

## "THE MARK OF THE BEAST"

### The Scriptures . . .



"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."—II Tim. 2:15.

### Daily Strength, Renewal Provided By The God Of Our Days

By HERBERT LOCKYER

Although God is the same from generation to generation it is not good of Him to break up a year into months, months into weeks, weeks into days, days into hours, hours into minutes, minutes into moments? And as one moment may differ from another moment, even as one star differs from another in glory, it is helpful to faith to know that in our unchanging Lord we have One Who can adapt Himself to our changing moments, and differing days.

An axiom enjoins us to "live a day at a time." And, as a space of time, a day is long enough to face many of the trials, unexpectedly overtaking us as some new day dawns. Yet, if any day brings sad and tragic experiences, we have the night with its sleep to refresh and enhearten us ere another day begins.

#### A Flower Speaks

I saw a little wild flower lift its perfumed lips for the kiss of the morning. "Do you get lonely at night?" I asked. "God's stars watch over me when I sleep." "What do you do when you are thirsty?" I inquired. "I ask the sun to draw me a drink of water," the flower replied. "What do you do when the sun gets hot?" I asked. "God sends the winds to cool my cheek," was the answer. If God puts all the resources of nature back of the flower that blooms today and withers tomorrow, why should I worry? God is my Father.—Bob Jones.

God broke our years by hours and days, that  
Hour by hour.  
And day by day.

We might be able all along  
To keep quite strong.  
Should all the weight of life  
Be laid across our shoulders, and  
the future rife  
With woe and struggle, meet us  
face to face

At just one place  
We could not go:  
Our feet would stop; and so  
God lays a little on us every day,  
And never, I believe, in all the  
way,

Will burdens bear so deep,  
Or pathways lie so steep,  
But we can go, if by God's power  
We only bear the burden by the  
hour.

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### ANTI-CHRIST COMING—PERHAPS SOON

"And He causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their forehead." Revelation 13:16.

The Beast will not appear until the world is ready for him. The Mark of the Beast will not be worn until the Beast manifests himself. The world is rapidly preparing for the Beast, and the Mark of the Beast, is being foreshadowed by the many acts of the many governments of the world today.

The purpose of this article is to acquaint people with the teaching of the Scriptures on this subject, and to call attention to the case with which the people are falling in line with the things that are leading up to the reception of the Beast and his Mark.

**The Beast.** Who is the Beast? Is he a person, a system of teaching, or an empire? Each of these theories have some advocates. There are some who believe the Beast to be a System of Teachings, such as Communism, Fascism, and Nazism; others believe the Beast to be an Empire, the Roman Empire, for instance, but a careful study of the Scriptures will convince us that the Beast is a person.

There are certain things said about the Beast that could not properly be said about a System of Teaching or about an Empire. Let us note some of the things that are said about the Beast that could not properly be said about a System of Teaching or about an Empire:

Daniel 7:3, says: "And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another." In the 17th verse of the same chapter he says: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth." These two verses tell us that these beasts symbolize kings or rulers.

Revelation 13:8, tells us that people will worship the Beast. It would hardly be proper to say that people would worship a System of Teaching or an Empire, but it would be perfectly proper to speak of men worshipping a king or ruler.

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### NO TIME FOR GOD

No time for God, yet we've time for ourselves  
Time to eat food that He puts on our shelves,  
Time to breathe air that He gives for our lungs,  
Time to waste talk, yet He fashioned our tongues,  
Time to go places, and time to do things  
That little or nothing of recompense brings,  
Time for the cumbersome duties of life,  
Time for amusement and even for strife!  
Time for all things, yet the day may soon dawn  
When we'll wish we from selfish ambitions were drawn  
To do the Lord's work, and more thankful to be  
That we live in God's world, in the land of the free!

The judgment will prove that the whiling of time  
Away for ourselves is a too-common-crime!  
If God took no time for His creatures, they'd die,  
Else none of them laugh, and the most of them sigh!  
Our God gave His Son as a sign of concern,  
Showing that love in His great heart did burn,  
That He had the time for His great mind to think  
Of men in the gutters that the deeper would sink!  
In lieu of this purpose of love we'd do well  
To save time on earth that would taunt us in Hell.  
Heaven won't have any roguish old grime  
Who lived for himself, and for God had no time!

—S. J. GARDNER, The Preacher Poet  
Courtesy "The Observer," Greenville, S. C.

### How God Providentially Worked That Prayer Might Be Answered

Mr. Jay Gould once left his eastern home for a trip across the continent. In the western part of Texas the train he was traveling on was halted for a few hours at a little town to make needed repairs on the engine. While this was being done, Mr. Gould walked up the village street. On a corner a large crowd had gathered. Mr. Gould found a sale going on, and the auctioneer calling out, "Fourteen hundred and seventy-five dollars." He inquired what was being sold, and was told it was a new church, that the contracting builder had a claim on it for work. It appeared that the limit had been reached, as no one wished to raise the last bid for the church. Mr. Gould, to help the sale, offered fifteen hundred dollars, which the auctioneer called a few times without a

raise, and the church was sold to Mr. Gould at his bid.

