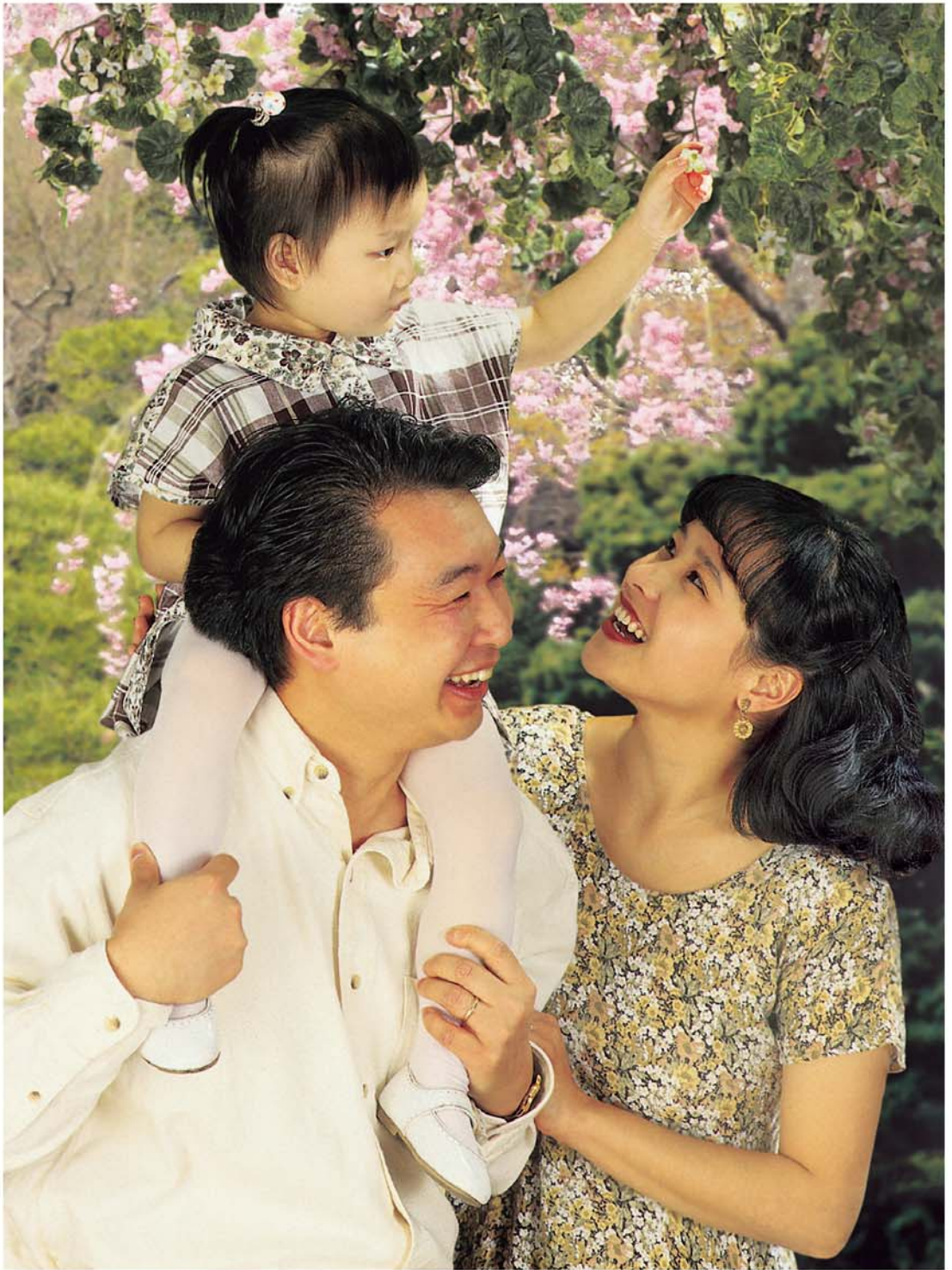


LASTING PEACE AND HAPPINESS

How to find them





Peace and Happiness —Everyone's Desire

WHO does not want to be happy? Who does not want to enjoy good health and long life? Who does not wish to see peace and security? These are the normal desires of everyone. Sadly, though, reality often goes contrary to our wishes. The world today is full of distress. Earth wide, disasters, calamities, wars, diseases, crime, and injustices are constantly on the increase. How can peace and happiness be found?

² To those who claim to be practical and realistic, the way to happiness is through wealth and riches. They feel that money is the best safeguard; with it one can lead a comfortable life, with no more worries about food and shelter. True, money can bring protection and benefit in some ways. But is wealth really the most important thing in life? Can money provide lasting protection? How reliable is material security? Business failures, economic depressions, crime, violence, wars, and disasters have ruined the fortunes of many in an instant. Devastating experiences of this sort are too numerous to recount.

³ Others pursue fame and position. They feel that if they become prominent, they can tower over others and be admired by them. Yet, no matter how successful a person may be, he must admit that circumstances can change quickly and he can lose his position overnight. The satisfaction that fame brings is only short-lived. And once a person's life comes to its end, the glory and the fame he enjoyed pass away with him.

⁴ Many also feel that life is so short and human affairs are so changeable and unpredictable that they should just pursue life's pleasures and have a good time while they still can. Recreation and entertainment do have their place in life. But can they provide lasting happiness and satisfaction? When the excitement is over, how does a person feel? After all the feasting and the merrymaking, those who indulge in

1-4. In what ways have people tried to find peace and happiness? With what results?



To enjoy happy family life is a normal human desire



Can money bring lasting peace and happiness?

them are often left feeling empty and exhausted, and it all adds up to a life devoid of meaning.

⁵ Wealth, fame, prominence, pleasures, revelry—none of these can bring lasting happiness and contentment. Why not? It is because those who seek happiness through these means have aimed in the wrong direction and followed the wrong path. They are concerned only with gratifying their physical or material desires. When all is said and done, they are left with the same spiritual void, longing, and frustration that they started with. They have found no real contentment.

⁶ Birds and beasts are satisfied when their physical needs—eating and sleeping—are met. Humans, however, have needs far beyond these basic necessities. That is because animals are not endowed with a conscience, as we are. Wild beasts do not have a capacity for spiritual things, whereas humans do. Animals are not concerned with the purpose of living, but humans yearn to know the meaning of life. To live with real happiness, we must fulfill the needs of the heart and the mind. The question we now face is, How can such needs be satisfied?

⁷ For our life to be meaningful, we must first understand why we are here. Throughout history, thinking people have often wondered: ‘Where did man come from? What is the purpose of life? Is there a Sovereign Lord of the universe? If so, does he care about mankind? What is his purpose for us?’ All of these are significant questions, but who can provide the satisfying and correct answers? Can religion do so? Let us see.

5-7. (a) Why do those who pursue fame, fortune, pleasure, and so on, ultimately feel disappointed? (b) What questions must we consider if we want a meaningful life?

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Can Religion Satisfy Mankind's Needs?

THE major religions in the world have vast numbers of followers and many magnificent churches, cathedrals, synagogues, and temples. Despite all of this, have these religions taught the truth about God? Have they helped people to lead happier and more meaningful lives? Do their leaders practice what they preach?

