




THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT SAITH THE LORD

MARCH 19, 1967

TEN CENTS

FILE COPY




Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;

Let the Church with gladness,
hymns of triumph sing,

For her Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting.

— E.L. BUDRY



"LOOK OUT!" cried the missionary as he jumped aside. "I'm sure I saw a snake in the grass."

But the natives only grinned. "Bwana," they said, "it's only a lupulu."

The missionary did not understand what a "lupulu" was, and he approached very carefully the spot where he believed he had seen the snake. Yes! There it lay; its mouth wide open; its glassy eyes staring; its scaly body clearly visible in the grass. And yet it seemed unnatural—ghostly—almost transparent. Even the coils seemed distorted.

Again the natives grinned. They picked up the supposed snake and showed the newly arrived white man that it was an empty skin; for periodically the snake just opens its mouth wide until the skin sloughs off. The whole skin loosens and the living snake glides out through the "mouth" leaving the old skin behind.

It was one of those old cast-off skins that had fright-

'It's Only a Lupulu'

By WM. F. P. BURTON

ened the missionary. The natives call it a "lupulu"—and it was perfectly harmless.

So it was with the wife of Senga Tadikile. Old Tadikile and his wife were so happy in their newly found Saviour, and in the fellowship of the saints. Even when they did not know the hymns they would join in spirit, swaying heads and hands in time with the rhythm.

I shall not soon forget their baptism. There were 38 baptized that afternoon. The forest pool was a perfect fairyland. The creeper-covered trees above and the ferns and grasses all about were reflected in nature's mirror, the still water. The very birds seemed gay and a great gauzy dragonfly watched the entire proceedings from the end of an old stump.

With what joy Senga Tadikile and his wife were "buried with Christ." How satisfied they appeared, too, when they took their places at their first breaking-of-bread service. Their cups seemed to overflow with sheer happiness.

Poor old Tadikile. He did not realize how soon he would be alone, but a couple of weeks later his companion lay dying.

Of course, the heathen relatives gathered around to watch the end, and discovered there was something different about this death. There was no fear, no struggle. She seemed so happy to be going that even old Tadikile said between sobs, "Lord, I couldn't keep her back from Thee; but oh, I shall miss her."

Someone whispered to her, "But are you not afraid of death?"

She replied, with a smile, "This isn't death; it's just house-moving. I'm going to Jesus. It was He who took our death, and He just left us the 'lupulu'—the empty skin."

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be unto God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

—C. E. M. Report

THE STORY TOLD in Luke 24:29-32 concerns one of the most heart-warming incidents in the life of our Lord:

"But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

"And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

"And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

"And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

Many are the times we have walked the road to Emmaus, and learned valuable and blessed lessons. Let us make the journey again today and learn in a new way the value of fellowship with Christ.

The beloved apostle John has said, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

As we follow the two disciples to the village of Emmaus, we shall notice four outstanding truths concerning fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. *Fellowship with Christ is secured by earnest seeking.*

"He made as though he would have gone further, but they constrained him, saying, Abide with us." Jesus had journeyed with the two discouraged disciples, and had made their journey pleasant, although they did not know who He was. When they arrived at their destination He was about to continue on, but since they had enjoyed His company so much they urged Him to stay with them. We notice that the Lord will not force His presence on anyone. Only as we earnestly seek Him will He be found of us and reveal Himself to us.

Many scriptures in the Bible show us that people received things from the Lord through their *earnest seeking* which they would not have received if they had not constrained the Lord. A good example is the Syrophenician woman, who after much discouragement received help for her daughter simply because she *kept seeking*.

Blind Bartimaeus received his sight by earnestly calling out to Jesus, although those around him were discouraging his calling out to the Lord. The Bible says, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near." Jesus stayed with these disciples and blessed their home, because they constrained Him to do so.

Two Christians were visiting and one said, "Isn't it wonderful to be saved?" The other replied, "I know something better." The first said, "What could be better than being saved?" The answer quickly came back, "Having the presence of the One who has saved me." Are you living continually in fellowship with the Christ who has saved you? You may, if you earnestly seek Him.

2. *Fellowship with Christ is the means of knowing Him.*

After these two constrained Him to abide with them, and He accepted, He sat to eat with them. As He blessed the bread and gave it to them, "their eyes were opened and they knew him." Up to this moment He had been a

On the Road to Emmaus



the ear, but *now mine eye seeth thee.*" In all walks of life, we do not really know people until we come in close contact with them. May we live so close to Christ that He shall be a living reality in our lives.

3. Fellowship with Christ is delightful.

After Jesus had departed they said, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way?" The presence of Christ is something that can be felt. We know we must walk by faith, but what a blessing to be able to feel His presence along life's pathway. His spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.

The two were sad and discouraged, but He brought joy and hope to them. They were looking down in despair, but He caused them to look up in victory. They were troubled, but He dissolved their troubles. He is still the same, so we sing,

"And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share, as we tarry there,
None other has ever known."

Fellowship with Christ makes our hearts burn with gratitude, with adoration, and with hope. May we ever keep His touch on our souls.


4. Fellowship with Christ made them useful.

The death of Christ had scattered the disciples. When these two were made aware of His presence with them, they could not wait to return to the others. There was a new spring in their steps. Whereas they had slowly walked to Emmaus, they now hurried back to Jerusalem. It is remarkable how new energy comes into us after we spend a time in the presence of the Lord.

If we Christians are separated from one another, could it be that we have lost His presence? As we each draw closer to the Lord we shall be drawn closer one to another. Christ is like the hub of a wheel. As the spokes come closer to the hub they come closer to each other, and so will it be with us as spokes in the wheel of God's program. Let us center our lives in Him.

Their fellowship with Christ gave them a message to proclaim. They now had a burning testimony—"The Lord is risen indeed." This is the message the world needs. This is the message that will gladden saddened hearts. Christ must be a living reality in our lives before we can command much attention or be of much help to others. People do not need our eloquence, or learning, or argument, but they will listen to the testimony of one who has been with the Lord.

A skeptic said to a Christian, "How do you know that Jesus Christ is alive?" The Christian replied, "I talked with Him this morning." Here is a testimony that none can dispute.

The Lord no doubt is walking near many of His people who do not recognize Him, because their sight is blurred through unbelief, sorrow, and despair. Let us open our eyes and see that Jesus is near. May we know Him better day by day. May our hearts burn within us and move us to tell our neighbors, "The Lord is risen indeed." 

stranger, but now they knew Him as the Lord in whom they had trusted. Could it be that when He broke the bread they saw His nail prints?

The more closely we are associated with Christ the more we shall know Him and enjoy His blessing. Only as we are much in His presence will He become the fairest of ten thousand to our souls.

