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From the Washington Evening Star

REPENT AMERICA!

Oct. 1968

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Write to:

God's News Behind the News Box 10475 St. Petersburg, Florida 33733



Radio Commentator Ray Brubaker of GOD'S NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

– FOREWORD –

As John the Baptist in his day pointed his bony finger at the religionist, crying — "Who hath warned you to flee the wrath to come?" so may this book urge all to repent who have trusted Christ but who persist in their sins.

It must be remembered Jesus said, 'Many will say to me in that day, LORD, LORD... And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'' (Matt 7:22-23)

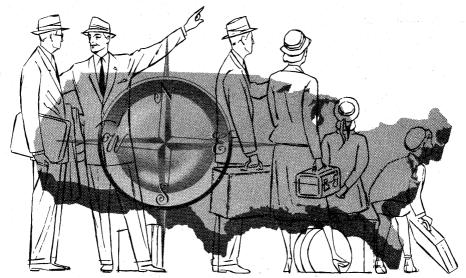
May no one who reads these pages hide behind a doctrinal'security' while practicing sin, and expect to be ready for rapture. While we believe in salvation by grace exclusive of works, and of 'sealing unto the day of redemption' for those who are truly bornagain, yet we see where Rapture is the reward of readiness. Salvation is free, whereas, rewards are earned.

So, with this objective in mind that God's grace may prevail, leading many to salvation, to repentance, and that blessed hope of Christ's appearing, this book has been written.

It is with a saddened heart that we use as our text Rev 9:21 which reminds us many will fail to hear or to heed this message, yet, publish it we must! For we read, "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornications, nor of their thefts..."

Here listed are four major sins of the Endtime, referring to the period of the tribulation. May all who read these pages turn to God and repent of sin before it's too late. God grant it. Amen.

AMERICA AT THE CROSS ROADS . . .



Christianity Today notes: "The moral foundations of America are not crumbling; they have crumbled." And this magazine goes on to suggest that in this hour "the voice of the true prophet must not be stilled. The prophet must cry . . . REPENT AMERICA! REPENT!"

Unless America repents now, and repents quickly, her decline will rival that of Rome, with riots, racial tensions, runaway inflation, religious apostasy, and rotten morals taking over, leading to her ultimate destruction.

U.S. News & World Report interviewed theologian Dr. Robert E. Fitch to ask — "What accounts for all the violence and disorders taking place in America today?" Dr. Fitch replied: "I think we are reaping the harvest of the American home which has been too permissive in the upbringing of its children — and of an affluent society which has lost a firm grasp of what can be tolerated and what cannot."

Dr. Nelson Bell agrees, stating: "America is suffering from a generation of permissive parents who, by not requiring obedience from children, have produced teen-agers and young adults with little respect for either God or man." Says Bell: "These undisciplined young people are proving themselves a disruptive force on many school campuses, and they are a source of embarrassment and great concern to the nation."

Representive of the rebellion among youth is the Hippie Movement and the Sexual Revolution going on at college campuses. At the University of California at Berkeley, for instance, an estimated thousand couples are living together — unmarried. And at the University of Pennsylvania, which has as its motto — "Learning without morality is vain", the dean of women has announced it has dropped the rule which prohibits female students from spending the night in the apartments of single males. This is fast becoming the rule in other colleges and universities as well.

Drug addiction is becoming an acute problem in the nation with Congressman John B. Anderson of Illinois reporting estimates on marijuana users from between 4 million and upwards to 20 million.

G. B. Robeson writes: "There is growing concern both inside and outside the Church over what is happening to young people who give their bodies and minds over to beat music and mind-distorting drugs."

Attorney Robert Horan of Fairfax County, Virginia says: "The drug traffic among teen-agers has reached an alarming stage and we must not be afraid of taking new steps to solve the problem."

"The teen-age culture," notes one publication, "is a rebellious, oppositional society, dedicated to the proposition that the grownup world is a sham."

The question remains — how far will we go in following the crowd that will lead America down the road to her destruction?

Take fashions, for an example. **NEWSWEEK** reports that the designer of the miniskirt had in mind the purpose of seducing a man to bed in the daytime by developing such attire. How far then should Christian women go in following fashions created for immoral purposes. Because 'everyone is doing it' — is this sufficient reason to go with the crowd? Why not dare to be different?

Another grave problem confronting this country is that of runaway inflation.

Representative Robert Sikes of Florida recently pointed out that the total indebtedness of the United States is more than the total debt of the world's 134 other nations.

Think of it!

In fact, Sykes accuses Americans of being in debt \$350 billions which is \$50 billions more than all the rest of the countries of the world combined.

Inflation, according to Pierre Ronfret, advisor to Mr. Nixon, is one of our major problems, and he says: 'I abhor it, I detest it, and I fear it.'

As a result of inflation — "Savings disappear, home building dries up, capital is destroyed, morals are corrupted, inefficiency is rewarded." In fact, he notes: "it fosters, condones, necessitates and rewards dishonesty."

Capt. Kenneth Ryker, author of a book on this subject, has observed: 'By a continuing process of inflation, governments can confiscate, secretly and unobserved, an important part of the wealth of their citizens...'

It is reported that Lenin, leader in the Russian Revolution, maintained, "the surest way to destroy the capitalistic system is to debauch the currency."

That there are countless forces bent upon our destruction is clear for all to see.

U.S. Congressman, James Utt, made this striking observation: "Fantastic though it may seem, this great Republic is threatened with anarchy. In fact the threat has grown so far that the only salvation may be a military dictatorship."

America be warned!

At a congressional hearing in Washington, Jerry Rubin, barechested and bearded, was summoned to appear. Undercover agents had testified that Rubin, who was once himself a handsome reporter had become mixed up with drugs and sex. In Chicago he was a guerrilla whose intent was to disturb proceedings during the Democratic convention. He was reported to have urged the killing of police, Mayor Daley, as well as all of the presidential candidates. Rubin says of Uncle Sam: "If you keep on hitting *The Man* from every side, punching him, laughing at him ridiculing him, he will eventually collapse. That, "declares Rubin," is what is going to happen to America."

