



# TOMORROW'S WORLD

November-December 2007

[www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org)

## Christmas: Harmful to Children?





# Is It “Decision Time”?

*A personal message from the Editor in Chief, Roderick C. Meredith*

As the year 2007 draws to a close, traumatic events are occurring! It should be obvious to those who have eyes to see that murderous *terrorism*, spreading *drought*, *financial upheavals* and the increasing probability of *disease epidemics* are with us. As I write, the threat of an all-out **Middle East war** is growing—and such a war may even have begun before you read this!

Many thousands of you longtime readers of *Tomorrow's World* probably realize by now that there is **one source** of information about end-time events that is “spot on,” as the British would say. We at *Tomorrow's World* do not “generalize” about Christ coming back to this earth “someday” or “somehow.” We delve deeply into the inspired word of God to let you readers truly understand an entire panorama of prophetic events—including *when* and *where* and *why* those events will occur. We constantly ask you, in this magazine or on the *Tomorrow's World* telecast, to “check up” on us and to **prove** these things *right out of your own Bible*.

Now, as the crescendo of end-time prophecies grows ever louder, is it “decision time” for you and your family? Can you truly afford to sit on the sidelines and “let the world go by” as these events come to their grand smash climax? Or, as you see these specific events we have written about taking place with increasing ferocity, will **you** begin to genuinely *study* your Bible, *prove* the basic truths we are giving you and have the courage to **act** on what God clearly reveals?

For *your good*, and the good of your loved ones, *think deeply* about the famous warning given by Sir Winston Churchill: “Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened.”

As I hope we can *all* realize, that form of “escapism” is intellectually and spiritually dishonest and cowardly!

Please read very carefully the articles in *this very issue* of *Tomorrow's World* on *Christ's return*, on *unlocking* the mysteries of the book of Revelation, and on *understanding* end-time prophecies. Look up the scriptures to see if they “fit,” and then *pray for understanding* and for the **courage** to be willing to obey the

Creator who gives you life and breath and who guides the overall **Big Picture** of prophetic events and the rise and fall of nations. For God's word clearly tells us that ancient King Nebuchadnezzar was banished from his throne for many years, “in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men” (Daniel 4:17).

Sadly, you will soon “see” this happening in the American and British-descended nations at this “time of the end.” Men—or women—of mediocre minds and corrupt motives will increasingly be voted into office by a *confused electorate*—most of whom could not “care less” whether or not the person for whom they are voting is truly a good person and would do what is right, regardless of politics. Such courageous politicians have *always* been few and far between. And they are *very seldom elected*, because most people will vote for the politician who promises them the most—regardless of the consequences.

Therefore, like the fall of the Roman Empire, we will soon see our beloved nations slowly but surely coming apart and *going down* over the next several years. Will the “fall” of America and the British-descended nations occur within the next seven to 17 years—or perhaps longer? *I do not know*. Only the *Eternal* God knows the exact timing. But, after 58 years of my serving the *true* God of the Bible and carefully watching these events, I personally feel that the collapse of our beloved nations will be closer than most of us realize!

**Why** does this have to happen?

It *will* happen unless we—as a people—experience a heartfelt **repentance** before the God of the Bible, the **real** God who is now beginning to intervene in human affairs!

**Will** this *genuine repentance* actually take place?

Based on our national and individual behavior patterns over the past few decades, I think you know the realistic answer! Most people feel “comfortable” where

(Continued on page 30)

## How Your Subscription Has Been Paid

*Tomorrow's World* has no subscription price. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of Living Church of God members, and by others who have chosen to become co-workers in proclaiming Christ's true gospel to all nations. Donations are gratefully acknowledged, and may be tax-deductible.



## Cover

### 10 Christmas: Harmful to Children?

Is Christmas a happy fiction—something good for Christians and their families even though Jesus Christ was not really born on December 25? Or is there something sinister about Christmas, which few realize, but which can do great damage if overlooked?

## Features



### 4 Will Jesus Christ Return Tonight?

Millions who call themselves “Christians” are waiting for their Savior’s return. It will be the most momentous event since His resurrection. But can we know when and how that world-changing event will occur?

### 16 Unlocking the Secrets of Revelation

For millennia, people have found its symbols and figures mysterious—and misunderstood. But the book of Revelation explains your future, and what you can do today to prepare for your part in eternity!



### 22 Understanding End-Time Prophecies

Is Bible prophecy something to be feared and avoided? Is it too complicated or too obscure to be meaningful in your life? Is it just myths and fables, or can it change your life today? You need to know!

### 28 “It’s the Economy, Stupid!”

Is there more to life than mere “prosperity”? What is true prosperity, anyway? Your Bible gives an answer that you can live by!



## Departments

### 9 Questions & Answers

### 14 Prophecy Comes Alive

### 21 Letters to the Editor

### 26 Tomorrow’s Youth

### 31 TV/Radio Log

*Tomorrow’s World*® is published bimonthly by the Living Church of God™, 2301 Crown Centre Drive, Charlotte, NC 28227. ©2007 Living Church of God. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Canada subscriptions: Canada Post Agreement Number 40034253. Send change of address information and blocks of undeliverable copies to P.O. Box 409, Mississauga, ON L5M 2B9. Postage paid at Charlotte, NC and at additional mailing offices. **Postmaster: Send address changes to *Tomorrow’s World*, P.O. Box 3810, Charlotte, NC 28227-8010.**

***Tomorrow’s World* is protected through trademark registration in the United States, and by international treaties. Trademark registration pending in other countries. The symbol ®, appearing herein, does not indicate trademark registration in countries where it is not yet registered or protected by treaty.**

All scripture references are from the *New King James Version* (©Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

**EDITOR IN CHIEF** Roderick C. Meredith

**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR** Richard F. Ames

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR** William Bowmer

**REGIONAL EDITORS** Rod King (Europe),

Bruce Tyler (Australasia), Gerald Weston (Canada)

**ART DIRECTOR** Donna Prejean

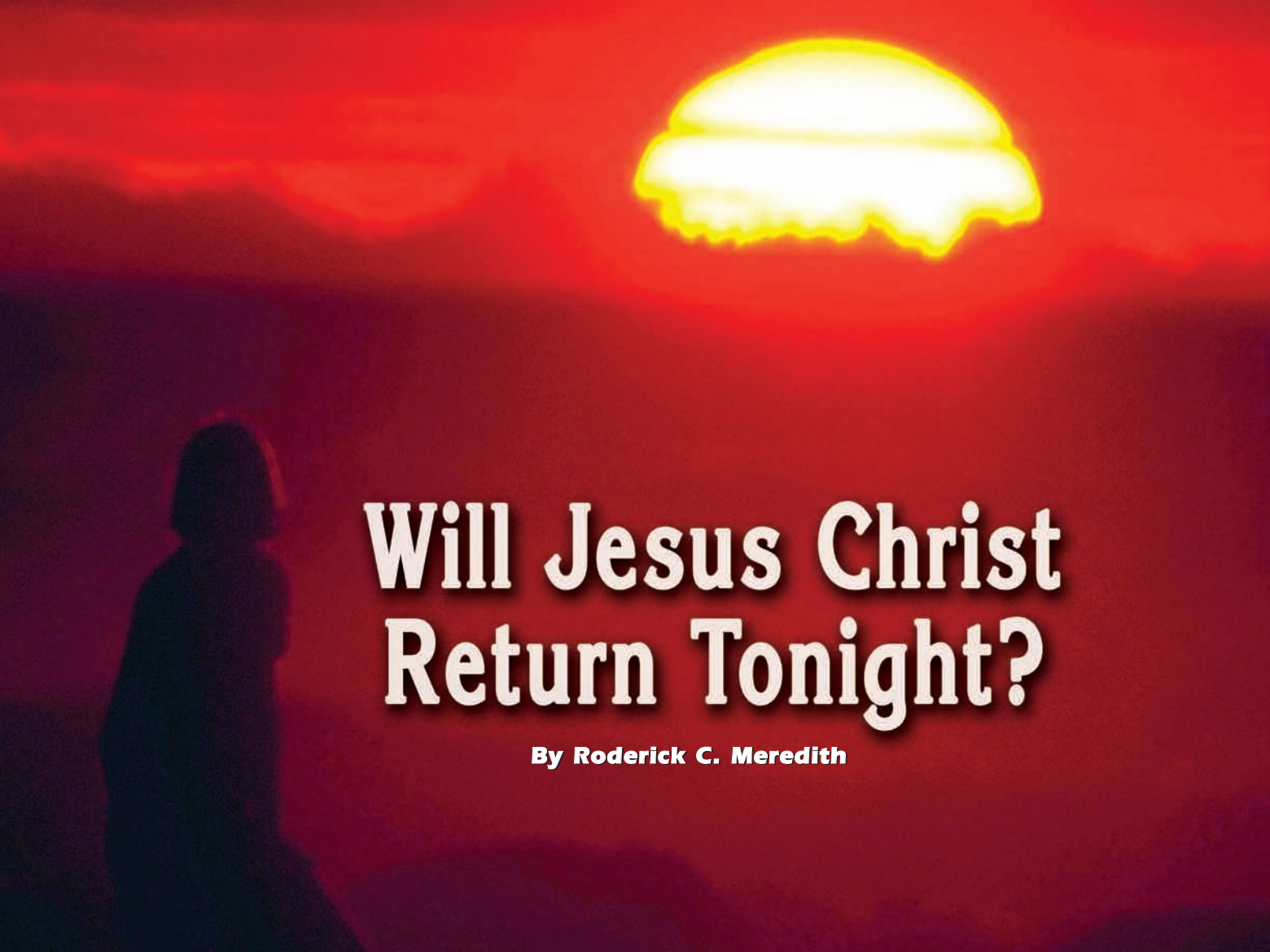
**PROOFREADERS** Sandy Davis, Linda Ehman,

Genie Ogwyn, June Olsen

**NEWS BUREAU** Don Davis

**BUSINESS MANAGER** J. Davy Crockett, III

**PHOTO CREDITS:** ©CORBIS, ©ISTOCKPHOTOS, ©LIQUIDLIBRARY, ©2007 NEWS.COM, ©PHOTOS, ©PHOTOSPIN, ©TOMORROW’S WORLD



# Will Jesus Christ Return Tonight?

By **Roderick C. Meredith**

Over the past 2,000 years, many have tried to predict the date of Jesus Christ's return. Predicted dates have come and gone. Yet Christ said He would come again. Can we know when this momentous event will occur?

Imagine the bold headlines announcing “Jesus Christ Has Returned”! Imagine the “headline news” on radio and television: “We interrupt this program to give you the shocking news that Jesus Christ has just returned to this earth! Our Middle East correspondent reports that Jesus has descended to the Mount of Olives—just east of Jerusalem—and seems to be preparing to make His way into the city!”

Wow! And yet, the very real return of Jesus Christ to planet earth is going to be even more awesome and dramatic than that—more than I can possibly describe!

Pollsters have found that about one in four professing Christian adults in the United States expect Jesus Christ to return to this earth. Sadly, because even most professing Christians are bib-

lically illiterate, the vast majority say they are unsure about *when* and *how* Christ will return, and what will happen afterward. Even many “mainstream” ministers are quite liberal and do not believe that Jesus was an actual person—or that He died, was resurrected and ascended to heaven. So they often think of Christ's second coming as a theological “myth,” or at the very most as something that is very indefinite and “way off.”

I well remember hearing, in person, one very famous evangelist thundering to his audience, “Christ may come *tonight!* Yet, on the other hand, present events may just be another stage in the great human drama that may last another thousand years before Christ's return!”



Frankly, either of these extremes is ridiculous. And those who espouse such ideas have virtually no *understanding* of biblical prophecy whatsoever or they would not arrive at such conclusions. Either extreme is wrong.

## Are We in the “Last Days”?

There are literally dozens of indications that we are in the prophesied “last days.” Let me give you just a few.

First, in Jesus’ famous Olivet Prophecy, He warns us to watch for the “abomination of desolation” described by Daniel the prophet, which will be “standing in the holy place” (Matthew 24:15). Nearly all scholars agree that the original “abomination” was a statue of either Zeus or Jupiter Olympus which was forcibly placed in the Temple of God by Antiochus Epiphanes in 168BC. However, many recognize the principle of *duality* here—that is, both a typical and antitypical (or later) fulfillment of this same prophecy.

Certainly, the final “abomination of desolation” to which Jesus referred is obviously *after* Jesus’ human lifetime. Notice God’s instruction to Daniel near the end of Daniel’s prophecy: “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the *time of the end*. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the *abomination* of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days” (Daniel 12:9–11).

Clearly, then, there must be some sort of temple or altar in

Jerusalem at the *end* of this age where the “daily sacrifice” (v. 11) is offered. That is when the final “abomination” is set up. This passage also indicates that the Jews at the time of the *end* would have a significant presence in Jerusalem. None of this makes sense without a revived state of Israel, a Jewish Jerusalem and a rebuilt altar for sacrifices.

Another clear indication that we are in the “end times” is found in Matthew 24:21–22. Jesus had been asked, “What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the *end* of the age?” (v. 3). After describing a series of events and the placing of the “abomination,” Jesus stated: “For then there will be *great tribulation*, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, *no flesh* would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.” Here, Jesus predicted the most *awful* and *enormous* national punishment in history—and the danger of *cosmocide* if God did not intervene supernaturally.

Cosmocide—the annihilation of all flesh—was not possible even during World War II. For although two atomic bombs were dropped to end the war with Japan, there were *few or no more bombs available* for some time thereafter. According to many authorities, it was not until about 1957 that—between the U.S. and the Soviet Union—enough atomic weapons existed to annihilate all humanity.

So with the return of many of the Jews to Israel in 1948, and the degree of atomic weapons proliferation by 1957, we had certainly entered the “time of the end”—if not even before then.

Also, in Daniel 12:4, God told Daniel, “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until

the time of the *end*; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” Note that massive use of transportation would mark the end-time, and a vast increase in man’s knowledge would occur. Again, since World War II we have come to take for granted the millions of people hurtling through the air in our modern airplanes and jumbo jets. In almost every corner of the earth, men are now driving automobiles to and fro and are traveling around in a manner that would have been unthinkable before the 20th century began. In addition, the advent of radio, television and the Internet has contributed to a virtual *explosion* in human knowledge when compared to past ages.

