

Watch Vol. X, No. 6  
July, 1995

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**"We Reserve the Right to Retaliate!"**

Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan, 1995 Ministry of International Trade and Industry  
So NOW it begins. For more than three decades, I have warned of the unimaginable consequences to America and the world if trade war breaks out between the U.S. and Japan. Hailing the eleventh hour backdown by the Japanese government to open their markets to U.S. autos and auto parts, the Clinton Administration trumpeted about "thousands of new jobs" for American auto workers. But, is that scenario accurate? Will tens of thousands of U.S. autos soon festoon the showrooms of hundreds of Japanese auto dealers? Will the Japanese truly follow through on their end of the bargain? Or will it result, instead, in Japanese retaliation which can devastate the U.S. economy?



**What I say to, I say to everyone: Watch! (Mark 13:37)**

**The Law and the Christian**

Continuing in this issue, we present a new way of studying your Bible. Using this magazine, your own Bible, a cassette tape recorder, and a notebook, you can dramatically increase your knowledge and understanding of the Bible. Read on to see how it works.

**WORLD WATCH**

A monthly review of current events from the perspective of biblical prophecy.

**You Can Take It With You!**

(Or: Everything You've Always Wanted To Know About What Happens When We Die)  
Part 2

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN BAPTISM,  
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, OR PERSONAL COUNSELING)**

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# **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN BAPTISM, CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, OR PERSONAL COUNSELING**

## **Summer Baptizing Tours**

Each summer, the Church of God, International, conducts Summer Baptizing and Counselling tours. Many of our ordained ministers and their wives, lay elders, or leading lay members travel widely from their homes, calling upon those who have requested a personal visit from one of our representatives.

Each year, God has produced more fruit for His soon-coming kingdom by calling, then convicting people of their sins; of their need for repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands to receive God's Holy Spirit.

Are you one with whom God has been working?

Key booklets to read are, Why Should YOU Repent? All About Water Baptism, Who, What, Is God?, God Is Not A Trinity, and The New Covenant, Does It Do Away With God's Law? Each one of these booklets is full of scriptural references, clearly setting forth the precious truth of God on the most vitally important knowledge you could ever

come to know-how you can be saved-how you can live forever as a member of God's own family!

Another very important booklet, going into the fabulous truths about the "new creature in Christ," is Why You Were Born. Few understand the incredible human potential. Few understand that creation was not finished in the Garden of Eden; it was only begun. God is reproducing after His own Kind; the God-kind, the Family of God.

It was Elohim that said, "Let US make man in OUR image." Elohim is the Hebrew name for God, the exact equivalent of the Greek word Theos, rendered "God" throughout the New Testament. Both words connote more than one.

It is God who introduces Himself to us as the Father of Jesus Christ. It was Christ Who introduced Himself to mankind as the Son of the Father. It is not merely some theologian's analogy that there is a Family called God; no mere theological metaphor that Christ prayed to His Father, and said, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father."

Once you have read the booklets mentioned above, and carefully looked up each of the scriptural references given, you will have come to understand more about God, about His purpose for humankind, about your personal destiny than you have learned in many years of attending church. Also, you might wish to hear some powerful sermons of recent date delivered by Garner Ted Armstrong or Ronald L. Dart, entitled The Searchers, and To Kill A Church. Both are of special interest to any who have been keenly disappointed in their church experiences, or who are confused by strange doctrines.

## **Who Should Request A Personal Visit?**

Anyone who is sincerely thirsting for God's truth; anyone who feels he or she needs to be baptized; anyone who wonders about a previous baptism; anyone who simply has a number of personal, or Bible, questions he or she would like answered from a qualified, competent counsellor.

## **Can I Change My Mind?**

Of course. If, in the course of counselling, you determine you are not yet really mentally, spiritually, or emotionally ready to make a commitment for life by being baptized, simply tell the counseling team you would prefer to think about it some more. They will understand.

## **Do I Need To Be Baptized**

Again If I Am Already A Baptized Member Of Another Church? Probably not. But that is entirely your decision, based, not upon affiliation with this or that group, but based

upon what you thought and felt when you were first baptized; whether you believe God gave you His Spirit; whether there are "fruits" in your personal life that show growth in Christian character and the personality of Jesus Christ.

We do not baptize you into a "church" organization.

Baptism is not a badge, or a label, or an entry rite into a church. It is the most deeply personal thing you can do-entirely between you and your God, and your Savior, Jesus Christ.

Baptism is your own personal quest for salvation for all eternity, not a required ritual to "join a church."

## **How Do I Become A Member Of The Church Of God, International?**

By merely deciding you are one, and letting us know about it by attending services, or asking about the "extended church." There are no studies required, no initiation rites, no questions and answers. If you wish to attend church services, but they are too far distant from where you live, you might want to have your name placed on our "extended church" list, receiving audio tapes of our sermons delivered here at our Lake Palestine facility each Sabbath, so you can hear the church services in your own home.

If you are elderly, or handicapped, and need help with transportation, there are brethren in your nearest local church congregation who would be happy to assist you.

Perhaps you cannot attend more than once each month. That is fine, but make every effort to avail yourself of fellowship with brothers and sisters of like convictions. God tells us to "forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, and so much the more as we see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

## **Plan NOW To Attend One Of Our Feast Sites**

Last month, we sent out a Special Edition of The International News, our church newspaper, complete with descriptions, maps, and reservation information for all of our U.S. feast sites and the two Canadian sites. If you did not receive this Special Edition, complete with chart showing the location of all of our chartered and non-chartered churches and study groups, please write, or call (903) 825-2525 immediately for your free copy.

There is no advance registration with the church necessary. You can make your own reservations through the services provided. If you need assistance, the church will happily

provide it. You do not need permission from a minister. You simply decide to go. You decide where you will go, when you will arrive, and when you will leave.

There are no letters, stickers, badges, or automobile tags necessary. You just show up, walk in, take a seat, and enjoy.

You might even decide to attend two different feast sites. If you don't mind the travel, or the distance, that is entirely your choice.

So, whether you believe you are ready for personal counselling or baptism or not, you can certainly plan to attend the Feast of Tabernacles this year. Also, plenty of seasoned, qualified personal counsellors are available at each feast site, as are ordained ministers of Christ. You will have dozens of hours to visit, fellowship, ask questions, attend services, dine out, enjoy out-of-doors recreational facilities like golf, swimming, walking on a white sand beach, deep sea or lake fishing, bicycling, hiking, bowling, visiting aquariums and museums, sight-seeing, or simply relaxing with friends.

By all means, plan to attend the feast this year!

Finally, if you wish someone to call, please write, or call as soon as possible, giving us your full name, address, and telephone number, and the best days or the week and time of day or night you would prefer a visit. Write to:

The Church of God, International  
P.O. Box 2525  
Tyler, TX 75710  
Or call: (903) 825-2525

Let us know you are writing or calling about our summer tours, that you would appreciate a visit. The closest one of our ministers or other qualified counsellors will get in touch with you very soon! We thank you for your patience, for many will be writing and calling-so please let us know as soon as possible!

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[info@cgi.org](mailto:info@cgi.org)

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# **You Can Take It With You!**

## **(Or: Everything You've Always Wanted To Know About What Happens When We Die)**

### **Part 2**

**by Garner Ted Armstrong**

### **No Immortal Soul!**

The Bible does not say that man has an "immortal soul." For more than four decades, I have offered to my radio and television audiences a certified cashier's check for \$10,000 if they could show me where the words immortal soul or immortality of the soul are in the Bible.

Of course, in those forty-two years, no one has ever been able to claim the check, for those connected words, or that phrase, is simply not in the Scriptures.

The doctrine of the immortality of the soul comes from the concepts of pagan Greek philosophers, and from ancient pagans, who simply did not know God's truth.

The Bible shows, however, that there is a "spirit in man" (Job 32:8).

The difference between the traditional concept of the immortal soul and the biblical spirit in man are more than semantic. Those who believe in the so-called immortal soul believe there is consciousness after death; the ability to suffer agonies of burning in hell, loss of salvation, horrible realization of one's fate-an alert, thinking, feeling mind!

Just how a "soul" feels pain, since pain is the result of the human nervous system connected with the brain, has never been explained. How a soul sees or feels or hears or possesses any of the five senses has never been explained either.

But millions believe the purely pagan concept of an immortal soul. To most, the "soul" is merely a spiritual person-sort of like a clone, but a spiritual clone, of the individual. Upon

death, this exact replica, complete with the ability to not only feel horrible pain, but to realize it with the mind, is said to go directly to "hell fire" if unsaved.

If not quite good enough to be "saved," but not quite bad enough to burn forever in hell fire, millions believe these souls go to various stages, levels, or compartments of some "place" or other called "purgatory."

### **Purgatory Not In the Bible**

It is the invention of people who puzzled over the problem created by the belief in the immortal soul, as mentioned above. Since it was inconceivable to them that "good" people who were unsaved should "go to hell," and equally inconceivable that such "good" people should be able to go to heaven with the "saved," they felt there must be some halfway house to heaven, some sort of intermediate spiritual ground, where remaining sins, imperfections and the like, could be 'purged" by some interminable process of time.