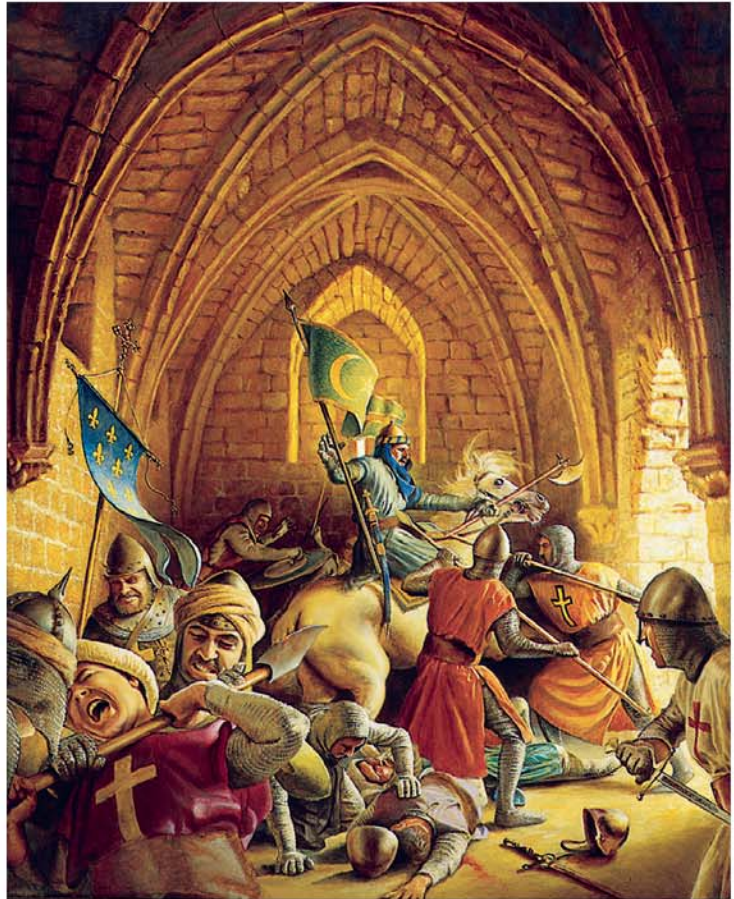
² History clearly shows that the Western religions have proved disappointing in these areas. For example, some of the most horrible conflicts and massacres in history took place in lands professing to be Christian. The Crusades, for example, were launched by the churches of Christendom from the 11th to the 13th century. The wars during this period took innocent lives by the thousands.

³ In the early 19th century, the churches openly supported many Western powers in the expansion of their empires in less-developed lands and the wanton exploitation of the resources of their colonial territories. Church and State acted in collusion. Hand in hand, they brought distress and misery to people in many lands.

⁴ In the two world wars of

1-6. What shameful record has been left by the major religions in the West?

Religious wars have taken innocent lives by the thousands



the 20th century, most of the belligerent powers on the opposing sides were Catholic or Protestant nations. Thus, with the approval of their religious leaders, Catholics killed Catholics and Protestants killed Protestants. In more recent times, the conflict between Roman Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland resulted in heavy casualties. Leaders of these religions love to talk about peace and brotherhood, and all of them profess to serve the same God. But in view of the facts, we must ask: Do they really have a genuine love for peace? Do they truly love their neighbors as themselves?

⁵ Additionally, are the religious leaders and their flocks known for their adherence to high moral standards? Has not the media repeatedly exposed and reported on cases of child molestation and other corrupt practices among the clergy of Christendom? Some of the clergy openly support homosexuality and premarital and extramarital sex. Others with radical views advocate the violent overthrow of what they consider to be unjust political or social systems, some clerics even taking part in guerrilla warfare and riots.

⁶ As regards helping people to gain an accurate knowledge of God, all major religions of the West have failed miserably. Their doctrines are mainly based on traditional beliefs rather than on the teachings of the Bible. For example, they believe that humans have an immortal soul and that those who do not serve God will be tormented in a fiery hell forever. Just think! If God were really so cruel and hard-hearted, would you want to worship him?—See box on page 25.

⁷ Clearly, the religions of the West have not brought lasting peace and happiness for mankind, nor have they provided the right spiritual guidance. What, then, about the religions of the East? In China, for example, the three major religions are Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. Have these religions brought lasting peace and happiness for the Chinese?

⁸ In its early stages, Taoism was more a philosophy than a religion. Its founder, Lao-tzu, was dissatisfied with the chaos and turmoil of the times and sought relief by shunning society and returning to nature. However, as time wore on, Taoism became a system of worship venerating a pan-

7-10. What religious beliefs have the Chinese commonly accepted, and to what have such beliefs led them?



The clergy openly support the wars of the nations

theon of many gods and goddesses. Taoists practice divination. They attach great importance to omens and feng shui (the reading of the forces of wind and water) as well as to sundry other rituals. It is clear that Taoism falls short in providing satisfactory answers regarding the meaning of life or in fulfilling the people's spiritual needs.

⁹ At the outset, Confucianism was a school of ethics and morality based on the teachings of its founder, Confucius. Through the centuries, Confucian concepts have wielded a strong hold on Chinese culture and way of thinking. Still, being a philosophy of life, Confucianism has neither helped the Chinese to learn about the Creator nor encouraged them to cultivate a close relationship with him. Although adopting its precepts as rules of conduct brings certain benefits, Confucianism does not fully satisfy one's spiritual needs; nor has it brought lasting peace and happiness.

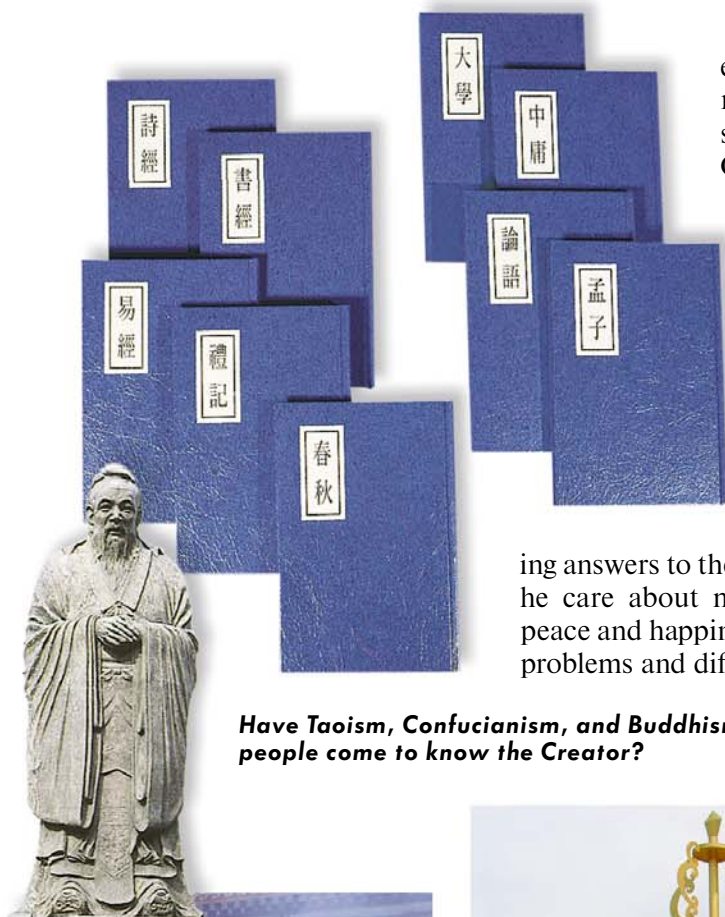
¹⁰ Buddhism first came into China from India. This religion advocates compassion and tolerance, and it has fascinated many by its complicated philosophy. But has Buddhism helped people to learn about the Sovereign of the universe? Have the teachings of the Buddha satisfied the spiritual needs of mankind? The book *Basics to Buddhism* says: "Buddhists do not believe in an all-powerful divine being in the universe"; "Everyone is capable of becoming a Buddha"; "Everyone has to work on his own to become a Buddha and be liberated from suffering." Buddhism has inspired, not faith in God, but reliance on self.

¹¹ If a person's faith is misplaced, how could he ever find the truth that brings real satisfaction? Down through the ages, the Chinese have followed the tradition of worshipping their ancestors, idols, and the spirits in nature,



Can religions based on myths and superstitions really satisfy people's spiritual needs?

