

TOMORROW'S **WORLD**

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A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a pink shirt, and a young man with brown hair, wearing a red shirt, are looking intently at a cigarette held between their fingers. The woman is in the foreground, and the man is slightly behind her. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

**Why Do We
Get High?**



What to Watch in 2008

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

We at *Tomorrow's World* are “watchmen” of Almighty God. As God leads, we are able to warn you of *specific* events just ahead in world affairs. Over and over, the Bible speaks of the “last days”—the “time of the end.” We are now *in* that time. Long-propheesied events seem to be “speeding up” as we come nearer to Christ’s return to this earth as King of kings.

What *are* some of the *specific events* for which we should be “watching” as the **end** approaches?

First, if you understand that the U.S. and British-descended countries are the modern “Israelite” nations, you should realize that those nations will be *brought down* at the end of this age. Our nations have been blessed with *awesome* physical blessings over the last 200 years. But, as a people, we have *turned away* from God. Therefore, in prophecy after prophecy, God’s inspired word predicts a range of punishments that will soon come upon us *if* we fail to repent—if we do not turn to the God of the Bible, the *true* God. If you have not already done so, *be sure* to write or call us to request a copy of our vital booklet on this topic, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It will be sent to you *absolutely free*, upon your request.

In a truly foundational prophecy given to our forefathers, God stated: “But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it” (Leviticus 26:14–16).

Notice that this national chastisement will come if we “despise” God’s commandments and His statutes. Does anyone doubt that the leaders of the U.S. and Britain are relentlessly *removing God’s law and His way* as the reference point for our national and personal way of life? God warned, first of all, that He would “appoint terror” over us as a result. A *series* of terrorist attacks caught our attention on September 11, 2001. Such acts

of terrorism will continue—and *intensify*—as the years go by. So we must “watch and pray” as Jesus Christ instructed (Luke 21:36).

Another key area to “watch” in 2008 and beyond will be the alternating *droughts* and *fires* in some areas, and terrible *storms* and *flooding* in other areas. Last year we saw a continuation of some of these “natural” catastrophes, with heavy flooding again in New Orleans, other parts of Louisiana, and Texas. We also saw horrifying *fires* ravage Southern California in October 2007, and watched the **worst drought** in decades affect many parts of Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky.

In a dual prophecy, which certainly refers to us today, God warns: “I also **withheld rain** from you, when there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered. So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me,” says the LORD” (Amos 4:7–8). So there will be *too much rain* in some areas, and terrible **drought** in others—*unless we repent*.

And in another prophecy for *our time*, Joel was inspired to lament: “O LORD, to You I cry out; for **fire** has devoured the open pastures, and a flame has burned all the trees of the field. The beasts of the field also cry out to You, for the water brooks are dried up, and **fire** has devoured the open pastures” (Joel 1:19–20). Notice that these tragedies were to befall God’s people *just before* the prophesied “Day of the Lord” (v. 15). News reports described last year’s record-breaking fires in Southern California as being like “Armageddon.”

“But,” many will say, “these weather-related disturbances come and go in cycles. They will soon end, and everything will be *back to normal!*”

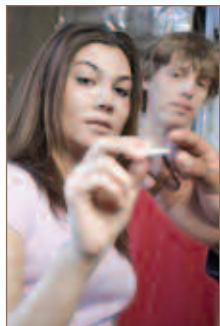
No, my friends!

As these storms and fires increase in intensity—accompanied by massive **earthquakes** and **disease epidemics** (Luke 21:11)—God will use them to

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The Plain Truth About *Homosexuality!*

By Roderick C. Meredith

“**A**ll churches who condemn us will be closed... We shall sodomize your sons.... We shall seduce them in your schools, in your dormitories, in your gymnasiums, in your locker rooms, in your sports arenas, in your seminaries, in your youth groups...”

When “gay activist” Michael Bronski penned those shocking statements in Boston’s *Gay Community News* in February 1987, he labeled them “a cruel fantasy; an eruption of inner rage.” Supporters dismissed his words as mere “satire.”

