

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

VOL. XIII

MARCH, 1948

The PLAIN TRUTH About Divorce and Remarriage

By HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

WHAT do you British think of your former King Edward's marriage to 'Wally' Simpson?" I asked the big, handsome, intelligent-appearing chauffeur we had engaged to drive Mrs. Armstrong and me to the many places it was necessary for us to go in London.

"Well, sir," he replied in the very best of the King's English, "we just don't think much of the Duke of Windsor, sir—we've rather forgotten him. His marriage to your American divorcee was not, of course, the real reason for the abdication; but it provided a most opportune excuse, because Britain would never tolerate a divorced woman as a queen.

"Of course," he hurried to explain, "it wasn't because she was an American. We should have been very glad, indeed, to have had an American woman for a queen. Even if he had fallen in love with a woman from one of your very humblest families, we should have welcomed her if she were a pure woman. But over here, sir, we regard marriage as a most sacred thing. *And it's for life!* A divorce is a disgrace."

And that is the prevalent conception today in England, and always has been, distorted screen versions from Hollywood notwithstanding.

Contrast that view with the legalized moral toboggan slide sending America to her doom!

AMERICA leads the world in divorces. Divorce has become the nation's number one social and legal problem. The chances now are almost one in three that *your own marriage* will end in divorce!

What are the real "Bible grounds" for divorce and remarriage? What's the true *significance* of this alarming trend?

Here's a courageous, straight-from-the-shoulder article **DARING TO TELL YOU THE PLAIN TRUTH**—an article that will directly affect nearly every third reader!

The alarming rise in the divorce rate is not merely America's growing "*Tragedy*"—it is America's growing **SIN**—a sin which America could prevent, and *for which she will PAY!*

Every Third or Fourth Home Affected!

In telling you the **PLAIN TRUTH** on this vital subject, it is realized this truth strikes home to every third reader in our large national circulation!

It's realized, too, that some will become offended at the **TRUTH**. It is not our purpose, however, to offend people, but rather to please God and to carry out His solemn commission to us: "**CRY ALOUD, AND SPARE**

NOT! LIFT UP THY VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET AND SHOW MY PEOPLE THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS, AND THE HOUSE OF JACOB THEIR SINS!" (Isa. 58:1).

That we must do, no matter whom it offends—and even though *this* sin reaches into, perhaps, every fourth home where this magazine will be read! This is an appalling national sin that reaches, also, to high Heaven and threatens to destroy this great nation and bring upon it the wrath of God!

But, if this sin exists in every fourth home where this magazine is read, **THAT IS THE MOST IMPELLING REASON FOR SENDING INTO THOSE HOMES GOD'S TRUTH!**

And moreover, hundreds of our radio listeners and **PLAIN TRUTH** readers have requested, and even demanded an article on this burning question.

Where GOD Places the Blame!

Do you know where **GOD** places the blame for this colossal national sin? The Eternal places it squarely on the **PREACHERS** who have neglected telling the nation **GOD'S TRUTH!**

Listen to God's stinging indictment of the self-professing ministers!

"My people hath been lost sheep: *their shepherds* (preachers) *have caused them to go astray.*" (Jer. 50:6).

In this article we propose to give you the plain **WORD OF GOD**, straight from the shoulder, hoping and praying you will not become angry at the truth.

Those who do take offense will be offended at GOD, and HIS WORD, because these laws are not ours, but GOD'S!

God's Laws Protect the HOME

Did you ever realize that God's laws are designed primarily to do two things—(1) keep people in a close and right relationship with GOD and NEIGHBOR, and (2) protect the FAMILY—the HOME?

God made the husband the head of the wife, and the parents the head over their children. The fifth command protects this relationship: "Honor thy father and thy mother." And, again: "*Thou shalt not commit ADULTERY!*"

That command was given to PROTECT THE HOME! To prevent broken homes, juvenile delinquents, untrained children!

Marriage by God's Authority Only

Now notice the first, original, fundamental, basic rule of all in the husband-and-wife—the family—relationship.

When God first created man upon the earth HE ordained the marriage union. Marriage was not instituted by authority of a man-made court, or the laws of a legislature or a congress.

Notice: "And the Eternal GOD said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him." (Gen. 2:18).

And Jesus said: ". . . from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be ONE FLESH. What therefore GOD hath joined together, let not man put asunder. . . . And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." (Mark 10:6-9, 11-12).

There is the FOUNDATION of the marriage union!

There is the BASIS of family life! There is the DIVINE LAW upon which the fate of the nation rests!

Did you notice what that basis is?

Almighty GOD, not a human legislative body, created the human race—made us male and female.

It is GOD, not a congress or legislature, who ORDAINED, created, established the marriage institution.

GOD, not a human minister, justice of the peace or other officer, joins husband and wife in marriage as ONE FLESH.