Eventually, they invented a "purgatory" for little babies, and another for average people, and another for the "fathers" of the Old Testament who knew nothing of Christ.

But all this is mere invention.

At the basis of every false belief is a false assumption, carelessly taken for granted. Once the concept of the immortal soul is given, then the ideas of purgatory seem logical. Actually, they are more "logical," given the false basis of the immortality of the soul, than the utterly untenable ideas of the Protestant churches. But the Bible reveals that man has a human spirit, which, once the brain dies, is no longer conscious apart from the brain.

### **The Human Spirit**

Look at what God's Word says about we human beings, about the human spirit God has given us, which makes us so far superior to animals; which gives us mind, conscience, depth of feeling, and character.

David prayed: "Into Thine hand I commit my spirit: Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth" (Psalm 31:5).

There are two Hebrew words translated "spirit." The most commonly used word is ruwach, which means "wind; by resemblance breath, i.e. a sensible [or even violent] exhalation; fig. life, anger, unsubstantiality; by extens. a region of the sky; by resemblance, spirit, but only of a rational being [includ. its expression and functions]:-air, anger, blast, breath, cool, courage, mind, quarter, side, spirit[ual], vain, whirlwind."

David used an entirely different word in his psalm. It is neshamah, pronounced "neshawmaw," and means "a puff, i.e. wind, angry or vital breath, divine inspiration, intellect, or an animal; blast, breath, inspiration, soul, spirit."

The first word is most commonly translated "soul," but is also rendered "spirit" in many places. It refers, usually, to the animal life of man, or the consciousness.

The second word is used more of the intellect, or the innermost psyche, and is correctly rendered, "spirit."

Notice another example of neshamah, where the word obviously means the innermost consciousness, thought, and intellect of man: "The spirit of man is the candle [light] of the Eternal, searching all the inward parts of the belly" (Proverbs 20:27). Here, the word has to do with conscience; with the human character; with deep thought, introspection, meditation, philosophy; with our decision-making ability; accountability.

While man and animal "have all one breath"-that is, the same physical, chemical existence, supported by air, food, and water-they are completely different.

Man has a mind, while animals have brains.

Animals are creatures of instinct, but have no power to know or to wonder about their origin, about who, what, and why they are, and what is their destiny.

Animals have limited ability to reason. Experiments with dolphins, poodles, and chimpanzees have proved this. In one experiment, a dog trapped in a basement was observed to pile boxes atop each other until it had a platform high enough to the small window near the ceiling to escape.

But beyond this very limited ability, animals are creatures of automatically programmed instinct. They have no creative ability. They cannot speculate, philosophically, the origin of things.

But God has placed a spirit in man- the human spirit. It is this spiritual essence, which is linked to the frontal lobes of the human brain and is conscious only when the brain is conscious, that gives man a mind as opposed to mere animal brain.

A little colt, only minutes after birth, staggers to its wobbly feet and immediately goes directly to the mare's teats to suckle. Somehow, by mere instinct, and by sight, sound, and smell, the tiny newborn animal knows exactly what to do.

Baby dolphins are born underwater. immediately, they begin swimming, go to the surface, and take their first breath. Hundreds, no, thousands of examples could be cited from birds, fish, insects, and other animals of how automatically preprogrammed instinct causes them to survive.

Consider a newly born human baby.

It is completely helpless. It would lie within inches of its mother's breast and starve to death if it were not cared for by the mother. It is the most helpless of all creatures.



Yet, consider the potential of that tiny human brain. Little by little, as the brain is programmed-as the baby bonds to its mother, father, brothers, and sisters-the baby learns.

Animals are capable only of squeaks, yells, barks, whinnys, bawling, calls, and grunts. While many animals, like elk or whales, are very vocal and utilize a wide range of sounds to communicate simple thoughts to each other, such as danger or feeding, the human mind is capable of learning language, with thousands of words, to express thought.

Any in-depth study into the human brain is a journey through stupendous, awesome, mind-boggling data; an introduction to the most incredibly complex organism known to mankind. How we think, reason, deduce, ponder, imagine, and create is almost incomprehensible.

You can know of nothing that is superior to your own mind, unless you

are willing to admit other minds are better educated than yours, that they have stored more knowledge and experience.

But the human mind is the most incredibly complex thing of which we can come to know by the five physical senses. Could our marvelous minds have come into being by lesser intelligence?

Your own intellect demands the answer "No!" Only a vastly Superior Intelligence could have thought out, designed, and then created the human mind and spirit. Now, think with that marvelous mind God gave you.

It required two parents to produce you.

Your father's life, in the form a microscopic spermatozoon, united with your mother's life, in the form of a fertile egg. At the instant of conception, you and I were much, much smaller than the period at the end of this sentence.

Yet, in that tiniest of beginnings was preprogrammed, in the DNA (for "deoxyribonucleic acid"), the genetic code which determined your sex, general height, weight, and shape; the color of your hair and eyes, color and texture of your skin, shape of your skull, and length of your fingers and toes-the characteristics which would make you "you" during your life. You would inherit, through this miraculous, microscopic beginning, qualities, proclivities, talents, and abilities from your family, including whether or not you are musical or tone deaf, whether you tend to be artistic or mechanical, and so on.

While it has been demonstrated that environment is a powerful shaper of character, the genetic code from your two parents is the most powerful of the two.

We take human life for granted. Yet, when we study into the incredible reproductive capacity of humans-how we were conceived, formed in the womb, and born-we are left with a sense of awe and wonder.

David said to God: "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from Thee when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in Thy book all my members were written [here, knowing nothing about DNA, David is in awe of the developing human fetus], which in continuance were fashioned when there were as yet none of them. How precious also are Thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139:14-17).

David was no doubt considering all the functions of the human body, contemplating the human eye, the ear, the sense of smell and touch, and the marvelous way in which all his vital organs contributed to his daily experience of living.

He no doubt meditated about the

skeletal framework of our bodies, the musculature, with all the tendons, ligaments, and sinew connecting muscle to muscle and muscle to bone. He thought on the marvelous coordination of limb, hands, feet, and torso; how incredible it had been when he had become so proficient with a sling so as to hurl a rounded stone squarely into the forehead of the giant Goliath-the only unprotected place on his body. He no doubt thought of the awesome athletic feats of men in his army, of all the marvels of the human body.

When he said, "which in continuance were fashioned when there were as yet none of them," he no doubt was pondering the blood flow from mother to fetus; how it could be that, from a microscopic beginning, bone, tissue, muscle, the eye, the ear, the hands, and the feet could form.

David was in awe of God as Creator. He recognized the miracle that the human body presents to our view; the miracle of human life and reproduction.

It is only through the union between spirit and brain that such introspective thoughts are possible! Animals cannot contemplate their origins. Animals do not marvel at their ability to see, or hear. They cannot praise their Maker.

The human spirit is present from the instant of conception!

When did the Logos (John 1:1), Who was the "Word," become the tiny, microscopic zygote which was to become Jesus Christ? At the instant the Holy Spirit engendered that very Life that was God within the womb of Mary!

Jesus Christ did not "become Christ" at the moment of birth, but nine long months before when He was conceived by the power of God's Holy Spirit!

Jeremiah was known of God before His birth! Other examples are contained in Scripture, including Cyrus, the Persian monarch, who was named four hundred years before he was born, which absolutely prove that the obscene process of abortion is murder of a human

life! John the Baptist was conceived by a miraculous intervention from God; was foreordained to His mission prior to his birth! To imagine that aborting John or Jesus would merely have been a "choice" of a young woman is so unthinkably obscene as to defy human rationality.

There was never a moment-not a single second-when the Holy Spirit was not present with Jesus Christ.

Notice how Paul speaks of the human spirit and its connection with the Holy Spirit: "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear: but ye have received the Spirit of adoption [Greek: "sonship," meaning more than legal adoption, but meaning actually being the literal offspring], whereby we cry, 'Abba, [Hebrew word for "Father"], Father.' The Spirit itself [God's Holy Spirit] beareth witness with our spirit [our human spirit], that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint

heirs with Christ: if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Romans 8:15-17).

These are vitally important truths- profound scriptures.

Let's understand what God's Word is telling us.

### **Why God Is the "Father" of Christians**

It was the fertile egg of our mothers and the living spermatozoon of our fathers that "bore witness," once united together, that we were to become the children of our parents!

Here, God shows us that it is the living human spirit connected to our physical brain, together with the living, Holy Spirit of God, our Father, that proves we are GOD'S CHILDREN!

The Father is called "the Father" because He begets children. He is reproducing after His own kind!

Did you notice that brief sentence? Did you think about it?

Creation was not completed in the Garden of Eden, it was only begun.

God, Who is Elohim (write for our free booklets, Who, What, is God ?" and God is Not A Trinity), reveals Himself to us through Jesus Christ as the Father of us all !

As a marvelous part of the pattern of life itself, in all of its forms, God ordained that life begets life, and that life reproduces life of the same kind.

All life comes from previously living creatures of the same kind!