But, think! If almost *any* other movement were to make such outrageous statements, it would be shunned—or even outlawed and quickly shut down. Yet the very clever leaders of the homosexual movement have achieved almost unparalleled success in having their lifestyle accepted and their goals embraced, attacking the basic structure of American life—the family, children, a normal home life and all that this implies. Homosexual activists have gained unprece-

dent influence over the media. Now, increasingly, they are gaining even more power through the courts, through our schools and colleges, and even in the churches!

What do they seek to accomplish? Jesus Christ said, “You will know them by their **fruits**” (Matthew 7:16). What *are* the actual “fruits”—the *results*—of the homosexual lifestyle? Homosexual propagandists try to avoid or distort this topic, but every honest researcher will acknowledge that the average male homosexual has about 50 sex partners during his lifetime! This is at least *twelve times* as many as the average heterosexual male. And the homosexuals’ multiple sexual encounters—often in bathhouses and public toilets with men *they do not even know*—result in the spread of AIDS and other diseases at a *far higher rate* than heterosexuals. As Dr. Jeffrey Satinover, M.D. reports in his excellent and carefully researched book, *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*, “homosexual men are dis-

proportionately vulnerable to a host of serious and sometimes fatal infections caused by the entry of feces into the bloodstream. These include hepatitis B and the cluster of otherwise rare conditions, such as shigellosis and *Giardia lamblia* infection, which together have been known as the 'Gay Bowel Syndrome.' A major review article summarizes: 'Because of their larger numbers of sexual partners and sexual practices such as anilingus and anal intercourse, homosexual men are at particularly high risk of acquiring hepatitis B, giardiasis, amebiasis, shigellosis, campylobacteriosis, and anorectal infections with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Treponema pallidum*, herpes simplex virus, and human papilloma viruses'" (pp. 67–68).

Satinover—a highly respected medical doctor and psychoanalyst—clearly demonstrates that homosexual activity leads to a host of serious diseases and other physical problems, and a greatly shortened lifespan. Friends and relatives of homosexuals are showing them a great deal of *love*—not “hating” them—if they can help them understand the irreparable damage their perverted lifestyle is causing them, and can help them leave it behind.

Be honest—what would be the “fruit” or result if **everyone** practiced the homosexual lifestyle? What *kind* of lives would the men and women of this world be living?

Nothingness!

The Real Purpose for Your Life

The Eternal God created man and woman in His image (Genesis 1:26). He made us male and female. One of God's very first actions was to establish *marriage*

between a man and a woman as the basic structure of human society. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).

In the beginning, the woman was created specifically *for* the man; to help and comfort him, to be his lover, his companion and the *mother* of his children. Most religions and all decent societies have recognized this for thousands of years. For nearly all of us, this has been the *basis* of our home life, and the *foundation* for the awesome physical accomplishments of humanity.

But, enter the homosexual activists. They want to create a society so fundamentally disordered that increasing millions would die of AIDS and other such diseases. Little children—if **any**—would not have a normal home or family life. Of course, *if* any nation actually embraced the full homosexual agenda, its population would soon be decimated, with the survivors increasingly sick and dying. Soon, a younger “hungry” nation would conquer the dying nation and so end its self-inflicted misery. We saw this pattern in the decline of societies such as ancient Greece and Rome.

Yet, we know better! Our living Creator made us “in His image.” By teaching us lessons in this life and guiding us through the Holy Spirit, God is preparing true Christians to be *full members* of His “family.” For Jesus Christ is called “the *firstborn* among many brethren” (Romans 8:29). And God tells His people **not** to imitate the vile practices of this world; instead, He says, “Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,

says the LORD Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:17–18).

By contrast, the real agenda of the homosexual activists would lead to a *complete reordering* of our entire society! It would ultimately destroy all vestiges of true Christianity. The sexual perverts leading the homosexual movement have aims **far beyond** what most people have realized. Yet the liberal media, politicians and educators are going right along with it!

Are Homosexuals Really “Born That Way”?

