

Spreading the Good News of the Coming Kingdom of God

Spring 2010

UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM



**Pleasing God
Is It Possible?**

UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM

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Pleasing God: Is It Possible?

As Christians, our goal should be to please God by imitating the example that Jesus Christ set for us. But as physical and imperfect human beings, is it ever possible to ever be “good enough” to please God? Does God always look at us as naughty children, deserving nothing but punishment despite our best efforts? What exactly is God looking for from us, anyway?

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WHAT IN THE WORLD?

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FROM THE PASTOR...

The Way of Give IS The Way of God

Some of you who receive this magazine may wonder what is the catch. What is the “hook”, since there is no subscription cost?

This magazine is unique in many ways and one of those is the lack of cost to you. We provide this magazine out of love—love of those in the world who have never heard the Gospel of the coming of the Kingdom of God. It comes out of the love of the brethren who supply the needs to produce this magazine. They do that out of the “give” in their hearts. They are brethren and co-workers who believe Jesus when he said “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

You cannot pay for this magazine, as it is given in love. We follow the same instructions of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ that He gave as He sent out His Apostles to spread the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God: “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give” (Matt: 10:8).

Our policy is to never actively solicit money, even in a subtle way, from those who benefit from being able to know the future God has set out for them. To give is the way of God, to take selfishly is the “get” way of Satan.

The reason I emphasize the giving characteristic of God is each articles in this issue is based on one common foundational truth. That truth is the concept of “giving” as the basis for the right way to a joyous life. Conversely, the concept of “getting” will produce the wrong way of this world which produces misery, heartache and pain.

Those who are the backbone of this magazine



love the people of this world and want the best for all mankind. God’s way of life is give. That is how He shows love to all mankind...even to the point of giving His only Son for us (John 3:16-17).

In spite of this powerful statement from God, many still believe that God came to condemn man. It is a statement that is diametrically opposed to the truth of the Bible. Look at it for yourselves.

The Father gave His son as an example of how mankind can get along with others. Along with this example, God gave a command that, if followed, would eliminate the problems in our relationship with God, the problems of nations dealing with nations, and would bring to an end the marriage problems we see in this country today. This command from God is a simple one: “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (I John 4:10).

As you read through this issue, meditate on how different this world would be if everyone lived God’s way of love . . . the way of give . . . and truly showed love to one another.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald W. Laughland".

Ronald W. Laughland
Pastor



Is It Possible To Please God?

God tells us that His way of thinking is far above our wisest thoughts. Yet, we are to strive to become like God. But with such a vast difference between us . . . can we ever hope to “make the grade”?

By Richard Leschinsky

When we respond to God’s calling and become converted, our entire life changes.

We begin to understand the true Gospel message, which includes God’s plan of salvation, and are overcome by the love, justice, and mercy that the Eternal has bestowed upon us!

The goals and aspirations that once dominated our thinking become insignificant and pale in comparison to a new focus in our lives. We have entered into a covenant relationship with our Creator and are determined to do everything in our power to please Him in all aspects of life (II Cor. 5:9).

But how can we do that? What does God want or expect from us? Most professing Christian organizations teach that accepting the sacrifice of Christ is sufficient. They indoctrinate their members into believing that they are hopeless sinners who are incapable of living a righteous life in the eyes of God.

But is that what the Bible

teaches? I urge you not to accept what man has told you about the Bible but to study the word of God for yourself in order to find the answers!

Contrary to popular opinion, Jesus Christ taught obedience to the laws of God. When Christ was asked what one must do to inherit eternal life, He did not instruct the man to simply accept Him as his Savior. Instead, Christ told him to “keep the Commandments” and then stated some of the Ten Commandments (Matt. 19:17-20).

Many theologians have twisted this scripture in order to refute the need to keep the Sabbath because Christ did not specifically mention the fourth commandment. However, using the same faulty logic, we must also conclude that Christians are free to worship other Gods, take the Lord’s name in vain, covet the possessions of others, and make carved images, as Christ did not enumerate these commandments either.

Obviously, Christ was referring to all of the Ten Commandments

when He made this statement and to teach otherwise clearly contradicts His earlier statement contained in Matthew 5:19.

Another example of Jesus Christ’s instructions concerning the law is found in John chapter 8 regarding the woman caught in the act of adultery. This event is usually cited to show that we all have sinned; therefore, we should not judge others when they do likewise.

This teaching is correct; however, what is often overlooked in verse 11 is our Lord’s command for the woman to “go and sin no more”. Why would Jesus Christ command the woman to stop sinning if she was not capable of compliance? The plain and simple answer is He would not have! The truth is that God expects us to overcome sin in our lives and strive to follow Christ’s perfect example.

