God’s Church Circles the Globe!

Here is news of exciting growth in God’s Church around the world! And in this issue, we introduce you to our Letter Answering Department!

by Roderick C. Meredith

New vistas for God’s Church loom ahead as definite plans are now made for reaching the Australian continent in power.

As Mr. Armstrong has told you in recent Co-Worker Letters, we are now going on an entire network of Australian radio stations with The World Tomorrow broadcast six nights every week!

This complete coverage of the Australian continent by our broadcast is unprecedented! It will now bring many hundreds to a knowledge of God’s truth, and serve as a powerful warning and witness to thousands of others who will hear the broadcast and receive The Plain Truth magazine. Because of the broadcast being on every night, we expect to begin receiving letters by the score almost immediately!

Proposed Australian Trip

Therefore, definite plans are now made for a flying trip to Australia to establish two men there to take charge of the office and probably to found a local church in Sydney and perhaps a proposed location for a local church, and to make all necessary business arrangements in the name of the Radio Church of God.

The two men chosen to begin the active work of God’s church in the continent “down under” are Mr. Gerald Waterhouse and Mr. Frank Longuskie. They are the consecrated team who directed the work of the London Church and office for many months. Mr. Waterhouse is one of our ablest and most dedicated ministers, and Mr. Longuskie has proved himself a capable and consecrated help both in the ministry and in the direction of a mailing office.

This exciting news means that within only a matter of months, we may have many thousands on the mailing list in Australia and that many churches will need to be raised up as soon as we can have the qualified men free to pastor them!

After establishing the office in Australia, Mr. Ted Armstrong and Mr. Waterhouse may return together as far as the Philippines where they will be able to meet Mr. Pedro Ortiguero for the first time and get a better first-hand picture of the work there. Mr. Ted Armstrong will then return by plane to the United States, and Mr. Waterhouse will return to Australia to resume direction of the office and begin establishing a local church in Sydney.

Growth in Britain

Our ministers in England, Mr. Raymond McNair and Mr. Ernest Martin, reported that the overseas mailing office has now been moved to our beautiful property at Hanstead House, near Bricket Wood, England—on the outskirts of London! From all reports, it is indeed a beautiful site in which to work and serve God. Also, it is the future site of Ambassador College, United Kingdom, Limited, which will be established this coming fall!

Mr. McNair reports continued growth in the work there in every way. One good bit of news is that full Sabbath church services are now being held at Bristol, England, with over 20 in attendance! And Mr. McNair reports that he is just now starting a Bible study every other week in Birmingham which will undoubtedly be the foundation for a church in that area later.

Truly, with this news of growth and expected growth in Australia, Britain, and the Philippines, we can thank God that the work of His church in this latter day is beginning to literally circle the earth!

Growth in the Northwest

Mr. Jim Fridele, our pastor at God’s church in Tacoma, Washington, reports
that the church there has been divided so that there are now two churches—one in Tacoma, as before, and a new one in Seattle! In spite of this split—with Tacoma losing about half of its members—attendance there continues about 125.

And the new church in Seattle started off with a bang with 124 in attendance! The brethren there are enthusiastic about this arrangement because it saves much driving time for many of them, and will also give them more of an opportunity for personal contact and fellowship with each other and the minister because of the smaller number. So another new church has been born!

From Oregon, Mr. Raymond Cole reports that the Eugene Church continues its recent growth with about 70 members now in attendance. Mr. Cole has been doing a great deal of his visiting in the Portland area, and the attendance there is now approaching the 250 mark!

Because of the need for Mr. Waterhouse to leave and establish the work in Australia, Mr. Bulk McNair is leaving the Eugene-Salem area in order to assume the responsibility of working with God’s churches in Garden City, Kansas, and Pueblo and Denver in Colorado. Continuing there as associate pastor will be Mr. Roger Foster—recent graduate of Ambassador College and dedicated servant of Jesus Christ.

Introducing Your "Letter Answering Department"

You may not have realized it, but God’s church is receiving over two thousand letters nearly every single day! Most of these letters are addressed to Mr. Armstrong personally, and many require a personal answer.

But how would you feel if you had to make an international broadcast, teach Bible classes, write articles for two magazines and edit other material, direct the business end of an international corporation, and then—on top of that—try to answer literally hundreds of letters every week?

Naturally, Mr. Armstrong has had to establish a special department to answer many of the letters which he is simply not able to get to personally. He does try to answer as many as he can, but has arranged that most of them are answered by the Letter Answering Department which is under his direct supervision.

Assisting in this supervisory capacity is Mr. J. W. Robinson. Last, but far from least, is Dr. Clint Zimmerman—last because he comes at the end of the alphabet. Dr. Zimmerman also came to us as an older family man with a happy, balanced family who are with him in the truth. Before coming to Ambassador College, Dr. Zimmerman was a successful chiropractor—and spent much time in consideration and prayer before making the decision to give up his practice in order to come to Ambassador College. He is a man of much education and mature ability, and has driven himself zealously in order to answer literally hundreds of letters himself each month!
RESIST the Devil!

God's people are WARNED of Satan and his demons, called "wicked spirits in high places!" Some have not really HEEDED that warning! Here's what YOU ought to be doing about it!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Is God's Church totally ignorant of Satan's devices? With the past few years there have been increasing accounts of how some of God's own people have been molested by or even allowed themselves to become possessed by demons!

What is wrong?

Is it because this Church, while pride itself on doing the very WORK of God, of possessing a great amount of knowledge of God's truth, is gradually becoming spiritually lukewarm?

Wanting "Experiences"

Brethren, it's time to wake up and come to our senses! It's time we began to speak plainly. It's time you began to realize that God's ministers know that there are many who, although calling themselves members of God's true Church, have never been converted! Repeatedly, we have mentioned this fact in sermons at the Feast of Tabernacles, and made it plain in articles in the Good News magazine.

Perhaps, unwittingly, you are one who has "come to see the truth" and simply decided you should go along with it. You have decided, seeing the evils of the present world around you, and understanding the true doctrine of God, that you had better follow that true doctrine. Having made this cold decision, you begin to embark upon a life of "coming into the truth" without having ever experienced a real deep-down repentance!

Why is this important? Because Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). It is only through repentance that one can be given the Holy Spirit of God (Acts 2:38; 5:32). The apostle Paul wrote, "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9).

Without a real repentance, none can receive the Holy Spirit of God! And, mark you well, unless you have the Holy Spirit of God, you have virtually no sure protection from Satan's wiles and his demons.

Many today are seeking "experiences." They want to come to the "experience" of feeling that they are "converted." Many think they should feel something at the time of baptism. Others think that they should have an especially exhilarating or exciting feeling at the time hands are laid on them for the receipt of God's Spirit. Yes—even some of those in God's true Church (at least, nominally) believe they should have a special experience, or get a certain "feeling" at the time they receive God's Holy Spirit!