May God help us.

For the sake of America, and for the sake of our youth, we should fall on our faces and cry out to God for the misled thousands who have joined Rubin's ranks, and who feels as he does.

With demonstrators in our streets crying 'Burn, baby burn' we realize it is they who will burn in a blazing Hell unless Christ is received. It is 'turn or burn' for multitudes who need the Gospel.

That is why this book is written — not only for the love of America, but of all Americans — including the obscenity-quoting, sex engaging, Christ-condemning, sin-condoning, drug-using, demon-led mobs who are forging their way to destruction. To these, we cry out — "REPENT AMERICA!"

In fact, unless all America and the World repents we face not only *perdition* but the coming great awful *tribulation*. The coming tribulation was described by Jesus as a time of unparalleled trouble "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Matt 24:21-22)

The Scripture has predicted our apostasy, stating there would come a 'falling away'. (2 Thess 2:3).

A recent Gallop Poll indicated 67% of Americans believed 'religion was losing its influence on American life,''

And the National Observer has noted "a decline of righteousness... which afflicts the Christian Church in both the United States and the world at large."

The only hope for our country and the nations of the world is for men and women to turn back to God in deep repentance, turning from all known sin, to find faith and forgiveness in the Lord Jesus Christ. Then, with the help of the Holy Spirit coming into our life we can be victorious over sins dominion and enslavement, and kept ready for our Lord's Return.

This we see as the only hope for America. As Billy Graham has warned: "Unless the nation turns to God and has a moral and spiritual bath, American democracy is in deep peril."

With this we must agree. For without true faith in Christ, and repentance from sin, we are doomed.

May God grant us repentance unto righteousness in this hour of America's greatest need. Amen.



A woman who had entered politics and was running for office rushed in one day to say to her husband, "We're going to sweep the state!" "Good", replied her husband, "Why not start in the living room!"

Vance Havner notes: "Spiritual renewal, like judgment, must begin at home". And a neglected part of spiritual renewal is the call to repentance."

This ''repentance'' message is sadly lacking today although the Bible is filled with it.

Noah preached it. Moses emphasized it, Enoch urged it. Isaiah declared, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

Through past centuries great men of God preached on repentance . . . Savanarola, Martin Luther, John Knox, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Finny, D. L. Moody, Sam Jones, Billy Sunday . . . All these great soul winners stressed the fact that men must repent or perish!

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In the book of the Revelation 5 of the 7 churches to which John wrote were told to 'repent'. And yet, how many messages in your lifetime have you heard on REPENTANCE.

John R. Church, Methodist Evangelist, calls attention to this lack in our pulpits today noting "there is a tendency in this day and age just to urge people to accept Christ, and confess Christ, and be baptized and join the church." But, he notes: "No man can really believe on God with his heart until he has first truly and earnestly repented of his sin."

In one of Gypsy Smith's meetings a personal worker was explaining the way of salvation to another. He read verse after verse — how salvation is the gift of God; how we are saved by grace through faith; how we must believe and confess Christ.

When the man agreed to all of these Scriptural propositions the personal worked patted him on the back, saying -You're saved. You're saved.''

"No, I'm not", protested the inquirer. "I still have sin in my heart. I'm hugging it and not willing to give it up. My own common sense tells me I cannot be saved until I surrender."

Gypsy Smith remarked that this was the best sermon on repentance he had ever heard.

There are three aspects of repentance that we would men-

First, there is the need of recognizing that we have sinned . . . that we have sinned against God . . . and that God hates our sin.

When Potiphar's wife sought to seduce Joseph to commit adultery with her, Joseph drew back in horror to exclaim, "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in doing such a thing as that." I'm sure there would be a greater hatred of sin if only many knew they were not only sinning against their own bodies, but also against God.

The second aspect of repentance that we would stress is SORROW FOR SIN.

How sadly lacking this is today. We are too proud to admit we are sinners. Too often the only sorrow exhibited is embarassment or regret at being caught.

Take homosexuality, for instance. There was a time when the word was never mentioned in public — it was so disgraceful. But today churches are going on record as approving such acts when between consenting adults. God calls this sin — sin of the worst sort, and sin that must be punished.

Recently one of our large denominations removed a clause from its minister's manual which prohibited *drinking* or *smoking* saying it was an individual matter.

But as far as God is concerned, Sin is sin, and must needs be repented of. A third aspect of repentance is that of making wrongs right where possible following one's conversion. We call this part of repentance — restitution.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Niemeryer of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who owned a variety store got this letter. It read: "When I was little, I participated along with others in shoplifting at your store. I have just accepted Jesus Christ in my life and I am sorry and I would like to make things right. I'm not sure how much I stole, but I'm sure that \$5 will cover it, and anyhow it is all that I can afford."

Recently the Treasury Department got this letter. "Please deposit this \$15 in the conscience fund as restitution for sin."

Our government started such a fund in 1811 and since then has taken in close to 3 million dollars.

One letter from a serviceman read: "A Billy Graham broadcast convinced me of the fact that I owed the U.S. Treasury an amount of money for an air force slide rule obtained illegally a number of years ago." Another wrote: "I am truly sorry for the wrong I have done and hope you will accept this to square accounts." Enclosed was \$25.

Treasury Department officials point out that there was a time when collections were quite numerous, but in recent years they have fallen off considerably. Could it be that this is an indication that we have lost this aspect of repentance... that of restitution.

When Zacchaeus, the tax collector, was converted, he told the Lord, "the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him 4 fold." Jesus replied — "This day is salvation come to this house."

Ah yes, here is evidence we mean business when we pay up honest debts, ask forgiveness of those whom we may have wronged, and restore stolen goods.

Hear me. We have every right to question our salvation if we claim to have believed on Christ but never repented.

Jesus stressed repentance by quoting from the news of his day, referring to 18 men upon whom a tower in Siloam fell. Then said Jesus, "Think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? Nay," said Jesus, "but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish!"

