

Bible News

More than a year ago, the United States Post Office Department was requested to issue a commemorative stamp during the Year of the Bible to honor the 150th anniversary of the American Bible Society—a non-profit organization that is supported by volunteer gifts.

May, 1966, the very month in which the ABS was founded, the Post Office Department is issuing a commemorative stamp—though not for the Bible. It chose, instead, to honor the clown.

Now we're sure that none of us have anything against clowns, but it does seem that our American govern-

ment should have at least as much respect for and pride in such a vast organization that was founded by such men as the Honorable John Jay, first Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, and DeWitt Clinton, U. S. Senator and Governor of New York, as it does for a three-ring circus promoted by a Mr. Barham and a Mr. Bailey.

The request for a Year of the Bible commemorative stamp was submitted and supported by Senators Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island and the late Olin D. Johnson of South Carolina, chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

Governors of 48 states have issued proclamations declaring 1966 "The Year of the Bible" and the U. S. Senate has passed a resolution calling upon President Johnson similarly to proclaim the year. A supporting resolution is pending in the House of Representatives. Yet the Post Office Department still remains aloof.

At this moment, according to a letter from the director of the Division of Philately of the Post Office Department, "This proposal is among those on the agenda

to be considered by our Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee as the remainder of the 1966 stamp program is developed."

It is just possible that the Post Office Department and the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee are unaware of how many people are interested in this united effort to put the Bible into the hands of every man, woman and child in the world. Interested readers could make this proposal a mandate.

Letters could be written to the Postmaster General, Lawrence M. O'Brien. Protestants, Catholics and Jews will be joining in this effort, since all have indicated their awareness of the importance of the Bible in our cultural heritage.

If the stamps of this nation can portray such things as a clown or a rooster, then certainly it is not unreasonable to expect at least one stamp to illustrate a Bible—or perhaps a founder of the American Bible Society.

The Bible may again have its day on the stamps of our nation.

As a stamp collector might say—we're not licked yet! (From a statement prepared by Rev. Dr. James Z. Nettinga, executive secretary and director of the 150th anniversary of ABS.)

This Is The Life

By DONALD THOMAS
Immanuel Baptist Church

CONSECRATION

A missionary was preaching to some Indians. He said that God loved them and gave his only son to die for them. The old chief, who was saved already, was so grateful that he laid his tomahawk at the missionary's feet. "Indian chief give his tomahawk to Jesus Christ," he said. He then stepped back to listen. The missionary talked on, telling how God had given us his best when he gave his son. This time the old chief gave his blanket and said "Indian chief give his blanket to Jesus Christ." Again he went back to listen. The missionary talked on how Jesus was rich in Heaven and became poor for us. Born in a manger, he died on a cross that we might be rich. The Indian chief unfasted his pony and said, "Indian chief give his pony to Jesus Christ." Then he stepped back and listened. The Indian chief said, "I have given everything I have to Jesus, who gave himself for me." As he sat and listened, a new light broke over the old chief's face. The Holy Spirit was speaking to his heart. He gave all the things he had, but failed to give the Lord what he wanted most. He came forward, tears running down his cheeks, lips trembling, and said, "Indian chief give himself to Jesus Christ."

How about you, friend? Have you given yourself fully to the Lord?

The Bible says, "My son, give me thine heart."—Proverbs 23:26.

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Let's go to Church Sunday

Sunday School Lesson

GOD'S WORD for a NEW AGE

PROSPEROUS BUT PERISHING
International Sunday School Lesson for May 22

Memory Selection: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."—Proverbs 16:18.

Lesson Text: II Kings 14: 23-29; Amos 5:14-15, 21-24; 6:1-7; 7.

Today we study the prosperity that came to Israel under the reign of Jeroboam II—the prosperity engendered by his brilliant military leadership, whereby he annexed new territories for his land, thereby gaining new sources of tax revenue. Yes, indeed, Israel prospered monetarily—but her spiritual decline was equally marked.

Easy living brought in its train a lack of spiritual responsibility, which proved to be Israel's undoing. For God is ardent in His stewardship of the blessings He bestows upon His children. Used wisely, and with prudence, it gives Him joy. Abused, it brings Him pain. Yes—Israel paid dear for her misuse of God's bounty!

How often has the same thing come about in history. As recently as in our time, we have seen a great and arrogant nation humbled and occupied by foreign troops, split into factions. Hitler and his cohorts did much for Germany, politically, but greed and arrogance brought about the slaughter of World War II. A proud and clever nation (for a great many of the world's most revered composers, poets and scientists came from Germany) finds herself an occupied land. The memory of her concentration camps still lives in our minds.