There is a great difference between *knowing about the Lord* and really *knowing Him*. What a change took place for Job when he met the Lord and communed with Him. He then could say, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of

Resurrection Facts

WE ARE PUBLISHING this Easter issue of the *Evangel* a week early because we want it to reach all our servicemen by Easter. The Servicemen's Division is sending it to more than 11,000 young men and women who are wearing the uniform. Some are far from home; perhaps it will take more than the 17 or 18 days we are allowing for delivery. Others are closer and may receive it before Palm Sunday! But whenever it arrives, we want it to remind our servicemen that we will be thinking of them at Easter.

After the Master arose from the dead, He said to His followers, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." During our celebration of history's greatest miracle we will be praying that our servicemen will remember these words and recognize that the risen Christ is indeed with them.

Easter brings into focus three facts of prime importance to mankind: (1) the fact that Christ arose from the dead to justify our faith in His power to save us; (2) the fact that we too shall live after death; (3) the fact that unless we are converted during this life, we shall have no hope for happiness in the future life.

Job asked, "If a man die, shall he live again?" Senator Everett M. Dirksen, in a eulogy reported by *The Reader's Digest*, pointed out that Job was only voicing a question pondered by millions of mortals standing on the threshold of infinity. Speaking at the memorial service for a friend, the Illinois senator said:

"... In a world of scientific wonders and achievements, no atom with all its force to destroy could conceive an idea, build a structure, entertain compassion or charity or hope. Only to man came this endowment of intelligence, dignity, and divinity.

"Who would persuasively contend that this, the noblest work of the Great Designer, should come to an end when the spirit forsakes its earthly temple?

"Except for the handiwork of the Great Designer, nothing in this world is created, and nothing is destroyed. The pyramids, which have stood for centuries, are but the craftsmanship of men on stone already here. The atom, author of both joy and misery, was always here; it remained only for time and intelligence to lay bare its awesome power.

"The work of the Great Designer cannot be destroyed by fire, for that but transmutes what man put together into other forms such as light, heat, energy and gases. Not by earthquakes, which but tumble man's work but do not destroy the elemental substance. Not by storms and tidal waves, which only rearrange what the Great Designer placed here.

"In autumn the gaily colored leaves fall gently to earth, not to be destroyed but to be embraced by nature for future use. From the hand of the Great Designer comes the inevitable caress of spring to bring life and color, fragrance and beauty to the eager earth.

"It is the Resurrection of spring. It is an answer to the ageless question of Job, 'If a man die, shall he live again?' Surely he shall, as surely as day follows night, as surely as the stars follow their courses, as surely as the crest of every wave brings its trough."

Resurrection is a certainty. Jesus said the hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth—some to the resurrection of life, and others to the resurrection of damnation (John 5:29). No man can change these facts. But each can choose, here and now, which class he will be in when resurrection comes.

—R.C.C.

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

March 19, 1967

Number 2758

Official Voice of the Assemblies of God
1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65802

BERT WEBB, *Executive Director*
ROBERT C. CUNNINGHAM, *Editor*
R. G. CHAMPION, *Managing Editor*
NORMAN PEARSALL, *Art Editor*
W. F. MCPHERSON, *Circulation Manager*

DEPARTMENTAL EDITORS

David Womack, Foreign Missions; Ruth Lyon, Home Missions; E. S. Caldwell, Radio; C. W. Denton, Spiritual Life—Evangelism; F. Wildon Colbaugh, Men's Fellowship; Johnnie Barnes, Royal Rangers; Everett James, Light for the Lost; Verne MacKinney, Speed-the-Light; Frances Foster, Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade; Ann Ahlf, Women's Missionary Council; Charlotte Schumitsch, Missionettes.

EDITORIAL POLICY BOARD

Bert Webb (Chairman), E. W. Bethany, G. R. Carlson, N. D. Davidson, Joseph R. Flower, G. W. Hardcastle Sr., D. H. McLaughlin, Kermit Reneau, R. H. Wead.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Thos. F. Zimmerman (Gen. Supt.), Bert Webb, H. S. Bush, C. W. H. Scott, T. E. Gannon, J. P. Hogan, Bartlett Peterson, M. B. Netzel, E. W. Bethany, G. R. Carlson, N. D. Davidson, Joseph R. Flower, G. W. Hardcastle Sr., D. H. McLaughlin, Kermit Reneau, R. H. Wead.

Copyright 1967 by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Printed in U.S.A. Second-class postage paid at Springfield, Missouri.

WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Subscription: U.S., its possessions, and U. S. servicemen abroad: \$3 a year; \$5.75 two years. Introductory offer: four months for \$1. Canada and PUAS* countries: \$4.25 a year; \$8.25 two years. Foreign: \$5 a year; \$9.75 two years. **Bundle subscription** (minimum of four subscriptions, all mailed to one address; prices quoted are for each subscription); U.S.: 78¢ for 13 weeks; \$2.75 a year. Canada and PUAS* countries: 96¢ for 13 weeks; \$3.50 a year. Foreign: \$1.05 for 13 weeks; \$3.75 a year.

*PUAS—Canadian rates apply to all countries in the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain. See your postmaster for a list of these.

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

Subscribers outside the U.S. only may receive the International Edition (one copy a month) for \$1 a year, postpaid.

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Change of Address

ATTACH LABEL HERE

Moving? Please let us know four weeks before changing your address. Cut the address label out and attach it here; print your new address below. If you have a question about your subscription, place the address label here and clip this form to your letter.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

TO SUBSCRIBE: Fill in your name and address above, enclose payment (see rates in column above), and check: new subscription; renew present subscription.

THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65802



Rio de Janeiro situated on beautiful Guanabara Bay.

WORLD CONFERENCE to Be Held in Rio

HOME OF THE FIRST
PROTESTANT
MARTYRS OF
THE NEW WORLD

By LAWRENCE OLSON

WHEN THE EIGHTH PENTECOSTAL WORLD CONFERENCE convenes in Rio de Janeiro, next July 18-23, that city will add another page of its unique place in the history of the Protestant church. Its first page in that history goes back 410 years.

Most people take for granted that Protestantism was first proclaimed in the Western Hemisphere in North America. But history gives that distinction to Brazil in South America.

Just 65 years after Columbus reached America and 63 years before the Pilgrim Fathers landed in New England, an expedition of French colonists which included a number of Huguenots—French Protestants—reached the harbor of Rio de Janeiro. Crossing the ocean in their frail ships took four months.

The famous French Protestant, Admiral Coligny, was a leader in the venture designed to get land in the New World for France as well as provide a haven from the persecutions of the Roman Catholic inquisition. John Calvin knew about and encouraged the plan.

The group first touched the New World on a tiny island in Rio de Janeiro's harbor on March 10, 1557. They were gladly received by the French colonial leader, Durand de Villegagnon, for whom the island was named.

Two outstanding Reformation pastors, Pierre Richer and Guillaume Chartier, and a courageous young Christian student, Jean de Lery, were in the group.