G. Campbell Morgan, whom theology students acclaim as one of the greatest Bible Scholars, made this comment. Said Morgan: "A man can perish . . . though no tower crush him. He may die in bed, with his friends about him; and even have music while he dies; but," stressed Dr. Morgan, "he will be damned unless he repent."

What more could we add, except to say the message of salvation is simply this — "REPENT and BELIEVE THE GOSPEL!" Amen.

THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIBULATION

A new rash of Flying Saucer sightings . . . with reports of unidentified flying objects in our skies . . . from Latin America to Europe.

In Madrid, Spain, a monumental traffic jam developed when a bright object appeared in the sky. Air Force radar screens tracked the UFO, and supersonic jet fighter-bombers were sent to investigate, but the object eluded its chasers.

In Washington recently . . . scientists told Congress there were too many sightings of these UFO's to rule out the possibility that earth might be under surveillance by creatures from outer space. They urged lawmakers to support a thorough investigation.

Dr. Carl Sagan, astronomy professor at Cornell University, believes if there are other technical civilizations among the hundreds of billions of stars in the universe, "any random one of them is likely to be vastly ahead of us."

Well, what do you think? Is the universe inhabited? Do we face an invasion from outer space? I see where a Russian professor not only has accepted the fact of the destruction of the biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, but he attributes their destruction to extra-terrestrial invaders some 5000 years ago, suggesting a nuclear blast may have wiped out these cities.

In the book of Revelation we have an unfolding of judgments seen coming on the earth in the Endtime. These judgments are largely for the purpose of purging the earth of its defilement. while preparing the earth for the reign of Christ who comes as King of kings and Lord of lords.

In fact, our Lord does not set foot upon this earth to begin his thousand year reign until first all resistance is put down, sin is dealt a death blow, and Satan bound in the abyss. Then only would this earth become again a paradise, and the kingdoms of this world subject to his divine authority. It must be remembered, ever since Adam sinned, this earth and its inhabitants have been in rebellion against God. And ever since the tragedy in Eden this earth has been under a curse. As we read in Genesis, God declared to Adam, "Cursed is the ground, . . . thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee."

As the earth was once destroyed by a flood, Peter tells us it will undergo destruction by fire. And the purpose could be to purge the earth, preparing it for the coming reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. For instance, God is seen pouring out his judgments upon the earth . . . upon the green grass and the trees. Would we not suppose that he would thus destroy the thistle and the thorn? And will He not wipe out the marijuana plant and the tobacco weed?

The Soviet professor whom we quoted a moment ago referred to the writings of M. Daniel Rops, who is his HISTOIRE SANTE indicates the effect of the fire and brimstone that fell on Sodom and Gomorrah was for the purpose of purifying the soil. He declared, "when the flames had devoured everything which was on earth they even penetrated the soil to sterilize it."

Then we see where God sends his judgment upon the seas and the rivers. Occasionally here in Florida and elsewhere, we have a creeping paralysis that destroys the fish and other marine life. Millions of fish, turtles, oysters, shrimp and other sea life have been killed as a result of a mysterious red tide.

So it is not surprising to note in the Scriptures an endtime event in which we read of the sea becoming as blood, and as a result there is a destruction of life in the sea. Actually, the sea contains some 500,000 species of fish — some beneficial and some harmful. Many thousands of these are actually dangerous to man.

Then, take the man-o-war found off the coast of Florida with a poison as powerful as that of the cobra. Dr. Charles E. Lane, marine biologist, has devoted at least 15 years to the study of these man-o-wars which may account for swimmers being stung and perhaps drowning as a result of these paralysing stings. Lane reports that even a long time after the man-o-war is dead, the stingers remain and retain their ability to hurt. The venom is so powerful it can penetrate clothing, including rubber gloves. He tells how occasionally he might be leaning on a table months after having worked in his laboratory on these man-o-wars only to suddenly let out a yell because of invisible stingers left there.

Well, before our Lord sets foot on this earth he must also cleanse the seas. We're told the ocean contains some 1500 kinds of bacteria. Go down and scoop up just a spoonful from our coastal waters and we're told there may be as many as 400,000 of these creatures. Talk about the waters being contaminated, I think there must be some kind of population explosion among these bacteria. Anyway, God's purpose during the coming tribulation is to purge the earth, and prepare it for the thousand year reign of Christ.

We might yet call attention to the *heavens* to be reminded that these too must be purged. We don't know all that may pollute our universe but do know Satan has access to heaven. He is the prince and power of the air who must be cast out of heaven and chained in the bottomless pit. So we read of actual war in heaven between Michael and the holy angels and Satan and his demonic host. Truly, we must admit there is much taking place in our universe of which we are unaware, and God must judge the heavens as well as this earth.

Did you ever stop to think of all of the space junk that is now cluttering up the heavens? According to one of the last reports issued by the North American Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colorado . . . some 1,292 objects are now in orbit. This includes pieces of rockets and satellites which are actually classified as space junk. A total of 3,344 objects have been hurled into space since Russia's Sputnik 1. So, God must cleanse the heavens even as he must cleanse the earth.

The purpose of the tribulation as concerns man is at least 3-fold. First, it is a time of trouble for Israel. God's purpose is ultimately to restore the kingdom to Israel. In order for Israel to be converted and accept Christ as Messiah she will have to endure the hardships of the tribulation. It is during this time she will call upon the Lord. And so all Israel will be saved.(Acts 1:16; Jeremiah 30:3-7; Zech. 12:10; Rom. 11:26)

In the second place, the tribulation is for the purpose of destroying the wicked. In Isaiah 13:9 we read, "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and HE SHALL DESTROY THE SINNERS THERE-OF OUT OF IT." In order for Christ's reign upon the earth to be a perfect one he must put down all rebellion and all resistance. At Armageddon, our Lord is seen destroying those wicked who would only be trouble-makers in His kingdom. This is earth's last great battle before Christ sets foot upon the earth.

