

United Temple Bulletin

P.O. Box 12202



Portland, Oregon 97212

Volume 7 - Number 1

January 1, 1970

OUR DETERMINATION AS HEAVENLY SOLDIERS

IN THE YEAR OF 1970

January 1, 1970
David S.C. Kim
Korean Missionary of The
United Faith in the U.S.A.

It is a great honor and privilege for me, as one of the three Korean pioneer missionaries in the United States, to be able to greet all of the Heavenly Families, both in the United States and other countries as well, and to express my feelings after ten-year's dedication the The Principle Movement through "The Way of the World" magazine.

The year of 1970 is very important for God's dispensation centering in our great Master and True Parents. Not only are individually spiritually-sensitive people scattered throughout the world receiving revelations on the facts, but also many other advanced spiritual groups are openly recognizing and confirming the importance of this coming year. As children of our True Parents and His Heavenly Soldiers, we should realize this fact and fulfill, by all means available, our mission and His Will for this special time.

First of all, we are obligated to spread our precious message as quickly as possible at the country, state, city and local level where we are now living. Since our message is the only channel for complete restoration of man and all things at our localities, we must ourselves strive for the victory even under ever increasing hardships, difficulties and circumstances, that we might win the battle for God.

In 1959, the seeds of our message and new gospel for the new age were planted in the United States and has spread to the whole world. We owe this mostly to the toils and hardships, blood-shedding fight and unseen sacrifice by those Korean pioneer missionaries and their early followers. I think that from the year of 1970 all of The Heavenly Families, other than the land of Korea, should take initiative and launch our movement under the direct guidance and supervision of our great Master and our True Parents, thereby taking over most of the burdens of the Korean missionaries.

God's dispensation centering in our True Parents cannot be complete solely by the Principle Movement until our economic and social foundation is set up on this earth. To accomplish this we must become involved in the existing system of the present world in order to completely restore all

things including man on this earth. Further, it is essential that we engage in a strong anti-communist campaign based on the Principle Movement, and above all, there must be practical application of the Principle Truth in our daily living so that our lives might be an example guiding light to lead all mankind.

Since the Land of Korea is the chosen nation for the completion of God's Restoration Dispensation, we must be alert and sensitive to the movements and activities of our Headquarters in Korea, and be attentive and obedient to the instructions and plans of our great Master and True Parents. Our great Master is our commander-in-chief for the sacred battle. As His soldiers of His army, we must follow his strategy and cooperate with Him. Sometimes we may not understand what He does, but at the proper time when the time is ripe, we shall know and understand if we have patience, obedience and deep faith. Just go forward with prayer, humbleness and loyalty, as individual family, continuing our own Heavenly mission and responsibilities at our localities.

We must rid ourselves of all narrow-minded, biased attitudes toward each other and other groups. This type of attitude can only be followed by our depraved natures such as jealousy, slandering, domineering, non-cooperation, etc. All of this must be stopped, be completely eliminated if our goal of the Principle Movement throughout the world is to be fully realized on this earth. Instead, we should cooperate fully, help one another, learn from one another, comfort and encourage one another with love, understanding, and mutual respect. We all are in One Family under our True Parents and we are to form United Front Line for our survival, our victory in the Sacred Battle, and our accomplishment of His will.

May God bless all our Heavenly Families throughout the world in the coming year of 1970, and I pray that we will be victors in our battle field to restore man and the universe to please and glorify our Father.

Good luck to all of you in the coming year of 1970.

* * * *

SPACE FIND THREATENS EVOLUTION THEORY

Salt Lake Tribune
December 11, 1969

Astronomers are finding abundances of formaldehyde in interstellar space, far more than expected, a discovery that may change ideas of the evolution of life on earth.

The fact that formaldehyde exists at all in space was discovered only last March. Its presence strongly suggests that key biological molecules, perhaps amino acids, also exist in space.

Now, finding that there apparently is much more formaldehyde in the galaxy than anyone expected, the changes of complex molecules existing in space is far greater.

Latest Details

The latest details were reported Wednesday to the 131st meeting of the American Astronomical Society, and in an interview by David Buhl of the

National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, W. Virginia.