It started with the creation of the

first man and the first woman—it is an institution for ALL PEOPLE, ALL RACES, and for ALL TIME. It is a FLESHLY union, not a spiritual one.

And GOD denies man any authority whatsoever to DIVORCE what HE has joined *for life*. What GOD has joined together for this natural life, He commands, "let not man put asunder." All who are a party to this "putting asunder" by divorce, whether legislatures who pass laws, judges who grant divorces, men and women who apply for and receive them, or ministers who remarry them to another, ALL are guilty of disobeying the express command: "LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER."

Any man who divorces his wife and marries another commits ADULTERY; any woman who leaves her husband and marries another *commits adultery!* And ADULTERY IS SIN, and the penalty is DEATH—the second death from which there is no resurrection—ETERNAL punishment! And *that* will be decreed in the COURT OF HEAVEN, human courts to the contrary notwithstanding!

Human Courts Without Authority

If you can just get this one point fully understood, and straightened in your mind, the whole question of divorce and remarriage will be clear.

It is GOD, not man, who *joins* husband and wife together!

We call marriage "HOLY matrimony," or "HOLY Wedlock." Why? What makes it HOLY? Only the fact that it is a DIVINE institution, ordained of GOD—that it is GOD who joins the man and woman as ONE FLESH.

The minister doesn't "tie the knot." The minister, justice of the peace or other officer authorized by men, merely conducts the ceremony. It is ALMIGHTY GOD who "*ties the knot.*" It is GOD who binds them as one flesh FOR LIFE.

It pertains to "saved" and "unsaved" alike—to all races, creeds, and colors. It is not an ordinance of the CHURCH—the marriage institution started with CREATION, long before there was any church. It is for MALE and FEMALE, regardless of the church. They become ONE FLESH, not one spirit. From Creation to now, every man and woman who have taken each other as man and wife have been JOINED TOGETHER as ONE FLESH by the Eternal GOD for the remainder of their natural lives!

One thing, and one only, can break that marriage union—death!

Understand that BASIC FOUNDATION of the marriage institution, and everything else becomes clear. Marriage

is not of human institution; it is not a political, a civil, a legal, or even a church institution—it was originated with Adam and Eve from Creation; it was instituted by GOD, and not man; its authority is solely that of GOD, not man!

Therefore MAN-MADE LAWS CONTRARY TO THOSE OF GOD HAVE NO AUTHORITY OVER MARRIAGE! Its only binding laws are those of GOD. And GOD HAS NEVER GIVEN ANY AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER FOR ANY BODY OF MEN, CIVIL, ECCLESIASTICAL OR OTHERWISE, TO LEGISLATE ON MARRIAGE CONTRARY TO HIS MARRIAGE LAWS!

Since our human governments have legislated laws concerning marriage, and since we are to be SUBJECT to the government that is over us (but without breaking the laws of God), all couples naturally should satisfy the man-made laws so far as they conform to those of God, by securing a marriage license and having a legal ceremony properly recorded.

But every state legislature which passes laws authorizing divorce and remarriage is defying Almighty God, and WHOLLY WITHOUT AUTHORITY!

Any human judge who grants a divorce based upon such unauthorized man-made laws stands himself in contempt of the HIGHER court of the Eternal GOD!

Anyone who procures a divorce from wife or husband from any such unauthorized human court receives a divorce which is INVALID—not legal or binding according to the LAWS OF GOD!

When any person, holding such a "divorce," marries and lives with another, THE WHOLE PROCEDURE IS WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM GOD—and such a person is NOT in fact or in God's sight married to this second husband or wife, but instead is merely LIVING IN ADULTERY with this second person!

And any professing minister of Jesus Christ who performs such a ceremony involving such a divorced person is himself DOUBLY GUILTY, and will be so held in the final judgment!

Yes, the MAIN REASON for so much of this legally licensed (by man) ADULTERY in our land is the SILENCE of the ministers concerning the TRUTH—their actual upholding and condoning of this SIN, their participation in it!

One incidental point should be made clear just here. The SIN is not the

Please Continue on Page 4

WHERE is this ATOMIC AGE *Leading?*

Now scientists have made snow, will they soon prevent hurricanes, banish lightning, control the weather?

ARE you keeping abreast of this twentieth century "MARCH OF SCIENCE?"

At the turn of the century, we were beginning to see the "horseless carriage" on our streets. A little later we began to actually see men fly in the air.

But now, as we approach the middle of the century, we enter the new "Atomic Age." We hear of the marvelous blessings that may come to us thru the miracle of atomic power.

The rocket is here, and already we have seen photographs of this earth taken 100 miles up in space.

And now, in laboratories, physicists have produced man-made snow, and in a laboratory in Schenectady, N. Y., it is possible to flounder your way thru a man-made blizzard. Deep-browed mathematicians assure us they are preparing to control the climate on a world-wide basis.