Your human, physical life was only possible because two living, human lives came together in conception. You did not come from one previous life of the same kind, but two.

In the same fashion, our heavenly Father begets children through the power of His Spirit, linking His Spirit with our living human spirit, so that a new spirit being is begotten!

This new "creature" is REAL. It is alive. It bears the characteristics of its Father, Who is God, and its human life, which is the human spirit inextricably linked to our physical brain.

God does not place His Spirit in mere carnal flesh.

God does not place His Spirit in our kneecaps, or our elbows, or our feet or hands. He places His Spirit in direct union with our human spirit, so that spirit life with Spirit life becomes a new, never-before spirit life!

Scientists know the human brain is divided into various segments, and that each performs different functions. We are all familiar with the fact that a blow on the head may produce memory loss, yet fail to impair any of the other functions of the brain.

They know that the process of thought—the ability of our minds to ponder, philosophize, imagine, wonder, contemplate, create, and decide—is in the frontal lobes, behind our eyes and forehead.

It is in this portion of our brain that the character resides; the ability to feel remorse, sadness, happiness, joy, shame, chagrin, anger, jealousy, lust, greed; the ability to repent, and feel sorrow over wrongdoing; the ability to think, plan, and reason. Our personality, aside from our ability to see, hear, walk, and talk, is controlled by these frontal lobes.

God's Holy Spirit does not affect our memory, or improve our athletic ability, or improve our hearing or eyesight. It unites with our human spirit to change our character; our very deepest and innermost psyche, our personality!

You and I did not get here by only one life, which begat non-living tissue! No, it required two lives, united together, to produce our one physical life. So it is with God's process of begetting children.

This should not be puzzling to you, but plain. For a full understanding, please write, or call immediately to (903) 825-2525, for your free copy of my booklet, *Why You Were Born*. It takes you through the entire picture of the process of how God is reproducing after the God-kind, of what is the marvelous human potential !

Now, notice the truth about this "new creature" which is begotten within the human mind. Paul wrote: 'For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts [the "heart" spoken of in the Bible always means the character; the ability of

our minds to think, reason, and to feel remorse; to repent-it does not mean the physical muscular pump that forces the circulation of the bloodstream], to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" (II Corinthians 4:6,7).

What is your most precious possession?

We deeply pity those who lost one, or two, or even all four limbs through an accident or in war. It is important we understand this. One may say, "I lost my arm." It was my arm; it belonged to me. It was part of my body, but it was not me. I am still here. I did not think, plan, reason, feel, or repent with my arm.

A person may say, "I lost both my legs in Vietnam." Perhaps he now moves about on prosthetic legs, and with canes, or crutches. But he is still here!

Carried to perhaps an ultimate, ridiculous conclusion, the human body is capable of losing all four limbs, several vital organs, eyesight and hearing-capable of being reduced to a piteous trunk of a body-yet the individual is still alive; the personality is intact; the conscious, thinking person is still there.

I have seen, on television documentaries, piteous quadriplegics who have courageously learned to paint by holding a paintbrush between their teeth and moving their heads!

So, understand these biblical passages in the light of your knowledge about who and what we human beings are; in the light of the knowledge of our human spirit in connection with our brains which makes us truly human, and not mere animal !

Paul said we have "this TREASURE," this priceless, precious, wondrous gift of eternal life, of salvation in "earthen vessels." We, our human bodies and minds, are the "earthen vessels." We are like clay pots, which contain something incalculably precious.

Paul continued: "For which cause we faint not, but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man [the new creature in Christ; a newly-begotten spirit being] is renewed day by day. For our light affliction [tests and trials of life], which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. For while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Corinthians 4:7-18, excerpted).

### **The New Creature In Christ Dwells In a Temporary Body**

Paul continued: "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 Corinthians 5:1).

Notice the language. It is "our earthly house," but it is not "us." "We" dwell in this "earthly house," meaning our fragile, temporal human bodies. While our bodies are very much a part of us, they are not "us." We dwell inside our bodies, in the frontal lobes of our brains. The new creature in Christ is, in a sense, living in the host body, our physical "earthly house," our temporary, physical, chemical existence.

But the "house not made with hands" is a new, spiritual body, created of God, to be inherited at the resurrection, or at the time of the instantaneous change (I Corinthians 15:50-52).

Notice what God says about this new body: "But some man will say, 'How are the dead raised up?' and 'With what body to they come?'" (I Corinthians 15:35). Here, Paul anticipates many of our questions: "What if someone is buried at sea and eaten of sharks? What about cremation? What if someone is burnt up in a fire? What about those who are disintegrated in explosions or airplane crashes?"

God answers: "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened [renewed to life], except it die. And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed its own body" (I Corinthians 15:36-38).

Consider a single kernel of corn. When planted in the soil, the tiny germ that contains the microscopic design of the corn plant is fertilized by the decaying endosperm, which is made up of soft starch and hard starch. The germ begins to sprout, feeding on the starchy endosperm. A root appears, then more. Then, a sprout pushes aside the soil, and reaches for the sun. Eventually, the tiny germ grows into a stalk, perhaps as much as eight feet tall, producing two, three, four or more ears of corn. Each ear may have many hundreds of corn kernels.

The single kernel, planted in the soil, has now produced thousands of new kernels. These are new wealth. They have never existed before, and will never exist again.

In the cycle of life in plants, as in

humans, each new living thing is new wealth from the soil—a first time ever, never to be again, living entity.

As the glorious eight-foot tall cornstalk, with perhaps four big yellow ears of corn containing hundreds of kernels each bears little resemblance to the tiny germ in a dying corn kernel, so it is that our decaying (or burnt, or disintegrated) human bodies will be incomparable to the glorious spiritual body which God will give us.

Notice: "All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one [the glory of the stars and planets], and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory

of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory [in brightness, size, and beauty]. So also is the resurrection of the dead" (I Corinthians 15:35-42).

Obviously, in the Kingdom of God, there will be spiritual beings of different glory, different splendor, brightness, and different responsibility.

This fits in exactly with Jesus' parables of the talents and pounds, where each person is given reward according to his own accomplishments. One is given rulership over ten cities, another over five (Luke 19 27). See also I Corinthians 3:9-15, where a clear distinction is made between salvation, as God's free, loving gift, and "work," which results in various degrees of reward.

This helps us understand the difference between reward, which has to do with the degree of overcoming according to our natural individual abilities and God's help through the Holy Spirit, and salvation, which is the loving free gift of God, and has nothing to do with reward.

Reward is "according to their works," while salvation is free, the gift of God. As the stars differ, so will newly-born spirit beings differ in splendor and glory, and in degrees of responsibility, in God's Kingdom.

God clearly shows that David will be king over all Israel, while each of the twelve apostles (Matthias replacing Judas) will be lesser kings, under David, but judging the twelve tribes.

Paul continues: "It [the human "earthen vessel," or fleshly body] is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (I Corinthians 15:42-44).

There is simply no question about the dogmatic, plain, obvious assertion of fact in these scriptures! There is a natural body; that is you and I, our physical bodies in this life. And there is a spiritual body, which is the spirit life, the new creation of SPIRIT which shall inherit God's Kingdom.

"And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul [Greek: psyche, the same as the Hebrew nephesh, meaning "creature," or "living being"]; the last Adam [Christ] was made a quickening Spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth [physical, mortal, temporary, made of flesh], earth; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy" (I Corinthians 15:45-47)

You and I are like carbon copies of our parents. We are fleshly, like them. We bear their characteristics. We are composed of the same materials. We have many of their proclivities, talents, and abilities.

Now, notice! "And as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly!" (verse 48).

Is there any remote doubt in your mind about what you just read? This is plainly telling us we will be members of God's own Family, that we will "be like Him"!

John wrote: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear [in the resurrection] WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM: for we shall see Him as He is" (I John 3:2).

Millions suppose that salvation means "souls" wafting up to "heaven." Millions assume we humans, in the resurrection, will be at a level far below our Father. Perhaps we will be like an old hound dog, who gazes adoringly up into the eyes of his master, then thumps his tail on the floor as he lolls before the fireplace. We will be, they think on some level like angels, like spiritual drones or automatons.

No, we will be born of God, and we will be "like Him," for we shall "see Him as He is" !

Paul said: "And as we have borne the image of the earthy [we are made in the image of our physical parents], we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" (I Corinthians 15:50).

Can anything be plainer?

The glory that we are to inherit, the spiritual bodies we are to inherit, will be made in the image of our spiritual Father, and we shall be CHANGED!

Notice: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep [again and again, the Bible characterizes the state of the dead as a deep, profound, consciousness sleep !], but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Corinthians 15:50-52).

The "corruptible" body is no more. Instead, God gives each one of His children a new, brilliant, incorruptible, eternal SPIRIT body.

Peter also spoke of the new "creature in Christ" dwelling in a temporary "booth," or "kiosk," or "tabernacle." He wrote: "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet [fitting], as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance" (II Peter 1:12,13).

Peter knew that he was a new creature in Christ, a begotten son of God, who was only temporarily dwelling in an "earthen vessel," a human, physical body, which he called a tabernacle, which means "temporary dwelling place."