We *are definitely* living in the “last days”! Christ will undoubtedly return within the lifetimes of the young people growing up today—and many older people may also live to witness this awesome event.

## Let the BIBLE Interpret the Bible!

Sadly, human prognosticators and interpreters of Bible prophecy will often read a biblical prophecy and then *imagine* what it is all about! Of course, the *correct* way to understand the Bible is to honestly and thoroughly put together *all* the scriptures dealing with any subject—including prophecy—and then through careful study and heartfelt prayer come to understand the whole picture.

For instance, when you carefully compare the prophecies of Daniel, Revelation and Jesus’ Olivet Prophecy as recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, a clear picture emerges as to *when* and *how* Christ will return.

Notice: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him

to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John” (Revelation 1:1). Here we find that this is *Christ’s* revelation—not the Apostle John’s! We also read that the stated purpose is to reveal things or events that would “shortly take place.”

In Revelation 2 and 3, we find an inspired description of the eras or ages of God’s true Church. The final church era, Laodicea, is characterized as being “lukewarm.” So even the majority of the true people of God in the *end*-times are apparently overcome by a degree of worldliness and are influenced by our fun-seeking “me” generation. Revelation 4 and 5 describe the transcendent *glory* of God. Then chapter 5 describes how Christ only is found worthy to open the seals of Revelation and begin this revealing of end-time events.

Revelation 6 then describes, in order, the events of the first six seals. Study it carefully and compare especially with Matthew 24:3–9. First, we find the description of the “white horse.” This is clearly identified in Matthew 24:5 as a wave of *false prophets* sent out to use Christ’s name and yet *deceive* the masses (see also Revelation 12:9)! Next, we read of the “red horse” sent out to “take peace from the earth.” Matthew 24:6–7 enlarges on this and shows that this will include not only war, but also *world war*. The third seal, the “black horse” of Revelation 6, describes tiny

bits of food being carefully weighed—obviously a time of *severe food shortages*. Matthew 24:7 describes this next event as “famine.”

Then the fourth seal is a “pale horse”—a *sickly*-looking horse—which brings *death* and the grave. And Jesus concurs in Matthew 24:7 that the next prophesied event in this series of events leading up to His Second Coming is indeed *pestilence*—*major disease epidemics* of unprecedented proportions. For after describing these four *major* events, the inspired John tells us,

“Power was given to them over a *fourth* of the earth, to *kill* with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth”

(Revelation 6:8). And Matthew 24:7 adds that *earth-*

*quakes* will also be a significant factor during this time period.

A “fourth” of the earth to perish? Most scholars acknowledge that this is *not* talking about one-fourth of the earth’s surface—which is mostly ocean, mountains and desert anyway. It is speaking of one-fourth of the *entire population* of this earth! Without any increase in the earth’s present population (now more than 6.5 billion), one-fourth would represent more than *1.6 billion* people to be destroyed by these first four “horsemen.”

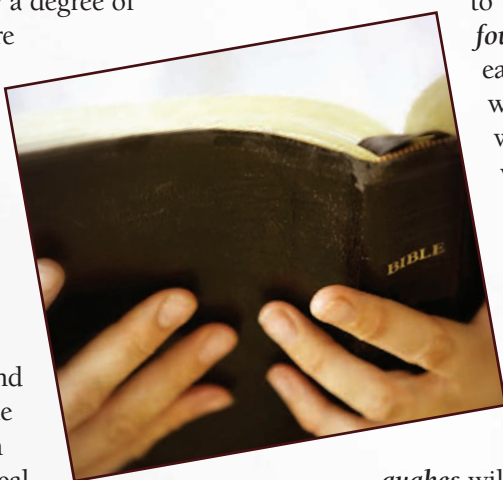
In this inspired description, the fearful *Great Tribulation* and the “Day of the Lord” have not yet even begun!

## The Great Tribulation

The fifth seal of Revelation is, in fact, describing the Great Tribulation. The emphasis here is on the church aspect—upon the fact that many of the people in God’s true Church will be persecuted, martyred as they were in past ages (Revelation 6:9–11). But other scriptures—including Matthew 24:21–22, Luke 21:22–24 and Jeremiah 30:4–7—tell us that this horrifying Tribulation will be not just upon the true Church but on the physical nations of Israel *and* Judah—including the United States and British-descended nations of the world. For biblical and historical *proof* of this, write or call us today and ask us for a copy of our booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It will be sent to you absolutely *free* upon your request.

The Great Tribulation involves a massive national *punishment* upon the physical nations of Israel who have *failed* to honor their covenant with God and have turned aside into gross immorality and hedonism. They have a “form” of religion—many even calling themselves “Christian”—but deny the *power* and authority of the Creator God (2 Timothy 3:5)! Professing Christians of our day will no doubt challenge God’s right to punish His people. God answers, “Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your *iniquities*, because your *sins* have increased, I have done these things to you” (Jeremiah 30:15).

*Immediately* after the Great Tribulation comes the sixth seal, the “heavenly signs” (Revelation 6:12–16). Again, Matthew 24 corroborates this perfectly:



“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (v. 29).

Then comes the “Day of the Lord”—the time of God’s full wrath upon *all* the rebellious nations of the earth (Revelation 6:17). After a number of Israelites and Gentiles are “sealed” and are protected from God’s final wrath (Revelation 7), then the “trumpet plagues” begin.

the “two witnesses,” during which God will provide protection for the *truly faithful* people in His Church (see Revelation 11:3; 12:14)—Christ returns in magnificent *glory* at the seventh trump (Revelation 11:15)!

### Other Strands of the Story

Meanwhile, just before the Great Tribulation, a powerful Arab confederation will come together and threaten and provoke the

of the Holy Roman Empire takes place and a final emperor/king/dictator wins the support of ten leaders of nations in Europe, which will comprise the final, prophesied Beast Power (Revelation 17:8–13). Foolishly, the leaders of this awesome, military power think their sophisticated weaponry will somehow prevail even against Christ! They try to do battle even as the returning Christ and the armies of heaven descend in power, “These will make war with the Lamb, and the

---

*We are definitely living in the “last days”! Christ will undoubtedly return within the lifetimes of the young people growing up today—and many older people may also live to witness this awesome event.*

---

The first plague scorches one-third of the trees and *all* the green grass on the earth (Revelation 8:7). In quick succession, the following plagues turn a third of the sea into blood, destroy one-third of the fish and one-third of all ships, poison one-third of the springs and rivers of water and blot out much of the light from the sun, moon and stars (vv. 7–12).

The fifth and sixth plagues describe what may be a totally sophisticated, gargantuan “Star Wars” type of attack by the European Beast Power upon its enemies, then, a powerful counter-attack by a *massive* army of 200 million warriors—probably composed of millions of Russians, Mongolians and Chinese troops who have *not* submitted to the arrogant European dictator also called the “Beast.”

Finally, after a three-and-one-half-year Tribulation and *captivity* for the peoples of Israel—a period of powerful prophesying and “warning” to the Beast Power by

coming European Beast Power (Daniel 11:40–45). Notice that this is at the “time of the *end*.” The more heavily armed and sophisticated Beast Power will swoop down on this “king of the south” like a “whirlwind.”

The forces of the Beast Power will also conquer the Jewish state of Israel and take over much of the Middle East—no doubt to gain control of the Arab oil reserves to fuel their war machine! As we have seen, the next event is the attack upon the “house of Israel” (Jeremiah 30)—the Great Tribulation. This will absolutely be a “time of trouble such as *never* was since there was a nation” (Daniel 12:1). Soon after this massive Tribulation and Day of the Lord, Christ will return, “and many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake” (v. 2) in the *resurrection* from the dead at Christ’s Second Coming!

Also, just before the Tribulation, the seventh “revival”

Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (v. 14). All this clearly shows the degree of deception and spiritual *blindness* that will have come over the leaders of the earth at that time. Indeed, the “god of this age” has absolutely blinded those “who do not believe” (2 Corinthians 4:4). Please remember that, until Jesus Christ returns to this earth, this is *Satan’s* world!

Remember also that this coming Beast Power is not only a military and political power. It is a “tool” that will be used by the great *harlot* described in Revelation 17. For as these scriptures clearly tell us, the *woman rides the beast* (vv. 3, 7, 9)!

### The “Woman” of Revelation 12

The term “woman” is used in a number of scriptures in God’s word to symbolize a church. In 2



Corinthians 11:2, the Apostle Paul is inspired to describe the true Church as a “chaste virgin” to Christ. In Ephesians 5, Paul describes the Church as being in the place of a woman (vv. 23–25). In Revelation 12:6 and 12:14, the Church is pictured as a “woman” fleeing to a place of safety in the “wilderness.”

However, in Revelation 17 God is describing a great *fallen* church, “The mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth” (v. 5). John was inspired to tell us: “I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. But the angel said to me, ‘Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns’” (vv. 6–7). So this spiritually *drunken* church is also a great *persecuting* church. And it will be sitting on and guiding the Beast, the final revival of the Holy Roman Empire.

As this foul religious/political system comes together in Europe and as a great false prophet arises “according to the working of Satan, with all *power, signs, and lying wonders*” (2 Thessalonians 2:9), untold millions of Americans, Canadians, British and Europeans will be tempted and will even be pressured to become part of this rotten system. Many of you reading this now may be tempted to “join,” to lend support or at least “go along”!

**Do not do that!**

For God Himself directly warns against our participation in this satanic system: “*Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.* For her sins have

reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities” (Revelation 18:4–5). Indeed, the direct plagues of God are going to fall upon this system and *all* those who are part of it (see Revelation 16)!

### **So WHEN Will Christ Return?**

I tell you most sincerely that Jesus Christ will not return to this earth until we have experienced the most spine-tingling, earth-shaking and *colossal* events since mankind has inhabited this planet! Professing Christian ministers who say, “Christ could come *tonight*,” are so out of touch with the truths of the Bible that it is almost unbelievable!

On the other hand, as momentous events quickly spiraled, back in 1989–90, with the shocking and unexpected breakup of the former Soviet Union’s control over Eastern Europe, so the events preceding Christ’s return will likely attain a similarly swift momentum. And for those true Christians who die before Christ’s return, He really could “come tonight”—as those in the grave “know nothing” (Ecclesiastes 9:5). For none of us knows exactly how many days or

years we may have left in this human existence.

In any case, remember that God Himself clearly reveals in His inspired word an entire series of events to occur before Christ’s coming. If you are willing to genuinely *surrender* your life to God and to let the living Christ *rule* your life, you may indeed become part of that “little flock” of God, part of that true Church that is taken to a place of *safety* on this earth during the soon-coming Great Tribulation (Revelation 12:14).

Speaking of these events, Jesus Christ commands us all: “So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, *this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.* Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. *Watch* therefore, and *pray* always that you may be counted worthy to *escape* all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:31–36). ■

## **Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ’s Return**

**Christ told His disciples of specific signs that would signal His imminent Second Coming. Do you know what those signs are? Can you recognize them in our world today?**

**Write for our FREE booklet, *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ’s Return*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).**



# Questions & Answers

**Question:** Your magazine often writes about United States military involvements, and shows how Bible prophecy foretells of war. The Old Testament is filled with accounts of the Israelites at battle. Is it proper for a Christian to serve his or her country as a soldier in war?

**Answer:** Jesus Christ set a clear standard for His followers: “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you” (Luke 6:27–28). He also taught that we are to live by “every word of God”—to guide our lives by every word of the Bible.

Certainly, Christians have a responsibility to obey legitimate government authority (Romans 13:1–7). Christ Himself explained that His followers are to pay taxes to civil governments (Matthew 22:21). We see that Christians must not disregard the duties lawfully imposed by civil society.

However, when the laws of civil government conflict with God’s law, Christians must decide to whom they will give their ultimate allegiance (Acts 4:19; 5:29, 32; Romans 6:16). When the Israelites fought wars, they were doing so by the direct command of God Himself, fighting for the **human** kingdom God had at that time—the nation of Israel—under the conditions of the Old Covenant. But Israel **rejected** God’s rule, so He put them away and symbolically “divorced” them (Jeremiah 3:8). Later, of course, Jesus Christ came and made the Holy Spirit available to all who were baptized and obeyed Him. Christians today understand that Christ’s Kingdom is not yet ruling in this world; Jesus said, “My kingdom is **not** of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here” (John 18:36). Christ promised that He would establish His kingdom on earth when He returns. Until then, Christians have an allegiance that is not of this world (Philippians 3:20). Today’s Christians are “strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13), and await His kingdom.

What should Christians do if they are drafted into mandatory military service? At present, there is

no draft in the U.S.; however, the law requires male citizens to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday, a requirement that does not violate the biblical principles set out in Matthew 22:21 or Romans 13:1–7. Registering with the Selective Service System does not imply that a person consents to participation in war, and in fact this registration can provide an opportunity to state formally one’s conscientious objection to military service. Organizations such as the Center on Conscience and War (not affiliated with *Tomorrow’s World*; their Web address is [www.centeronconscience.org](http://www.centeronconscience.org)) can provide help regarding ways to document one’s conscientious objection. But no matter what other steps a conscientious objector may take, a fundamental point is that one must **live** one’s convictions now, so that when a draft comes, it will not appear that a refusal to fight is a matter of cowardice or convenience, rather than long-held deep religious conviction.

Many countries make provisions to allow sincere conscientious objectors to be excluded from mandatory military service, or to be placed in non-military roles of public service to fulfill a national service commitment. The U.S. has historically made these allowances during times when there was a military draft, so Christians can serve their countries without violating God’s law.

Christians who live in nations where military service is compulsory must make a decision that can carry severe consequences: by obeying their Savior, they may be risking prison (or worse) for refusing to serve in the military. Christ gave an important principle when He explained that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). Those who have their hearts set on the Kingdom of God will make that Kingdom their priority, and will not jeopardize their place in that Kingdom by fighting and killing others in the wars of men.