Buhl and Lewis E. Snyder of the observatory made the original discovery with Benjamin Zuckerman of the University of Maryland and Patrick Palmer of the University of Chicago.

Buhl said formaldehyde -- believed to play a key role in life processes-- is an indication that methane also is present in space. Methane, ammonia and water are essential for the formation of life.

Ammonia and water also exist in space, both discovered only months before the formaldehyde discovery.

A leading theory for the origin of life on earth has been that these elements existed on earth and, perhaps by a flash of lightning in the primeval atmosphere, combined to create the basic building blocks of life.

Came to Earth

But Buhl said it now appears possible that the more complex molecules existed first in space-- that biological evolution began there and not on earth-- and that the molecules came to earth in gas clouds.

This process would support the widely held belief of scientists that life has arisen on many other planets in the Milky Way and other galaxies.

Buhl and his colleagues have been measuring the amount of formaldehyde in this galaxy with the 140-foot dish antenna of the Green Bank observatory.

* * * *

STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN

by Sandy Hilts
Seattle, Washington

Look at this earth -- What do you see.
Surely not the truth in you and me.
Open the eyes and ears of thy
And see what tomorrow brings you and I.
A Truth so wonderful you can't help but believe,
The message we have for you to conceive.
It is so beautiful, and is complete -
That you will bow to prayer on your knees
Giving thanks to that Omniscient Being
That has been watching over us -- we have blindly been not seeing.

So look at this earth -- and you will see
A heavenly kingdom established for you and me.
Through hard work, suffering and pain,
This goal --- we will attain.
So when you bow your heads at night,
Keep in mind this trying fight.
It is mental and physical too,
And also spiritual which is most important to you.
For it is the spirit which lives in endless time
With God Our Father, Thee Divine.

NEWS REPORTS

Clearfield, Utah

David S.C. Kim

The month of December has been very low for all families in the Northwest and West Coast. Since the month of November was in favor of all of us in many ways, I think it natural for the month of December that we should expect some kind of hang-ups. It is a natural cycle which we have to face and overcome. In general, all the family and our work was low spiritually because of seasonal mood; physically, several members had to suffer, and financially our group as a whole as well as individual level had trouble in finance.--lots of misunderstanding on financial policy in our movement needed to be clarified, but finally all of us got out of serious trouble reaching some kind of semi-solution on the problem.

It is a great comfort to have Galen with me in Utah. He has zeal, devotion, dedication and also possesses spirit of challenge which is the key for success as a pioneer worker in new mission field. All contacts made by me in the past are introduced to Galen and he is following up -- some are young couple, single men and women. He is even dating young girl whom one of the Health Center employees introduced to him. Evidently he must have been watching our Galen very closely for a while before his decision to introduce the girl to him. Everyday Galen goes to Salt Lake and Ogden to meet people and witness. He needs your daily prayer support for his work in Utah.

A few days ago even our one pigeon (he) began witnessing and brought other pigeon (she) to his house. Recently I began to take him for a ride in my car everyday and all children as well as adults in store, on street, at Job Corps look at our pigeon in my car and are curious about how I did train him to sit quietly beside me all the way.

Since he has a girl friend, from few days ago, I have given up taking him out anymore. I thought you will be interested to know what is happening here in Utah -- so, I say, "Even our pigeon is inspired to bring another friend to this chapel."

Our Master sent an invitation to me in November, 1969 to make a short visit to Korea for some consultation on our world-wide works since I have been away from Korea for nearly 10 years. I replied immediately with the following cable:

"Under present circumstances - personal, financial, etc.- unable to make trip until month of April, 1970 at the earliest."

I regret that I was unable to leave right away but for the reasons above, I tentatively postponed leaving until the month of April.

Also, very recently, I was able to reach Miss Tammy Tanaka in New York, who is working for the National Conference of Christians and Jews as a writer on the staff of the Religious News Service Hqtrs. She gathers religious news from all over the world and sends out daily "service" to major papers and T.V. and Radio net works. In the past she wrote an article on our United Faith Movement in the Mormon paper called the "Deseret News Paper" in which our John Schmidli was introduced. We all wish her future success in her career as a religious writer and we hope for her active cooperation to our movement.