11. To be spiritually satisfied, what questions must we consider?



engrossed in the multitudes of rites and rituals connected with them. As a result, the concept of a personal God, or Creator, is something foreign to most Chinese. Yet, as discussed earlier, to satisfy our spiritual needs, we must come to know not only who the Most High God is but also what his purpose for mankind is. By so doing, we will be able to act in harmony with that purpose and gain lasting happiness. We therefore invite you to investigate and find for yourself the reasonable, objective, and satisfying

answers to these questions: Is there a Creator? Does he care about mankind? Can he really bring lasting peace and happiness to mankind, who are so beset with problems and difficulties?

Have Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism helped people come to know the Creator?



Is There Really a Most High Creator?

IS THERE a God who is the Creator of all things? About this question, there are many opinions. Some people reason that since we cannot see God, how can we believe in him? Others, seeing that there is so much suffering on earth, wonder: ‘How could there really be a God who genuinely cares about mankind? If he does exist, would he not have long ago brought an end to all the suffering?’ Is that how you feel?

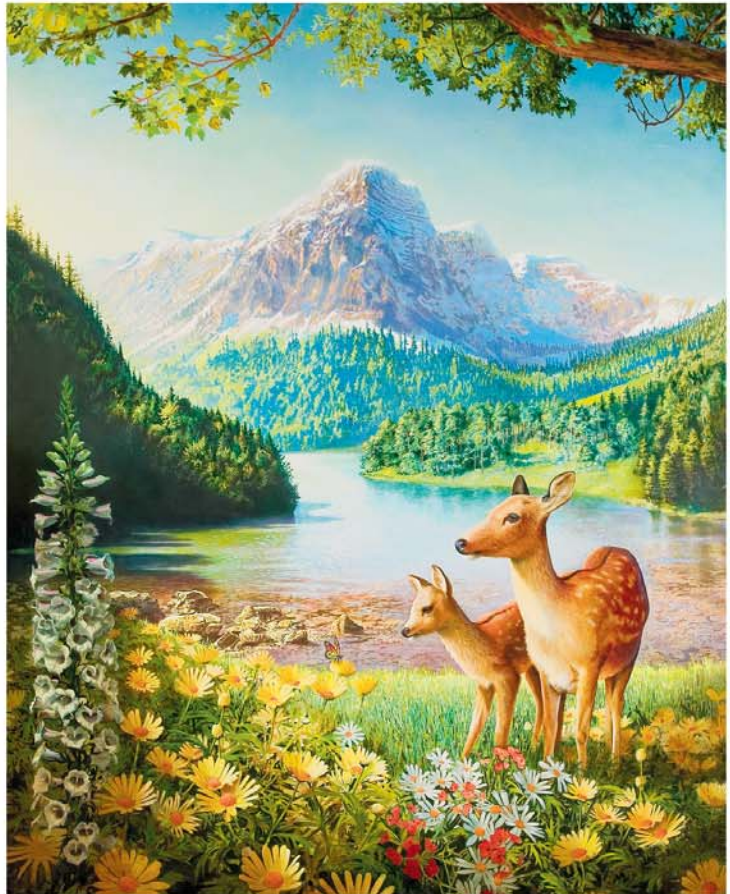
² The suffering and calamities besetting mankind are truly disheartening. Yet, the earth is filled with life in abundant variety, all intricately designed. How did all these things come about if there was no Creator? Those who believe in evolution assert that simple life-forms originated by chance; then they gradually evolved into more-complex living things. What, though, is the likelihood of life originating by accident?

Did Life Come About by Chance?

³ The basic unit of living things is the cell, and the basic material that makes up a cell is protein. Evolutionists acknowledge that the probability of the right atoms and molecules falling into place to form just one simple protein molecule is about 1 in 10^{113} , or 1 followed by 113 zeros. In other

1-5. (a) What is the probability of a simple protein molecule coming into existence by chance? (b) What is a basic fact that evolution cannot explain?

Does not the beautiful earth demonstrate that there is a caring Creator?





***The orderly universe requires
a Designer . . .***

words, it could take 10^{113} chances for the event to occur once. But any event that has one chance in 10^{50} is dismissed by mathematicians as never happening.

⁴ However, far more than one simple protein molecule is needed for life to occur. For a cell to maintain its functions, some 2,000 different proteins are needed. What, then, is the probability of all of these happening at random? It is estimated that it is 1 in $10^{40,000}$, or 1 followed by 40,000 zeros! Are you willing to rest your faith on such an outrageously remote probability?

⁵ If the probability is so remote for a cell to come into existence by accident, it would be even more so for the cell to evolve into the great variety of complicated living things. The fact is that between humans and beasts, there are differences far greater than the obvious physical ones. Man is endowed with a conscience; he has feelings, aesthetic values, moral concepts, thinking ability, and reasoning powers. Animals do not possess these capabilities. If man evolved from the animals, why is there such a huge gulf between man and beast? This is another thorny problem for the evolutionists.

Our Awesome Universe

⁶ Our awesome universe provides overwhelming evidence for the existence of a Grand Creator. Some astronomers estimate that there are 100 billion galaxies in the universe and that each galaxy may contain as many as 100 billion stars! Some stars are many times the size of our sun. The galaxies are not just haphazardly thrown together but are set out in an organized and orderly manner.

⁷ The earth is a wonder among all the heavenly bodies in the universe. It is, in fact, unique. The earth provides just the right environment to accommodate living things comfortably, like a magnificent and well-provisioned house. It is a vast storehouse that has all of life's necessities—food, air, water, and light—and much more. Surely, no intelligent person would ever be-

***. . . much as a well-equipped
house requires a builder***



6, 7. In what ways does the universe, especially the earth, display marvelous design?

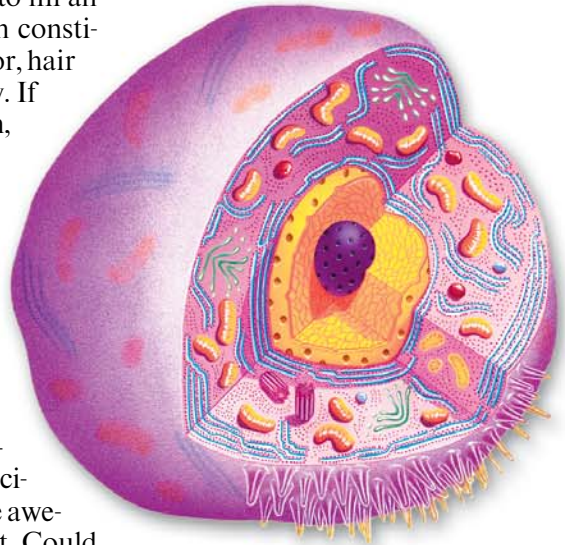
lieve that a fully equipped and stocked house had no designer but just came about by chance. Would it not be even more unreasonable to think that the earth, equipped with everything that is essential for life, just came about by chance?

The Marvelous Human Body

⁸ The marvelous structure of our human body also testifies to the existence of a Creator. A close look at a tiny living cell will help us to understand why. Our body is made up of about 100 trillion (100,000,000,000,000) tiny cells. The complexity of each living cell can be likened to that of a city with its many operations, such as power generation, management, transportation, and defense. In addition, the cell's nucleus contains tens of thousands of genes in the intricately arranged DNA. It is said that our DNA contains enough information to fill an encyclopedia of 1,000 volumes. All this information constitutes a genetic blueprint and determines our skin color, hair type, stature, and countless other details of our body. If all construction blueprints require meticulous design, then who designed the complex genetic blueprint in our body?

⁹ The structure and the function of the various organs in our body are so intricate and ingenious that no man-made machine can even remotely compare with it. Of all the organs in our body, not one is more astounding than the human brain. *The New Encyclopædia Britannica* notes: "Transmission of information within the nervous system is more complex than the largest telephone exchanges; problem solving by a human brain exceeds by far the capacity of the most powerful computers." To scientists, the awesome function of our brain is cause for wonderment. Could this marvelous organ have been formed simply by having the correct atoms and molecules fall into place at random?