# Christmas: Harmful to Children?

By Rod McNair

**Shiny new toys... colorful lights... festive decorations... a midnight visit from “jolly old Saint Nick”... family and friends gathered for a lavish meal. What could be more family-friendly than a Christmas celebration?**

**F**or hundreds of millions across the Western world today, Christmastime is a family time. And it is especially a time of fun for children! Nativity plays, Christmas carols—and of course waking up with great anticipation on Christmas morning, expecting to find gifts under the Christmas tree—are childhood memories cherished by countless millions. With its candy and sweets, colors and lights, songs and stories—and of course the gifts—today’s Christmas traditions are designed to create powerful memories children will look back on fondly for the rest of their lives.

Why would any parents *choose* to deprive their children of these memories? Ask yourself: if you knew Christmas was actually unhealthy for your children—even hazardous to their spiritual health—would you continue to observe it?

What could possibly be wrong with children enjoying a festive holiday? Nothing—if that holiday upholds God’s law and His values. It is not only our modern world that has at times turned to pagan rites that mock or discard God’s instructions. Long ago, the prophet Jeremiah wrote: “The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron... while their children remember their altars and their wooden images by the green trees on the high hills” (Jeremiah 17:1–2). Yes, more than 2,000 years ago, the children of Judah were led astray by false worship made memorable amid its green trees and beautiful setting. Are we so different today?

It is no secret that many Christmas customs have an anti-Christian heritage and core. As author Desmond Morris wrote, “Although people tend to assume that the proper roots of Christmas lie in Christianity, in fact hardly anything we do during the Christmas festivities has the slightest connection with the arrival of the infant Jesus” (*Christmas Watching*, p. 2) Yet billions of people continue to observe Christmas, even though it bears no real connection to the event it purports to celebrate.

Is there something wrong with this—especially for children? Could it possibly be wrong to teach children to observe a Christmas holiday that seems to embrace family values, love and adoration of Jesus Christ?

## Teaching Selfishness

Every year, we hear well-meaning “religious” people complain that Christmas has “become commercialized.” But was there ever a truly non-commercial Christmas, at least in the United States? “There never was a time when Christmas existed as an unsullied domestic idyll, immune to the taint of commercialism,” writes Stephen Nissenbaum, a professor of history at the University of Massachusetts. From the beginning, he says, Christmas



American style has been “commercial at its very core” (*The Battle for Christmas*, p. 318).

In 2006, according to consumer survey firm BIGresearch, the average American spent \$794 on Christmas purchases, which totaled a record \$154 billion. Authors Jo Robinson and Jean Staeheli point out that the advertising forces driving Christmas traditions are at once hard-hitting and seductive. “The Christmas Machine has this power over us because it knows how to woo us... If it appeared as a monster, we would rise up and stop it. But the commercial messages of Christmas appear as promises that bring tears to our eyes” (*Unplug the Christmas Machine*, p. 10).

Christmastime, supposedly an occasion for happiness and celebration, every year leaves many with feelings of depression and emptiness. The focus on excessive consumption at Christmastime causes some to become despondent, when they feel they cannot afford to keep up with the pace demanded by the merchants and advertisers who profit from the holiday.

Yet Jesus Christ—who is supposedly the center of the Christmas holiday—taught *against* the obsessive materialism Christmas encourages. He said, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15).

Are you teaching your children to obey Christ’s instruction? Or are you just feeding the “Christmas Machine?”

### **Lying to Children**

A few years ago, the morning disc jockey at Babylon, New York’s WBAB-FM told his young listeners that there was no Santa Claus. Outraged mothers and fathers com-

plained to the station, and disc jockey John Parise was forced to apologize. What a paradox! Parents want their children to learn to tell the truth. Yet they set an example of lying to their children about Santa Claus—and may even become upset when the lie is exposed!

Reporter Denise Flaim talked to an Ithaca College professor of psychology who studies children’s attitudes about Santa. Professor Cyndy Scheibe points out, “Who tells you Santa Claus is not real? It’s usually someone you don’t know or someone who’s not particularly trustworthy, like your annoying older brother... And who tells you he does exist? People you trust” (*Newsday*, December 23, 2004). How many parents are missing the opportunity to show children—by example—that they can trust their parents? What about you? *Are you telling your child lies?*

### **Santa More Real Than God?**

Many children in Western countries have little or no concept of God, but do have a clear concept of Santa Claus. Santa Claus “sees all and knows all.” He judges “whether children are naughty or nice.” He rewards good behavior with blessings—gifts. Interestingly, these characteristics are normally attributed to God (Hebrews 4:13; 1 Peter 4:5; James 1:17)! Santa even comes from the North Pole, while the Bible describes God’s throne as in the north (Psalm 75:6; Isaiah 14:13).

It is no surprise that Santa Claus is more real than God to many children—after all, they see Santa every year at the mall! The letters they send to Santa, amazingly, seem to be answered with the presents they receive on

Christmas morning! Even in many families where Santa does not take the place of God, he is often seen as “God’s helper.”

*Newsday* reporter Flaim talked to Professor Cindy Clark, who studies human development at Pennsylvania State University. Clark interviewed youngsters who still believed in Santa Claus, and found that children “had various ways of connecting Santa Claus and God. Like ‘God gave Santa Claus his job,’ or ‘The way Santa Claus knows if you’ve been good or bad is God tells him.’”

Are you teaching your children to focus on the real God, and His true attributes? Or are you diminishing His role in favor of a made-up folk hero? God—not Santa—is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). God is the One who protects our children and deserves our trust (Psalm 36:7). God—not Santa—is the one we are to approach when we have needs (Matthew 7:7).

### **Teaching False Doctrine**

Some countries observe Christmas with little or no emphasis on the “Santa Claus” tradition. Instead, they focus on the traditional “Nativity” story. Is that a better and more scriptural way to keep Christmas? Or is Christmas itself *fundamentally flawed*?

The early Church took great care to maintain doctrinal purity. Jude exhorted Christians to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). Paul wrote, “I delivered to you first of all that which I also received” (1 Corinthians 15:3). Paul admonished the evangelist Timothy, “the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to

teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). Holding to accurate, biblically based doctrines and practices was of utmost importance to early Christians (2 Thessalonians 2:15; 1 Corinthians 11:2).

Indeed, the earliest Christians did not observe Christmas—a fact recognized even by churches that now keep Christmas with great fervor. Notice: “Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Ireneaus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts; Origen... asserts... that in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday...” (“Christmas,” *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, p. 724, Vol. III, 1908). In its article “Christmas,” the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (14th edition) further elaborates that “as late as 245 Origen repudiated the idea of keeping the birthday of Christ, ‘as if he were a king Pharaoh’” (Vol. 5, p. 642).

Before Pope Julius in 350AD proclaimed December 25 as the date of Christ’s birth, practically every month of the year had been suggested, by some teacher or another, as the month of Christ’s birth (*The Pageantry of Christmas*, ed. Stanley Fillmore, p. 10). But can we trust the December 25 date?

Biblical evidence of timing, such as the the shepherds and their flocks in the fields, disproves the notion that Christ was born in mid-winter (*Clarke’s Commentary*, Adam Clarke, Vol. V, p. 370). The commonly told “Christmas story” departs in other key ways from the Bible’s account. For example, the wise men from the East did not visit Jesus as a baby in a manger. Luke 2 describes an angel telling shepherds they could find the newly born Messiah as “a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12). But by the time the wise men

came to look for the “King of the Jews” (Matthew 2:2), Jesus was already a young child and lived in a house (vv. 9, 11). At the time of the wise men’s visit, Christ would have been close to two years old (v. 16). These visitors, who recognized Jesus as a King, gave gifts to Him—not to each other (v. 11)!

Sadly, many professing Christian teachers have been very careless with the facts—not only about Christ’s life, but also about His teachings and the practices He commanded for His followers. Later scholars acknowledge how the early Church Fathers, recognizing the superstitious and emotional attachment of the people to their pagan rites, sought to give them a Christian significance. “Most of the Christian missionaries who moved into Central and Western Europe as the Roman Empire crumbled, followed the advice of Gregory the Great. He wrote, in 597, that they should not try to put down pagan customs, ‘upon the sudden,’ but adapt them ‘to the praise of God’” (Fillmore, p. 10).

What about you? Which will you follow? Will you follow the traditions of men, or the original Christianity of Christ? *If you have children, which will you teach to them?*

### **Saturnalia’s Dark Echoes**

Author Hugo Slim reminds us that Christmas “is perhaps the best example of the early Church Christianizing the traditional non-Christian festivals of a season—in this case the festivals of returning light surrounding the winter solstice” (*A Feast of Festivals*, pp. 36–37). The Romans celebrated the solstice season as the “Saturnalia, honoring Saturn, the god of agriculture” (Fillmore, p. 10).

This connection to the Saturnalia reveals an even darker

side to Christmas traditions, and shows plainly why Christmas is not a *child-friendly holiday!* The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* explains that at the feast of Saturnalia, “all classes exchanged gifts, the commonest being wax tapers and clay dolls. These dolls were especially given to children...” (article: “Saturnalia,” 11th edition). What was the purpose of those gifts? “Varro thought these dolls represented original sacrifices of human beings to the infernal god. There was, as we have seen, a tradition that human sacrifices were once offered to Saturn, and the Greeks and Romans gave the name of Cronus and Saturn to a cruel Phoenician Baal, to whom, e.g. children were sacrificed at Carthage” (*ibid.*).

### **Child Sacrifice and Cannibalism?**

Saturnalia—the festival Christmas absorbed—even carries echoes of ancient child sacrifice! It sounds horrific that dolls were given as gifts as symbols or proxies of *children burnt to pagan gods*. Yet this practice echoes the modern tradition of hanging cherubs or human figures on Christmas trees! The ancient Greeks placed small masks called *oscilla* on branches, where they could twirl freely in the wind. *Encyclopaedia Britannica* explains that *oscilla* were small figures, most commonly masks or faces, that were hung up “as offerings to various deities.... The custom of hanging these *oscilla* represents an older practice of expiating human sacrifice” (*ibid.*).

Not only did ancient Saturn-worship and fire-worship involve child sacrifice, *it also included cannibalism*. Author John Garnier noted: “Cannibalism appears to have been initiated by Cronus, i.e.



Saturn... For we are told by Sanchoniathon that Cronus was the originator of human sacrifices... *Saturn is represented as devouring his own children.*" (*The Worship of the Dead*, pp. 34–35).

When "Christian" missionaries turned a blind eye to the symbols of ancient pagan festivals observed by their converts, they absorbed into their own worship and practice a number of ancient rites that echoed *child sacrifice and cannibalism*. Symbols of these abominable practices are still extant today as grim reminders of the "dark side of Christmas!"

When the ancient Israelites entered Palestine, they encountered a people who worshiped the god Moloch, the precursor of Saturn and Kronos. Historian Alexander Hislop notes: "As the representative of Moloch or Baal, infants were the most acceptable offerings at [Nimrod's] altar. We have ample and melancholy evidence on this subject from the records of antiquity. 'The Phoenicians,' [Canaanites who settled the area around Lebanon] says Eusebius, 'every year sacrificed their beloved and only-begotten children to Kronos or Saturn'" (*The Two Babylons*, p. 231). Though God forbade His people from following the Canaanites' example, they slid into this morbid practice: "They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan" (Psalm 106:37–38).

Would God want you to observe traditions that contain trappings of child-sacrifice and fire-worship? Would God want you to teach your children beliefs that obscure the real God and instead focus on myths and fables? Would He want you to

participate in traditions that are blatantly materialistic?

Wise King Solomon said: "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you" (Proverbs 3:1–2). These are the instructions God wants us to heed—and teach to our children. The Psalmist wrote: "Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth... which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. *We will not hide them from their children*, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD" (Psalm 78:1–4).

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God anciently warned His people not to use pagan nations' customs in their worship of Him. "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles... for the customs of the peoples are futile; for one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple" (Jeremiah 10:2–4). In Jeremiah's day, people were cutting down trees to erect as objects of worship. In our day, millions will gather around a "Christmas tree" on December 25, blind to

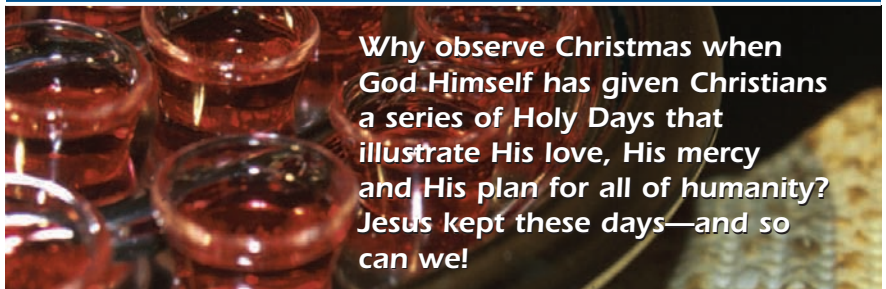
the millennia of anti-God traditions underlying their worship.

Christmas obscures Jesus Christ's true plan of salvation, and substitutes empty myths and fables in its place. But God's Holy Days—which offer true hope and will bring ultimate peace to all of humanity—reveal His true plan of salvation. If you would like to know more about God's true Holy Days, write for your free copy of our booklet, *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*.

In 1934, popular author Dale Carnegie wrote: "For thousands of years, the Romans, gorged with food, and drunk with wine, celebrated the feast of Saturnalia in December... they held high festival in [Saturn's] honor, decorating their houses with evergreen and holly, giving dolls to their children and showering gifts upon one another... Old Santa Claus, who is coming down your chimney on Christmas Eve, in his pagan youth was the fire-god of ancient peoples. He brought presents to the children in Rome thousands of years ago... Christmas may have been a pagan orgy thousands of years ago—but who cares?" (*Little Known Facts About Well Known People*, pp. 145–146).

God cares where the traditions of Christmas came from. *Do you?* ■

## The Holy Days: God's Master Plan



Why observe Christmas when God Himself has given Christians a series of Holy Days that illustrate His love, His mercy and His plan for all of humanity? Jesus kept these days—and so can we!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan* or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).