Chicago, Illinois

Sarah Witt

I apologize for not sending in a contribution last month, but have been very busy, as I had my apartment decorated the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and had invited people for Thanksgiving dinner, so was working from 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. the next morning, trying to get everything back in order for Thanksgiving. One of my friends, who had been invited for dinner with her new husband of two and one-half months, came over and helped me all one Friday, the day before the painters came, and then again, with all the drapes, curtains, etc. Well, so much for such prosaic things. Just wanted to tell you why I hadn't written.

About three weeks ago, I met a woman who is a medium of great repute in the world of spiritualism. She had heard of our movement from Sir Anthony Brooke, who had spoken to one of the groups to which she belongs. She invited me to two seances at her home, where I had an opportunity to distribute some of our brochures to her guests. Also, I sold her one of our books. She told me that last night a group called "Space Age Center International, Inc." was having a special Holiday Program and that Sir Anthony Brooke would be their speaker. I was so excited, I could hardly wait for last night to arrive. They held their meeting at the Lawson UMCA, which is located on Chicago Ave., about three blocks from where I work. Then my boss asked me if I could work that day, I accepted with pleasure, knowing that I would be practically across the street from the meeting that night.

I arrived at the meeting an hour before the designated time of 8:00 p.m. hoping to have an opportunity to speak with Sir Anthony Brooks and tell him of my affiliation with and devotion to our Master. I even brought a snapshot of our Master with me so that I could show it to him.

I have before me the advertisement of the Space Age Center, and would like to share it with you, so that you will understand why this was such an important event to me.

SPACE AGE CENTER International, Inc.
Special Holiday Program -- Sat. December 6th

Introducing: ANTHONY BROOKE

ANTHONY BROOKE, of London, England is a world traveler and is a descendant of Sir James Brookes, who in 1841 became known as the first "White Rajah" of Sarawak, an Asian land in Northern Borneo. Three generations of Mr. Brooke's family ruled this country of Sarawak as an independent state for over a hundred years. The last Rajah before the country became a British Colony in 1946 was Mr. Brooke's uncle, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke. Mr. Anthony Brooke himself ruled the country for a time with full powers - this was at the outbreak of war with Germany in 1939 when he signed the Proclamation as Rajah Muda.

Mr. Brooke's own spiritual quest has taken him to all parts of the Earth. He sponsors the "Universal Foundation." The purpose of the Universal Foundation is to promote universal understanding by linking together in concord individual people everywhere thus fostering for the betterment of the whole world the spiritual evolution of mankind.

Mr. Brooke made a recent trip through Scandinavia where he made an unusual discovery in the country of Finland. There he found markings left by extra-terrestrial Space Craft (Flying Saucers) - evidence of visitors from other planets. Mr. Brooke has many things to say to an audience of advance thinking people such as the Space Age Center Int'l.

We are pleased to have at this lecture Mr. Harold Christensen, who will introduce his close friend - Mr. Anthony Brooke. Mr. Christensen is known in the Chicago area for his spiritual wisdom and as a teacher in the "Cosmic Circle of Fellowship."

When Mr. Brooke arrived, I spoke to him briefly, after introducing myself, and he was delighted to meet someone from our movement in Chicago. He promised to do everything he could to help me that night by directing people to me after his speech. This he did, and I distributed many brochures to those interested after he had ended his speech.

Concerning his presentation that night, I can only say that it was one of the most interesting and professionally delivered talks I had ever heard. He is certainly a most accomplished speaker, and I was very grateful to have him on our side.

While refreshments were served, many of those present came to me, as he had suggested after his talk, during the question period of participation by the audience. I gave out our free brochures, and even sold three books. I took many names, and promised to begin a study class at my home for all those who were interested.

Unfortunately, I had not been able to bring my tape-recorder, but will try to get a copy from the group who did make a tape of his speech.

I am seriously considering joining this group, as they seem to be a very advanced-thinking group of people, and seem to be able to get excellent speakers for most of their functions.

A whole week has passed before I could find time to finish this report. This past week has been very busy -- 63½ hours at the office, whatever time I could spare for minimal housecleaning, and a Christmas Party.