Finally, we would note that the purpose of the tribulation is also for the testing of lukewarm, shallow, Laodicean Christians who will be left behind at the coming of Christ. No doubt multitudes who expected to be raptured will be disappointed because like the foolish virgins they were not watchful. The tribulation then is for the purpose of trying the faith of these who professed to be Christians but who really never repented or are living in disobedience to the will of God.

Although the Scriptures clearly teach that the truly born-again believer is not appointed unto wrath, yet on the other hand, "the wrath of God cometh upon the children of *disobedience*." And believers are warned, "be not ye therefore partakers with them." (Eph. 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:9) In Revelation, chapter 3, the tribulation referred to as the "hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell on the earth." Did you hear it?

Thus the tribulation is for many a testing time. For approaching the end of this age the faith of many will be shallow and God has no choice but to allow many to be tested. As Peter writes. "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." (i Pet. 1:7) In Malachi 3 the question is asked: "Who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap, And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver . . . " Malachi reminds us - Christ at his coming is going to purify as with soap, and purge as with fire. He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. SILVER speaks of redemption. So Christ is seen purifying those whom he has redeemed by allowing the chastening fires of the tribulation to purge and make white.

Further evidence of this is seen in Revelation 7 where we read of a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues. Of this mighty host we read: "These are they which come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." It is thus established that these were unprepared for the rapture for they are left behind to go through the tribulation. During the purging judgments of the tribulation many are seen "washing their robes" indicating repentance from defilement, and finding forgiveness through the blood of Christ which provides man's only atonement for sin.

Now, some earnest Christians doubt whether judgments seen poured out during the tribulation will lead men to repentance. While it is true that the wicked are seen failing to repent of their sins following many plagues, yet it is also true that the tribulation will serve as chastening for Laodicean believers. For our Lord warned them saying, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

The tribulation will be a time of physical suffering and mental anguish. It is destined to come upon all who were not prepared for the coming of Christ. As we read in Romans 2:9, "Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile."

Thus, for some there will be repentance, turning from sin, and coming clean for Christ, in the midst of tribulation. As Peter notes: "he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin: that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." (1 Pet. 4:1b-2)

Isaiah speaks of the Day of the Lord as a time of punishment for sin. He writes: "Behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to *punish* the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." (Isaiah 26:21) Our Lord indicated, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, . . . "But He will say to them, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Today we hear a lot about believe, believe, believe. And, believe we must! But it is evident from the Scriptures that God doesn't accept our faith unless it is conditioned upon our repentance. We must turn from our sin if we are to be genuinely converted. Thus the tribulation is also for the purpose of punishing those who failed to make such preparation as to be ready for the coming of Christ with the intention that they will repent in the midst of judgments seen coming on the earth.

Again as Jesus declared: "concerning that servant that prepared not himself that his portion will be with 'unbelievers', and he shall be beaten with *many* stripes or *few* stripes depending on his knowledge of what the Lord required.

May God help us today to act upon the knowledge of His Word, to turn from sin and trust the Saviour, and then live in obedience to the divine will. For we believe the promise of God is that we will escape this tribulation if we are ready for our Lord's Return. For the promise to those who are obedient to the Word of God is found in Rev. 3:10 where our Lord says: "I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell on the earth."

Hear it, beloved. For those found living for Christ the promise is escape from this testing time —this hour of trial — seen just ahead.

Today if you are not sure of your salvation we would encourage you to trust Christ as your Saviour, and then let Him become your Lord and Master. Surrender your life to Him to do His will. And you can be ready for the coming of the Lord as you walk in obedience to His Word.

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!

Statistics recently released by the FBI show major crimes up 16%. Actually, since 1960, the overall increase in serious crime was 89%.

Notes Time magazine: "Crime in the United States is a national disgrace."

The cost of crime is a staggering 27 billion dollars a year.

In Revelation, chapter 9, and verse 21 we read: "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornications, nor of their thefts."

Murder tops the list of these 4 major sins for it is the snuffing out of the precious life, with no opportunity afforded of fulfilling the designated time of threescore years and ten determined for man.

Webster defines murder as "the unlawful and malicious or premeditated killing of one human being by another; also any killing done while committing some other felony as rape or robbery."

Our newspapers are filled with reports of murder as the crime rate spirals upward.

We remember the sniper who killed 16 in Austin; the demented drifter who snuffed out the lives of 8 nurses in Chicago, the assassins of the Kennedys and Martin Luther King.

A man is shot to death every 30 minutes — according to Drew Pearson.

For instance 80% of all murders in the United States are committed by antagonistic relatives or friendly acquaintances. And half of these, we are told, are the result of drinking.

In one out of every three murders there is a provocative situation in which somebody gets mad, wields a gun, and the result is another murder.

Guns, incidentally, figure in most murders — 60% of them, so that there has been a great deal of talk about gun legislation.

Since 1900 it is believed that at least 800,000 have been murdered by guns, and this does not take into consideration all of the wars in which we were engaged.

In American homes you'll find around 50 million guns. So a provacative situation may get out of hand, or in a drunken stupor someone will grab a gun, and the result is *murder*... sometimes mass murder.

Rioting in our streets is also taking its toll in murders with at least 117 persons killed last year. 41 were killed in Detroit alone during last year's awful rioting in that city.

While the Negro arrest rate for murder is 10 times that among whites, most of the violent crimes committed by Negroes are against other negroes.

Why all of this murder?

Modern psychiatrists disagree over the reason why a man would kill another man. *Freud* held that man has a death instinct that must be satisfied in either suicide or agression against other.

This certainly agrees with the Scriptures which assert man is a sinner and in need of conversion. Jesus said: "... out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, MURDERS, ADULTERIES, FORNICATIONS, THEFTS, FALSE WITNESS, BLASPHEMIES."

The reason people commit murder is because their hearts are filled with hate instead of love, jealousy instead of tranquility, restlessness instead of peace.

