

### Voice of Prophecy Bible Questions And Answers

Question — In what year did Wycliffe translate the Bible and print it in the English language?

Answer—He translated the New Testament about 1380 and wrote a copy by hand. There were no printing presses in Europe then.

Q.—Did Jacob actually see a ladder which reached to heaven?

A.—He saw it in a dream. Genesis 28:12: "And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it."

Q.—Please explain Isaiah 8:19: "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?"

A.—This is a strong warning to any who may be inclined to seek so-called spirit manifestations.

Q.—How do you defend the cruel order of Nebuchadnezzar (as recorded in the Bible) to kill all the wise men of Babylon just because they could not tell him his dream?

A.—Does anyone defend it? The Bible simply records the wrothful decree of this heathen king, which by the way was not executed. (See Daniel 2.)

Q.—Why is the Spirit of God revealed only in the New Testament?

A.—The Spirit of God is a subject of Old Testament revelation also. For example, in the first chapter of the Bible it is written, "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters;" and, in Isaiah 59:19, "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."

Q.—Does the Bible teach that all mankind will never be united in one body?

A.—Yes, after the millennium, when the redeemed of all nations will live on the earth made new. "Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee; for Thy judgments are made manifest." Revelation 15:4. "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." John 10:16.

When they start making clothes from wood the women will likely spruce up with fir.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for Dec. 3

Golden Text. — I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service—Rom. 12:1

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

Approach to the Lesson

Our bodies belong to God and should be devoted to His service because of His twofold claim upon them. He created us, and He gave His Son to redeem us. Moreover, it is by His power and goodness that we are sustained and strengthened for the responsibilities He puts upon us. While unsaved men ignore His authority, we who have trusted Christ as Saviour should own, with gladness, His Lordship over us, and so yield to Him all our ransomed powers. The deepest joys in life are found as we recognize His claims and present our bodies in sacrificial service. In this, as in other things, we are to act as stewards, and "it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2). At the judgment seat of Christ we will be called to give account for the way in which we have used every talent and ability committed to us by the Lord. Twice in 1 Corinthians we are reminded that we have been bought with a price, and upon this fact two important admonitions are based: "Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20). "Ye are bought with a price; be not yet the servants of men" (1 Cor. 7:23). We have but one master to serve, and to Him we owe glad and complete obedience. In other words, He calls upon us to invest our lives in loving devotion to Himself. Surely every redeemed soul might well reply as we sometimes sing:

Naught that I have mine own I'll call,  
I'll hold it for the Giver;  
My heart, my strength, my life,  
my all,  
— Are His, and His forever.

There is no limit to that which God can do with a life thus wholly yielded to Himself. Why, then, should we ever shrink from acknowledging His claims upon us by fully surrendering ourselves to do His will? In the coming day of manifestation none of us will ever feel that he has done too much for Christ, but surely many of us will regret that we have done so little during our short life here on earth, and we might well wish

that we could return and live over again our years in this scene in order that Christ might be fully glorified in us.

The Historical Setting

The Letter to the Romans was written by Paul from Corinth about A.D. 60. Second Corinthians was probably written from Philippi in the same year. Philippians was written from Rome during Paul's first imprisonment.

Verse by Verse

Rom. 12:1.—"I beseech you... by the mercies of God." Where grace reigns, "I command" becomes "I beseech." Tenderly the Spirit of God pleads for complete recognition of Christ's ownership of, and authority over our lives. Our bodies have been purchased by His blood and we are exhorted to present them to God for sacrificial living.

Verse 2.—"Be not conformed... be ye transformed." Nonconformity to the world and transformation into the likeness of Christ will enable us to appreciate God's good, acceptable, and perfect will. Often we hesitate to yield ourselves in full consecration, fearing that God will ask too much of us, but when this step is taken in faith, we soon realize that the most blessed life is that of devotion to His will.

Verse 6.—"Gifts differing." To every believer God has given some special gift to be used for His glory and the blessing of others. The gift of prophecy is to be specially desired, because it is for edification, exhortation, and comfort (1 Cor. 14:1, 3).

Verse 7.—"Ministry... teaching." Many think of ministry as though it were simply preaching or conducting church meetings, but all forms of service are included under this word: whether it be visiting the sick, caring for the poor, or assisting those with any physical or spiritual need. "Teaching" here, of course, refers to expounding the Word of God.

Verse 8.—"Exhorteth... giveth... ruleth... sheweth mercy." Whether admonishing those who are in danger of going astray, or seeking to cheer those who are downcast; whether contributing financial help or taking oversight in the church of God; whether showing mercy to the erring or striving to lift up the fallen; all should be done diligently, cheerfully, and with godly simplicity; not with ostentation or for self-glorification.

2 Cor. 8:3.—"Beyond their power." Paul speaks here of the Macedonian saints, who had very little of this world's goods, but gave gladly more than they seemed able to afford in order to assist needy Christians in Judea.

Verse 4.—"The fellowship of... ministering." Recognizing the

preciousness of Christian unity, they begged for the privilege of participating in this expression of fellowship with distant brethren. They did not need to be urged to give, but appreciated the opportunity afforded them.