## Blind Leaders of the Blind

Jesus Christ pointedly said of the religious leaders of His day, “They are blind leaders of the blind” (Matthew 15:14). Jesus also charged that members of the religious establishment did not understand Scripture (Mark 12:24), and that they were “blind guides... fools... hypocrites” misleading people in spiritual matters (see Matthew 23). In their blindness, the religious leaders of His day failed to recognize Jesus as the prophesied Messiah. And many Bible prophecies indicate that before Jesus Christ returns, modern religious leaders will make the *same mistakes*—they will fail to understand Scripture, they will mislead sincere people about spiritual matters, and they will be blind to the real significance of important events that are shaping the world in which we live!



### Blindness Prophesied

Many Bible prophecies have a *dual* application. Their *initial* fulfillment was in the days of the prophets, yet their *ultimate* fulfillment will be at the end of the age, just prior to Jesus Christ’s return. Notice what Isaiah prophesied about the Israelites’ religious leaders, then and now: “The priest and the prophet have erred... They *err in vision*, they stumble in judgment” (Isaiah 28:7). Isaiah described Israel’s irresponsible leaders: “His watchmen are blind, they are all ignorant... they are shepherds who cannot understand” (Isaiah 56:10–11). The Israelite peoples and their religious leaders have become blind, because they have failed to follow the instructions in God’s word (Deuteronomy 28:15, 28). This theme runs throughout Scripture (Isaiah 6:9–10; Ezekiel 12:2; 13:1–23). The Apostle Paul explained that Satan actually *blinds* the minds of those who choose not to believe the Bible (2 Corinthians 4:3–4).

Jeremiah foresaw a future time when “the prophets become wind, for the word [of God] is not in them” (Jeremiah 5:13). He wrote: “They prophesied by Baal and caused My people Israel to err... Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They

make you worthless [“fill you with false hopes,” *NIV*]; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD... I have not sent these prophets... who try to make My people forget My name... I am against the prophets... who cause My people to err by their lies and recklessness” (Jeremiah 23:13, 16, 21, 27, 30, 32). Jeremiah’s sobering conclusion regarding these prophecies is: “*In the latter days you will understand it perfectly*” (Jeremiah 23:20).

### Religious Confusion

How do religious leaders mislead people today? Most professing Christians are taught that Christmas, Easter and Sunday worship are fundamental observances of the Christian religion. Yet, when you carefully study the Bible and history, you find that early Christians did not celebrate Jesus’ birth, and they knew He was not born on December 25. Many Christmas customs come not from the Bible, but from pagan Roman Saturnalia celebrations. Christ’s first followers did not observe Easter, but rather followed Jesus’ example and kept the Passover (Luke 2:41; 22:15–16). When you look up “Easter” in reference books, you quickly discover its pagan origins. Christ’s first followers did not keep Sunday, but instead followed Jesus’ example and observed a seventh-day Sabbath (see Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2; 13:14, 42–44). Sunday worship was also borrowed from the pagans, and invested with “Christian” meaning by church leaders in the time of Constantine. Christmas and Easter were adopted by church councils centuries later—even though there are no biblical commands to observe them! In fact, the Bible clearly warns: “When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and *that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’*” (Deuteronomy 12:29–30). Modern religious leaders



either ignore these clear biblical warnings, or are ignorant of them—and most professing Christians today follow blindly along (see Jeremiah 5:31).

## The Moral Morass

Liberal religious leaders and secular opinion makers are tragically misleading society in the crucial area of moral behavior. The Bible proclaims: “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20). The God of the Bible clearly states, “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14) and says He “hates divorce” (Malachi 2:16). Scripture plainly teaches Christians to “flee sexual immorality” (1 Corinthians 6:18). The Bible calls homosexual conduct an “abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). Yet leaders today have established “no fault” divorce laws, distributed birth control devices to teenagers and winked at cohabitation. Such misguided policies have created a society where sexual activity is encouraged, where teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases are epidemic, and where half of all marriages fail. Many religious leaders today perform same-sex marriages, and urge their flocks to accept homosexuality as morally right—even welcoming into the ministry individuals openly practicing these behaviors in spite of Scripture’s clear warnings! Countless popular preachers teach that the laws of God need no longer be observed. Not surprisingly, modern news media regularly carry stories about priests, preachers and politicians who, when they are found guilty of child molestation, adultery, fornication, lying, cheating and stealing, claim to be “Christians” and refuse to leave their positions—and are often still accepted and supported by their followers.

Many today do not realize that by rejecting the moral guidelines of Scripture, and instead blindly fol-



lowing “liberated” intellectuals and social engineers, our society has simply returned to the moral decay that the Apostle Paul saw in ancient Rome (see Romans 1:18–32). This is why the God of the Bible prophetically warns, “those who handle the law [the priests] did not know Me; the rulers also transgressed against Me... Your own wickedness will correct you... you have forsaken the LORD your God” (Jeremiah 2:8, 19).

## Prophetic Blindness

Jesus told His disciples to “watch” for a specific series of world events that will indicate His return is near (see Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). In recent years, these events have become more apparent, and they appear to be nearing a crescendo today. Yet many religious leaders downplay or ignore these prophecies, proclaiming that we cannot know when Christ will return—or if He will return at all. Critics today attack Scripture, calling it a collection of fables, claiming that the idea

of God is a delusion and saying that Jesus (if He even existed) was sadly mistaken about His mission and identity. This widespread skepticism about Scripture, and the doubts and ignorance about Bible prophecies, should not be a surprise. The Apostle Peter prophesied that “scorners will come in the last days”—people willingly ignorant of what the Bible clearly records (2 Peter 3:1–9). Because most people today (including many religious leaders) do not know or believe the Bible, they do not realize that Satan has *blinded* and deceived the whole world (2 Corinthians 4:3–4; Revelation 12:9). This is why the religious leaders of the Israelite nations are “blind watchmen” leading the blind! Jesus said that when He returns, most people will be caught off-guard (Mark 13:32–37)—having been lulled to sleep by leaders who had no idea of what was happening! We need to *wake up and open our eyes*, because these prophecies are *coming alive today!*

—Douglas S. Winnail



# Unlocking the Secrets of Revelation

**By Richard F. Ames**



## The book of Revelation contains mysterious symbols that only a few have understood. Can you unlock the secrets of Revelation? Can you know the future of our world—and your part in it?

**T**he book of Revelation, sometimes called the Apocalypse, is one of the most important books in the world! Why? Because it reveals the future of humanity, and the future of planet earth! But it contains symbols and secrets that challenge us. What does this final book of the Bible mean—and how will it affect you and your future?

The Apostle John had been exiled to the island of Patmos, off the southwest coast of Turkey, which the Romans were using as a penal colony. John had already written three of the epistles that would become part of the New Testament when God inspired him, around 95AD, to write the book of Revelation.

God told John to write down what he saw, and pronounced a blessing on those who would study what John wrote: “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near” (Revelation 1:3). Yes, Almighty God promises that He will bless you, if you follow His admonition to read and hear the words of Revelation; if you “keep”—take to heart—what is written in this vital book.

John sent the record of his vision to seven churches on a common mail route in Asia Minor. Those churches still have meaning for us today. They were Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea (see Revelation 1:11). Today, you can visit archaeological sites in these cities in western Turkey. The spiritual condition of these seven

churches has been reflected in God’s Church over the past two millennia.

The Revelator, Jesus Christ, tells us to learn *lessons* from each church. Seven times—once for each church—He tells us: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Do any of the descriptions of these churches describe *your* spiritual condition?

### The Seven Churches

Jesus describes the church at Ephesus this way: “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love” (Revelation 2:4). The heading in your *New King James Version* Bible labels Ephesus “The Loveless Church.” Jesus warns the Ephesians: “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works” (v. 5). Have *you* lost your “first love” as a Christian?

Smyrna is labeled “The Persecuted Church.” Jesus states in Revelation 2:9, “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich)... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (vv. 9–10). Have *you* faithfully withstood suffering and persecution?

Pergamos, the third stop on the route, is labeled, “The Compromising Church.” Pergamos tolerated doctrines leading to sexual immorality. Jesus warned: “Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth” (v. 16). Have *you* compromised with false doctrines?

Thyatira is labeled “The Corrupt Church.” Jesus proclaimed: “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.... Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds” (vv. 19–22). Have *you* fallen victim to corruption?

Sardis, the fifth church, is labeled “The Dead Church.” Jesus warns: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent” (Revelation 3:1–3). Do *you* have *living* faith?

Philadelphia is labeled “The Faithful Church.” Christ promises the Philadelphians, “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown” (Revelation 3:10–11). Are *you* holding fast to the truth of God?

Laodicea, the final church on the mail route, is labeled “The



Lukewarm Church.” Jesus warns the Laodiceans: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth” (Revelation 3:15–16). Has *your* faith become lukewarm?

Jesus wants us to listen to all seven of these messages. They reveal the changes we need to make in our lives. Seven times, He tells us: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”—all seven of the churches.

Christ’s seven messages also reveal the spiritual characteristics and attitudes of the Christian Church, from the time of Christ to the end of this age. We may live in a Laodicean era today, but individually we can have a Philadelphian approach to our Christianity—loving our brethren, and giving of ourselves to help God’s warning message reach a world that will soon find itself in a time of unprecedented crisis before Christ’s return.

## **A Vision of Heaven**

In Revelation 4, John records his vision of heaven. He sees the very throne room of God Almighty, with a *rainbow* around the Father’s seat of authority. How awesome and inspiring it is that our Father would describe to us His heavenly throne. Do you think of it when you pray? Christians can pray directly to God in heaven, through their Savior and High Priest, Jesus Christ. “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). Thank God that you can come to Him in prayer. As you read Revelation 4, be sure to meditate on the majesty and the glory of God’s throne.

Revelation 5 records John’s vision of a scroll sealed with seven seals. In the first century AD, scribes wrote manuscripts on long strips of papyrus or parchment, which were kept rolled up. John writes: “And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the

throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to *open* the scroll and to *loose* its seals?’” (Revelation 5:1–2).

John then weeps, because there is no one worthy to open the scroll—until the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, begins to open the seals. God reveals our awesome future when He tells us: “You [the Lamb, Jesus Christ] are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have *redeemed* us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (vv. 9–10).

Jesus, the Lamb of God, shed His blood for the sins of every human being. Those who have truly repented of their sins, and who have demonstrated their faith through the baptism God’s word commands, have been forgiven of their sins. They have been

## **The Four Horsemen Ride!**

**The Apostle John describes four horsemen that symbolize great deception and devastation to mankind and life on earth. “And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.’ When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth” (Revelation 6:2–8).**

redeemed! Perhaps *you* have come to the place in your life where you realize the need for forgiveness. You realize the need to turn your life around and make a dramatic change. If you are really serious about making such a change, we invite you to counsel with a true minister of Jesus Christ. Just write to us at one of our Regional Offices, listed on page 30 of this

gion, war and its terrible effects, famines that normally follow on the heels of war, and the pestilences and disease that follow after famine.

Shocking times are ahead for the whole world. We need to be prepared. These four horsemen will cause devastation all over the earth. Yes, there have always been wars, famines, and disease. But the

seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and *every mountain and island* was moved out of its place” (Revelation 6:12–14). Yes,

---

**Jesus, the Lamb of God, shed His blood for the sins of every human being. Those who have truly repented of their sins, and who have demonstrated their faith through the baptism God’s word commands, have been forgiven of their sins.**

---

magazine, or contact us online at [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).

Those who do repent and turn their lives around, obeying their Savior, can look forward to an awesome future. They will inherit the earth as immortalized, glorified children of God, and during the Millennium they will rule with Christ (Revelation 20:4–6)! God reveals our awesome and glorious future. Faithful Christians will inherit the earth and all things, including the universe (Revelation 21:7). If God is calling you now, you certainly do not want to miss out on that!

Revelation 6 features the first four seals of Revelation. These are the famous four horsemen of the Apocalypse (see box, “The Four Horsemen Ride!”). The four horses and their riders symbolize great devastation over the earth. But what is their meaning? Jesus, the Revelator, gave an outline of prophetic events in the Olivet prophecy found in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. These prophetic events explain the four horsemen in the book of Revelation. The famous four horsemen of the Apocalypse symbolize false Christs and false reli-

four horsemen will intensify their ride in the years ahead, and we will see record deaths and casualties. Not only will major wars cause devastation, but the evils of terrorism will increase against the Western nations unless they repent of their immorality and lawlessness. The time will come when the tragic events of September 11, 2001 seem minor compared to the awful terrors that will be visited on the American and other British-descended nations.

Then comes the fifth seal. “When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held” (Revelation 6:9). Here is described the martyrdom of the saints—true Christians. In the first century, the Roman emperor Nero severely persecuted Christians and put them to death. The fifth seal also indicates a major end-time persecution of the saints (see Matthew 24:9).

Then Jesus opens the sixth seal, revealing the heavenly signs that will shock people all over the earth. What are those signs? “I looked when He opened the sixth

Bible prophecy tells of a time when frightening asteroids and meteors will streak through the heavens. Massive earthquakes will also shake the ground beneath us. We have experienced strong earthquakes and tsunamis in recent years, but the ones to come will be far more severe, displacing every mountain and island.

Those heavenly signs introduce the seventh seal, known as the Day of the Lord—the time of God’s wrath and judgment on an unthankful and rebellious world, when Jesus Christ, the Lamb, will execute God’s righteous judgments. The Day of the Lord is also called “the great day of His wrath!” (v. 17).

When the seventh seal is opened, we find that it comprises seven judgments. “When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets” (Revelation 8:1–2). With their trumpets, the angels announce plagues that will ravage the earth.

These plagues will cause immense suffering to those who



live through this time of tribulation, except for a tiny handful God will protect in a place of safety. But there is good news! Just beyond the Day of the Lord is the glorious Kingdom of God which Jesus Christ will establish on this earth! Yes, Jesus Christ will return with great power and love to usher in a thousand years of His millennial rule over planet earth.