The Christmas Party was given by a group called "Concept Therapy", and I was invited by one of the young women I had taken home from last week's presentation by Anthony Brooke at the Space Age Center International. She asked me to play the accordion at the party after I had casually mentioned that I played the piano and accordion by ear. I was delighted to be given an opportunity to meet these fine people and many more like them at such a happy event. The party was very enjoyable, and I'm sure I had more fun than anyone since I had such a good audience to listen to my accordion playing. Also, several people approached me at the party, and wanted to know more about Master Moon and the Divine Principles. I couldn't go into any great detail as time was very limited, but I feel certain that very soon I will be asked to speak to several groups about the Divine Principles and the United Faith Movement.

Last night, I was again invited to the home of my new-found friend, Mrs. Helen Beamsley, who is so enthusiastic about our work, and tries to distribute our literature to all the groups with whom she has such close contact. Last night there were only four of us at the seance, and two of them were very fine mediums. Mrs. Beamsley and her friend, Loretta (I have forgotten her last name) were concentrating on getting help for me to carry on my work in Chicago. They all gave me wonderful ideas, and it remains now for me to be able to follow through on some of those ideas. I won't go into them now, but just as soon as I can act upon and carry out one of the ideas presented to me, I will write a report about it.

Lothar Blankenberg came over this morning and had breakfast with me. We had a very uplifting and inspiring visit, and I was very glad to be able to see him after not having that opportunity for many weeks, since we both have been so terribly busy. Lothar has been having some very disturbing experiences in his family -- his father was operated on for a double hernia and gall-bladder operation combined, about six weeks ago. After he finally recuperated from this serious surgery, I found out that Lothar's mother broke her arm; my heart went out to Lothar, being an only child. He has had to take first his father, then his mother, to visit the doctor, besides trying to run his business, and take care of the many things necessary in his personal life.

Lothar and I want to wish the very best of luck and success to both of the newly-dedicated chapels in Seattle and Berkeley. We want you to know that our prayers are with you always.

As for our Portland Chapel, we pray that Maxine will come through her scheduled surgery with flying colors, and quickly recover. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you, Vernon, for added strength to carry you through this trying period.

Portland Chapel

Vernon Pearson

December was somewhat slow although an important month here at Portland. On the 10th of December Maxine had to have surgery. She was at Bess Kaiser Hospital for 7 days. Fortunately, everything seemed to have turned out okay. Maxine will be off work for several weeks. We want to thank each family member for their prayers. Your prayers have been a real source of comfort to both of us.

Dianne Pitts and Sandy Hilts came down to Portland the weekend before Christmas to help out the Portland Chapel during Maxine's recovery. Saturday afternoon Dianne and I did some witnessing at Lloyd Center and in the evening we were joined by John and Sandy. At least two good contacts were made.

"Young" John has received a deferment until June. His birthdate, August 2 was the 45th number to be picked in the recent draft lottery. John has recently begun practice lecturing to give him a better understanding of 'Principles'.

In the past two weeks, we have been encouraged by favorable response from some older contacts. We are looking forward to 1970 and the enlargement of the Portland Chapel and Northwest work. We want to wish all family members everywhere a Happy New Year and great success in our Father's work.

Clearfield, Utah

Galen L. Brooks

Well it is time to sit down once more and write. It seems like I just wrote of my journey yesterday, instead of a month ago. It has been a very quick month, and full of many activities. I am slowly getting to know Utah and some of its people.

Almost immediately upon my arrival, Mr. Kim began introducing me to some of his contacts and turning over a few of them to me. The very next day after my arrival, Mr. Kim introduced me to a young man who later invited me to spend Thanksgiving with him and his family in Ogden. I spent a very enjoyable day in a pleasant family atmosphere. I hope for a good future relationship with this family. I had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Afton Henegar, a very fine spiritual woman, in Salt Lake City, a couple of occasions sharing many things. I look forward to a bright future in this area. Through Mr. Kim, I also met Mrs. Marvell Poulos of the 1st Science and Mind Church of Salt Lake. She has our book and I have talked with her upon several occasions, and hope to be able to spend Christmas with her family.