¹⁰ What conclusion can we draw from all of this? One thing we can agree on is that laws must have a law-giver and that design requires a designer. Since precise order, complex design, and immense wisdom are observed in everything—from the smallest cell to the boundless universe—is it not reasonable and logical to believe that there must be an all-intelligent and all-powerful Designer behind them?



**A single cell is
as complex as a city**

8, 9. What does the intricate design of the human body reveal?
10-12. (a) Why is it not superstitious or unreasonable to believe in the existence of God? (b) Based on the evidence presented, what is your view on God's existence?



Wind-powered generators prove the existence of wind and electricity, though these are invisible

¹¹ The Bible is right when it says about God: “His invisible qualities are clearly seen from the world’s creation onward, because they are perceived by the things made, even his eternal power and Godship, so that they are inexcusable.” (Romans 1:20) Even though we cannot see God, our belief in his existence is no mere superstition. Daily, we deal with many things we cannot see, such as wind, electricity, magnetism, and the force of gravity. We know that they exist because we can observe the effects they produce. Similarly, the intricate design and the superb order in the universe distinctly testify to the existence of a Grand Creator.

¹² God is invisible, so how can we come to know him as a Person and establish a personal relationship with him? God has made it possible for us to know him, primarily by two means. Through his creation, God gives a clear indication of his wisdom, power, and love. In addition, he has inspired men to write a book, providing further information about himself. That book is the Bible.

WHO IS GOD?

TO THE Chinese, the concept of God, or *Shang-di* (literally “Emperor above”), is both foreign and abstract. Most people worship heaven and earth, spirits and demons, ancestors and other humans. Interestingly, however, according to Chinese historical records, between three and four thousand years ago, during the Xia and Shang dynasties, the Chinese were already worshipping one supreme deity. The book *The Religious History of China* explains that they “reckoned that between heaven and earth there was a principal God who stood supreme and had absolute control over all things. . . . This supreme deity came to be called *Di*, or *Shang-di*, during the Shang Dynasty, and was known as *Tien* [heaven], or *Tien-di* [Emperor in Heaven], during the Zhou Dynasty [11th century to 256 B.C.E.].” Thus, the ancient Chinese believed in the existence of a Supreme Sovereign of the universe.

During the Spring and Autumn period (c. 722–481 B.C.E.) and the Warring States period (c. 480–221 B.C.E.), Confucianism and Taoism gained ascendancy. Influenced by these two schools of thought, the worship of *Shang-di* was

gradually replaced by the abstract idea of reverence for *Tien*. By the Han dynasty (202 B.C.E.–221 C.E.), under the dominance of Confucianism, the Chinese became engrossed in moral culture and social order, and the concept of *Shang-di* suffered another setback. With the spread of Buddhism into China, the Chinese no longer held to the belief of a Creator who is in control of the universe, but they accepted Heaven, or Providence, as the first cause of all things. Since then, the concept of God, or *Shang-di*, has become something completely foreign to most Chinese.

Who, then, really is God? The Bible shows that God is not a force or law of nature that governs the operation of all things in the universe. Nor is he *Tien*, which is venerated by many Chinese. Rather, God is a living spirit who has feelings and personality traits. He is the almighty and omniscient Sovereign of the Universe, and his love is boundless. Not only has he created all things but he also has a definite purpose for mankind—that we worship him with love and live forever on this beautiful earth in lasting peace and happiness.

A Guidebook for the Blessing of All Mankind

NOTWITHSTANDING the opinion of many, the Bible is a most extraordinary book. *The New Encyclopædia Britannica* calls it “probably the most influential collection of books in human history.” This is certainly not an overstatement. Let us see why the Bible is so outstanding.

From Antiquity—Yet, Most Widely Distributed

² The Bible is one of the oldest of the books that have survived till our time, especially among religious texts. Its earliest part was written in ancient Hebrew some 3,500 years ago (which corresponds to the Shang dynasty in China) by an Israelite named Moses. It began with the book of Genesis, an account of the stages of creation and the beginning of the human family. In the following 1,600 years, about 40 different people took part in completing this collection, or library, of 66 books containing laws, prophecies, history, poetry, letters, counsel, and much more.

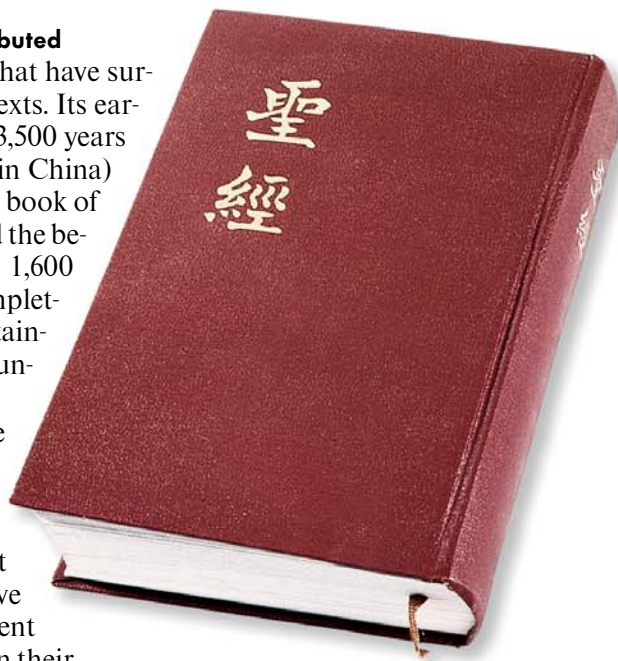
³ Even though the Bible is old and has been the target of much vicious opposition and hatred, it has turned out to be the most widely distributed book in history. The Bible has now been translated into some 2,500 languages, and about three billion copies, in its entirety or in part, have already been distributed! It is said that 98 percent of the people on earth have access to the Bible in their own language. Just think: If God intends to communicate with mankind by means of a book, is it not reasonable that this book should be well-known and easily available so that people of all nationalities and races could read and benefit from it? (1 Timothy 2:4) The Bible is just such a book.

Reliable Contents

⁴ If the Bible is really from God, its contents must be

1-3. What kind of book is the Bible, and what attention has been given to it?

4-8. How has the Bible withstood scrutiny in the light of science and history?





completely accurate and reliable. Can that be said of the Bible? Can it withstand scrutiny in the light of science and history?

⁵ Although the Bible is not a science textbook, whenever it touches on scientific matters, it is in harmony with proven science and is free from the mistaken views and absurd theories prevalent at the time of its writing. For instance, in ancient times some believed that the earth was supported by four elephants standing on a big sea turtle. Yet, the Bible simply states: “[God] is stretching out the north over the empty place, hanging the earth upon nothing.” (Job 26:7, written about 1473 B.C.E.) As early as 2,700 years ago, the Bible correctly noted the shape of the earth, saying: “There is One who is dwelling above the circle (“globe,” *Douay Version*) of the earth.” (Isaiah 40:22) If the Bible had not been inspired by God, how could its writers have known such facts?

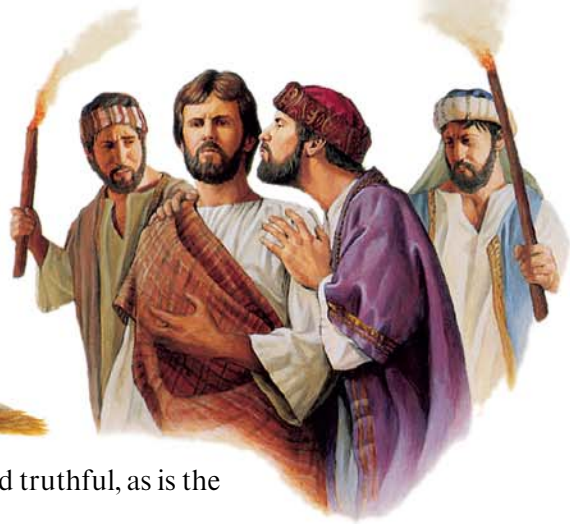
⁶ Of the facts stated in the Bible, some have only come to be known and confirmed by science in recent times. For example, the Bible long ago revealed a beginning for the universe (Genesis 1:1), the correct order in which all living things were formed (Genesis, chapter 1), and the effects of the hereditary process (Psalm 139:16). Long before people had any concept of germs and hygiene, the Bible provided the Israelites with instructions that anyone touching a dead body (or excrement) became unclean and had to wash himself and his garments.—Numbers 19:11-22; Deuteronomy 23:12-14.