A bill of sale was made out to him, and giving his check for the amount to the auctioneer, he became the owner of the church property.

Three gray-haired old men standing near watched the proceedings of the transfer and, going up to Mr. Gould, not knowing who he was, asked him what he intended to do with the church he had just bought.

"What is it to you what I do with it? It is mine now, to keep or to give away," said the millionaire.

One of the men said, "We three are trustees of that church and were sent to see and then report what disposal was made of it; and in the church, at this present moment, the entire congregation, and preacher, are

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## THE FIRST BAPTIST PULPIT

### "The Conclusion Of One Who Tried The World"

"What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?"—Eccles. 1:3.

"Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity."—Eccles. 12:8.

What mighty texts are these! The first asks a question. The second gives the answer. The first literally says, "What good does a man get out of life if he lives only for what this world can give?" Solomon's conclusion and answer to this first

question is found in the words of our second text. "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity" (Eccles. 12:8).

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Solomon, more than all men, had tried the world to see what it might offer. No individual ever had more experience with worldly things than had Solomon.

He tried first of all to find satisfaction in wisdom. Natur-

ally wise to begin with, he became unusually wise as a result of his prayer for wisdom. Of all the wise men of his day, he was wiser than them all. "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol;

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### He Loves You Too Much

An atheist, blaspheming in a certain market place, challenged God to show His power by striking him dead within five minutes. The five minutes elapsed and following the tense delay, he spoke to his audience, saying, "What did I tell you?" An old lady standing by said, "Sir, have you any children?" "Why?" "Well," said the lady, "If one of your children handed you a knife and said, 'Kill me Daddy,' would you do it?" "Why, no," replied the astonished man, "I love them too much." "That is exactly why God did not strike you dead," said the lady. "He loves you too much."—New Century Leader.



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### JUST SUPPOSE

Suppose the membership of your church were limited to one hundred people. Would you be "in" or "out"?

Suppose you had to "run" for church membership as a candidate runs for office. Would you win or lose?

Suppose this membership were good for one year only, and that re-election depended upon the good you had done in the church during that time. Would you be re-elected or not?

Suppose there were a long waiting list of those desiring to get in. Where would your name appear on the list?

Suppose you were called upon to tell why you thought your church should keep your name on its roll. Have you a record of helpful service to offer in self-defense?

Suppose every member of the church did as much as you are doing. Would more seats be needed, or would the doors be shut and nailed?

### WHEN CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS

PLEASE remember that when you move or change your address that it will save us two cents if you will notify us in advance, so that the Post Office won't have to do so. Always give your old address, as well as your new one, on such changes.

### 'Reynolds' Baptist Booklet Well Received'

Elder George R. Reynolds' little book entitled 'Essential Beliefs' has gained a circulation of nearly eighteen hundred copies, and has gone into every state in the Union.

This book sets forth twelve Scriptural reasons why the author gave up membership in a Pedo-Baptist Church to become an ardent Baptist and a able advocate of New Testament Church principles.

The first edition is nearly exhausted, and are being sold out at the special price of 15 copies for \$1.00; or 3 copies for 25c.

The author has a new tract on 'Becoming A Christian', which is being mailed out free to those who write for it. Bro. Reynolds is Pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church at Maysville.

Order from: Elder George R. Reynolds, 425 Central Avenue, Maysville, Ky.

If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies; yet the distance makes no difference. He is praying for me. — Robert Murray McChesney.

### CALENDAR FOR 1944

Would you like to have a calendar for 1944,—one bearing a picture of the editor and his family? Well, it can be yours for the asking. We have already mailed hundreds of them, but if I have over-looked some friend, I am sorry. Write us, and it will be a joy to mail it to you.

### What It Costs To Be Faithful

It cost Abraham the yielding up of his only son.

It costs Esther the risk of her life.

It cost Daniel being cast into the den of lions.

It cost Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being put in a fiery furnace.

It cost Stephen death by stoning.

It cost Peter a martyr's death.

It cost Jesus His life.

Does it cost you anything?  
—The Threefold Cord.

### BOOK REVIEWS

From Zondervan Publishing Co. Grand Rapids, Michigan

#### JUDITH

J. N. Saloff-Astokhoff

Price \$1.50—162 pages

This book has a definite appeal in that it is a true narrative of the life of a young Jewess, the daughter of a prominent Jewish family. The setting is in Russia during the days of World War I. Judith Weinburg, contrary to Jewish teachings, accepts Christ as her Saviour, but in so doing is compelled to leave her father's house and the young man to whom she is engaged. Saddened but with faith never wavering, she gives up all she holds most dear on earth and goes away. In a strange city she serves her Saviour faithfully until she meets her death at the hands of a group of soldiers.

