

Ambassador College

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



The Space Age — What Does It Mean?

LESSON 1

an open letter from

THE EDITOR

GREETINGS and WELCOME to our growing family of Ambassador College Correspondence Course students!

This is a totally *new*, DIFFERENT KIND of study course, designed to lead you to *understand* the meaning of today's world chaos and the PURPOSE being worked out here below.

What do present terrifying world conditions MEAN? *Where* are we headed? *How* will mankind be SAVED from extinction by hydrogen bombs and other frightful weapons?

WHY was man put here on earth? Were you, as an individual, put here for a *purpose* — and WHAT is that purpose?

WHAT IS MAN — *why* is man?

What is the WAY to world peace — the WAY to freedom from fear and worry, poverty, sickness, unhappiness? Does God actually EXIST — can it be *proved*? What is God — what is God like? Is God a person, what does He look like — how big is He — and *how* do we know?

Can we PROVE whether the Bible really is the *INSPIRED* WORD OF GOD? Or perhaps you have never thought of studying the Bible before?

What about such doctrinal questions as heaven, hell, salvation, law and grace, the great tribulation, the rapture — the virgin birth, the resurrection, the second coming, the millennium? *Where* are the dead — and are they now conscious? What about the *immortality* of the soul — what is *meant* by "body, soul, and spirit"?

All these and *many more* questions — the most vital, MOST IMPORTANT questions of your life — are thoroughly gone into, and you are directed to the clear, plain, *simple answers* IN YOUR BIBLE! You will learn *how to study* the Bible — *why* so few understand it.

This Course is NOT DENOMINATIONAL! It is offered FREE, *without tuition cost*, to those who earnestly desire to understand the Bible. The only equipment you will really need is your own Bible and a good dictionary — although, if you are able and wish to provide one or more translations, a good concordance or other Bible "helps," you may — but this is not necessary.

An interesting quiz will be sent with every fourth lesson. It will help you review the vital knowledge you have learned, and enable you to evaluate your progress. But there will be NOTHING to send in for checking and grading. The

(Please continue on page 16)

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON 1

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About Our Cover . . .

Floating in space! Astronaut Edward H. White "walks" in space outside his orbiting Gemini IV spacecraft while traveling 17,500 miles per hour! Notice clouds far below and curvature of earth's horizon. White maneuvered himself in space with a "jet gun" held in his right hand. His "umbilical cord," snaking off to the right, is his lifeline with the mother ship — providing oxygen and communications.

Surprising as it may seem, this modern pulsating 20th century space age was *predicted* centuries ago! You can know the *meaning* of the fantastic advancements of science and technology, and where they are leading mankind. This first lesson makes it plain.

NASA Photo

THE FOUNDATION OF ALL KNOWLEDGE

WHAT are we? Were we put on earth for a PURPOSE? And WHAT is that purpose?

WHY are so many human lives empty, discontented, unhappy? How may human life become HAPPY, ABUNDANT, successful, prosperous and *filled* with interest?

WHAT is the real cause of wars, and THE WAY to world peace?

WHAT lies on after death — is there a WAY to *endless* life? Are *these* questions important? One might ask, is anything ELSE important? If you wanted to know the most necessary, basic knowledge of all life — the very FOUNDATION of all right knowledge — WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

BASIS of Knowledge

No book ever written, except the Holy Bible, reveals the FOUNDATION of all knowledge — the answers to all these questions. And yet almost NO one has ever found the answers so PLAINLY written there!

But just exactly what *is* the Bible? How should we study it, in order to understand it? At the very beginning of this course we need to ask, and answer, these questions.

And is this study to be a tiresome, uninteresting DUTY we force ourselves to undertake because of the stern command of a harsh God — or is this study to become the most INTERESTING, the most EXCITING, the most ENJOYABLE and PROFITABLE pursuit of our lives?

A LIVING Book!

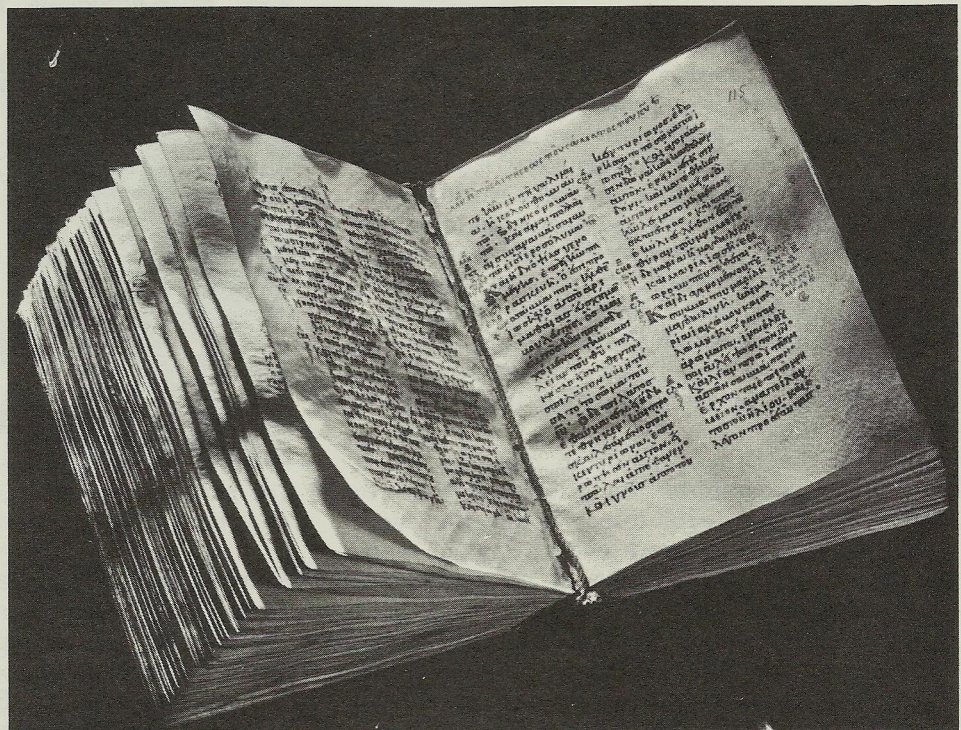
WHY is the study of the Bible a dull, uninteresting, irksome task to most people — done, if at all, only as a duty out of fear of a harsh God? Simply because people have not KNOWN God, or what He is like — and because they have never really begun to UNDERSTAND the Bible!

In this study we shall come to really see that God is LOVE — not a harsh, stern God; that God wants every one of us to be happy, and to ENJOY an *interesting* life to the very full — every second of it! And we shall, once we begin to UNDERSTAND the Bible, come to find it the most fascinating, the most INTERESTING, as well as the most profitable and enjoyable INTEREST that ever came into our lives!

Once you really get into it, you'll enjoy this study so much you will hardly be able to wait until the next lesson arrives. You'll find that

The most up-to-date book you can study is your Bible. It records TOMORROW'S news — TODAY! This carefully preserved 1000-year-old Greek manuscript containing the four gospels is part of the Ambassador College rare book collection. It was painstakingly copied by hand on vellum and originated in a Greek monastery in Southern Italy about 900 years after Christ's death.

Ambassador College Photo



NO other interests were ever SO TRULY ENJOYABLE, so delightful, so interesting, so SATISFYING!