⁷ How did the Bible writers come to know these scientifically correct practices? They could not have written according to their own ideas because people in Bible times did not possess such knowledge. Only the Creator had the power and wisdom to provide that information. We, therefore, have sound reasons to believe that the Bible is truly from God.

⁸ What about history? Most ancient historical writings are riddled with legends and myths and tend to magnify successes and victories of a ruler or a people while glossing over their failures and defeats. The Bible differs entirely in this respect; its records are completely accurate and honest, providing specific names, places, dates, and times that can be verified. For example, regarding the time when Jesus commenced his ministry, the Bible account provides the names of seven contemporaneous rulers and leaders, so that the reader can ascertain the exact time by comparing the Bible record with reliable history. (Luke 3:1, 2) If a book was written under the direction

DATES OF PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS WRITINGS

Religious Writings	Approximate Year of Completion
Pentateuch (Bible)	1473 B.C.E.
Veda (Hinduism)	900 B.C.E.
Tao Te Ching (Taoism)	510 B.C.E.
The Analects (Confucianism)	480 B.C.E.
Hebrew Scriptures completed (Bible)	443 B.C.E.
Three Baskets (Buddhism)	1st century B.C.E.
Whole Bible completed	98 C.E.
Koran (Islam)	650 C.E.
Kojiki and Nihon shoki (Shinto)	720 C.E.
The Bible reaches further back into man's history than any other ancient religious writings	



of God, it must be completely accurate and truthful, as is the case with the Bible.

Accurate Prophecies

⁹ Humans cannot foretell the future with any certainty. If a book consistently provides prophecies that are accurately fulfilled, it could not be produced by human ability and wisdom. The Bible contains hundreds of prophecies, many of which have already been fulfilled. For example, centuries in advance the Bible foretold the fall of Babylon, the order in which succeeding world empires would appear, the destruction of Jerusalem, and the exiling of the Jews to Babylon. —Isaiah 13:17-19; 44:26; Jeremiah 25:8-12; Daniel 8:5-8, 20-22.

¹⁰ Bible prophecies concerning Jesus Christ are especially remarkable. Jesus lived in the first century. Hundreds of years before his birth, numerous prophecies concerning him had been given and were preserved in the Hebrew Scriptures (commonly called the Old Testament). All these prophecies were fulfilled in the one man Jesus, many in ways completely beyond his control. He could not, for instance, have arranged the time and place of his birth, the tribe into which he would be born, or the manner of his betrayal, humiliation, torture, execution, death, and burial. (Micah 5:2; Daniel 9:25; Genesis 49:10; Zechariah 11:12; Isaiah 50:6; Psalm 22:7, 8; 34:20) The fulfillment of these and other prophecies proves that Jesus was the Savior sent by God.

¹¹ Bible prophecies do not deal only with the ancient past. They also accurately foretell events that are taking place in our day. For example, just review Matthew chapter 24, Luke chapter 21, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, and Revelation 6:3-8, and you will

From birth to death, Jesus fulfilled numerous prophecies recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures



9-12. (a) What are some prophecies found in the Bible? (b) What does the fulfillment of Bible prophecies prove?

Some 2,000 years ago, the Bible foretold events taking place in our day



see how precisely the Bible describes modern-day happenings. It is worth noting that after the first world war, when the League of Nations was established, world leaders asserted that man had learned a bitter lesson and that there would never be another world war. The Bible, on the other hand, reveals that the untold suffering caused by the first world war was only the “beginning of pangs of distress.” (Matthew 24:8) History proves that Bible prophecy is completely accurate and that man’s thinking is erroneous.

¹² Since prophecies in the Bible were fulfilled so accurately, is this not overwhelming evidence that the Bible is really God’s Word? Only the almighty God can provide such accurate information about events long before they occur.—2 Peter 1:21.

Practical Wisdom

¹³ Life in today’s selfish world is filled with problems. Many people are plagued by money problems. Families are shattered by serious marriage problems. Young people are confronted with questions about friends, sex, drinking, drugs, and so on. If the Bible is really a guide from God for all mankind, it should help people to deal with these problems. But does it?

¹⁴ Bible counsel, though often different from popular opinion, is nonetheless effective and practical. For example, when marriage problems arise, marriage counselors often suggest separation or divorce as the solution. The Bible, however, points out that the marriage arrangement is a serious matter. It also advises both husbands and wives to show love and deep respect for each other and thus prevent serious problems from developing. (Ephesians 5:22-28) As for money matters, the Bible reminds us to avoid greed and cultivate contentment. It also encourages us to desist from money-wasting bad habits, such as overdrinking, smoking, drug abuse, and gambling. (1 Timothy 6:7-10) In human relations, the Bible’s advice is: “All things, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must likewise do to them.” (Matthew 7:12) If you show love in all you do, you will gain the friendship and respect of others, thus lessening pressure and friction.

¹⁵ From these few examples, do you not agree that counsel from the Bible is practical and is also superior to human wisdom? Actually, there are millions of people around the world today who have overcome their problems by diligently follow-

13-15. How do the counsel and advice that the Bible offers on daily living reflect superior and practical wisdom?

ing the Bible's advice. Yes, by applying the Bible's practical counsel, it is possible to find lasting peace and happiness.

A Guide for the Blessing of All Mankind

¹⁶ Many Orientals contend that the Bible is a product of the West, that its teachings and advice are not necessarily suitable for people living in the East. Is this true? Since the Creator understands human needs better than anyone else does, he has provided the Bible for mankind as a whole so that all people can benefit from its teachings. For instance, Chinese teachers and sages through the ages have provided many ethical aphorisms and sayings, some of which no doubt are of practical value. However, many of these sayings merely echo what the Bible teaches. Here are just a few examples:

Respect your seniors: Before gray hair you should rise up (Leviticus 19:32)

Honor your parents: Honor your father and your mother (Exodus 20:12)

When you drink water, think of its source: Remember, now, your Grand Creator in the days of your young manhood (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

He who comes near vermilion is stained red, and he who comes near ink is stained black: He that is walking with wise persons will become wise, but he that is having dealings with the stupid ones will fare badly (Proverbs 13:20)

¹⁷ It should be noted that such Bible teachings were written long before the many schools of thought in China came into existence. Indeed, the Bible can be of immense benefit to all mankind. With the help of the Bible, we can find the true purpose and meaning of life. Just as our daily bread satisfies us physically, the Bible can satisfy us spiritually. (Matthew 5:3; John 4:34) The Bible can also help us draw close to God. The closer we come to our Creator, the happier and more satisfied we will be.

¹⁸ Benefits promised in the Bible, however, are not limited to life today. The Bible reveals that God will soon bring an end to all wickedness and injustice, by means of a righteous government of his making. The earth will then become a global paradise. What requirements, though, must you meet so that you can enjoy such marvelous blessings? Please read the next chapter.

16-18. (a) Are the Bible's instructions practical for the Chinese? (b) Do you now believe that the Bible is a book beneficial for all mankind? Please explain.

