

Oct 1, 1959

an unseen Maker. They each have a created purpose and make their contribution to earth's growing economy. Each living creature is equipped with instinct and a measure of intelligence. All these operate according to designed sets of implanted laws.

<sup>7</sup> Since no law makes itself, every law requires an intelligent lawgiver to make the law. Hence a lawgiver far greater than a human watchmaker was needed to bring forth from earth's dust this multitude of different bodily forms of living creatures and then to set them living according to nature's amazing laws. By still further laws this invisible Lawgiver arranged for them to reproduce, each one, copies of its own likeness. No family kinds can interbreed to establish a new kind, although varieties within a family kind are many. No, not one created kind came into existence by chance. An invisible Lawgiver, a mighty Creator, was at work.

<sup>8</sup> Human nature is basically the same whether man lives in Asia, Africa, Europe or the Americas. The superiority of man over the animals is everywhere demonstrated in man's basic attributes. By nature man *loves* not only himself but his mate and his children. For this reason he feeds, protects and educates his family. By nature man has a deep sense of *justice* of what is right and wrong. By nature man not only has physical *power* but also has *powers* of mind and reason to gain knowledge. By nature man tries to use such acquired knowledge in a practical way to further his interests. This is a way of *wisdom*. Well, then, what do these basic facts teach? They plainly teach that man's nature shows the same attributes inherent in man's Creator. Thus in addition to na-

ture's teaching that there is a Mighty Maker, a Master Intelligence and an invisible Lawgiver, man's nature shows such Maker to be a personage of *love, justice, power* and *wisdom*. Surely such a First Cause of the heavens and the earth and its **fullness must be the Creator. Wise men call such Creator, The True God.** "For his invisible qualities are clearly seen from the world's creation onward, because they are understood by the things made, even his eternal power and Godship." (Rom. 1:20) So observed a lawyer of the first century of our Common Era.

<sup>9</sup> The world-famous scientist Einstein, whose theory of relativity played an important part toward the invention of the atomic bomb, had this to say about nature's testimony as to an invisible intelligent Creator: "It is enough for me to contemplate the mystery of conscience life perpetuating itself through all eternity; to reflect upon the marvelous structure of the universe, which we can dimly perceive, and to try humbly to comprehend even an infinitesimal part of the INTELLIGENCE MANIFEST IN NATURE."—*What Has Religion Done for Mankind?*, p. 23.

<sup>10</sup> Though nature testifies eloquently of the existence of such a mighty *intelligent* Creator and has disclosed an abundance of material facts, yet it is silent on many vital questions. From where did we come? Why are we here? Where do we go? What is the mystery of life, how did it get started and what keeps it going? How did this wonderful natural world with all its variety in earth, sea and sky come into existence? Where did this thing called "sin," together with imperfection and error, come from? Why is it that the human organism, which shows every possibility of being kept in operation for eternity, dies? Why

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7. How did the great Lawgiver arrange for the continued existence of these creatures in the forms he had created?

8. (a) What four attributes do men basically have no matter where they live? (b) What do these basic attributes teach?

9. How did Einstein feel about nature's testimony to an invisible, intelligent Creator?

10. On what vital questions is nature silent, and where can we get answers to such questions?

Oct 1, 1959

Bible questions that nature is silent on, to see whether higher guidance of truth is forthcoming.

<sup>20</sup> Who made the heavens and the earth? The very opening words of the Bible answer that emphatically: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." —Gen. 1:1.

<sup>21</sup> Who is this creative God? Does he have a distinctive personal name? The concluding words of the very first document in the Bible disclose his name and connect it to his creative activity. They say: "This is a history of the heavens and the earth in the time of their being created, in the day that Jehovah God made earth and heaven." (Gen. 2:4) Later in the Bible the prophet Moses speaks to God, saying: "'Suppose I am now come to the sons of Israel and I do say to them, 'The God of your forefathers has sent me to you,' and they do say to me, 'What is his name?' What shall I say to them?' Then God said once more to Moses: 'This is what you are to say to the sons of Israel: 'Jehovah the God of your forefathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name to eternity.'" (Ex. 3:13, 15) JEHOVAH, therefore, is the unique name that distinguishes him as the True God from all other so-called gods mentioned in the Bible.