Because God is LOVE (I John 4:8, 16), He, your Creator who loves *you*, and wants you to be happy and healthy and prosperous, gives you the Bible. It is HIS WORD by which He reveals to you THE WAY out of boredom, fear and worry, sickness and disease, poverty and want, emptiness and discontent. It reveals the WAY to the happy, healthy, prosperous ABUNDANT life which He wants you to enjoy *now* — and for all eternity!

Where to Begin?

Theoretically, there are four proper places to BEGIN this course of study.

One is to show you first WHAT the Bible really is, HOW it was written and preserved, and HOW to study it.

Another natural and proper starting place would be at the very *beginning* — with God as CREATOR — at the very first chapter of Genesis, and compare the Bible account of creation with the modern “scientific” theory of evolution; to study the creation of man, the origin of Satan, the first sin, and to continue on from there through the Old Testament.

The third natural starting point is with the beginning of the New Testament. While the very first words of the entire Bible are “In the beginning GOD created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1), yet the real beginning of the New Testament, in actual time-sequence of events, is John 1:1: “In the beginning was the WORD.” So the account of the pre-existence, the birth, and work of our Saviour — Jesus Christ, who is called “the Word” or Spokesman of God — also begins with the words, “IN THE BEGINNING.”

And still there is a *fourth* natural STARTING POINT — and this is the one we have adopted.

That is to begin with this very PRESENT in which we live — this time of upset world conditions, when the whole world seems suddenly to have erupted in chaos and physical violence — this time when scientific discoveries and technological developments have produced destructive forces that threaten the extinction of all life on this planet — this “TIME OF THE END,” just before the END of THIS AGE and Jesus Christ’s Second Coming.

We feel the BIBLE will mean more to you if you fully *understand* its vital relation to YOUR LIFE today — its direct connection with WORLD EVENTS you read every day in your newspaper — hear every day in newscasts and see on television.

If you were to try to understand a map of the world, it would not mean much to you, unless and until you could first put your finger on the precise spot on the map where you, yourself,

were at the moment. Only then could you clearly see and comprehend the rest of the world in relation to your own location on the map. We feel you will understand the Bible better, and find it more interesting, if you view it all — its history and prophecy, its teachings and divine revelations — from the vantage point of *your life here and now*. The Bible will become clearer if you see how this world has led up to the very time and conditions in which you live — and *where* it is destined to go from here.

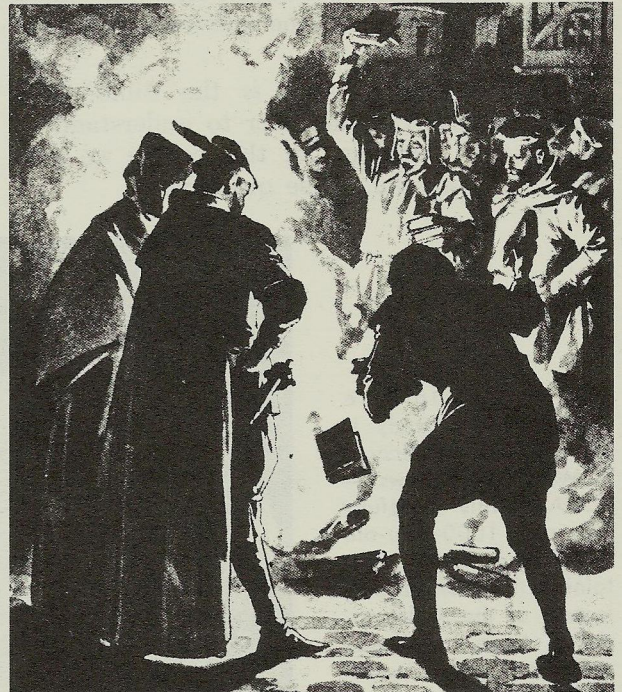
But before we begin this study, we need to know WHY so *few* really UNDERSTAND the Bible.

Why Such Confusion?

Why do we find such confusion — such disagreement as to what the Bible says? Why don’t the hundreds of differing church denominations and sects AGREE on what their acknowledged textbook SAYS?

WHY do so many individuals, capable of understanding almost any *other* book say: “I just *can’t* understand the BIBLE”?

Take a recognized textbook on biology. Show this book to ten different biology professors



The foundation of all knowledge has been preserved in spite of every attempt to destroy it!

from ten different colleges and universities. Ask them what it says. They’ll all give you basically the *same* answer. People seldom disagree as to what recognized textbooks say — except when it comes to the one Book of ALL books — the Holy Bible! Did you realize that?

But take the Holy Bible to ten different professors of theology, or ministers from ten different religious denominations, and ask them what God's Book says — and you'll probably receive ten different answers!

Do you know WHY?

Here, certainly is the enigma of the ages! The most important, yet the least understood Book of *all* books! Year after year, the world's BEST SELLER — the Book owned by more people than any other. The one Book that has *lived* in spite of every effort to stamp it out down through the ages!

The one Book which has *foretold*, centuries in advance, the very chaotic and uneasy conditions of the world today — THE ONE BOOK THAT EXPLAINS THE MEANING of this perturbed condition — that opens before us to behold IN ADVANCE, the WONDERFUL, PEACEFUL, HAPPY WORLD that is coming TOMORROW!

The one Book that predicted, in advance, the rise and fall of specific nations and governments — that reveals the DESTINY OF THE WORLD! No mere *human*-devised book could reveal such things!

Here is the Book that, in spite of human perversion of it, has *changed* more lives than all other books combined! And yet — it is the BOOK THAT ALMOST NOBODY KNOWS!

WHY Misunderstood

The Bible is the most *misunderstood* book of history! The most twisted, distorted, misrepresented, maligned and lied-about! WHY?

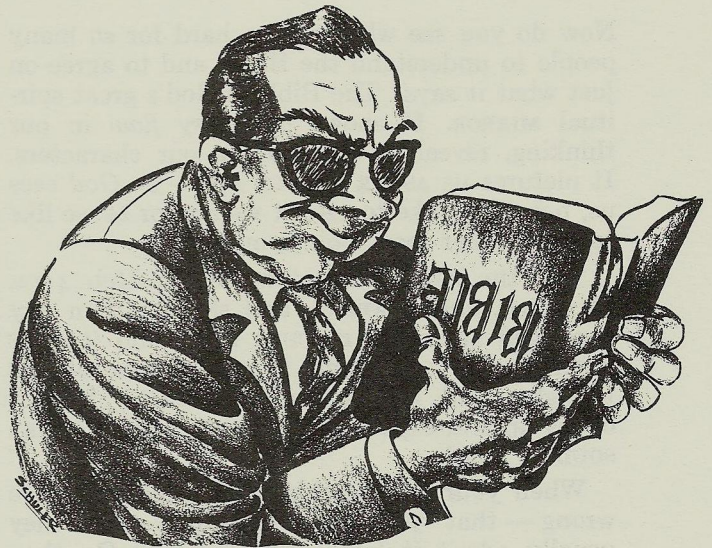
Here is the answer — and it is very plain!

The answer lies in the fact that people have NOT BEEN WILLING TO OBEY the precepts of this holy, divine Word — and therefore this world has LOST ITS WAY. In so doing it has not only lost PEACE, and HAPPINESS, and PROSPERITY, but it has also lost the knowledge of the PURPOSE of the Bible — it doesn't know what the Bible really is!

Stop and think! Would a Creator, having supreme intelligence, wisdom and love to think out, to plan, design, and bring about *all creation* — *this earth*, and all life and life-functions upon it — have left His created beings in IGNORANCE of HIS PURPOSE — the PURPOSE of their being here — and THE LAWS that would bring them PEACE, and HAPPINESS, and JOY, and everything good?