So grateful was the little group that they held a gospel service in the colony refectory. In this first Protestant service of the New World they sang Psalm 5 to a 16th-century tune.

Pastor Pierre Richer used as his sermon text Psalm 27:4, "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple."

The French colonists quickly gained the goodwill of the Indians of the area, and revival flames began to be kindled. Out of envy from Roman Catholic colonists from other nations, and through treachery and bribes, Villegagnon was turned traitor on the Huguenots. They endured untold suffering and persecution and became the first Protestant martyrs of the New World.

But their deaths were not in vain. Today Brazil is the center of a phenomenal Pentecostal revival which has been called the most amazing revival of the 20th century. Members of Pentecostal churches in that country alone number over a million.

It is into that revival spirit in historic Rio de Janeiro that the first Pentecostal World Conference ever to be held south of the Equator will convene July 18-23, 1967.

Other Pentecostal World Conferences have been held in Zurich, Paris, London, Stockholm, Toronto, Jerusalem, and Helsinki.



DO DEAD MEN

are also merely the results of accidental combinations of chemicals and not to be trusted."

"That idea doesn't flatter man's great intellect," the young man retorted. "I can see that absolute materialism is an oversimplification of the problem. We instinctively reject the idea such complex creatures as we are could be here without plan or forethought. But if the answer is not materialism, what then? Faith to be meaningful must be founded on something. What is that something, and how do we know it exists?"

Don Veridico answered with a suggestion of a smile, "It's as I said before: do dead men stay dead? That is the heart of the question."

"That is the second time you have said that. Please explain what you mean."

"Very well. If dead men stay dead, then the materialists are right. But if a man lives in any conscious form after death, then it proves man is not simply matter but has what we call a soul. If this is so, materialism is wrong, and our instincts are true teachers when they tell us life has meaning beyond the material."

"But," Manuel interrupted, "this is pure speculation. Granted if a man can outlive his body, or experience resurrection, it would prove there is something more to him than just minerals and chemical reaction. But how can we determine such a thing? I want something more tangible than the tales of hallucinated minds."

"What would you say if I told you we do have a very credible record of a man coming back to life after he was unmistakably dead—and that he talked with his friends and proved to their entire satisfaction he had actually been dead and was now alive?"

"Well, I would say first of all, it would be highly significant; secondly, it would raise a lot of questions that need answering. But I would be inclined to believe the man had not really died, or there was some kind of deception involved."

Don Veridico looked squarely at the young man as he asked, "What about Jesus Christ? Did He rise from the dead or not?"

The question caught Manuel unprepared. He had been reared in a religious family that accepted without question the teachings of the church. He had of course heard about the death and resurrection of Christ.

"This is where religion says I must have faith," he said, half peevishly. "But I find it difficult to believe something I cannot see or prove. Must faith be irrational?"

"Not irrational, but perhaps suprarational," Don Veridico replied. "Have you ever considered the possibility that if we have a spiritual nature, the soul (or spirit) may have its own way of knowing things?"

"How is that?"

"Since God is spirit, man would never be able to apprehend Him through the physical senses. Consequently, God has established the law of faith as the medium of

By MELVIN HODGES

IT REALLY BOILS DOWN TO THIS," observed Don Veridico, "do dead men stay dead?"

Manuel hadn't intended to discuss his problems with the kindly old gentleman the young fellows call Don Veridico. He had gone to the older man's modest home to borrow a book, and some chance remark of his brought his problem to the surface.

"How can a person be sure what to believe?" Manuel asked. "The professors talk about the scientific method and teach us to distrust everything we cannot prove in the laboratory. There is no room for God, heaven, hell, spirit, miracles, or prayer. Life is seen as the result of mere chemical reactions, and our hopes and strivings for moral worth lose their meaning."

This is when Don Veridico answered, talking more to himself than to his visitor: "I suppose it really boils down to this: *do dead men stay dead?*"

That stopped Manuel for a moment. Don Veridico saw his perplexity and continued: "You see, if we are just chemicals, minerals, and earth—if we are not the product of a Master Mind—then our present life has no meaning or purpose. There is no great destiny to inspire us. When the sun finally becomes a dead star and can no longer support life on this earth—then it will not make any difference what we have finally done."

"But," said Manuel, "even some of the greatest thinkers contend life is a result of natural processes alone. They reject the idea of supernatural creation by a Great Intelligence who orders the affairs of the universe."

Don Veridico smiled. "As C. S. Lewis pointed out, if we are but the product of natural forces, and our brains have been brought into existence without the help of a Great Intelligence, then the thoughts our brains produce

STAY DEAD?

spiritual discovery. That is a good thing, too, for if we could find God by the process of scientific investigation, if it depended on our intellect, only the great intellectuals could really know God. But since it is by faith it is open to all—to the philosopher or the child.”

“This seems pretty hopeless to me,” Manuel said. “We can’t really learn the truth about God, except by faith. Yet I cannot arrive at faith by my own efforts. God must reveal this knowledge to me. What am I to do—just sit and wait until faith comes?”

“It is not quite that hopeless! God wants to reveal Himself to man and you can put yourself in the place where faith can come. If you want faith, you must acquaint yourself with God’s Word which brings faith. Take again the question whether or not Jesus rose from the dead. Have you ever read what the eyewitnesses said about this? The scientific approach teaches you to examine the evidence, and certainly the testimony of eyewitnesses would have some bearing on this.”

“To what do you refer? I am afraid you have lost me again.”

“I mean the reports of the Resurrection given in the Gospels and in the Book of Acts by the apostles, people who were on the scene at the time. Oh, of course we could say they merely fabricated the story in an effort to keep their cause alive after the death of Jesus. But remember these men were beaten, imprisoned, and martyred for their testimony. Frauds don’t die to keep a lie alive! I challenge you to read the account for yourself and still say they were impostors.

“A great deal hinges on the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. If He arose from the dead, it was because God raised Him up. That must mean God accepted Christ’s death on the cross as the means of reconciling man to

God; that God put His seal of approval on Jesus as His own Son; that Jesus is actually living today. If He conquered death, then He is Lord of all and Saviour as He claimed. Our own salvation depends on our understanding this.”

Now Manuel was beginning to see that if a person actually believed this, it would change the course of his whole life. A person couldn’t be the same again, once he really believed Jesus is living. The idea that one could have contact with Him was slightly unnerving!

“Is it any wonder,” Don Veridico asked, “that the apostles went everywhere proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus? It was the greatest fact in their lives, more important to them than their physical existence. That is what brought about the emergence of the Church. Unhappily, this fundamental truth is often neglected or ignored by many who are supposed to proclaim God’s truth.”

Manuel watched the old man as he talked. His face fairly beamed with joy. There was no doubt that he, at least, had faith. It was doubtless the source of his peace.

“I wish I had heard this before,” Manuel said. “I do want to study about it. How should I proceed?”