He continued: "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shown me" (verse 14). Peter knew the time of his martyrdom was approaching, that he would be killed for the sake of Christ. He had faith, however, to know that it was only like "putting off a garment," or "putting off a tabernacle"-it was not the end. Peter himself would survive, though remaining in a deep, profound "sleep" for an indeterminate period of time.

But since "the dead know not anything," the new creature in Christ, the converted son of God that Peter had become, would be completely unaware of the passage of any time!

When He is resurrected at the Second Coming of Christ, it will be to Peter, as to thousands of others, as if it all happened "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye."

He concluded, speaking of his approaching death: "Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance" (II Peter 1:15).

Our human bodies are but temporary dwelling places, subject to aging, to injury, sickness, and death. While we are alive in the flesh, we have a "window of opportunity" to repent of sin; to become convicted of having broken God's holy laws; to receive baptism, and the laying on of hands to receive God's Holy Spirit.

When our human spirit is begotten by God's Holy Spirit, a "new creature in Christ" is begotten. It is REAL. It is as real, as absolute, as certain, as factual as your own human existence!

## **The Reality of Our Spiritual Life**

You are real.

How did you get here? By the uniting of your father's life-giving cells with your mother's fertile egg. At the instant of conception, YOU began ! Only a second earlier, and you did not exist! Millions of potential brothers and sisters could have been conceived. They were not. They failed. But you succeeded! YOU are the result. You are here because two lives came together to produce your one life.

Your parents did not sit down on the couch one day, take out a note pad, and begin drawing up the requirements for a baby.

"Let's see now," your father did not say, "It should be a boy, and we would like it to have blond hair, blue eyes, and ten fingers and ten toes. Oh yes, and eyes, and ears, and all the vital organs...." Your mother did not say, "Oh, I'd rather have a girl-let's make it a girl." They did not then go to the baby bureau downtown, put in their application, and wait for the stork!

Yet, many deceived persons believe, by a casual assumption, that they can

inherit the Kingdom of God by just such a nonsensical fashion !

They hear a message about God, about doctrine. Perhaps they come across seeming irrefutable proof that Easter is pagan. So they study, and read, and take notes, and do some research. Little by little, they become convinced, through painstaking study and research, that Easter is indeed pagan.

So they then add that knowledge to their repertoire of truth, their storehouse of belief. Then, they might, with a great deal of skepticism and begrudging reluctance, study for months to prove to themselves that God's Ten Commandments have not been done away, that sin is the breaking of God 's laws (I John 3:4), and that repentance is shame and deep remorse over having been a law

breaker ! Then, they add that bit of truth to their growing storehouse of knowledge.

Eventually, they have amassed a very impressive amount of biblical knowledge. They know a good bit about biblical history, about prophecy, about doctrine.

Sometimes, especially when they come face to face with the seventh-day Sabbath, they become cynical, reluctant, even resentful, of the "new truth" they are learning. Finally, after months, or even years, of "proving" things to themselves, they believe they must accept the things they have learned.

Believe it or not, such people are no more qualified for the Kingdom of God at that point than Satan the devil!

What a shocking statement! Why assert such? Simply because, when it comes to the Bible and doctrine, Satan KNOWS IT ALL !

Satan could quote Scripture to you forwards and backwards! Satan knows all the doctrinal truths of God! But he is in rebellion against God, and will never repent!

You can no more inherit the Kingdom of God by slowly, a step at a time, studying doctrine than you could make out a list, go to the "bureau," and have a baby!

It is only when we repent of sin (Acts 2:38), then are baptized, and then receive God's Holy Spirit that we become God's children, begotten of our Spiritual Father, a "new creature in Christ" ! Once this "new creature in Christ" is begotten within our minds, it is every bit as REAL as you were REAL when you were a developing fetus in your mother's womb!

Just as you were nourished by your mother's bloodstream, so the "new creature in Christ" must be nourished by the Word of God, by Bible studies, by sermons, by studying and reading, by Christian fellowship, and by overcoming hurtful attitudes and nonChristian thoughts.

We must "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" until the moment when we reach the point of spiritual rebirth!

Jesus said: "Ye must be born again," and showed that the new birth is a spir

it birth-being changed from flesh to spirit, from human to divine! Write (or call) immediately for your free copy of *Why You Were Born!*

### **The Third Resurrection**

So far, we have seen there are two great categories of human beings who will be involved in the first and second resurrections.

The first resurrection (Revelation 20:6) is at the moment of Christ's arrival into the clouds above this earth, the moment of Christ's angels catching up the resurrected saints and the living (Matthew 24:31; I Thessalonians 4:16, 17). This is the resurrection to life, the resurrection of Christ's saints, including the apostles, Abraham and the patriarchs, and all the converted Christians who have lived and died.

For one thousand years, Christ will reign as KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS on earth, with millions of other members of the God Family reigning with Him (Revelation 2:26; 3:21; 10:5; 20:4; Isaiah 11: entire chapter; Isaiah 2; Micah 4).

The second resurrection is the greatest of all. It occurs after the one thousand years are finished, and is the resurrection to judgment (Revelation 20:5), when God will allow each individual to live for one hundred years (Isaiah 65:20).

Since God does not change, the millions who come up in this great resurrection will be judged "out of the Biblios," meaning the Word of God, in the same way God is judging you and me today! God says He "changes not." Therefore, they will be judged out of the revealed Word of God, the Bible, exactly as you and I are being judged.

It is very likely that the vast majority of all these teeming millions will accept God's rulership, believe the truth they will be taught, repent of their sins, and receive salvation!

Does this constitute a "second chance"? Absolutely not! These teeming millions never heard a single word of the gospel; they never heard the name of Jesus Christ. Or, at least, they never heard the true gospel; never truly had a full chance to understand the truth of God and respond to that truth in repentance.

This will be their first chance!

A "chance" for salvation is to hear the gospel preached. Being born in a pagan land, then dying in a few days of cholera, when your entire society has never heard the name of Jesus Christ, is not a chance for salvation!

Do you have loved ones who died, not being converted? They are dead now-completely oblivious to the passing of time. The Bible speaks of them as being at the very deepest sleep- completely unconscious. They are NOT LOST! They are merely dead!

God says: "It is given to men once to die, but after this the judgment."

But there is a third category of humans.

They are the incorrigibly wicked. They are the ones who have consciously rejected God's way of life; have rejected salvation. They are the ones who WILL not repent!

Notice: "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk [live] after the flesh [carnally, living a life of hedonism, sensuality] in the lust of uncleanness [such as homosexuality, bestiality, pedophilia, incest, adultery, sodomy], and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

"Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts [like predatory animals, devoid of human feeling, like mercy, forgiveness, and compassion], made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not, and shall utterly perish in their own corruption" (II Peter 9-12).

To "utterly perish" is to be completely destroyed by fire! Christ warned: "And fear not them which kill the body [our temporary tabernacle], but are not able to kill the soul [the Greek word is psyche, which means psyche, or mind; innermost being, where the human spirit resides]: but rather fear Him [God the Father] Which is able to destroy both soul [psyche] and body [soma] in hell [Gehenna, God's destroying fire]" (Matthew 10:28).

When the life cells that became you united in the womb of your mother, what happened to the millions of potential brothers and sisters who could have been conceived? They perished. They died. They were never united with a fertile egg; they never became a "new creature."

What happens to each human being who refuses his or her "window of opportunity" for salvation? They perish! Notice: "For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Eternal of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of righteousness [Christ] arise with healing in His wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves in the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Eternal of hosts" (Malachi 4:1-3).

Now, notice how Peter concluded his statements about the wicked "utterly perishing": "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long

suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation [conduct] and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (II Peter 2:9-12).

Many miles beneath our feet, our tectonic plates, with their mountains and valleys, "float" on a vast, seething, white-hot subterranean sea of "magma," or molten rock.

Several times in the past, God has submerged the continents beneath the waters of the earth. River deltas, coral atolls, and ancient seashores demonstrate that the earth experienced not just two continental inundations, but several.

The two of which we can come to know are those mentioned in Genesis 1 and Genesis 6 and 7. When we are ushered upon the scene in ancient history, the earth is completely covered with water, stygian black, with the sun blotted out by a Venusian-like atmosphere. God's first act is to "let there be light," or, to let the light shine upon the earth for the first time in who knows how many thousands, or millions, of years.

Then, He says: "Let the dry land appear." Thus, the continents were raised, with the waters roaring from their surface, gouging out valleys, forming lakes, cutting deep river channels.

But mankind became totally corrupt within about one-sixth of human history, resorting to every perversion, violence, and lawless act. Cannibalism was rampant. Murder was everywhere.

God then destroyed the world with a flood, saving only Noah and his family.

Notice how this ancient flood is used as a type of the coming destruction of the world by fire: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.'"

These scoffers argue that all events, such as droughts, famines, wars, earthquakes, and the like are but "cyclical." They sneer at God's prophecies; they ridicule His servants. They say it is only a repetitious cycle, that all things continue as they always were.