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write, “Imitate me as I also imitate Christ” (I Cor 11:1). Those who claim to accept Christ as Lord and Savior but continue to violate

God's law will eventually be rejected by Him (Matt. 7:21-23).

As we have just proven from the pages of your Bible, Christians are required to keep God's spiritual Law based on the Ten Commandments. But, we must go above and beyond strict obedience if we want to please God. Notice 1 John 3:22 which states, "And whatever we ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments *and* do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (emphasis mine). This scripture clearly teaches that we must perform actions in addition to keeping the commandments in order to please God.

In legal terminology we would say that commandment keeping is the floor but not the ceiling. The world's religions have gone to great lengths to create their own traditions and ceremonies which they claim are pleasing to God. However, we must not decide for ourselves how to serve our Creator but always rely on the Bible as our one and only authority, not adding to or taking away from what God has said and not adding what man may say (Deut. 12:32).

Many scriptures explain different ways in which Christians can please God. Colossians 1:10 states, "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God". From this scripture we can extract two ways to please the Eternal: good works and growing in knowledge.

When we are first baptized into the body of Christ, we are only given a small portion of God's Holy Spirit. At that point we are only begotten by God and must grow to maturity in order to be born

into the Family of God at the return of Christ (I Pet. 2:2).

In order to grow in knowledge, we must dedicate ourselves to studying the word of God and meditating on its meaning.

In addition to growing in knowledge, Colossians 1:10 also teaches us that our good works which bear fruit are pleasing to God. The Apostle Paul was inspired to convey an analogy where Christians are compared to trees and our good works to fruit.

Ask your self this question: how does the fruit benefit the tree? It is easy to understand how strong roots, plenty of rain, and room to grow is beneficial to the tree. But what function does the fruit serve?

The answer is none at all! When a tree bears fruit it is a blessing to others who can pick the fruit off the tree and eat. Therefore, our good works please God when they produce blessings in the lives of others.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong called this way of life "the give way" which manifests itself in the form of outflowing love for God and our fellow man. When we have love for our fellow human beings and strive to serve them in any way that we can, God is truly pleased (Rom. 12:10).

Faith is required

Another vital way we can please our Creator is through faith. In fact, God's word declares that we are not capable of pleasing Him without this important ingredient. Hebrews 11:6 states, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

The second half of this verse

shows us that we must have faith not only in God's existence, but in the active role He plays in the lives of His creation. God devotes the entire chapter in Deuteronomy 28 to elaborating on the blessings in which He promises to those who choose His way of life. Conversely, this same chapter explains the curses which will come upon those who choose to live in rebellion against God.

The principle of blessing and cursing was set in motion by Almighty God and is as sure as the law of gravity. We must have faith in the existence of God's spiritual laws even though we cannot always see their results with our physical eyes. II Corinthians 5:7 tells us, "For we walk by faith and not by sight".

Every denomination engulfed in the doctrines of "Churchianity" teaches their followers that they must have faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. While this statement is true, it is not the whole truth. The fact that we must also have the faith of Jesus Christ is a principle that is completely neglected or discarded. But, notice how the Bible describes the true Church of God: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12).

This scripture uses the word *of* not *in* to describe the faith possessed by God's true Church in the end-time. Jesus Christ did not perform miracles while in the flesh by His own power, but by the faith which He had in His Almighty Father (John 5:30 and John 14:10).

Jesus Christ completely relied on
(Continued on page 13)

As Society's Evils Multiply, Have You Ever Wondered...

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

By Ronald W. Laughland



Jesus Christ instructed that we should show love toward others. Many believe that the law was nailed to the cross, to be replaced by this new law of love. But how does one attain this Godly love? Is it simply an emotion that can be worked up at will? The answer may come as a surprise!

In every aspect it seems like the world is crashing down around us. What on earth is going on anyway?

It appears to many today that something does not seem right about the direction of our country. People express their feelings of uneasiness about the direction this world is moving toward. They cannot put their finger on what is the problem, but they are edgy about all the rapid changes taking place in our society. Recently, the President of the United States said that America is not a Christian nation. That has caused many to feel that religion, the backbone of our society, is being relegated to a position of non-influence in their lives. In an opinion article in *The Tennessean* on Wednesday, July 1, 2009,

Paul Proctor wrote, "It's time to prepare for hard times, my friends. And if you're a Bible-believing, Christ-following Christian, I'm convinced the coming years will be particularly troublesome."