## God Promises Blessing

As we have seen, God promises a *blessing* to those who study His word and strive to live by it. You do not want to miss out on God's blessing. Read the book of Revelation, knowing that God will bless you as you strive to understand and practice His way of life. Our world today is in danger and confusion. Bible prophecy warns of more and greater earthquakes, droughts, floods, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, and other natural disasters. Even scientists and geopoliticians are now predicting a tremendous increase in environmental disasters and military conflicts as the 21st century unfolds.

There *are* terrible times ahead. But the book of Revelation also reveals God's merciful intervention during the Day of the Lord, and the return of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, at His Second Coming. We look forward to the seventh trumpet bringing us good news: "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!'" (Revelation 11:15).

Genuine Christians will *rejoice* at that announcement, but

the deceived nations and military powers will *not* rejoice—they will be angry. Notice: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were *angry*, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth" (vv. 17–18).

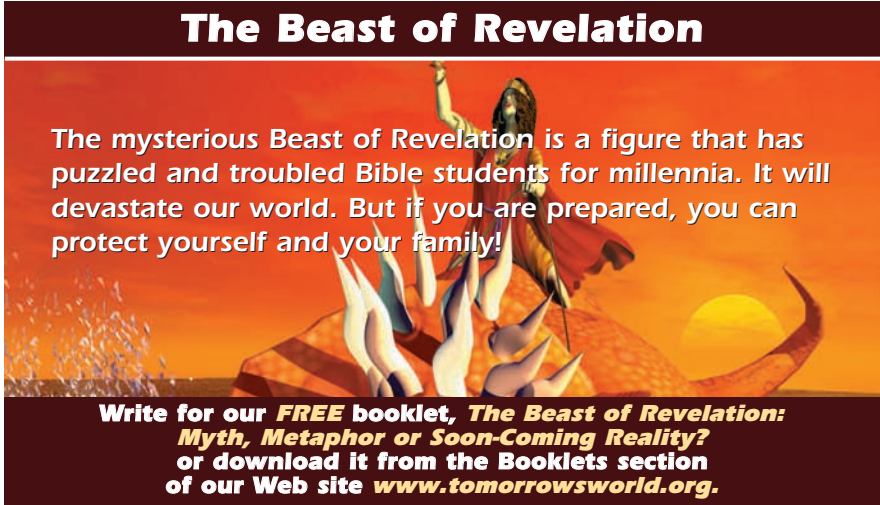
The King of kings, Jesus Christ, will win the war against the immense combined military might of rebellious humanity. Then Christ will judge the evil world powers which are symbolized by the beasts of Revelation 13 and 17. Who is the leopard-like seven-headed, ten-horned beast of Revelation 13, having feet like a bear and a mouth like a lion? Who is the beast with two horns, appearing like a lamb but speaking like a dragon? Who is the woman riding the beast of Revelation 17? Write for your free copy of our booklet, *Revelation: The Mystery Unveiled!*—it will explain their meaning and identi-

ty, and what this means for your future and the future of the world.

After "the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (see Revelation 16:14), the Prince of Peace will rule all nations. For the first time in human history, mankind will begin to enjoy genuine world peace. "And the LORD shall be King over all the earth" (Zechariah 14:9). The saints will rule on earth with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4–6), and then on into eternity.

The book of Revelation reveals that we can look forward to the coming Kingdom of God. As we watch and wait, we should pray daily: "*Your* kingdom come!" Soon after the thousand years of Christ's Millennial rule on earth are completed, the New Jerusalem will come to a renewed heaven and earth (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21). God will once and for all have put away Satan the devil, and the universe will enjoy glorious peace for all eternity. Dangerous times are ahead, but the book of Revelation shows us the hope that awaits—the time when God's faithful people will inherit the earth, and ultimately the whole universe. Thank God for the glory He will bestow on us and His creation! ■

## The Beast of Revelation



The mysterious Beast of Revelation is a figure that has puzzled and troubled Bible students for millennia. It will devastate our world. But if you are prepared, you can protect yourself and your family!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, *The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality?* or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations for the article, "What if the U.S. fails in Iraq?" (March-April 2007). I know that if it was not for the kindness and generosity of those who are voluntarily supporting *Tomorrow's World* with their tithes and offerings, I would not receive the life-changing literature that you always send to me, free of charge, upon my request. God bless all those people who support this wonderful and unique Christian ministry.

A. M., Campo do Brito, Brazil

I have been receiving your magazine and literature for about a year now. I am 21 years old and I would just like to let you know what a blessing and enjoyment your material has been to me (especially to my growth as a Christian). Thank you again, and may God continue to bless you as you reach others around the world with His word. I am anxiously looking forward to my next issue of *Tomorrow's World* magazine.

P. F., Eleuthera, Bahamas

I am glad that I have friends like you. It is always great to hear from you and to read all the good news (and the bad). I don't know what I would have done if I did not hear from you. Thank you very much for your outreach to us in South Africa.

F. J., Parys, South Africa

I have recently started doing the online *Bible Study Course*, and I've studied the word. But this *Bible Study Course* is the only one I've found that the course totally lets the Bible interpret itself. This is a great *Bible Study Course*!

K. L., Victorville, CA

I would like to say to you I have been a Bible student in different colleges, and I hold a B.A. (Honors) Theology, but the teachings I am getting from your publications give more enlighten-

ment to me than all of what I have been studying in Bible schools. I would like to say to your knowledge of the word of God, and the wisdom you are applying on it, is beyond the natural mind. The world has been blinded; I need your teachings in my life.

P. M., Rotherham, United Kingdom

I thank you all so much for the free *Bible Study Course*. I have just completed Lesson 24, and I am amazed at the vast number of things that I have learned in the time that I have been studying with you. The structure of the lessons has permitted me to do one lesson a day during school days. This serves as devotional time and I learn so much to see me through the day. Above all, I have learned throughout this study, just how much the Word of God has the power to change lives. May God continue to bless you abundantly.

G. N., Montreal, QC, Canada

I really enjoy the *Tomorrow's World* telecast. I have learned so many truths that I never learned in church. I find that today many religious leaders preach their version of the truth, whereas you take the words right from the Holy Bible and tell it plainly for all to comprehend. Please keep up the good work, and thank you so very much for your free literature and booklets, which I in turn pass on to a few younger people who are learning this truth.

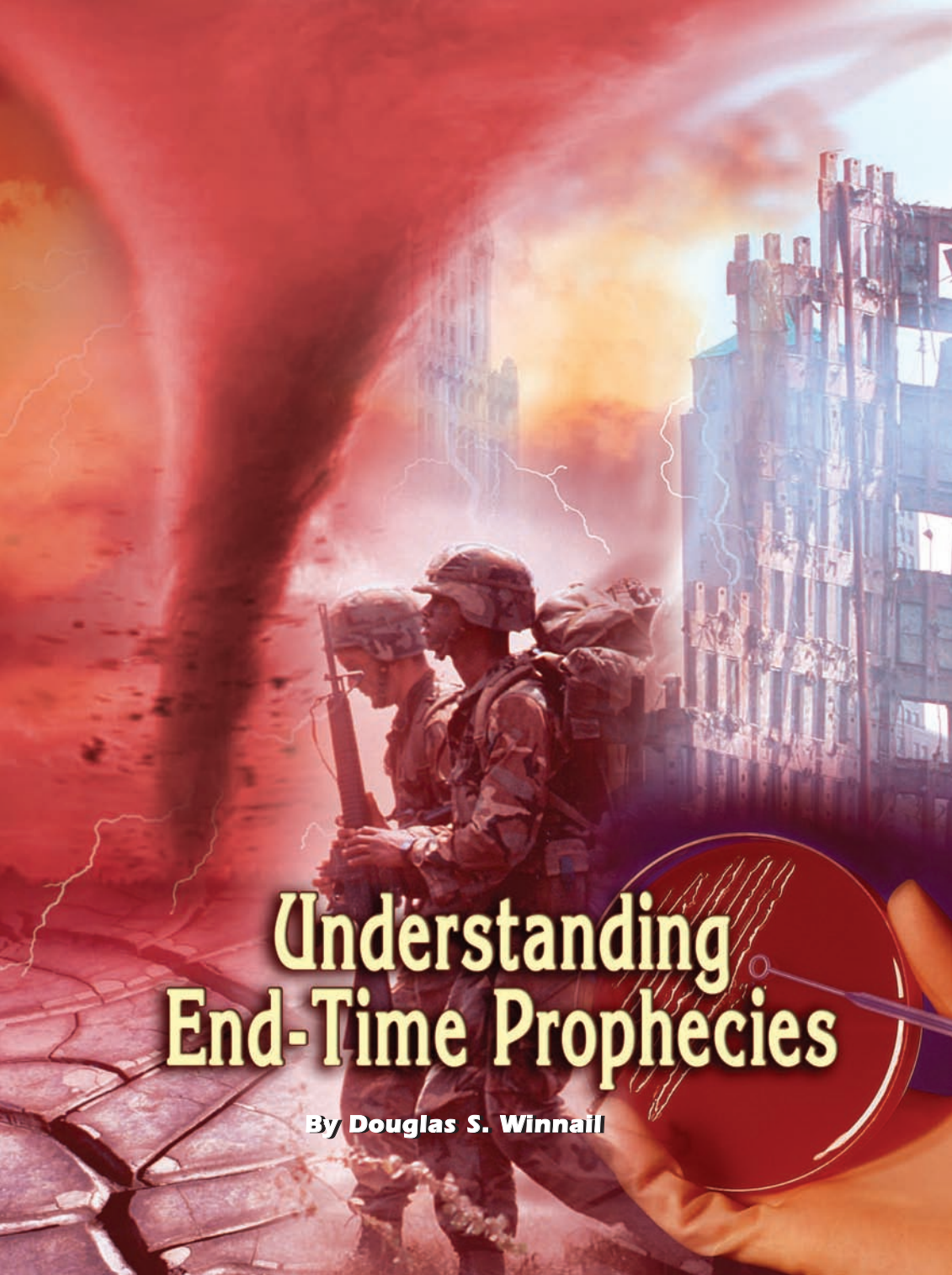
C. L., Blind River, ON, Canada

Thank you so much for making your booklets available. It has made a tremendous difference in the way I have been seeing things in this world we live in. It has given me a desire to study God's word in a way I never have before. In fact, I have been spending most of my free time with my face buried in the Bible. I have also found a wealth of information on your Web site.

D. S., Vinton, LA

**We encourage you to share with us your reactions to *Tomorrow's World*. Please direct your correspondence to "Letters to the Editor" at our United States address, or send e-mail to [letters@tomorrowsworld.org](mailto:letters@tomorrowsworld.org). Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number.**





# Understanding End-Time Prophecies

By Douglas S. Winnail

**Few subjects today generate more doubt, fear and confusion than this vital subject!**

**E**ver since the development of nuclear weapons at the close of World War II, the world has lived under the menacing shadow of nuclear annihilation. The outbreak of international terrorism and the flare-up of hostilities in the

Middle East have rekindled this threat. These fears are joined by concerns about epidemic diseases such as HIV-AIDS, cholera, drug-resistant tuberculosis and hemorrhagic fevers that can spread rapidly around the globe. At the same time, we are witnessing

record-breaking droughts, fires, famines, and more extreme weather conditions—floods, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes and tidal waves—that many associate with global climate change. Is there any significance to these concurrent and calamitous events?

Many “Bible-believing” people recognize a connection between today’s news and the ancient “end-time” prophecies recorded in Scripture. Yet others, aware of so many self-styled prophets’ failed prophecies and projections of the world’s end, are skeptical about the significance of the Bible’s end-time prophecies.

Theologians and academics often question and ridicule the accuracy and authenticity of Scripture, which only fans such skepticism. In addition, many today who say they believe in God *do not know what the Bible actually says!* So it is not surprising that many people are confused about what lies ahead.

## **Biblical Ignorance Prevails!**

Studies show that many professing

Christians *cannot identify* the first five books of the Bible, *cannot remember* any of the Ten Commandments, and *cannot name* the four Gospels or Jesus' twelve disciples (*Religious Literacy*, Prothero, pp. 1, 5, 30). The United States, one of the most openly religious nations in the world, has also been called "a nation of biblical illiterates." Given such scriptural ignorance, it is no surprise that many people today *do not recognize the significance of world events that coincide with Bible prophecies about the end-times*.

The problem is worsened by scholars and preachers who misinterpret and misapply Scripture, or who undermine its authority with their intellectual speculations. Even most churchgoers find that their preachers usually give Sunday morning sermons on "non-controversial" topics like love, forgiveness, faith and joy—and seldom or never mention the Bible's many prophetic books, because most pastors simply do not understand prophecy (*End Times*, Walvoord, p. v).

Yet 25 to 30 percent of the Bible is prophecy. Approximately 50 percent of all the biblical prophecies have been *literally fulfilled*—as history can document (*ibid.*, p. 7). Another 50 percent—many relating to the "latter days" or "end-times"—*have yet to be fulfilled*. And those end-times increasingly resemble the times in which we are now living!

With so much of the Bible devoted to prophecy, *why* do most people fail to understand the many end-time prophecies? *Why* do theologians *fail* to make connections between ancient Bible prophecies and world events that are *making news today*? *Why* do preachers and religious teachers ignore or explain away important

details of Bible prophecy? *Why* are people unaware that Scripture *reveals* where world events are leading in the years just ahead? Both the Bible and history provide important answers that you need to understand—because your future is at stake!

## **Apostles, Eccentrics and Skeptics**

Concerns about "the end of the world" run deep in the roots of western civilization (see *A Brief History of the End of the World*, Pearson, p. 1). Two thousand years ago, Jesus' disciples asked Him, "What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3). Jesus did not dismiss the question, nor did He say that He would return unexpectedly *at any moment*. Instead, He listed a *series of specific events* that would let His disciples know His return was near (see Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). The Apostle Paul described specific end-time events that would occur just before Jesus' return (see 2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Timothy 4:1–3; 2 Timothy 3, 4). The Apostle John was inspired to write the book of Revelation, which is a veritable outline of end-time events, building on the book of Daniel and the writings of other Old Testament prophets.