<sup>22</sup> What was Jehovah God's purpose in creating the earth? In answer we hear the evidence given by the Living God himself speaking to us out of the pages of the Bible. "This is what Jehovah has said, the Holy One of Israel and the Former of him: 'Ask me even about the things that are coming concerning my sons; and concerning the activity of my hands you people should command me. I myself have

made the earth and have created even man upon it. I—my own hands have stretched out the heavens, and all the army of them I have commanded.' For this is what Jehovah has said, the Creator of the heavens, He The true God, the Former of the earth and the Maker of it, He the One who firmly established it, who did not create it simply for nothing, who formed it even to be inhabited: 'I am Jehovah, and there is no one else. In a place of concealment I spoke not.'" (Isa. 45:11, 12, 18, 19) That settles it; God formed this earth to be inhabited for all time, regardless of man's feeble attempts today to ruin it with his atomic bombs and other nuclear devices.

<sup>23</sup> How was man made by God the Creator? The Bible clearly says: "Then Jehovah God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul." (Gen. 2:7) Again in another place it says: "'The first man Adam became a living soul.' . . . The first man is out of the earth and made of dust." (1 Cor. 15:45, 47) Plainly, then, man is a soul. He does not possess a separate soul that is supposed to be immortal and to transmigrate, as falsely claimed by religious clergy. Scientists have confirmed the Bible account by proving that over ninety elements of the earth are found in the human body of flesh. So man is truly out of the dust. Fittingly, when God sentenced the disobedient Adam to death, he said to Adam: "In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return." —Gen. 3:19.

<sup>24</sup> What did God tell man and woman his purpose was in creating them? The Scrip-

23. According to Scripture what is man, and does science agree?

24. How did Jehovah show his purpose in creating man and woman, and how was communication with the first human pair possible?

20, 21. Who made the heavens? What is his unique name, and what Scriptural support is there for it?

22. Why did Jehovah create the earth?

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<sup>25</sup> What c to Adam a The Bible meant: "Jehovah God p settle him vate it and 8, 15) With family from paradise of larged unt earth, thus conditions : is no menti purpose for any other earth-men, fort and se space suits quer and pc

<sup>26</sup> Was it referred by d world and earth? The

25, 26. (a) To earth," and do other planets?

Feb 1, 1971

Secretary-General U Thant called for reforms in the United Nations and a "body of enforceable world law" backed by "the necessary executive, legislative and judicial functions," saying: "The degradation of our environment is now so serious that unless immediate measures are taken, the very capacity of the planet itself to sustain human life will be in doubt."

About two months later, when opening the twenty-fifth annual session of the UN General Assembly, Thant asked: "Is it not high time for the leaders of this world to turn radically away from the errors of the past and to realize that understanding, love and tolerance are the highest forms of interest on our small and interdependent planet?"

"Understanding, love and tolerance"—has the United Nations made progress in teaching these qualities and inculcating them into the minds and hearts of people everywhere, all over the earth? The facts say No. Can we count on the world's religions to do this? Not when we see how little they have succeeded in their centuries of existence and observe how unsettled and troubled they are themselves.

GOD'S WAY TO BRING THE NEEDED CHANGE

The Bible shows that the Creator of earth, man and all forms of life, is the only One who can and will provide the global direction and moral guidance the inhabitants of this planet so desperately need. His selected means for doing this is a government, heaven based and headed by his own Son, Christ Jesus. That government is the Kingdom for which persons have been praying for centuries.

But someone may here say, "Just how realistic is it to put our hope in God to straighten out matters on earth if, after nineteen centuries, that prayer still has not seen fulfillment?"

Would it not be better to ask: "How

realistic is it to keep on putting hope in imperfect men to do the job when, after all these centuries, their leaders now admit their concern and even anxiety for the future of mankind as a whole?" Rather than think it strange to turn to the everlasting God for hope for the future, is it not far stranger that people should keep on trusting dying men to bring them out of the world's worsening situation?

Men of affairs admit that for any real improvement to come there must be full cooperation on the part of people, rulers and subjects, earth wide. Selfishness, national and individual, must be set aside. Do you personally see any genuine progress in that direction? Are people in your neighborhood changing in that direction?