Perhaps the most damaging *assumption* about homosexuality is the incessant barrage of propaganda put out by homosexual activists that they are “born that way.” That they really “can't help themselves.” That—even with counseling, therapy or genuine Christian conversion—they “can't change.”

But *what are the actual facts?*

Read carefully the following comments by A. Dean Byrd, writing for the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality: “Dr. Francis S. Collins, one of the world's leading scientists who works at the cutting edge of DNA, concluded that ‘there is an inescapable component of heritability to many human behavioral traits. For virtually none of them is heredity ever close to predictive.’... As Dr. Collins would agree, environment can influence gene expression, and free will determines the response to whatever predispositions might be present. Dr. Collins succinctly reviewed the research on homosexuality and offers the following: ‘An area of particularly strong public interest is the genetic basis of homosexuality. Evidence from twin studies does in fact support the conclusion that heritable factors play a role in male homosexuality. However, the likeli-

hood that the identical twin of a homosexual male will also be gay is about 20 percent (compared with 2–4 percent of males in the general population), indicating that sexual orientation is genetically influenced but not hardwired by DNA, and that whatever genes are involved represent predispositions, not pre-determinations” (“Homosexuality Is Not Hardwired,” April 2007).

This respected scientist admits that sexual orientation may be “influenced” by a person’s genetic makeup. But it is only a “predisposition,” *not* a pre-determination.

In spite of social pressure to deny this important fact, a significant number of scientists, medical doctors and other experts are willing to acknowledge freely that no one is “born” to be a homosexual.

Columbia University Professor of Psychiatry Dr. Robert Spitzer, who was instrumental in removing homosexuality in 1973 from the American Psychiatric Association’s list of mental disorders, wrote a study published in the October 2003 *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. He contended that people can change their ‘sexual orientation’ from homosexual to heterosexual. Spitzer interviewed more than 200 people, most of whom claimed that through reparative therapy counseling, their desires for same-sex partners either diminished significantly or they changed over to heterosexual orientation.

“Although still a proponent of homosexual activism, Spitzer has been attacked unmercifully by for-

mer admirers for this breach of the ideology that people are ‘born gay and can’t change.’ Immutability is a central tenet of demands for ‘gay rights’ and ‘gay marriage.’ Because no single study can be regarded as definitive, more research on people who have overcome homosexuality needs to be done. But a consider-



able body of previous literature about change from homosexuality to heterosexuality has been compiled, and the sheer number of exceptions to the ‘born gay’ theory should be a warning to researchers and media to proceed with caution before declaring that science has ‘proved’ that homosexuality is genetic” (“Born or Bred?,” June 2000).

Finally, read carefully the following: “Many laymen now believe that homosexuality is part of who a person really is from the moment of conception. The ‘genetic and unchangeable’ theory has been actively promoted by gay activists and the popular media. Is homosexuality really an inborn and normal variant of human nature? No. There is no evidence that shows that homosexuality is simply ‘genetic.’ And none of the research claims there is. Only the press and certain researchers do, when speaking in sound bites to the public.... But before we consider the specifics, here is what serious scientists think about recent genetics-of-behavior research. From *Science*, 1994: ‘Time and time again, scientists have claimed that particular genes or chromosomal regions are associated with behavioral traits, only to withdraw their findings when they were not replicated.

“Unfortunately,” says Yale’s [Dr. Joel] Gelernter, “it’s hard to come up with many” findings linking specific genes to complex human behaviors that have been replicated. “...All were announced with great fanfare; all were greeted unskeptically in the popular press; all are now in disrepute.”...

“Researchers’ public statements to the press are often grand and far-reaching. But when answering the scientific community, they speak much more cautiously. ‘Gay gene’ researcher Dean Hamer was asked by *Scientific American* if homosexuality was rooted solely in biology. He replied: ‘Absolutely not. From twin studies, we already know that half or more of the variability in sexual orientation is not inherited. Our studies try to pinpoint the genetic factors... not negate the psychosocial factors’” (“Is There a ‘Gay Gene?’”, National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, September 2004).