Soon, we are now informed, we can call up the weather bureau and ask them to turn on the heat if we're too cold. Or, if we want some snow for skiing, a breeze for sailing, sunshine for a ball game, or rain for the garden, we can have it just as we wish it, by asking the right man to just push the proper button!

A MARCH, or a RACE?

But in this day of speed and more speed, it is in fact not a "march" of science, but a RACE of scientists for power to control the world for war-making despots lusting for world rule.

I'm reminded of an uncle of mine, who, some thirty years ago fell asleep in his bedside prayer beside my aunt, praying, drowsily, ". . . and Oh Lord, give us better roads and more speed!" The question today is whether we are getting *100 much speed!*

The atomic bomb so far has not been put to any peace-time use. It's reported, as this is written, that Russia is now making an atomic bomb, and her efforts are nearing success. During the war German scientists were working on a plan whereby they expected to place

gigantic mirrors in the sky by means of rocket ships, and manipulate them so as to reflect the sun's rays powerfully multiplied on enemy cities, burning them instantly to a crisp!

And, if man ever learns to harness, control, and manufacture weather according to his whim, you may be sure this power will be used to *destroy*, in a mad conquest for power to RULE THE WORLD!

"This They Begin to Do"

There was a time when the whole earth was of one language. And in due course of time, they learned to make brick, and mortar.

Then the leaders said to themselves, "Come on, let us make ourselves great, and a lasting name for ourselves, by building a city, and a great tower whose top reaches to heaven. It will huddle people together, instead of permitting them to be scattered over the earth. Then we can organize the people, regiment them, and exact a profit from their sweat and toil."

Thus, the idea of modern civilization was born—an idea based on ORGANIZING humanity on a competitive basis, for purposes of GAIN to the leaders—and the UNIT of the idea was the building of great CITIES.

But the Eternal looked down upon this city and this great tower which these men began to build. And God said, "Behold the people is one, and they have all one language; and THIS they begin to do! and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."

Or, as it is in the Moffatt translation: "if this is what they do, to start with, nothing that they ever undertake will prove too hard for them. Come, let us go down and make a babble of their language on the spot, so that they cannot understand one another's speech. Thus did the Eternal scatter them all over the wide earth." (Gen. 11:1-9).

As soon as men learned to *build*, with brick and mortar, ambitious leaders

seized upon this power to rule the world, for their personal greed and vanity. God had not intended men to be huddled together in cities, yielding themselves to the authority and aggrandizement of leaders over them. When men started turning the world into one great organized city, and building a tower to heaven, God INTERVENED, took matters into His own hands, confused their language, and thereby scattered them over the earth. Men persisted in the idea of organizing society, with cities as the unit of a paganized civilization. And our present world is the result.

Until now, the confusion of languages, and the distances over the earth, have kept this system broken up into many cities, and many nations, scattered over the earth.

Now, ONE WORLD—and *again* "This They Begin to Do!"

But the speed of modern science in this twentieth century has shrunk the world until it is no farther today from Moscow, or Calcutta, or Sydney, to San Francisco than it was across two counties a hundred years ago.

Modern transportation and modern communication by telegraph, telephone and radio have brought humanity back once again to ONE WORLD. And, as KNOWLEDGE INCREASES as it was prophesied for this Age-End, men are learning to speak one another's languages.

Today, in this twentieth-century ONE WORLD, men are learning to do new things.

They learn to make vehicles self-propelling by gasoline, and soon our factories are turning out armored cars and TANKS.

Man learns to fly swifter than the birds, and soon his planes are laden with destructive BOMBS, and with his new inventions he goes forth conquering and to conquer!

Finally, man unlocks the secret of
Please Continue on Page 6

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding.

VOL. XIII NO. 1

Published by
THE RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

Edited by
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Box 111, Pasadena, Calif.

Sent FREE to all who request it,
as the Lord provides. Address
all communications to the editor.

NOTICE: Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. IMPORTANT!

Divorce and Remarriage

Continued from Page 2

ceremony alone, but the SEX RELATIONSHIP which CONTINUES after the ceremony.

The Principle Scriptures

The basic Scriptures on the subject of marriage and divorce are these, in addition to those given above:

"It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: but I (Jesus Christ) say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." (Mat. 5:31-32—part of Jesus' sermon on the Mount.)

"The Pharisees also came unto Him, tempting Him, and saying unto Him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And He answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be ONE FLESH? Wherefore they are no more twain, but ONE flesh. What therefore GOD hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto Him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for forni-

cation, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." (Mat. 19:3-9).

Before quoting the other Scriptures, let us examine these more closely. Here are the ONLY TWO places in the New Testament where any exception whatsoever is given. Here, then, is stated the ONLY "BIBLE GROUNDS" for a second marriage (except, of course, after the death of a mate).