I cannot begin to describe to you in plain print some of the revolving, horrifying, and thoroughly disgusting experiences which some have related to God's ministers, simply because they were misled, deceived by Satan the Devil, and fervently desiring some kind of an experience rather than desiring the Holy Spirit of God lawfully.

Some have been attacked by demons. They have found themselves virtually paralyzed while lying in bed, or in a car, while in a dreamy, half-asleep dazed state, and with their spiritual guard down. They have been so completely paralyzed so as to be unable to either move or talk for a few moments until, after a frantic battle in their minds, they were finally able to call upon the name of Christ or to say, "The Lord rebuke you" to the spirit! Brethren, this is serious. This is not just my "imagination." Many of God's people have been molested, influenced, attacked, or, in some very few and widely scattered cases, even possessed by Satan's foul, filthy demons!

Perhaps you can begin to see, then, why it is so terribly important you come to understand the whole truth about this problem.

Satan's Purpose!

Satan the devil is "the god of this age" (II Cor. 4:4). The apostle Paul calls him the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). Jesus, when being accused of casting out demons by the spirit of Beelzebub, answered, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand. And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself—how shall then His kingdom stand?" (Matt. 12:25-26).

Did you notice it? Jesus says Satan has a kingdom.

Whether most "religionists" believe there is an actual devil or not—your Bible definitely says there is a devil! That devil is a fallen archangel, formerly called Lucifer, who took one full third of the angels of heaven with him in his rebellion! Christ says, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven" (Luke 10:18). And further reveals, "And his tail drew a third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth . . . " (Rev. 12:4).

We know Christ shows in Revelation 1:20 that stars are symbolic for angels. Satan, then, took one full third of the angels with him in his rebellion!

Those angels are now called demons. As demons, or fallen angels, they still have power, powers. They are supernatural, creative, and all-seeing. Their minds, their natures and characters have become so twisted, warped and completely perverted that they are in constant rebellion and hostility toward God! They have been Satan's henchmen in deceiving and enslaving this world, causing it to do Satan's will!

Satan's purpose is to try to cause God's work to fail, to disrupt His plan—to cause some of you brethren to fall!

The Nature of Demons

But notice what Christ tells us about demons! Turn to Matthew 8:28. "And when He was come to the other side of the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out saying, 'What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come here to torment us before the time?'

Notice—these demons possessing the minds of these two asked Christ whether He had come to torment them "before the time!"

They thoroughly recognized they are to receive torment in the future.

There are many different kinds of demons. We find, in the gospels, that demons could afflict various parts of the body; without spirit charings! Their minds, their natures and characters have become so twisted, warped and completely perverted that they are in constant rebellion and hostility toward God! They have been Satan's henchmen in deceiving and enslaving this world, causing it to do Satan's will!

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The Good News

she was made straight and glorified
God." Later, in answering the ruler of the synagogue Jesus said, "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham whom Satan hath bound, to these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" (Luke, 13:11-13, 16).

Here are cases where individuals were dumb, blind, or stooped over with afflictions in various organs of the body other than the mind as a result of affliction by demons.

Some demons are much more violent than others. "And one of the multitude answered and said, 'Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; and wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to Thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.' After calling for the child to be brought to Him, notice how the demon possessing the child acted: "... And when he saw him, straightway the spirit raged in him, and fell on the ground and wallowed foaming." Jesus then cast out this violent demon and lifted up the child who was well and normal as before (Mark 9:14-29).

But Jesus showed the reason the disciples COLD NOT cast out this violent demon was because they were not as yet converted and not close enough to God. "This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29).

While the word "fasting" may not necessarily appear in all the original manuscripts, it is, nevertheless, certainly implied and is the vital prerequisite if we are drifting away from God!

Why Fear?
The reason for this article is not to put members of God’s Church in fear or terror of Satan’s foul demons! Notice, rather—it is the demons who FEAR US! "Have you come to torment US before the time" (Mark 8:29), the demons asked Christ. These demons were fearful of torment. Jesus said, "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith I will return to my house from whence I came out" (Luke 11:24). Jesus reveals here that a disturbed demon is an uncomfortable, apprehensive, restless spirit—wanting desperately to get into and possess a body! God reveals that "Fear not HATH TORMENT!" (I John 4:18).

Demons then are FEARFUL of their future judgment. James tells us, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou dost well: the demons also believe, and tremble!" (James 2:19).

No, we are not to fear Satan or his demons! However, we are not to go to the opposite extreme of taking these things lightly, or of attempting to become "familial" with demons; all the while "kidding" ourselves since we are not afraid of them, we need not avoid them. God absolutely condemns to death anyone who will become FAMILIAR with spirits. (Lev. 20:27).

Do Not Be Ignorant
The apostle Paul wrote, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for we ARE NOT IGNORANT of his devices" (II Cor. 2:11). No, the apostle Paul was not ignorant of Satan’s devices—but are YOU? Apparently, some of God’s people have been completely ignorant of the devices of Satan—and completely without defense against Satan’s demons! Brethren, I am going to speak quite candidly. The ministers in God’s Church have noticed a definite tendency, particularly among gentle women, to yield to the influences of spirit beings, and even to become possessed by them.

This problem is not going to be conquered and put out of God’s Church if we speak softly about it! The sad thing is—SOME OF THESE WOMEN HAVE LIBERATELY, KNOWINGLY OPENED THEMSELVES UP TO RECEIVE FOUL SPIRITS, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE SEEKING UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES.

There have been cases where God’s ministers have cast out demons from some, even to have those people open right up to receive the same spirit and seven others worse than itself back into them again! Jesus Christ gave a stark, frank WARNING of this very thing in a scripture I have already referred to. He said the demon will wander through dry places, seeking rest, and then try to come back to the house from which it went out. God’s ministers, using the power of God and the authority of Jesus Christ, can CAST OUT these demons—but ONLY YOU, with your will-power and by staying close to God in prayer and beginning to really resist Satan the devil and his demons can guarantee that the demon will not come back.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual spirits in high places" (Eph. 6:12). God tells us we wrestle in a constant struggle against wicked spirits who occupy high places in the darkness of this present society! It’s about time we awakened and became a little more informed of Satan’s devices, and know how to resist Satan the devil.