The variety of people here in Utah, their background, interests and religious leanings, seems to be unlimited. I have met many people at a health and gym center in Ogden. One instructor from a strong Mormon background after asking me one thousand and one questions took pity upon a poor lonesome fellow all alone in a new state, not knowing anyone, and invited me to a small party at a friend's house to meet a girlfriend of his wife. My reaction quite simply stated was -- --HELP!-- I have not been out on a date in three years. I think I have forgotten how. But I went anyway. (What could I do?? -- Mr. Kim kicked me out the door.) But she didn't seem to notice. (Possibly because I brushed my teeth with "Ultra Bright" and slapped on the "High Karate". The only reaction I got was from all the other single men there, whose girls kept smiling at me. Alas.- Sigh! -- What we don't endure for Our Father's work. E-G-A-D -- Enough-- If this gets printed I know we are short of material. Oh well, onward on a more serious vein.

I have also been able to make several tentative contacts on my trips to Salt Lake in between getting settled in my new home and looking for employment. For the last 2 weeks I have been attending some evening classes and lectures, at a Unitarian Church, on Yoga by a Swamie Rama. I have made several good contacts there and two, one man and one woman, that I am especially hopeful about. I hope to be able to give you a report on these lectures, as many of the ideas are very close to Principles.

I am trying to increase my sphere of understanding by making new acquaintances in several varied fields. For this the location here is very good, being halfway between Ogden and Salt Lake which are the two largest cities in Utah. Thus I will be able to work in both cities, (providing of course we do not have too many big snow falls.) I am enjoying the snow though, especially upon the Wasatch Mountains which seem to tower above us here. But most of all, I enjoy the feeling that you can stretch and move without always running into something. It gives one a feeling of freedom physically, spiritually, and mentally, which is reflected in the people. I am going to enjoy working here, and have great hopes for the coming year.

Seattle, Washington

Dianne Pitts

Although December started off rather slowly in some ways, Seattle has finished this month with several new starts and more zeal than ever.

Mary Hilts began attending weekly meetings and here interest is encouraging to us. *** Sandy & I spent a weekend in Portland - enjoyed it very much, particularly witnessing with our Portland family. One gets a greater lift than normal even when helping your family help God's children. We look forward to doing this again soon. *** This month, also, Sandra has begun practice lecturing. *** And, she and I are now attending a college age discussion group in a Christian home every two weeks and have several hopeful prospects here. Sandy is a great help and encouragement to me. *** I have signed up for an evening college course in speaking. **** As we begin the new year and this most important decade, we in Seattle are very hopeful and foresee a happy future of growth for Father's work here. We certainly pray that each area of our nation and, indeed, the world will see a great labor for, and great happiness in, the harvest of children for Our Father. We have a GREAT Gift for the world --not an absolutely free one-- but the MOST WONDERFUL TRUTH. Let us give it abundantly;. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Comparative Religions

(Cont. from previous news bulletin)

Chapter 3

THE BELIEFS OF NATIONAL RELIGION

In the main, the people's beliefs about religion were now intimately bound up with the experience of the nation.

For instance, people believed that when their nation was successful in warfare, it was the gods who fought on their side and defeated the gods of the enemy. This we clearly observe in a very old passage of the Bible. The Book of Judges tells us that when the ancient Hebrews under the prophetess Deborah were able to defeat the army of the Canaanite general, Sisera, she thanked her people's God for participating in the battle and giving them such a glorious victory (Judges 5).

For a people to be conquered meant that its gods had also been defeated. Consequently, vanquished nations would generally adopt the worship of the more powerful deities of their victors. So, when conquering invaders from the north entered Greece around the twelfth century B.C.E., their chief deity, Zeus, promptly became the god of many sections of the country. The Assyrian kings symbolized their power over subject peoples by bringing the defeated gods in a captive train to their capital city.

It was now accepted that the gods of each nation were supreme within its territory. But the deities' power extended only to these boundaries. Ancient peoples who moved to another country gave up their former worship, seeing that they were now in the province and under the protection of the gods of a new land. Hence, when the Kingdom of Israel, already weakened by worship of other gods, was conquered in 721 B.C.E. and the people were taken captive to Assyria, there seemed no alternative but to abandon the worship of their own deity for the religion of Assyria.