**Following Bible counsel can
improve our life**



Cultivating Faith in the Creator

BY OBSERVING the marvels of creation and reasoning from experience, many people have concluded that there is a Creator. But just believing that there is a Creator would not necessarily do them much good. Many today will readily say that they believe in the existence of God. For example, generations of Chinese, influenced by Confucian, Taoist, and Buddhist thinking, more or less believe in Providence, or Heaven, and its retribution. But they feel that comprehending this is beyond human ability.

In the West, there are the agnostics who, though not denying the possibility of God's existence, feel that no human can get to know him. Obviously, such ways of thinking would not help one to develop true faith in the Creator.

² Thus, in addition to believing that there is a God, we must trust and have faith in him. The Bible points out: "Without faith it is impossible to please him well, for he that approaches God must believe that he is and that he becomes the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him." (Hebrews 11:6) Believing that God is "the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him" means that God is not aloof and uncaring. Rather, as a caring God,

1-3. Why do we need to know the Creator?



he helps those earnestly seeking him to come to know him, and he rewards them.

³ As an old Chinese saying puts it, Among a hundred virtues, filial piety is the foremost. Surely it is proper that children know their father and honor their parents. (Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20) Do we not have all the more reason to know our Creator and his will? (Ecclesiastes 12:13) That being so, in order to know the true God and have faith in him, we need to find satisfactory answers to these vital questions: What is God's name? Why did he create us? What is the purpose of life? What is our ultimate destiny? Why is there so much suffering in the world? We cannot answer these questions simply by logic or by our own experience or reasoning. We need enlightenment and direction from the Creator himself, and he has provided these in his Word, the Bible. —2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

⁴ The Bible tells us that God's name is Jehovah. It also reveals his purposes, views, and feelings, as well as his dealings with humans so that we can come to know him accurately. Right from the start, the Bible shows clearly what God's purpose was in creating humans. In its first book, Genesis, the Bible relates: "God proceeded to create the man in his image, in God's image he created him; male and female he created them. Further, God blessed them and God said to them: 'Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it.'" (Genesis 1:27, 28) God placed the first human pair he created, Adam and Eve, in a peaceful and happy garden, called the garden of Eden. They enjoyed ideal living conditions and meaningful work. As time passed, they were to bring forth perfect children. Not only would they not grow old and die but they would enjoy the company of their offspring, and together they would subdue the earth and turn it into a paradise in which a perfect human race could enjoy forever all the blessings that God provides. That, in brief, was God's original purpose regarding mankind and the earth. (Isaiah 45:18) Does not all of this show that Jehovah is a loving, merciful, kind, and generous God? Is it not most satisfying and happifying to worship and to have faith in such a God?—Psalm 36:9; 103:13; Revelation 4:11.

⁵ The Bible goes on to tell us, however, that for lack of



Lacking appreciation, Adam and Eve lost their right to everlasting life

4. (a) Who is God? (b) What is God's purpose for mankind and the earth?

5-7. (a) How did mankind lose out on God's original purpose? (b) What loving provisions did God make for distressed mankind?

appreciation and obedience, Adam and Eve broke God's clearly stated command and thereby lost the right to live forever in the Paradise garden. (Genesis 3:1-19) Not only that, but their transgression also brought sad consequences for their yet unborn offspring. The Bible says: "Through one

man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned." (Romans 5:12) The hardships and difficulties that we see today are the results of sin and imperfection. Even so, the merciful God made provisions through the ransom sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ, to deliver mankind out of slavery to sin and death. (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9, 10) What provisions?

⁶ For the blessing of all mankind, God purposed to set up a Kingdom, or government, in heaven and appointed his Son, Jesus Christ, as the King of that

Kingdom. (Matthew 6:10) By means of this Kingdom, God will eliminate all the problems on earth and carry out his original purpose, turning the earth into a paradise home for mankind. (Daniel 2:44; Revelation 21:3, 4) It is not a fantasy to think of living in an earthly paradise under the rule of God's Kingdom, enjoying perfect health and happiness forever. Jehovah God has given this personal guarantee: "So my word that goes forth from my mouth will prove to be. It will not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that in which I have delighted, and it will have certain success in that for which I have sent it." (Isaiah 55:11) What love God has demonstrated in all of this! Should we not be grateful to him? Gratitude has impelled millions of people around the world, from different races and cultures, to take action to cultivate a relationship with God and to serve him.

⁷ How, then, can true faith be cultivated? To those who profess no religion, faith in God is just a psychological crutch



Study the Bible with an open mind

that provides comfort for the mind and solace for the heart. Do you agree with that view? What really is faith?

The Way to Cultivate Faith

⁸ “Faith is the assured expectation of things hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld.” (Hebrews 11:1) As can be seen from this definition given in the Bible, faith is based on accurate knowledge and facts; otherwise, there would be no difference between faith and blind superstition. Therefore, to cultivate faith in God, three steps are essential: (1) Study the Bible diligently, (2) ponder over its teachings and admonitions, and (3) apply in your daily life what you learn.

⁹ Since faith is based on accurate knowledge, it is logical that to have faith in God, one must study God’s Word, the Bible. In this regard the Bereans of the first century are good examples for us. Though steeped in both Jewish and Greek religious traditions, some of them were open-minded and readily gave ear to the apostle Paul’s message. They “received the word with the greatest eagerness of mind, carefully examining the Scriptures daily,” and many of them “became believers.” (Acts 17:11, 12) To acquire an accurate knowledge of God and his Word, we too need to be open-minded and carefully examine the teachings of God’s Word and take them to heart.—John 17:3; 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

¹⁰ It is true that we have to work for a living, but laboring only to satisfy our physical and material needs will not bring us real happiness. Jesus said: “Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need.” (Matthew 5:3) If we allow our busy routine to stifle our spiritual needs, we are putting the cart before the horse and are shortsighted indeed. So we need to do our best to find time in our busy lives to study the Bible regularly. God’s Word exhorts: “Keep strict watch that how you walk is not as unwise but as wise persons, buying out the opportune time for yourselves, because the days are wicked.” (Ephesians 5:15, 16) Take this advice, and arrange a practical schedule so that you can keep your activities in proper balance. Jehovah God will sustain those who are earnestly seeking him.—Matthew 7:7.

¹¹ To cultivate genuine faith in God, the next step is to meditate on what you have learned. Actually, to appreciate the



Carefully ponder over the things learned

8-13. (a) What is faith? (b) What steps must we take to develop faith in God? Why?

value of what you have read, meditation is indispensable, even more important than repeated reading. Only by doing this can you grasp, digest, and assimilate the information, and then the seeds of truth will become deeply embedded and take root in your heart. Therefore, compare the things you are learning from the Bible with your own views, think objectively and reasonably, and weigh them against one another. On the other hand, do not allow

personal prejudices or certain deep-rooted opinions to deprive you of a fair opportunity to determine what is the truth and worthy of your belief. Proceeding this way, you will not only realize that God is a real individual but also be impelled to establish a personal relationship with him.



We learn to drive by practicing what we have learned under the guidance of an instructor; we cultivate faith in God in a similar manner

¹² The third step in cultivating faith is to put into practice what God tells us to do. We must remember that a living faith is supported by actions. (James 2:17, 26) If a man wants to have enough faith or confidence in his ability to drive a car, he cannot just read an instruction manual or even go over the procedure in his mind and then drive off in a car, can he? No. He needs to have someone help him to put into practice step-by-step the things he learned from the manual. In this way, after several driving lessons, he will develop enough confidence to start driving and can become a qualified driver. It is the same with cultivating faith in God. Besides studying and meditating, you must put into practice, as soon as possible, the things you learn from the Bible. For example, since you have learned that God is an invisible spirit, do you appreciate that you cannot worship him through any idols or images? You have also learned that Jehovah is a loving heavenly Father. Then, are you willing to express your feelings for him in prayer to him?