“First of all, get a copy of the New Testament. I can lend you one if you like. Read it carefully. At the same time pray as best you know for God to teach you His truth. If you can do no better, you can pray like this: ‘Oh God (if there is a God) reveal Thy truth to me. I promise to obey the truth, whatever it may be and regardless of what it may cost me. If Jesus is the Son of God, reveal this to me!’ If you mean this, the Holy Spirit will help you. Remember the New Testament was written so we could know the truth about Jesus Christ, and have eternal life by believing in Him.”

Manuel could stay no longer, so he thanked the old gentleman and said good-bye. He left with two books instead of one as he had intended. The second one was a copy of the New Testament.

He had remained far too long in Don Veridico’s modest home to successfully forget two things. One was the peace in his eyes. The other, the question on his lips: “Do dead men stay dead?”

—© by *Campus Ambassador Magazine*. Used by permission.

ONLY GOD COULD HEAL ME

SEVERAL YEARS AGO my heart was X-rayed and found to be enlarged. The doctor said nothing would reduce the size of it, but told me to do only light work and rest each day.

In July 1965 another X ray taken at the same hospital and compared with the first showed there had been further enlargement.

Last October Evangelist Don Rippe held a revival at our church. One night we had a wonderful communion service by candlelight and Brother Rippe prayed for the sick. As he laid hands on me and prayed, I was healed.

I believe our Father in heaven had everything planned; for just before the revival began, I had made an appoint-

ment with a specialist in Indianapolis to undergo a complete physical examination. Our revival ended on October 30, and on November 8 I fulfilled my appointment.

When the doctor studied results of all the tests and an electrocardiogram, he said, “I don’t believe you have an enlarged heart.”

I replied, “I don’t either,” and I told him that I had been prayed for and was healed.

The doctor took another X ray to be certain, and it showed my heart to be perfectly normal. I said, “Praise the Lord,” and I am still praising Him, because only God can reduce the size of an enlarged heart.

It is my sincere desire that my experience will encourage someone else to reach out and have faith in our wonderful Saviour and Healer.—Mrs. Zella Westphal, Bloomington, Indiana.

(Endorsed by Pastor Robert J. Ferguson, First Assembly, Bloomington, Indiana.)

THE POOREST LIE EVER TOLD

By C. M. WARD



Pearshall

This was the poorest lie ever told. When that first Easter Sunday morning dawned, Jesus' tomb was found open and the buried body was gone. *Some public explanation had to be made immediately.* This was the story that was circulated.

Before we cross-examine it, notice two things:

First, the story settles once and for all the fact of Christ's death and burial. This is something that everyone admits. It is also agreed by all that He predicted He would rise on the third day. And there is something further—the unanimous opinion that on Sunday morning the body was missing.

Second, the priests had the most to gain by a successful denial. If such a denial cannot stand that test of cross-examination, then let every other attempt at denial be thrown out of court.

All the Jewish authorities said in explanation was that the disciples secretly stole in and made away with Jesus' body. *Not one further particle of counterevidence has ever been submitted.*

Examine the story on its own merits. If embarrassments to the enemies of Jesus arise, that is the risk they must assume in setting forth the story.

1. IT IS WRAPPED IN IMPROBABILITY. It is farfetched, a "whopper." Would a trained watch of Roman soldiers all go to sleep?

This would be noisy work, and more than one person would have been involved in order to roll the stone back and disturb the grave. There was no evidence of haste. The napkin had been carefully folded. The graveclothes had been methodically arranged. *And all of this had been done in the dark?* And we are to believe that the soldiers slept through the entire affair?

C. M. Ward is the radio evangelist for *Revivaltime*, international broadcast service of the Assemblies of God, heard on nearly 500 stations each week.

2. WHERE IS THE MOTIVE? In a crime, you always look for a motive. *The disciples had no motive to steal the body of their Lord.*

If the disciples had given Him up as an impostor when they saw Him die, then the sooner He was out of their remembrance forever, the better for them. If this were the case, let Him be buried and forgotten.

On the other hand, if they believed Him to be true, *they had only to wait.* They had witnessed other miracles He had performed. Would He fail now? *The Resurrection would be conclusive evidence and worth waiting a few hours for.*

3. IT SUGGESTS THE DISCIPLES HAD A PLAN AND THAT THEY WERE DEDICATED PARTNERS TO A MASTER PLOT. Look at the facts. They were in full possession of His body, legally, on Friday evening. Pilate had given permission. Why would they wait until Saturday night to pilfer it?

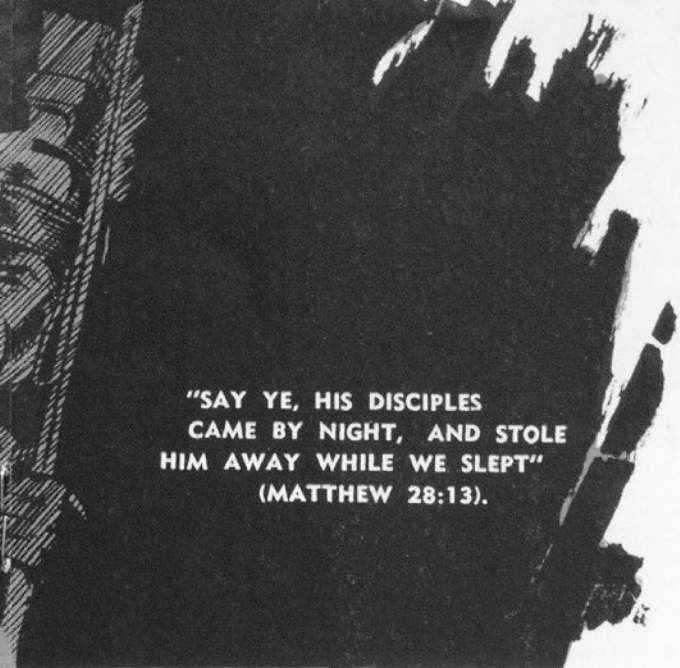
Who was it that did the stealing?

It couldn't have been Peter. He was utterly ignorant of what had happened when he rushed breathlessly to the tomb on Sunday morning. John knew nothing about it. He was surprised as Peter to see the grave open and empty.

It couldn't have been Thomas. He was one of the last to believe. The women couldn't have done it. These poverty-stricken friends of Jesus spent their time and their meager income to buy and gather expensive spices and myrrh to return to the tomb and embalm the body.

4. THE AUTHORITIES NEVER TOLD THIS TALE IN ANY OTHER TRIAL. They never permitted it to be subject to cross-examination. *Never once did they allow it to be entered as evidence of fraud, subversion, or blasphemy.* They tried Stephen. They tried Paul. There is no mention of it in these trials.

To steal a body was a capital crime. Yet not one of these accused disciples was ever arrested for it. Not one



**"SAY YE, HIS DISCIPLES
CAME BY NIGHT, AND STOLE
HIM AWAY WHILE WE SLEPT"
(MATTHEW 28:13).**

court from Jerusalem to Rome ever called upon one disciple to officially deny this graveyard theft.