Verse 5.—"They... first gave their own selves to the Lord." This accounted for their generosity and unselfishness. They had given themselves to the Lord as His stewards and therefore held all that they possessed at His disposal.

Phil. 2:25.—"Epaphroditus... he that ministered." In this devoted man we have a beautiful example of Christian stewardship. It was he who had brought a gift from the Philippian church to Paul in his Roman prison.

Verse 26.—"He... was full of heaviness, because... ye had heard that he had been sick." How different was this man's spirit to that of many others who are full of heaviness if their friends have not heard that they were sick! Stricken down, possibly with the well-known Roman fever, Epaphroditus had been ill so long that word of his sickness had traveled all the way to Philippi and then a message had come back to Rome telling of the distress of the believers there because of their concern for him.

Verse 27.—"God had mercy on him." He had been very ill indeed; in fact, almost at the point of death, but now God had mercifully restored him, much to the joy of the apostle, who would have grieved deeply if the service rendered to him had resulted in the death of the messenger.

Verse 28.—"I sent him... again." Epaphroditus was now convalescent and able to begin the long journey home, bearing with him this Letter to the Philippians, which has brought much cheer and blessing to untold thousands through all the centuries since.

Verse 29.—"Hold such in reputation." Epaphroditus, like his Lord, had made himself of no reputation. It is men of this stamp whom the church of God is called upon to honor. Self-seeking ministers of Christ are a disgrace to the name of Him whom they are called to serve.

Verse 30.—"For the work of Christ he was nigh unto death." Manifesting his devotion to the Lord and to His people, Epaphroditus had undertaken a perilous journey, which might have resulted in his death, but without hesitation he accepted this possibility and responsibility, in order to serve the church at home and to bring help to the imprisoned apostle.

The Heart of the Lesson  
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Jesus Christ, who has bought me with His own precious blood. In my unconverted days,

I lived for myself, for myself alone, For myself and none besides, Just as if Jesus had never lived, And as if He had never died.

Now all this has been changed and I should be able to say with Paul: "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Cor. 5:14, 15). This involves full surrender to the Lord, the yielding to Him of all my ransomed powers, that henceforth I may do His will in all things as He makes it known to me by His Spirit through the Word. This is true of Christian stewardship.

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Charles Ferries brought the damage suit against the Valley Taxi Company and taxi driver, Ronald Ward after his left leg had to be amputated below the knee as the result of five fractures.

The jury set damages at \$21,000 but awarded Ferries the lesser amount because they found him 18% negligent by not crossing the highway with caution.