The Bible is God's *divine revelation* of BASIC NEEDED KNOWLEDGE which mankind is not otherwise capable of finding out!

Absolutely no tools or instruments of science can ever tell you if there is life after death — the PURPOSE of your being alive — where you



IT'S NO USE — I JUST CAN'T SEE IT!"

Ambassador College Art

are going — or the WAY to a happy, abundant life, or to universal PEACE. Our scientists, our world leaders and our statesmen have failed UTTERLY to tell us these answers, or to lead us into the universally desired PEACE with happiness, and ABUNDANT living!

God Almighty did *not* hide these all-important truths from human minds. He made them accessible to mankind. *He committed His TREASURE-HOUSE* of basic knowledge to WRITING. He revealed THE WAY TO PEACE and everything the human heart desires!

Now, WHY do so few understand the Bible? WHY do all the different church denominations disagree as to what it says?

We find the answer in II Tim. 3:16-17: "All scripture" — not just those few verses or PARTS of sentences you wish to apply to suit your desires, but — "ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God." It is ALL inspired — EVERY Scripture is inspired by the Eternal God — "and is profitable for" — WHAT? "... is PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

So the Scriptures are PROFITABLE for the purpose of REPROVING and CORRECTING us! But how we do resent being reproved and corrected! How many people do you know who are even WILLING to be corrected where they are in error — to be REPROVED for the wrong things they do!

Humanity Resents Correction

People DO NOT LIKE TO BE REPROVED AND CORRECTED! They love PRAISE — they like FLATTERY — but reproof and correction they surely HATE!

Now do you see why it is so hard for so many people to understand the Bible, and to agree on just what it says? The Bible is God's great spiritual MIRROR. It shows up *every flaw* in our thinking, reveals every spot on our characters. It pictures us AS WE REALLY ARE — as God sees us, not as we like to THINK we are, or as we like to have other men look upon us!

"For the Word of God," we read in Heb. 4:12, "is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword" — IT CUTS DEEP, and it CUTS BOTH WAYS, ". . . and is a discerner of the thoughts and INTENTS of the heart." Yes, it opens up and exposes and LAYS BARE THE INNER SOUL OF MAN!

When your little children do things that are wrong — that you have forbidden — do they usually admit it freely and frankly? Do they say: "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I did it"? — or do they usually DENY it as long as possible, then try to cover it up, excuse it, JUSTIFY it, or place the blame on somebody else? Yes, it's just human nature.

WE are all only little children grown up; and so, when our heavenly Father speaks to us, through His Holy Scriptures, and reproves and rebukes, and corrects us, we usually do not like to ADMIT our errors, our faults, our wrong ways.

Too often, men have applied some different meaning to Scriptures that reproved them — they have passed right OVER *some* Scriptures that corrected and rebuked them or they have ignored them utterly, and have studied diligently to find some OTHER Scripture, or portion of Scripture, into which they could read a meaning THAT WOULD JUSTIFY THEIR COURSE! And so men began, centuries ago, to INTERPRET the Bible! God's Word has become twisted, wrested, perverted.

Almost every false and counterfeit meaning imaginable is read INTO it, instead of drinking the natural meaning — the plain, simple INTENDED meaning out of it! Today we have hundreds of human INTERPRETATIONS of the Bible. YOU NEVER HEAR OF HUNDREDS OF INTERPRETATIONS OF A CERTAIN BIOLOGY TEXTBOOK IN HUNDREDS OF COLLEGES! WHY? BECAUSE BIOLOGY TEXTBOOKS DO NOT REBUKE AND CORRECT MEN!

Instead of acknowledging the truth, repenting of the sin, having it legally justified by the blood of Christ, men seek to JUSTIFY their own acts by PERVERTING the sacred and holy Word of God!

The MOST DIFFICULT thing on earth for the average person to do is to ADMIT IT and CONFESS IT and *repent of it* when he is wrong. OH how

hard that seems to be! Almost the rarest thing in this world is a person who will *always* acknowledge it when he is wrong, repent, and turn the other way. This world is FULL of people who PROFESS to be willing to do this. But the one who *does* it is a rare jewel.

Under God's inspiration, Paul continued to say, in II Tim. 4:1-4, that the time would come when the *many* would not endure SOUND doctrine. Men today *have* turned away their ears from the TRUTH and have turned to FABLES! Yes, fables *palmed off* AS the truth of God's Word! Isaiah prophesied that in these *latter days* men would demand: "Prophecy [preach] not unto us RIGHT things, SPEAK UNTO US SMOOTH THINGS, PROPHECY DECEITS" (Isaiah 30:8-11).

Yet Another Reason

Here is another reason why the Bible is not understood. Many are like the man who once said, "I wouldn't do anything I thought was wrong for the world!" He was sincere, but the BIBLE says, "There is a way which seemeth RIGHT unto a man, but the end thereof ARE THE WAYS OF DEATH"! (Prov. 14:12.) Therefore, since death is the penalty of sin, then the ways that *seem right* to the natural mind of man MUST BE THE WAYS OF SIN. And what is sin? "The *transgression* of the law" (I John 3:4) — GOD'S LAW!

God's whole purpose is to rescue men from this FALSE way that appears so alluring — this way that seems RIGHT — and yet ends up in despair, and suffering, and death!

We read from Psalm 111:7, 8, 10: "ALL His commandments are SURE. They stand fast FOR EVER AND EVER and are done in truth and uprightness. . . . The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that DO His commandments!"

We can see now why men do not understand the Bible. They are not yielded to the Eternal's will — they are filled with the fear of MEN, instead of the fear of GOD. They tremble at the thought of what PEOPLE say, instead of trembling at the WORD OF THE LIVING GOD!

David had understanding. And David said, "THY WORD is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Today's generation is like that of Jesus' day, of which He said, "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

Yes, the Bible is light — a lamp unto our feet — a light unto our path. Surely the world is in gross darkness.

You Can Begin to Understand

How then, can you understand the Bible?

Here is *how* you may begin this exciting adventure. *Here* is how you can begin to really UNDERSTAND the Bible.

Study the Bible to find TRUTH. Then BELIEVE GOD — BELIEVE His Word — accept it in its plain, NATURAL meaning, just as you would accept any other book in which you had confidence.

But be cautious — avoid jumping to hasty conclusions, or taking things carelessly for granted. Be careful to PROVE ALL THINGS!

And above all — do not try to interpret the Bible. Don't take the interpretation of any man or church. Remember that THE BIBLE INTERPRETS ITSELF!

When the apostle Paul came to Berea, the Bereans found he was preaching something utterly DIFFERENT than that which they had been taught and had believed. They did not know whether Paul was a false prophet, or a man sent from God. Notice what they did: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind" (that is, without prejudice) "and SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

STUDY YOUR BIBLE WITHOUT PREJUDICE — but BE CAREFUL — PROVE all things — search the scriptures whether those things be so!

Meaning Locked Up Until Now!

The Bible has been called "*The Book Nobody Knows.*" This has been mostly true — until now! God prophesied of our time today when the TRUE message of the Bible WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD!

After revealing certain prophecies to His prophet Daniel, God told him to "Seal the book, even to the time of the END: [when] many shall run to and fro [by various modes of rapid transportation], and KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED" (Dan. 12:4).

In the time of the END Bible knowledge, as well as all other knowledge, was to be INCREASED! Moffatt translates "the time of the end" as "the CRISIS at the close."