Why would a Christian make such a statement? What is it he sees that is causing this negative look at the future? We are told by our leaders that good times are coming, but it will take time. Change after change is being made by our government to combat the crisis after crisis we see around us. The world is in an economic downturn, and if there is one thing that Americans truly feel strongly about, it is concern about their money and lifestyle. Many have lost their jobs and incomes. Churches are feeling the effects of tithes and offerings

dwindling and even drying up. Life seems to be a little more difficult for many due to woeful economic news. The question we must all ask ourselves is this, "What is the cause of this change of direction in this country and in the world?" Only the Bible has the answers to these questions.

There is a cause for every effect. Proverbs 26:2 tells us, "Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight." (NKJV unless otherwise noted).

Today, that concept seems to have disappeared. In the modern world, if something is wrong we have an alternate path to bypass the effect with some modern advance in science.

The economic boom over the

past sixty years has allowed the United States to purchase its way around difficult situations by credit cards, modern medicine, easy credit and a society that has loosened the moral strength that we all held dear.

It is not a mystery! The Bible reveals exactly what will happen at this time. These revelations are not a message of gloom and doom; they are intended to show us what the human race would do to ourselves before Jesus Christ returns to turn the world right side up.

Yes, this world does not understand that this world is upside down, going in the wrong direction. This world is not following the simple Biblical instructions on how to live. God has given us life, but He also gave us instruction on how to live the life given us. It is in a book that many may have in their homes but never read. It is called the Holy Bible.

The Bible is a book of instructions on how to achieve happiness, joy, and the key to eternal life. It reveals many mysteries of the who, what and why of life. It is a guide to understanding what is happening in our society. It reveals the cause of why this nation is uneasy and the future events that will ease the mind of the problems that we will encounter in the future.

We offer a booklet, free of charge, that reveals why our outlook for the future which will only get worse as more problems arise in our society. That book, "The United States in Prophecy," reveals from your Bible the identity of the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel, why we have been blessed as a nation and why those blessings are slowly

waning. See the order form at the bottom of page 11 to order this free booklet.

The world does not know, the churches of this world do not know, and the politicians of the

Society has veered far from God's true way of life, and is spinning out of control

world have no idea of what is happening and why. Because they do not know what is causing the problem, they cannot come up with a solution to solve the problem. If you are blind to the right way to solve problems, you must come up with physical solutions to a spiritual problem. That can only end up in disaster (Prov. 14:11-12).

Proverbs 14:11-12 illustrates this



formula. Notice, it says the house of the wicked will be overthrown. A nation is made up of houses, cities, and states. This passage reveals that if the individual houses of the wicked are more numerous than those who are attempting to do right, the nation will collapse. But if the tents of the upright flourish, then they will not participate in the calamity. The wicked do what they think is right and it ends in calamity and collapse; the upright are following what God wants, and

they are protected.

Which way is the right one? Only the Bible defines that. As we see the Bible and the Ten Commandments being trampled on in our society, we will see a slow loss

of the blessings given to this country. Man without the guidance of Almighty God will make decisions that will sound the death knell of our country. While individuals stand by and see the disintegration of our moral standard and they participate and agree with these manmade paths to destruction, they will also experience the trials to come upon the United States.

Today many do not agree with the direction our country is taking. But they are so wrapped up in the pleasures of their way of life that they pay little attention to the wickedness of many in our society. They feel they can live any way they want . . . that it doesn't affect them.

But they are absolutely wrong. Parental wickedness affects children, who know no better as there is a lack of parental guidance in the family. Schools are not allowed to teach or display the Ten Commandments but can offer sex education to young children. Colleges teach a liberal life style that brings misery and heartache to thousands of our future leaders.

Those who live a life of deviate behavior are considered idols in our society. These are heroes that the young people emulate in their everyday life not realizing the outcome of their actions because they have not been guided in the path to proper happiness.

Consider current music, sports, movie and television idols who are

considered “great people”—who live deviate lifestyles and die horrible deaths. These influential people seem to be the most loved in our society, while those who live a right type of life are considered “nerdy” or whatever the derogatory term is in use today.

The Bible tells us what happens to those who do wrong and are considered good and those who do right and are considered bad.

There is a warning in the book of Isaiah for the nations at the end-time. Isaiah contains a warning to the United States of America. Look at what God tells this nation, and see if you cannot see what is in store for us:

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness (the hallmark of our society today); Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!” (Those who are the least understanding about life are those who give advice about how we should live.)

“Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink (any intoxicant seems to be okay to the rich and beautiful), Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man! Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

“Therefore the anger of the LORD is aroused against His people; He

has stretched out His hand against them And stricken them, And the hills trembled. Their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still.” (Isa. 5:20-25).