¹³ When you are willing to apply what you have learned from the Bible, you are demonstrating to God that you believe in him and his Word, the Bible. Your faith will accordingly grow stronger. However, only by practicing what you are learning will you be convinced that what the Bible says is not empty theory but is of great practical value. The Bible's

advice is: “Taste and see that Jehovah is good, O you people; happy is the able-bodied man that takes refuge in him.” (Psalm 34:8) Yes, applying Bible principles in our lives is an indispensable ingredient in cultivating faith in God and finding lasting peace and happiness.

A Vital Factor

¹⁴ Although you have now seen enough evidence to show that there is a Creator, that the Bible is his Word, and that it is his desire for you to establish a personal relationship with him, there is yet another vital factor that will determine whether you will benefit from all of this. What is that factor? It is your own heart condition.

¹⁵ A good heart condition is essential for the truth of God’s Word to strike a responsive chord. If a person is obstinately unwilling to believe, he will remain unconvinced no matter how overwhelming the evidence may be. Well has it been said that to cultivate genuine faith in God, we need to be honest, humble, and spiritually hungry. The hypocritical and selfish religious leaders in Jesus’ day hardened their hearts so much that they were unable to exercise faith in Jesus. However, many among the lowly, common people readily gave ear to Jesus’ teachings. The situation is no different today.—Luke 21:37, 38; John 8:43-47.

¹⁶ Why is an honest, humble, and teachable attitude so essential? It is because if a person is obsessed with his racial, cultural, or religious upbringing, it will greatly hinder him from taking in accurate knowledge of the Bible. In everyday life, if we are humble, open-minded, and willing to learn new things, we will certainly enhance the quality of our work and improve the condition of our life. So then, why not adopt the same open-minded attitude when it comes to religion and humbly study God’s Word and apply its healthful teachings?

¹⁷ Today, there is a great crowd worldwide consisting of people from different races, language groups, and cultural backgrounds doing just that. They have to cope with the problems of life just as you do, but they deeply appreciate that the best way to find peace and happiness is to take in knowledge of the Creator and exercise faith in him. They make up God’s organization on earth today. Who are these people?

14-17. (a) What are some things that may prevent people from accepting the truth about God? (b) What proper heart attitude should we cultivate?

Expressing your feelings to God in prayer will draw you closer to him



Pursue Lasting Peace and Happiness With God's People

THROUGHOUT history, the Creator has provided the necessary means by which those earnestly seeking him can come and worship him. In other words, Jehovah has always had loyal worshippers on earth serving as his channel of communication as well as being his representatives.

² From the 16th century B.C.E., and for about 1,500 years, the Israelites were God's chosen people, his representatives on earth. (Exodus 19:5, 6) Jehovah organized them into a nation, gave them his laws, and provided them with detailed information concerning

The Israelites were once chosen by God to be his earthly representatives



pure worship. Later, God even appointed a king to rule over them. However, because of being repeatedly unfaithful, the Israelites were cast off by God in the first century C.E. (Matthew 23:37, 38) When Jesus came to earth, he clearly pointed out the way to God, saying: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Followers of Jesus Christ were accepted by God to replace the nation of Israel as God's representatives on earth.—1 Peter 2:9, 10.

³ The Christians in the first century were a united brotherhood, fully devoted to the evan-

1, 2. (a) How were the ancient Israelites organized to serve as God's earthly representatives? (b) Why was the nation of Israel rejected by God, and by whom was it replaced? 3. What characterized the early Christians?

gelizing work. (Matthew 28: 19, 20) They held fast to the teachings of the Bible. They were known for being law-abiding, respectful of government officials, and loving toward their fellow man. Despite all of this, they were viciously opposed and persecuted. Why? Because they firmly believed that only God's Kingdom can bring lasting peace and happiness for mankind. In obedience to Jesus' command, they gave full support to God's Kingdom, remaining strictly neutral in worldly affairs, not taking part in or interfering with any political or military activities. (Matthew 6:33; John 18:36) Their position was often misunderstood, and this brought upon them opposition and persecution. Still, they preached about

These publications help people to learn the truth about God



CAN THE DEAD INFLUENCE THE LIVING?

MANY people have a morbid fear of the dead. Some believe that spirits of the dead can either protect them as their guardians or harm them as vengeful ghosts. Many Chinese worship their ancestors as a way of showing filial piety (devotion to parents) and of ensuring blessings for future generations. Though such beliefs are common, the Bible clearly shows that the dead cannot in any way influence the living.

In the Bible, there is no mention of a soul that lives on after a person dies. Even though some Bible translations contain references to an immortal soul, they are, in fact, incorrect renderings of the original text.* In fact, the Bible says: "His spirit goes out, he goes back to his ground." (Psalm 146:4) At death, the brain stops working, all senses cease to function, and memory disappears. How, then, can the dead possibly know whom to help or harm? Clearly, the dead can do nothing!

* For more information regarding what happens when a person dies, see *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* pages 208-211, published by Jehovah's Witnesses.

Furthermore, the Bible states: "The living are conscious that they will die; but as for the dead, they are conscious of nothing at all . . . Also, their love and their hate and their jealousy have already perished." (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6) In other words, when a person dies, he simply ceases to exist as a living being. He can no longer suffer, nor can he benefit from any rites and rituals, the burning of candles, incense, and fake money and the offering of meats and fruits. The Bible's teaching regarding the condition of the dead gives us great comfort and relief, does it not?

The hope for the dead lies in the resurrection. God promised that through his Son, Jesus, the dead would be brought back to life.—John 11: 25; Acts 24:15.

The Bible does show that there are wicked spirit creatures who want to harm us. (Matthew 4:24; Acts 16:16) These wicked spirits, however, are not our dead ancestors; they are rebellious angels who oppose God and bring great calamities to the human race. They are demons. —2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6.

the Kingdom with unwavering zeal. As Paul wrote in his letter to the Christians in Colossae, “[the good news] has presented itself to you, even as it is bearing fruit and increasing in all the world.” The first-century Christians preached the good news throughout the realms of the Roman Empire.—Colossians 1:6.

A Period of Darkness—The Rise of Christendom

⁴ In time, the Christian congregation faced a period of dramatic changes. As foretold in the Bible, false Christians infiltrated God’s organization and became a lawless influence, bringing in teachings and practices that were unscriptural.—Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Acts 20:29, 30; 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; 2 Peter 2:1-3.

⁵ In the first-century Christian congregation, there were no class distinctions. By the second century, a hierarchy of bishops and presbyters had come into existence, resulting in a separation of clergy and laity. Next, such pagan doctrines as the Trinity, the immortality of the soul, and hellfire came to be accepted by those who claimed to be Christians. Then, in 313 C.E., Roman Emperor Constantine ordered that this apostate form of Christianity be recognized as a lawful religion.

By the end of the fourth century, the “Christian” Church, which was actively meddling in politics, was promoted to be the official religion of the Roman Empire, and it became known as the Roman Catholic Church.

⁶ In the 16th century, the Reformation brought new developments to the religious scene in Europe. Reformers, such as Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin, at-

4, 5. How did the Roman Catholic Church come into existence, and how does it compare with the early Christian congregation?

6, 7. How did the Protestant churches come to be, and why do they not represent a return to true Christianity?

**Jehovah’s Witnesses
demonstrate genuine
Christian love**



tacked the Catholic Church on various issues. As a result, religious groups sprang up, breaking free from the papal authority of Rome. Later these groups became known as Protestants (protesters against the Roman Catholic Church).

⁷ Even though the various Protestant churches are organized differently, they have basically retained the separation of clergy and laity. They also continue to teach such unscriptural doctrines as the Trinity, the immortality of the soul, eternal torment in a fiery hell, and others. On the matter of Christian neutrality, Protestants do not differ from Catholics. They remain a part of the world. While the Protestant Reformation did bring about some changes, it did not mark a return to true Christianity. However, in a parable, Jesus Christ foretold that the time would come when true Christianity would be restored and wheatlike true Christians would “shine as brightly as the sun.”—Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

God’s True Worshipers in Modern Times

⁸ In the late 19th century, a group of sincere Bible students in Pennsylvania, U.S.A., began to discern that many of the doctrines taught by the churches are unscriptural. They decided to undertake a systematic study of the Bible to see what it really teaches. Soon, they began to make known the Bible truths that they learned by publishing and distributing books, magazines, and tracts. Over the past 100 years and more, this group, now known as Jehovah’s Witnesses, has grown from a mere handful to a vast company of over seven million in more than 235 lands around the world.