What You Should Do
Brethren, again, let me speak very candidly. I remember one particular instance, where a young man came to me, telling me he was being molested by demons. I went through all of the scriptures in the New Testament directly relating to it, spelling out for him in simple order exactly what he should do. I encouraged prayer, and even fasting with prayer. I encouraged more Bible study, and told him how to resist Satan the devil and exactly what he should do in the event any further molestation occurred. This man kept coming back again and again and again. I kept re-informing him of these same scriptures over and over again. He kept on coming back, and each time informing me the situation was worse. I rebuked him sharply on several occasions, warming him of the direction in which he was going. I told him God wasn’t wrong, that the advice I had given him was directly from Jesus Christ, as revealed in His Word! I told him I physically could do absolutely nothing except to add my prayers to his—which I certainly did. Later, this young man became absolutely possessed of these demons. It was then, that I found out from others that he had DELIBERATELY asked these demons to perform certain “interesting” acts in front of him. He had seen a toothbrush walts around in his bathroom. He had heard various knockings, rappings, seen strange lights and other “curiosities.” Instead of abhorring, detesting and totally rejecting these “spiritual manifestations,” he WANTED

(Continued on page 8)
The Origin of Medical Science

Is "modern medicine" really modern? Read the surprising facts about the true origin of today's medical practices, written by a staff member of the News Gathering Department of Ambassador College.

by Donald G. Wofford

MEDICAL science is not modern—it is thousands of years old! Notice the Old Testament examples of going to a physician or doctor.

King Asa sought the physicians to cure his foot trouble. "Asa ... was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great; yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians. And Asa ... died!" (1 Chron. 16:12-13.) Asa wasn't cured!

King Ahaziah fell sick. He too sought the physicians—the representatives of Baalzebub, the god of medicine. But they could not cure him (II Kings 1:2-4, 16-17).

Even in early New Testament times we have the record of "a woman, having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any" (Luke 8:43). This woman's case is not uncommon today! Many of you "spent all your living upon physicians" and yet weren't any better!

But weren't these failures due to doctors who were ignorant and crude? NotSo admits Dr. Arturo Castiglioni, former professor at the University of Padua, and Research Associate in the History of Medicine at Yale University in his book Medicine, page 49).

What a contrast to what most of us have been taught!

Medicine is as old as ancient Egypt! The sources for the history of Egyptian medicine are found in a number of medical papyri, the three most important of which are: the Ebers Papyrus, the Brugsch Papyrus, and the Edwin Smith Papyrus; the last of which was written as early as 1700 B.C., during the days of Jacob and his twelve sons, and was evidently copied from a much more ancient manuscript. (From page 55 of Dr. Castiglioni's book.)

"The heart was recognized in the Ebers Papyrus," declares Dr. Castiglioni, "as the center of the blood supply, as was also the fact that there are vessels attached to it for every member of the body" (p. 50). "The Egyptian physician ... knew of the importance of the examination of the pulse" (p. 51).

Listen to what modern physicians say concerning the "oldest known medical writings," known as the Edwin Smith papyrus: "The clinical observations are so accurate and clear that it does not appear possible to the physician who reads these pages today that five thousand years have passed" (A History of Medicine, p. 55, 56).

Yes, today's doctors are amazed to discover that contrary to the theory of evolution, ancient physicians were no more ignorant, savage "medicine men." They possessed basically the same medical knowledge that doctors do today!

Ancient Knowledge of Disease

This eminent doctor goes on to say that this ancient medical papyrus presents "a clear concept of pathologic symptoms and an exact estimation of prognosis [the course the disease will take] is arrived at . . . The brain is mentioned for the first time in history, its convolutions and meninges, showing clearly that it was recognized as the site of mental functions. It is with profound wonder that we recognize the knowledge of the nature of wounds and of the possibility of improving the appearance of old people with plasters which remove the wrinkles" (A History of Medicine, p. 55, 56).

Haven't most of us been taught to believe that physicians of 5,000 years ago tried to cure disease and pain by means of "magic spells," and not by the "modern skill" of the doctor who uses drugs and knaves today?

It is time we stop assuming that medical science is modern and begin to examine its record and to see what God says about it!

Did you know that MEDICAL SCHOOLS BEGAN IN ANCIENT EGYPT? Listen! "... throughout this very ancient and valuable surgical text the employment of magic is spoken of only once, while there is frequent mention of the art of the physician. The truly exceptional importance of this book is derived not only from the fact it accurately described a series of surgical cases, outlining the proper diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment," according to the standards of this "modern" world, "but also . . . even in this remote period there already existed organized schools of medical practitioners, well-versed in surgery, independent of the priestly castes" (A History of Medicine, p. 57). Think of that!

"It is well established that among all the peoples of antiquity the Egyptians enjoyed the reputation of being excellent physicians. Thus Homer exults (Odyssey, IV, 231) Egyptian medicine: 'Each is a physician with knowledge beyond all men'" (p. 59). Aren't doctors erroneously regarded just as highly today?

Specialists in Egypt

In this modern world up until 25 to 50 years ago there were very few specialists. But such was not the case in ancient Egypt! "Herodotus says (II, 84): ". . . All places abound in physicians; some are for the eyes, others are for the head, others for the teeth, others for the intestines, and others for internal disorders" (p. 59-60). Specialists are nothing new!

"But," many ask, "what about modern drugs and medicines, haven't these just been recently discovered?"

Dr. Howard W. Haggard, in his widely read history of medicine, Devils, Drugs and Doctors, reports: The narcotic drugs ... were used in the past at they are used today" (p. 97).

Dr. Castiglioni goes on to say, "The Papyri that have been mentioned contain an enormous number of prescriptions. The Ebers Papyrus alone contains almost a thousand, the components of which are not yet all known to us ... Medicines were prescribed in all the forms still in use today" (p. 51-52).

Solomon was right when he said, "There is no new thing under the sun." Ancient physicians even as far away as China "knew about preventive inoculation for smallpox . . . in 1105 B.C." (Medicine and Man, p. 53). Modern "science" considers valuable the ancient
Chinese "concoctions of toadskins, as a treatment for dropsy . . . The virtue of toadskins," says the "eminent" scientific writer Ritchie Calder, "lies in its richness in bufagin, which produces a free flow of urine, so helping to drain the tissues, and in adrenalin, which slows down the heart ratio, increases the blood pressure, and speeds up the secretion of sugar" (Medicine and Man, p. 53). Modern medicine prescribes the same drugs and medicines used by the ancients and often produced from the same slimy, filthy sources—but more about this later. Let us continue the history and "progress" of medical science.

Much of the medical knowledge of the Egyptians was passed on to the Greeks, though some of it was lost through the ravages of war.

Modern Practices Came From Ancient Greece

"The medical art as we now practice it, the character of the physician as we now understand it, both date for us from Hippocrates”—who lived in ancient Greece about 300 B.C., according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, edition XI, article "Medicine." This article goes on to say, "Hippocrates . . . recognized . . . in acute diseases, a natural process which the humours went through . . . The duty of the physician was to forsee these changes, 'to assist or not to hinder them,' so that the 'sick man might conquer the disease with the help of the physician.' The times at which crises were to be expected were naturally looked for with anxiety; and it was a cardinal point in the Hippocratic system to foretell the courses and event of the disease. . . . The Hippocratic physicians . . . in this . . . have perhaps never been excelled."