Make no mistake about it, however. The Bible does *not* say that the needed change will come about by world conversion of all persons by religious organizations. It foretold in plain terms that conditions on earth would develop to their present point for the very reason that the nations—rulers and people in general—would stubbornly refuse to submit to God's will and bring their lives into harmony with it.

In the last book of the Bible, the nations of the earth, their armies, and the people, from both the 'free world' and the 'enslaved world,' are shown as opposing the carrying out of God's will for the earth by his kingdom. For that reason, Christ Jesus is represented as 'shepherding the nations with a rod of iron,' ridding the earth of all who oppose his Kingdom rule. (Rev. 19:11-21) This is, in fact, what you pray for if you pray, "Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth."

1914 THE TURNING POINT

As far back as its issue of March 1880, this journal, *The Watchtower*, called attention to Bible prophecies focusing on the year 1914 as the date when what Jesus

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This m shown fr distressing oped and tensifi since 19 are sol proof that live in t generati that will God's w take place earth. Y that we c now do Christ Je said: "Ra yourself erect and your hee up, beca your deliv ance is g ting near. When you these thi occurri

Jehovah and against his anointed one." This prophecy suggested that leaders from more than one land would unite in order to attack Jehovah's Anointed One, or Messiah. And so it was. The Jewish religious leaders, King Herod, and the Roman governor Pontius Pilate all played a part in having Jesus put to death. Former enemies Herod and Pilate became fast friends from then on. (Matthew 27:1, 2; Luke 23:10-12; Acts 4:25-28) For further proof that Jesus was the Messiah, please see the accompanying chart entitled "Some Outstanding Messianic Prophecies."

<sup>10</sup> *The testimony of Jehovah God* is a third line of evidence supporting Jesus' Messiahship. Jehovah sent angels to let people know that Jesus was the promised Messiah. (Luke 2:10-14) In fact, during Jesus' earthly life, Jehovah himself spoke from heaven, expressing his approval of Jesus. (Matthew 3:16, 17; 17:1-5) Jehovah God gave Jesus the power to perform miracles. Each one of these was further divine proof that Jesus was the Messiah, for God would never give a fraud power to perform miracles. Jehovah also used his holy spirit to inspire the Gospel accounts, so that the evidence of Jesus' Messiahship became part of the Bible, the most widely translated and distributed book in history.—John 4:25, 26.

<sup>11</sup> In all, these categories of evidence include hundreds of facts that identify Jesus as the promised Messiah. Clearly, then, true Christians have rightly viewed him as 'the one to whom all the prophets bore witness' and the key to the knowledge of God. (Acts 10:43) But there is more to learn about Jesus Christ than the fact that he

10. In what ways did Jehovah testify that Jesus was his promised Anointed One?

11. How much evidence is there that Jesus was the Messiah?

was the Messiah. Where did he originate? What was he like?

### JESUS' PREHUMAN EXISTENCE

<sup>12</sup> Jesus' life course might be divided into three stages. The first began long before he was born on the earth. Micah 5:2 said that the Messiah's origin was "from early times, from the days of time indefinite." And Jesus plainly said that he had come from "the realms above," that is, from heaven. (John 8:23; 16:28) How long had he existed in heaven before coming to the earth?

<sup>13</sup> Jesus was called God's "only-begotten Son" because Jehovah created him directly. (John 3:16) As "the first-born of all creation," **Jesus was then used by God to create all other things.** (Colossians 1:15; Revelation 3:14) John 1:1 says that "the Word" (Jesus in his prehuman existence) was with God "in the beginning." So the Word was with Jehovah when "the heavens and the earth" were created. God was addressing the Word when He said: "Let us make man in our image." (Genesis 1:1, 26) Likewise, the Word must have been God's beloved "master worker," described at Proverbs 8:22-31 as wisdom personified, laboring at Jehovah's side in the making of all things. After Jehovah brought him into existence, the Word spent ages with God in heaven before becoming a man on earth.

<sup>14</sup> No wonder Colossians 1:15 calls Jesus "the image of the invisible God"! Through untold years of close association, the obedient Son came to be just like his Father, Jehovah. This is another reason why Jesus is the key to

12, 13. (a) How do we know that Jesus existed in heaven before he came to the earth? (b) Who is "the Word," and what did he do before he became a human?

14. Why is Jesus called "the image of the invisible God"?