"National religion," as this type of belief is called, quickly spread among the peoples of the ancient world. To some extent, it has also lived on into modern times. The Nazi movement, in Germany, claimed some ties to the ancient Germanic forms of worship. Under the leadership of Hitler and the Nazis, the attempt was made to reintroduce the cult-worship of Wotan and Thor, gods of the ancient Teutonic peoples.

But remnants of national religion persist in other forms. Certain lands have special patron saints, such as Saint Patrick in the case of Ireland.

Others, like the Scandinavian countries, still maintain their own national churches, in this instance the state-supported Lutheran faith. The ruler of Great Britain, too, bears as one of the royal titles, "Protector of the Faith," the "faith" being Christianity as carried on by the Church of England, a state of religion supported by the government.

THE CIRCULATION OF RELIGIOUS IDEAS

Over the centuries new nations continued to be formed, and they varied considerably in size and might. Some were small, like tiny Israel and Judah in the years before their destruction; some were larger and more powerful, like Syria, Israel's neighbor to the north. Others, like Assyria and Egypt, became vast empires through the conquest of weaker peoples.

The steady growth of nations and the rise of empires led to more contact between the peoples of the ancient world. This, in part, was the result of the flourishing trade that sprang up, for most of the nations had special talents or goods that were greatly in demand. We learn from the Bible, for instance, that the people of Tyre produced the finest kinds of woods and were noted as such excellent builders that King Solomon employed them to construct his palace and Temple (I Kings 5:15-25). Solomon, in turn, is known to have exported great quantities of copper in return for certain products of the East.

Constant warfare as well brought different peoples into contact. Nations were forced to develop diplomatic relations with one another for their own protection, and frequently alliances were formed. Soldiers of different armies moved from land to land, Sometimes they joined with the forces of other nations to fend off attacks of some mighty empire. Sometimes they were sent to police the peoples of conquered countries with whom they mingled and often intermarried. It was also the policy of certain empires, such as Assyria, to transplant defeated people to other regions of their vast territory.

As a result, knowledge of other people's beliefs and practices were circulated over wide areas. Traders carried their religions as well as their goods wherever they went. Soldiers spread religious ideas and observances from land to land. Even the formation of alliances contributed to the transmission of religion. In the ancient world an alliance generally involved the marriage of the king to a foreign princess, who brought her own religion to the new land. So when King Ahab of Israel entered into an alliance with the King of Tyre, he married the latter's daughter, Jezebel. Then, much to the anger of the prophet Elijah, the queen promptly introduced the worship of her own gods, Melkart and Astarte, into the country (I Kings 16:29-33; 18).

By this same process, various myths came to be shared in common throughout the ancient Middle East. Those particularly having to do with agriculture and the deities responsible for the fertility of the earth became wide-spread. In general, they told of the death of some god in the fall and of his rebirth in the spring, thanks to the efforts of the great Mother-goddess. In Egypt, Babylonia, Palestine, Greece, and many other lands, we find similar types of gods and goddesses being worshipped in much the same way.

SHORTCOMINGS OF NATIONAL RELIGION

The circulation of many common beliefs and practices, however, had no effect upon the basic character of national religion. Each country continued to worship its own numerous deities represented in human form and specializing in particular functions. Each called for a wide variety of rites designed to appease, bribe, or coerce the gods. And each limited the authority of their gods to the boundaries of its own nation or empire.

Certain more sensitive individuals began to object to these limitations and shortcomings. In the area of practice, for example, some of the demands of the gods as determined by the priesthood were repulsive and barbaric. Some forms of religious worship called for human sacrifice, especially of children. Others demanded self-whipping or cutting one's flesh. Temple worship, too, often involved acts of the worst kind of immorality. To the more spiritually minded, these practices appeared revolting.

They also found serious difficulties with the accepted notions about the nature and authority of deity. Was it really true that the deity possessed human form, or that there were so many different gods, each with separate functions? And was the authority of the deity restricted only to the territory of the nation?