The change that comes over a person that receives forgiveness through Jesus Christ is so dramatic, that the *murder instinct* is replaced by such emotions as love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, kindness...

Dr. Fredric Wertham, another modern psychiatrist who is a crusader against violence, argues that man is a product of his environment, and of such cultural influences as violent comic books, or television. The violent man, he notes, is the socially alienated man.

And then, to think that we in America are continuing to feed this menu of *lawlessness and violence* to our children by these paperbacks that they can buy in almost any corner drug store, and see on their television sets all kinds of violence all day long.

Another reason for all of these murders today is man's failure to reckon with Almighty God. One of the most serious acts of this century was the removal of prayer and Bible reading from our public schools. This denial of the Word of God to our children is simply an open invitation to the atheists and communists to take over the schools of America.

Sorry to state it so bluntly, but it's the truth!

As in Romans 1:28 we read: ''... even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, MURDER ...'

A catalogue of sins is mentioned — all the result of forgetting God and forsaking the knowledge of His Word.

Then again, I'm reminded that in 1966 there were committed in this country nearly 11,000 murders. Did you hear it? Nearly 11,000 were killed for no reason at all that would justify their deaths.

And yet, how many murderers were executed that same year for the murders they committed? I'm told just one.

Think of it?

Here you have innocent victims, a little girl strangled by a sex maniac, mothers raped by madmen who then proceded to beat the life out of them and leave them dead . . . 11,000 murders and only one execution,

I can hear someone say — "Don't tell me you are one of those sick radio commentators who believes in capital punishment."

Well, it doesn't matter one iota what I believe. All I know is that the Bible specifically states: "If any one takes another person's life, he *must* be put to death."

Man was made in the image and likeness of God. And to commit murder is one of the most serious offenses ever perpetrated by human kind that carries with it the death penalty.

The sixth commandment says: "Thou shalt not kill." And God told Moses, "Whosoever strikes another, so that he dies, must be put to death."

Incidentally, it is because man has broken this divine covenant that we are told is one reason why God must judge the earth—why he must allow these awful plagues to befall mankind in the Endtime. It is for the purpose of leading men to repentance—of turning from their evil deeds—and of keeping His commandments.

Now we are saved by trusting the blood of Jesus as cleansing for our sins. As the Bible says: "the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

Nevertheless, God has given His commandments, and he reminds us if we love Him we will want to keep those commandments.

We would point out when four attempts were made to assassinate Queen Victoria, a special act was passed by an aroused parliament calling for the death penalty for assassins... and in the remaining years of her reign, no further attempts were made. Is this not another indication that assassinations might be greatly halted if those guilty were punished instead of allowed to go free, or given light sentences.

Even J. Edgar Hoover has called for a tightening of laws and regulations governing malfunctions of justice, adding: "the bleeding hearts of this country have had their say too long."

James C. Brown points out — "All over the world, except in Communist countries, the Communists are doing everything possible to have the other nations abolish Capital Punishment for crimes."

In addition to what we normally consider as murder we might think of such related practices as abortion. Opposition to abortion is based on the view that an unborn child is a human being from the moment of conception. Thus, any act that wilfully ends that life is a violation of God's law, and is equated with murder. This is the position of the Catholic Church and others who hold to a more scriptural view on this subject.

In the United States around a million criminal abortions are performed each year. That is 1 in 5 mothers have abortions performed which might indicate the seriousness of this trend to disregard human life.

In many of our states laws are being changed so as to permit abortions if there is the possibility of physical or mental danger to the mother, or if there is a chance that the child will be born defective.

J. A. Stoudt, staunch editor of THE VOICE magazine, carries an article which declares — "BIRTH CONTROL is murder."

It is apparent that many do not seriously regard the scriptural injunction that "the Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord." It is as though God cannot be trusted with the planning of human lives, and many commit murder by preventing life.

Then, too, some 200,000 Americans try to take their lives each year. About 35,000 succeed.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students. Up to the age of 39, one out of four medical doctor's deaths is a suicide. Suicide, as a form of murder, is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. We would declare unto you today that if your heart is governed by malice, and filled with hate, that you cannot be ready for the coming of the Lord.

There are those who call themselves Christians who are engaged in *bigotries*, racial and religious prejudices, and family disputes... who if the Lord would come would be in danger of being left behind.

Sometimes I fear and tremble when I hear those who speak critically and cruelly of their brethren.

James warns: "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts; for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned; behold, the judge standeth before the door." (James 5:7-9)

Did you hear it?

Is there hate in your heart? The Apostle John declared, "He that hateth his brother is a murderer." And he further stated, "no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." (1: Jno 3:15)

On television a young person was asked what she thought of when she saw someone of another race. And she replied one word — ''hate.''

My friends, if your heart is filled with hate you are a murderer without even committing the act.

And God is seen calling men to repent of this evil — to allow the love of Christ to conquer this sin which will not only keep a person from being ready for our Lord's return, but will condemn one to an eternal hell.

Today, if you hate your neighbor, or hate your husband or your wife, or maybe your children, or your parents . . . you had better get right with God. You had better ask God to forgive you, and for Christ to save you, lest you carry that grudge to your grave, or lose the opportunity to gain heaven.

How serious is this sin, and must be repented of, if you would be ready for Jesus were he to come today.

For remember he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

Among the various harmful drugs being used today — "LSD is the most dangerous" according to Dr. Donald Lourie of New York County's Committee on Narcotics.

Dr. Woodrow Burgess, University of California psychiatrist says he has come across a number of LSD users so hooked by the drug that they have become virtual human zombies.

Dave Wilkerson, founder and director of the TEEN CHALLENGE ministry says: 'I consider marijuana the most dangerous drug used today.'

Wilkerson goes on to say that he is both "shocked and horrified" over statements made by some of our nation's leaders suggesting we should legalize the smoking of marijuana and remove the penalties restricting its possession and sale. Some would lift all the bars and make marijuana as easy to get as aspirin.

