WHO HAS ENQUIRED AFTER HIM ?

-ronically, as the end of the age-the crisis at the close-rapidly approaches and mankind's problems intensify, man refuses to go to the right place for answers to his problems. As the time of trouble increases, people either worship a false god, turn away from God, or don't even bother to seek after Him at all. "And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham; And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for Him." (Zep. 1:5-6). "Even though the Day of the Lord is at hand (v7), they seek Him not, further, (V8) great punishment will be upon the leaders and those "clothed with strange apparel" (false religion)." False religion is indeed nothing less than disastrous for humanity. Satan, as we know, is hard at work deceiving the world as much as he can.

In the light of all this we, as God's people-the "first-fruits" must make sure ourselves are not deceived. The scattering of the flock has resulted in, it seems, God's people falling into differing categories. Some have lapsed into believing in the false God of Protestantism. All too many have abandoned the faith once delivered. Others, having been badly offended and hurt by all that has happened, are now apparently like nervous antelopes wary of drinking at the water-hole through fear of attack by predators. Then, there are those who have held fast and not forgotten what they have learned. Which category are we in? We should have the boldness of the righteous and continue to fear God, seek after Him and certainly not turn away from Him, not forget-but hold fast. We know the truth (God's Word) and should have joy in remembering it.

It's sad to realize the world at large is spiritually blind to God's truth, and the sinful ways of the world can only separate society from God. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isa. 59:2). Of course, it's not God 's will that anyone be separate from Him. We read, as an example, Christ's heart-rending statement in Matthew 23:37 (last part) which tells how much Christ desires to gather the inhabitants of Jerusalem to Him as a hen gathers her. chicks-But they would not gather to Him. "0 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that kill est the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" The result is desolation! Verse 38, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." We are too well aware that, unless the nations repent, the worst desolation ever known will come upon the world. How tragic that mankind does not seek God.

To go back to the original question that forms the title of this article– who has enquired of Him? The answer is precious few, and the world is a discouraging place.

We don't have to look far, however, for our encouragement. We must remind ourselves of the truth. We all have our favorite scriptures, many of them containing God's promises; but let us conclude by going back to Isaiah 59 and this time to verse 1: "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear."