Around 200 B.C. in Greece-dominated Egypt in the use of drugs and in the art surgery and obstetrics "The Alexandrian practitioners could compare most favorably with those of modern times;"

When we compare the doctors and physicians of ancient times with those of today we find that contrary to the fable of evolution physicians were often as competent or even more competent in administering their drugs and using their knives than many today.

But medical science has always been a strange mixture of truth and error.

Medicine a Mixture of Truth and Error

The Britannica continues: "In the treatment of disease the Hippocratic school attached great importance to diet, the variations necessary in different diseases being so clearly defined. Medicines were regarded as of secondary importance, but not neglected, two hundred and sixty-five drugs being mentioned at different places in the Hippocratic works. . . . The highest importance was attached to applying all remedies at the right moment, and the general principle enforced of making all influences—internal and external—co-operate for the relief of the patient. . . . In chronic cases diet, exercise and natural methods were chiefly relied upon. . . . A treatise on the diseases of women, contained in the Hippocratic collection . . . is of remarkable practical value" according to physicians of today.

Ancient physicians also recognized the vital importance of diet in preventing diseases.

It is the doctors' primary duty to teach people how to live healthily, not to try to cure them after they become sick. But today doctors are so busy giving drugs to the sick and afflicted that they have no time to teach them how to keep well! Doctors have gotten away from their function just as they usually did in ancient times.

So medical science came out of Egypt. It spread through the ancient world and was especially practiced at Ekon. People believed then that they could be healed only through "medical science"—but what does God say?

The Bible Answer

King Ahaziah died in the hands of those physicians who were the representatives of Baalzebub, the god of medicine (I Kings 1:2-4, 16-17). They could not cure him. Notice that they thought their god cured the sick and afflicted through their medicines—just as doctors do today. But who was "Baalzebub"?

Baalzebub, the god of medicine, was the "god of dung" or the "god of filth." Ancient physicians guided by their god Baalzebub used filth to try to prevent or cure disease, just as today doctors inject people with polio vaccine made from monkey pus. "The inoculation of human pus from smallpox cases had been known since far distant times" (A History of Medicine, p. 641). Haven't most of you had pus and other filth put into your systems in the form of diphtheria, tetanus, smallpox, polo or other "shots"?

Baalzebub was called by various names in various parts of the world. In ancient Greece he was known as Aesculapius and "appeared in the form of a serpent"—a type of Satan! (A History of Medicine, p. 122.) "The Semitic peoples of Syria, Palestine, and Phoenicia worshiped the god of healing Esmun . . . who was often represented as holding a rod in his hand about which are twined two serpents" (p. 121). This is the emblem of Mercury, the Greek god of commerce and thieves and is the emblem of modern medical science (pp. 74-75).

"The serpent was by no means confined to the Greeks. It figures in almost all primitive medicine. . . . The serpent was synonymous with wisdom . . . it knew both good and evil—poison and antidote—and . . . was the ally of the doctor" (Medicine and Man, p. 59). Even in ancient times men believed God worked through the doctors with their knives and drugs. But they did not realize that this was not the true God of the universe, but it was "the god of this world!" (II Cor. 4:4). Satan the Devil. He appeared as a serpent in the garden of Eden and deceived Eve into taking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Yes, Satan the Devil is the founder and perpetrator of modern medical science!

Medical Symbols from Egypt

Have you ever wondered what the H symbol on doctors' stethoscopes means? It is a symbol identifying modern medical science. But where did it originate? From Babylon and Egypt!

Read what Ritchie Calder, "one of today's outstanding scientists," has to say: "When the new-fledged doctor fresh from his course in twentieth-century medical science examines his first patient and writes the first prescription, he avows himself a neophyte (new member) of a pagan, magical cult. He may not know it as he scribbles his instructions to dispense the latest antibiotic or the newest soup drug, but, at the top of his prescription, he writes H . . . and in this act he invokes Horus, the bird-headed god of the Egyptians . . . As Sir William Osler pointed out, it is the 'Eye of Horus,' the Egyptian amulet dating back 5000 years . . . Horus became the god of healing and his eye the protecting device."

Horus was none other than the Egyptian form of Nimrod born (Gen. 10:8-9), the founder of this world's society which is in rebellion against God. He was worshiped as the sun-god.

"During Roman times, Galen (130-200 A.D.) advised his fellow physicians to sprinkle their writings with Egyptian symbols to impress their patients, and one of those symbols was the Eye of Horus. At first it depicted two eyes, which became corrupted into two Roman 'R's,' back to back . . . and later to a kind of 'Z,' . . . which was the sign of Zeus, or Jupiter, and this, in turn, was rationalized back to H.

"Like the sacred snake of Aesculapius, the crest of the physician, this is a reminder that modern medicine is the heir to a long tradition of myth and magic. And the influence of ancient Egypt was immense" (Medicine and Man, pp. 53-54).

But let us go on with the story. Much
of the medical knowledge of ancient Egyptians and Greeks were lost during the Dark Ages. Gradually over centuries men began to discover once again in early modern times the medical facts that had been known thousands of years before.

Men today have looked at the ignorance and squander that existed in the Dark Ages and have assumed that man is always getting better and better! But this is not true.

"Modern" Drugs and Medicines

When we look into the practices of modern medicine we find that drugs, after physical rest, are the most often used therapeutic measures at the physicians' command. But what do doctors admit about their own drugs?

"A former Harvard professor of anatomy said once it would be worse for the physicians to admit about their own drugs than for the general public to be ignorant of the medical facts that are helpful and useful." Dr. Logan Puestoq, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine, told the American College Gastroenterology.

Men, rather than trusting God for healing, are producing new diseases as they try to get rid of the ones they already have by wrong living habits. In the process, thousands are slowly dying from man's attempted cures. "Penicillin has been called 'the queen of drugs,' but can this description still be upheld in view of the increasing number of severe and fatal reactions reported in medical papers? ... Penicillin came into general use in 1945," says this article, "but the first death from penicillin therapy was not reported until 1946. Another three years elapsed before a second fatality occurred. During the last 10 years, however, severe reactions have been reported with increasing frequency and the number of fatal cases has multiplied rapidly. By 1955, some 560 severe reactions had been reported, 81 of them fatal, and by 1957 it was estimated that some 1000 deaths from anaphylaxis due to penicillin had occurred in the United States alone" (Los Angeles Times, Feb. 1, 1959).

These facts clearly prove that drugs are poisons. They do harm to the body. This is why "pharmacy," in the original Greek language from which the word comes, signified the use of any kind of drugs, a root word also meaning "heal" and "wicbicraft" (Encyclopedia Britannica, edition XI, article "Pharmacy").