But God says: "For this they WILLINGLY ARE IGNORANT of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old,

and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was [from Adam to Noah], being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the

earth which are now [in the day in which you and I live] by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (II Peter 2:3-7). Notice that these verses precede the ones you read above, concerning the elements melting with fervent heat, and the whole earth being destroyed with fire.

Will God simply submerge the continents beneath the molten magma within the earth? It matters not how He accomplishes it, but, at the end of the human family on earth, and at the beginning of the next phase of God's creation, the remaining incorrigibly wicked—those who have WILLED to reject God's truth, who have WILLFULLY rebelled against His holy laws, who have refused to repent—will be burnt up.

Notice the famous parable of Lazarus and the rich man. For a complete exposition of this well-known part of the Bible, please write, or call immediately, for your free copy of our brochure, *Is Lazarus in Heaven?*

The parable shows that both Lazarus the poor beggar and the cruel, coldhearted rich man, who refused to give Lazarus a thin dime, died. Lazarus is said to have been "carried by the angels" (as we have read in Matthew 24 and I Thessalonians 4:17, the "dead in Christ" are to be caught up at the same moment as the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, are resurrected) into "Abraham's bosom." This merely means a "close association with Abraham," a friendly, warm, intimate contact with this great man. The parable does not say "heaven." Be sure to take time out and write for the brochure.

Then, at the time of the third and final resurrection, the rich man, having died many years earlier, "in hell [hades, meaning "the grave." This is not the Greek word Gehenna] he lift up his eyes [he becomes alive again, seeing], being in torments [because of what he sees, not because, just yet, of what he feels], and seeth Abraham afar off, an Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in the flame.' But Abraham said, 'So remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented'" (Luke 16:19-31).

Without repeating the in-depth analysis of this parable here (please write, or call, as mentioned above), let's notice some vitally significant points. First, the parable says both the rich man and Lazarus died. This ultimate fact of their deaths, must be understood in the light of all the scriptures we have already read (and dozens more we did

not) concerning the state of the dead.

The dead are completely oblivious. Unconscious. The "dead know not anything," and the dead are characterized by being in the most profound, black, unfeeling sleep. The human brain decays and returns to the dust. The human spirit, which has no consciousness apart from the brain, is completely comatose, "asleep." It is a hard and fast rule of Bible study that a seemingly ambiguous or metaphorical scripture cannot nullify many plain, clear, easily understood scriptures on the same subject.

The parable of Lazarus and the rich man does not nullify all the plain scriptures in your Bible about the state of the dead, about the resurrection to judgment, about the ultimate reality of Gehenna fire.

Notice further that Lazarus did not "go to heaven" but, once resurrected, he was taken to the "Abraham's bosom," or a close, warm, intimate relationship with Abraham.

The rich man, who died, could only "lift up his eyes," or become conscious again, in a resurrection.

Which resurrection?

Obviously, this is not the first resurrection, for the rich man is certainly not one of the "dead in Christ." Obviously, it is not the second resurrection, for the rich man says he is "tormented in this flame." He sees imminent destruction -a horrible DEATH BY FIRE-approaching ! Obviously, then, this is the third and final resurrection, when the grisly, macabre statement is made, "death and the grave were cast into the lake of fire."

It is stark terror which causes the rich man's tongue to cleave to the roof of his mouth. He does not ask Lazarus for a fire engine with powerful hoses; he does not ask for a bucket brigade or casks of water. Instead, he asks only for Lazarus to dip his finger into water to cool the rich man's tongue.

Is it significant that he dare not ask for more?

During Lazarus' life of privation and suffering, the rich man would no doubt look out of his window as he chewed on sumptuous, gourmet food, seeing Lazarus lying on the ground with open, weeping sores-the dogs licking his wounds. The rich man would not give Lazarus so much as a penny.

Thus, the rich man symbolizes the cruelty of man, the heartlessness of those who abuse orphans, widows, the sick, and the elderly. He symbolizes those who exploit others; those who are miserly, selfish, calloused. He also typifies the incorrigibly wicked-those who remain unmoved by human suffering !

Now, see further proof of the third and final resurrection.

Notice that after we read of the Great White Throne Judgment" (Revelation 20:11,12), we read of another great event: "And death and hell [hades, meaning the grave] were

cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:14,15).

Revelation 20 begins with the first resurrection, speaking of the "dead in Christ" and the saints who are instantaneously changed at the Second Coming of Christ. This is the "better" resurrection (Hebrews 11:35); the "first fruits" of salvation (James 1:18;

Revelation 14:4). These are the born-again members of the Family of Divine ELOHIM (Romans 8:15-17; 15:29; I Corinthians 15:50-52), who "lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4).

This is the "resurrection to life" of which Christ spoke (John 5:29), the

first resurrection.

But we are then told about the "rest of the dead" who "lived not again until the thousand years are finished" (Revelation 20:5). This is the Great White Throne Judgment period of one hundred years, of which we have read, during which all the billions of human beings in all the nations of the world will come up in a great, general resurrection, and be given a glorious opportunity for salvation.

This leaves one category of human beings which have not been dealt with. The incorrigible. The willfully rebellious. Those who have deliberately, consciously rejected God's truth, His wonderful way of life, His grace, mercy, and salvation. These are characterized by the rich man of the parable of Luke 16. Jude says of them: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ....these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities" (Jude 4-8).

Do those who "creep in unawares" by the flock know what they are doing? Do they know they are "creeps"?

Surely.

Notice that these evil, false teachers twist the grace of God, which is God's loving, undeserved forgiveness, His pardon of our past sins, into "license." In other words, they deceive God's people into thinking they have "permission" to break God's laws. The people then assume that if their leaders say it, and if a few other members of the church nod their heads and go along with it, that it "must be all right."

They are those who always believe they should "let God work it out." This is the excuse used by German SS guards, who murdered countless Jews in death camps all over Europe. They were only "following orders." It was not their responsibility. It was the responsibility of their leaders.

Surely, if something were wrong, then it was up to their leaders to straighten it out.

Today, millions believe God's perfect, holy, righteous Ten Commandments are done away. They advocate, openly, breaking God's Sabbath. They are teaching licentiousness, which is "permission to sin"! The Bible is very clear about their ultimate reward. They are indicted as being among those who have knowingly and willfully rejected God's laws, when they knew better!



They are resurrected immediately after the Great White Throne Judgment. As we saw, their resurrection is characterized by the ugliest of words, "death and the grave." When is a grave not a grave? It is not a grave when there is no body present. The Greek word hades means "grave." But a grave is merely a hole in the ground unless a dead human body is within.

Now, remember what you read about the Great White Throne Judgment of 100 years duration. There is not to be an infant who has not fulfilled his days of 100 years. A sinner, being 100 years of age, shall be "accursed." After the Millennium, in the great general resurrection, there will be no more human reproduction. God will stop the human reproductive cycle. There will be no more an "infant of days" during this future time.

God will resurrect all human beings who have never heard, or consciously rejected, the gospel, from infants of days to the very elderly. But there will be no more new births.

But during this period, Satan, who has been hurled far away from the earth in a symbolic "bottomless pit" (Revelation 20:1-3), will be free to influence humanity again.

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog [metaphor for the vast, teeming gentile races, and implying the incorrigibly wicked], to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city [Jerusalem]: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [were cast], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:7-10).

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## **We Reserve the right to retaliate**

**So NOW it begins. For more than three decades, I have warned of the unimaginable consequences to America and the world if trade war breaks out between the U.S. and Japan. Hailing the eleventh hour backdown by the Japanese government to open their markets to U.S. autos and auto parts, the Clinton Administration trumpeted about "thousands of new jobs" for American auto workers. But, is that scenario accurate? Will tens of thousands of U.S. autos soon festoon the showrooms of hundreds of Japanese auto dealers? Will the Japanese truly follow through on their end of the bargain? Or will it result, instead, in Japanese retaliation which can devastate the U.S. economy?**

**by Garner Ted Armstrong  
and William H. Ellis**

**T**here is a wide disparity between the U.S. government's version of the new agreement, and the Japanese interpretation of it. "Relieved officials are hailing the trade accord between the United States and Japan as a political win for both sides, but don't expect it to be a complete success," wrote Jon E. Hilsenrath of Knight-Ridder Financial News. "By all accounts, the U.S. trade deficit with Japan will persist for many years..." (Dallas Morning News, June 29, 1995).

The eleventh-hour backdown by the Japanese is typical; a salient lesson in Japanese diplomacy and business dealing. The Japanese government alleged that the Japanese auto industry "voluntarily" agreed to accept U.S. cars, thus "saving face" for the government, making it appear it was a purely businesslike decision from businessmen.

In truth, it is big business that runs Japan. With the staggering blows already dealt major Japanese investors in the U.S., who lost billions when their U.S. real estate holdings plummeted; with a shrinking U.S. dollar dealing them yet additional blows, making Japanese products more expensive in the U.S., and U.S. products cheaper in Japan, the big boardrooms of such giants as Mitsui looked to their future. Rather than launch an all-out retaliatory blow against the U.S. economy now, which they could easily have done by refusing to purchase any more U.S. debt, they opted for a small concession-one which will prove completely unsatisfactory to U.S. automakers within two or three years-in order to continue their march toward the most powerful economy in the world.

