

FEATURING THE

**GREAT SEARCH
BIBLE DRAMA**

By

Benny B. Bristow

The Great Search Bible Drama

By Benny B. Bristow

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The Great Search

Bible Drama

Part One — Scene One

NARRATOR: Welcome to the Bible Drama, “The Great Search!” This presentation is designed to help you see that it is possible to have 1st Century Christianity in the 20th! Even in a land of all kinds of religious traditions and creeds, you will see that it is possible to return to the word of God.

Our drama begins with two men engaged in a conversation—one is Mr. Goldston, a millionaire and the other a preacher. Suppose we listen to what they are saying. The preacher now asks the millionaire a very important question:



PREACHER: Mr. Goldston, are you a Christian?

MR. GOLDSTON: No, I must say that I'm not!

PREACHER: May I ask, is there some reason why you are not?



MR. GOLDSTON: Matter of fact, there is. You see, a few years ago I made up my mind to look into religion, and since it has always been my rule in life to investigate anything thoroughly before engaging in it, I made a survey of religion, and the results were not good!

PREACHER: What do you mean?

MR. GOLDSTON: Well, I found hundreds claiming to follow the same Bible and yet everywhere I looked there was division. They were all claiming to be right and yet they were opposite to each other. To put it bluntly, I just got disgusted and washed my hands of all religion.

PREACHER: Have you ever asked yourself what caused all of this division?

MR. GOLDSTON: Not really, but it seems to me that the Bible causes division since so many who claim to follow it are divided!

PREACHER: Sir, I can appreciate your feelings—in fact, nothing discourages me more than the divided religious world. But where you and I sorely disagree is when you blame the Bible for all this division.



MR. GOLDSTON: Then, where do you place the blame?

PREACHER: I place the blame on man's failing to obey the Bible faithfully, and the adding his opinions while taking away from what God has commanded.



MR. GOLDSTON: Do you mean that there would be unity if people would completely ignore what has been taught by man in religion and follow only the Bible?

PREACHER: That's exactly what I mean! What do you think would be the results if you could find a man who has never read a word from the Bible and you gave him a copy to study? Would you say that he would be confused?

MR. GOLDSTON: He certainly would! There is no doubt whatever in my mind. In fact, it would be worth a lot of money to me for such an experiment to be made. Say, Preacher, that gives me an idea. Suppose I call my foreman over foreign operations and have him choose for us a highly intelligent man who has never studied the Bible. And at my own expense he could fly here and you would have the opportunity to prove what you say about the Bible. How does this sound to you?

PREACHER: Sir, this would make me very happy. Are you really serious about this matter?

MR. GOLDSTON: I certainly am! Can you think of a better way for me to spend my money? If you will plan how this will all take place, I will get the man here. You can count on it!

PREACHER: That'll be my pleasure. Now to make it easier for him, I'll divide the Bible into four major parts and bind each section in the form of a



book. When he arrives, we'll present him with the first section to study. After he has spent one week with it, we'll all get together for his report. This schedule can be repeated weekly until he has studied the whole Bible.

MR. GOLDSTON: Where will you make the sections?



PREACHER: The first volume will consist of all the Old Testament. This is the background for understanding the New Testament. By the time he has finished this first volume, he'll be acquainted with the true God and how He has dealt with His people from creation.

The second volume will contain the first four books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This volume will introduce him to the Son of God and will prepare the way for the next two volumes.

The third volume will consist of the book of Acts. In this volume he will learn of the beginning of Christ's church and the history of its spread. He will learn how men and women obeyed God in the First Century.

The fourth and final volume will contain the twenty-one letters written to Christians and also the book of Revelation.

In this volume he will learn how Christians worshiped, served the Lord, and of the many promises of eternal life.

MR. GOLDSTON: If I followed you correctly, that will cover the whole Bible, won't it?



PREACHER: Yes, every chapter!

MR. GOLDSTON: Well, Preacher, you get everything ready, and I'll have a man here within a week. I'll call you when he arrives.

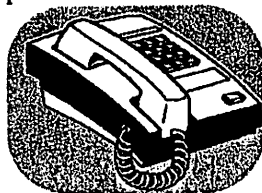
PREACHER: That'll be fine. Just let me know when you're ready. Thank you, Mr. Goldston for your interest in Bible study. I'll be waiting for your call. Goodbye!

~ Scene Two ~

NARRATOR: One week passed without a word from the millionaire.

In fact, the preacher was about to give up on him and his promise to find a man to study the Bible. The four volumes were prepared, but nothing could be done without the arrival of the man he promised.

Finally one morning, very early, the preacher's phone rang and it was Mr. Goldston bubbling over with enthusiasm!



PREACHER: Hello!

MR. GOLDSTON: Say, Preacher, guess what? He's here!

PREACHER: Really?

MR. GOLDSTON: Yes sir! I'm down at the Jet-Port with a young man named Sloan Vance. After a short conversation with Mr. Vance, I'm very impressed. I have found him to be educated, he speaks our language well, and he declares that he's never read a word from the Bible. He says that he's heard about the book, but has never read a single line from it.

PREACHER: This sounds wonderful. It seems to me that we are ready to get this experiment going.

MR. GOLDSTON: Right! Would it be possible for us to meet with you—say—in one hour at your office?

PREACHER: You certainly can. That sounds great—let's get things going as quickly as possible.

MR. GOLDSTON: Good, we'll see you shortly.

NARRATOR: The preacher was so anxious to meet the man that he arrived at his office thirty minutes early. But it was best that he was early since Mr. Goldston rushed through the traffic because of excitement to meet this appointment, and was also early.



After meeting together for a few minutes, they turned their attention to the business at hand. The preacher was also impressed with this man, Mr. Vance, and felt that he would be honest and faithful in his study. Suppose we listen in on their conversation.

PREACHER: Now, Mr. Vance, you are already acquainted with why you've come to us, but let me give you your specific assignment. I hold

in my hand a book which we will call Book No. 1. We would like for you to take this book to your hotel room that Mr. Goldston has provided, and study it all the way through for one week. You can use a note book to jot down any questions or comments. You may also underline any passages you choose as you go along. One week from today we'll all meet back here at my office at 8 o'clock for you to give your report.