One national magazine suggests that ten million Americans have already tried smoking 'pot'. Pot, (another name for smoking marijuana) is 'the thing' with the 'in' crowd today. No longer is the emphasis on drinking parties but 'pot parties'.

Actually, the federal penalty for possession of marijuana is a minimum of 2 years in the penitentiary; the penalty for sale or delivery of the drug is a minimum of 5 years.

The reason for such stringent laws is due to several reasons. First, the use of marijuana and heroin, two most notable illicit drugs, leads to crimes of violence and acts of murder. According to one report — the dope traffic is blamed for 90% of all crimes in the 43 largest cities in this country, for users steal and even kill to get the stuff.

Bill Heirins, noted killer whose name made the headlines during days when I was a news reporter in Chicago, used drugs.

In the second place, the extended use of marijuana can lead to insanity. As Dr. Norman Maylor, a botanist, has noted: "continued marijuana use leads straight to the lunatic asylum."

In the third place we would note that 75% of heroin addicts began with marijuana and graduated to more powerful drugs, in actual case histories.

In the fourth place, diseases related to narcotics addiction, is a known cause of death, contrary to what some might believe. Dr. Milton Helpern, chief medical examiner of New York City, has reported more deaths in the age group of persons 15 to 35 caused by narcotics addiction than from murder, suicide, accidents, or natural causes.

Finally, the combination of alcohol and drugs is a lethal mixture.

Recently, in an automobile accident 5 out of 7 passengers were killed. The autopsy report said all five victims had fresh narcotics needle tracks on their arms.

Brian Epstein, manager of the Beatles, died from overdoses of barbiturates and alcohol.

Is it not remarkable that the Bible should predict for the Endtime — the use of DRUGS.

In the book of Revelation we read of four outstanding sins committed by men who are urged to repent. These are murder, sorceries, fornication and thefts.

The word 'sorceries' is the Greek word PHARMAKIA from which we get our word ''pharmacy''.

Dr. Wuest, noted Greek scholar, says this "word speaks in general of the use of drugs."

Jamieson, Fausset, Brown in their commentary say this word 'sorceries' refers to witchcrafts by means of DRUGS. And reference is made to this use of drugs as one of the evil practices of the last days. (See also Rev 22:15)

And sad to state, many who should be convinced of the dangers of DRUGS persist in their use, rather than heeding the warning message.

For 18 months, at Berkeley investigators sought to discourage drug users. They invaded the world of pot and heroin and LSD to warn of health hazards, cell deterioration, along with the possibility their use may lead to crime and a police record . . . but to no avail.

These kids were in for a new thrill and they could not be convinced.

A young girl enrolled at Berkeley testified of her experimentations as follows: ''First,'' said she, ''I pierced my ears. Then I went on a few marches. Then I tried pot (marijuana). Then I lost my virginity. And soon, I'll probably try LSD. I think after that,'' she notes, ''I will have done everything, and it'll be time to go home.''

Timothy F. Leary has taken his case for the use of marijuana to our highest court. Among other things, he is contending that federal drug laws violate his Constitutional guarantee of freedom.

Why this cry for freedom when it is for the purpose of engaging in all kinds of illicit practices such as the use of drugs.

The Apostle Peter speaks of those who, "while they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage."

Three things we would point out concerning those who think liberty means license.

First, this kind of liberty makes one a slave. How many begin with a cigarette, then pot, and finally hooked on heroin either commit suicide or die of some terrible disease, — buried in an addict's grave.

The person that is free today is the one who has yielded to Jesus Christ, rather than driving lusts and consuming passions. "For Whom the Son maketh free he shall be free indeed."

In the second place, this liberty to do as you please only breeds corruption. It is well known that living a life of dissipation corrupts the body, making it more vulnerable to disease and death. As Scripture again asserts — "The wages of sin is death..."

And, the most serious aspect of those who dissipate their lives with drink and drugs is that they not only often become derelicts of society, but by rejecting the freedom Christ can give they are lost for eternity.

Action magazine notes concerning the drug user, he is not essentially a criminal; but rather an 'empty' person in need of filling.

Today, if your life is empty it can be filled to overflowing . . . filled with love, joy, peace, happiness!

The devil would have us believe happiness results from some far-out experience such as comes from smoking pot, or engaging in an illicit love affair. But this leaves the emptiness of anguish, of guilt and remorse. You — parked in that car — you know it does.

Talk about happiness — the person that discovers the thrill of sins forgiven, peace within, and eternal life . . . has it. This is the IN crowd. All others are out — way out!

The Scripture reminds us that those who have found satisfaction of soul have found the secret to the life that really counts. That secret is to surrender to Christ.

Talk about thrills. As we read: "Thou wilt show me the path of life in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore." Psa. 16:11. Try it and see.

And to think — the blessed hope for the Christian is what lies ahead. The space trip to heaven — mansions on streets of gold — trees with a different kind of fruit each month, with the leaves eaten for healing, and one's thirst satisfied with the water of life.

Talk about "going on a trip." Man, get ready! Jesus is coming soon. For he hath said, "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the son of man cometh."

LSD, marijuana, heroin, alcohol...all are satan's substitutes to provide a thrill that doesn't last. Drugs are the devil's deceptive counterfeit. Only Christ can satisfy the longing of every heart, giving peace that passeth understanding, and joy unspeakable and full of glory. For the life that really counts right now ask Christ to come into your heart and life and begin reading your Bible, and see answers to pray. Don't be fooled by drugs.

Prof. Pitirim Sorokin of Harvard laments: "We are victims of a sex mania as malignant as cancer and as socially menacing as Communism." Says Sorokin "Our sex obsession is reflected in the ever-mounting divorce rate, the upsurge in sex crimes, the emphasis

of sex in radio and TV programs, stage plays and movies, popular songs, pictures, reading matter and advertising."

Australian professor, Hermann Sasse, observes that in America as well as in Western Europe our standards of morality have sunk far below the level of Russia or Red China to that of the Greek and Roman civilizations in their stages of complete disintegration."