This is a tragic yet victorious story and will touch deeply the heart of every reader. In it we are made to realize how much some suffer for the cause of Christ, yet we see the glorious truth of how our wonderful Christ sustains and blesses His own. You will not soon forget this young Jewess martyr and it will be an inspiration to live a more consecrated life.

#### SHADOWS UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Ken Anderson

Price \$1.50—247 pages

This is a dramatic Christian novel growing out of the events of this present war. The background is laid in Nazi-occupied, Quizzling-controlled Norway. The action is centered around and reveals the fortitude of the deeply spiritual Norwegian people and their firm faith in God despite severe persecution by the Nazi Gestapo. The romance centers around lovely Borghild Fran, the daughter of a Norwegian minister, Prest Gren, and the handsome Bjarne Kolsted. Their loyalty to each other and to their country in the face of trying persecutions and their final union and happiness make an intriguing romance filled with enough suspense, humor, action and tragedy to make an appeal to both young and old. The firm faith in the all-sufficient Christ that the minister, Prest Gren, proclaimed to his people in the face of persecutions and even in the death of his son at the hands of the Nazis makes an appeal and is a challenge to Christians today to manifest a like-faith that will accept whatever comes knowing that "All things work together for good to them that love God." This is a poignant story of World War II, and should be a

"must" book for every lover of Christian fiction.

#### SHINING AFTER RAIN

Louise Harrison McCraw

Price \$1.50—242 pages

This is a gripping story, well written and with a real message of Christian faith and the realization of a joy and peace known in a full surrender unto Christ. The setting is in the old South and the action is woven around Civil War and post Civil War days. Judith MacDonald and Lavinia Carter, two beautiful young ladies, were very close friends since early childhood. Complication arise when these two find they are in love with the same young man. Two cousins, Jim McClellan, a Northerner, and Rolfe Marshall, a Southerner, find their destinies interwoven with those of the two girls. Turmoil and hardships accompany these critical days in our nation's history. The remarkable manner in which happiness finally comes to Judith MacDonald and Jim McClellan, two young people who have made a complete surrender unto Christ and have accepted Him as sufficient in their lives, forms the theme of this Christian novel. It is a novel every young Christian will enjoy, and its message will linger long in the heart and continue to be an inspiration to a closer walk with Christ.

#### MORE STATELY MANSIONS

Brenda Cannon

174 pages

Not until Richard Twadell Whitcomb enrolled in business college and met lovely Garnet Thornton and later spent Thanksgiving in her home did he realize the great contrast in her life and his. She was a young Christian girl from a home where companionship existed between each member of the family and where Christ was honored. He was an only child of wealthy and socially minded parents, whose sole interest in his life was to see him married to some wealthy girl already established in society. Complications arise when his parents discovered his interest in Garnet and try to force him to marry wealthy Evelyn Webster. But Garnet's faith and the part she had in saving Richard's life finally won the love of his parents and helped to lead them to Christ.

This is a book that any reader will enjoy and will inspire any Christian to greater faith in Him.

#### ON SILVER CREEK KNOB

Brenda Cannon

50c—123 pages

As a result of a tornado which took the lives of their parents and destroyed their property, the three Jolly J's move their possessions to a little cabin on Silver Creek Knob.

Read about some of their strange experiences among these mountaineer people and how through their witnessing for Him many were led to Christ.

Children 10 to 14 will greatly enjoy this book. In the lives of the Jolly J's it proves that "All things work together for good to them that love God."

### Hotel Directory

Charleston, W. Va.

DANIEL BOONE HOTEL

341 Rooms—All With Bath

Rates \$2.50 Up

Charleston, South Carolina

ST. JOHN HOTEL

No Liquor Served

W. E. Ivey, Manager

### DAILY STRENGTH AND RE-NEWAL PROVIDED BY THE GOD OF OUR DAYS

(Continued From Page One)

A study of the Scripture unfolds the usage of the pregnant phrase "day by day", the combination of which reveals that our daily supply is in Christ, and how our days can be enriched with the favor of God.

#### Daily Temptation

In the entrancing story of Joseph, we have the severe test that confronted him as he came to eminence in the house of Potiphar. Being young and attractive, Joseph, as a goodly person and well favored, caught the eye of Potiphar's wife. Evidently she was infatuated and could not resist the masculine charms of a godly young man. She "cast her eyes upon Joseph," and her passionate nature was willing to commit sin. But Joseph refused the overtures of this woman who, because of her position and wealth, must have had an attraction of her own. Then came the test, for we read that "it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her to lie by her, or to be with her" (Gen. 39:10). Like an impregnable rock, Joseph resisted all inducements, keeping thereby his record unsullied. Denied, the temptress tried to force Joseph to sin. Then came her cruel lie that sent the victorious young man into prison.