MR. VANCE: Thank you sir. I understand what you want me to do and sincerely welcome the opportunity to study and discover what is in this book.

Mr. Preacher, perhaps Mr. Goldston didn't mention it to you, but I'm also an artist and love to sketch pictures. Would it be permissible for me to use pictures when giving my report?

PREACHER: Personally, I think that's a wonderful idea. You have a rare talent, and I'm sure Mr. Goldston agrees. Mr. Goldston, can you plan your schedule to meet one week from today?



MR. GOLDSTON: You couldn't pay me enough money to miss this! Yes Sir, I'll be anxiously waiting to see and hear his report. This is one of the most exciting times of my life.

~ Scene Three ~

NARRATOR: All three of these men went to their daily responsibilities and the experiment was finally a reality. As the preacher sat silently for a few minutes, it occurred to him that this great Book, the Bible, was being tested. Then he thought further, this is not the first time that God's word had been tested, and with joy and faith he realized that there is not a test so severe but what the Bible will always win.

With this in mind, the preacher filled the week of waiting with work until the time for the first report. Each day he could imagine Mr. Vance studying and painting Bible scenes all day and even into the night. The closer the time came, the more he became excited.

Finally the week of studying and painting the Old Testament, Book I, came to an end and all three men were on time in the preacher's office for the report. Mr. Vance was smiling as he talked with the other men, and after the usual greetings were completed they sat back to hear and see his report. Shall we also join them for this very exciting time:

MR. VANCE: Well, Gentlemen, may I first tell you that this is the most exciting book I have ever read! The story of creation and the beginning of everything answered questions that I have pondered often in the last few years of my life. There have been times when I have wondered about the purpose of life and even doubted its value, but not any more! This week of study has removed many of these doubts.



I have learned that man is more than just a highly advanced animal, and to verify this and other points that I will be making, I have underlined special passages and made some pictures, and illustrations. The first one is in Genesis 2:7.

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being..”

Then I read in Genesis 1:26, *“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

This taught me how important mankind is compared to the rest of God’s creation.



been beyond anything we have ever seen today. In fact, it seems to me that it was a place that this couple should have wanted to enjoy forever.

But God placed in the middle of the garden a special tree called, “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” to try or test this couple whether or not they would obey Him. The serpent appeared and convinced Eve that it was best to eat of this tree even though God had promised death for disobedience.

I was sorry to learn that their happiness was spoiled by eating of this tree, and I still wonder why man and woman did what God told them not to do, for in so doing, they brought death upon themselves. However, I was happy to learn that God promised them hope through the “Seed of woman.”



Mr. Preacher, I took note of this promise in Genesis
3:15 that God made:

*"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise
your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

Now, I would like to have the following questions answered at the end of this report, "Who is this "Seed of woman?" and "Has this seed come?"



The story of mankind continues as man and woman are driven from the beautiful garden. Cain and Abel were born to this first couple, but it seems that sin continued to have its harmful effect.

It was at this point that I learned of the first murder—Cain slew his brother Abel. Cain is described as an evil person because it says that God had no respect for Cain or his offering. He had followed the example of his parents, Adam and Eve, and disobeyed God.

In fact, as the human race multiplied, wickedness increased to the point that God was sorry that he had made man. Each generation became more evil until it became almost impossible to find a good man. It was refreshing, though, to learn of a man named Enoch who walked with God, but at the age of 165, God took him.

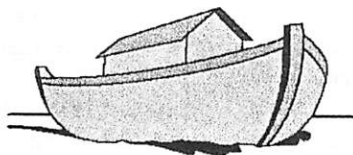
To show you how evil the people became, I read where God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.



About the time I was ready to lose complete hope—a righteous man appeared. His name was Noah! Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. He is described as a just man, perfect in his generation, and one who walked with God.

The Lord God announced that the end of all flesh has come before Me due to violence. Noah was also commanded to build a large boat called an ark.

This great ark was described to Noah in specific details. God wanted it made from gopher wood with three stories divided into rooms. It was to be coated inside and out with pitch, and would have only one door and one window. Noah was



ARK

to build a great ark that would withstand a destructive flood that God would bring upon the earth. It's design must be a house for pairs of every living thing of all flesh, such as fowls and creeping things:

"So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth," (Gen. 7:7-10).

This great flood was upon the earth for one hundred fifty days destroying all flesh that moved upon the earth. Finally though, God remembered Noah, ended the flood and brought the ark to rest on Mt. Ararat. Noah and family went out from the ark and God was pleased when Noah offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Rainbow Covenant

After the flood, the years passed and the earth began to be populated again. God chose a man called Abraham to begin a nation through his seed. God's promise to him was that his family would grow into a large nation and would inherit a special land is called the land of Canaan.

But Mr. Preacher, He gave another promise that I don't understand. God told Abraham:

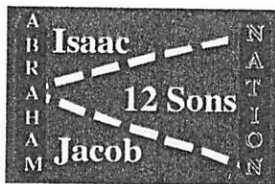
"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice," (Gen. 22:18).

You don't have to answer me now, but I wonder—is He promising here the same "Seed of Woman" promised earlier in the Garden of Eden?

It was an interesting story how this nation grew. I have prepared a chart showing the development of this nation. It makes it easier for me to keep these families in my mind:

What a joy it must have been to Abraham and Sarah when it was





announced to them from God that they would have a son in their old age. Since nothing is impossible with God, at the proper time, as you can see indicated on the chart, Isaac was born.

When this son grew up, God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to offer up his son in death. He loved his son, but he loved God more, and would have carried out the command, but God stopped him and allowed him to use a ram on the altar.

Later on, Isaac married and had twin sons, Jacob and Esau. But, from the two, God chose Jacob to develop this important nation. Over a period of several years, Jacob had 12 sons whose families and generations would form the nation of Israel.