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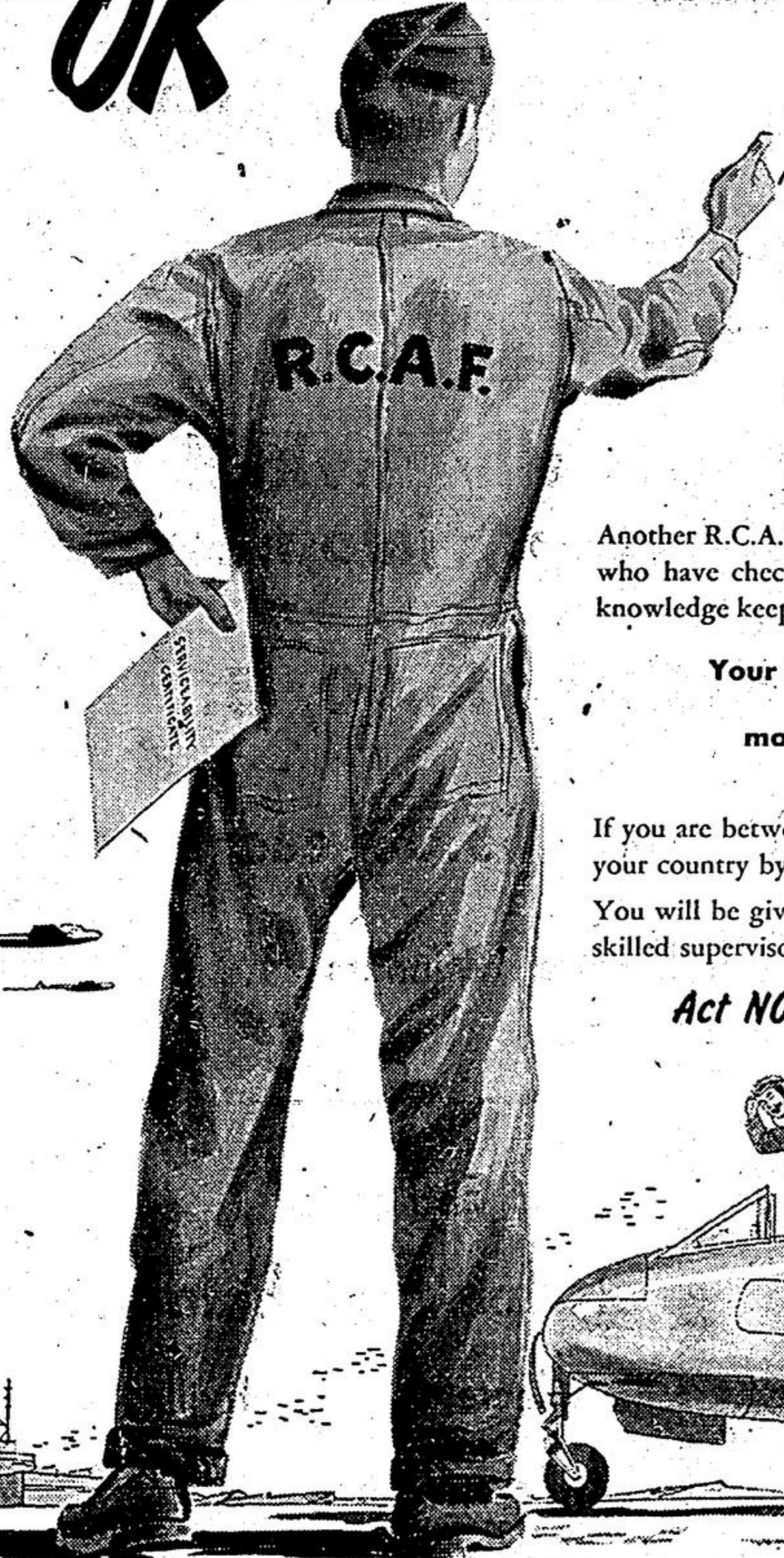
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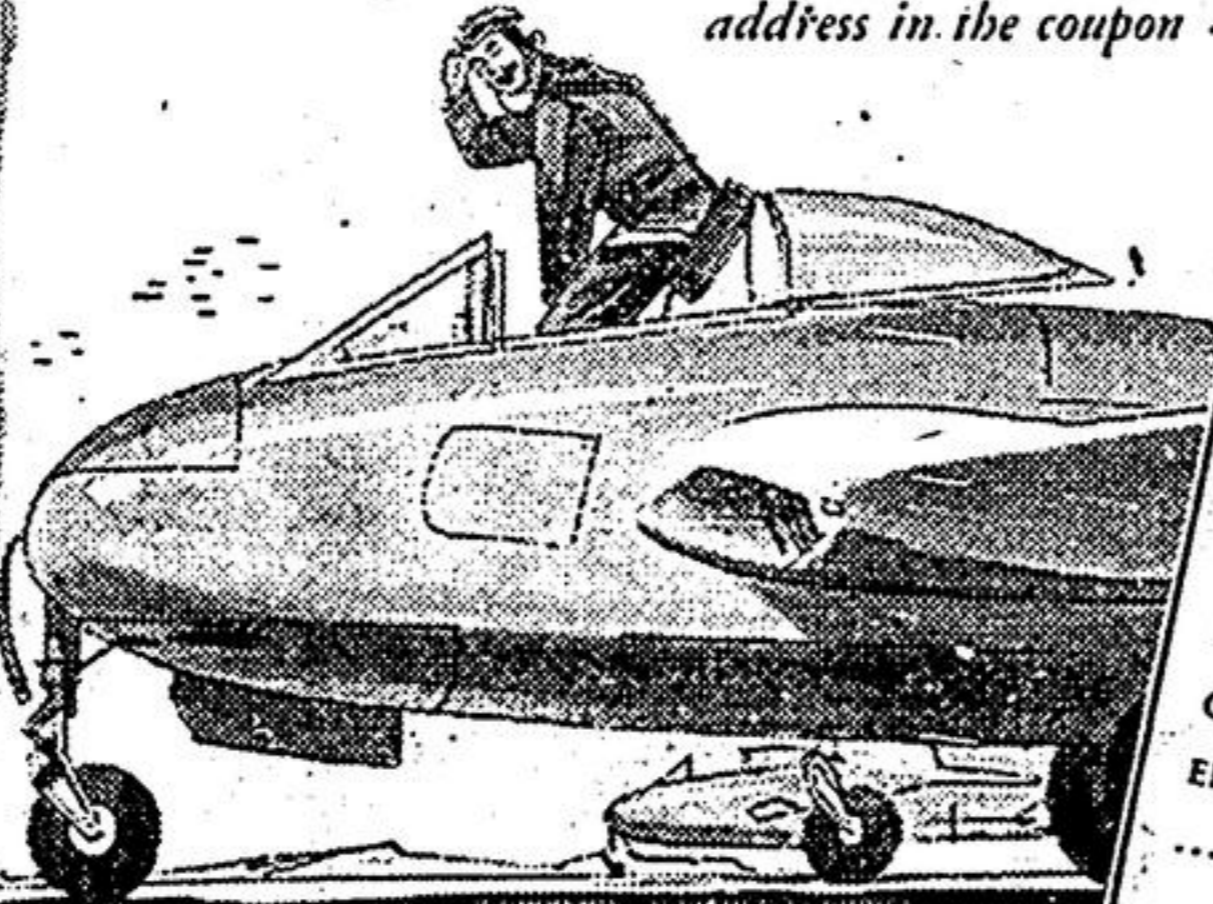
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