In similar fashion, Delilah pressed Samson "daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death" (Judges 16:16). Alas, however, the pressure was too great for Samson, for he parted with the secret of his unique strength. Had he possessed the same power of resistance as Joseph manifested, what a different end Samson's would have been!

Day by day! Yes, it is ever the way Satan strives to ruin our witness. He is just as persistent as Potiphar's wife. With the accumulated wisdom of centuries at his command, Satan is able to vary his approach and appeal, yet behind his daily temptations is the unvarying purpose of destruction. With each new sunrise the Tempter is ready to allure us from the pathway of obedience to God. Throughout our inner desires, our circumstances, our friends, the devil will make tomorrow as this day, namely, another day of fierce temptation. He stands poised to fling his darts at some weak point of our armor. Therefore, let us not be ignorant of his devices. Lot, Peter tells us, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with the unlawful deeds of those around, but he gave in to his evil environment and reaped a harvest of shame and contempt.

Gird thy heavenly armor on,  
Wear it ever night and day;  
Ambushed lies the evil one,  
Watch and pray!

#### Daily Provision

The decree of Cyrus concerning the house of God at Jerusalem is full of practical clauses. For example, the builders of the temple had to be given their expenses. The workers had likewise to receive provisions out of the king's goods "day by day without fail" (Ezra 6:9). Thus the elders were not able to proceed with the restoration of the house of God unless the necessary money and materials were forthcoming.

The parallel is evident. Our sacred task is to assist in the erection of an invisible structure. And all who preach the

Gospel must live by the Gospel. We are never sent forth to the warfare on our own charge. If we abide in the will of God as we work for God, He will see to it that all that is necessary for each day in food, clothing, and money will come our way. Divine provision will be ours without fail. The Lord will "give us day by day daily bread" (Luke 11:3). Or, as one translation has it, "Give us our bread for the morrow day by day."

During his captivity King Jehoiachin received gracious treatment at the hands of Evil-merodach, king of Babylon. For his diet there was a "continual" given him of the king of Babylon, every day a portion unto the day of his death, all the days of his life" (Jer. 52:34). Every day a portion! Is this not what we are promised as we live and labor for the Lord? Bountiful hands provides "a daily rate for every day" (2 Kings 25:30). And so as we take up each day's task, the Lord will that amazing regularity of His waits to give us our expenses and necessary food. Our temporal needs are known to Him. And He will meet them if only we are fully dependent upon Him. Let us not concern ourselves about the morrow. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." The day at a time is as far as we can go.

What if tomorrow's cares were here

Without its rest?

I'd rather He unlocked the day  
And, as the hours swing open,  
say,

"My will is best."

#### Daily Renewal

One of our well-known hymns reminds us that we are "a day march nearer home," which, of course, is what Paul implied when he declares that each day takes its toll in physical deterioration. Healthy though we may be, we are nearer the grave than yesterday. The outward man perishes, but "the inward man is renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16).

It will be noted that the spiritual renewal is a daily one. Our increase in holiness and likeness to our Lord is no sudden experience. As the body decays imperceptibly, so our inner life becomes stronger without our conscious thought. The house of David becomes stronger and stronger and the house of Sion weaker and weaker. Little by little our outward man declines and our inward man becomes more robust. God does not give us spiritual renewal in advance. I carry an eight-day travel clock with me. All I have to do is to wind it up fully and it goes for eight days without being touched. But God does not supply us with grace and strength in that way. As need arises, grace, there is grace for the need. As our days, so shall our strength be.

And as a day is made up of hours, hours of minutes, minutes of moments, it is encouraging to know that God has provision for such a fraction of time as a moment. "I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day" (Isa. 26:3). Thus, if we guard, or low God to guard our moment, we have life from above. A living in vital contact with the renewing Spirit, ours will be unbroken fellowship from moment to moment, fitting thereby, for the rapture which may come at any moment. Each day witness increasing holiness, and an inner man more

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DAILY STRENGTH AND RE-  
NEWAL PROVIDED BY THE  
GOD OF OUR DAYS

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fully yielded! Thus shall we be ready to rise, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. And once transformed into His likeness, the necessity of renewal will be past, for through seeing Him, and in Him, we shall become like Him.

But as we wait may we allow the Holy Spirit to continue unhindered His gracious work of renewal. Here are some lines taken from *The British Weekly*, suggestive of the daily work of the Spirit:

Father, I do not ask  
That Thou wilt choose some other task  
And make it mine. I pray  
But this: let every day  
Be molded still  
By Thine own hand: my will  
Be only Thine, however deep  
I have to bend, Thy hand to keep.  
Let me not simply do, but be content,  
Sure that the little crosses each are sent.  
And no mistakes can ever be  
With Thine own hand to choose for me.