The whole world is now approaching a condition of total chaos — we are now entering the CRISIS at the close of this age! God said that at this time "None of the wicked shall understand; but the WISE SHALL UNDERSTAND" (Dan. 12:10).

Though the knowledge of God's Word is wide-

spread today, this world still does NOT understand the Bible. It is in utter confusion religiously, politically and militarily. The world does not really know where it is going, nor comprehend where it has been.

But through this Course and His inspired Word, God is calling YOU to understand — to become one of the "WISE." May God help you to grasp the significance and reality of the things you shall study in your Bible.

The Purpose of Life

Is there a reason for human existence? Is there a PURPOSE being worked out here below, as Sir Winston Churchill once told the American Congress? Or is all life just an "accident" — a product of blind chance — as proponents of the Evolution Theory would have us believe?

Reason alone tells us NO!

But what then, is that PURPOSE — the purpose revealed in the Bible — the purpose of which Sir Winston spoke? Yes, Churchill sensed that some Higher Power had brought man into existence and was directing his ultimate destiny. He sensed — somehow — during World War II, that Great Britain and America must win that war — that the threat to civilization posed by Hitler's Germany would not THEN come to pass.

Why did God protect Britain and America? Why were France, the Low Countries and Scandinavia rescued from defeat and tyranny? Because these people were in some way God's "favorites"? Certainly not!

Yes, why?

There was a reason God spared Britain and America. It was a part of God's overall purpose! (In later lessons we shall come to see just who these peoples are, and how and why God has used them.)

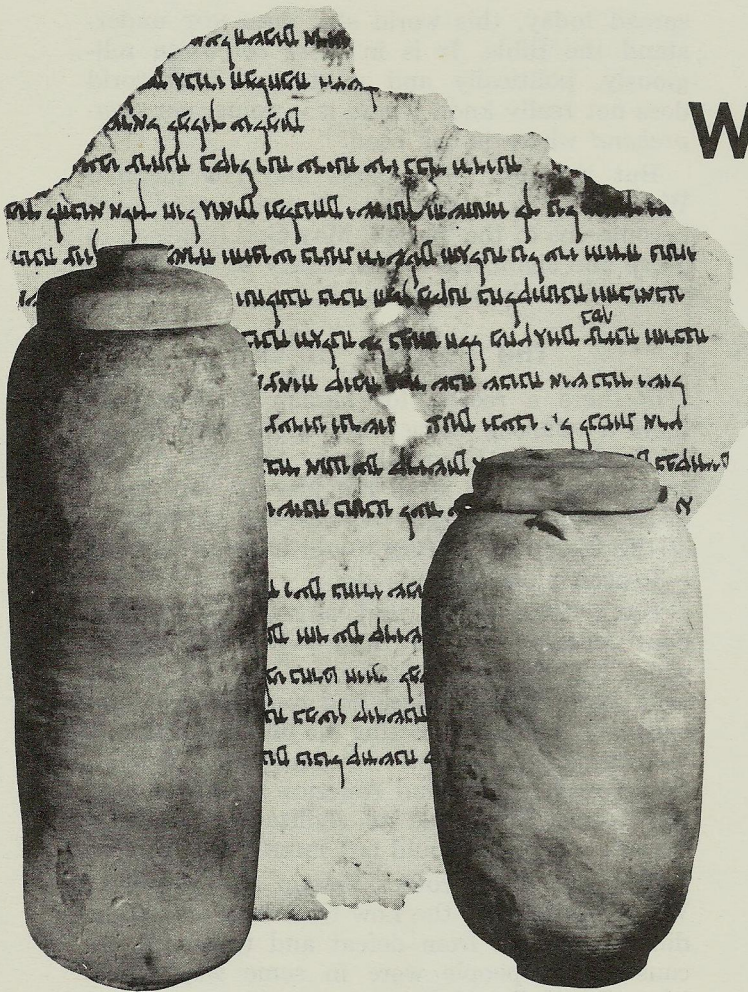
What then, is God's purpose for mankind?

Briefly stated, God's purpose is that of REPRODUCING HIMSELF! — shocking as it may sound. God's purpose is to create spiritual sons in His own CHARACTER IMAGE! God is rearing children to become like Himself — to be BORN into His own divine Family! (The details of this marvelous truth will be explained in future lessons.)

To accomplish His great and wonderful purpose, God has marked off a certain period of time in which He is allowing His potential children to go their own way — to follow the ways which seem right to man — until He has to step in to SAVE them from themselves and show them His ways are best after all!

Man's own ways are the reason for the wretched state of the world today! This is WHY General Douglas MacArthur once told the

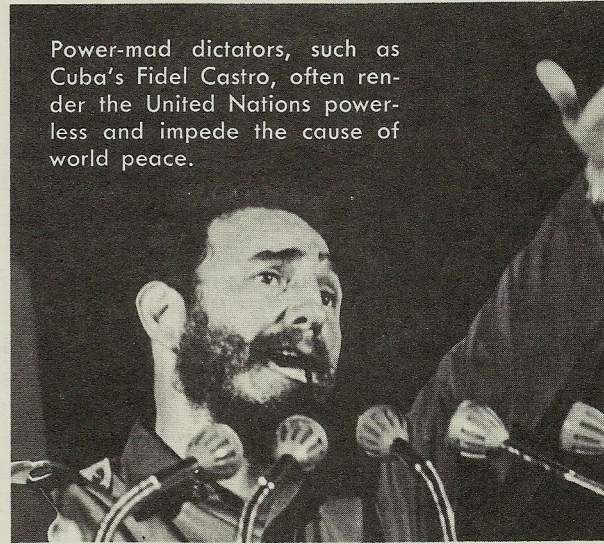
WHAT IS THE MEANING



Wide World

A fragment of the Dead Sea Scrolls — discovered in 1947 and after — shown with two clay containers which protected the documents for nearly 20 centuries. Among scrolls were fragments of Scripture with Hebrew text virtually identical with that which we have today. What message does the Bible hold for our space age?

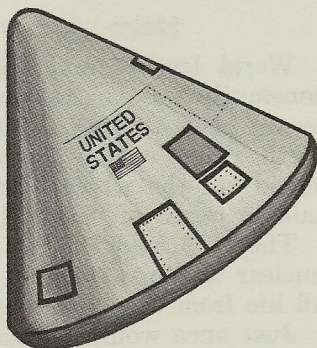
Power-mad dictators, such as Cuba's Fidel Castro, often render the United Nations powerless and impede the cause of world peace.



Grotesque wreckage of Hiroshima, Japan, after atomic attack. This course reveals how to ESCAPE the nuclear holocaust world statesmen and scientists are predicting.



G OF THE SPACE AGE?