It is said of the book of Revelation, "the final book of the Christian Bible has probably had more influence on history and human behavior generally than any other single piece of writing... it has variously *terrified* and *inspired* millions over the last two thousand years" (Pearson, p. 19). Soon after John completed Revelation, self-appointed religious teachers began to distort and misapply this intriguing and out-

wardly mysterious book. In the second century AD, a charlatan named Montanus, claiming to be a reincarnation of the Holy Spirit, appeared in Asia Minor with two prophetesses. They would fall into trances, make ecstatic utterances and preach that the end of the world was near. Montanus, distorting Revelation 21, urged people to abandon their homes and gather at a certain village to await the arrival of the New Jerusalem. When Montanus' prophecies *failed to occur*, new dates were set as the movement spread across North Africa to Rome and Gaul (Pearson, pp. 75–79). Montanus was merely one of the first of many misguided individuals who misread and misjudged Bible prophecies about the end-times.

Through the centuries, religious movements heralding the end of the world spawned violence against others who did not share their views. Many misguided religious leaders have urged their followers to "eliminate" unbelievers to prepare the earth for the kingdom of God (Pearson, pp. 122–133). During the Middle Ages, popes in Rome launched the Crusades by preaching hatred against Muslims, Jews and dissenters from the Roman Church, in an attempt to regain control of the Holy Land, restore "Christian" unity and bring about their idea of the Kingdom of God on earth. Interestingly, self-proclaimed prophets and "messiahs" who required celibacy or strict sexual abstinence from their followers often took *many wives* for themselves as they prepared for the end of the world and the coming kingdom of God. Down through the ages, dozens of end-of-the-world dates have been set and re-set: 500AD, 666, 800, 1000, 1666, 1668, 1694, 1700, 1757, 1761,



1836 (proposed by John Wesley), 1844, 1975 and 2000—all supposedly based on Bible prophecies. Yet all these dates have come and gone, and the world is still here.

Speculations about the end of the world are not limited to “Christian” sources. The Mayan calendar predicts that the world will end on December 22, 2012 with the death of the sun (Pearson, p. 285). Pagan Norse sagas written in the tenth century contain vivid tales of how the world will end. Apocalyptic Jewish groups are busy today preparing to reinstitute sacrifices and temple worship in Jerusalem to hasten the return of the Messiah. Muslim extremists are willing to promote an East-West confrontation to hasten the return of the *Mahdi* who they believe will establish a worldwide caliphate in which everyone will be converted to the Muslim faith or be “eliminated” (Pearson, pp. 80–85). In today’s environment, some consider the Bible’s end-time prophecies *dangerous, scary, delusional* and *intentionally provocative* (see *A History of the End of the World*, Kirsch, pp. 1, 99, 103, 249).

## Sanitizing the Biblical Text

Hoping to counter the *literal* use of biblical prophecy, early church leaders adopted *novel strategies* that are still with us today. Theologians such as Augustine (354–430AD) promoted the idea that “good Christians should not commit the error” of reading Bible prophecies *literally*, but instead must understand them “as an *allegory* rather than a plain depiction of what will actually happen when the world comes to an end” (Kirsch, p. 116). Religious leaders influenced by Greek phi-

losophy saw Bible prophecies as *symbols* of the struggle between good and evil, not as descriptions of real events. Prophecies about Jesus Christ’s millennial reign on the earth, assisted by the saints (see Revelation 20:4–6), were to be viewed as *symbolic* and not as a future reality. In Augustine’s allegorical theology, the kingdom of God *existed here and now as the Catholic Church*—not as a future government Jesus Christ would establish at His return—though Augustine’s view plainly contradicts Scripture (see Revelation 5:10; 11:15–18; Daniel 7:27)!

This *allegorical method* of interpreting biblical prophecy came out of Alexandria, a north African city, in the second century AD. It stands in stark contrast to the *literal* view of prophecy that the Church had accepted from its beginning (Walvoord, p. 9). Jesus’ prophecy about the future destruction of the temple *was literally fulfilled* in 70AD—about 40 years after He spoke it—so early Christians had no reason to assume that His other prophecies about subsequent events, including His return and the end of this age, would be merely allegorical, not related to literal events (see Matthew 24:1–31). Remember, Jesus asked His disciples to “watch” for the events He described, so they would be prepared for His return (Matthew 24:32–44).

However, from about the fourth century onward, the Roman Catholic church adopted and actively promoted Augustine’s allegorical views of prophecy. Gradually, the exciting literal message that had motivated the first Christians was rejected—first as an *allegory* and then as a *heresy*—by theologians in the Roman church (see *The Decline and Fall of*

*the Roman Empire*, Gibbon, chapter 15). The Roman church took as its dogma the idea that the church was the kingdom of God, described by allegory in Scripture. This allegorical view was accepted by many of the Protestant reformers, and continues today in many Protestant churches, as well as the Roman church. So it is no surprise that few today have any real understanding about the biblical details of literal end-time prophecies of the coming Kingdom of God.

One way early theologians undermined the plainly literal message of Bible prophecy was to cast doubt on the accuracy and authenticity of its major prophetic books. Early critics charged that the book of Daniel was written not by Daniel ca. 600BC, but rather by an imposter in the second century BC who was recording history—not prophecy—after the events had already occurred! Today’s liberal scholars use similar arguments, even though they do not stand up under scrutiny. Jesus Himself said that the book of Daniel’s prophecies were written by “Daniel the prophet” (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14). Copies of the book of Daniel were also found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, dated to the second century BC, which shows that the book was written long before (Walvoord, p. 105).

Similarly, a scholar studying a clay tablet in the British Museum recently made a discovery providing “dramatic proof of the accuracy of the Old Testament” (*The Times*, July 11, 2007). The name of King Nebuchadnezzar’s chief eunuch was found on a clay tablet dated from 595BC—matching a name recorded in Jeremiah 39:1–3. A later writer would not likely have known or recorded

accurately such a minor detail from centuries before.

Since eccentric self-appointed prophets like Montanus had made it a favorite text for end-of-the-world predictions, some early theologians sought to discredit Revelation by saying the Apostle John did not actually write the troublesome book. As a result, Revelation became a “disputed” book that some thought did not belong in the Bible (Kirsch, p. 107). Jerome (340–420AD), who translated the Bible into Latin, expressed frustration at the “mysteries” in Revelation. Martin Luther considered Revelation neither “apostolic nor prophetic.” Other critics have declared the book “dangerous” and sub-Christian, upset by its apparently bizarre imagery, its portrayal of a violent and vengeful Jesus armed with a two-edged sword (see Revelation 19:11–15), and its lack of Jesus’ gentle teachings to “love your neighbor” (Kirsch, pp. 101–103). For these and other reasons, well-meaning but misguided theologians have tried to make the book of Revelation “safe for human consumption” by stressing that it should be read *not* as a book concerning *real events*, but only as an *allegory*—as the *symbolic* struggle between good and evil (*ibid.*, p. 118).

### Back to Reality!

However, the Bible itself clearly states that its prophecies are meant to be understood by God’s

true servants. The Apostle John was inspired to write, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him *to show His servants—things which must shortly take place*... Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy” (Revelation 1:1–3). Anciently, God told the prophet Amos, “Surely the Lord GOD does noth-



ing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). God told Daniel to explain a king’s dream by saying, “there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar *what will be in the latter days*... the great God has made known to the king *what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure*” (Daniel 2:28, 45). The Apostle Peter stated plainly that the true Church has “*a more sure word of prophecy*” (2 Peter 1:19, KJV). God has given His Church (which a dozen times in the New Testament is called “the church of God”—see 1 Corinthians 1:2; 10:32; 11:22; 15:9; Galatians 1:13) a unique understanding of prophecy so it can warn this world about the true significance of end-time events and what lies ahead!

Bible students recognize that fulfilled prophecy is one of the

most dramatic proofs of Scripture’s divine inspiration, and that God “has revealed in prophecy His sovereign plan for history, a plan that has been unfolding for thousands of years” (Walvoord, p. vii). In fact, no other purported “holy book” contains anywhere near the quantity or quality of prophecies found throughout the Bible. Prophesied “end-time” events were meant to serve as signposts that will indicate the soon-coming end of this present age, and the return of Jesus Christ to set up the Kingdom of God on this earth. But what are those signs?

### End-Time Prophecies

Jesus told His disciples that one preliminary sign of the end of the age would be a plethora of false teachers claiming to represent Him. He also warned of widespread religious confusion, escalating war and violence, terrible epidemics and diseases, and other disasters including unprecedented weather upsets—such as droughts, floods, famines and earthquakes (Matthew 24:3–10). Christ foretold that these events would begin to occur at a time when mankind could destroy all life on earth (Matthew 24:21–22)—which first became a real possibility after World War II with the development of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

As these signs appear, Scripture shows that violence will begin to escalate in the Middle East. End-time prophecies reveal that Jerusalem will become the center of world attention, and will “become a very heavy stone

(Continued on page 29)



# Tomorrow's Youth

## Not As Many As There Used To Be

Western North Carolina has some interesting folks tucked away in its mountains. One I always enjoyed seeing was a former World War II glider pilot named Cecil. Although he rarely talked about it, a lot of guns had gone off near Cecil's ears in those daring days of his youth. Whenever I went out to visit Cecil, sooner or later he would lament, "Ya know, thar aren't as many birds as thar used to be. Hardly ever hear a bird sing anymore." Of course, the problem was his hearing, but Cecil really believed there were fewer birds than there used to be.

I am older now, and am beginning to think Cecil was right about the birds. Maybe my hearing is not what it used to be, but my eyesight is just fine—and, in case you have not noticed, there just are not as many children as there used to be in Canada (where I live), or in most of the Western countries. Anecdotal and statistical evidence bear out the painful truth.

My father was one of 13 children born on a farm during the first quarter of the 20th century. His parents loved and valued him, just as they loved and valued every one of his brothers and sisters. Such a large family was not considered very unusual then, but today people often think there is something wrong with you if you have half as many children as he had brothers and sisters. People may even laugh at you if you have a large family; they shake their heads, make jokes, and wonder if you understand how these things happen. But the lack of children is not a laughing matter. A few thoughtful people are starting to wake up to a startling reality: no longer are the Western nations worried about a population explosion; the bomb we are facing is a population implosion. Not enough children are being born to prevent the nations' populations from declining.

In recent years, Canadian women have on average given birth to just 1.48 children each, yet

Canada's birth rate is among the highest in the Western world. Demographers tell us that the "replacement rate" is 2.1 babies per woman, and that of all the Western democracies, only the United States' women at 2.11 are keeping pace with death. Nineteen of the world's 20 lowest birth rates are found in Europe, where the overall rate stands at 1.32. Russia stands at an abysmal 1.14.

Canada-born author Mark Steyn reports: "Seventeen European nations are now at what demographers call 'lowest-low' fertility: 1.3 births per woman. In theory, those countries will find their population halving every 35 years or so. In practice, it will be quicker than that, as the savvier youngsters figure there's no point sticking around a country that's turned into an undertaker's waiting room"

(*America Alone*, p. 11). Steyn observes that nations who fail to value their own children will eventually be taken over by the children of their enemies. When a country is too bothered to produce its own children, the children of others will fill the void, bringing about the kinds of problems seen in last year's "youth riots" in France, and the tensions found elsewhere in Europe—clashes of civilizations, cultures, religions and ideas.

This is a disastrous trend, though the average Westerner seems unconcerned about the consequences. What will happen to the housing market when countries like Greece halve their population over the next 35 years? Who will support the ever-increasing army of the wrinkled retired? When energetic youth flee to greener pastures with lower taxes, how will this worsen the already critical problem of funding the government in heavily socialized countries? What will happen to cultures that replace their never-born babies with immigrant children of radically different cultures?



So why have children fallen out of favor with the present generation of Europeans, Canadians, Russians and Japanese? No single cause explains it. Our lust for the “good life”—defined by the acquisition of material things—has deceived us into becoming too busy, too self-absorbed and too self-occupied. In short, we have become too selfish to want to be tied down with “rug rats” and “ankle-biters.” Today’s adults have chosen their own toys over children and their toys. At the same time, radical feminism has contributed to a breakdown of traditional roles in marriage. Many women are more interested in fulfilling themselves in the workplace than in the nursery or on the playground. Newly married couples often finish college with huge debts, which they pay off with time-consuming career choices—until they learn that the biological clock has run out of sand, and it is too late, despite the amazing scientific interventions that seem to work for others.

Some believe they are fulfilling their patriotic or environmental duty by forgoing children or limiting their family to just one. The “pill” has reduced the number of “accidental” births, yet has also reduced people’s fear of one potential consequence of fornication—pregnancy. This has led to a dramatic rise in sexually transmitted diseases, some of which cause sterility.

When parents do decide to have children, the little ones are reared in an environment quite unlike what my parents knew. Dr. Spock and the self-esteem movement have brought entirely new theories of permissive discipline. Many parents are afraid to discipline a disrespectful child; they hope a “time-out” will do the job—but what happens when this does not work? As someone who works with young people, I often see the result of the neglect that is now so com-

mon. Too many children are just not as high up on their parents’ priority list as they ought to be—and the evidence of their lives bears this out.

Millennia ago, the Bible described what happens when a society rejects generations of sound child-rearing principles. “The people will be oppressed, every one by another and every one by his neighbor; the child will be insolent toward the elder, and the base toward the honorable.... As for My people, children are their oppressors...” (Isaiah 3:5, 12). Scripture also predicts accurately the attitudes of

both parents and children at the end of this age.

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy” (2 Timothy 3:1–2).

These and other social factors have caused children to fall in popularity. Many adults no longer see children

as what they are: “a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them...” (Psalm 127:3–5). How sad! And how tragic the results will be for nations that no longer value their greatest natural resource and treasure!

Thankfully, there is good news! The Bible describes a time in the near future when marriage and family will be popular once again, when men and women will understand their roles, when children will be valued and when peace and tranquility will reign on earth. “Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets” (Zechariah 8:4–5). That wonderful time is the very subject of this magazine, and is the true future hope for tomorrow’s youth!