These sons sold one of their brothers, Joseph into slavery thinking this would be the last of him, but actually, this evil turned out to be a blessing. Because in later years, Joseph saved his family from a famine, and obtained for them a fertile land in Egypt where they grew into a strong nation.



For many years, all went well in Egypt for them until a king came along who did not know Joseph and all that he had done for Egypt. Consequently, this nation was forced into slavery! There were taskmasters set over them and they were made to build cities for Pharaoh. But the harder the Egyptians worked them, the more they multiplied.

The Egyptians continued to increase their burdens even to the point of seeking to kill the male babies who were born. It was during this heavy persecution that God began His plan to deliver them.

A baby boy named Moses was born and hidden from the evil ways of Pharaoh for three months. However, to save his life, baby Moses was placed in a small floating ark near the place where Pharaoh's daughter bathed, hoping she would have compassion and save him. She did, and Moses' own mother was allowed to care for him until he was old enough to be delivered to Pharaoh's daughter.



Moses grew to manhood and later chose his own people, the

Israelites, rather than the Egyptians. However, he was forced to leave Egypt and went to Midian where he became a shepherd for forty years. It was here that Moses had an experience that affected his life, and the future of the nation of Israel.



Moses' attention was attracted to a flaming bush that burned without being consumed. God called to Moses out of the bush and informed him that the cry of his people in slavery had been heard, and that Moses would visit Pharaoh to deliver them. Moses felt his weaknesses and expressed them, but God assured him that He would stand by him with power.

Moses left the bush and obeyed God. While Moses appeared to Pharaoh asking him to let the people go, God sent a total of ten plagues upon the land of Egypt. They were: The waters turned to blood, frogs over the land, lice in the dust, swarms of flies, death of cattle, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and finally the death of the Egyptian's firstborn.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 - BLOOD | PLAGUES
FROM
GOD |
| 2 - FROGS | |
| 3 - LICE | |
| 4 - FLIES | |
| 5 - CATTLE | |
| 6 - BOILS | |
| 7 - HAIL | |
| 8 - LOCUST | |
| 9 - DARKNESS | |
| 10 - DEATH OF FIRSBORN | |

You would think that these plagues would convince Pharaoh to let them go without doubt, but in the face of all these things, when Israel began marching from Egypt, Pharaoh and his army pursued.



But Gentlemen, this all had a happy ending as God delivered His people safely across the Red Sea, and allowed the enemy to be drown in the sea. What a great victory God's people won that day, and what freedom they must have felt!

Some time after this deliverance, God gave this nation of Israel a written law at Mt. Sinai. From the context of the book you gave me, it seems that He was trying to keep this nation pure from other sinful nations so they could inherit the land of Canaan, and bring the promised Seed to the world.



These people did not keep this law as they were commanded, but often turned to rebellion and disobedience. To my surprise, they were even worshipping a golden calf when Moses returned with the tables of stone containing ten commandments from God. Their sins are recorded throughout

their history.

God even gave them a special tabernacle for worship and commanded a special priesthood to care for their spiritual needs, but they still showed a lack of faith.

This was shown especially when they first made an attempt to enter the land of Canaan. Twelve spies were sent to spy out the land, but when they returned, ten of them were afraid.

"But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. "There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight," (Num. 13:31-33).

Thus, the people refused to enter the land and God promised that He would send them back to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Those who were of age, twenty years and upward (except Joshua and Caleb the two spies who had faith) would never inherit the land. They would die during the forty years of wandering. For forty years these people wandered in the wilderness, but they were never happy. They constantly found fault and murmured in the face of many miracles.



Even their leader, Moses, on one occasion disobeyed God. He was commanded to speak to a rock to get water for the people, but instead, he struck it with a rod. By the time the forty years ended, God had kept His promise and the unbelievers had died in the wilderness.



At the end of the wandering in the wilderness, the Israelites were once again encamped near the land of Canaan ready to cross the Jordan River to conquer the land that God for many years had promised. Just before marching across the River Jordan to Canaan, Moses died. God allowed him to climb to the top of Mt. Nebo and view the land, but because of his disobedience at the rock, he was not allowed to enter.

After Moses' death, God chose Joshua to become their new leader.

Several days passed in preparation, but finally, at Joshua's command, the people marched across Jordan as God turned the water aside. After these many years of wandering, they finally reached the promised land.

There are six subjects that I believe will sum up the history of these people in Canaan. Let me review each of these briefly:

Even though God promised to give them this land, it was His will that they conquer it. They were to trust God's power to help them win the battles. When these people fought the enemy while faithful to God, He gave them victory; when there was sin and rebellion among them, there was defeat! So, the period of conquest had its problems because of sin, but with God's help and forgiveness, they were able to conquer the land and later divide it among the 12 tribes that made up this nation.



Conquest

Next came the time of the Judges. Joshua lived and guided these people through the years of conquest, but now that he is dead, they are without an earthly leader. God intended that they look to Him for leadership, but they were human enough to forget this. Therefore, over the many years of this period, they sinned and became oppressed by their enemies and God would raise up a Judge to lead them out of trouble. If I counted correctly, there were fifteen of these Judges. Some of them were very colorful and I was fascinated at the events of this period.

During the rule of Samuel, the fifteenth Judge, the people of Israel decided that they wanted a King to rule them. Samuel felt personal rejection and talked it over with God. However, God told Samuel that these people had not rejected him, they had rejected their God. Then God agreed to give them a king. There were three kings who ruled over Israel during the next one hundred twenty years of their history. These three were: Saul, David, and Solomon. Now this nation had a lot of problems, but over all, God blessed them as a United Kingdom.

At the death of Solomon, something very serious happened to Israel. Solomon's son, Rehoboam was in line for the next king, but when he refused to lighten the burdens that Solomon had placed on the nation, ten of the twelve tribes refused to serve him.



Judges



United Kingdom



This caused a division in the kingdom. The ten tribes that rebelled, moved to the northern part of Canaan and chose another man, Jereboam to be their king, and the other two tribes remained in the south and Rehoboam, Solomon's son, became their King.