5. ADD THE RISK TO THE SOLDIERS IF THIS STORY WERE TRUE. The punishment in one of the most disciplined military establishments of all time was *death for sleep at the post of duty*.

6. HOW COULD IT HAVE BEEN DONE EVEN IF SOMEONE HAD WISHED TO DO IT? This was only two nights after the Passover, *and that feast was always observed at the full of the moon*. It would have been fatal for a prowler to have been caught. This was private property. It belonged to Joseph, an important citizen, a member of Israel's highest tribunal. Trespassers would have been dealt with summarily.

And, if there was one spot more than another likely to be under curious scrutiny, it was the vicinity where this Nazarene was laid.

7. WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE WITH THE BODY? How could they have successfully disposed of it? If so many had been a party to it, at least 120, *how could it have been kept a secret?*

Think of the customs! No culture afforded stricter regulations. To touch dead bodies was an act of defilement; you became ceremonially unclean.


The story the Jewish authorities circulated is totally unbelievable. *And yet in nearly 2,000 years that's the best explanation hell has been able to come up with.*

Thank God, your salvation does not rest on a lie. You do not have to try to believe some myth.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a fact. It is the cornerstone of your faith. It says with undeniable authority that your Saviour rendered full satisfaction to the law of God your sins had broken. He took your place.

Just let me know that Jesus Himself folded that napkin, burst those stony barriers of the sepulchre, and led captivity captive, and I know that the atonement is perfect and complete. *The verdict is in.* The jury of God has declared me not guilty through the offices performed for me by Jesus Christ.

I am going to see that Man of the early Sunday morning. So will you. Will you share in His resurrection, or will you curse those who tried to keep you out of heaven with their lies and bribery?

The evidence is in. The decision is up to you. 



Your Questions

Answered by Ernest S. Williams

Where will the Bride of Christ be during His thousand-year reign?

We believe they will be with Him. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Revelation 3:21). For a study concerning the Bride, which is the Church, see Revelation 19: 7, 8, 14.

When Jesus said to Nathanael, "Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man," did He mean that we can live so close to Him that we too might see angels ascending and descending on Him? (John 1:51).

My understanding is that Jesus wanted Nathanael to know that He was the real ladder which Jacob had seen in his vision (Genesis 28:10-13).

The Bible forbids the worship of angels. "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshiping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind" (Colossians 2:18).

Why does Paul so emphatically say that if any man, or even an angel, were to teach any other gospel than he taught, let him be accursed? (Galatians 1:8, 9)

Paul had brought the gospel of salvation by grace to the Galatians. Through faith in that gospel they had been filled with the Spirit and rejoiced in Christ Jesus their Saviour and Lord. Then came teachers saying they must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses or they would not be saved. Paul was emphasizing that the gospel he had preached to them was the true gospel. Even if an angel from heaven were to teach any other gospel, it would not change the truth. Having begun in the Spirit, it was sinful for the believers now to turn for merit to trusting in the Law. Salvation was in Christ alone.

The Bible says Jesus came "to destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." Is the devil the cause of every death? (Hebrews 2:14).

If Satan stirs up strife and war, is he not the cause of the death of those who die as a result? If the devil makes a drunkard out of a man, and the man dies from drinking, is Satan not the cause of his death? In various ways we may think of Satan as having the power of death.

But I believe the death specified in Hebrews 2:14 goes back to the fall of man. Satan tempted man to sin; man yielded and fell. Through his fall, "death has passed upon all men." If death is a result of the fall, we may look on it as a work of Satan. However, since death has passed upon all men, it would be more proper perhaps to look upon death as part of the natural order. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible, you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Brother Williams will answer if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope.



Missionaries Thomas and Gretchen Grazioso are having an effective ministry in Italy. They find that the Italian people respond wholeheartedly to the gospel when given the opportunity.



REVIVAL FIRES BURN IN SICILY

By THOMAS GRAZIOSO • Missionary to Italy

SICILY IS A SMALL ISLAND just off the toe of the "boot" of Italy. On most world maps it appears as a tiny speck on the vast expanse of the Mediterranean Sea.

The island would fade off into geographical insignificance were it not that the Holy Spirit has singled it out as the focal point for one of the most remarkable Pentecostal revivals in Europe. With over 170 Italian Assemblies of God churches and approximately 12,000 believers, Sicily ranks among the most influential Pentecostal strongholds of Europe.

One of the factors in the phenomenal spread of the Pentecostal testimony is the evangelistic vitality of the Sicilian believers. Animated by a profound love for Christ, they have pursued the task of soul winning so thoroughly that there is hardly a village in Sicily that has not heard the Pentecostal testimony.

Not satisfied with merely spreading the gospel message, they have launched an ambitious program to establish a church in every city, town, and hamlet on the island.

With this plan in mind a number of our national pastors recently invited

us to conduct an evangelistic tour of Sicily.

Our first target city was Palma di Montechiaro. It seemed at first that the campaign was doomed to defeat, for we could not get a suitable place to put up our tent, and no one would rent a hall to us because of local opposition. Slanderous rumors began circulating all over town; and doors were slammed defiantly in our faces.

Past experience has taught us that opposition is often the prelude to revival. There was only one direction in which we could move, the last place those who opposed us expected—right into the heart of the city's main plaza! Armed with constitutional rights we notified the police headquarters of our plans to conduct religious services in the town square every night for an entire week; and they reluctantly conceded.

After the first few nights of meetings it became evident that God had never intended us to hold our campaign in some secluded hall. He wanted us out where the people were. Hundreds of men thronged the plaza each night to hear the preaching of the Word of God. (Unfortunately, a social taboo


prohibits the women of Palma from appearing in public.)

By the time the last of our outdoor meetings took place the crowd had swelled to over a thousand. A spirit of reverence and revival pervaded the whole town. A genuine interest in the gospel had been aroused. At the close of our crusade the townspeople themselves were urging us to open an evangelical church in their community.

Inspired by the victory in Palma, our evangelistic tour gained added momentum. Four more open-air campaigns were organized in rapid succession, each of them characterized by wonderful moves of God. In two of them we were honored by the presence of local priests and authorities, many of whom manifested a marked degree of tolerance and, in some cases, of sincere curiosity.

We concluded our tour in Raffadali, a town where communism has had considerable influence. Our local church there had only had one other open-air meeting in its history, and that one had turned out to be a fiasco. A Communist infiltrator had sneaked into the ranks of the faithful and had duped them into believing he was a great orator. He craftily convinced them to organize a street meeting; then, to the consternation of the brethren, when the fraud introduced himself to the public, he began by blurting out, "Comrades!" So it was very important for us to have an open-air meeting in Raffadali to set the record straight.