## "THE MARK OF THE BEAST"

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Revelation 19:20, tells us that the Beast will be cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone, but it would be strange to say of a System of Teaching or of an Empire that either one was cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

The Beast is the devil's counterfeit Christ! The devil has always counterfeited the work of God. The devil has offered a substitute for every doctrine in the Bible.

Note some of the devil's substitutes offered for the doctrines of God: For the "Seed of the woman" the devil offers the "Seed of the serpent"; for the church of Jesus Christ the devil offers the synagogue of satan; for the doctrine of sanctification he offers sinless perfection; for justification by faith he offers justification by works; for regeneration he offers reformation; for the perseverance of the saints he offers apostasy; and for the Gospel of Christ he offers the social gospel. The Beast is the devil's Christ offered as a substitute for the Christ of God.

## Characteristics of the Beasts

The Bible sets forth certain characteristics of the Beast. These characteristics are sufficient to convince us that the Beast is a person rather than a system of teaching or an empire.

1. **The Beast is to be a supernatural person.** "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death (slain); and his deadly wound was healed—" (Rev. 13:3). The Beast is to have a false resurrection in order to counterfeit the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2. **The Beast is to be a Jew.** Jesus Christ was a Jew and the Beast will come from the Jewish people. There is not an orthodox Jew on the earth that would accept a Gentile as the Messiah; but the Jews will, to a large extent, accept the Beast as the Messiah. This, our Lord told them in the flesh according to John 4:43: "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not; if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."

3. **The Beast is to be a mili-**

tary genius. He will be a combination of all the military genius of Caesar, Alexander the Great, and Napoleon. He will be the military leader of the world! The people will cry, "Who is able to make war with the Beast?" (Rev. 13:4). Nation after nation will fall under his military heel.

4. **The Beast will be an oratorical genius.** "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies—" (Rev. 15:5). In Daniel 11:36 we read: "And the king (evidently the Beast) shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done."

He shall be able to sway the multitudes by the power of speech. It has ever been true that the orator has been able to move people in a mighty way for good or evil.

5. **The Beast is to be a religious genius.** The world will worship the Beast: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Rev. 13:8).

The Beast will receive worship. He will be able to establish a world-wide religion, but his religion will be the very opposite of the religion of Jesus Christ. The religion of the Beast will be anti-God, anti-Christ, and anti-Bible. It will be the religion of the devil! He will set himself up as God in the tabernacle of God and demand worship. (Read II Thess. 2:3-4).

6. **The Beast is the devil's Christ.** The Beast receives his power and authority from the dragon who is the devil (Read Rev. 13:3; 12:9). The Beast will be energized by Satan, perhaps he will be the devil incarnate in order the imitate Christ, who was God incarnate.

7. **The Beast is to be an executive genius.** The Beast will be able to carry out his plans. He will have an able assistant in the person of False Prophet. The False Prophet plays an important part in the program of the Beast.

## Nations Are Becoming Mark Conscious

There is not a nation in the world today that does not have its mark or symbol, or both. In symbols they are bestial, for they have chosen either a beast or bird of prey, or both to represent them. Consider this fact alone and you will be impressed with the truthfulness of the statement that nations are becoming mark conscious.

The nations of earth have chosen either a ferocious beast or a bird of prey as their insignia. The United States has the eagle; England has the lion; Russia has the bear; China has the imaginary dragon; Mexico has the eagle reinforced with a serpent reclining on its breast; Germany has the eagle with two heads; India has the elephant. Each one has a beast or a bird of prey as its insignia. This shows that the nations are bestial in their thinking and in their actions. Literally, there is no such thing as a Christian nation on the earth at the present time—there has never been one, and there never will be one until the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this earth and sets up His kingdom and rules over it.

Here in the United States we are being prepared for the mark of the Beast with the many ra-

tioning books and the requirement that we display certain signs upon our cars, etc. It is only another step from displaying it on the windshield of the car to having it stamped upon our right hand or our forehead! This may sound foolish to some, but not to those who have made a study of the subject herein discussed.

Not many days ago we saw a cartoon picturing a woman in a grocery store seeking to purchase some groceries. The clerk said to her, "Show me your ration book." How much this reminds us of the passage in Revelation, which says: "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Rev. 13:17).

Consider the great number of men and women that are working at public works and are compelled to wear a number and their picture pinned to their coat, hat, or shirt. This, within itself, doesn't mean anything; but it is breaking down all prejudice against accepting the Mark of the Beast when the time comes to receive it. We repeat, that the Beast will not manifest himself until the world is ready for him; but are we not rapidly reaching the place where we will welcome him as a Saviour from hard times?

## The Mark of the Beast

What is the Mark of the Beast? There are many interpretations of the Mark of the Beast. Not all of them are true to Scripture.

Some have taught that the "observance of Sunday" is the Mark of the Beast. No one can study this passage of Scripture and then accept this interpretation. The Mark of the Beast is to be a visible mark, placed in a conspicuous place—in the forehead or in the right hand.

