

A RATHER unique invitation came to me some time ago. It was a card bearing the words, "ROUND-TRIP MOON TOUR RESERVATION" printed at the top. It informed me that I might have the privilege of being "among the first to apply for a reservation on a trip to the moon." By duly filling in the card and returning it to the senders, I might have my name and address kept on file, to be "turned over to the first company embarking on commercial flights to the moon." "This application in no way commits you to the voyage," I was assured. "It simply means that your application will be given every consideration."

The Hayden Planetarium in New York City has well over 30,000 similar reservation-applications, we are told, filed by people wishing to get to Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, or the moon.

Scientists are busy designing and experimenting with space ships and space suits which, they hope, will make it possible for humans to escape from earth's gravitational pull and launch freely into space, where they may set their course for any planet they choose. Some believe that this will be accomplished in ten or fifteen years.

A space ship to Mars! Most people would hardly have dreamed of it a few decades ago, to say nothing of thinking it possible. Truly the imaginations of men are reaching into fields of endeavor of which the most fertile minds of a few generations back had no conception.

Will man's plans to travel by rocket ship into the far reaches of stellar space ever materialize? For myself I never expect to make use of the reservation so kindly offered me. For one thing, I would be very reluctant to trust myself to a man-made rocket sizzling upwards at some thousands of miles an hour, should such a thing be possible. For another, I am convinced that there is a far more pleasant and secure way of visiting the worlds beyond.

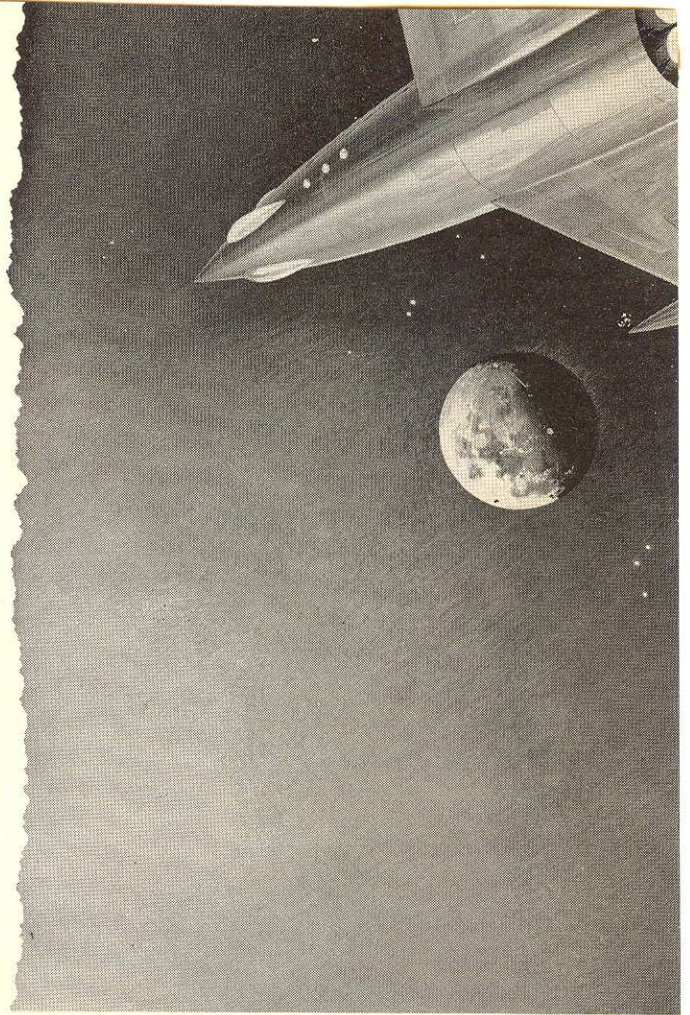
I am thinking of the words of Christ: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*" John 14:1-3.

Said the apostle Paul, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

Even if it should be possible for man of himself to escape from this world and succeed in reaching another, he would have to leave his loved ones behind. He could not escape from accidents, sickness, anxiety, and, eventually, death. He could not escape from himself. But he who makes reservations with God receives with his "ticket" an assurance of final deliverance from sorrow, pain, and death. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4.

Describing the glorious adventures which await the righteous, one writer says, "All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar,—worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe, and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. . . . With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation,—suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity."—E. G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pages 677, 678.

Through Jesus all may have part in the wonders which God has in store for those who love Him. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come."



journey beyond mars

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Thousands Make Reservations
for First Space Flight

by THOMAS A. DAVIS