Even the “activist” homosexual researchers often admit—as Dr. Hamer acknowledged in the above reference—that “sexual orientation is not inherited!” *Think!* If homosexuals were really “born that way,” it would be greatly “unfair” for the God of the Bible to condemn homosexuality. He would be wrong to deny homosexuals admittance to His Kingdom, which the Bible clearly shows is the case (1 Corinthians 6:9–11). The Bible’s many examples of God’s wrath against homosexual practices would be portraying an unjust God!

However, homosexuals are **not** “born that way!” Alcoholics are **not** “born that way!” Nor are drug addicts, child molesters or *any other* sinners “born that way!” Otherwise, God would be **unjust** to command them to **repent** and to **change**. He would be falsifying the power of the Holy Spirit to help *anyone* overcome sin!

But God is **not** unjust! He tells us, through the Apostle James, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God;’ for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed” (James 1:13–14).

Certainly, God has not “made” anyone to be a homosexual. To say that He has would not only be *terribly wrong*; it would border on **blasphemy**.

Remember, we are not to hate the sad, mixed-up people who are confused as to their sexual identity. Rather, we should *pray for them* and try to help them if they are willing to be helped. But we are not truly “helping” them if we accept the **false** ideology propagated by the homosexual activists. In their shame and their desire to “gain acceptance,” they are putting forth a continual barrage of mis-information trying to convince the public that they are “just like anyone else” and that homosexual behavior is “okay.”

The homosexual activists and their cohorts in the media try desperately to obscure the horrifying results of homosexuality as it plays out in AIDS, in many other life-threatening and life-shortening diseases and ailments, and in the *deep despair* and extremely high rates of *suicide* in the homosexual community. Homosexuals need God’s help to “come out” of that sinful and very destructive behavior.

WHO Decides What Is Right and What Is WRONG?

Millions of professing Christians fail to realize that the **real** issue here is whether a **real**, personal God created us and has authority over our lives, and whether the book we call the Holy Bible is, in fact, the **Creator’s**

“**Instruction Manual**” and was truly inspired by God. As the prophesied **end** of this present age swiftly comes upon us, it is vital that we prove to ourselves the correct answer to these two questions, and that we **act** on this knowledge!

If we did truly “evolve” from lovesick amoebas in the ocean slime, quite apart from any actual Creator, we might feel “free” to indulge in fornication, adultery, homosexuality, “group marriages,” bestiality, child abuse, murder, torture and anything else that our carnal mind might envision. Of course, the physical penalties of AIDS (and a host of other diseases and maladies)—including a greatly shortened lifespan—would all need to be taken into account. But in our heavily sexualized “now” generation, with its demand for the *immediate satisfaction* of all of our lusts and fantasies, even those severe penalties would not stop many thoughtless individuals from seeking instant “gratification.”

However, if the God of the Bible truly is “in charge” of the rise and fall of nations, and if He has a magnificent **purpose** for our lives, we would do well to **heed** what the Bible actually says. I am *appalled* at the partial information—or even *dis-information*—often published by misguided individuals supposing to tell us what the Bible says about homosexuality. Supporters of homosexuality usually refer only to isolated scriptures, and then “make fun” of them. Yet any *honest* person should be willing to look at the **consistent** condemnations of homosexuality *throughout the entire*

Bible. Then, truly, one will come much closer to knowing the “mind of God” on the subject.

Do you know that the Bible clearly teaches that those involved in homosexuality **can change**? Writing to Christians in the extremely sexualized atmosphere of ancient Corinth, the Apostle Paul explained, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers,

nor *homosexuals*, nor *sodomites*, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And *such were some of you*. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of

our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9–11).

The Spirit of Almighty God has **total power** to help *anyone* come out of homosexuality, alcoholism, drug abuse or any other addiction or perversion! As Paul indicated, “some” of those Corinthian Christians had been “sodomites,” but they were now “washed and sanctified” by the Spirit of God. Over and over, in many different ways, God’s inspired word tells us that with God’s help, a sincere Christian may overcome *any* sin. As God inspired the Apostle Paul to tell us, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also



make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Is Homosexual Behavior SIN?