The last part of that passage shows that God is still there if people will return to His way of life that brings happiness and sound living. Yet the reason for what we see happening today—the trepidation about a future that seems unclear to many—is that we, as a nation and individually, have rejected the Ten Commandments and the Creator God that gave us life and the way to live it.

The Ten Commandments is the description of how to love God and how to love our fellow man. Without love we do not have contact



with the True God. Without love we are unable to see how to get along with others. Without love, our only concern is “me, myself and I.” That brings a miserable and unhappy life (Acts. 20:35).

The fear of what is to come can be alleviated by understanding the real plan of God. Today, churches teach that there is a place in Heaven for you—a statement and doctrine that is not in the Bible. It is a belief that is designed to make man accept his reason for living in a

society that brings much pain, suffering and heartache.

But the real understanding of what lies ahead is made clear in true Biblical teachings. Without the guidance of God, man is lost. Without help from the Almighty, we will not be able to survive what is coming upon the nation that God has protected and blessed for so many years.

Ours is a nation in which people have slowly pulled away from the Creator of the Universe. It is a nation where the evil of this society has become the way of life for many. Those who have stood by silently and allowed the nation to be brought to destruction—by not standing up for the way of God as described in the Ten Commandments—will suffer for their silence and quiet acquiescence to evil.

This nation has moved away from God, but God has not moved. He loves us and wants us to be happy. We can return to Him by turning from our ways and finding the right way to live.

The Church of God is the Temple that Christ is going to return to (II Cor. 6:16). And, as we see in the vision to Solomon, God described how the people could return to the presence of God and get their lives together as life in the land becomes bitter and difficult: by humbling themselves, by praying, and by seeking His will (II Chron. 7:13-16).

For more insight into the true God, why the world’s churches have rejected the Ten Commandments, and how you can escape the craziness of the world we live in, ask for our free booklet “The Sabbath of God.” See page 11 to obtain your free copy. □

Husbands and Wives: Designed to Be One

By Ronald W. Laughland

God gave men and women specific instructions that explain how to hold a marriage together under all conditions of the trials in this life. He gave explicit instructions to husbands and wives that, if followed, will allow their union to weather all the ups and downs all marriages experience.

What did He tell each, and why?

It all starts with the husband, whose responsibility it is to set the tone for the marriage. Marriage, which is a God given institution, requires leadership by the husband to provide the direction and attitude that exemplifies a Christ-type love.

Most do not realize that marriage is a God-plane relationship. If each one of the participants becomes like the ideal Spiritual husband or wife in becoming a more loving mate, it will lead each in their part of a marriage to make it a more God-like relationship. If that is accomplished, then both will be happy in serving each other. Understanding that concept and living according to God's law of love will make marriage a lifelong time of happiness and joy.

Marriage was established by

God to be a joyous union. It is the highlight of one's life. To be married to the right mate for life is the most uplifting joy one can experience. Doing it right from the beginning produces the fruit of a



happy marriage and children who will benefit for all eternity. A Godly marriage produces Godly children. A marriage is defined as one woman and one man, with no others involved in the life of the marriage (Mal. 2:14-16).

While the words in Malachi may sound like they are directed only to the husband, God is not a respecter of persons—God's warning is also an instruction for women as well as for men. However, the man is primarily respon-

sible for the tone of the marriage.

In the play *Camelot*, King Arthur sings one of my wife's most loved songs. The song refers to the basis for the marriage covenant and the responsibility of the husband to foster this relationship.

Arthur sings, "How to handle a woman?", and ponders several ways to do so. But the conclusion says it all: "The way to handle a woman is to love her—simply love her—merely love her, love her, love her."

Many marriages start with "I love you" . . . yet most today have no idea what real love is. What is the definition of true Godly love?

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong defined true love in his book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. Let me quote some very important passages to explain the basis for marriage.

Mr. Armstrong writes, "Just what then, is the very basis and foundation of the family relationship? That basis is love! Of all the character attributes of God, the very first, greatest and most important is love! Above all, God is love (I John 4:8). The very first of the attributes of God—expressed in the fruits of

His Holy Spirit in man—is love (Gal. 5:22-23).

“When this very God-life is infused within us by His Spirit, it is “the love of God . . . shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 5:5).

“So the family relationship, both on the divine plane, and in the human type now, is a love relationship—and God implants within his begotten children his divine love to equip them for that divine love relationship (Eph. 5:25-31).