⁹ Jesus told his followers: “I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another . . . By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves.” (John 13:34, 35) For this reason, Jehovah’s Witnesses do not get involved in wars or social conflicts. Even under the most trying circumstances, they are determined to remain firm in their stand and love one another to the end. For example, during the second world war, they made great sacrifices in order to hold fast to Jesus’ command. Commenting on the situation in Nazi Germany, historian Claudia Koonz said in her book *Mothers in the Fatherland*: “From the first, Jehovah’s Witnesses did not cooperate with any facet of the Nazi state. . . . About half (mostly men) of all Jehovah’s Witnesses were

8. How has true Christianity been restored in modern times?

9, 10. What proves that Jehovah’s Witnesses truly represent God and make up his organization in modern times?



LASTING PEACE AND HAPPINESS—HOW TO FIND THEM



sent to concentration camps, a thousand of them were executed, and another thousand died between 1933 and 1945.” They were willing to sacrifice their lives because of their love for God and for their fellow man. This helps to identify them as true Christians.

¹⁰ Like the early Christians, Jehovah’s Witnesses are law-abiding citizens. They take to heart Jesus’ words: “Pay back, therefore, Caesar’s things to Caesar, but God’s things to God.” (Matthew 22:21) They obey “Caesar,” or the governmental authorities, by diligently fulfilling the responsibilities that are required of citizens, such as paying taxes and complying with census laws and marriage registrations. However, when there is a conflict between Caesar’s law and God’s requirements, they follow the example of the first-century Christians, who said: “We must obey God as ruler rather than men.” (Acts 5:29) Truly, in these and all aspects of their life and their worship, Jehovah’s Witnesses make up God’s true worshippers in modern times.

Turn to True Worship Now

¹¹ “God is not partial,” the Bible tells us, “but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.” (Acts 10:34, 35) Yes, it is God’s will that people of all nations come to know him and be blessed by him. To this end, Jehovah’s Witnesses publish Bible literature in well over 400 languages. They use every available means to bring the good news of the Bible to people around the earth. (Matthew 24:14) And they offer to study the Bible free of charge with all who are interested. Jehovah’s Witnesses sincerely invite you to share with them in the pursuit of lasting peace and happiness. Would you be willing to do so?

¹² Over the past two thousand years, many religious institutions and organizations have misrepresented true Christianity and have slandered the name of God and of Christ. The time for God to take action to execute judgment against all false religion is at hand! In view of that, Jehovah’s Witnesses urge all who truly love God to heed the command found at Revelation 18:4 and get out of all false religions. True worship has been restored, and millions of people around the world are streaming to it. (Isaiah 2:2-4) Are you one of them? If so, you can look forward to wonderful blessings just ahead.

11. What are Jehovah’s Witnesses doing to help people of all nations turn to God?

12. Why is it urgent that you make the right choice in your worship today?

LASTING PEACE AND HAPPINESS—HOW TO FIND THEM

Lasting Peace and Happiness Just Ahead!

JESUS taught his disciples to pray: “Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth.” (Matthew 6:9, 10) We are to pray for God’s Kingdom to come. But what is God’s Kingdom? It is a heavenly government. Jehovah has appointed his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be its King. What will this Kingdom do for us?

² More than 2,500 years ago, God inspired his prophet Daniel to say: “In the days of those kings [the nations on earth] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite.” (Daniel 2:44) This prophecy clearly points out that God’s Kingdom must first remove human rulership, which is causing all the divisions and sufferings on earth today, and then it will bring in a lasting, peaceful rule over all mankind. When will all of this take place? Will we see it?

³ When Jesus was on earth, his disciples asked him: “Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?” Jesus’ reply indicated that there would be global wars, food shortages, great earthquakes, and increasing lawlessness. Besides, false religious teachers would arise to mislead many, his true disciples would become objects of persecution and hatred, the love of the greater number would cool off, and the good news of God’s Kingdom would be preached in all the earth. (Matthew 24:3-14) Have you seen such things occurring? Many observers have admitted that since the first world war broke out in 1914, mankind has entered a time of unprecedented turmoil. Philosopher Bertrand Russell wrote: “Ever since 1914, everybody conscious of trends in the world has been deeply troubled by what has



1, 2. What is God’s Kingdom?

3-5. Why do we firmly believe that God’s Kingdom will soon solve all the problems of the world?

***All of us are faced
with a life-and-death
choice***

***Only sheeplike ones
will survive the end of
this wicked system
of things***

seemed like a fated and predetermined march toward ever greater disaster.” Danish historian Peter Munch is reported as writing: “The outbreak of the war in 1914 is the great turning point of the history of humanity. . . . We entered an age of disaster, horror, and hatred, with insecurity everywhere.”

⁴ Besides wars, from 1914 onward, famine, pestilence, earthquakes, and violence have escalated to an unprecedented degree worldwide. Sadly, in spite of advanced science and technology, mankind is totally helpless when it comes to solving these difficult problems. All of this proves beyond any doubt that since 1914, the sign Jesus gave regarding the time of the end is right before our eyes. Jesus Christ has begun ruling in the invisible heavens. The world has entered its time of the end!

⁵ As all these events are taking place in our very time, all of us are faced with a life-and-death choice. What is that choice? In talking about the end of this system of things, Jesus indicated that he will divide the people of all the nations, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. Only sheeplike ones—people who love righteousness and actively support God’s Kingdom—will survive the end of this wicked system of things and enjoy God’s blessings under his Kingdom forever.—Matthew 25:31, 33.

⁶ What blessings will God’s Kingdom bring for mankind? The things that the Kingdom will soon accomplish include:

(1) Wars, crime, and violence will be eliminated forever.—Psalm 46:8, 9; Isaiah 2:4.

(2) Equality and impartiality will exist for all; there will be no more racial, social, or other forms of discrimination.—Acts 10:35; Revelation 7:9, 10.

(3) There will be abundant food, adequate housing, and enjoyable work for everyone.—Psalm 72:16; Isaiah 25:6; 65:21, 22.

(4) Sickness, disability, old age, and death will be no more.—Isaiah 25:8; 35:5, 6; Revelation 21:4.

(5) The dead will be raised.—John 5:28, 29; Revelation 20:12.

(6) The earth will become a global paradise.—Luke 23:43; Psalm 98:7-9.

6, 7. (a) What blessings will God’s Kingdom bring? (b) What are you now being sincerely invited to do?



⁷ “This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ,” said Jesus. (John 17:3) We therefore sincerely invite you to make the time to study the Bible and find out what you need to do in order to qualify for the hope of enjoying life forever in Paradise on earth under God’s Kingdom. We encourage you to associate regularly with Jehovah’s Witnesses. Earth wide, there are millions with living faith who are worshipping the Eternal Sovereign, Jehovah, in one accord. Now is the time for you to join their ranks. Now is the time to take action without delay. Do not hesitate. Join them in accepting the invitation: “Come! . . . Let anyone that wishes take life’s water free.”—Revelation 22:17.

Will you make the effort to find lasting peace and happiness?

Jehovah God is now opening to you the opportunity to live in a paradise! The time is coming when you will be able to enjoy life in lasting peace and happiness. Our loving and almighty heavenly Father, Jehovah, will make this come true without fail, for he promises: "So my word that goes forth from my mouth will prove to be. It will not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that in which I have delighted." —Isaiah 55:10, 11.