Notice, in speaking to the Pharisees, Jesus went back to the very beginning of creation for HIS AUTHORITY for the laws of God respecting marriage. The man-ordained laws in the nation Israel were contrary, and NOT BINDING TODAY.

But He did make one exception: "except it be for FORNICATION."

What is "fornication"?

Is it the same thing as adultery? NOT AT ALL! "Fornication" and "adultery" are two altogether different things.

Here is the Webster Dictionary definition: "Fornication—Illicit sexual intercourse on the part of an UNMAR-

RIED person." "Adultery—Voluntary sexual intercourse by a married man with another than his wife or by a married woman with another than her husband."

"Fornication" is committed BEFORE marriage, and only by an UNmarried person. Adultery is UNFAITHFULNESS to a husband or wife.

Why did Jesus make this explanation about "except it be for fornication?" He was speaking to the strict, legalistically minded hypocritical Pharisees. They were questioning him so closely about the laws of marriage in an effort to trap him. They were familiar with every detail of the law. So to be explicit and legally exact in answering them, Jesus here referred to the laws as recorded in Deut. 24:1 and 22:19 regarding marriage.

These laws provided that, if a man married a woman, and, after marriage found she had not been a virgin—that she had committed fornication BEFORE marriage to him—he was allowed to put her away. It was not actually a divorce but rather an ANNULMENT—a cancelling out of the marriage. The man had been tricked—deceived—the victim of a fraud. He had no way of knowing this until after the marriage ceremony. The assumption is that God, having known it, NEVER JOINED TOGETHER this man and woman at all. They are not bound in God's sight—the ceremony is nullified, just as if it never had taken place. The man is left in the status of not having been married at all. He is, then, free to marry, just as if this fraudulent ceremony, now erased, had never occurred.

This is NOT strictly speaking a DIVORCE, at all! It is not a separating, divorcing, or putting asunder of a couple joined as ONE FLESH by God, for in this case God never had joined them as one. WHA! God has actually joined together as ONE FLESH, God will not, and commands man not to separate. That is the principle.

The Old Testament Example

Turn just briefly to these two Old Testament Scriptures.

"When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her; then let him write her a bill of divorcement." (Deut. 24:1). This uncleanness, it is made plain in Deut. 22:13-20, refers to fornication committed BEFORE marriage. Notice:

"If any man take a wife, and go in unto her and hate her, and give occasions of speech against her, and bring up an evil name upon her, and say, I

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of The WORLD TOMORROW!

TO THE NATION, AND CANADA:

XEG—150,000 watts, most powerful station in North America—1050, at center of dial—8:00 P.M. Central time EVERY NIGHT except Saturday; and 5:30 EVERY week-day morning.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST:

XERB—50,000 watts—1090 on dial—9:00 P.M. Sundays; also 6:30 EVERY week-day morning.

KXL—Portland—10,000 watts, Oregon's most powerful station—750 on dial—7:30 A.M. Saturdays, 6:30 A.M. Sundays.

KVAN—Vancouver, Wash.—910 on dial—5 P.M. Sundays.

KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—11:00 P.M. Sundays.

KXA—Seattle—770 on dial—9:30 A.M. Sundays.

took this woman, and when I came to her, *I found her not a maid*: then shall the father of the damsel, and her mother, take and bring forth the tokens of *the damsel's virginity* unto the elders of the city in the gate: . . . and the elders of that city shall take that man and chastise him; . . . because he hath brought an evil name *upon a virgin* of Israel: and SHE SHALL BE HIS WIFE; HE MAY NOT PUT HER AWAY ALL HIS DAYS." (Deut. 22:13-19).

Notice, his EXCUSE for putting her away was that she was not a virgin—that she had committed fornication BEFORE marriage to him. But in case the man accused her falsely and attempted by a lie to free himself from the marriage, the man was fined and punished, and forced to take the woman as his wife FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS LIFE—because in this case she was a pure woman, NOT guilty of fornication but a virgin, and so GOD HAD JOINED THEM FOR LIFE, AND NO DIVORCE WAS PERMITTED FOR ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER.

But, in case such a man rightly accused the woman he had married, notice how the law operates:

"But if this thing be true, and the tokens of virginity be not found for the damsel: then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father's (not her husband's) house." (Verses 20-21).

This shows, too, how serious the sin of fornication is regarded by God. Today general estimates are that perhaps two out of three young women, and perhaps nine out of ten young men have been guilty of fornication before marriage! Yes, this is FOLLY IN ISRAEL TODAY! One a great proportion of young people today do not even consider seriously! This is just one of our popularly condoned SINS that is bringing DOOM to America today!

This shows HOW FAR this nation has drifted from God, and the low ebb of our morals! And it paves the way for that still more serious sin, ADULTERY, with our national rampage of divorce and remarriage!