Bible Describes Modern Medicine

Gods says that "pharmacy" translated "witchcraft" in Galatians 5:20—is one of Satan's deceptions, trusting in chemicals instead of God to get rid of disease or pain. It is a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:20)—a lack of faith. The word "witchcraft" in this verse is a mistranslation in the King James Version. The original Greek is pharmakeia and means "medication" or "pharmacy" (see Strong's Exhaustive Concordance).

It is carnality to trust in medication to remove disease or pain instead of trusting God "who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Ps. 103:3). We need to ask ourselves, "Just what is healing?" Healing is God's forgiveness of physical sins. In Luke 5:18-26 a man sick with the palsy was brought to Christ. Christ startled the people by saying "thy sins be forgiven thee." Why did He say that? He goes on to tell us, "that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins" (v. 24)—what kind? Sin against our bodies, physical sins that cause disease, suffering and ultimately premature death. To show that He has power to forgive physical as well as spiritual sins, Christ said to the sick man, "Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house"—Christ healed him by forgiving his physical sins. Healing is the forgiveness of sins—and God alone can forgive sins (v. 21). (See also John 5:2-14.)

Isaiah's prophecy concerning the first coming of Christ and His suffering for us, God says: "Surely our diseases He did bear, and our pains He carried ... He was wounded because of our transgressions—of the physical laws that govern our health—"And with His stripes we are healed" (Isa. 53:4, 5 [Jewish Translation]; 1 Pet. 2:24).

Therefore if we trust in chemicals to take away our diseases and pains we are guilty of spitting on and rejecting the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us.

Yet Jesus said that the "sick need a physician" (Mark 2:17).

But which physician? The word "physician" means "healer." Doctors admit that no drug or medicine can heal. Jesus Christ's broken body pays for our physical sins in full when we repent and turn to Him. God is the only real Physician. Trusting in anything else to remove our diseases is idolatry! God says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me ... I am the Eternal that healeth thee" or "the Eternal your Physician" or "your Healer" (Ex. 20:3; 15:26).

Today there is a crying need for doctors who know God's health laws to tell people how not to become sick. Jesus said to the man whom he had healed, "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing befall thee" (John 5:14). Yes, we need doctors to tell us which health laws we have broken so we won't make the same mistakes and bring more suffering on ourselves. Mr. Armstrong's booklet "Does God Heal Today?" explains this thoroughly. Be sure to read it.

Arguments For Using Medicines

But some argue that God sanctions the use of medicine in Revelation 22:2, where He says that in the New Jerusalem there will be "the tree of life ... and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." This is prefigured in Ezekiel: "the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine" (Ezek. 47:12).

"There," these people reason, "that proves we should use drugs, pain killers and medicines."

Those who say this are in utter ignorance of God's Word and His plan! Notice what these verses really mean. We read that those punished by God are going to ask, "Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed?" (Jer. 13:18). The reason is they trust in the wrong god. The true God answers them, "In vain shalt thou use many medicines; for thou shalt not..."
be cured,” because “thou hast no healing medicines!” (Jer. 46:11; 30-13). Only God can heal disease and remove pain by forgiving physical sins.

The tree of life that will be in the new Jerusalem typifies God’s Holy Spirit just as did the tree of life in the Garden in Eden (Gen. 3:22). The one who will receive healing then just as we must now, through the everliving power of God’s Spirit. That tree is merely the symbol of it. It is not on earth today—it will come down “out of heaven” in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1-2).

Some doctors say that God was the first to use anesthetics to perform surgery when He “caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman” (Gen. 2:21-22). They claim this gives us a license to do the same.

Why do weak, helpless, mortal, fallen men want to become God before they are qualified? There are some things that are not our prerogative—some things that only God is qualified to do. Christ went to heaven and He told His disciples: “Whither I go, ye cannot come” (John 13:33). God also says: “I will render vengeance to mine enemies” (Deut. 34:1), but He commands us: “Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath” (Rom. 12:19-21).

Again God says, “I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal” (Deut. 32:29). God commands us not to kill and not to trust in drugs, and surgery or anything else physical to heal our diseases and pains—that prerogative belongs to God alone. We are not yet God; let’s do our job and trust Him to do His—He can do it much better than we can.

The use of drugs, pain killers, tranquilizers, surgery and all the rest of man’s attempts to heal prevents the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us from being applied to suffering humanity.

Why is man so unwilling to accept the only way to real health and happiness—the way of faith and obedience to God?

God doesn’t deny us anything that is for our good. He denies us those things that will cause us unnecessary pain and misery and death.

God speed the day when all men will realize the truth and will be healed!

Using Medicines Is “Witchcraft”

Those who don’t repent of trusting in the false god of medical science—falsely so called—are going to suffer the excruciating agonies of the seven last plagues (Rev. 9:21; 15:1; 16:1-21). Again the King James mistranslates the Greek word, pharmakeia, this time as “sorceries”—this word means “the use or administering of drugs” (see Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon).

But those who still won’t repent even after the millennium and trust in God to apply the healing Christ received as payment for our physical suffering will have no part in the eternal Kingdom of God. (Rev. 22:14). “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, . . . and sorcerers, and idolaters . . . shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:7-8). The word here translated “sorcerers” comes from the Greek pharmakeia which means one who prepares or administers drugs—a druggist” or “a pharmacist” or a “poisoner” (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance). Drugs are poisons, and every “poisoner” is going to end up in the lake of fire unless he repents.

Either we trust God to heal our diseases, and learn to have a happy abundant life now and for all eternity, or trust in medical science—which won’t help us and which God terms “sorcery,” “witchcraft” and “idolatry”—and suffer agony now and an excruciating death—the second death in the lake of fire. The choice is ours.

Which will YOU choose?

RESIST the Devil!

(Continued from page 4)

MORE OF THEM! He was an “interested” onlooker. He might have said to himself, “Well, that’s interesting—I want you to do it again!” He was directly laying himself open for possession of a foul spirit!

And I know just as sure as I write this article there are some of you—who have done the very same thing! And I adjure and admonish every single one of you in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ of Nazareth to quit doing any such thing, to get on your knees and repent of any such foul and obscene filth, and to call out to God for His protection!

Here is what you ought to be doing. James says, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (Jas. 4:7). Do you believe that scripture? Do you really believe God? God says if you resist the devil he is bound to flee from you!

Notice! The apostle Paul wrote, “I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me!” (Gal. 2:20). Jesus Christ whipped Satan the devil in the greatest spiritual battle that has ever been fought (Luke 4:4; Mat. 4:4). Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! (Heb. 13:8). If Jesus Christ is truly living His life in you, then think of this:

Demons are fallen angels. Angels are created beings. Your Bible says not anything was made without Jesus Christ—that He made everything that was made. Therefore, Jesus Christ made angels! God, Christ, then is the very creator of these demons! He is the Great, Supreme, All-powerful ruler over these foul spirits, and they must obey Jesus Christ IMMEDIATELY!

