:5). That's part of the Sermon on the Mount—and certainly every Christian *believes* the Sermon on the Mount!

Then we must *believe*, if we are Christians, that what the saved inherit is THE EARTH—and *not heaven!* The inspired apostle John plainly said, "NO MAN HATH ASCENDED UP TO HEAVEN" (John 3:13). *The EVIDENCE is overwhelming!*

1. WHAT do those that "wait upon the Lord" inherit? Ps. 37:9.

2. WHAT shall those blessed of God inherit? Ps. 37:22.

3. WHAT shall the righteous inherit, and HOW LONG shall they dwell there? Ps. 37:29.

4. And WHAT does God promise to those who "keep His way"? Ps. 37:34.

COMMENT: There is absolutely NO scripture in all the Bible that promises *heaven* to the saved in Christ. And yet, most people seem to be oblivious to these positive, PLAIN STATEMENTS from God Almighty, and have carelessly taken for granted, *without question*, the FALSE IDEA of "going to heaven"!

Notice the words Christ will utter at His imminent return: "When the Son of man shall come in His Glory, and all the holy angels with Him, THEN shall He sit upon the *throne* of His glory . . . THEN shall the King say unto them on His right hand, come, ye blessed of my Father, *inherit the Kingdom* PREPARED for you from the *foundation of the world*" (Mat. 25:31, 34).

Yes, the KINGDOM of God is the *place prepared*. Jesus said He went to *prepare a place* for us in that Kingdom. He also said He went to *get for Himself* a Kingdom, and to RETURN. And WHEN He returns, as *King* of kings, and when that Kingdom is established on *earth*, THEN it is that the joyful call goes out, "COME! ye blessed of my Father, INHERIT THE KINGDOM *prepared for you.*"

an open letter from

THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 2)

ly) in contact with God, *relying* on God, seeking guidance from God, worshipful in the sense of gratitude, obedience, faith in complete trust. It is love toward fellow MAN—in the sense of outgoing concern, *equal to* love and concern for self.

Now NO MAN exercises *that kind* of love *naturally*. You simply were not born with that kind of love.

YOU DON'T HAVE IT!

That is, not unless you have received it from God through His GIFT of His Holy Spirit.

THAT LOVE travels a certain road. It is the road that leads to peace, to happiness, to confident assurance, security, well-being, ENJOYMENT without kickbacks, prosperity—every good thing the heart desires.

Everyone wants that *result*.

That is to say, everyone wants to BE good.

But no one, it seems, *naturally* wants to go that way—to DO good.

That is the WAY of God's Law.

Now this world is *not* FULL of happiness, peace, joy, and universal prosperity. It is pretty well filled with strife—in the home, in business, in politics, in war between nations. It is pretty well filled with unhappiness, frustration, insecurity. It is pretty well filled with crime and violence, with broken homes and unhappy quarreling homes, with sickness and disease, with frustrations, failures, tragedies.

Now GOD is *not* the author of all these troubles in the world.

God has, FOR A GREAT PURPOSE, made humans free moral agents, and allotted six thousand years for mankind to *make a choice*—whether to accept God's government over him, to be ruled by God's Law of LOVE—or whether to set up his own ideas of man-made government, following what comes *naturally*—HUMAN NATURE.

That six thousand years is about up. When it is—in a *very* few more years, perhaps less than 15—God Almighty is going to intervene supernaturally and with divine POWER in the governments and ways of society—and BRING PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO HUMANITY!

HOW can that be done?

It's simple!

There is A WAY of personal, group, and organized living that will automatically produce that utopia. And there is A WAY that *has*, for 6,000 years, produced curses, war, strife and violence, frustration, failure—everything this world has.

God is simply going to *enforce*, with divine Power, HIS WAY. He is going to take over all governments, in a super WORLD GOVERNMENT,

ruled by the very CREATOR. It will rule by GOD'S LAWS—the WAY of love!

Why do some people—even college professors and some who are intellectually inclined—become Communists? Because they see many things WRONG in this world—they want to BE right—they grasp Communism as a last straw and only hope, under the delusion that THEY CAN HAVE A PART IN MAKING THIS A BETTER WORLD! They want to BE right—but they don't want to DO right. So they grasp the straw that makes the lying and false PROMISES of producing the solution. But Communism is only another IDEA OF MAN BASED ON HUMAN NATURE. It is a theoretical WAY that would destroy what little good there might be in this world's society. It is the most false of false hopes.

But YOU can *have a part* in actually bringing PEACE, happiness, joy and abundance to humanity. God Almighty is *going to do it*—whether or not you have a part in it! But He is not going to do it alone. He is going to take certain human beings, born in the very LIKENESS of God, who REPENT of their carnal human nature—who cry out to God to CHANGE that nature, and *give* them the matchless supreme GIFT of His divine LOVE that will travel THE WAY toward peace, happiness and joy.

These are they who, through real repentance of what they *are* as well as what they have done, through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as well as in His resurrected LIFE and POWER, are forgiven their guilty past, given contact with God, *changed, converted*, receiving HIS HOLY SPIRIT, being begotten as HIS CHILDREN, receiving the DIVINE nature.

In other words, they REPENT of human nature—they REPENT of hostility to authority—of resentment against God's Law. They SURRENDER unconditionally to GOD, and wholeheartedly WANT Him to rule in their lives. They CHANGE (through God's power given by His grace) from rebellion to submission—from SELF-centeredness to being GOD-centered. They let Jesus Christ (in Spirit) come into their lives and actually live their lives for them (Galatians 2:20).

They change from THE WAY that has brought all the curses upon this unhappy world, to THE WAY that will bring a brilliant, joyous UTOPIA to earth in a very few years when God sends the *living* Jesus Christ in all Power and Glory to RULE ALL NATIONS and bring the happy, peaceful WORLD TOMORROW!