The NEW Testament Example

The New Testament example of this is in the case of the birth of Jesus Christ Himself.

These Christ-rejecting Pharisees, knowing that Joseph was not the real father of Jesus, and rejecting the truth that HE was conceived of the Holy

Spirit, sneered at Him: "We be not born of fornication." (John 8:41). By this they insinuated that His mother Mary was guilty of fornication BEFORE marriage, and Jesus of being illegitimately born. Plainly, they understood the meaning of "fornication" to be an act committed BEFORE marriage.

And at first, even Joseph, Mary's husband, believed Mary to be guilty of fornication, and "with child" as a result, not knowing Jesus was begotten not by any human father, but by GOD thru the Holy Spirit.

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused (married) to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph *her husband* (they were already married, not just engaged), being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example (according to the law of Deut. 22:20-21) was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." (Mat. 1:18-21).

Now notice carefully! Joseph knew God's laws regarding marriage. He supposed Mary guilty of fornication—an act committed BEFORE marriage. And he was going to put her away "*before they came together*"—immediately! The point I want you to catch here is that IF he were to take advantage of this one exception of fornication, he must do it BEFORE HE LIVED WITH HER AS A WIFE. He must not accept her as a wife at all, but before he does, if she is a fornicatress and he wishes to put her away, the marriage must be SET ASIDE—erased, annulled.

But a man can, if he wishes, accept the woman he has married as his wife and live with her, in which case the union becomes valid in God's sight, and they are then BOUND TO EACH OTHER FOR LIFE. Undoubtedly, in a day of low morals and prevalent promiscuity before marriage such as exists today, the best course in such a case would be to forgive the sin of fornication, accept the wife or husband, in which case the marriage becomes binding, and live together.

A man or woman is not barred from marriage for life because of fornication. Altho it is a sin, and very serious in God's sight, it is a sin that can be forgiven upon repentance by the blood of Christ, and it would be better, when two are in love, to forgive if either or both are guilty of fornication, and make the marriage binding.

That a woman guilty of fornication was not barred from marrying is shown by the passage in Deut. 24:1-2. If she marries a man who did not know of her sin, on discovering it he is permitted immediately to put her away and annul the marriage. "And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife," (Verse 2). This shows that if the second man is willing to accept her, she may become his wife. But after that, she cannot return to the first man who had his marriage annulled, because in actual fact she never was really joined to him by God, but IS now joined to the second man, and is bound to HIM for life.

Someone will be bound to bring up the question: What if it is the MAN who was guilty of fornication—can the woman put HIM away in the same manner? While the Scriptures are silent on this specifically, yet it is my judgment, and I believe I have the mind of God, that, since God has no double standard, and is no respecter of persons, that this law applies exactly the same to either sex.

Another question bound to arise: What if this fornication is not discovered for, say, two years, or ten or twenty years? Can the injured man or woman after all that time put away the mate on the grounds of something that happened BEFORE marriage? Again, while the Scriptures do not cover this point specifically, the PRINCIPLE revealed is that a marriage may be SET ASIDE when this pre-marital sin is discovered *after* marriage, but "*before they come together*," as specifically illustrated in the case of Joseph and Mary. In such a case the man must not live with the woman as his wife at all, or the woman with the man if he is the guilty one. But, if they do take each other in the marriage relationship and live together as husband and wife, they are then JOINED BY GOD, legally married, and there can be NO DIVORCE.

Certainly a man could not, for instance, continue to live with a wife as long as he pleases, KNOWING she had been a fornicatress, with a ready excuse any time he decides he would like to get rid of her. If he accepts her, HE IS BOUND TO HER FOR LIFE, and she to him if she accepts him. If a man or woman *knows* the other has been guilty of fornication, and marries anyway, then THERE ARE NO GROUNDS WHATSOEVER FOR DIVORCE. The only grounds are when the innocent party was deceived and defrauded.

Thus the ONE EXCEPTION mentioned by Jesus is not actually grounds for a divorce and remarriage at all—but merely the annulling, or erasing, of a

Please Continue on Page 7

Atomic Age

Continued from Page 3

the atom—and two great CITIES are blown off the map.

And now man boasts he not only can soon fly in space-ships to other planets, and drop atomic destruction from any point within one mile of any target on earth thru radio-controlled "V" weapons and rockets—but now he calmly boasts that soon he will TAKE AWAY from GOD the prerogative of sending the rain on the just and the unjust—and man himself will control the WEATHER!

Yes, now, once AGAIN, man's increase of knowledge has made this ONE WORLD—and "This they begin to do: and now NOTHING will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."

But, "as in the days of Noah," God sees "that the wickedness of man" is "great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart are only EVIL, continually!"

DESTRUCTION to Come, SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY!

And now, what is going to happen? Will God intervene, as before?