Striking evening view of the United Nations headquarters building and midtown Manhattan skyline. World statesmen realize the only solution to chaotic world problems is **WORLD GOVERNMENT!** Yet fighting men can't bring it about. There is only one **SOURCE** which shows how all this world's ills will soon be **SOLVED!**

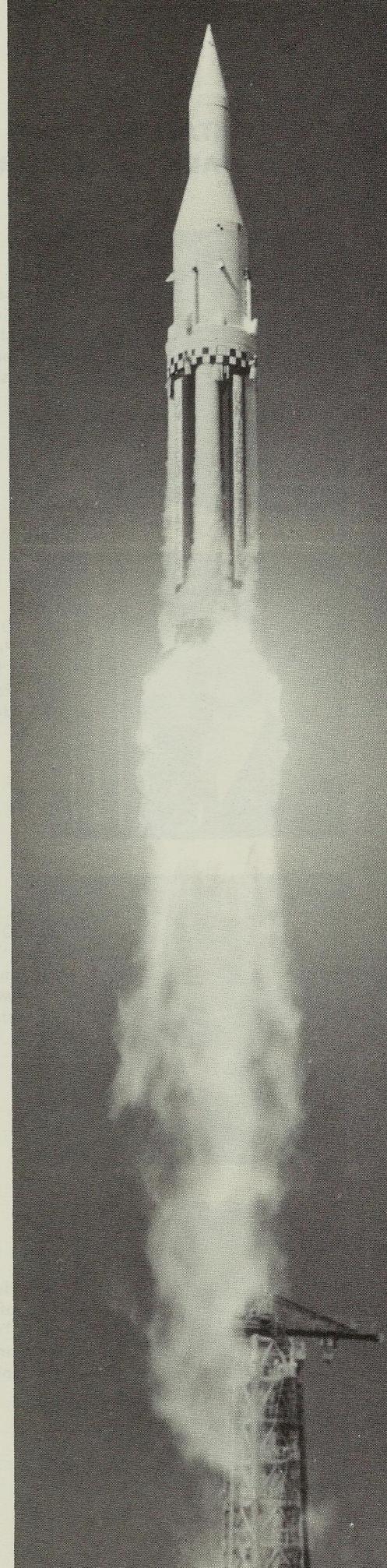
Wide World Photos



"Man's Last Hope for Peace"

The space age was predicted long ago. You can know where the awesome inventions of modern science and technology are leading.

NASA



STATESMEN and SCIENTISTS WARN of NUCLEAR DISASTER!

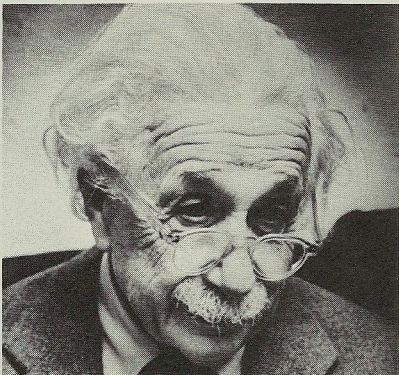


Wide World Photos

Late President John F. Kennedy: "Together we shall save our planet — or together we shall perish in its flames!"



Dr. W. H. Pickering, Jet Propulsion Laboratory: "In half an hour the East and the West could destroy civilization."



Dr. Albert Einstein: "There is no defense in science against the weapons which can destroy civilization."



Philip Noel-Baker, winner of Nobel Peace Prize: "We will all be dead and the earth will be an incinerated relic."

assembled Congress that "Our *Armageddon*" would be "at our door"!

Because man has chosen to go his own way and has *rejected* God's revealed way — mankind is *reaping the consequences!* Man's misguided scientific and technological genius has led him to the brink of *self-annihilation!*

Here Are the Facts

World leaders and scientists recognize and constantly warn us that man now possesses the means of destroying all life from the face of the earth. They speak fearfully of *COSMOCIDE* — suicide of the whole human race — and even talk in terms of "overkill"!

The U. S. and U.S.S.R. already have enough nuclear weapons stockpiled to totally annihilate all life from this planet *many times over!*

Just once would be enough!

Physicist Ralph E. Lapp, atomic-age pioneer of Washington, D. C., said in 1962 that the United States had "enough nuclear explosives to overkill the Soviet Union at least 25 times! He quoted the Secretary of State as saying the U. S. stockpile may be doubled by 1966" (UPI report, Oct. 1962.) His forecast has long since come true.

But nuclear annihilation is only one of *several* ways by which man can destroy himself.

Noted British scientist, Sir Robert Watson-Watts says there are now **THREE WAYS** by which the world's population can be wiped out in just a few hours!

The first is the above-mentioned **HYDROGEN BOMB**. The second is a deadly **TOXIN** which can easily be produced by the *botulinus* organism. "It would take only a *half pound* to kill the animal and human population of the world," he somberly warns, "and it is easily produced, well known, and, with a well-trained group, could *easily* be made lethal."

Speaking about biological warfare, Dr. Barry Commoner, director of Washington University's center for the biology of natural systems, warned: "The monster we insist on creating makes nuclear weapons *look like a child's toy.*"

Weapons of a chemical or biological nature are far less expensive to produce than complicated nuclear weapons. Any country with a good-sized brewery could manufacture germs about as easily as they can make beer!

But a huge question mark hangs over the advisability of using biological weapons on an enemy nation. Scientists are afraid the after-effects of an all-out biological war would be far more destructive than those of a nuclear confrontation. But they *aren't sure*, since biological weapons have never been tested on the battlefield.

As the third method of destroying mankind Mr. Watts listed NERVE GASES!

Three methods for worldwide annihilation!! Sounds incredible, doesn't it?

These startling facts clearly show that something totally unforeseen must soon occur to stop the present trend of world events — or man will DESTROY HIMSELF!

Only One Hope

People try to "kid" themselves into thinking there is no special danger right now — that the world has always been as chaotic as it is today.

Of course, human nature has remained basically unchanged. The ways of carnal-minded man have always brought death and destruction into the world (Prov. 14:12).

But, in prophesying of our day, the apostle Paul said, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse" (II Tim. 3:13) — because there is little fear of sure and swift punishment! This, coupled with the stark reality that NEVER UNTIL NOW HAS HUMAN ANNIHILATION BEEN POSSIBLE, OUGHT TO WAKE US UP!

Jesus Christ knew the terrible state of affairs men would bring on themselves in this end time. He said: "Except those days should be shortened, there should NO FLESH BE SAVED [ALIVE]" (Mat. 24:22).

Your Bible shows there is hope for mankind! God Almighty WILL INTERVENE in world affairs. He will NOT allow the scientific genius of man to destroy all life from this planet! He is going to send Jesus Christ again — this time to SAVE us from ourselves and bring us peace at last!

Yet countless intelligent, well-educated men and women scoff at the idea that Jesus Christ is soon to return. They RIDICULE! They are the typical product of an age that has lost sight of the reality of God.

This age prides itself on being the most intellectual, the most cosmopolitan and "worldly wise" that has ever existed. Yet it has completely lost sight of the TRUE BASIS of all knowledge: *what we are, why we are, what is the PURPOSE for human existence!*

If men *knew* the answers to these questions, humanity would not now be facing total annihilation. But men have forgotten God and His revealed Word — the Bible. Therefore, Jesus Christ must soon return to prevent world suicide, to rule this earth, and bring us peace and happiness at last!

May God help you to grasp the seriousness of the times you're living in as you read and study your Bible with the help of this Course. You will learn that God foresaw the invention of our awesome modern-day weapons of destruction long before man ever dreamed of

PRESIDENTS and EDUCATORS FEAR FUTURE WORLD WAR!

Former President Lyndon B. Johnson of the United States: "This generation of the world must choose. . . ."



Wide World Photos

Dean Acheson, Former Secretary of State: "...this world is going to be too dangerous to live in."