Prof. Sasse, writing in CHRISTIANITY TODAY, goes on to observe — "this is not the subjective impression of a few malcontent churchmen, reactionary politicians, and romantic laudatores temporis acti; it is the substantial verdict of well-informed sociologists, historians, jurists, economists, and medical scholars, men with a world-wide outlook and experience in all countries of the Western World."

Particularly noticeable is our moral deterioration.

As U.S. News & World Report puts it: "An era of vast change in sexual morality is now developing in America. Fear is being expressed that the nation may be heading into a time of "sexual anarchy".

Dr. Goodrich Schauffler goes on to observe: "Our Youth, in particular, have been engulfed in the flood of Hollywood's insane emphasis on sex!"

Indeed, what immunization does a young person have today against this invasion of moral corruption and sensual wickedness. Even our schools and our churches are becoming infected with filth.

I happened to come across a study guide for teachers who are confronted with obscene language in the classroom. The book suggests for teachers that they "recreate a classroom situation in which there was a verbal exchange between two pupils who used obscene language. Tape it and play it back." Another suggestion is for teachers to ask pupils to record profane and obscene words they hear or read. And a third suggestion is that children read excerpts from Shakespeare which contain profane or obscene expressions.

Our churches, too, seem to be endorsing immoral behaviour when it should be the church that upholds the standards of the Word of God.

The New York State Council of Churches says State laws holding adultery, fornication, homosexuality, and other deviant sexual practices "among competent and consenting adults" to be criminal acts should be repealed.

God help us!

Sen. Frank Carlson noted . . . "Not only have vast numbers of Americans lost all sense of the sacred, the moral, and the ethical, but the *spiritual leaders* from both the laity and the priesthood are often found in the forefront of this irreligious pursuit of comfort rather than conviction . . . of the pleasant life rather than the meaningful life."

Perhaps a Brisbane, Australia publication — The Courier Mail has an explanation for these times in which we live, saying: "We are not living in ordinary times . . . The morals with which we have grown up are being cast aside . . . God has been dethroned; sex has been deified."

The truth is — God remains the same, and his hatred of sin goes unchanged. And apart from the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit it is nigh to impossible to resist or withstand the pressures of our sin-sick, sex-soaked society.

We would be reminded that the Bible lists FORNICATION as one of the four major sins of the Endtime from which men are commanded to repent. Fornication is a scriptural term which refers to all forms of unlawful or illicit sexual relationships.

First, in our discussion we would like to point out that sex is not wrong of itself.

God made both male and female with normal affections one for the other, along with a desire for love and companionship. There is nothing more normal than to see a young man and a young woman come to the age of marriage, fall in love, and desire a home and family. The marriage relationship, when performed within the bonds of holy matrimony, is ordained of God. For God commanded "two shall be one flesh", and declared, "marriage is honorable". (Eph. 5:31, Heb. 13:4)

However, man with his vile, sinful nature has taken that which God ordained and blest and made of it something cheap, degrading and filthy by perverting that which is holy.

In the second place, the Scriptures warn of the seriousness of sexual sins.

Writes Apostle Paul: "Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind . . . shall inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Cor 6:9-10)

This Scripture shall strike terror to the heart of all guilty. These sins, though condoned by society will condemn one to perdition unless repented of.

Billy Graham, in his book THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS says: "Let me warn you that the Scriptures teach that God hates immorality as much as, or more than, any other sin."

The Apostle James warns of the progression of sin. Lust, we're told, leads to death! We read: "Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. And when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren."

"Keep thyself pure" should be the motto of every young man who may be enticed by lust.

Finally, the call of God is that men repent of these sins or suffer the vengeance of eternal fire.

CHRISTIAN VICTORY magazine notes: "Immorality is so varied and widespread, with so many basic causes for its growth into yet greater evils, that — unless a God given revival comes — judgment seems inevitable and speedy. God is no respector of persons or nations," observes this periodical.

Witnessing the moral degeneracy so common today, we cannot help but believe that our cup of iniquity is full and judgment is about to fall.

PAGEANT magazine has noted: "Adultery seems to be as widely practiced as it must have been in the orginatic days before the Flood."

Somehow this expresses the dilemma we face, and we should remember it was on account of moral laxity and unrestrained desire that God destroyed past civilizations, assuring us He will do it again.

Sodom and Gomorrah, destroyed by fire, stand as an example to all who should afterward live ungodly, writes Peter.

Jude similarly cites these cities given over to fornication and going after strange flesh as even now "suffering the vengeance of eternal fire".

It is apparent that these cities not only suffered physical destruction but their inhabitants are now in the place of torment from whence they shall be judged and returned again to the burning flame.

May God help us to wake up — to turn from our sins of lust and and impurity to trust the Saviour.

Particularly, in view of our Lord's soon return is there the urgent call to believers to live pure and holy lives.

Today, if caught in the vice-grip of sexual sin, REPENT before it's too late. With the help of the Holy Spirit we can have control over our emotions, victory over evil passions, and freedom from the consequences of sin.

Remember, Jesus is coming soon. And he desires a pure and spotless bride.

For He hath said, "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the son on man cometh".

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

Chesterton has declared — "the first men to land upon the moon will find themselves confronted by a huge sign: "THOU SHALT NOT STEAL."

Stealing is taking something that does not rightly belong to us. Entering a store we are given too much change by the clerk and without correcting the error we keep what is not rightfully ours. Is this not stealing? We try to invent reasons why what we have done is legitimate, but God declares it is stealing. After all, it may be a large corporation, and no one would ever know, and without sensing our responsibility to the laws of God and man we keep what is not really ours. It is stealing, regardless of the amount. This could apply to a coin found in the telephone return box, or a stamp on a letter that was mailed to us that was not cancelled and we reuse it again. Or, stealing could be using a parking meter without the intended purpose of paying for time wherein we had parked in a particular space. Or, stealing could be related to going over and above the alloted speed limit which finds us taking privileges that are not ours.