The time may come, and the Japanese fully expect it, when the yen may replace the dollar as the world's reserve currency. Like early Gulf War euphoria, which was quickly replaced by a sour taste when it was realized Saddam Hussein was still in power; that he was quickly rebuilding his forces; that not all of his Scuds, or chemical and/or nuclear and biological weapons had been found, so it may prove in the not too distant future that euphoria over the Japanese "caving in" at the last minute is totally misplaced.

How did these two powerful trading nations arrive at an apparent impasse? When did it all begin, and what will happen next?

Look at the situation from the Japanese point of view. What if the entire situation were reversed? What if Americans were the most prosperous people on earth, with low unemployment, moderate taxation, the highest ratio of savings?

What if we had been reading in our daily newspapers, our weekly news magazines, and hearing nightly on television, of a vicious trade squabble in which the Japanese government was insisting on forcing U.S. automobile dealers to accept what we believe are inferior Japanese products? What if we had a decidedly nationalistic (almost xenophobic) spirit? What if we sincerely thought our automobiles were the finest in the world? How would you and I react, as consumers, if we read the screaming headlines, "Clinton Administration Capitulates To Japanese Threats-American auto dealers to begin featuring Japanese-made cars!"

Would millions of American consumers be panting with impatience, waiting for the moment when we could rush down to our local automobile dealership, and buy an expensive, but inferior product, made in a foreign country?

Can the Japanese government force their consumers to purchase U.S. made products? Can tariffs be imposed by the Japanese which make U.S. autos prohibitive?

For it is Japanese businessmen, the Japanese auto industry, the Japanese dealers, and the Japanese consumers who will decide. If we think the Japanese will rush to purchase our automobiles, we need to think again.

## **World Trade Wars Predicted**

When the first tiny "Toyopets" and VW "Beetles" began scurrying around U.S. streets and highways back in the late 1950s and early 1960s, our broadcasts and magazines were warning about an impending trade war with Europe, led by a revitalized Germany, and with a newly industrialized Japan.

In 1959, the signals of coming trade war were identified to readers of The Plain Truth magazine: "With Marshall Plan dollars pouring into Europe, the revival of German, Italian and French industry-with the resurgence of Japanese cartels, now America and Britain find themselves seriously challenged in foreign trade.

"As the United States sinks into the vortex of greed, selfishness, graft and crime, surrendering its world markets because of strikes at home, GERMANY and JAPAN, the defeated nations of World War II, stage an awe-inspiring industrial comeback unmatched in the history of the world!

"This is trade war!

"The Japanese steel makers can buy scrap on our West Coast, ship it to Japan, process it through their mills and produce saleable commodities, ship those products BACK to the West Coast -and UNDERSELL IDENTICAL U.S. PRODUCTS" (*The Plain Truth*, October 1959, Garner Ted Armstrong\*).

## **Poor U.S. Quality**

In those days, the first Japanese and German auto exports to be sold in the U.S. were considered novelties-almost a joke.

The Madison Avenue advertising executives lined up to make presentations to represent Toyota products in the U.S. market. The ad man who won Toyota's account opened his presentation to pin-striped Japanese auto executives in Tokyo with the outlandish statement: "Toyota-brought to the U.S. by those wonderful people who brought you Pearl Harbor."

He knew, in the late 1950s that the U.S. public had not forgotten the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor which started a shooting war in the Pacific.

The shocked Japanese manufacturers understood immediately! That was the marketing problem Japan's auto makers had to overcome in the minds of the America public.

The New York ad agency was awarded the account, and Toyota began to deliver-and deliver they did! And the U.S. consumer bought Toyotas.

But, in the late 1950s, Detroit took no notice. U.S. auto makers continued to pour out a never-ending stream of big, gas-guzzling, wide-bodied, tail-finned monsters which, as widely reported in the '60s featured "built-in obsolescence," together with "at least twenty-five easily discernable factory defects."

I warned, in my radio and television broadcasts, as well as in print, during those years, that prospective auto buyers should beware of running their hands along the edges of rear bumpers or trunk lids, for they might get their fingers cut from the jagged edges.

Listeners and readers then well remember my warnings about the "Monday morning car," with its slipshod, indifferent workmanship-so named because of the widely reported condition of countless thousands of U.S. assembly-line workers who were suffering from hangovers on Monday mornings.

Eventually, however, Detroit got the message. Today, U.S. autoworkers produce cars that are very competitive with Japanese and German products.

Nevertheless, Japan has already attained a large share of U.S. markets. Millions of Americans still purchase Japanese automobiles. A glance at any American street or highway confirms the fact: Mazdas, Hondas, Toyotas, Nissans (formerly Datsuns), Isuzus, and Mitsubishi's abound.

Speaking of the U.S. car makers, GM, Ford and Chrysler, Thomas G. Denomme writes: "Big Three sales in Japan will increase this year by about 12,000 vehicles. Japan ships that many to the United States every three days" (*Washington Post National Weekly Edition*, May 15-21, 1995). Can Detroit truly compete with the Japanese on an equal footing? "They're going to have to come up with vehicles people are actually going to have to buy and price them right," said Nick Lobaccaro, auto analyst for S. G. Warburg & Co., brokerage firm.

## **Rise From Ashes**

Reporting from Tokyo in 1963, I observed firsthand the miracle of Japan's recovery: "Japan is literally BOOMING! Tokyo, a city tremendously damaged by U.S. bombs during World War II, is today a vast, sprawling, noisy, frightfully busy city...a completely feudalistic state only about 50 years ago, and the utter shambles of World War II barely fading on the horizon, Japan today has reached the status of WORLD INDUSTRIAL POWER NUMBER FOUR!" (*The Plain Truth*, February 1963, "Japan-Future Super Giant!").

During their breathtaking rise from the ashes of defeat in World War II to one of the world's true super giants of industry, the Japanese people demonstrated to the world their ability to work hard, save money, exercise discipline, and plan for the long term.

By contrast, the American mentality of "get it now," or "make a quick buck," is nowhere visible in Japan. While the U.S. economy is always subjected to the fits and starts of federal intervention in interest rates to either heat up or cool down inflation; while most Americans think about the short term, the Japanese tend to think in terms of 20-year plans, or a lifetime.

"Japan...has demonstrated to the rest of the world that a high rate of literacy, ultra-modern technical ability, and capacity for self-sacrificing hard work can build a nation into a modern economic miracle" (*The Plain Truth*, October 1969, "Yankees of the Orient?").

## **Benefits of Long-Term Commitment**

Perhaps nothing illustrates this tendency toward long-term planning better than the scene in Japanese universities at graduation time. Major companies actively recruit among graduates by setting up booths, distributing literature, advertising, and directly soliciting. Fewer and fewer corporate recruiters were found on U.S. campuses this year.

The Japanese graduate engineer or computer programmer may find himself solicited by Matsushita Electric, a company larger than IBM, General Motors, and Xerox all put together. If he accepts an entry-level job with the company, he is informed of all the

company's benefits, including opportunities for advancement, insurance, retirement programs, vacations, and the like. Automatic savings and investment plans are explained.

He is expected to make a life-long commitment to the company; to see his future within the company, not using the company as a stepping stone to another, or an opportunity for on-the-job training so he can start a competitive business.

If the recruit accepts the job offer and performs well in his new job, he can expect to earn an acceptable living, be married in a few years, buy an apartment or home, and raise a family. He can expect to fly aboard a Japanese-owned airline to a Japanese-owned golf resort in Hawaii, carrying his Japanese-made camera and video recorder filled with Fuji film. He can then rent a Japanese automobile, stay in a Japanese hotel, and eat in Japanese restaurants, while enjoying several rounds of golf with his new (and very expensive) Japanese-made "Mizuno" golf clubs, using "Precept" or "Slazenger" golf balls, which are all made in Japan.

All of this on a vacation visit to the United States.

Each year, countless thousands of Japanese visitors and tourists come to America on such vacations with pockets full of American dollars. Little of what they spend ends up in the U.S. economy.

## **The Current Economic/ Political Crisis**

Just like any American who is relishing prosperity, the Japanese do not wish to see their lifestyles change for the worse.

However, at present, a weak, three-party coalition clings tenuously to power in Japan, afraid to offend Japanese businesses; the gigantic industries which pour out a never-ending stream of exports, keeping the Japanese economy on a solid plus side of the ledger; allowing millions of Japanese to save major portions of their earnings.

Internal tensions among Japanese leaders are strained with pragmatic business decisions, a newly weakened currency, the yen, a rising clamor among their own right-wing neo-nationalists, and the deeply-felt need to dominate Asia and boldly stride the world stage.

But, the Clinton Administration's moves to "open" Japanese trade by imposing tariffs on Japan's luxury cars imported to the U.S. threatened to disrupt Japan's comfortable rise to power. Nearly thirty years ago, when the financial stakes were smaller, the seeds of this conflict were already sown.