“There is more than one kind of love. The Greeks had three words for it each with a different shade of meaning. In today’s modern world, the meaning of love has been all but lost. It has been so romanticized, so confused with love, that people carelessly call any sex desire or sex use “love.” Usually this is lust. The Greeks are more definitely expressive. They use three words which define love more accurately. First is agape, which is moral or Spiritual love. It is the divine, spiritual love, supplied by God’s Holy Spirit. Second is philia, or Philadelphia . . . This is the love of friendship—brotherly love—love of parent, or child. Third is Eros, which refers to sexual love between husband and wife. But it means love, not lust. The Greek language uses a different word for lust. Eros however, is a love expressed physically, not spiritually.

“Just what then is love? Love is unselfish. It is not an emotion, though it may be expressed with an emotional content. True love combines the rational aspect of

outgoing concern - desire to help, serve, give or share—along with sincere concerned affectionate feeling. God’s Law is a way of life. . . . That way always is the way of love—the way of unselfish, outgoing concern, the way of sharing what is enjoyable.

The whole law of God is summed up in one word—love!



And it requires love expressed in action to fulfill the Law (Rom. 13:8-10).

“But this Law-principle of love is subdivided into the two Great Commandments—love toward God, and love toward neighbor. The first four of the Ten Commandments define love toward God. The last six tell us how to love neighbor . . .” (This ends the quotes from Mr. Armstrong)

I am sure you can see that the love as defined in the Bible in many cases is not what we see reflected in the marriages of this world. A marriage that starts without this Biblical definition and starts with lust usually will have great difficulty during the life span of the marriage.

Let’s now look at the responsibilities of the wife in the marriage. In the same scripture quoted above, God has also defined the role of the wife. Her

conduct shows how she loves her husband and her role in marriage: “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything” (Eph. 5:22-24).

Please note that the relationship between husband and wife is the same as between Christ and the Church. Marriage, therefore, is a God-plane relationship, not just an earthly one (Eph. 5:32).

A wife’s role in the marriage is one of respect and thereby shows love for and to her husband. A wife uplifts, encourages, and supports her husband out of respect for him as he is not perfect. She does not discourage, belittle and destroy his confidence as a man and as a husband. That destroys a marriage. If both are doing their parts, then the marriage improves and thrives on God’s love (Prov. 11:29).

Both must do their parts in loving one another, no matter what the condition, trials or bumps in the road that may come upon them—submitting to one another in love, fulfilling the others needs rather than their own and keeping Christ in the center of the marriage (Eph. 5:21). The lack of these qualities contribute to the missing dimension in marriage. Having these qualities is the mystery of Christ and the Church. That is what carnal man without the Spirit of God cannot and will not understand. □



The United States & Britain in Prophecy

Chapter 6—The Serpent’s Trail

By Herbert W. Armstrong

We continue this issue with the sixth installment of this eye-opening and important booklet, as it was first published in 1945.

As the Eternal intended that “lost” Israel was to be located and found in these last days, we should expect some kinds of signs or waymarks to have been left along the trail by which ancient Israel journeyed from Assyria, the land of their original captivity.

Speaking to Ephraim (v. 20), the Eternal says in Jeremiah 32:21: “Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, even the way which thou wentest.” In Scripture we find the “waymarks,” or highway signs, which they set up along the road they traveled.

In Genesis 49:17 Jacob, foretelling what should befall each of the

tribes, says: “Dan shall be a serpent by the way.” Another and better translation of the original Hebrew is: “Dan shall be a serpent’s trail.” It is a significant fact that the tribe of Dan, one of the ten tribes, named every place they went after their father Dan.

The tribe of Dan originally occupied a strip of coast country on the Mediterranean, west of Jerusalem. “And the coast country on the Mediterranean, west of Jerusalem. “And the coast of the children of Dan,” we read in Joshua 19:47, “went out too little for them: therefore the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem, and took it...and called Leshem, DAN, af-

ter the name of Dan their father.”

In Judges 18:11-12, it is recorded that Danites took Kirjathjearim, and “called that place Mahanehdan unto this day.” A little later the same company of 600 armed Danites came to Laish, captured it, and “they called the name of the city DAN, after the name of Dan their father” (v. 29). So notice how these Danites left their “serpent’s trail” by the way—set up waymarks by which they may be traced today.

Remember, in the Hebrew, vowels were not written. The sound of the vowels had to be supplied in speaking. Thus, the word “Dan” in its English equivalent could be

spelled, simply, “DN.” It might be pronounced as “Dan,” or “Den,” or “Din,” or “Don,” or “Dun”—and still could be the same original Hebrew name.

The tribe of Dan occupied two different districts, or provinces, in the Holy Land before the Assyrian captivity. One colony lived on the seacoast of Palestine. They were principally seamen, and it is recorded Dan abode in ships (Judges 5:17).