This area of stealing can become greatly involved.

For instance, it applies to employees who are not giving their employers full time for their service, slipping out while on the job for a cup of coffee, or using the company time to conduct your own business, or company equipment, or the company telephone during regular working hours. Certainly it depends a great deal on company regulations as to whether these things are wrong, and also on the heart attitude of a person whether actual fraud is present or whether company policy may permit such action.

While on one hand, it is not God's intention that we be brought into bondage, on the other hand God is concerned lest we disobey his commandment and become guilty of sins that we committed before our conversion. The command of God is clear on this point — that conversion should produce the fruits of right-eousness in our lives. Whereas, once we stole and got away with it, or thought nothing of it, now we are concerned lest we disobey God or offend man. "THOU SHALT NOT STEAL" applies as one of God's commandments after we are saved, as much or more so, as before our conversion.

How careful we need to be that we give no occasion to others to stumble over our careless infractions of the commandments of God.

While we speak of employees stealing from the company, the opposite may be true. Perhaps employers are withholding wages from employees who rightfully deserve more pay, or should be given a raise to compensate for services well done, or for increased family needs.

Whereas, on one hand the Scriptures forbid *striking* as a means of obtaining one's desires, for is this not also a form of stealing? On the other hand, employers are obligated to pay a fair wage to their workers.

The Apostle James refers to this and literally lambasts men who have grown rich at the expense of the poor. This is true in other countries more so than in our own United States. For instance, before Castro took over Cuba we were told there were at least 500 millionaires living in Havana who were the great landowners of Cuba, whereas the working class did not have sufficient to buy the ordinary necessities of life. The rich were getting their profits at the expense of the poor and this is stealing. And this is the reason we have a Castro in Cuba. The rich, by withholding from the poor, actually help the Communist cause and give reason for this ideology which proposes the dividing of the wealth, of sharing it with the poor.

James writes: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you . . . Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. BEHOLD THE HIRE OF THE LABOURERS WHO HAVE REAPED DOWN YOUR FIELDS, WHICH IS OF YOU KEPT BACK BY FRAUD, CRIETH: AND THE CRIES OF THEM WHICH HAVE REAPED ARE ENTERED INTO THE EARS OF THE LORD OF SABAOTH."

Did you hear it?

God is saying that such a condition would prevail in the last days when employers would be holding back that which is rightfuily due the workers; and that He himself would hear the cries of those who were thus defrauded their rightful wages. In South America and in Africa and other places where the white man has gone there has been evidence of colonization of these countries at the expense of the poeple. And it is wrong. That is why England is in trouble today, because of her colonization policies that benefited the rich and robbed the working class. God calls this 'fraud'.

Cheating, too, is stealing. Whether cheating in an examination in school, or sneaking a cookie in the kitchen when no one is watching, it is a form of stealing.

A survey among students in Philadelphia colleges found 80 out of 124 students interviewed admitting to cheating... that's 60%.

Finally, there is stealing against God. And concerning this dreadful sin, many are guilty.

In Malachi we read: ''Will a man rob God?'' And the cry is heard, ''Wherein have we robbed thee?'' And the answer is given: ''In tithes and offerings.''

I'm afraid many suppose the tithe is optional. That is, we give a tenth of our income if we feel like it, or we can afford it.

TIME magazine noted that the total income to churches one year was \$4 billion. Then the magazine goes on to say, "If the 112 million Americans who claim a religious affiliation had given one-tenth — the traditional tithe — of their personal income to churches, that total could have topped \$25 billion.

We regard stealing as serious, particularly as it affects robbing a bank, or holding up a grocer or a filling-station attendant. But think of robbing God?

2.5

Not only are we commanded to give the tithe, but in addition, there should be our offerings given to God.

How many ministries suffer from a lack of funds simply because many are stealing from God. Funds belonging to the work of the Lord go into countless personal luxuries, unnecessary family expenditures, foolish investments, and needless home equipment.

One of the strongest rebukes ever given came from John Wesley, who in 1779 accused his audience of robbing God by withholding their substance from the work of the Lord.

Cried Wesley to his parishioners: "Many of your brethren, beloved of God, have no food to eat; they have no raiment to put on; and not a place where to lay their head. Why?" shouted Wesley, "Because you impiously, unjustly, and cruelly detain from them... See that poor member of Christ, pinched with hunger, shivering with cold, half naked! Meantime, you have plenty of this world's goods — meat, drink and apparel." "But you say you can't afford it! Never more utter such a stupid cant: palpable absurdity!" cries Wesley. "whoever does this ought to be excluded from a Christian society."

Particularly in view of the soon coming of our Lord should we not be good stewards of that entrusted to us, whether time or money.

Dr. A. J. Gordon once noted: "He who is not a missionary Christian will be a missing Christian when the great day comes of bestowing the rewards of service."

Dr. Gordon went on to say: "I warn you it will go hard with you when our Lord comes, if He finds your wealth hoarded up in needless accumulations instead of being sacredly devoted to giving the gospel to the lost."

If this is true, we would do well to examine our own hearts to ask ourselves the question — Will the Lord be grieved over our failure to do more with that which was entrusted to us? Or, because of our faithfulness, both in giving and in serving, will He say — "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!"

May we not be found robbing God, or guilty of stealing from man, in that day when Christ appears. Rather, let us pay honest debts, give of our tithes, and if necessary sell what we have to provide an offering so the work of God will go forward unhindered. Believing our Lord's return is near and hastening, let us come to trust Him with all of our heart, and live for Him daily.

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!

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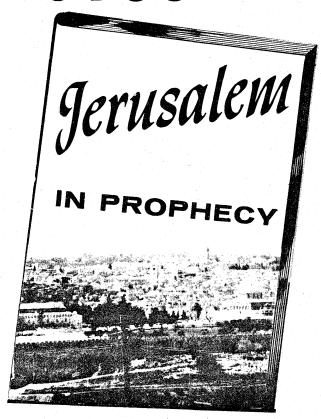


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