It was a lot different this time. What a thrill it was to us to see hundreds of people listening with rapt attention to the message of Jesus Christ. After the service we were introduced to the mayor's wife. With tears in her eyes she said, "We need this message here in Raffadali. Please come again. And remember my husband and me in your prayers."

We thank God for this victory in Sicily. 

Hundreds of people were baptized with the Holy Spirit during the Good News Crusade at Freetown.

DEAR BROTHER PHILLIPS: Thousands of people flocked every night to the Brookfields Stadium to hear and see the wonderful works of God, as the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ was proclaimed by Brother Paul Olson. The Lord so worked it out for His glory in choosing one of the national workers, Brother John Davies of the Kroo church, to be the interpreter throughout the crusade.

In the commonly spoken language, Creole, the claims of Jesus Christ reached everyone who attended the crusade during the three weeks at the Brookfields Stadium and two weeks at the Fort Street Church.

As a result of the crusade, great revival broke out, and over 500 converts signed decision cards each night at the stadium. Several hundreds received divine healing. Many hundreds received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, among whom were most of the prominent citizens of the country.

Many gave up their jujus; and on Monday night, the last night at the stadium, a big fire was made and all of the jujus and cigarettes of the new converts were burned to ashes.

We have had other evangelistic crusades in Freetown, but the Olson Party turned the city upside down! The whole city was moved so much that the Olsons remain here for another six months. Everybody enjoyed their singing and invaluable and unparalleled wonderful ministry of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the conclusion of the crusade, an English-speaking Assemblies of God church was organized, for which we



THE LIVING CHRIST

Stirs Sierra Leone

A Letter to Field Secretary for Africa E. L. PHILLIPS
From SIMON T. GRANT, Superintendent of Sierra Leone

are very thankful to the Lord. Missionary James Berry and Brother John Davies are copastors over the new church. The Lord is wonderfully blessing. Many are being filled with the Holy Spirit, and many more souls are being added to the church daily. Praise the Lord!

The district brethren, our churches, and myself express our sincere thanks and appreciation to you and the brethren at the Assemblies of God Headquarters for your kind thought of us in Sierra Leone. This has made the dreams of our pioneer missionaries a reality. It also placed us on the center of the map!

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in His service,

Simon T. Grant

**Offerings for
ITALY and SIERRA LEONE**
should be sent to:
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
Foreign Missions Department
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802



Every night at the Brookfields Stadium, Global Conquest Evangelist Paul Olson preached the gospel through his interpreter, John Davies. Now a new Creole church has been formed.





The King's Resurrection

Sunday School Lesson for March 26, 1967
MARK 16:1-16

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

THE "GOD IS DEAD" CROWD cannot make any impression on the Christian. To him, God is very real, having been revealed to him through Jesus Christ, God's living Son. The resurrection of Christ has an historical basis as solid as the fact that there once lived a man named Alexander the Great. And Jesus Christ is as real to millions today as He was to the first witnesses of His resurrection!

THE LOVING SERVICE (vv. 1, 2)

"Very early in the morning, the first day of the week," three women (Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome) came to the tomb with spices to anoint the body of Jesus. Their coming was an admission that they did not believe He would rise from the dead. Nevertheless, we must commend them for their love and loyalty. They expected nothing from Him now; but even though their hopes had been shattered, they still loved Him. Do we today who know Christ is alive love Him with such unselfish devotion and loyalty?

PROOFS THAT JESUS IS ALIVE

THEREFORE BEING BY THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD EXALTED, AND HAVING RECEIVED OF THE FATHER THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY GHOST, HE (CHRIST) HATH SHED FORTH THIS, WHICH YE NOW SEE AND HEAR. ACTS 2:33

ANSWERS TO PRAYER

SPEAKING WITH NEW TONGUES

DELIVERED FROM SATAN'S POWER

SICKNESS HEALED

SINS FORGIVEN

FILLED WITH GOD'S SPIRIT

THE NEEDLESS FEARS (v. 3)

"Who shall roll us away the stone?" These women were worried about a difficulty which had not yet arisen. But once again they must be commended for pressing forward in spite of the anticipated obstacle. A Christian may brood and worry over some imaginary problem until it turns him from the path of duty and progress. The greatest troubles we fear and the greatest trials we bear are often those which never happen!

THE AMAZING DISCOVERY (vv. 4, 5)

When the women arrived at the tomb, they found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty except for the presence of an angel. Renan, the French sceptic, once said, "You Christians live on the fragrance of an empty tomb." How right he was! The empty tomb is one of the greatest arguments for the Resurrection; for the only satisfactory explanation of that empty tomb is the fact that Jesus actually rose from the dead.

THE THRILLING ANNOUNCEMENT (v. 6)

"Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here." The angel told the women they were seeking Him in the wrong place. We may draw many lessons from the incident: (1) Christ is not to be found in certain *places*, such as the dance hall, the tavern, the theater. (2) Christ is not to be found in certain *attitudes*. He is often buried in the tomb of gloom, worry, criticism, envy. The living Christ is discovered in the heart of faith, hope, praise, gratitude, and love!

THE GRACIOUS INVITATION (v. 7)

"Go . . . tell." Faithful women became the first evangelists of the Christian gospel. Their commission is ours as well.

"Tell his disciples and Peter." Why the special mention of Peter? Because Peter who had failed the Lord—and probably felt like an outcast—was in special need of assurance that Christ loved him still. The grace and love of Christ ever seek to redeem the fallen.

THE STRANGE UNBELIEF (vv. 8-11)

Why didn't the disciples believe the testimony concerning Christ's resurrection? Because they were overwhelmed by grief; it blinded their eyes and beclouded their reason. It wasn't that they didn't want to believe, but at the moment they seemed unable to believe.

While making allowances for their human frailty, however, we cannot excuse their complete forgetfulness of Christ's own words. Over and over He had spoken of His resurrection. Yet their unbelief becomes a very foundation for our faith. We may be sure that these unbelieving men would never have become powerful preachers of the resurrection unless they had received plenty of proof to change their attitudes!

THE GREAT COMMISSION (vv. 14-20)

Christ appeared to His unbelieving disciples and rebuked them for their unbelief but He did not leave them unhelped. On the contrary He spoke words which for centuries have been the marching orders of the Church. He made promises which have been fulfilled in the lives and ministries of multiplied thousands of His followers through the centuries.

SPRINGTIME HAS COME to much of the United States, bringing with it new green grass, colorful blooming bulbs, and welcome foliage on the trees. It's Easter, and the glorious hope of resurrection thrills our hearts.

But what of those who are in darkness and know nothing of Christ, of His provision for their salvation, and of the eternal life which the new birth brings to the believer? When the message, "He is risen!" comes to us with fresh impact, the contrast between the Christian and those who still "sit in darkness" seems even sharper.