"For as in the days of Noah, SO SHALL IT BE also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the DAY that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and DESTROYED THEM ALL." (Luke 17:26-27).

"The Eternal shall roar from on high . . . a noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Eternal hath a CONTROVERSY WITH THE NATIONS; He will plead with all flesh; He will give them that are wicked to the sword. . . . Evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Eternal shall be at that day from one end of the earth, even unto the other end of the earth!" (Jer. 25:30-33).

"And the nations were angry, and THY WRATH is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them that destroy the earth." (Rev. 11:18).

"The DAY OF THE LORD so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and Safety; then SUDDEN DESTRUCTION

COMETH upon them . . . and THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light. . . . Therefore, let us not sleep as do others; but LET US WATCH, AND BE SOBER!" (I Thes. 5:2-6).

"Howl ye; for THE DAY OF THE LORD is at hand: it shall come as A DESTRUCTION FROM THE ALMIGHTY. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: AND THEY SHALL BE AFRAID: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be *in pain* as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed at one another; their faces shall be as flames." And God says, "And I will PUNISH THE WORLD FOR THEIR EVIL, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible." (Isa. 13:6-13).

"The Lord of Hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely, as I have thought, SO shall it come to pass: and as I have purposed, SO shall it stand!" (Isa. 14:24).

Modern "science" is moving at great speed, and now undertaking to defy even the Almighty.

A year ago, while in London, I decided to consider the idea of associating at least one British professor with the faculty of AMBASSADOR COLLEGE in Pasadena. I was advised to contact Dr. Julian Huxley, grandson of the world-famous scientist, Thomas Huxley, who probably did more than any other man to fasten on a gullible world the theory of evolution.

But I did not care to see Mr. Huxley, nor would we desire a professor of his choosing on our faculty. For he is the atheistic HEAD of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization!

Many scientists today are advocating WORLD GOVERNMENT as the world's only hope of peace. The UNITED NATIONS is their start toward world government—their world government in embryo—an embryo which never will develop! Which means that if our scientific men of today could *have* their supposed utopian world government, Julian Huxley would be the world's MASTER in Education, Science, and Culture!

And Dr. Huxley, the man chosen for this world-important post, is an ATHEIST! "Darwin," he wrote, ". . . made it possible to dispense with the idea of God. For a justification of a moral code, we no longer have to have recourse to theological revelation. . . .

Freud in combination with Darwin suffices."

That's a sample of the arrogance of the proud, today. Almighty God replies He will lay low their haughtiness! And His PURPOSE *shall* STAND, and cannot be annulled!

The NATIONS have brought themselves to a place where they MUST cry for the Creator to step in and save this world from itself! Man invents new powers, and turns them to selfish, evil, destructive use, every time! And now man has invented forces capable of annihilating humanity from the earth! And still the man whom the nations have placed at the HEAD of world education, science and culture, says this world has no further need of GOD!

But, "The Eternal WRECKS the purposes of pagans, He brings to NOTHING what the nations plan; BUT, the Eternal's purpose stands forever!" (Ps. 33:10-11).

"Behold, THE NATIONS are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance" beside GOD! (Isa. 40:15).

The time is *almost here*—and will arrive SUDDENLY, when men least expect—when God "shall send Jesus Christ . . . whom the heavens must receive until the Times of restitution of all things." (Acts 3:20-21).

And soon, now, we shall actually *have* WORLD GOVERNMENT—but the exact antithesis of the kind the scientists of this world would create—if, in their puny strength, they were able!

Soon now, it shall be proclaimed, "The kingdoms of this world ARE BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD, AND OF HIS CHRIST; AND HE SHALL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER." (Rev. 11:15).

Yes, and "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, *then shall He sit upon the THRONE* of His glory: and *before Him shall be gathered all nations*: and He shall separate them, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." (Mat. 25:31-32).

"And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword" (the WORD OF GOD) "that with it He should smite the nations: and *He shall RULE them with a rod of iron*." (Rev. 19:15).

"But with RIGHTEOUSNESS shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity the meek of the earth: . . . and the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Eternal." (Isa. 11:4, 9).

"And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain (kingdom) of the ETERNAL, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will *teach us* of His ways, and

we will walk in His paths: for the LAW shall go forth of Zion, and the Word of the Eternal from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Micah 4:1-3).

It is ONLY when God Almighty takes rule away from men, and rules the world thru Christ—it is ONLY when men turn to God and say: "TEACH US!"—it is only when GOD'S LAW goes forth, and the earth is full of God's knowledge, and when men start to WALK IN HIS PATHS, that the world shall at last have PEACE.

Divorce and Remarriage

Continued from Page 5

ceremony in which the parties were not actually joined by God at all.