If Christ is really living His life within you, then the very one who created these foul spirits and is over them and rules them is living His life right within you! That means the demons are desperately afraid of you! You do not need to fear them—you need to respect and be wary and fearful of the consequences should you allow yourself to be tempted by them or be influenced by them or become possessed by them. But you are not to fear them.

Here is the Bible “formula” for resisting Satan and His demons. If you feel an unnatural influence or anything of the kind, say, “THE LORD REBUKE YOU!” (Jude 9). Call upon the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and begin praying to God.

The apostle Paul wrote, “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? KNOW YE NOT THAT WE SHALL JUDGE ANGELS?” (1 Cor. 6:2). Demons are fallen angels. We are going to be their judges! And we are going to consign them to “foaming out their own shame, wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever” (Jude 13).

Brethren, the answer to this problem is the same answer as any other spiritual problem which may ever come up. PRAY MORE! FAST MORE OFTEN! GET CLOSER TO GOD! Learn to “resist the devil” and he will flee from you!

If you will do this, and stay close to God, you need have no fear whatsoever for yourself or any member of your family—because Satan the devil with all his millions of demons does not have the power to make you commit a sin, think a wrong thought, or do one single thing contrary to the law of God. God has so ordained—and God will back up this fact in His word. May God help each and everyone of you to take heed, and begin to really resist the devil!
How You Could Be Tempted Without Knowing It!

Here is a surprising article everyone needs to read!

by L. Leroy Neff

You may right now be tempted of Satan—and yet be totally unaware of it. You may even have yielded to his temptation—be sinning—and not know it!

Here’s How

Deceived people do not know they are deceived. Christians are warned not to be deceived. This warning would not be necessary if Christians never could be deceived. But this warning is necessary because you may be caught off guard and get into a wrong spirit or attitude without knowing it!

Before we were converted Satan had deceived each one of us in one way or another. In fact he has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9) and has blinded the minds of all unbelievers (II Cor. 4:3-4).

Just how has he done this? Not only by the false religions of this world, that appear right. Or by politics and worldly governments. Or by secret societies, lodges, fraternities and by “false science.”

But above all, he deceived each of us by appealing to our vanity, to our lusts, and our carnal desires. He, before we were converted, led us to accuse our neighbors, to talk behind the backs of others. Or the devil let us become dejected, discouraged, seduced us to want to quit living! Yet he made it appear to be the right thing to do. We have all done what seems right to a man (Pro. 14:12).

But—has Satan found since our conversion that he is no longer able to deceive us?

No! Many of you, unaware of Satan’s devices and wiles, are perhaps being caught off guard and yet you may not even know it! We need to learn of these satanic devices, and not be ignorant of them. The apostle Paul was not ignorant of Satan nor his devices, as we read: “For we are not ignorant of his devices” (II Cor. 2:11).

Yet some in God’s Church still are!

A Spiritual Warfare

Everyone has problems. At times some blame God or even brethren in the Church for these problems. We are not in a physical battle only, but in a spiritual battle. The apostle Paul explains it in Ephesians 6:12: “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness that is wicked spirits in high places.”

The apostle Paul recognized Satan’s devices and he knew when Satan hindered him. We have an example of this in I Thess. 2:18. Here Paul mentions that “Satan hindered us.” When Satan hinders us today, we often blame physical conditions only. Some who are delayed or prevented from going to Church on the Sabbath, or to one of the Holy Days, blame the weather, financial problems, car trouble, or a host of other things. Satan is not recognized as a hindrance.

Yet Satan is angry with our Church as the apostle John reveals in Rev. 12:12. Here is God’s Church, the Church that keeps the commandments of God, and has the testimony of Jesus Christ. Satan is not angry with those who are still deceived by his many devices, but he is angry with you and with me. He is angry with the Church of God. He knows that he has but a short time left. He will do all he can to hinder this work, to hinder any of those in God’s Church. It is his desire to sift us as wheat too (Luke 22:31), or to divide us against each other.

 Signs of Satan

Just what are the signs or fruit of Satan’s work? We can recognize the work of God by the fruits. They are the fruits of the Holy Spirit of God. But the fruits of Satan are entirely different.

One of the “fruits” of Satan is found in Rev. 12:10. He is here called “the accuser of our brethren. He accuses the saints before God day and night. But, Satan does not stop there. He also accuses us to each other.

An example of Satan’s accusation is found in Zech. 3:1: “And he showed me Joshua the High Priest standing before the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.” In this place, the RSV renders the word “resist” by accuse. A Lexicon will bring out this fact. Satan was here, not only resisting Joshua the High Priest, but he was accusing him. Here was Satan at his usual business of accusing the brethren.

Satan does not appear in bodily form to accuse us before our brethren. If he did, Christians would not be deceived by his devices. They would then know that the lies were coming from Satan. Instead, Satan puts thoughts in the mind against a brother. They appear very logical and right in every respect. The thought of accusation seems entirely correct, and yet it has been devised by “the Father of lies.” He has twisted the facts in our minds so that they appear logical and right. Yet in almost 99 times out of 100, these accusations are completely wrong, and without actual basis.

Here is another example of Satan and his accusations. Why back in the garden of Eden, he said (Gen. 3:1) “Hath God said.” Here Satan accused God. He was imputing wrong motives to God. He wanted Eve to think that God had made a mistake, or was unreasonable, or had not given due consideration to the problems of Adams and Eve. It appeared right in every respect to Eve. She was deceived, and yet she was wrong!

Has a thought ever come to your mind about a brother, “Hast your brother said certain things?” If so, he had a wrong motive, your mind will reason—influenced by Satan or his demons. He was sinning. Satan may even use scripture as he did to Christ in the 4th chapter of Luke. He may twist scripture in accusing your brother before you.

You may think it is impossible for Satan to put such thoughts in your mind, but let’s see what the scriptures say about this. Notice I Chron. 21:1. “And Satan stood up against Israel and provoked David to number Israel.” Notice, Satan stood up against Israel. He is standing up against God’s Church today, against you and me! Satan provoked David to number Israel, a great sin in God’s sight. And how did he do it? He first had to put a thought in David’s mind. This thought appeared right and logical to David. It was a way that seemed right to him. There were probably 1,001 reasons why it was the right thing to do, and yet it was wrong, it was sin.

Satan still does this today! Are you aware of such devices?

Another example is in John 13:2. Notice—Satan put it into the “heart” of Judas. It must have seemed logical and right to Judas, so Judas too was
deceived by the lies and logic of Satan the Devil.

