

THE BOOK

... the first line of which reads, "The Holy Bible," and which contains Four Great Treasures ...

by **BRUCE BARTON**

A MISUNDERSTOOD BOOK
THERE remains the last book in the Bible, the book of Revelation. It is a much abused book. The first thing necessary is to forget most that you have read about it. It is not a program of coming events. It has in it nothing about the next presidential election in the United States. Its chief character is Nero. Indeed, the book is so simple it is hard to make readers believe its true explanation.



Bruce Barton

Remember, first, that in the interval between the Old and the New Testaments apocalyptic literature became enormously popular. There was a flood of books with dragons and grotesque animals representing peoples or nations or events. The Jewish imagination revealed in this style, which is illustrated in a part of Daniel, a very late book of the Maccabean period, and much more dramatically in Revelation. At one time it seemed that all other literature in the Christian church might be drowned out by the flood of this florid material.

Just after Paul and Peter were killed, John, the apostle, was banished to the island of Patmos. He was not yet the aged apostle of love; he was a hot-headed "son of thunder" and he wanted to write letters of encouragement to the

churches in Asia Minor. The letters are in the opening chapters of Revelation. But John wanted to say something else and to say it in a way that would not get the people who had the letter in their possession into trouble. So he adopted the popular cryptic form which makes up the balance of the book. It should be studied through an opera-glass and not a microscope. There is no use asking what is the meaning of every hair on the tail of each fantastic beast. But the three ideas are plain as a pike staff. Those ideas are:

First: Do not be afraid of the persecutions that originate in Jerusalem. That city will soon be in trouble with Rome and not able to persecute Christians.

Second: Do not be afraid of the emperor of the mighty city on the seven hills that now is ruling the world; that city has trouble of its own coming, and it is not far off.

Third: Hold to your faith, for it will survive. Jesus Christ is greater than Nero, and His religion will last longer than the Roman government.

How amazingly his great dream came true! The Roman Empire fell, and the one power that could avail to save it, not from the pagans but to the future through the pagans, was not the political or judicial power of Rome or the culture of Athens. That which saved civilization when Jerusalem was destroyed and Rome sacked by the vandals was nothing more or less than the Church of Christ. (Next Week: Ten Great Men)

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By Patricia Dow



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TODAY and TOMORROW

FRANK PARKER STOCKBRIDGE

INCOMES large and small

There is one individual in the United States whose net income, on which he paid taxes for 1933, was above five million dollars. I don't know his name; the Federal Income Tax Bureau didn't give it out with the figures it published the other day. And, personally, I don't care who he is nor envy him his millions. It seems likely to me that he is one of the very rich men who spend most of their incomes on efforts to help make the world a better place to live in. There are a good many such.

What I am really concerned about is not that there were 46 persons with incomes of more than \$11,000,000 in that year, but that the number of individuals reporting taxable incomes of less than \$25,000 dropped off materially. The folk hardest hit by the depression have not been the very rich nor the very poor, but the in-between middle class and wage earners.

These Government figures that show total taxable incomes of about 11 billion dollars in one year, from one thousand to five millions for each of nearly four million income taxpayers, make a lot of the talk about "redistribution of wealth" sound silly. If all of those incomes were equally divided among the entire population of the United States it would amount to only \$80 a year per person. And it wouldn't be long before wealth would again be concentrated in the hands of those who know how to accumulate and use it.

FORDLANDIA and rubber

Who says the days of adventure have passed? I can't imagine any more interesting adventure than that of the American explorers and engineers who have been clearing the jungle in the upper Amazon country to build the new colony of "Fordlandia." Millions of acres are being planted to rubber trees, to insure a permanent supply for American motor-car builders, and a huge area that was uninhabitable for folks is being converted into something resembling an earthly paradise, to hear returning travelers tell about it.

Once more I take occasion to applaud the far-seeing vision and the enterprise of Henry Ford. He

is one of the few great industrialists who doesn't have to consult a board of directors or consider the desire of stockholders for dividends before going ahead with his own original ideas.

HOUSING for workers

I am interested in the project, which several of the big steel companies and mining companies have under joint consideration, for the building of several thousand "company houses" of modern steel-and-wood construction, to replace the dingy and dilapidated hovels in which many workers now live.

They are talking of spending \$150,000,000 to start with. That will build a lot of \$3,000 houses, which can be sold to the workers on payments of about \$21 a month, and will go a long way toward making life more comfortable in the steel and mining communities.

In a little New England cotton-mill town where I lived when I was a boy the most dismal feature of the landscape was the row upon row of dingy wooden "company houses," all just alike, and as unattractive as one could imagine. But mill-hands, who earn \$9 or \$10 a week could rent these houses for \$5 a month and couldn't afford anything better.

Those houses stood for more than 100 years, and were torn down only a few years ago to clear the site for a great reservoir. I hope the new "company houses" will last as long and be more comfortable and better-looking.

MORMONS and wealth

New York newspapers found exciting news in the fact that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, which most folk call the Mormon church, is setting up a missionary unit in New York City. There is no great novelty in that. The Mormon church sends missionaries all over the world, but doesn't talk much about its activities in public.

In the financial world of New York, however, a good many people know something of the money power and wide influence of these thrifty people. I knew one of their financial leaders, the late John W. Young, who married Lilian Nordica, world-famous singer, and was the head of a big trust company. The biggest financiers in New York and London valued Mr. Young's advice. He looked after the investments of this wealthiest of all American religious organizations.

I look for a revival of the sound common-sense influence of the Mormons in financial affairs, since Marriner Eccles, who was a Mormon missionary in his youth, has become Governor of the Federal Reserve Board.

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