When Assyria captured Israel, these Danites struck out in their ships and sailed west through the Mediterranean, and north to Ireland. Just before his death, Moses prophesied of Dan: “Dan is a lion’s whelp: he shall leap from Bashan” (Deut. 33:22). And David declared of Dan, “He breaketh (driveth) the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.” An east wind travels west. Along the shores of the Mediterranean they left their train in “Den,” “Don,” and “Din.”

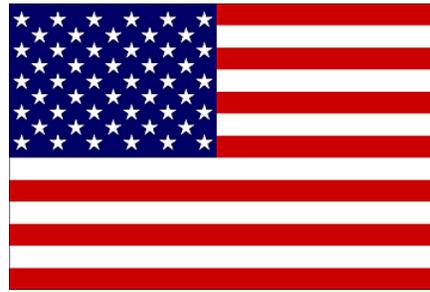
Irish annals and history show that the new settlers of Ireland, at just this time, were the “Tuatha de Danaans,” which means, translated, “Tribe of Dan.” Sometimes the same appears simply as “Tuathe De,” meaning the “people of God.” And in Ireland we find they left these “waymarks”: *Dans-Laugh, Dundalk, Dun-drum, Don-egal Bay, Don-egal Town, Dun-glow, Dingle, Dunsmore* (meaning “more Dans”). Moreover, the name Dunn in the Irish language means the same as Dan in the Hebrew: judge.

But the northern colony of Danites were taken to Assyria in the captivity, and thence with the rest of the ten tribes they traveled

from Assyria by the overland route.

After leaving Assyrian captivity, they inhabited for some time the land just west of the Black Sea. There we find the rivers Dnieper, Dnister, and the *Don*.

Then, in either ancient or later



geography, we find these waymarks: *Dan-au*, the *Dan-inn*, the *Dan-aster*, the *Dan-dari*, the *Dan-az*, the *Don*, the *Dan*, and the *V-Don*; the *Eri-don*, down to the *Danes*. *Denmark* means “Dan’s mark.”

When they came to the British Isles, they set up the “waymark” names of *Dun-dee, Dun-raven*; in Scotland the “Dans,” “Dons,” and

*God will not break His
unalterable promise made
to David! Through every
generation David shall
have a descendant
wearing that crown!*

“Duns” are as prolific as in Ireland.

And so the “serpent’s trail” of Dan sets up waymarks that lead directly to the British Isles!

Ancient Annals of Ireland

Now briefly let us consider what is found in the ancient annals, legends, and history of Ireland, and we shall have the scene of Jeremiah’s

“planting,” and the present location of “lost” Israel.

The rest ancient history of Ireland is very extensive, though colored with some legend. But with the facts of biblical history and prophecy in mind, one can easily sift out the legend from the true history in studying ancient Irish annals. Throwing out that which is obviously legendary, we glean from various histories of Ireland the following: Long prior to 700 B.C., a strong colony called “Tuatha de Danaan” (tribe of Dan) arrived in ships, drove out other tribes, and settled there. Later, in the days of David, a colony of the line of Zarah arrive in Ireland from the Near East.

Then, in 569 B.C. (date of Jeremiah’s transplanting), an elderly, white-haired patriarch, sometimes referred to as a “saint,” came to Ireland. With him was the princess daughter of an eastern king and a companion called “Simon Brach,” spelled in different histories as Breck, Berech, Brach, or Berach. The princess had a Hebrew name Tephī—a pet name—her full name being Tea-Tephī.

Modern literature of those who recognize our national identity has confused this Tea-Tephī, a daughter of Zedekiah, with an earlier Tea, a daughter of Ith, who lived in the days of David.

This royal party included the son of the king of Ireland who had been in Jerusalem at the time of the siege. There he had become acquainted with Tea-Tephī. He married her shortly after 585—when the city fell. Their young son, now about 12 years of age, accompa-

nied them to Ireland. Besides the royal family, Jeremiah brought with them some remarkable things, including the harp, an arm, and a wonderful stone called “lia-fail,” or “stone of destiny.” A peculiar coincidence (?) is that Hebrew reads from right to left, while English reads from left to right. Read this name either way—and it still is “lia-fail.”

Another strange coincidence—or is it just coincidence?—is that many kings in the history of Ireland, Scotland, and England have been coronated sitting over this stone—including the present monarch. The stone resided in Westminster Abbey in London (recently returned to Scotland), and the coronation chair was built over and around it. Until recently, a sign beside it labeled it “Jacob’s pillar-stone” (Gen. 28:18).