Adultery Not Bible Grounds

I have heard many people speak of "adultery" as "the Bible grounds for divorce." It will come as a great surprise to many, therefore, that ADULTERY is no grounds whatsoever for divorce! There are NO GROUNDS WHATSOEVER for divorce and remarriage, once joined by God for life!

Consider, now, the other principal New Testament Scriptures on the question:

"And He said unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." (Mark 10:11-12). Notice, it does not say "did commit adultery in the ceremony," but "committeth"—that is, IS NOW COMMITTING adultery by sex relationship with one to whom he or she is not married in God's sight.

"Whosoever putteth away his wife and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." (Luke 16:18).

Is One Bound to a Sinning Mate?

A listener asks if he is bound to live with a non-Christian and sinning wife. The answer is, he is BOUND to her by marriage, and therefore is not free as long as she lives to marry any other woman, but he is *not* required to live with her—he may live apart from her,

and remain unmarried, except to her.

Here is the Scripture on the point:

"And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife." (I Cor. 7:10-11). It applies equally whether man or woman.

Further: "If any brother (Christian) hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman (Christian) which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. . . . But if the unbelieving depart, let him (or her) depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases." (Verses 12-15).

It is a COMMAND of God (II Cor. 6:14) that Christians shall not marry unbelievers, and trouble nearly always results when this command is broken. But IF one is married to an unbeliever, the marriage is a physical, not a spiritual union, and they are then BOUND as long as they live. The Christian is not forced, however, to live with the unbelieving mate, but must, in that case, live as one single. *There are no grounds for divorce and remarriage.*

Again, in I Cor. 7:39: "The wife is BOUND by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord."

Now Romans 7:2-3: "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."

Some have written me that they were not converted when they divorced, or married, or remarried, arguing that since they were not then Christians the marriage didn't "count," or, that since the divorce and remarriage occurred *before* conversion, and the knowledge of the truth, that God should wink at it, and asking if it is not right for them to now continue living with one divorced. I repeat, MARRIAGE IS A FLESH UNION, instituted by GOD at Creation, before there was any church—it applies for ALL PEOPLE, from Creation, thru all dispensations and ages, and is for Egyptian, Russian, Chinese or Indian, as well as for American or Canadian—it applies to the unconverted as well as the converted. The only exception is that a

converted person should avoid marrying an unconverted.

If a man was a thief *before* he was converted, is it right for him to continue stealing after conversion? Nonsense! The converted person must REPENT of sin—must QUIT SINNING—and living with one divorced and actually bound by God's law to another is LIVING IN ADULTERY.

Jesus was talking at a well to a Gentile woman from Samaria.

"Go, call thy husband," said Jesus.

"I have no husband," answered the woman. Jesus said, "Thou hast well said, I have no husband: for thou hast had five 'husbands'; and he whom thou now hath IS NOT THY HUSBAND: in that saidst thou truly." (John 4:16-18). She was a divorced and remarried woman, and the man she lived with was NOT HER HUSBAND, tho she had "married" him. Hollywood is full of such women today!

John the Baptist finally paid with his life, because as a faithful servant of God he warned King Herod that it was not lawful for him to have his brother Philip's wife. Josephus tells us Herod had divorced his wife and married Philip's wife, who in turn had divorced Philip.

WHAT, Then, Shall We Do?

I know full well that literally THOUSANDS will read this article who have been divorced and remarried, or have married a divorced person. I know only too well that the question will come to thousands of you, for the first time: "Well, then, if I am living in adultery, WHAT SHALL I DO?"

My heart goes out to all such people. Being human, I wish I could spare them God's answer, but God helping me, I can't! He has called me to "Cry aloud, and SPARE NOT, and show my people their sins." He has called me to TURN YOU FROM YOUR SINS—and that isn't often pleasant for me, or easy for you! It is the greater pity that most such people are the innocent victims of either false teaching, or lack of teaching. GOD HOLDS THE PROFESSING MINISTERS TO BLAME!

But, hard as it may be to have to say it, all I can say as a faithful minister of Jesus Christ is: "COME OUT OF SIN!" "QUIT LIVING IN SIN!"

Adultery is SIN—and if one of the two parties, or both, has been divorced and the previous husband or wife is still living, then the present "marriage" is not a marriage at all in GOD'S SIGHT—you are STILL BOUND BY GOD to the one from whom you were divorced, and the one you now live with is NOT your husband or your wife, but

merely the one with whom you are LIVING WITH IN ADULTERY!

Yes, I know, all kinds of complications arise. There is property involved. Perhaps there are children. Perhaps there is, now, a home with children by this second marriage. And it SEEMS wrong and unjust in human eyes to break it up. So human beings usually begin to argue that God isn't fair, and try to find a way around God's commands! But "there is a way that seemeth RIGHT to a man, but the end thereof are the WAYS OF DEATH." So says God's Word! We are to obey God, not human reasoning. No matter how it looks to us, no matter how we reason, GOD'S WAYS AND LAWS ARE ALWAYS RIGHT—MORE FAIR BY FAR—THAN THE WAYS THAT SEEM RIGHT TO US!