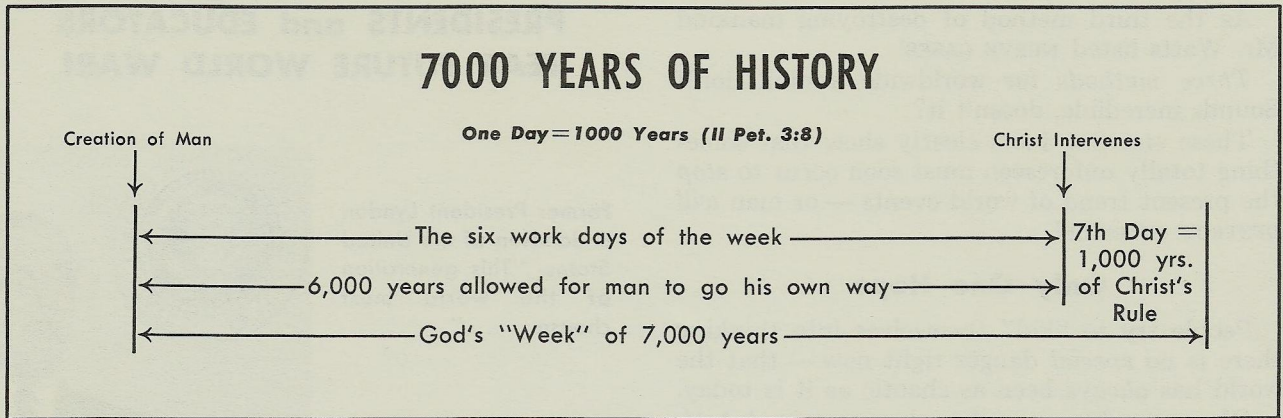


Former French President Charles de Gaulle: "...the great powers are facing their 'last moment'..."



Dr. Herbert F. York, University of California: "...the arms race is a steady open spiral down toward oblivion."





them — that God has *already planned* the only real and logical solution to the problems of this world.

God's entire plan is LOGICAL and REAL — and it's *revealed in your Bible!*

The 7000-Year Plan

The *pattern* for God's little-understood 7,000-year plan is given in the first two chapters of Genesis. It is the WEEK of *seven days*. God originally gave man a week of *six work days* followed by a day of *rest*.

In Hebrews 4:4, 11, the seventh day is pictured as a type of the peaceful 1,000-year rest — or *millennium* — that will follow this present age of human *misrule* and senseless warfare — of man's futile struggle to master the earth.

Notice that *after* Christ's second coming the time of world peace under His rule is specifically termed "a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4). Since the last "day" of God's 7,000-year plan is 1,000 years, then it logically follows that the preceding six "days" which He has allotted for mankind to work out his own ideas would amount to 6,000 years!

Many Bibles contain chronological dates showing that human life began on this earth about 4,004 years B.C. — *four millenniums before Christ*. Almost another 2,000 years have elapsed since then — totaling just about 6,000 years of human civilization to date.

In other words, the *trend of world events* is now proving we are VERY NEAR the time the Scriptures reveal Christ will return to prevent human annihilation. Yes, six thousand years of human history are almost complete! Here, then, is proof — DOUBLE PROOF — that *Christ is coming in OUR GENERATION!*

(The common assumption that man has lived on earth countless tens of thousands of years is an idle dream. Reason alone disproves it. History and archaeology disprove it! *Science* dis-

proves it! The theory of man's evolution is not only *unproved*, but IRREFUTABLY DISPROVED — when we understand the *facts!* A soon-coming lesson will give you these facts from the Bible and scientific research.)

The Apostles did not fully understand the PLAN OF GOD when Christ was yet on earth. They thought the Kingdom of God would be established in their day — after only about 4,000 years of God's Plan had been completed. But before they died, they fully comprehended God's Plan. Peter said: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise [of Christ's coming] . . . but is longsuffering" (II Peter 3:9). God is patient. He has refrained from intervening in world affairs for nearly 6,000 years.

WHY?

Because God has allotted man 6,000 years in which to *learn* that his own ways bring nothing but SUFFERING AND DEATH!

Notice again that the *day* of Christ's intervention and rule is compared to "a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4). Peter said that a "day" in God's *plan* is as "a thousand years," and "a thousand years" of human civilization is as *one* "day" in His planned WEEK of seven 1,000-year "days" (II Peter 3:8).

Peter *knew* that Christ would come at the very end of SIX THOUSAND YEARS of human struggle and slavery — that God would send Jesus Christ to save man from self-destruction and set up God's government at the *beginning* of the seventh millennium of God's Plan, ushering in 1,000 years of world peace and prosperity.

How awe-inspiring that in OUR DAY — at the very time the world is threatened with the extinction of all life — 6,000 years have *almost elapsed!* How marvelous that Jesus Himself said that when we would see the events He foretold taking place, HE WOULD COME AGAIN TO RESCUE this world and bring us *peace at last!*

Now you are ready to begin studying the Bible

itself. But *before* you begin, be sure to carefully read the following important instructions.

Before You Begin

This Course is not just a study of the lessons we send you. The lessons are intended to show you *where* to look in your Bible for the verses relating to the subject under study, and to put them *together* for total understanding. Therefore, you must open your Bible to *every* scripture reference given in answer to the questions, and carefully read and actually *study* these passages. (Our Course is based on the *King James Version* of the Bible because we have found it to be the most accurate.)

Writing out the scripture references is NOT a requirement for studying the Bible with this Course. But over the years many of our students have found it helpful to copy the answers and keep them in a notebook with their lessons. For example, this is what you would write on your notepaper in answer to the first question—if you should choose to follow this method of study:

1. Matt. 24:3 — “And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

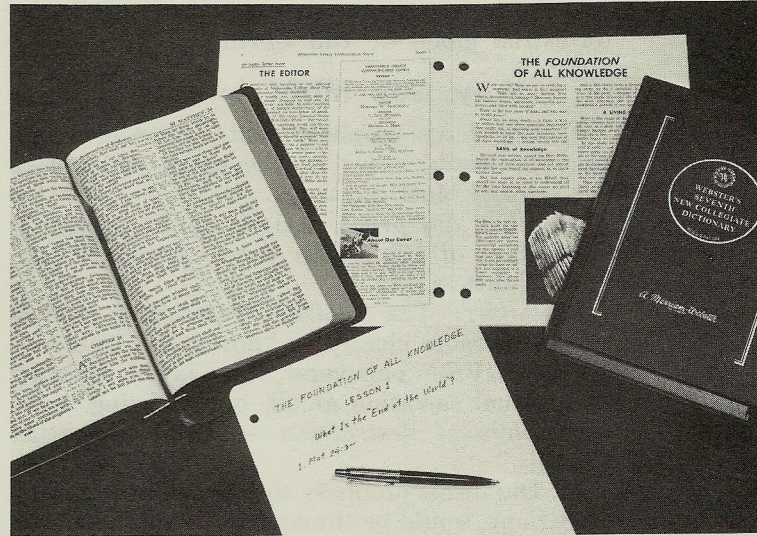
You would also write down any other thoughts concerning the verse which you would like to remember — especially your *own* comments on those things you may *not have known or understood before*. You would follow this same procedure for each question in the lesson.

Writing down the Bible verses and your own comments takes a little more time, but it is very helpful in *remembering* what you have learned, and in *reviewing* your lessons at any time.

If you would rather *not* follow this method of study, you still should turn to, and *read*, the Scripture references given in answer to the questions. This way you will prove the truth for yourself *in the Bible*, and fully comprehend the subject under study.

Many of our students also *set aside* a certain time every day for their study. But here again, the exact time of day and length of time you spend in study will have to be dictated by your own circumstances, and/or personal preference. If the letters we continually receive from our students are any indication, we think you’ll find it difficult to pull yourself away from studying, once you really get into it!