Has the easy living that we Americans enjoy—a car in every garage (a "necessity" which in almost every other country comes under the heading of "luxury"); college for our children; a plentitude of food and clothing and other consumer products—have all these made us morally and spiritually as

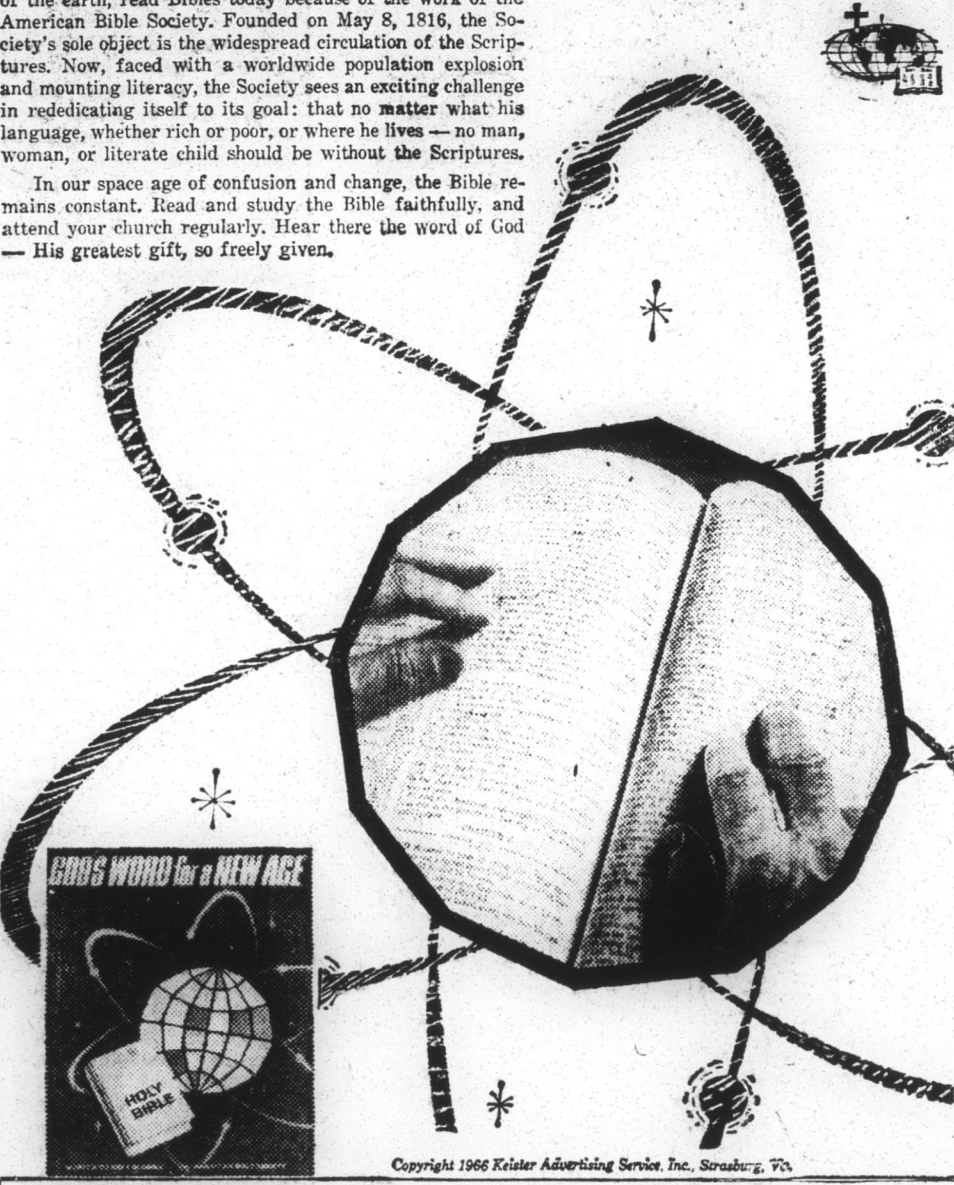
An old man in Australia holds his Bible with shaking hands. Painstakingly his pointing finger follows along a well-loved passage. In a village in Guatemala an Indian lad reads joyfully from a New Testament written in elementary Spanish. In a rural area of Japan a lively youth group discusses the Scriptures using Bibles printed in their mother tongue.

People like these, and thousands more in every corner of the earth, read Bibles today because of the work of the American Bible Society. Founded on May 8, 1816, the Society's sole object is the widespread circulation of the Scriptures. Now, faced with a worldwide population explosion and mounting literacy, the Society sees an exciting challenge in rededicating itself to its goal: that no matter what his language, whether rich or poor, or where he lives — no man, woman, or literate child should be without the Scriptures.

In our space age of confusion and change, the Bible remains constant. Read and study the Bible faithfully, and attend your church regularly. Hear there the word of God — His greatest gift, so freely given.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL • ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.



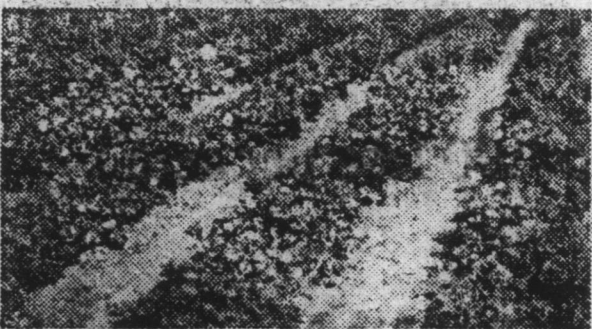
Sunday Deuteronomy 11:18-25	Monday Psalms 119:6-16	Tuesday Isaiah 55:5-11	Wednesday Luke 8:4-15	Thursday Hebrews 4:11-16	Friday James 1:19-25	Saturday I Peter 1:16-21
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