It was somewhat sad to study the history of this divided kingdom, because both kingdoms became sinful. In fact, they both turned to idols and practiced the sins of the nations around them.

God sent prophet after prophet to both nations to warn them to return to God, but they continued in their sinful course. Out of the two kingdoms, the Northern kingdom was more evil, but it finally reached the point that God, through his prophets, foretold that both kingdoms would be carried away by enemies into captivity because of their rebellion and sins.

Prophets

Over the years of the divided kingdom, the Northern Kingdom had nineteen kings, and the Southern Kingdom of Judah had twenty. The majority of these kings were evil.

Northern Kingdom, due to the severe wickedness of the Northern Kingdom, it was the first of the two to be captured by an enemy and carried away to captivity. The Assyrian army invaded their land and finally took them away. After reading this entire book, I did not find where God let them ever return. But God did not allow this to happen without first faithfully warning them. Yet, the great prophets He sent them were ignored and the punishment of this nation became necessary.

Captivity

You would think that the Kingdom of Judah would learn a lesson from this captivity of the Northern Kingdom, but they didn't. Steadily, over the years they rebelled against God. Likewise, God pled with them through His prophets, but to no avail. Finally, their punishment became certain. God sent a prophet to foretell their captivity, but to my surprise, it was also foretold that they would return out of captivity after 70 years.

Judah

Captivity

Well, just as God had said through His prophets, Judah was overrun by the Babylonians and carried away into captivity. God truly kept His promise to punish them for their sins.

At the end of 70 years, the Kingdom of Babylon that had Judah in captivity was overrun by the Persian army. Although Judah would still be subject to this new kingdom, the Persians, it was agreed to allow Judah to return to their land and to their city of Jerusalem to restore it. What a joyful occasion it must have been for them to march homeward to rebuild that which had been destroyed. Surely God was guiding this nation of Judah.

Prophecies

I found also in this first book you gave me to study that during all this history, the same prophets who spoke of the immediate problems of these people, also looked into the future and told of the time that the promised seed would come. They spoke of an everlasting kingdom, the word of God flowing out of Jerusalem, the giving of a new covenant, and the receiving of a new name. This book closes with the promise of sending Elijah the prophet before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

I could spend all morning relating the many wonderful stories from this book, but let me hurriedly get to some of the Scriptures that I have underscored.

In Genesis 49:10 it says, "*the scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes.*" Is this the same one as the "Seed of woman" that God mentioned in the Garden of Eden?

In Isaiah 9:6, it seems that the prophet is describing the same person when he writes: "*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*"

Moses said, "*The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,*" (Deut. 18:15). Again I ask, is this still talking about the "Seed of Woman" or "Shiloh?"

Now, Mr. Preacher, in summation, my real questions are: "Has the Savior that God promised come" and "Have these prophecies been fulfilled?" It seems that this whole book you gave me is looking forward to this one's coming, but when I read the last page of this book, he had not as yet come.

The
Promised
Savior



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Northern



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The
Promised
Savior

It seems that all is ready, but I failed to find in this book whether or not it has been fulfilled. Now, I'm ready for your answer!



PREACHER: Mr. Vance, you have studied well and have obviously learned this first book, and your sketches have brought the facts to life. However, it seems to me that the best way to answer your questions is to give you the second book that we're asking you to study. Please take this book which is Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John from the Bible. Read it carefully as you did the first book for one week. Then when you return to report, we will see if these questions you have raised are answered.

MR. GOLDSTON: Let me say, Mr. Vance, that you have done an excellent job so far. In fact, I found myself learning things from this book that I have never heard before. You even have me wanting to know more about this promised one.



MR. VANCE: Well, thank you, gentlemen for your encouragement. I can hardly wait to read the second book, especially if it can answer these many questions that are on my mind.

PREACHER: Then suppose we adjourn for now and let Mr. Vance get busy. If it is agreeable with all, we'll meet here one week from today at the same time. Just be sure, Mr. Vance, to underline any passages you don't understand and jot down any questions that you need answered.

NARRATOR: As the men went their separate ways, the Millionaire felt that he had done right in making all of this possible, the preacher was happy with the forcefulness of God's Word, and Mr. Vance was thrilled to be learning more about God and His dealings with man. Each person believed more strongly in God than ever before.

~ Scene Three ~

NARRATOR: We continue now with Scene Three of "The Great Search Bible Drama." As the week passed, Mr. Vance was so engrossed with the second book that he ordered all food to be brought to his room. Questions had mounted so high in his mind from the first book that it was a real joy to find the answers. He was not content to go over this book

once, but he would re-read entire chapters, and found himself wanting to memorize favorite verses. Also, he had his sketching tablet handy to graphically illustrate the major events. The week passed quickly, and through diligent study, much was accomplished.

Mr. Goldston found it hard to sleep the night before time to meet. He kept saying to himself that he had really been unfair to the Bible. He had read very few verses in his life and the religion and Bible knowledge that he obtained came from hearing others talk. However, his attitudes were now changing. He even found himself reading from the stories Mr. Vance had related in his report. For the first time in his life, he had experienced a genuine interest.

All three men kept the appointment promptly. It was obvious to see before Mr. Vance began that this second book had not let him down. Now that they are all seated comfortably, it seems that they are ready to begin. Let's listen as Mr. Vance gives his second report.

MR. VANCE: Mr. Preacher, now I know that you were wise in not answering my questions last week, because this second book has answered them so well. The first book closed promising that the prophet Elijah would come, and I had not read far into this second volume until I learned that this Elijah was in the form of a man called John the Baptist.



He was called the baptist or immerseer because he baptized people, but his real mission was to prepare for this promised seed. The chosen nation that came from the seed of Abraham was not ready for the One through whom all nations would be blessed. Therefore, John worked faithfully to prepare for the coming of the Messiah and to announce that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

Then came the one for whom he was preparing, the one whom all the prophets in the first book had predicted—Jesus Christ. I had never before read of such a great one.