—Gerald Weston





# “It’s the Economy, Stupid!”

Today, looking back on several years of turmoil in Iraq, it may be hard to remember just how popular the current U. S. President’s father was at the end of the “first Gulf War.” In the spring of 1991, President George H. W. Bush held an almost-unprecedented 89 percent approval rating when an obscure Democratic governor named Bill Clinton hoped to unseat him.

To deflate Bush’s seemingly insurmountable lead in the polls, Clinton’s colorful political strategist James Carville emphasized a simple-yet-incisive slogan: “It’s the economy, stupid!” Within 18 months, Bush’s approval rating had dropped by 60 percentage points, and Clinton was elected as the 42nd President of the United States.

Carville clearly understood the dominant American mind-set. And the state of the economy is important for people’s physical well-being. But when we look to the economy at the expense of all else, our values go awry, leading to a materialistic short-term mentality—and often to spiraling personal debt as we strive to “keep up” with those around us.

Yet this predicament is not new. Anciently, the prophet Haggai described the situation: “Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes’” (Haggai 1:5–6).

Haggai’s ancient words perfectly describe the situation many people face today.

Jesus told a story about a man who looked only to the economy. “Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no

room to store my crops?’” So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’” (Luke 12:16–20).

This man kept his mind focused on his economic gain. And God called him a “fool”!

Those who watch only the economy will be misled. Jesus Christ warned that many will be carrying on “business as usual” right up until the time of His return: “And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: they ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that

Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all” (Luke 17:26–29).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ gave succinct instructions: “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:31–33).

Are you seeking God’s kingdom, and His righteousness, as a way of life? Prosperity can last only if it is based on godly principles. Both individually and as a nation, we should seek first the Kingdom of God. Only then can we truly prosper.

—J. Davy Crockett, III



## End-Time Prophecies (Continued from page 25)

[a burden] for all peoples... though all nations of the earth are gathered against it" (Zechariah 12:1-3). Jesus also said, "when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near" because the city "will be trampled by Gentiles" for three-and-a-half years (Luke 21:20-24; Revelation 11:1-2) and half of its people will be taken into captivity (Zechariah 14:1-2). These events will occur at a time when the "daily sacrifices were taken away" (Daniel 8:11). How can they be taken away when they have not yet been reestablished? Interestingly, several Orthodox Jewish groups have been preparing to reinstate the animal sacrifices prescribed by Jewish ritual law.

End-time Bible prophecies also reveal that while the above-mentioned events are taking place, significant developments will occur in Europe. Scripture explains that a confederation of ten nations or groups of nations, with historical links to the ancient Roman Empire, will arise in Europe just before the return of Jesus Christ (Daniel 2:40-43). These ten nations will surrender their sovereignty to a strong political leader called "the beast" (Revelation 17:12-13). This cunning political leader will cooperate with a prominent religious leader—the false prophet (see Revelation 13)—who will be the head of a church with global influence, a long record of involvement in European politics, and a record of brutal persecution of those who believe in the Bible (Revelation 17:1-6). The false prophet will deceive

the world with miracles (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). He will promote ecumenical activities in an effort to reassemble the fragmented "Christian" churches under his authority (see Isaiah 47:1-8). Bible prophecies show that this confederation in Europe (led by Germany—"Assyria"—see Isaiah 10:5-19) will take a militant turn, and when provoked by an adversary to the south (most likely a Muslim confederacy) will move into the Middle East and occupy the Holy Land (Daniel 11:36-45). However, Scripture indicates that this resurgent European power will be short-lived, defeated by Jesus Christ at His return (Daniel 2:41-45).

We should be sobered to realize that we are living at a time when these end-time prophecies are *coming alive!* For the last 50 years, efforts to unite Europe have moved steadily forward, with the encouragement and blessing of popes and pressure from an increasingly influential Germany. At the same time, we have seen the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, which threatens to overwhelm Europe from within and without. Recent news reports from the Middle

East suggest that due to the increasing violence in the region, Israel may ask the European Union to send troops to join United Nations personnel trying to stabilize the region (*Associated Press*, June 13, 2007). All this is happening while we are witnessing increasingly severe weather and other disasters around the world—which God revealed would happen just before the end of the age and the return of Jesus Christ.

Newspapers today are filled with reports of events long ago foretold in the Bible. Yet news commentators—and most religious leaders—simply do not recognize the prophetic significance of those events. Today, critics even question the existence of God and the inspiration of the Bible. Yet prophecy is one of the major proofs that the Bible is the inspired word of an almighty God who intervenes in world affairs. You need to prove this to yourself, and to "watch" the world events Bible prophecy reveals will occur just before the return of Jesus Christ. You *can understand* Bible prophecy so you will *not be surprised* by the rush of events that will mark the end of this age! ■

### Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in World Affairs

Can you see the "hand of God" in the events reported in your newspaper? Do you know how to recognize fulfilled prophecies occurring right around us? for His purpose!



Write for our **FREE** booklet, **Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in World Affairs**, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site **www.tomorrowworld.org**.



## Is It “Decision Time”?

(Continued from page 2)

they are. They feel at ease in *their* social circle, in *their* church and with *their* basic “way of life.” They **do not** want to genuinely **change** any of these things. Indeed, the vast majority of people will **not change** unless they are “shaken” out of their spiritual and intellectual lethargy!

Of course, God knows this. So, He—the Creator of humankind—is about to intervene in human affairs and **shake** the nations as they have *never been shaken*! God “speaks” to those who understand, “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, *whose voice then shook the earth*; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I **shake** not only the earth, but also heaven’” (Hebrews 12:25–26).

Again, speaking of these “last days”—just before His Second Coming—Jesus Christ stated, “For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:21–22).

Personally, I am very grateful that God opened my eyes to the real Truth of the Bible nearly 60 years ago. For the first 19 years of my life, I had been reared in a “mainstream” Protestant church. My entire family and I were certainly “mainstream” in every way—involved in local civic functions, bridge clubs, dances, parties, sports and the like.

However, a series of events genuinely “shook” me. I began to earnestly and sincerely *seek God*. I *cried out* to Him to reveal His will to me. And, for the first time in my life, I began to actually **study** the entire Bible. Then, through God’s mercy and through His Spirit, I was given genuine **understanding** of the Bible and of the fundamental “keys” that unlock the meaning of about 90 percent of end-time prophecy.

*The rest is history.*

So I am now writing you—and *implo*ring you in the name of Jesus Christ—to be willing to really “seek God” as never before! I urge you to study your Bible, and to

be willing to accept the Truth when it is presented to you *from the Bible*. Then, I encourage you to **act** on that Truth—so you and your loved ones may be spared from the Great Tribulation which Jesus Christ described. For, in Luke’s account of Jesus’ famous Olivet Prophecy about these **end-times**, he writes that Jesus concluded His prophecy with these inspired words, “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to **escape** all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36).

If *you* truly wish to “follow through” and to **act** on what your Bible actually teaches, you will certainly want to meet and fellowship with others who believe the Truth. As God’s word instructs, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24–25).

All of us need the fellowship, the help and the encouragement that comes from meeting together with true believers—those people who actually believe and *practice* what the Bible says. If *you* would like to inquire about meeting with others who truly believe the Bible, then be sure to *write us* at the address of our Regional Office closest to you as listed below on this page. Or you may wish to *phone* us at the numbers listed. Or you can contact us online at our Web site, [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org). One of our ministers or trained representatives will be happy to contact you, if you wish. But *no one* will try to visit you without first setting up an appointment at a time and place *convenient to you*!

For many of you, this may be your first real opportunity to meet a *true* representative of Jesus Christ, and to ask biblical questions and related questions about the purpose of life and to discuss the entire issue of how to obey the God of the Bible in a way you have never done before. The Apostle James tells us, “But be **doers** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22).

If God is now truly opening *your mind* to His Truth, this may be “decision time” for you. May God grant you the *understanding* and the courage to act.



**UNITED STATES:** P.O. Box 3810 • CHARLOTTE, NC 28227-8010 • [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org) • PHONE: (704) 844-1970. **AUSTRALASIA:** PO Box 300 • CLARENDON, SA 5157, AUSTRALIA • PHONE: (61) 8-8383-6288 • FAX: (61) 8-8127-9667. **CANADA:** P.O. Box 409 • MISSISSAUGA, ON L5M 2B9 • PHONE: (905) 814-1094 • FAX: (905) 814-7659. **NEW ZEALAND:** P.O. Box 2767 • AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND • PHONE/FAX: (09) 268 8985. **PHILIPPINES:** PO Box 492 • ARANETA CENTER POST OFFICE • 1135 QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES • PHONE: (63) 2-723-0499 • FAX: (63) 2-414-5349. **SOUTH AFRICA:** PRIVATE BAG X7 • HATFIELD, PRETORIA, 0028 • PHONE: (27) 58-622-1424 • FAX: (27) 58-623-1303. • **UNITED KINGDOM:** BM Box 2345 • LONDON, WC1N 3XX • PHONE/FAX: 44 (0) 844-800-9322.

# TOMORROW'S WORLD Television and Radio Log

## INTERNATIONAL:

—**AUSTRALIA**  
**NSW, Sydney:** TVS—Ch 31, SUN 6:00 am  
**QLD, Brisbane:** Briz 31—Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am  
**SA, Adelaide:** Access—Ch 31, SUN 11:30 am; THUR 8:30 pm  
**VIC, Melbourne:** MCTC—Ch 31, SUN 11:30 pm  
**WA, Perth:** Access 31—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am  
 —**BARBADOS**  
**St. Michael:** CBC—Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am  
 —**ICELAND**  
**Reykjavik:** Gospel Channel—MON 7:00 am  
**Satellites:** Eurobird—Ch 770, Thor II  
 —**JAMAICA**  
**Kingston:** TVJ—Ch 7, 9, 11 & 13, SUN 9:00 am  
 —**NEW ZEALAND**  
**Nationwide:** PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:00 am  
 —**PHILIPPINES**  
**Naga City:** PBN—Ch 5, SUN 8:00 am  
**Naga City:** Bilinet Cable—Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am  
 —**SOUTH AFRICA**  
**Randburg:** CSN—SUN 5:30 pm  
 —**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**  
**Trinidad,** Port of Spain: CCN—Ch 6, SAT 3:30 pm  
 —**UNITED KINGDOM AND NW EUROPE**  
**United Kingdom:** WORD Network-SKY-TV—Ch 771, FRI 6:30 am  
**The Gospel Channel:** Sky—Ch 770, MON 7:00 pm  
 —**EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST:**  
**Europe, North Africa, Middle East:** Hotbird 6 FRI 6:30 am UTC

## UNITED STATES:

**AK, Anchorage:** GCI—Ch 18, SAT 10:00 pm  
**AL, Birmingham:** Bright House—Ch 4, TUE 2:30 pm  
**AL, Troy/Montgomery:** WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 6:30 am  
**AR, Fayetteville:** KNWA—Ch 51, SUN 6:30 am  
**AR, Fayetteville:** Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm  
**AR, Fort Smith:** KFTA—Ch 24, SUN 6:30 am  
**AR, Little Rock:** KASN—Ch 38, SUN 9:30 am  
**AZ, Lake Havasu City:** KLHU—Ch 45, SUN 9:00 am  
**AZ, Phoenix:** KAZI—Multi, SUN 11:30 am  
**AZ, Prescott:** Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 12:30 pm  
**AZ, Tucson:** Access—Ch 73/98, SAT 12:30 pm; SUN 7:30 pm  
**CA, Chatsworth:** Time Warner—Ch 34, SUN 9:00 pm  
**CA, Eureka:** Sudden Link Cable—Ch 12, SUN 8:00 pm  
**CA, Garden Grove:** Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 9:30 am & 6:30 pm  
**CA, Glendora:** Adelphia—Ch 3/99, TUE 7:00 pm  
**CA, Hollywood:** Time Warner—Ch 24 & 27, SUN 11:00 am  
**CA, Livermore:** Comcast—Ch 26, THUR 2:30 pm  
**CA, Modesto:** Community Media—Ch 8, TUE 5:00 pm; FRI 1:30 pm  
**CA, North Orange County:** Time Warner—Ch 95/97/98m SUN 3:30 pm  
**CA, Redding:** RCAC—Ch 11, SUN 8:30 am  
**CA, Sacramento:** RCCTV—Ch 96, MON 5:30 pm  
**CA, San Diego:** Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm  
**CA, San Diego:** Cox Media—Ch 4, SUN 8:30 am  
**CA, San Diego:** Time Warner—Ch 19, SUN 6:00 pm  
**CA, San Jose:** Community TV—Ch 15A, SAT 11:30 pm  
**CA, Sonoma:** TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm  
**CA, Turlock:** Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm  
**CT, Naugatuck:** Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm  
**FL, Davie:** Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 8:00 am  
**FL, Ft. Lauderdale:** Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 8:30 am  
**FL, Gainesville:** Cox—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm  
**FL, Hialeah/Coral Gables:** Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 7:30 pm  
**FL, Jacksonville:** WTEV—Ch 47, SUN 7:00 am  
**FL, Key West:** Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 8:30 am  
**FL, Margate/Sunrise/Plantation:** Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 7:00 pm  
**FL, Miramar:** Comcast—Ch 19/876 SUN 7:30 am  
**FL, North Dade:** Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 7:30 am  
**FL, Ocala:** Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am  
**FL, Orlando:** Bright House—Ch 21, SAT 9:30 pm  
**FL, Pensacola:** WPAN—Ch 53, SUN 7:30 am  
**FL, Pompano:** Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 7:30 pm  
**FL, South Broward:** Comcast—Ch 79, SUN 8:00 am  
**FL, Tampa:** WTTA—Ch 38, SUN 8:00 am  
**GA, Atlanta:** PTV—Ch 24, FRI 2:00 pm  
**GA, Macon:** Cox Cable—Ch 18, FRI 2:00 pm; SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am  
**GA, Savannah:** Comcast—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am  
**IA, Davenport:** Mediacom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm; WED 8:30 am  
**IA, Des Moines:** Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am  
**IA, Dubuque:** MediaCom—Ch 16, THUR 8:00 pm; MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm  
**ID, Boise:** TVTV—Ch 11, SUN 9:30 pm; MON 11:30 am  
**IL, Bloomington:** Insight—Ch 20, SUN 1:00 pm; MON 10:00 pm  
**IL, Chicago:** WGN—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am  
**IL, Moline:** MediaCom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm  
**IL, Peoria:** Insight, Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm  
**IL, Springfield:** Insight—Ch 4, TUE 10:00 pm  
**IN, Bloomington:** CATS—Ch 3, MON 5:30 pm  
**IN, Fort Wayne:** Comcast—Ch 57, MON 3:00 pm  
**KS, Chanute:** Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm  
**KY, Latonia:** PEG 17—Ch 17, WED 5:30 pm; THUR 12:00 am