The Mark of the Beast is a visible sign which enables those who wear it to trade and traffic. Those who do not wear it will not be permitted to "buy or sell." Of necessity, it must be a visible sign; otherwise, how could those who receive the Mark be distinguished from those who do not receive it?

Cain had a visible mark placed upon him to protect him from man or beast. His protection depended upon the fact that man or beast could see the mark and spare him. Read the account as recorded in Genesis 4:15, and see if this is not the facts in the case: "And the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should slay him." If the mark placed on Cain was sufficient to prevent men from slaying him, is it not reasonable to believe that it was visible? Why should the Mark of the Beast not be visible?

In the days of long ago, slaves were marked in such a manner that any who saw them could know that they belonged to a certain person. The mark was a visible one.

Cattle are marked and branded with a visible mark, and people who are familiar with the marks and brands can ride the range and distinguish the different marks on the cattle and tell to whom they belong.

Those who receive the Mark of the Beast will be distinguished from those who do not receive it by the visible mark that they shall wear in their right hand or upon their forehead. The Mark of the Beast will be a distinguishing mark. It will distinguish between the devil's people and the people of God. The worshippers of the Beast will wear the Mark of the Beast. It will be a distinguishing mark as

well as a mark of damnation.

## The Mark of Destruction

The result of this Mark will be destruction for those who wear it. Those who receive it will be marked for hell! Rev. 14:11 says: "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink if the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb; and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

Those who refuse the Mark of the Beast and refuse to worship his image will be slain. "As many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Rev. 13:15), but physical death is nothing compared to spiritual death.

According to the Scripture there will be multitudes who will accept the Mark of the Beast and worship his image rather than suffer the penalty for refusing. There will be little objection offered by a great multitude, because of a lack of knowledge of the consequences of accepting it.

The Constitution of the United States of America guarantees to us religious freedom, but we fear that this generation will see much of this freedom taken from us. We see signs of it in many things. The method of collection of the Victory Tax is a direct violation of the separation of the church and state. We are not opposed to the Victory Tax, but we are opposed to the method of collecting it. We do not believe that the churches should be made collection agencies of the government. We are committed to a free church in a free state and any infringement upon this right is to be looked upon with suspicion and fear.

Christians in other days have suffered, bled, and died for Christian liberty and for the separation of church and state. We may be called upon to follow in the footsteps of our fathers. If so, may God give us grace and courage to do it in the same spirit that they did.

We fear that under the plea that this is abnormal times, our people will fail to watch and guard the priceless liberty that is ours in the matter of religious freedom. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Our government must not infringe upon the rights of religious freedom, even in the time of war. America has been blessed of God because she has respected the rights of every man to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. In the words of another, we say,

"Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget, lest we forget."

W. B. Davidson,  
Olivette Baptist Church,  
Ocala, Florida.

## "THE CONCLUSION OF ONE WHO TRIED THE WORLD"

(Continued from Page One)

and his fame was in all nations round about. And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from the kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom" (I Kings 4:29-31, 32). "And all the earth sought

to Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart" (I Kings 10:24). Solomon had received his wisdom from the right source and therefore the whole world sought his knowledge. He was wiser than anyone else, yet he was not satisfied, for he said, "All is vanity" (Eccles. 12:8).

Not satisfied with his wisdom, Solomon turned his attempt to writing. He became the world's most famous writer. "And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five" (I Kings 4:32). The Germans have a way of saying that no man is a scholar until he has written enough books, that he can pile them up one on top of the other and sit on them, without his feet touching the floor. Surely on this basis Solomon was an outstanding scholar. No one of his day wielded a pen so voluminously as Solomon. After a little while he tired of this, and becoming dissatisfied, said, "All is vanity" (Eccles. 12:8).

Solomon's next attempt to find satisfaction was in riches. He became the world's richest man. "Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred three score and six talents of gold (\$19,370,610.) Beside that he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffic of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia and of the governors of the country. And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon. For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks. So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones and cedars made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance" (I Kings 10:14, 15, 21-23, 27). It seems unbelievable for us to imagine the revenue of Solomon's kingdom, the splendor of which has never been equalled. Silver was no more value than the stones of the street. Everything was made of pure gold. In fact they even used silver for the streets of the city, as I Kings 10:27 shows. Still like all others who are rich, Solomon found that wealth could not bring the satisfaction he desired. Eastman, the Kodak king, and Kreuger, the match king, and countless others have rid themselves of that life which had become unbearable in spite of all their great possessions. At the end of an eventful life, with all that money might buy, Jay Gould said, "I suppose I am the most miserable devil on earth". Andrew Carnegie was often heard to remark, "There are no happy millionaires". Even John D. Rockefeller confessed that he got more pleasure out of his first \$1,000.00 than he did out of any \$10,000,000 he had made since.