One of our missionaries to the Navaho Indians became aware of this comparison as week after week he noticed a little old lady sitting in the sunshine outside her humble home. One day he felt compelled to stop and invite her to go to church. Just then the daughter came out to tell the missionary he wouldn't want to bother with her, because she was blind. When the invitation was repeated, however, the grandmother was happy to accept. Through an interpreter, the missionary learned she was 68 years of age but had not had the opportunity to attend church since she was a small child.

The plight of this Navaho lady was a twofold darkness. Because of the spiritual night prevalent in so many hearts in our land, home missionaries faithfully minister the Word. They introduce individuals to the Light of the world.

Our missionaries to the American Indians plan special activities for Easter Sunday. It is a time when they endeavor to (and often do) break attendance records in Sunday school.

At one of the mission stations, following their mountain sunrise service, the Indian children enjoyed an egg

hunt while the women cooked breakfast for the congregation. After a good time of fellowship they gathered in the church for a communion service which God blessed to the hearts of all the people.

While the word *Easter* designates a specific Sunday in our calendar, it also speaks of a living hope that is born in the hearts of many Indian men and women, boys and girls. Thank God for the great host of individuals who can join this year for the first time in singing,

*"You ask me how I know He lives,
He lives within my heart!"*

IT'S EASTER!

By Verna B. Flower



Navaho Indian ladies, dressed in their colorful skirts and blouses, on their way to Sunday services.

Choir members of the American Indian Bible Institute, Phoenix. Director Janice Wiseman, extreme right.



A Good Report from the American Indian Bible Institute

THIRTY STUDENTS and the faculty members of the American Indian Bible Institute, Phoenix, Arizona, have pledged \$65 a month for missions, reports D. R. Ramsey, president. The response was the result of a challenge presented by the student council.

Home Missions pledges are divided between Teen Challenge in Phoenix and the Indian Revival Center Radio Broadcast in Los Angeles. Missionaries to Africa, Egypt, South America, Surinam, and India will also benefit from pledges.

Last fall the school contributed toward the building funds of Navaho churches in Cameron and Burntwater, Ariz.

Intermission week (between semesters) was a busy and profitable period at the institute. Morning and evening services were held with Evangelist and Mrs. Wilson Nelson (class of '65) and Evangelist and Mrs. George Garcia (class of '64). Seven friends and neighbors of students were saved or reclaimed. A number of students were filled with the Holy Spirit; others were refilled, and all were blessed.

Although students are employed in secular jobs and work as much as 40 hours a week, they put great effort into their studies, he said.

In concluding his report the president stated that a

refrigerated milk machine, typewriters, and addressograph, and other pieces of equipment were purchased during the first semester. However, additional equipment is urgently needed. Immediate plans include groundbreaking and construction of a building on newly acquired property. (Funds contributed for the Bible school, clearly designated, will receive World Ministries credit.)

NEW BOOK EXPLAINS CHRISTIAN
VIEWS ON THE RESURRECTION

THIS IS OUR HOPE



FROM THE DAWN of human history death has been robed in black, and the life beyond the grave has been painted in somber shades of mystery; but the Christian sees a shaft of sunlight breaking through the fearsome gloom. The silver shaft streams hopefully from the mouth of an empty tomb while an angel voices the thrilling fact: "He is not here; for He is risen."

Up from the grave He arose. The Christ who was crucified is alive today, and because He lives we shall live also. *This is our hope* and this is the theme of a new book written by Richard E. Orchard, pastor of the Assembly of God in Willmar, Minnesota.

He points out that the importance of this subject may be seen in Paul's tremendous statement: "If there is no such thing as a resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has risen. And if Christ has not risen, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith also is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:12, 13, Weymouth).

On this truth of Christ's resurrection hangs the certainty or fallacy of the faith and preaching of the Church. There-

fore the author of this book explores the Scriptures to find what they say on the subject; then he reports the beliefs which have been cherished and taught by the ancient patriarchs and Christian believers down through the ages.

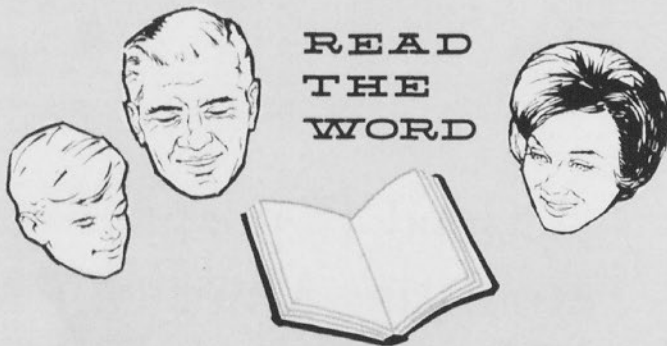
Numerous questions in people's minds are answered in detail. Will everyone in the resurrection have a body conformed to the original pattern, resembling Adam and Eve, or will each retain his individual identity? Or, as some may teach, will all resurrected bodies of believers resemble that of the Lord Jesus—the same height and size and age as His body? Is this what the Bible means when it says "we shall be like him"?

Some may ask, What *kind* of body will we have in the resurrection? Will it be material? How can this be, since Paul says it is raised "a spiritual body"? (1 Corinthians 15:44). All these questions are discussed by the author. He states that "spiritual body" does not mean "spirit body." Spirit cannot be body, and body cannot be spirit: the words have opposite meanings. Brother Orchard cites the Scriptures for illustrations to clarify the issue:

"Following the resurrection of our Lord, His body had form and dimension. He could say, 'Handle me and see' (Luke 24:39). He could break bread in the home of the Emmaus disciples. Thomas could touch the death wounds: they were material. One could feel them and see them. Yet that same body could vanish suddenly from the Emmaus home, and come into the room with the disciples, 'the doors being shut' (John 20:26). These incidents disclose a body most glorious, having form and dimension, yet endowed with energies and abilities unknown to us.

"This, then, is one of the basic differences between the body of our humiliation, and His glorious body. It is clear from this that the apostle Paul meant to convey these two ideas by the use of this term 'spiritual body.' First, the resurrection body will be unlike our present mortal bodies; secondly, the difference will consist of the investing of that new body with some of the characteristics of spirit, namely incorruption, and glory, and immortality.

This Is Our Hope, by Richard E. Orchard. 148 pages. Hard cover with colorful jacket. Gospel Publishing House, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Price \$3.95. Order number 2-EV-617.



CHAPTERS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 19-26

Sunday	Leviticus 9, 10	Thursday ..	Leviticus 17, 18
Monday	Leviticus 11, 12	Friday	Leviticus 19, 20
Tuesday	Leviticus 13, 14	Saturday	Leviticus 21, 22
Wednesday ..	Leviticus 15, 16	Sunday	Leviticus 23, 24

"Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy" (Leviticus 19:2).

Hence it is called a spiritual or spiritlike body. What a joy to look forward to having a "body fashioned like unto his glorious body" (Philippians 3:21).

Many have wondered about cripples. If they die with a disability, will it remain after the resurrection? Will physical deformities continue into the future life?