His birth began with a miracle since His mother conceived by the Holy Spirit instead of by man. At the age of twelve He was smart enough to discuss deep matters with the doctors of the law in the Temple. After He was baptized of John, the heavens opened as the Holy Spirit descended like a dove on Him, and the voice of God in heaven announced, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."





Miracles

After defeating the devil in the wilderness, Jesus began His ministry, and what a ministry it was! He did not just ask people to take His word, but everywhere He went, miracles were performed.

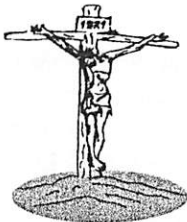
The lame were made to walk, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, evil spirits cast out, and some dead ones were called back to life. Even the winds and storms of the sea obeyed Him.

He was not interested in impressing men from an earthly standpoint, but rather was interested in their eternal souls. This is why He spent each day teaching them how to live on earth so that they could live with God in eternity. His pure teaching stirred up jealousy among the religious "glory seekers," but this did not stop Him. He merely exposed their evil motives and showed His audiences the real way of life. As He taught, He also trained men called apostles, to help. He taught them and others many lessons through parables.

As I continued reading of His life, there seemed to appear a shadow of death gathering about Him. Many times evil men tried to take Him, but failed. The real seriousness came when He took Peter, James, and John to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. While there, Jesus was so concerned as He prayed that He sweated as it were great drops of blood. He spoke of a cup to drink and even prayed His Father to let it pass if possible, but Jesus assured His Father that He was ready to suffer if it was His will. It was shortly after this that the mob came with their torches and clubs to capture Him.



From this time forward, His life was filled with suffering and disappointment. Even one of the twelve apostles, Judas Iscariot, betrayed Him, and another called Peter, denied Him. He was taken from one mock trial to another until finally the bloodthirsty mob got permission to crucify Him.



How sad it was for me to read of His death. The carrying of His cross, the nailing of His hands and feet, the mocking: "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross," "He saved others, let Him save

Himself,” the gaul for food, vinegar for drink, the crown of thorns, the slapping and spitting—all add up to the most cruel scene in history.

Even in the midst of what many considered weakness, there came forth strength and power. The great cries from the cross, the darkness over the earth, the earthquake, the appearance of some dead walking in Jerusalem, the veil of the temple torn in two from the top to the bottom, make me want to cry out with the Roman soldier, “Surely He was the Son of God!”

At this point, with Jesus dead, I felt disappointed. Joseph of Armathaea and Nicodemus removed the body and prepared it for burial by wrapping it with linen clothes and spices. He was buried in Joseph’s new tomb, and then it was sealed by a large stone and guarded by Roman soldiers.



But I didn’t stay disappointed long! With further study I found that after three days the grave could not hold Him. There was a great earthquake as an angel from heaven descended and rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb, and Jesus came forth victorious over death!

Then I remembered from the first book that this was all prophesied, and the words of Isaiah kept coming to my mind:

“He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed,” (Isa. 53:3-5).

It finally came to me that He was carrying out the promise made of God to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This couple had brought death, and God had promised the “Seed of Woman” to pay the price. Somehow it had never occurred to me that the price would have to be death!

After His resurrection, Jesus met with His apostles and told them He would have to leave. This made them sad, but He promised to prepare a place for them and said that He would send the Holy Spirit to earth to guide them. Until this time, He had singled out the Jewish nation only, but Jesus spoke of the time shortly when all nations—every creature—would hear His message and be saved. Then He told them to go into Jerusalem and wait for this power or Holy Spirit to come.



He had prepared for the coming of His church or kingdom, and with these plans all finished, He was taken up in a cloud out of their sight into heaven. What a glorious experience this must have been for the apostles!

Now, Mr. Preacher, here are my questions: "Did they go to Jerusalem?" "Did they receive that power?" "Did the kingdom or church, as it is called, come into existence?" This second book contained Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John's account of the life of Jesus, and I read them all, but these men stopped with Jesus ascending to heaven. Did the kingdom begin? Did the power come?



PREACHER: Mr. Vance, you have asked me some great questions, and I could answer each of them for you, but do you remember saying earlier that I did right in not personally answering your questions, and giving you the book (with the answers) was best for you?

MR. VANCE: Yes sir, and I still feel that this was the best way.

PREACHER: Then, instead of answering these questions, let me give you another book. Here is Volume 3, taken from the Bible, and is called the book of Acts. Suppose you take this book, read it as thoroughly as you did the first two, and see if you can find the answers to your questions.

MR. VANCE: Sir, this I will gladly do.

PREACHER: Well, Mr. Goldston, what do you think of the progress of our experiment?

MR. GOLDSTON: Frankly, I could not be more pleased! Preacher, why didn't you tell me before that this Bible is so great?



PREACHER: Sir, if you will recall, I tried several times and you showed very little interest. In fact, this is all taking place because you thought the Bible to be a book that causes religious division.

MR. GOLDSTON: Yes, yes, you're right. It's just that I have never enjoyed anything so much in my life. Why would anyone neglect this great book—this I cannot understand!



PREACHER: You have a good point there, but suppose we continue this experiment by allowing Mr. Vance to get back to work. Now, Mr. Vance, you know what you are to do. You are certainly doing an excellent job with your presentation, and I'm personally looking forward to hearing your third report.

MR. VANCE: Thank you Mr. Preacher, and I look forward to seeing you again in one week.

NARRATOR: And so, the second phase of the test of the great Book, the Bible, came to an end. It was obvious to all as they went their separate ways that this great Book of God was passing all tests!

To Mr. Goldston, this week passed by more slowly than the other two. He was not sure what had made the difference, but perhaps it was because he was anxious himself to find some of the answers to the questions asked by Mr. Vance. It was no longer just a matter of proving someone wrong, but Mr. Goldston was seeing himself and his relationship to God for the first time in his life.