Later Solomon attempted to find happiness in making his kingdom one of unrivaled splendor. Truly the like of it has never yet been equalled. "And King Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of gold went to one target. And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold: three pounds of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of

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**"THE CONCLUSION OF ONE WHO TRIED THE WORLD"**

(Continued from Page Three)

Lebanon. Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold. The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind; and there were stays on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. And twelve lions stood there on the one side and one on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like in any kingdom" (I Kings 10:16-20). "I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees: I got me servants and maidens and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me: I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I got me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men as musical instruments, and that of all sorts. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me. And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour" (Eccles. 2:6-10). But even position and fame and the splendor of an unrivaled court could not bring happiness. Lord Beaconsfield, who enjoyed an eventful share of each said, "Youth is a mistake, manhood a struggle, and old age a regret". Solomon had scarcely finished his labors in making his kingdom the richest of the world than do we hear him say, "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun" (Eccles. 2:11).

Having failed to find satisfaction Solomon thought of military glory and expected that great honor and praise would come to him by getting together a tremendous army especially of cavalry. Hence we read how he gathered horses and chariots by the thousands. "And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen" (I Kings 4:26). "And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem. And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and a chariot came up and went out of Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and an horse for hundred and fifty: and so for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, did they bring them out by their means" (I Kings 10:26, 28, 29). However military glory with all of its horses and chariots cannot bring happiness. When Alexander the Great had conquered the world, he sat down on the shore of the Aegean Sea, and wept because there were no more worlds to conquer. Does not this coincide with the words of Solomon, "All is vanity and vexation of the spirit" (Eccles. 2:17).

Solomon, like every unsaved man, continued striving for something that would satisfy. What a marvelous attempt he made in feasting and banqueting that happiness might be his. Did you ever notice the great store

of provisions which was required for one day at Solomon's table. "And Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of fine flour (300 bushels), and three score measures of meal (600 bushels), ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, beside harts and roebucks, and fallow-deer, and fatted fowl" (I Kings 4:22, 23). Neither the high cost of living nor the cost of high living bothered him, yet he was unsatisfied. After feasting, banqueting, and reveling you hear him say, "All is vanity".

Determined to find that which his heart was set upon, namely satisfaction, he turned to sensuous pleasures. "I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure. I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life" (Eccles. 2:1-3). He became a 33rd degree sport. He galloped down the rose-lined avenue of sensuous pleasure. He experienced every thrill which human flesh is capable of entering into. If anyone should have found happiness or mirth, with his wine and women, Solomon should have found it. He became doubtlessly the greatest adulterer that ever lived. Emperor Heile Selassi and all the kings of Ethiopia claimed relation to Solomon through the Queen of Sheba, who once visited Solomon. Doubtlessly "The half has never yet been told" concerning their relations together. Despite his sin he found no satisfaction. Lord Byron drank deeply of every cup this world could force to his lips, and yet this is his confession:

"My days are in the yellow leaf,  
The flowers and fruits of love  
are gone,  
The worm, the canker, and the grief  
Are mine alone."

Is not this Solomon's confession. Hear him when he says, "Enjoy pleasure: and behold this also is vanity. I said of laughter, It is mad" (Eccles. 2:1, 2).

Feeling that after all he might be making a mistake in leaving God out of consideration, Solomon began to think in terms of religion. Not knowing the true God he began groping in the darkness, serving idols. "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord as did David his father. Then did Solomon build a place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods" (I Kings 11:4-8). In this he violated the first and second Commandments and sinned against the light of two visits from God. Even this idolatry brought him more dissatisfaction and more unhappiness. It brings to mind the experience of Voltaire, the great French sceptic and free thinker, who closed his earthly experience with the shriek, "I

wish I had never been born".

Just after Solomon ascended to the throne and destroyed his enemies and pretenders to the throne, his thoughts turned as do the thoughts of every young man toward marriage. "And Solomon made an affinity with Pharaoh, King of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David" (I Kings 3:1). Not finding the happiness which he desired in this one experience of marriage, he married again and again until he became the world's most married man. "And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines" (I Kings 11:3). Irrespective of the pleasures that come through marriage relations, those pleasures cannot produce happiness and satisfaction.

"Pleasures are like poppies spread,  
Touch the flower, the bloom is dead;  
Or like a snowflake on the river,  
A moment white, then gone forever."