Somehow the facts seemed to run counter to these notions. For example, all peoples seemed to have similar religious wants. Essentially the same kind of help and protection that one nation sought from its gods was desired by every other. And despite the fact that peoples dwelt in different lands, they all shared many things in common, like the dawn and sunset, storms and rainclouds, the changing seasons, the growth of crops, joy at the birth of children, and sorrow in the presence of death. How then could the deity's authority end at the borders of the nation or even an empire?

How, too, could the functions of an orderly universe be parcelled out among so many gods, all of whom listened to the requests of their worshippers? And how could gods whose behavior was no better than that of ordinary human beings be respected?

Though most people were perfectly content with national religion, there were a few who were troubled by these questions.

ENTER: THE HEBREW PEOPLE

Some of these individuals appeared in various parts of the world at different times. For instance, as early as about 1370 B.C.E., a certain Egyptian king named Ikhnoton came to the conclusion that the sun-god, Aton, was the only deity. To him it was the sun in the heavens that alone merited the people's reverence, and the Pharaoh himself was its incarnation on earth, "born anew every morning like the sun-god his father." Though Ikhnoton introduced no fundamental changes in the practices of Egyptian religion, he did try to put a stop to the worship of all other gods, removing their names from public monuments and persecuting their priests. However, the effects of his efforts did not outlive him. As soon as he died, the worship of the old gods was promptly restored.

Much later, among the Greeks, there were men like the great philosopher Xenophanes of the sixth century B.C.E., who questioned whether all of the different gods really existed. He concluded that deity was neither human-like nor more than one. "One God," he declared, "the greatest among gods and men, like unto mortals neither in form nor in thought."

But the break-through from national religion to belief in a single moral God of the world was accomplished by a unique group of people who eventually settled in two tiny nations at the eastern end of the Mediterranean. These were the Hebrews.

Among them sprang up the patriarchs and Moses, who introduced certain new conceptions of religion. Then came men like Amos, Hosea, Micah, and the First Isaiah, who appeared in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah around 750 B.C.E. It was they who proclaimed radically different answers to the fundamental questions involving proper religious conduct, the nature of deity, and the extent of divine authority.

Amos, for one, indicted the people of the Northern Kingdom for failing to see the direct relationship between moral conduct and the worship of the deity. Their religion, he insisted, required justice and righteousness in addition to sacrifice and ritual.

At the same time, he also indicated that the Deity of the Hebrew people possessed powers beyond the territorial limits of the land. For their God was able to use other nations to chastise His own people!

Thus, particularly under the influence of the prophets, the Hebrew people formulated answers to some of the most difficult religious problems of all times.

We may wonder why among all peoples the Hebrews should have been so concerned with such things.....

- to be continued -
(see last page of bulletin for source of material)
* * * * *

DATES TO REMEMBER: January 3rd

- Anniversary of Portland Chapel
- Jesus' Birthday

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

There was a town on the Norwegian coast which had been pounded by a great storm for 7 days. This town's trade was fishing. But every fishing vessel that had gone out had met certain death in the storm's fury. The captain of the "Voyager", was a dutiful man and as always on Monday morning ordered his crew to prepare to sail. The cry went up among the town's people and among the crew, "We can't go out -- we'll be killed." Never-the-less that captain prepared to sail. As he was about to give the order to weigh anchor, his first mate pleading again, said, "Sir, we'll all be killed. No ship yet out has come back!" The captain, a veteran of many years of his duty looked directly at his first mate and quietly ordered him to "Weigh Anchor". Then he added: "We have to go out -- we don't have to come back."

Source of Material For "Comparative Religions"

"Our Religion and Our Neighbors"
by

Milton G. Miller and
Sylvan D. Schwartzman

Copyright 1963

By The Union of
American Hebrew Congregations
New York, N. Y.

Edited by
Rabbi Eugene B. Borowitz

* * * * *

Editors note: We would like to give our thanks to Dianne Pitts who typed all the stencils for this months bulletin. This has been a great help to us since Maxine is recovering from surgery.

We want to thank all of you who have contributed to the bulletin during this past year. It takes each of you to help make the bulletin successful and meaningful.