The royal husband of the Hebrew princess Tea was given the title Herremon upon ascending the throne of his father. His Herremon has usually been confused with a much earlier Gede the Herremon in David’s day—who married his uncle Ith’s daughter Tea. The son

of this later king Herremon and Hebrew princess continued on the throne of Ireland and *this same dynasty has continued unbroken,*

When Christ returns to this earth, He shall take over a live, existing throne, not a nonexistent one.

through all the kings of Ireland; was overturned and transplanted again in Scotland; again over-



turned and moved to London, England, where this same dynasty continues today.

Another interesting fact is that the crown worn by the kings of the line of Herremon and the other sovereigns of ancient Ireland had *twelve points!*

In view of the linking together

of biblical history, prophecy, and Irish history, can anyone deny that this Hebrew princess was the daughter of King Zedekiah of Judah and therefore heir to the throne of David? That the aged patriarch was in fact Jeremiah, and his companion was Jeremiah’s scribe, or secretary, Baruch? That King Herremon was a descendant of Zarah, here married to the daughter of Pharez, healing the ancient breach? That when the throne of David was first overturned by Jeremiah, it was REPLANTED in Ireland, later overturned a second time and replanted in Scotland, overturned a third time and planted in London? When Christ returns to earth to sit on that throne, He shall take over a LIVE, existing throne, not a nonexistent one (Luke 1:32). God’s word still stands! Almighty God has kept all His promises!

King George of the British Commonwealth possessed a chart showing his ancestry, *every generation*, back to Herremon and Tephi, to Zedekiah, on back to David and through the scriptural genealogy clear to Adam! ☐

The booklets below contain more information on related subjects covered in this issue, and are offered FREE by the Sabbath-keeping churches of God. Please check the ones you desire and mail to the address below:

- “The Sabbath of God”** Many Christians do not know which day is the Christian Sabbath. This booklet provides a Biblically based answer to the question “which day does God want us to worship him in a commanded Assembly?”
- “The United States in Prophecy”** - What is the true identity of the lost ten tribes of Israel? And why has the United States been so blessed as a nation?
- “Why Were You BORN?”** - Do you really know why you were born? Do you realize God has a purpose being worked out?

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ABUNDANT LIVING

By Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY DO some religious people feel that their religious life must be one of giving up all the fun and enjoyment of living—that in order to please God, they must endure a life of morbid gloom?

For that matter, why do some nonreligious people feel that to become a Christian would mean a life of living painful penance?

As a boy I was brought up in a respectable Protestant church of traditional Christianity. I never did know very much, as a boy, about what the church believed—but I did know that it regarded sin as violating their many don'ts: don't smoke, don't dance, don't play cards, don't go to the theater, don't drink a drop of wine, don't do this, don't do that!

A world-famous philosopher and lecturer whom I knew said he had no desire to live a life of Christian repression. "I desire," he said, "to be radiant, cheerful, friendly—to meet people with a smile." He was a highly educated man—but he was a biblical illiterate!

Where do people get all these distorted ideas about the religion of Jesus Christ? Certainly not out of the Bible.

They know nothing of the Jesus of the Bible, who said, "I am come that they might have LIFE, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Somehow a lot of people have received a lot of weird and false ideas about Jesus Christ—I mean

the Jesus of YOUR BIBLE. Actually, I think almost no one knows what the Bible says about him.

It seems most people think sin is the thing that is best for us, but which a stern, wrathful God denies us. Some years ago a little book was selling big on Hollywood newsstands. It was titled *How to Sin in Hollywood*.

Why don't people know that God our Creator has never forbidden us a single thing that is good for us—never said "don't" about a single thing except that which is going to harm us to our own hurt.

What God does command us not to do are the very things that bring on unhappiness, frustration, pain, suffering and a life of morbid gloom.

Let's get this matter straight. The real Jesus Christ said he came to bring us happiness and joy! Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." And he came that we might enjoy full, abundant life ETERNALLY. God Almighty intended the real Christian life to be happy. Jesus said, "My joy I leave with you."

There is a way of life that causes peace, happiness and joy. God the great Creator set that way as an inexorable law—an invisible spiritual law—to produce peace, happiness, joy, abundance! There is a cause for every effect. In this unhappy confused world we have discontentment, unhappiness, wretchedness, suffering. The world is full

of that. It should be full of peace, happiness, and joy. There's a cause. People don't like God's law. That law is the cause of peace and everything desirable and good. People want everything that is good and desirable. They just don't want to obey that which would cause it! They want to be right, but they don't want to do right.

Christ came to call people to repent. Repent of what? Repent of causing unhappiness, strife, war and pain—and then to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And what kind of results will the Spirit of God produce in you?