When accusations come to our mind against a brother, they appear logical and reasonable. Satan would not make them appear any other way. We may have such accusations come to our mind against a brother, against God’s ministers, or against the Church as a whole. But they are almost always wrong.

Satan or his demons put wrong thoughts in our minds. Instead of putting these thoughts out immediately, some continue to think about it and dwell upon it. Then this idea within us grows and brings forth fruit—sin and evil. Instead of bringing every thought into captivity, our thoughts take us captive (1 Cor. 10:5).

If a thought of accusing comes to your mind against a brother, you should put it out of your mind immediately, unless you are certain that the person involved is sinning. Then if you believe that the person is sinning, you must go to him and point out his fault immediately (Matt. 18:15-17).

Another Device

Another very effective device of Satan is discouragement. If we are obedient to God in everything and yet become hopelessly discouraged, Satan has won his battle. He has caused some to come to the point where they no longer even want to live—where they felt it would be better to die, since that would give them rest from their problems, than to continue on under such a terrific load.

If such accusations come to your mind against a brother, you should put it out of your mind immediately, unless you are certain that the person involved is sinning. Then if you believe that the person is sinning, you must go to him and point out his fault immediately.

How to Fight

The apostle Paul actually says the same thing, notice Eph. 4:27 “Neither give place to the devil.” In other words, don’t give in, or fall backward in your warfare against Satan. Satan is going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour, and he is devasting many by his deceit, by his accusations, and by his lies. But resist him, for those who resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” (1 Pet. 5:9). Are you resisting, and are you steadfast in the faith?

Finally, we must put on the whole armour of God (Eph. 6:11-18). Do you have the whole armour of God? (Eph. 6:14-18). Do you have the truth of God, or are you still somewhat deceived by your former teachings? Do you have the righteousness which is obedience to God? Do you have the true gospel, which is the gospel of peace, or one of strife and trouble? Do you have faith? You must have it in order to fight off these wicked spirits. You must have the helmet of salvation, or complete repentance of your sins, baptism, and God’s Holy Spirit. Then you must have the sword of the spirit which is the word of God, not just by carrying your Bible with you, but making God’s word a very part of your being. You must study and learn what it says and then obey it.

In addition to all of these things, you must pray always—and watch! You must watch world events, you must be ever watchful for the work of Satan and his demons. The only way that you will be able to recognize these works are by the fruits of what is happening. With this armour, and firm resistance, you will win your battle over Satan and his demons. If you lack in any of these “weapons,” cry out to God, ask him in faith believing and he will supply what you lack or need.

You need to be aware that the accusations which may come to your mind, are probably used by Satan or his demons. You need to put these wrong thoughts out immediately, bringing them into captivity. Do not become discouraged through the work of Satan.

As you look back now, you may see where Satan has used you, with his lies and accusations. You may have falsely accused your brother in your mind, even possibly telling others. That is behind now. You should not be deceived any longer. You should recognize this Satanic device and not be deceived by it again. Can you now say with the apostle Paul—“We are not ignorant of Satan or his devices?”

Church Circles Globe

(Continued from page 2)

These are the men in your Letter Answering Department! Under Mr. Armstrong’s direction, they are there to serve you—and the other thousands of members and listeners who need personal help and counsel by mail from God’s headquarters church on earth today.

These dedicated men are answering approximately one thousand or more letters every single month! Thus, during each year, many thousands of people all over the United States and Canada receive personal answers to their questions through this department which Mr. Armstrong has established and which is under his direct supervision.

Let us rejoice and give God thanks for making this possible! And let us pray for these servants of Jesus Christ who work in His Letter Answering Department!

Continue to pray for God’s work in Australia, the Philippines, South Africa, Great Britain and around the entire earth.

Pray earnestly, brethren, for more of God’s guidance and power in every phase and facet of the work of God’s Church. The time is swiftly approaching for the completion of our labor.

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand” (Rom. 13:12).

The Good News
We Are Called to a BETTER RESURRECTION

Has God required more of some to gain a better resurrection? Is immortality the only reward of the saved? Why are those to be saved in the Millennium not required to war against Satan?

by L. Leroy Neff

Jesus Christ said, "Children, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:24, RSV.) Today it is hard to enter the Kingdom of God! Will it be easier for those in the world tomorrow?

Today's War Against Satan

In this age Christians must fight in a spiritual warfare against the wicked spirits. Notice Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [the margin reads wicked spirits] in high places."

But in the world tomorrow everything will be different!

Jesus Christ, and those of us born into the family of God, will be ruling this earth! Peace will come. Satan and his demons will no longer deceive the nations! There will be no more religious confusion. "And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest." (Heb. 8:11.)

Yes, in that happy day there will be no more persecution from relatives or neighbors. Everyone will know the ways of God!

But why has God allowed Satan and his demons to fight against Christians today? Why this added warfare?

God has required us to go through more trials today to receive eternal life than will be required of those to be born in the Millennium! Why? Notice the examples of Abraham, of David, and of the prophets. Abraham looked far beyond what many of us do today. He had more prophetic vision than most of us today.

These worthy men of old went through many terrible things in their lives of obedience to God. Notice verse 34: They "quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a BETTER RESURRECTION."

Did you notice that? Here is one answer to this enigma. Here is why God has required more of some than others! Those called and chosen in this age—and all past ages—are called to a better resurrection!

God has not required more of some and less of others to gain immortality, but HE has called some to HIGHER OFFICES in a better resurrection. These have required more training, more experience and more overcoming to qualify for higher offices. Remember the gifts and the calling are of God! God does at times call some to higher office than others.

Have you ever thought that one resurrection might be better than another? The first resurrection of which this refers, is to immortality and rule in the Kingdom of God. The second resurrection is one to mortal life. To a life of trial and testing. And yet, there is in it a possibility to attain immortality.

The third resurrection is one to utter destruction. It is for those who have sinned willfully, who have committed the unpardonable sin, to those who have had their opportunity and have rejected it.

A Higher Calling

God has in general called those of this age to higher positions in His kingdom, than those who come after. Notice in your Bible, how Godmillenniums ago selected the man to rule over Israel. Later He added the twelve apostles to rule various tribes. Now He is calling or inviting others to fill lower positions under these men. God usually calls those with the highest office first. He is calling us to positions of authority above those who will come in the ages to follow. They too will have opportunity to rule in the Kingdom of God, but, in a lesser way. Think of the billions of people who have either lived and died before us, or who will live after us in the millennium. And yet, how few in comparison He has called in this age. He is now calling out just a few to serve in these higher places.

On the other hand, some who are called now, may not overcome as they should and not attain to the high office that God has called them to. Possibly some who follow after, who do overcome more will be over them in authority.