"Japan and the United States seem headed toward open conflict...this time over trade. The United States had requested Japan do something about the \$1,500,000,000 surplus Japan enjoys this year [1969] in its trade with the U.S. The Japanese flatly refused.

"There is a growing wave of anti-American sentiment in Japan" (*The Plain Truth*, October 1969). The articles I wrote years ago could be today's headlines.

As recently as the March 1995 issue of this *Twentieth Century WATCH* magazine, I devoted an extensive cover article to the subject of world trade and the foolish mistake the United States was making by participating in the GATT negotiations which set up the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Now we see that President Clinton disregarded GATT and WTO and unilaterally determined to impose tariffs on Japan! Japan said it would not stand for such an action, and threatened to take the U.S. before the world trade court America helped set up, the World Trade Organization. Bipartisan support even came from some of the most conservative leaders among the House and Senate Republi-cans.

## World Public Opinion

Incredibly, analysts everywhere predicted that if the U.S. persisted in this policy, the WTO would rule against America, and Japan would WIN!

Here is what some respected observers said, from all viewpoints:

"Few trade experts believe that such unilateral sanctions would be legal under the rules of the World Trade Organization, the newly formed arbiter of global trade. Although it might take more than a year for the Geneva-based WTO to issue a ruling in Japan's favor, in the court of public opinion the United States is already being found guilty of violating international treaty obligations..." (Paul Blustein, *Washington Post National Weekly Edition*, June 5-11, 1995, emphasis ours).

Notice what other authorities said:

"The Europeans are siding with Japan, which is especially galling to Americans" (Jonathan Alter, *Newsweek*, June 5, 1995).

The Wall Street Journal noted: "The European Union...issued a statement yesterday condemning the U.S. for imposing sanctions on Japan without first consulting the WTO" (May 30, 1995). Respected commentator George Will asked recently: "And if the tariff goes into effect, what will Clinton do when the new World Trade Organization, which he sponsored, declares it illegal?" (May 21, 1995, *Washington Post Writers Group*)

. Commenting that it will be difficult for the U.S. to "accept defeat gracefully," The Economist wrote for European readers: "By brazenly ignoring America's WTO obligations Mr. Kantor has taken a huge gamble. America stands to lose plenty" (May 20, 1995).

Notice what I warned over thirty years ago:

"Japan will be an industrial giant in Asia that will be negotiating from a position of great strength with the other giants of the world-the United States, Russia and United Europe!" (*Plain Truth*, February 1963).

## **What Else Does America Have to Lose?**

Despite the ravaging effects and catastrophic costs of rebuilding after the January 1995 Kobe earthquake estimated at more than \$80 billion (reported in [Twentieth Century WATCH](#), February 1995). Despite fanatical religious terrorism on its airlines and in its streets and subways. Despite a temporarily stagnating economy and weakened yen, Japan remains extremely wealthy and strong. "The basic force propelling the yen up is the country's massive trade surplus: \$146 billion in 1994," reports Robert J. Samuelson in the *Washington Post* (April 3-9, 1995).

Washington Post reporter Paul Blustein identifies greater problems for the U.S. as the two nations reach "the point of risking a serious trade war and a severe blow to the broader relationship between Washington and Tokyo.... As tensions rise cooperation between Washington and Tokyo on security issues such as North Korea's nuclear program will become harder and harder to achieve, straining the transpacific political alliance."

In an effort to strengthen its own economy, the U.S. has put in jeopardy its worldwide reputation, the basis for its security alliances around the world. It is attempting to blatantly bully Japan into a corner while the rest of the world is watching.

Not only have the nations of an emerging United Europe condemned the U.S., but Venezuela and Brazil have challenged other U.S. trade policies in the WTO court of world trade.

And Japan? "For their part, Japanese officials, especially the younger ones, have decided the usual gaiatsu (foreign pressure) game is getting tired and insulting...it is the Ministry of Finance, where pro-regulation "Asianist" hard-liners are ascendant" (*Newsweek*, June 5, 1995).

According to *U.S. News & World Report*: "The Koreans are now 'petrified about the U.S. focusing on them the kind of firepower we've aimed at Japan,' notes Mark Mason of Yale's School of Management" (June 5, 1995).

The world community is aware that "the United States can behave with a truly breathtaking hypocrisy. It is doing so now in relation to Japan" (*The Economist*, May 13, 1995).

World trade is the new arena in which global war is fought and peace is negotiated, and the U.S. is headed for defeat.



"Everyone's been saying for a long time that foreign policy is becoming economic, but like everything it's taken a while for the message to sink in around here,' the former Treasury Secretary, Lloyd Bentsen said...the job of Treasury Secretary has permanently changed, Mr. Bentsen argues, and the result is that it has virtually merged with the job of Secretary of State" (*New York Times*, January 15, 1995).

In this new trade war, the U.S. threat against Japan "has nothing to do with free trade or protecting the rights of American businesses and everything to do with special-interest politics and highly flawed economics" (*National Review*, June 12, 1995).

"The World Press Review, examining editorial opinion around the world, found that 86 percent of influential papers criticized U.S. actions or expressed fear they could trigger a ruinous trade war," wrote Steven Butler in Tokyo for *U.S. News & World Report* (June 12, 1995).

It is impossible to ignore the blatant political overtones of Bill Clinton's decision to ride roughshod over GATT-WTO (which he championed) by unilaterally imposing sanctions against the Japanese. Incredibly, he was willing to risk trade war in a gesture toward the auto worker unions to get votes.

"This was a political, not an economic exercise," Knight-Ridder's Jon Hilsenrath observed, (*The Dallas Morning News*, June 29, 1995).

"It is going to take more than heavy-handed politics to sell cars in Japan," warned auto analyst Nick Lobaccaro.

As the U.S. loses its dominant position in world trade, it also loses its credible leadership in geopolitical, global affairs.

"The United States maintained its position as the largest debtor nation last year...The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that the nation's debt worsened by 24.9 percent" (*Associated Press*, June 28, 1995).

It is not just that America is the world's leading debtor/borrower nation, while Japan is the world's leading creditor/lender nation. What is even more important, the world is seeing the U.S. as MORALLY BANKRUPT.

Meanwhile in Europe and Asia, new leadership is on the rise!

## **Asia For the Asians!**

Two years ago, America closed its military bases in the Philippines. Thailand has rejected an American request to allow supply ships, floating warehouses of military equipment, off the Thai coast. Plans are being made for reducing the U.S. military presence in South Korea and Japan. Japan depends on world trade to survive. "The shipping lanes, vital to trade, need protecting. Some Americans worry about a more assertive Japan" (*The*

*Economist*, December 3, 1994). Japan is well aware that if it loses its ability to trade, it will lose the foundation of its prosperity. And Japan is not sitting idly by.

In addition to underwriting America's 1980s spending spree with billions of dollars loaned by Japanese banks, Japan has been investing widely and wisely in countries throughout South-east Asia.

"Japan finds itself being pressed by some of the same Asian countries it once overran to assert itself politically....Japan has overthrown the U.S. as Asia's dominant trader and investor. Japan's economic ascendance in the region, in fact, has made greater political influence seem inevitable," writes Hidenaka Kato, in the business-oriented *Tokyo Nikkei Weekly*, January 9, 1995.

He continues: "Said former Malaysian Foreign Minister Ghazali Shafie, 'Japan must refuse to play the role of little brother of the U.S.' And Kuala Lumpur wants Japan to join its East Asia

Economic Caucus, which would exclude Western countries."

Mr. Kato reported: "Tokyo played a key role in brokering a peace settlement in Cambodia, and it is already involving itself more elsewhere in Asia. After years of fence sitting, it has stated its desire to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council...Japan can help solve regional conflicts and promote social and economic progress 'as a permanent UN Security Council member representing Asia.'"

In a best-selling book released last year, the influential Japanese politician, Ichiro Ozawa, set a new agenda for his country. In it he presents "a powerful argument for transforming his country from an export titan into a responsible world military leader" (*Time*, June 13, 1994). He is quoted as writing: "Japan must become a 'normal nation'...that willingly shoulders responsibilities regarded as natural in the international community."

Japan's Tomiichi Murayama "abandoned his party's old insistence that the existence of the Japanese military was unconstitutional" (*The Economist*, July 23, 1994).

This year, *The Economist* reports that Japanese World War II veterans families, led by trade minister Ryutaro Hashimoto are airing some ideas that may sound strangely familiar. "The reluctance to apologise reflects the anti-western current that still runs through Japan's politics... demanding that everyone else accept an unfair interpretation of fair trade" (June 3, 1995). *The Economist*, a British publication, describes increasingly popular conservative Japanese attitudes: "Asia is the centre of civilisation, birthplace of great religions and of mankind's early scientific advances. Today's Japan likes to speak for Asia at international gatherings...Japan fought the second world war on Asia's behalf."

*The Economist* concludes: "So Japan's [conservative] right has succeeded in building up Japan's armed forces and in restoring old symbols to something like their former dignity."