Having failed to find the happiness his heart was set upon he turned his attention now toward a great building program. In all probability, though many of my audience know but little about the Bible, the majority have heard of the magnificence of Solomon's Temple. It required the labor of 10,000 men for 11 years to cut the trees which went into the temple. It took seven years to build it. The labor of 183,000 Jews and strangers was combined in its construction. 80,000 squared stones went into the building. It was built of white marble and when put together it resembled one stone, so perfect, accurate, and painstaking was the workmanship of it. The roof was of olivewood overlaid with gold. The temple courts and apartments when finished could house over 300,000 people. There were 1453 columns of solid marble. There were 960 pilasters or columns in the building. One billion dollars of silver was used on the floors and walls. Three billion dollars of gold was used in the whole building. When it was dedicated, Solomon offered 120,000 sheep and 20,000 oxen as an offering. Not contented with building the temple he built other marvelously beautiful buildings. "And Solomon built Gezer, and Bethhoron the nether, and Balaath, and Tadmor in the wilderness, in the land, and all the cities of store that Solomon had, and cities for his chariots, and cities for his horsemen, and that which Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion" (I Kings 9:17-19). He also built many other wonderful buildings. "And this is the reason of the levy which King Solomon raised: for to build the house of the Lord, and his own house, and Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazer, and Megiddo, and Gezer. But Pharaoh's daughter came up out of the city of David unto her house which Solomon had built for her: then did he build Millo" (I Kings 9:15, 24). He beautified Jerusalem with trees from every clime. "And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of Almug trees, and precious stones. And the king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of the Lord, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day. And the king made

silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance" (I Kings 10:11, 12, 27). "I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards; I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits" (Eccles. 2:4, 5). Yet his conclusion remains the same, "All is vanity".

**II**

After years of trying the world and finding that it couldn't satisfy, he found that which did satisfy—the knowledge of God and God's Son as his Saviour. Nearly an entire life was lived without this knowledge and in the close of his book of Ecclesiastes, he says, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Eccles. 12:13, 14). That which he had sought and failed to find in the world, he now found in God. Truly, this is the testimony of many others who have looked and lived from a higher viewpoint than from "under the sun". After a long eventful life, filled with serving God, Joshua said to the people of Israel, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15). Note the testimony of Abraham for he too had found that satisfaction which alone is found in God. "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10). Listen to the words of the great law-given Moses. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27). Or the words of Samuel, "And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (I Sam. 15:22). Or those of Job, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:25, 26). Hear the sweetest singer of Israel even David as he said of himself, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (Psa. 34:7). Let the first Christian martyr speak. "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus receive my spirit" (Acts 7:56, 59). Or the Apostle Paul. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (II Cor. 5:1).

All these and many thousands have found that happiness is not to be found in the world. The world can never satisfy but the Lord Jesus Christ through His death on the cross pleased God the Father, and by our acceptance of His sacrifice in our behalf. He brings that satisfaction and happiness to us that we can find nowhere else in all

the world.

Leigh Richmond once visited a dying cottager. He asked as her hope for eternity. She placed her hand on her Bible, and said, "I have Christ there, sir". Then placing her hand upon her breast she said, "I have Christ there, sir". And then looking toward the skies she said, "I have Christ there, sir". What a wonderful hope is this—Christ in the Bible, Christ in the heart, Christ in the skies, comfort again.

"I have sought for satisfaction in the world both far and wide. But in vain, till I found Jesus. Now I'm fully satisfied."

"Tho' the sun may shine above me,  
Or the clouds His face may hide,  
Yet with sunshine or with shadow,  
I am always satisfied."

"All day long Christ walks beside me,  
All night long He doth abide.  
That is why I'm always happy,  
That is why I'm satisfied."

"Tho' my friends may turn against me,  
Tho' my enemies deride,  
Still I have my blessed Saviour,  
And with Him I'm satisfied."

"When I reach the mystic realm,  
Christ will bear me o'er the sea,  
And I know when I reach the end,  
That I shall be satisfied."

"Yes, I know that Jesus loves me,  
For it was for me He died;  
Yes, I know that Jesus loves me,  
And my soul is satisfied."

**HOW GOD PROVIDENTIAL WORKED THAT PRAYER MIGHT BE ANSWERED**

(Continued From Page One)

down on their knees before God of Heaven, asking Him to save our church, so that what it is to our people."

On inquiry this was learned to be the fact. Then Mr. Gould said, "I believe your good people have more need of the prayer than I have, and will make better use of it." He wrote a bill of sale, signed his name to it, and handed it to trustees, who were surprised to know that they were dealing with one of the wealthiest of our land. They most heartily thanked him, bade him warm, brotherly goodbye, and safe journey home, and with kind "God bless you", the man was gone.

The three men hastened to the church and found the congregation singing praises to God for victory.

They reported their great, apparently miraculous success and decided to write a letter of thanks to their generous millionaire benefactor. Gould sometimes showed a letter to his friends, and it was very highly, for he said, "It warmed his heart more than any million-dollar bond he had ever received."

This true story shows a remarkable providence. Mr. Gould had to be through the trouble with the engine before the right time; stop was made at the town, where God's people were praying. Mr. Gould was on his walk to the auction and thus providence worked answer to prayer. And so still, and so it will be as long as God's children trust the Lord. Our Hope.