God has provided a better, a higher calling for us, "God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (Heb. 11:40). In other words those for the resurrection consist of a definite number. Those of past ages are not complete without us. The bride of Christ is being selected in this age and is a complete body. When it is complete, when it becomes the bride of Christ, others will not be added to it. Rev. 19:7 tells us of the marriage of the Lamb to His wife. The others that come after will have their reward, they will also be a part of the family of God; however they are nowhere called a part of the bride of Christ. This may have much greater significance than you realize.

Church of the Firstborn

Read on through Hebrews 12, and notice particularly verse 23. Here is mentioned the "Church of the first-born." Remember that in ancient times it was the custom for the firstborn to receive the greater share of the father's estate. God is to make us heir of all things. And yet who will receive the greater share?

The Firstborn! They will have greater opportunity for service. They will be in higher positions of authority in God's Kingdom. The one who has the highest office, can more effectively help more people.

In this place the word "firstborn" is somewhat misleading. The word in the Greek is plural. In other words if we were to translate it correctly in English, we would say the "firstborn ones."

There are more than one who will be firstborn. At the resurrection many sons will be born at once. These all will be the first born ones. They will have an earlier opportunity for service in the Kingdom of God. They will have a greater opportunity of serving than those that come afterward.

In ancient time God called the firstborn of each family to serve Him. The firstborn failed and God had to call others to do this service. In the millennium, God will again use this same principle of using the firstborn for His...
special service in governing the world.

Ruling Is Serving

When we first come into the Church, we often think that we do not want to rule in God's Kingdom. All we want is to be given eternal life. How selfish we are! We want to receive the benefits of eternal life, and yet we do not want to serve others. The higher the position in God's Kingdom that we might attain, the more we will be able to serve and help others. It is even so today. Mr. Armstrong has the greater facilities, the greater opportunity to help more people more effectively than any other person on this earth. That is because God has given him the highest office. Those that are under Mr. Armstrong in authority are less able to do as effectively help as many people as much. And so it is in God's Kingdom. If you are faithful over a few dominions, you should want to qualify for as effectively help as many people as much. And so it is in God's Kingdom.

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In a business or corporation of this world, the man at top must have the best training and background. The man who is a janitor, or a door-keeper does not need the training or the experience of the president of the company. In like manner so is the Kingdom of God. Those who have overcome most, who have had the greatest experience, who have proved themselves more effectively than the others will have the highest position. The one with the most experience is Jesus Christ. And He will be the King over that kingdom. The others who have high positions will be those who have the best experience, who have overcome more, and who have grown more spiritually.

Now maybe you can begin to realize why some must go through more in this life than others. They have been invited or called to a higher office in God's kingdom. God has not put a different price on immortality, but He does require more of some than of others to qualify for the high position that He has called them to.

Think how much more experience those in the first resurrection will have than those who will come after. They will have 1,000 years more experience in ruling in God's Kingdom than those to come later.

Marvelous Prophecy About Our Church

It is impossible for us who are now mortal to fully realize the great high calling to which God has called us. We can only see a few of the more obvious things about this high calling. Notice Rev. 3:12. Here is a prophecy concerning our Church. Those that overcome of this Church will be "pillars in the temple of God at Jerusalem." We refer to a strong person in the Church as a pillar in the Church. And so it is in this case too. Those of this Church who have been called to be at the temple in Jerusalem, the headquarters on this earth of the Kingdom of God. Our calling and office will be at Jerusalem. That will be our abode, our dwelling place. Just as God in heaven has His dwelling place so will we be at Jerusalem where we can be with Jesus Christ personally.

Reading on in this verse notice that we who overcome are to have the name of God upon us. God names things they are. If we have the name of God, then we will be God. Here is another of the many, many places indicating that those who attain to the resurrection will be a part of the very family of God.

We also will have the name of this city of God—that is—the New Jerusalem. Does this make any sense to you? The city of the New Jerusalem you may think, is that city which God is preparing in heaven. Yes, that is true, and yet a city is more than the buildings and the streets which it contains. A city is composed also of those people who live there. At the beginning of this verse God says that we will no more go out of the temple of God. We then will be residents of that city.

For more proof turn to Rev. 20:9. Here is a time pictured which follows the 1,000 year period, and the 100 year period. This is after the old heavens and the old earth are destroyed and a new heaven and new earth are made. The New Jerusalem comes to this earth, and God the father comes to dwell on the earth. In this verse the angel tells John, "Come, I will show you the bride." Now remember that we of this age are called to be a part of that bride—those in the first resurrection. But what does the angel show John? A woman! No—he shows him the city the New Jerusalem. Why does he do this? He does this because the bride of Christ not only lives with Him in the New Jerusalem, but also rules from that city! Here is where the saints of this age, those who overcome, and are a part of the bride of Christ, will be centered.

In the previous age, we of the Philadelphia era are to be at the temple in Jerusalem, Palestine. The headquarters of the world. During the time of the new heavens and the new earth, we will be at the very headquarters of the universe. What a glorious opportunity and joy to look forward to! To be at the very headquarters of the universe, at the same place where God the Father, where Jesus Christ and many of the Holy Angels dwell.

Yet Other Offices

But there are many more who will make up God's Kingdom at that time. We find them mentioned in the 24th verse. "And the nations of them which are saved (they will be immortal), shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it." Yes, there are still rulers and kings in God's Kingdom. And they are not all at the New Jerusalem. They will come to the New Jerusalem, to visit it, and bring their glory (their divinity, or immortality) into it.

You may be troubled by the fact that there are still nations on this earth. Actually, this is simply referring to those various 'families' of this earth that will be immortal. If you think that you expect the various families of the earth to no longer be recognizable? We certainly will not all look exactly alike. We certainly would expect to look in shape and form similar to what we look like today. The great change will be that we then will be divine, radiant, like Jesus Christ Himself, as we find described in Rev. 1:13-15.

For example, a grandfather may have several families that have come from him. He possibly has several children who have their own families, and they in turn have families. They may look quite different and yet be of the same family.

God has called many of us who were the foolish, the weak, the lowborn, and the despised—to an exceeding "high calling" (1 Cor. 1:26-31, Lamsa translation). He has called us to confound the wise. He will confound them through us in the ages to come.

Think how great a responsibility God has offered to us, the firstborn! By serving in a greater position of authority, we will be able to help and to serve more people more effectively.

Because of the joy that was set before Him, Jesus Christ endured the cross. Maybe you too can now see better the joy that is set before you. God will not require of you more than you are able to bear. You can endure to the end! The way may seem difficult and hard at times. And yet you need not fall! "Wherefore the rather brethren give diligence to make your calling and election sure. For if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (II Peter 1:10). If you do the things Peter mentions in this chapter, you will never fall. You will endure to the end. You will be in that better resurrection. You too will be a pillar in the temple at Jerusalem, Palestine. You too will be an eternal resident of that Holy City the New Jerusalem.