"Every statement in the Word of God concerning the Resurrection," the author states, "tends to eliminate the idea that any defects, deformities, or inabilities will mar the glorified bodies of the saints of God through the ages to come. Those Scriptures that speak of the body as being glorious and raised in power do not permit of any weakness whatsoever. No hospitals, no mental institutions, no homes for the aged, or other places of special care will be needed in the heavenly land. The glorious aspect of that life is beautifully summed up in the promise: 'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away' (Revelation 21:4).

Among other questions answered is this: Will midgets remain midgets in the resurrection? Will babies who die remain infants forever?

"The Word of God is silent on some details," the author admits, "but we look upon it as highly probable... that in the Resurrection there will be variety of form and stature, answering to the stature and appearance and age of the body at the hour of death.

"The same law of variety that pervades all the works of God will appear in the Resurrection, and continue throughout the world to come. There is no scriptural reason to suppose that the infant body will be raised as a full-grown young man or woman; or that the venerable and patriarchal in appearance will have gone back to the aspects of youth or early manhood. By what Bible principle should it be expected that all will be graded up or leveled down to the same stature or appearance unlike what we have ever been or seen in the present world? A flower garden would be a monotonous thing if every flower were exactly alike. We learn, rather, that in a flower garden there is infinite variety of color, size, and fragrance; and yet each flower is perfect in itself. There would be a wholly artificial quality to a forest in which every tree was exactly the same shape and size; but the real beauty of nature is in its infinite variety. The stars of the sky differ from one another in glory (in size and brilliance), but God calls them all by name (1 Corinthians 15:41; Psalm 147:4). Out of the innumerable snowflakes that fall, no two can be found with identical design. Our God is a great believer in variety. Out of the billions of people who have walked the earth, each has had characteristics which mark him off from all the rest."

The book contains chapters on: "The Teachings of the Old Testament Concerning the Resurrection," "The Teachings of Christ Concerning the Resurrection," "Morality and the Resurrection," and "The Time and Order of the Resurrection," to name four out of thirteen. There is a chapter on the teachings of the Early Church; another on the beliefs of the ancient Jews, and the beliefs of various Christian denominations on the resurrection. The writings of Josephus and certain Jewish rabbis are cited at some length, showing they expected the dead to come to life again.

The author describes the graves of the early Christians in the Catacombs of Rome and shows how the inscriptions on the graves reveal their faith. "A symbol commonly used is the cock, which suggests the morning of the Resurrection. Another is the fish, or sea monster, casting forth a man from its stomach, thus portraying the story of Jonah which Jesus used as the Old Testament type of His own burial and resurrection (Matthew 12:39, 40). Representations of the resurrection of Lazarus are also seen in the tombs. Many of the inscriptions carry the thought of rest and sleep for the departed ones. An example is, 'You will arise; a temporary rest is granted you.'"

He makes it very clear that there will be two resurrections, quoting our Lord's statement: "The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

May God grant that we shall be raised in "the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:4). Let us pray for grace to always do right in every phase of our lives, and to keep ourselves pure in His sight, that we may be privileged to join the Blood-washed throng of whom it is written, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death [the fate of the wicked] hath no power" (Revelation 20:6).

—R.C.C.

NOW AVAILABLE*

1967 *Spiritual Life Edition* of 'The Pentecostal Evangel'

Designed to spread the message of Pentecost in your community, to your friends, and among spiritually hungry Christians. Attractive, 16-page two-color issue. Filled with relevant articles on the work of the Holy Spirit in today's world. Appropriate for year-long distribution since no date appears on the cover. Informative articles appealing both to Christians and to non-Christians. Available at a reduced price to encourage wider distribution—just \$3.50 for 100, postpaid in the U.S. Order today!

*WATCH FOR YOUR PREVIEW COPY IN TWO WEEKS

THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

1445 Boonville • Springfield, Mo. 65802

Please send _____ copies of the "Spiritual Life Edition" of "The Pentecostal Evangel" (Crusade Issue Number 2760) at \$3.50 for 100, postpaid in the U.S. (Minimum order at this special rate is 100 copies.)

Payment Enclosed

Please Bill Us

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CHURCH _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

This is a church order personal order

(PLEASE CHECK ONE)

NOW DEATH FOR THE REDEEMED IS BUT A DARKENED
ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF ETERNAL DAY.

Gateway to Glory

By INEZ STURGEON



THE WARM SPRING SUNSHINE was bursting all the bonds of winter. The apple trees in full bloom were marching in their ordered rows down the hillside to the lawn which, like a green velvet carpet, stretched out under the aspen trees. The passing breeze set the new leaves aquake above the white tree trunks.

It was a picture of life; warm, flowing, pulsating *life*. Yet the scene which formed the central theme of this picture spread before me was one of death; stark, cold, naked *death*. Marring the beauty of the lawn was an open grave, and the breeze laden with the scent of spring flowers lifted and softly billowed a canopy under which there was a casket. In that casket rested the body of a man who had lived 102 years.

I was an outsider. It was almost by accident that my husband and I stood on the outskirts of that little gathering. Our only knowledge of the deceased was that he had attended our evangelistic services. However, I shall never forget the impressions that came to me that day of his burial.

What a long life! A century of history had rolled over his head. Such a century of world-rocking, time-destroying changes! His life had been 22 years longer than the "if by reason of strength" promised. Yet death at last had overtaken him.

What an ignominious end, I mused, to 102 years of vigorous, intelligent and beneficial life. A small plot of ground and a body to be committed to the earth. Death had come to him as it does to all the human family—to the little new life with its unknown potentialities, to youth with its face set toward undiscovered horizons, to the old with their mature and ripened knowledge.

What a dark closing chapter to a creation of God. Man, with the breath of the Eternal One in him, and bearing the

image of the Almighty; man, who had been blessed with an illuminated mind and a quickened spirit capable of communion and fellowship with God; man, to whom had been given the sceptre of rulership over all the earth and its creatures. Made to rule—yet conquered by death! Humiliating indeed has been the subjugation of this noble creature. Sin set up the dominating throne and from it death has reigned in tyrannical power.

But listen! "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." The voice of the minister rang out clearly. "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

A leap came into my heart! An ignominious end? No, a thousand times no! Through Christ sin has been defeated and death has been robbed of its victim, stripped of its autocratic robes and dethroned once for all. Now death for the redeemed is but a darkened entrance to the light of eternal day. A gateway through the valley of the shadow into the glory where there shall be no more tears, no more death, no more pain. This experience is but to leave the earth, with its shores of birth and death, for eternity which has no shores.

No longer did the beautiful apple blossoms, the new aspen leaves, or the bursting lilac buds seem incongruous as they formed the backdrop of this scene. Every part was one of *life*. Nature was putting on new life in season. In like manner, this body which was being gently lowered into the earth would rise again in *life* at the First Resurrection.