**KY, Lexington:** Ch 14, Check Local Listing  
**KY, Lexington:** WUPX—Ch 67, FRI 1:30 pm  
**KY, Louisville:** Insight—Ch 2, SAT 12:00 am  
**LA, Baton Rouge:** KZUP—Ch 44, SUN 8:00 am  
**LA, Lafayette:** KATC—Ch 3, SUN 9:00 am  
**LA, New Orleans:** WHNO—Ch 20, SUN 8:30 am  
**LA, Shreveport:** KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am  
**MA, Boston:** WBPX—Ch 68, WED 7:00 am  
**MA, Cambridge:** CCTV—Ch 22, FRI 11:00 am; SUN 3:00 pm; WED 9:00 am  
**MA, Everett:** Community TV—Ch 3, TUE 1:00 pm  
**MA, Malden:** Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am  
**MD, Baltimore:** Community Media—Ch 75, SUN 9:00 am  
**MD, Rockville:** Community TV—Ch 19, SAT 5:30 pm  
**MD, Westminster:** Adelphia—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am  
**ME, Auburn:** GFTV—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am; SUN 8:00 pm  
**ME, Brunswick:** Cable 7—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am; SUN 6:30 am  
**ME, Detroit:** Comcast—Multi, SUN 7:30 am  
**MI, Kalamazoo:** CACTV—Ch 9, 20-22, 95, SUN 11:30 am  
**MI, Portage:** Access—Ch 19, 20, FRI 10:30 am; TUE 2:00 pm  
**MI, Saginaw:** Charter Media—Ch 16, THUR 2:00 pm  
**MI, Traverse City:** TCTV2—Ch 2, SUN 5:30 pm  
**MN, Bird Island:** BICG—Ch 7, MON 6:30 pm; WED 6:30 pm  
**MN, Duluth:** Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm  
**MN, Hutchinson:** HCVN—Ch 10, FRI 4:00 pm; TUE 4:00 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** Metro Cable—Ch 6, SAT 8:30 am  
**MN, Minneapolis:** MTN—Ch 75, THUR 6:30 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm  
**MN, Roseville:** CIV—Ch 21, TUE 8:00 pm; WED 4:00 am & 12:00 pm  
**MN, St. Paul:** WRBU—Ch 14, SUN 8:30 pm  
**MO, Joplin:** KOAM—Ch 7, SUN 7:00 am  
**MO, Kansas City:** KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 8:00 am  
**MO, Kansas City:** Time Warner—Ch 4, SUN 10:00 pm  
**MO, Springfield:** KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am  
**MO, St. Charles:** Charter—Ch 47, SUN 9:30 am & 9:00 pm  
**MO, St. Louis:** Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm  
**MO, St. Louis:** WRBU—Ch 46, SUN 7:30 am  
**MS, Jackson:** Time Warner—Ch 18, SUN 10:00 am; WED 4:00 pm  
**MS, Jackson:** WAPT—Ch 16, SUN 8:30 am  
**NC, Burlington:** Time Warner—Ch 5/10, SUN 9:00 pm  
**NC, Charlotte:** WAXN—Ch 64, SUN 7:00 am  
**NC, Charlotte:** WHKY—Ch 14/19, MON 7:30 pm  
**NC, Greensboro:** GCTV—Ch 8, SAT 8:00 pm; MON 8:30 pm  
**NC, Wilmington:** Time Warner—Ch 4, MON 11:30 am  
**NC, Hanover:** CATV—Ch 6, SUN 6:00 pm; MON 12:00 am & 6:00 am & 12:00 pm; THUR 7:00 pm; FRI 1:00 am & 7:00 am & 1:00 pm  
**NJ, Audubon:** Comcast—Ch 2, WED 6:30 pm  
**NJ, Camden:** Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 8:00 am  
**NJ, Cape May:** Comcast—Ch 9, SUN 11:00 am  
**NJ, East Windsor:** Comcast—Ch 27, WED 5:30 pm  
**NJ, Oakland:** Cablevision—Ch 76, SUN 7:00 pm; SAT 11:30 am  
**NJ, Trenton:** Comcast—Ch 16, MON 11:00 pm  
**NM, Albuquerque:** CCCC2—Ch 27, SUN 6:30 pm  
**NM, Rio Rancho:** Cable One—Ch 51, THUR 7:00 pm  
**NV, Carson City:** SMCAT—Ch 10, SUN 6:00 pm  
**NV, Gardnerville:** Community Access—Ch 16, SAT 4:30 am & 4:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am & 4:30 pm  
**NV, Reno/Sparks:** SMCAT—Ch 30/16, FRI 6:30 am  
**NV, Albany/Troy:** Time Warner—Ch 18, THUR 5:00 pm  
**NY, Batavia:** Time Warner—Ch 19, TUE 5:30 pm  
**NY, Binghamton:** Time Warner—Ch 4, FRI 5:00 pm  
**NY, Brookhaven:** Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 5:00 am  
**NY, Brooklyn:** BCAT—Ch 35/68, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Canandaigua:** FLYV—Ch 12, SUN 11:00 am  
**NY, Elmira & Corning:** Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 8:00 am  
**NY, Fairport:** FACT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Glens Falls:** Time Warner—Ch 18, FRI, MON-WED 8:00 pm  
**NY, Hauppauge:** Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 5:00 am  
**NY, Irondequoit:** ICAT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; WED 11:30 am & 7:30 pm  
**NY, Ithaca:** Pegasys—Ch 13, SAT 8:00 pm; SUN 7:30 am & 1:30 pm  
**NY, Manhattan:** MNN—Ch 57/85, SAT 7:00 pm  
**NY, New York:** WRNN—Ch 62, SUN 8:30 am  
**NY, Niagara Falls:** Community TV—Ch 20, MON 6:00 am  
**NY, Oneida:** Community Access—Ch 99, THUR 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
**NY, Oneonta:** Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm  
**NY, Queens:** QPTV—Ch 34/35, SAT 3:30 pm; TUE 9:30 pm  
**NY, Rochester:** Community TV—Ch 15, SAT 6:30 am; SUN 11:30 am  
**NY, Rockland County:** Cablevision—Ch 76, SAT 12:30 pm  
**NY, Seneca:** Adelphia—Ch 20, MON 11:35 pm  
**NY, Staten Island:** CIV—Ch 34, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 12:00 pm  
**NY, Syracuse:** Community Access—Ch 98, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Utica:** Time Warner—Ch 99, MON 9:00 pm  
**NY, Wappingers Falls:** Cablevision—Ch 21, FRI 10:00 pm  
**NY, Watertown:** Time Warner—Ch 99, SUN 10:00 am & 6:00 pm; MON 7:00 pm; TUE 7:00 pm  
**NY, Webster:** WCA—Ch 12, SUN 9:00 am  
**NY, Woodbury:** Cablevision—Ch 115, SUN 10:30 am  
**OH, Centerville:** MVCC—Ch 23, FRI 2:30 pm  
**OH, Cincinnati:** Time Warner—Ch 8 & 24, TUE 1:00 pm; THUR 8:30 am; SUN 7:00 pm  
**OH, Dayton:** DSTV—Ch 12, FRI 9:00 AM; SUN 11:00 pm  
**OH, Fairborn:** CAC—Ch 23, TUE 12:00 pm  
**OK, Tulsa:** KMYT—Ch 41, SAT 12:30 am

**OR, Ashland:** RVTY—Ch 15/31/95, SUN 10:00 pm  
**OR, Oregon City:** WFTV—Ch 23, FRI 4:00 pm; SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am; WED 4:00 pm  
**OR, Portland:** MCTV—Ch 11, SUN 12:30 pm  
**PA, Allentown/Bethlehem:** TV2—Ch 50, FRI 4:30 pm  
**PA, Johnstown:** Atlantic Broadband—Ch 9, MON 10:00 pm  
**PA, Lehighton:** BRCTV—Ch 13, SUN 8:30 am  
**PA, Sayre:** Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI 5:00 pm  
**PA, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre:** FOX56 & WOLF—Multi Channels, THUR 5:00 am; SAT 5:00 am  
**RI, Providence:** WPXQ—Ch 69, MON 11:30 am  
**TN, Chattanooga:** WDEF—Ch 12, SUN 8:30 am  
**TN, Knoxville:** WYLR—Ch 48, SUN 7:30 am  
**TN, La Follette:** WLAF—Ch 12, WED 6:00 pm  
**TN, Memphis:** WPTV—Ch 24, SAT 6:30 am  
**TN, Nashville:** WZTV—Ch 17, SUN 6:30 am  
**TX, Austin:** Community Access—Ch 11, WED 7:00 pm  
**TX, Bryan:** KYLE—Ch 44, SUN 7:00 am  
**TX, Dallas:** Community Television—Ch 14b, SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am  
**TX, Houston:** TVMAX—Cable, SUN 9:00 am  
**TX, Lufkin:** KTRK—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am  
**TX, Midland:** KMID—Ch 2, SUN 9:00 am  
**TX, Temple:** KPLE—Ch 31/45, SUN 7:30 pm  
**TX, Tyler:** KLTW—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am  
**TX, Waco:** KWKT—Ch 44, SUN 7:00 am  
**VA, Charlottesville:** Adelphia—Ch 13, MON 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm  
**VA, Chesterfield:** Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm  
**VA, Fairfax:** FPA—Ch 10, MON 12:00 pm  
**VA, Roanoke:** WRDL—Ch 24/54, SUN 7:00 am  
**VA, Virginia Beach:** Cox—Ch 99 & 74, SAT 8:30 am  
**VT, Bennington:** CAT—Ch 15, WED 9:30 am & 12:00 am; THUR 12:00 am & 9:30 pm; SAT 8:00 am & 4:30 pm  
**VT, Burlington:** Community Access—Ch 15, THUR 11:30 am & FRI 12:00 PM  
**VT, Montpelier:** Community Access—Ch 15, SUN 9:30 am  
**VT, Richmond:** Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 6:00 am, 9:00 am, 12:30 pm, 7:00 pm; MON 7:00 am, 1:00 pm  
**VT, Springfield:** SABA TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:00 pm  
**WA, Everett:** Comcast—Ch 77, WED 4:30 pm  
**WA, Kennewick:** Charter—Ch 13/99, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm  
**WA, Seattle:** Community Access—Ch 29, SAT 9:30 am  
**WA, Vancouver:** FVCT—Ch 11, SUN 11:30 am  
**WI, Wausau:** Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am  
**WV, Charleston:** WLXP—Ch 29, TUE 7:00 am  
**WY, Casper:** KTVW—Ch 2, SUN 10:00 am  
**WY, Cheyenne:** KLWY—Ch 27, SUN 10:00 am

## RADIO STATIONS:

**Argentina, Bahia Blanca:** Vida—107.7 FM, MON 8:00 pm; THUR 12:00 pm; SAT 2:00 pm  
**Argentina, Buenos Aires:** Radio General San Martin—610 AM, SUN 10:00 am  
**Chile, Santiago:** Radio Arco Iris—105.3 FM, MON, WED, FRI at 12:00 am & 1:00 am  
**Costa Rica, San Jose:** Radio La Gigante—800 AM, SUN 8:00 am  
**Guadeloupe, Kiliti FM:** 99.4 FM, MON-FRI 6:15 am  
**Guyana, Georgetown:** NCM—560 AM, TUE 7:30 pm  
**Mexico, Monterrey:** XEPR-1140 AM, SAT 4:00 am; SUN 11:00 am  
**Peru, Lima:** Radio Santa Anita-105.1 FM, SUN 9:00 am, MON-SAT 9:00 pm  
**Peru, Cero de Pasco:** 97.7 FM, AM 759, SUN 7:00 pm, MON-FRI 9:00 pm  
**Philippines, Cebu City:** DYLA—909 AM, SUN 6:00 am  
**Philippines, Baguio City:** DZBS—1368 AM, SUN 6:00 am  
**Philippines, Davao City:** DXUM—See Local Listing  
**Philippines, Ozamiz City:** DXOC—1494 AM, SUN 5:00 am  
**USA, La Follette, TN:** WLAF—1450 AM, SAT 3:00 pm

- **Nationwide Cable**  
 WGN—SUN 6:00 am ET  
 WORD—FRI 1:30 am ET
- **DirecTV**  
 WGN—CH 307, SUN 6:00 am ET  
 WORD—CH 373, FRI 1:30 am ET
- **Canada**  
 VISION—SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON 1:30 am; MON-FRI 3:00 am ET  
 ON, Toronto: *The Christian Channel*—Cable, SUN 4:00 pm ET, WED 12:00 ET



# TOMORROW'S **WORLD** *Television and Radio Log*

**WGN:** SUN 6:00 am ET

**WORD:** FRI 1:30 am ET

**VISION,** Canada: SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON–FRI 3:00 am ET

## **NEW U.S.A. TELEVISION STATIONS:**

**CA, Los Angeles:** KPXN–CH 30, SAT 7:30 am

**GA, Atlanta:** WATC–Multi–SUN 9:30 am

## **TOMORROW'S WORLD TELECAST**



### **November 29–December 5**

**Who Is the Beast of Revelation?**

**This mysterious figure will transform our world!**

### **December 6–12**

**Signs of the Second Coming**

**Can we *really* know whether Christ's return is near?**

### **December 13–19**

**Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days?**

**What does Christmas mean to a true Christian?**

### **December 20–26**

**The Challenge of Raising Children**

**God's word reveals vital keys to successful parenting!**