And remember, God's laws are not made to break up homes, but to establish and PROTECT them—and if it SEEMS to human reason that in rectifying these sins homes might be broken up, I can only remind you that it was the original DIVORCE which broke up a God-established home, and the home made by divorced persons is a home founded on ADULTERY, ugly as this fact may seem.

Marriage is not taken seriously enough in America today. Young people are not taught to realize its serious responsibility—that it is FOR LIFE. Too many marriages should never have been made, in the first place. But, once made, they are BINDING! Too few know the difference between LOVE and LUST. We are attempting to found the American home today upon IGNORANCE, CARELESSNESS, AND SIN. No wonder we are becoming a nation of broken homes and juvenile delinquents!

God help all who are guilty of this sin, innocent of intentional wrong through ignorance of GOD'S TRUTH and His ETERNAL LAWS, to have the courage to PUT THIS SIN OUT OF

THEIR LIVES, and to quit living in ADULTERY!

God help all such not to put human reasoning, or the false advice of ministers, in the place of the PLAIN LAWS OF GOD! It makes no difference how we REASON, as to what is fair or unfair—it makes no difference how many MEN professing to be ministers of Jesus Christ advise you otherwise, THE MARRIAGE LAWS WERE ORDAINED BY GOD; they were ordained AT CREATION; they are binding UPON ALL MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL RACES, IN ALL AGES, WHETHER BELIEVER OR UNBELIEVER; GOD'S LAWS ARE INEXORABLE AND CANNOT BE CHANGED; AND LIVING IN A MARRIAGE AFTER DIVORCE IS LIVING IN ADULTERY—THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS—AND ALL THE HUMAN REASONING AND ASSURANCES OF THIS WORLD'S MINISTERS WILL BE OF NO AVAIL IN THE JUDGMENT!

It cannot be denied that, once entangled in this violation of God's marriage laws, an *apparent* injustice may be brought on innocent people by now OBEYING God's commands.

BUT I STILL SAY THAT NO MATTER HOW IT MAY APPEAR, NO MATTER HOW WE HUMANS MAY REASON, IT IS ALWAYS BETTER, IN EVERY INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCE, TO FOLLOW THE LAWS OF GOD AND OBEY HIS COMMANDS!

Yes, the horrible thing about sin is that the innocent suffer with the guilty. Penalties from past sins cannot always be avoided. But to *continue* in sin only brings further penalties!

What so few seem to realize is that *THESE LAWS OF GOD ARE LIVING THINGS! These laws are actually IN MOTION!* They were instituted and set

in motion to BRING US HAPPINESS and to PROTECT our happiness. We *never* fare better by following some other way of human reasoning, no matter how the special circumstances of an individual case may APPEAR.

If we dare to break these laws of God, WE SUFFER! These laws are active, living things—and THEY CRACK DOWN ON US when they are disobeyed! They are INVISIBLE laws, perhaps. It may SEEM to a man some other way is the better way. But always, in all cases, that other way that seemeth RIGHT to a man will only bring on *more* unhappiness and suffering!

God who instituted these laws IS ABLE TO ALTER CIRCUMSTANCES so as to BLESS those who put their faith in Him by following HIS ways, and obeying HIS laws, instead of the traditions, customs, and reasonings of mortal humans! Of course, where sins have been committed, there are penalties. But STILL the lesser of the two evils is to OBEY GOD'S LAWS in regard to the marriage relationship! If you permit human reason to lead you into transgressing them, no matter how RIGHT that course may SEEM to you, GOD'S INEXORABLE LAWS WILL PUNISH YOU and you will suffer far more—be far more unhappy. Trust God—turn to Him—OBEY HIM—quit living in adultery; or, if you were contemplating a divorce and remarriage, put away that temptation—AND SEE WHETHER THE ALMIGHTY CREATOR IS NOT ABLE TO WORK CIRCUMSTANCES OUT TO A REALLY HAPPY SOLUTION!

Suffering and unhappiness come ONLY from living contrary to God's laws! Happiness can come ONLY by living according to them! May God help each one to SEE this basic TRUTH—to FEAR to go contrary to it—to PUT HIS FAITH IN GOD!

Return in 5 Days

The PLAIN TRUTH

Printed in the U.S.A.

Box 111—Pasadena, California

POSTAGE GUARANTEED

POSTMASTER: If addressee has moved and address is known, notify sender on FORM 3547 postage for which is guaranteed. In case of removal to another post office do not notify the addressee but hold the matter and state on FORM 3547 amount of forwarding postage required, which sender will promptly furnish.

Sec. 562, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
 Permit No. 703
 Pasadena, California