This CHANGE is conversion. This is what it means to *become* a Christian. A Christian is NOT merely one who PROFESSES Christ. God's own instruction to us—the Bible—says that if one has not received God's Holy Spirit, he is

NONE of His—he is NOT a Christian (Romans 8:9). God gives His Holy Spirit ONLY to them that OBEY Him (Acts 5:32). This implants within the mind the *divine nature*—it means a CHANGED MIND!

But it does *not* remove the HUMAN nature. The *mind* governs whether the converted Christian now *follows* the pulls, the impulses, the desires of human nature, or whether he resists them and is LED BY the newly received divine nature. "As many as are LED BY the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14). But one's *human* nature cries out to be satisfied—does not like to be repressed.

Just *receiving* God's Spirit is not enough. One must BE LED by God's Spirit. His Spirit opens the mind to UNDERSTANDING of spiritual truth, and the KNOWLEDGE of God's Law. It opens the mind to THE WAY one should follow. God's Spirit also is the love of God—God's own divine love—flooding into the human heart, and flowing on out in love to God and love to neighbor.

One must therefore GROW in spiritual knowledge and in God's grace (II Peter 3:18). He must become a DOER of God's Law—actually LIVING in THE WAY of peace and happiness and joy. This means he must OVERCOME his own carnal nature, his old habits, the temptations of the world—HE MUST BE CHANGED! He must develop toward perfect spiritual and righteous CHARACTER. The real Christian is undergoing a life of TRAINING to become a RULER in God's Kingdom—in the happy and peaceful WORLD TOMORROW.

One cannot learn everything in a minute, a day, or a year. One does not become perfect at one jump. It is a continuous PROCESS. No Christian becomes perfect at the very beginning. He does not overcome or root out all the sins, the wrong habits, all at once. He must do it little by little. But, "he that overcometh, and keepeth MY WORKS unto the end," says Jesus Christ, "to him will I give power over THE NATIONS: AND HE SHALL *RULE THEM*" (Revelation 2:26-27).

WHY do THE NATIONS of this earth need to be ruled by Christ and those trained under a Christian life? Because all the unhappiness—everything WRONG with this world—has come from living THE WAY of human nature—THE WAY of hostility to God's Law and God's Government. Because the only way this world can have PEACE, PROSPERITY, HAPPINESS, is to be forced to build a society based on THE WAY that *produces* these desired blessings.

If you have started on THAT RIGHT WAY, don't get discouraged because you have slipped and

fallen down along the road a few times. Get up and KEEP GOING. Even if you have sinned and are truly sorry, you can repent and Christ is your High Priest to forgive. Read and study I John 1:7-10 and 2:1-2. This is written to converted CHRISTIANS.

At the time of Christ's coming, the dead in Christ will be resurrected and rise to meet the descending Christ in the air. At that instant those *living* who have been thus *changed*, begotten by God's Spirit, will be changed in composition, from mortal to immortal—from matter to spirit—from human to divine.

THEY are then to RULE with and under the all-powerful living Christ, until ALL NATIONS beat their swords into plowshares, and PEACE shines forth on this war-weary earth!

Jesus Christ taught His followers to PRAY: "THY KINGDOM COME—*THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH!*" How about it? Shall we pray that prayer?

I DO!

What our STUDENTS SAY

Finished Lesson 13

"I find the Bible Correspondence Course more fascinating with each lesson. It seems impossible that most people are embracing the wrong doctrines, but this study proves that it is true. I was amazed to learn that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are still dead!"

—Man, New Jersey

"Insatiably Hungry!"

"I am on Lesson 13 of the Ambassador College Bible Course and am waiting impatiently for Lesson 14. I wish I could cancel some of your rules and get my lessons every two weeks instead of monthly. I am insatiably hungry for the truth of God's Word."

—Man, Sacramento, California

Life Being Changed

"I often reflect on the gradual change that has come over me in the past few months since enrolling in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course—from a person in a great state of anxiety and a very low point of confidence to a state of peace of mind, happiness

and considerable confidence. Instead of dreading the future I look forward to it. My deepest and sincere thanks for the privilege of belonging to the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course."

—Patricia C., Miami, Florida

Prays for Understanding

"Your Bible Correspondence Course is getting better every lesson. I enjoy them so much. Every spare moment goes into studying them. I sit down while my four children are napping, and work till they get up. They nap about one hour and a half, or two hours every day.

"I am getting more out of the lessons now than I was, because I ask God to help me understand, remember, and want to study, and learn as much as I can. He answered my prayers, and gave me help, and I am so thankful. When I get up every morning now, I look forward to my study time. It helps me get all my work done, and makes me feel real good inside."

—Mrs. J. V. R., Camden Point, Missouri

Given the Key

"My Bible Correspondence Course is more thrilling than I ever imagined. I feel as though you've handed me a key to a door that has been locked for a long time. I've read those same Bible verses before—but through your leading I've gained a whole new viewpoint!"

—Mrs. D. A., Ironton, Missouri

Understands What She Reads!

"I can't tell you how much this Course means to me. I was brought up to read my Bible daily, and that was what I did. Just read. Not looking for truths, not finding them. . . . My mother-in-law was taking your Course, so I decided I wanted to enroll, too. I learned more from one lesson than I had in all my previous years of reading put together. Thank you so much for this Course."

—Woman, Austin, Texas

Opened His Eyes

"I received the first lesson of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, and I know it's a blessing. There are so many interesting truths, it's amazing. All my life I heard so many misguided ideas about the Bible, about God and about religion. But this Course opens up one's eyes to the truth. I can't wait for my next lesson. Thank God for you and yours for doing God's Work, which He has chosen you and yours to do."

—John C., Jersey City, New Jersey