Mr. Goldston spent each day and even into the night, studying the Bible. This was not a part of the experiment, but something that he wanted to do. He had allowed money and material things take over his life with no real concern about his soul. In his personal study, one Scripture kept coming back to his mind, "*For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul,*" (Mt. 16:26)

~ Scene Four ~

The appointed day finally arrived, and since they had been

through other presentations, after a few minutes of visiting together, they took their seats, and Mr. Vance began:

MR. VANCE: Well men, I am thrilled to tell you that my questions from book two were answered in this volume. In fact, to my amazement, the first chapter of the book of Acts picked up from the ascension of Jesus where Book 2 left off. In the first chapter, I found Jesus preparing to ascend to heaven and leaving His apostles to accomplish their work.

Beginning at verse 4, I read: "*And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,"*" (Acts 1:4-8).

Shortly after this He was taken up in a cloud, and the apostles went to Jerusalem to wait for the power that was promised, and the coming of the church or kingdom.



As I came to chapter two, I found the apostles in Jerusalem waiting, when about the third hour of the day on the feast day called Pentecost, it happened! Jesus was right in speaking of the Spirit coming with power, because it sounded like a rushing mighty wind, and all the room where they were sitting was filled.

The Spirit appeared to them as cloven or dived tongues like as fire. Now, all Jewish nations under heaven were represented on this Feast day, and the noise and power was so great that all heard and came together.

Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and preached a powerful sermon. He used the first two volumes which I have already reported, to make his points as he showed that the Jews were murderers and guilty of the blood of the Son of God.

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ," (Acts 2:36). When he finished, they were cut in their hearts and felt lost from God. It was at this point that the Jews asked a question that was of great interest to me:



"Men and brethren, what shall we do?" From this question, I know that Peter and the others had reached them and that they were believers in Jesus, and are now ready to do anything required for them to be freed from their sins. In verse 38, Peter answered the question:

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Now, Mr. Preacher, I jotted down what Peter told them to do:



Then as I read further in the second chapter, I learned that 3,000 souls accepted this teaching, because verse 41 says, *"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."* What a great day that must have been!



In the last verse of this chapter two, I learned something else: *"praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."* Until this time the church or kingdom was spoken of as being in the future or at hand, but now it is in existence and they are being added by the Lord to it.

Do you fellows remember that in Book 2, Jesus promised to build His church and promised Peter the keys of the kingdom? Well, now it is here and all men and women are invited to enter. Another thing that I noticed is that when these people did what Peter told them to do to be saved, the Lord added them to the church.

MR. GOLDSTON:

Excuse me, Mr. Vance, but I must say something here. You see, I made an attempt one time to be religious, but I could not decide which church to join. Now I know from the Bible that New Testament Christians did not "join" a church. They simply were saved by obeying the

commands of Christ, and the Lord added them to His church. When the Lord does the adding, we can be sure that He has not made a mistake.

Please excuse me, Mr. Vance, I know you are the one giving the report, but you'll never know what it means to me to learn about God's way of salvation and how the saved are added to Christ's church.

MR. VANCE:

Sir, that's all right! Your comments help me remember the things that I have learned and studied.

Now, as I continued studying through this book, I found many examples of conversions—of people changing and turning to Jesus for salvation.



The eighth chapter records the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch, a man with great authority from the Queen of Ethiopia. He had traveled by chariot all the way to Jerusalem to worship according to the law of Moses, since he had not heard of the new law and Jesus Christ. A preacher named Philip was sent to him, and while riding along in the chariot together, Philip preached to him Jesus.

They came to a certain water and the eunuch said:

R	<i>"See, here is water. What hinders me from be-</i>	R
E	<i>ing baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with</i>	E
Q	<i>all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I</i>	Q
U	<i>believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he com-</i>	U
E	<i>manded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and</i>	E
S	<i>the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized</i>	S
T	<i>him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit</i>	T
	<i>of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw</i>	
	<i>him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing," (Acts</i>	
	<i>8:36-39).</i>	

Now I made a list to this point of what is required to be saved:

REPENT - CONFESS CHRIST, and BE BAPTIZED.

Next, in chapter 16, I found another interesting example of one being converted or saved. One of God's workers, the apostle Paul, was in jail with his companion when God sent an earthquake that opened all the doors of the prison. The jailor who was in charge knew that if a prisoner escaped, it would mean his death, so he was ready to take his own life when Paul cried out:

"Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household," (Acts 16:28-34).

As I read every chapter and every conversion, these are the steps they took. When they heard the word preached, they BELIEVED it, REPENTED of their sins, CONFESSED that they believed Jesus to be the Christ the Son of God, and they were BAPTIZED for the remission of their sins. In fact, I have prepared a little chart that lists the conversions in this book, showing that when you put all the conversions together, you have God's complete plan of salvation. Would you like to look at it and study it closely before we go on?

NARRATOR: The chart was passed first to the Preacher and then to Mr. Goldston. The millionaire spent several minutes looking over the summation.

SUBJECTS	BELIEVED	REPENTED	CONFESSED	BAPTIZED
Pentecost Acts 2:14-41		Repented vss. 37,38		Baptized vss. 38-41
Samaria Acts 8:5-13	Believed vs. 12			Baptized vss. 12,13
Eunuch Acts 8:35-39	Believed vss. 36,37		Confessed vs. 37	Baptized vs. 38
Saul Acts 9:17,18				Baptized vs. 18
Cornelius Acts 10:34,48	Believed vs. 43			Baptized vs. 48
Jailer Acts 16:25-33	Believed vs. 31			Baptized vs. 33
Lydia Acts 16:11-15	Heeded vs. 14			Baptized vs. 15
SUBJECTS	FAITH	REPENTED	CONFESSED	BAPTIZED

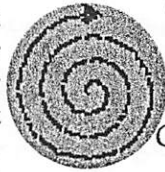
It was thrilling to see God's plan for salvation in such a simple presentation. It was also interesting to note that all examples of conversion were required to be baptized. He thought, "These are commands that God requires one to do to receive His gift of grace and salvation through Christ's blood. Then Mr. Vance continued.

MR. VANCE: Now, Mr. Preacher, after reading this third book, I have one question. I now BELIEVE with all my heart. I have decided in my heart to turn from the evil and sinful things I have committed, which seems to be the meaning of REPENTANCE illustrated in the third book. I am certainly willing to CONFESS that I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Now, my question is, "Will you baptize me for the remission of my sins?"