Japan's most influential newspaper published proposals for changes in the U.S.-imposed Japanese constitution last year. Addressing "disparities between the constitution and reality," the conservative news source "Yomiuri Shimbun's proposed changes range from the military's status to the role of the Emperor....The Yomiuri said due to changes in the world 'we believe now is the time to recognize new requirements of the nation....The plan would recognize the Self-Defense Forces, Japan's military, as 'an organization for self-defence to secure [Japan's] peace and independence and to maintain its safety" (*The Toronto Globe and Mail*, November 4, 1994).

## **Trade War IS Real WAR**

In the cover article in our March 1995 issue of [Twentieth Century WATCH](#), I reported to readers about the military build-up going on in Japan NOW. From Tokyo, during my visit there in February, I saw evidence that the Japanese Self-Defense Forces are, indeed, quietly building into an ultra-modern, high-tech, armed tool of Japan's expansionist Asian policies.

I warned in that article, "WATCH JAPAN."

And I wrote: "It was the American trade embargo against Japan, and the freezing of Japanese assets in U.S. banks which precipitated the Japanese attack against Pearl Harbor."

Now, just months later, President Clinton threatened more trade sanctions against Japan.

The Japanese hate instability of any kind. "Japan is a society that respects not majority rule but unanimous consensus...everyone has to conform...individuals are assured a secure life in exchange for burying themselves in the group" (*Time*, quoting Ichiro Ozawa, June 13, 1995).

Ken Yanagisawa, the chief representative of Mitsubishi Research Institute wrote to the New York Times that "little mention was made of differences between the two countries in fundamental values." He comments that Japan has a skeptical view of competition. "Japanese companies avoid keen competition....Japanese society has been structured to avoid strong competition" (May 28, 1995).

Japan sees U.S. international policies, whether trade or politics, as chaotic, short-term, destructive, and foolish. How, they wonder, can a nation with so much debt be foolish enough to launch a trade war against a nation with so much wealth?

Yet, that is what the U.S. threatened!

Repeatedly, I have warned: "It is not wise to quarrel with the owner of your mortgage."

## Young ANGRY Japan

While "10,000 elderly delegates commemorated the Greater East Asia War [World War II in the Pacific] that rid the continent of European colonialists and, they believe, laid the basis for its current dignity and wealth," *The Economist* reported, "many Japanese regard themselves a victims" (June 3, 1995).

Imagine the reverse of the U.S. advertising agency executive trying to sell U.S. products in the powerful and wealthy Japanese market. What will he say? "U.S. products brought to Japan by those wonderful people who brought you Hiroshima and Nagasaki." Will the Japanese buy from America products they consider poorly made and over priced? They have not forgotten the atomic devastation which ended World War II!

But their memory is selective.

They conveniently forget that after World War II in Germany there were war crime trials at Nuremberg. German military leaders were imprisoned or, in some cases, executed. In Japan there were none, despite equally horrendous atrocities committed against military prisoners and civilians occupied by Japanese troops who conducted medical experiments on innocent people. Instead, Japan's wartime leaders were installed in its new peacetime government and have continued to run the country.

The Germans were forced to get a new flag; Japan retained its old one. The Germans were forced to adopt a new national anthem; Japan kept its old one. And, amazingly, it was the German leader, Adolph Hitler, who committed suicide in defeat, not the Japanese Emperor, where in Japan suicide for failure and defeat is a centuries-old tradition!

The older generation of Japanese who survived World War II made the sacrifices of hard work, long hours, and low pay to build the powerful Japanese economy of the 1980s and 1990s.

But, the younger generation is spoiled by surging prosperity. They are the ones who expect to continue to live charmed economic lives.

They see U.S. trade sanctions will lead to a slowing of Japan's growth and a diminishing of its power as a direct threat to their rosy future.

As the prestigious *Harvard Business Review* has pointed out: "Middle-aged people are the ones most solidly behind the call for domestic reform....the people in this generation still believe they can-and, more important, that they must-change the world" (May-June 1995).

The author of the article quoted above is Kenichi Ohmae, a founder and director of a political reform movement in Japan. He continues describing the next younger generation

of Japanese: "The people now in their thirties and early forties, see things quite differently. They are Japan's 'lost generation....' The next generation, the 'angry young men and women' in their mid- to late twenties, view the resignation of the lost generation as cowardly."

Americans should not expect these angry young Japanese to allow the United States to ruin the promise of their lives.

## **Japan's Natural Ally- China!**

With its weakening links with the United States near the breaking point, Japan is looking elsewhere for its needs.

As early as 1963, I wrote: "Here is the shocking trend that is so easily visible in Japan today! There is an utter inevitability of the ultimate tie-up between Japan and Red China! The big question is how long China will remain 'Red' and survive without a tie-up with Japanese capitalism...Japanese businessmen have pressed for many years for stepped up trade with the Chinese mainland-Communist or not" (*The Plain Truth*, February 1963).

Now it begins.

"Pragmatic Japan fears that American assertiveness may rebound: it has been slow to cut off trade with Iran, citing the danger of provoking the Iranians. Meanwhile, Japanese firms are grabbing every chance to expand trade with China" (*The Economist*, May 13, 1995).

China is not a member of the World Trade Organization and is not responsible to abide by its rules. China can act unilaterally in world trade where the U.S. and Japan theoretically cannot. China is expansionist in its policies, but its leaders are aging rapidly. New, more aggressive, more modern leaders can be expected to take their places. Even now, China is claiming greater hegemony over the South China Sea, a major shipping route for vitally-needed Japanese imported raw materials and natural resources.

And it is in the matter of raw materials and natural resources that these two powers can make a deal.

As I wrote in 1963, it is China which has an abundance of natural resources, oil, and myriad raw materials, including coal and iron. And it is Japan which has the financial power, the technology, and the need to develop its giant neighbor's market. Japan's bonus? Inexpensive land and cheap Chinese labor!

But, don't forget China is also already a nuclear power, with nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them!

"Some Americans worry about a more assertive Japan," says *The Economist*. "Even more are concerned by the growing economic and military power of an increasingly self-confident China" (December 3, 1994).

In 1963 I predicted these two Asian superpowers will get together, and now we can begin to see it happening in our daily news.

*The Economist* also reports that "China is spending heavily on modernising its military equipment" (July 23, 1994).

As U.S. influence, trade, and military power is withdrawn from Asia, only two world-leading nations can fill the power vacuum which will be created-Japan and China.

Amazingly enough, at the same time the U.S. administration is attempting to punish the Japanese, it is opening its doors to trade with China, despite continuing human rights abuses by Beijing.

The United States, of course, has a trade deficit with Communist Red China, too. And China has announced its plans to develop its own automotive industry to "achieve a high level of car exports and trade surpluses. That conflicts with U.S. hopes of selling China cars and parts to offset a burgeoning trade deficit with the People's Republic" (*U.S. New & World Report*, June 5, 1995).

## **Trade War Prophesied!**

In 1959, when no one else dared to think that the U.S. might become involved in a trade war-AND LOSE IT-some of us were looking to the Bible and its prophecies to see what God had to say about world events.

Quoting from my October 1959 article in the *The Plain Truth*:

"Today nations must TRADE with one another in order to survive. THIS IS TRADE WAR!

"And it was prophesied!

"The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth, a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand. A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young...and he shall BESIEGE thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down...' (Deuteronomy 28:49-52).

"What kind of a siege? In modern military times, the old-fashioned, out-dated methods of besieging a country or a city are completely obsolete-EXCEPT THROUGH TRADE! Today, we have bombers flying at better than 1500 miles an hour! With guided missiles,

jet planes, hydrogen bombs, atomic submarines, it is nothing short of amusing to conceive of a siege through MILITARY means.

"But, it is strikingly clear when applied to world trade!"

The prophecies of the Bible apply exactly the same way today as they applied in 1959. Except NOW we see these prophecies being fulfilled more quickly in today's more modern world!

The swiftness of world trade, typified by the eagle, does mean modern jet air cargo, where goods can be delivered overnight around the world. It can also apply to the speedy information superhighway, the Internet, and the ubiquitous FAX machines which supply virtually instant communications around the world. Such things were not available when I wrote back in 1959. But, the high fenced walls-the barriers-to world trade were. Those walls were then, and are today, the restrictive tariffs countries erect to protect their national interests in world trade war.

God promises offending countries who will not obey His laws that those "protective" barriers will come down in trade wars which will besiege the economies of modern nations.

God is not talking about near neighboring nations who speak the same language as we do and share the same customs. The threat to the United States and Britain is not found in Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.

The coming siege which will put irresistible pressure on the U.S. economy will come from "a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand" and a "nation of fierce countenance."

The message of your Bible is clear and timeless as it is timely. The United States has opened the gates to a trade war it cannot and will not win.

Already, rumblings have been heard in the U.S. bond market! Why? Because the Japanese have threatened to quit buying up U.S. debt!

For years, I have warned: "When the Japanese quit showing up at the discount window to purchase U.S. government bonds-it will deal a shocking blow to the U.S. economy." Now, Hashimoto has said the Japanese will retaliate.

The handwriting is on the wall and every trading nation in the world has read of America's hypocrisy and deceit.

\*Editor's Note: From 1956 to 1978, Garner Ted Armstrong was the Executive Editor of The Plain Truth magazine.

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