One final word about tests. You will receive a comprehensive quiz with every *fourth* lesson. But they will *not* be difficult! They are general



Ambassador College

These are your tools for study. Writing out the study material is helpful, but not a requirement of this Course. Be sure to read the important instructions on this page.

reviews over the material you have covered in the previous four lessons—an enjoyable way to help you remember some of the important facts you have learned, and to check your own progress. But there will be **NOTHING** for you to send back to us! You’ll grade your own tests in the privacy of your own home as soon as you’re through taking them. You simply check your answers with the correct answers *provided* with each test, and then you grade yourself. It’s that easy!

You will continue to receive a new lesson every month for as long as you wish to study your Bible with this Course.

Now we’re ready to begin studying.

LESSON 1

What Is the “End of the World”?

1. Was Jesus ever questioned about the “end of the world,” and the signs that would point to His return? Matthew 24:3.

2. What were Christ’s disciples really talking about when they asked Him about the “end of the world”? See comment.

COMMENT: The New Testament, as originally inspired, was written in the Greek language. The Greek word translated “world” here in Matthew 24:3 is *aion*, meaning AGE — not the physical earth on which we live!

Jesus, then, was questioned about the *end of an “age”* — the end of this present age or era of human misrule — and about His scheduled

return, rather than the destruction of the terrestrial globe we call Earth.

Why God MUST Intervene

1. Did Jesus prophesy that a time of GREAT TROUBLE would occur on the earth just *before* His return? Matt. 24:21.

2. What did Jesus declare would happen if these days of tribulation were allowed to continue? Matt. 24:22.

COMMENT: The Moffatt translation renders this verse more clearly as "not a soul would be saved ALIVE." This verse, then, is not referring to spiritual salvation at all, but to being saved from *physical destruction* — from premature DEATH!

3. Did Jesus prophesy that only Jews, or only Christians, would be threatened by total destruction? Or did He prophesy that "NO FLESH" would be safe from the threat of annihilation? Same verse. But WHO will *intervene* in world affairs to cut short this time of trouble, and thus *prevent* the annihilation of all humanity? Mark 13:20.

COMMENT: These verses do not mean that God will alter the time of Christ's scheduled return, but that *just as He planned originally*, He will intervene at the very moment humanity would otherwise destroy itself. By His *scheduled* intervention He will *cut short* the DAYS OF MAN'S RULE over man, which would otherwise lead to the annihilation of all human life!

No Time Like It!

1. Has there *ever* been a time of trouble such as will occur at the close of this age? Matt. 24:21 and Mark 13:19.

2. Did any of the Old Testament prophets foresee this *same* time of worldwide peril? Jeremiah 30:7 and Daniel 12:1.

COMMENT: Since each of the preceding four verses explains that there has *never been* before, and NEVER will be afterward another similar period of world crisis, they can only be referring to ONE GREAT CLIMACTIC PERIOD of worldwide trouble!

3. How did the prophet Joel symbolically describe the horrible events to take place at the close of this age? Joel 2:1-3. Will there ever again be a time like this? Verse 2.

COMMENT: Joel's God-inspired prophecy pictures the very *same* time of trouble prophesied by Christ, Jeremiah, and Daniel. Verse 2 plainly shows that there is *not* to be any other period in history to equal this time. Therefore, this prophecy must refer to events soon to occur at the close of this age. For only in *this age* of nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare has such widespread and total destruction, and the extermination of human life, been possible!

4. Could the symbols in Revelation 9:3-10, 16-19 indicate the torment of poison gas and mass murder through the use of modern weaponry?

COMMENT: John was obviously describing military weapons of our day — seen in a vision from God. He had to use *symbolic* language because he had never seen "tanks," "planes," "rockets" or "hydrogen bombs" before! (For the time sequence of Revelation, write the editor for the free booklets: *The Key to the Book of Revelation*, and *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!*)

5. Let us momentarily consider a time, over 4300 years ago, when God intervened in human affairs to *postpone* what we see threatening the world today. Did human beings want to make a great name for themselves, and keep the world *united* under human authority? Genesis 11:4. What did God do to frustrate their plans? Verses 5, 7-9.

6. Does verse 6 clearly indicate that God confused the language and scattered the people at Babel in order to *restrain* the misguided inventive genius of man — to PREVENT him from accomplishing what he has done today before it was within God's plan to allow it?

COMMENT: Verse 6 proves that when human beings would learn to speak one another's languages, and finally POOL their scientific knowledge as they have done *today*, then virtually ANYTHING man's mind could conceive of would be possible for him to achieve — even to conquering the moon and inventing weapons capable of DESTROYING ALL LIFE!

Could anything be clearer? Can you see that we are living in the time Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:21-22? — the time when man would have at his disposal the POWER to *erase all life from this earth!*

The CAUSE of All War

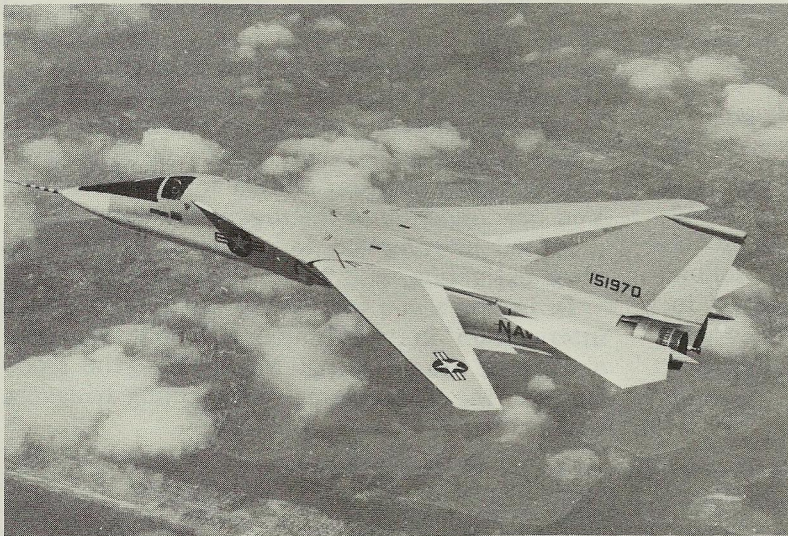
God promises He will intervene in world affairs to prevent the annihilation of humanity, and to bring us peace. But in order to have world peace, He will also have to *prevent* future wars by *changing* that which CAUSES war! Let's understand what it is.

1. Does the Bible clearly show that the basic cause of war is the inordinate lust within man? James 4:1-2.

2. Is human nature *fundamentally* good, or evil? Romans 3:10-18.

3. What is the end result of actions and decisions that *seem* right to great leaders and people in general? Proverbs 14:12.

COMMENT: This principle is so important that God inspired its repetition in Proverbs 16:25.



Wide World, Northrop Corp. Photos

Today's modern weapons of warfare were predicted centuries ago!

4. What deceives man into believing that actions which end in death will bring peace? Jeremiah 17:9. (Remember that in Scripture, the heart is spoken of *proverbially* as the center or seat of human thoughts and emotions.) Then can rulers be *deceived* by their own lusts into believing that their evil deeds are right and good for the world? Same verse.

5. Does mankind *really* know the way to peace? Rom. 3:17. What did God inspire Isaiah to write concerning man's real understanding of peace? Isaiah 59:8.