PREACHER: Mr. Vance, nothing could thrill me more. The word of God has been planted firmly in your heart, and I am sure that you know from your study that salvation is a gift from God, but is conditioned on obedience to His commands. I'm happy that you are ready to go all the way in obedience. Let's go now to the baptistry. All is ready.

MR. GOLDSTON: Just a minute, Preacher. There are two things on my mind! First, let me say, you have won the experiment...or rather the Bible has proven itself to be, in my eyes, the WORD OF GOD. You were right, it is not a book that causes religious division. The religious world is divided because they have added to and taken from the Bible, the word of God. The second thing that is on my mind is this: As you know, I'm a rich man! Do you think I could be saved?



The
Bible
Wins!

PREACHER: Are you willing to give your life to Christ, and to obey His commandments?

MR. GOLDSTON: I don't think I could ever have another happy moment in this life without Christianity!



PREACHER: Then remember this, your wealth can be used for the glory of God. This man, Mr. Vance, is ready to complete his obedience to

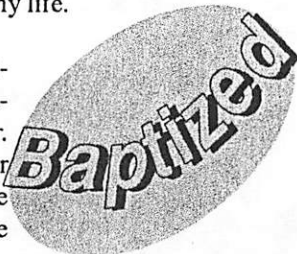


Christ because your money brought him to the word of God. There are millions like him who would obey gladly and live for Jesus faithfully if they were only taught. Instead of your money keeping you from salvation, it can help you and others give your lives in service to Christ.

MR. GOLDSTON: Now that I believe, and wish to change my heart and life, may I confess: I do believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Will you also baptize me for the remission of my sins?

PREACHER: Yes, certainly yes! And may I say with no reservations that this is one of the happiest moments of my life.

NARRATOR: These men went immediately to the baptistery where all was in preparation for those willing to be baptized. Mr. Vance and Mr. Goldston found their proper sizes of garments and anxiously awaited the opportunity to complete their obedience to the Lord in baptism.



Each of these men was buried beneath the water in baptism for the remission of their sins just as Peter had commanded in *Acts 2:38*, and they were baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit just as Jesus had commanded in *Matthew 28:19*.

NARRATOR: Within thirty minutes, these two men had been baptized and all three were back in the Preacher's study. There seemed to be a closeness between them now, as they discussed their new life in Christ Jesus. However, the conversation finally returned to the study of the Bible.

MR. VANCE: Say, Preacher, did you tell me that you have four volumes for me to study?

PREACHER: Yes, that's right, but I was wondering, don't you feel that you should rest for a few days? For three weeks you have given many hours to study. Suppose you take a few days off and get out and visit our city. I feel that you may come up with some other questions. Mr. Goldston, is it all right with



you to wait for a few days before giving him this fourth volume?

MR. GOLDSTON: You're right about that, and that's agreeable with me, but I'm sure anxious to hear a report on the remaining volume of the Bible. In the mean time, I plan to do more reading and studying on my own, and that should make the last report even more meaningful to me.

PREACHER: Then all are agreed. We will meet as usual here in the office, one week from today.

NARRATOR: For the first two days, Mr. Vance relaxed in his room without any study, but his mind continued to rejoice in his new life that he had found in Christ Jesus. He was already making plans to take this great book, the Bible, back to his home land and teach it every minute possible. On the third day, Mr. Vance decided to go downtown and look around.



After visiting many places of business, he found himself walking out into the park. He discovered a cool shade and sat for a while on a park bench to rest. A few minutes later, he was greeted by a stranger:

STRANGER: Looks like we are going to have some spring weather.

MR. VANCE: Yes Sir, it is truly beautiful today, and I couldn't be any happier.



STRANGER: May I ask the reason why you are so happy, or is that a personal question?

MR. VANCE: Oh no, it's certainly not a secret. You see, I just studied a Book that told me how to become a Christian. I obeyed it, and I'm very happy!

STRANGER: You must be referring to the Bible.

MR. VANCE: That's right!

STRANGER: May I ask which church did you joined?

MR. VANCE: I beg your pardon?

STRANGER: We have over 300 different churches in this country, so I'm asking which of these 300 churches did you join?

MR. VANCE: Well Sir, I'm from another country, and know nothing of these different churches. In fact, I know of only one church.

STRANGER: And which one's that?

MR. VANCE: The one promised and built by Christ, found recorded in the Bible.



STRANGER: Well, you see, all these 300 churches claim to be the one in the Bible, and they each have a creed book or Articles of Faith manual that tells them what name to wear, what teaching to follow, and how to worship.

MR. VANCE: Since I have read only the Bible, I know nothing about these churches you mentioned. I've not seen or read any of their creed books.

STRANGER: Well, what did you do to be saved? Maybe this will give me a clue as to which church you joined.

MR. VANCE: First, I studied and received FAITH. Do you think I did right?

STRANGER: Oh yes, most all religions require you to believe or to have faith, but what else did you do?

MR. VANCE: I decided in my heart to turn from my old sinful life and follow Jesus. This is called REPENTANCE in the Bible. Do you feel that I was right in repenting?



STRANGER: Well, I don't know much about that word, but you say it's in the Bible, so I suppose you did right. What else did you do?

MR. VANCE: Sir, I CONFESSED that I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God!

STRANGER: Is that all you confessed?

MR. VANCE: Why yes, this was what the apostle Peter confessed in *Matthew 16:18,19*. This is what the Ethiopian eunuch confessed in his conversion, *Acts 8:37*. Yes, this is all that I confessed.

STRANGER: We usually confess a lot of things in my church. But, maybe that was all right. Is this all that you did?

MR. VANCE: No Sir, I was then BAPTIZED by immersion for the remission of my sins, just like Peter told the sinners to do in *Acts 2*.



STRANGER: That's it! Now I know! You are a member of the Church of Christ. You are one of those who believes that you have to follow only the Bible without adding anything to it or taking anything from it. You don't need to say any more, because my neighbor feels that way and he's always after me to follow ONLY the Bible!