I'll tell you first what it won't produce. It won't produce the morbid, unhappy, painful, gloomy life that many think is the Christian life. Let the Bible tell you what "fruit" it will produce in you. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23).

Look at that more closely: "the fruit of the Spirit"—this is the Spirit of God. This is the Holy Spirit that God imparts only to those who have repented—that is, turned from that which has caused unhappiness, morbid gloom, discouragement, frustration, emptiness. On the contrary, that fruit of the Spirit is first of all LOVE. And the second fruit is JOY! Joy is happiness, brimful and running over. That doesn't sound like an un-

happy, empty, gloomy life, does it? And God's Spirit is not static. It flows. It flows spontaneously from God into and through you, and out from you, making still others happy and joyful.

The very first result produced in your life by God's Spirit is love. Love is a righteous love of and for others. It will mean your face is beaming. It's an outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others. It will mean that you are really giving out—that you are radiant and happy. And love *results in joy*—that's the second of these fruits. The third is PEACE. Instead of an attitude of hostility, instead of going around quarreling, being resentful and bitter, angry, and arguing, you'll be in an attitude of peace—peace in your mind and with your neighbor and with your God.

Next comes *longsuffering*. That means patience. How much has impatience made you unhappy? Probably impatience makes more people unhappy than almost anything else! If you can really come to have patience, you'll be acquiring one of the things that will allow you to be happy and make life worth living.

Then next is *gentleness*. That

makes others happy and automatically adds to your happiness. And then *goodness* and *faith!*

Faith is confidence—not self-confidence, but reliance on the supreme power. It means that the supreme power of God is working for you. It means reassurance. It means assured hope instead of doubt, fear, discouragement.

Now this is not to say that there



are never troubles in the Christian life. Far from it. There will be persecutions. Jesus Christ was persecuted. He said, "If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you." That comes from without. But unhappiness is something that springs from within. Happiness is a state of mind; happiness is

within. And the person who does have this inward peace—this joy, this patience and love, and absence of resentment and bitterness—isn't going to be anywhere near as disturbed and unhappy as when he didn't have them. You'll always face problems—but you'll have faith and God's help in solving them. But problems and tests of faith are good for us—the very building blocks of perfect spiritual character.

I know that the Bible says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous," but the same scripture adds, "but the [Eternal] delivereth him out of them all" (Ps. 34:19).

It's true that Jesus was "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." It's true he suffered—he knew what suffering is. But his suffering and grief were not caused by pain others inflicted on him—not from resentment, or being hurt by others—but by his love for others. He suffered because they were bringing so much suffering on themselves. But he also was a man of boundless joy, and he said, "My joy I leave with you." Yes, he said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10). □

Please God (Cont. from page 3)

God the Father for all things, setting us an example to follow (I Pet. 2:21). Total surrender to God's will in all aspects of life is the type of faith that we must have in order to please God. We must be willing to hold fast to that faith and endure the consequences if we want to spend eternity in the Kingdom (Rev. 3:11).

As begotten children of God, our top priority must always be to please our Creator. Only the Holy Bible, not man, can teach us how

to accomplish that goal to fulfill our calling according to the abilities God has given us. Although we may stumble at times, we must confess our sins, repent, and ask God for forgiveness, and He will grant it to us (I John 1:9). The road we travel is not easy, as Satan's primary objective is to discourage God's spirit-begotten children before they are born again at the return of Jesus Christ (I Pet. 5:7-9).

Jesus Christ stated in three places—Matthew 10:22, Matthew

24:13, and Mark 13:13—that only those who endure to the end will be saved. "Therefore, brethren, hold fast to the Truth, keep the faith, show love to others in all your affairs, and strive always to obey *every word of God*" (Luke 4:4).

In the end we will hear the voice of God proclaim, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matt. 25:21). □

Coming Next Issue...



The Joy of the Sabbath

...The Sabbath is not a burden as some claim; it is a time of God's presence and a day of recuperation for His family.



Coming Out of Egypt

...Today's world is the Spiritual Egypt that holds people in bondage to ways that bring pain, heartache and misery.



How To Love Our Neighbors

...In modern society it is sometimes difficult to love our fellow man when others treat us poorly.



Don't miss our radio broadcast, "The Unshakeable Kingdom of God", aired weekly in the Nashville area on WNAH, 1360 AM, 8 am Saturdays

For those outside this area, the broadcast may be heard Saturday mornings on www.wnah.com at 8 am Central Time, or at any time on our website at www.wwcg.org/html/broadcasts.html.

Our new Online Interactive Bible Studies are held at 7:30 pm CST every other Wednesday. Check our online calendar at wwcg.org/cgi-bin/calendar.pl for an updated schedule.