6. Did Paul foresee that men at the *close of this age* would be traitors, trucebreakers, greedy — coveting the wealth and territories of one another? II Timothy 3:1-5.

7. Does knowledge tend to *increase* pride and other manifestations of human nature? I Cor. 8:1. Since we live in an age of *mushrooming scientific knowledge* which makes it possible for a few men to possess tremendous power, will human nature *cause* men to become better and better, or *WORSE AND WORSE*? II Timothy 3:13.

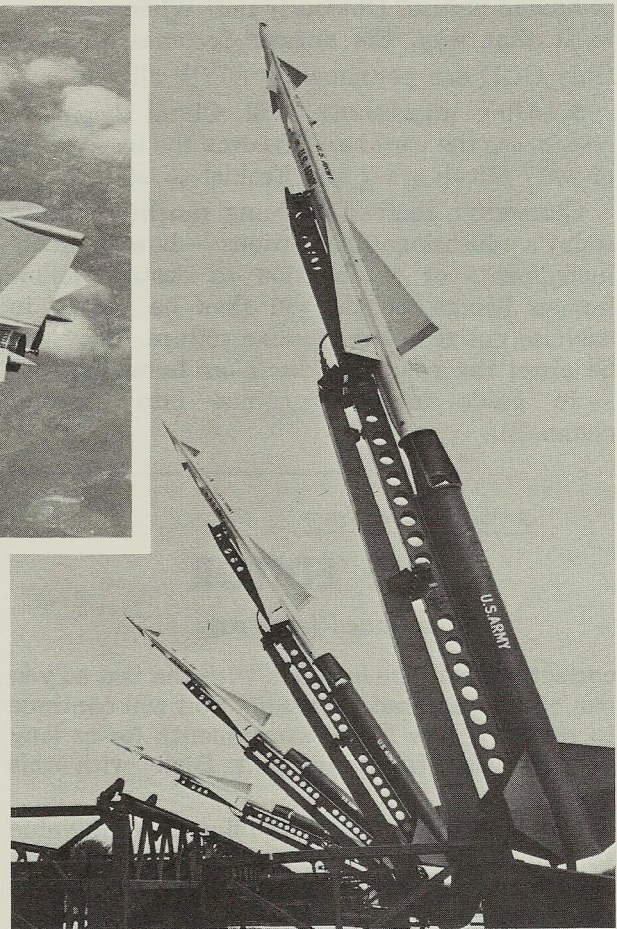
COMMENT: Modern science and technology have now made it possible for the greedy to covet, seize and destroy *more than ever before!*

Time to WAKE UP!

1. Were there to be scoffers in these last days *denying* Jesus would come again? II Peter 3:3-4.

2. Were the basic pursuits of people today to be much different than those of the civilization before the Flood? Matt. 24:37-39 and Luke 17:26-27.

COMMENT: Though life in general goes on much the same as it did before the Flood,



scientific knowledge and technology, and the resultant potential for destruction, have *changed* fantastically!

3. Did Jesus know people today would not be any more *concerned* about the trend of world events than people were before the Flood? Matt. 24:37-39.

COMMENT: Jesus knew the world today would go on in its day-to-day routine *WITHOUT HEEDING* the WARNINGS of world leaders and scientists about human annihilation, or the *warning message* of His true ministers!

4. What is the result of lust or covetousness? James 4:1-2. Is man really capable of *preventing* war? Rom. 3:15-17. What will happen to human plans for "peace"? Isa. 33:7-9. When ambassadors of peace weep bitterly — when cities are leveled — will God intervene to save humanity? Verse 10.

COMMENT: Throughout the Bible, war is pictured as a *result* of lust or covetousness. Lust is a basic characteristic of human nature. But can the heads of governments, or the ambassadors of nations, *CHANGE* human nature? Of course not. Can *any* human government, therefore, *permanently stop* WAR, which is the result

of human nature? Obviously not! When you look at it that way, the answer becomes obvious: Only GOD can permanently *STOP* all war!

5. After intervening, will Christ begin to *re-educate* the world and *CHANGE* the basic cause of war? Micah 4:1-4 and Ezekiel 36:26-27.

COMMENT: Instead of being taught — as in today's educational institutions — how to create instruments of annihilation to destroy fellow human beings, people will then be *taught* to exercise CONTROL over human nature. They will be given the POWER to *discipline* human nature — to guide inventive genius into *peaceful* channels!

6. Will ALL NATIONS be taught God's way of life — the way to lasting peace — after Christ sets up God's Kingdom on earth? Isa. 2:2-4.

COMMENT: Yes, peace is coming in our time — but *not* the way most people expect!

You have seen *in your Bible*, a brief summation of God's solution to this world's problems. You now understand the *urgent necessity* of His promised intervention to rescue mankind from utter extinction, and to bring world peace.

In Lesson 2 you will learn more about Christ's intervention in world affairs. You'll learn all about His *true* "Gospel Message" — the Good News of the soon-coming, world-ruling Kingdom of God.

an open letter from

THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 2)

correct answers are *included* with the test so you can check and grade *yourself*! You will continue to receive a new lesson every month for as long as you wish to study your Bible with this Course.

No diploma or degree is offered — the value to you is not a diploma, or a piece of paper, but the KNOWLEDGE and *UNDERSTANDING* you receive.

The Bible is a big Book, when you undertake to really *know* it, and THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND it. If you pursue this study earnestly and thoroughly, you will not have completely mastered it all, and come to complete knowledge in any short period! The study of the Bible is, and ought to be, a *LIFE-LONG STUDY* — not a six-month's, one-year, or four-year limited course.

This is a stirring, vitally interesting course. It is not dry or dull. It SPARKLES WITH INTEREST! SCORES OF THOUSANDS from around the world are already enrolled — additional thousands are starting the Course every month! There has never been any course like this, and if you will set yourself to really study it faithfully, you will be richly REWARDED by constantly coming into surprising, exciting, joyful NEW TRUTHS with the help and direction of each monthly lesson.

As I mentioned before, there is NO TUITION COST WHATSOEVER — this Course is ABSOLUTELY FREE of any charge! We are not controlled or subsidized, sponsored or endowed or financed by any sect or denomination. There are *no selfish ends to gain* — only a desire to *serve* and SHARE God's precious truths, in a self-sacrificing MINISTRY OF LOVE.

What our STUDENTS SAY

"Your Course is a real 'eye-opener!' I had no idea it would be so interesting. I am hungry for more knowledge."

— Man, Nelson, New Zealand

"What amazes me is that you ask the questions and tell us which scriptures to read and then the Bible itself explains it. I've heard you say many times on your radio broadcasts, 'Let the Bible interpret itself.' It really can and does, if people would only give it a chance. Thank you so much for letting me be a part of this wonderful Course."

— Mrs. P. L., Youngstown, Ohio

"Words cannot tell how much I enjoy this Course. It makes the Bible so plain and understandable. For people who do not willfully close their eyes, it makes the prophecies come alive by showing us how today's world-shattering news is simply prophecy being fulfilled."

— R. L., Dallas, Texas

"I must admit that at first I thought you were trying to change the Bible around and make it mean what you wanted it to. But, after doing the first lesson and reading *The PLAIN TRUTH*, and listening to world events, I see that you are absolutely right."

— Student, Butler, Missouri

• *Anyone not already on the mailing list is invited to write for a FREE subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Another valuable magazine — TOMORROW'S WORLD — covering deeply spiritual subjects, is also available free of charge.*