MR. VANCE: But Sir, how can one ever be wrong in God's sight by simply following His word?

STRANGER: Man, that's too narrow! This is modern times, not the first Century! I enjoy my church because we are broad-minded. I've got to be going, but remember, you have accepted a religion that is narrow!

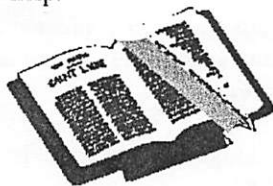
MR. VANCE: As the stranger walked away, Mr. Vance thought, "That man doesn't appreciate God's word. If wanting to do what God's word says makes me narrow minded, then I'm glad that I am narrow minded. That man paid me a compliment."



NARRATOR: All during that week, Mr. Vance had questions to arise concerning how one should worship God. He jotted these down, along with many others, and felt confident that the last volume of the Bible, Book 4, would provide the answers. The time had not passed by as quickly as the previous weeks, and when the day finally came for the three to meet, it was a most welcome occasion for all.

As the session began, Mr. Vance read his long list of questions. Some answers had been given in Book 3, Acts, but he felt that more details were needed. Now that he had been saved from his sins, he wanted

to grow strong and to find these answers. Surely such answers would help.



Book 4

The wise preacher handed him the fourth and last volume of the Bible, which contained the letters and the Book of Revelation. He was instructed, as before, to spend a week of study and later return to report.

He was so anxious to get going on this that he excused himself immediately. It was a thrill for the preacher to see a man hungering and thirsting for the word. As Mr. Vance and Mr. Goldston rushed away and the office became quite, the preacher decided to take a few moments and listen to a tape of the beautiful song, "Our God Is Alive."

This week seemed to be the shortest of all since so many questions were being answered about Christ's church. It was such an honor for Mr. Vance to read from the life and writings of such men as Peter, James, John, Jude, and Paul. In fact, he was overflowing with joy when the three assembled for their last meeting. Suppose we join them for Mr. Vance's final report:

MR. VANCE: Gentlemen, it is now complete, and my questions have been answered. I have found the name that God's children are to wear. That all important name is CHRISTIAN.

"Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter," wrote the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 4:16.

Again I read where, *"And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch,"* Acts 11:26.

Paul wanted King Agrippa to be persuaded to become a Christian, Acts 26:29.

This forever settles the question about the name for individual followers—we must be called CHRISTIANS, and since the Lord bought the church with His own blood, and adds the saved to His church, I am content to be just a Christian, and a member of Christ's church!

Christian



Now, as to worship, I found an example in this book where Christians met on the first day of the week, Sunday, to remember the Lord's death by breaking bread or taking of the Lord's Supper with the bread representing His body, and the fruit

of the vine His blood:

“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight,” (Acts 20:7).

I found likewise where they sang hymns and spiritual songs in their worship, as they made melody in their hearts to the Lord, *Ephesians 5:19.*

PREACHER: Did you find a single example of any Christians using mechanical instruments of music in their worship?

MR. VANCE: No Sir, I did not. I read in the first book you gave me, the Old Testament, about David and his harp, but not a single one in the New Testament church.

Then I studied about them praying, giving of their money to the Lord as they were prospered.

“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come” 1 Corinthians 16:2. It was thrilling to learn how they had compassion on their fellow-men and especially on those who were in trouble.

Most of all, they felt a responsibility of carrying the saving message of Christ to the world that others might be saved. May I add here, this is exactly what I intend to do for my people back home.

W

H

Y

In short, I learned how saved people came together to worship God. The stranger I met last week mentioned that many people live by a man-made creed book, but I ask, why? Haven't they read where Paul wrote: *“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed,” (Galatians 1:8).* Why would they want anything other than this divine creed book—the BIBLE!

This last part of my report is also very thrilling to me. It comes from the book of Revelation. This is a book of figures, and there were many things that I did not understand, but all through this



**Victory
In
Jesus**

book I received HOPE—hope of a beautiful place being prepared called heaven. It is made plain that only those whose names will be found in the Book of Life will enjoy heaven (Revelation 20:15). The same book tells of a Lake of fire for the evil.

So, fellows, this is why I want to tell others of Christ—I want to go to heaven and I want them to do the same. This completes my report on the letters and the book of Revelation.

PREACHER:

Thank you again, Mr. Vance. You are a very honest and sincere man, and I know you will spend the rest of your life doing a great job for your Lord. Just remember, wherever you go, preach only the word of God.



When men come to Christ in obedience from their hearts, He will save them by His blood and the Lord will add them to His church. When they meet together to worship, they will be a congregation of the Lord's church.

Mr. Goldston, I want to again thank you for making all this possible. There are thousands of other people who, like us, claim to be Christians only. Before Mr. Vance returns home, I would like for us all to worship with some of these people this Lord's day. These people refer to themselves as being members of the church of Christ, and individually as Christians. Their only aim is to return to the Bible, and to encourage all men and women everywhere to do the same. Suppose I come over and get both of you fellows this coming Sunday?

NARRATOR:

They both agreed, and without a doubt, Mr. Vance and the millionaire were ready to show the world a great change. They were happy with their religion, because, what they were doing could be found in the Bible.

How About You?

What about your religion? Is it guided by man or God? Is it guided by a human creed or only the Bible? Have you added to, or taken from the Bible, or have you done exactly what Christians did in the early days of the Lord's church? All should think seriously on these questions! You could choose to obey now—don't set aside something so important!

The Bible does not divide men religiously, but men divide them-

selves by not letting the Bible be the only source of religious authority. If we are ever tempted to leave the path of the Bible, let us remember the preacher, the millionaire, and Mr. Vance. If we stay true to the Bible, a great blessing from God will be ours NOW, and FOREVER!

Longview CHURCH of CHRIST
1401 Eden Drive
Longview, TX 75605

Sunday.....B. Study - 9:00 a.m.
Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Worship - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday....Ladies' Class 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.