But is homosexual behavior an absolute **sin** against God and the way He created us? *Of course it is!* We just read that practicing homosexuals “will *not* inherit the Kingdom of God.” And in *very plain language* God describes the famous philosophers of Greece and Rome: “Professing to be wise, they became fools.... For this reason God gave them up to **vile passions**. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting” (Romans 1:22, 26–28).

God told the unconverted nation of ancient Israel, “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an **abomination**. Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion. ‘Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants’” (Leviticus 18:22–25).

It is obvious that God is telling us that such practices—if spread across an entire nation—would completely pervert the nation and bring God’s *direct punishment* upon such a sinful people. Therefore, as

a nation, we need to deeply **repent** of condoning this lifestyle—and ask Him to help us truly turn to Him *before it is too late!*

Here, it is important to point out, that Christians—having the potential of the Holy Spirit and God’s help—are **not** to execute judgment upon homosexuals or anyone else! Christians are “strangers and pilgrims” in a society that essentially belongs to Satan the Devil (2 Corinthians 4:4). We are **not** to be of this world, nor to partake in its judgments or its wars. As Jesus said, “My Kingdom is **not** of this world. If My kingdom were of

one who wants to “come out” of homosexuality to do so.

There Is a “Way Out”

In his aforementioned book on homosexuality, Dr. Satinover describes quite a number of organizations that have had success in helping individuals come out of the homosexual lifestyle and return, more or less, to “normalcy.” Many former homosexuals have since married, had children and have a happy family (*Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*, pp. 204–209). Satinover

When we encounter individuals involved in sinful behaviors such as alcohol abuse, drug abuse or homosexuality, we should try to help them. We should pray for them, and we should reach out to them if they are interested in changing. And we should try to develop the understanding and the wisdom to help guide them out of the horrible problems in which they find themselves involved.

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).

Rather, when we encounter individuals involved in sinful behaviors such as alcohol abuse, drug abuse or homosexuality, we should *try to help* them. We should pray for them, and we should reach out to them *if* they are interested in changing. And we should try to develop the understanding and the wisdom to help guide them out of the horrible problems in which they find themselves involved. Just as there are groups of sincere people who help alcoholics and drug abusers overcome their problems, there are therapists and support groups that devote themselves to helping homosexuals “come out” of that wretched lifestyle. We should encourage any-

describes one typical group that experiences great success by combining “depth-psychology in a primarily group setting with healing prayer. Participants make an eight-month minimum commitment to a small group, which is focused on sexual redemption in Christ. For individuals who continue on and remain committed to the process for the long haul, Bergner reports success rates of over 80 percent” (p. 204). This is just one of many proofs—as can be verified by medical doctors, psychologists and sociologists who have worked with these groups—that help truly is available to all who want to come out of the homosexual lifestyle!

As for me, personally, I would say to all of you who have been

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Questions & Answers

Question: What did Jesus mean when He said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him” (John 6:44)? Does this mean there are some whom God is not drawing to Him?

Answer: Many people misunderstand this verse, because they do not realize that God is not calling everyone to salvation now. Certainly, God will eventually offer salvation to everyone who has ever lived (Romans 9:15; 1 Timothy 2:3–5). He desires that all would receive eternal life and that no one would perish (John 3:16–17; 2 Peter 3:9). But Scripture makes it clear that there is “no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). So how can God keep His word, yet save the billions who have lived and died without even hearing His name or hearing His true message?

The Bible tells us of a future time when all will hear the true Gospel, and will receive God’s calling (Revelation 20:5, 11–12). That time is known as the “Great White Throne Judgment.” It will not be a “second chance”—it will be a time when billions of people are resurrected to physical life and for the first time given the opportunity to hear Christ’s name and teachings.

However, God is drawing a few people to Him in this present age. These are called the “firstfruits” (James 1:18). These Christians—individuals who in this present age have been given God’s Holy Spirit to help them overcome their human nature and live God’s way—have been fighting to overcome not only their own sinfulness, but also the sinful influence of society, and of Satan, whom Scripture calls the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

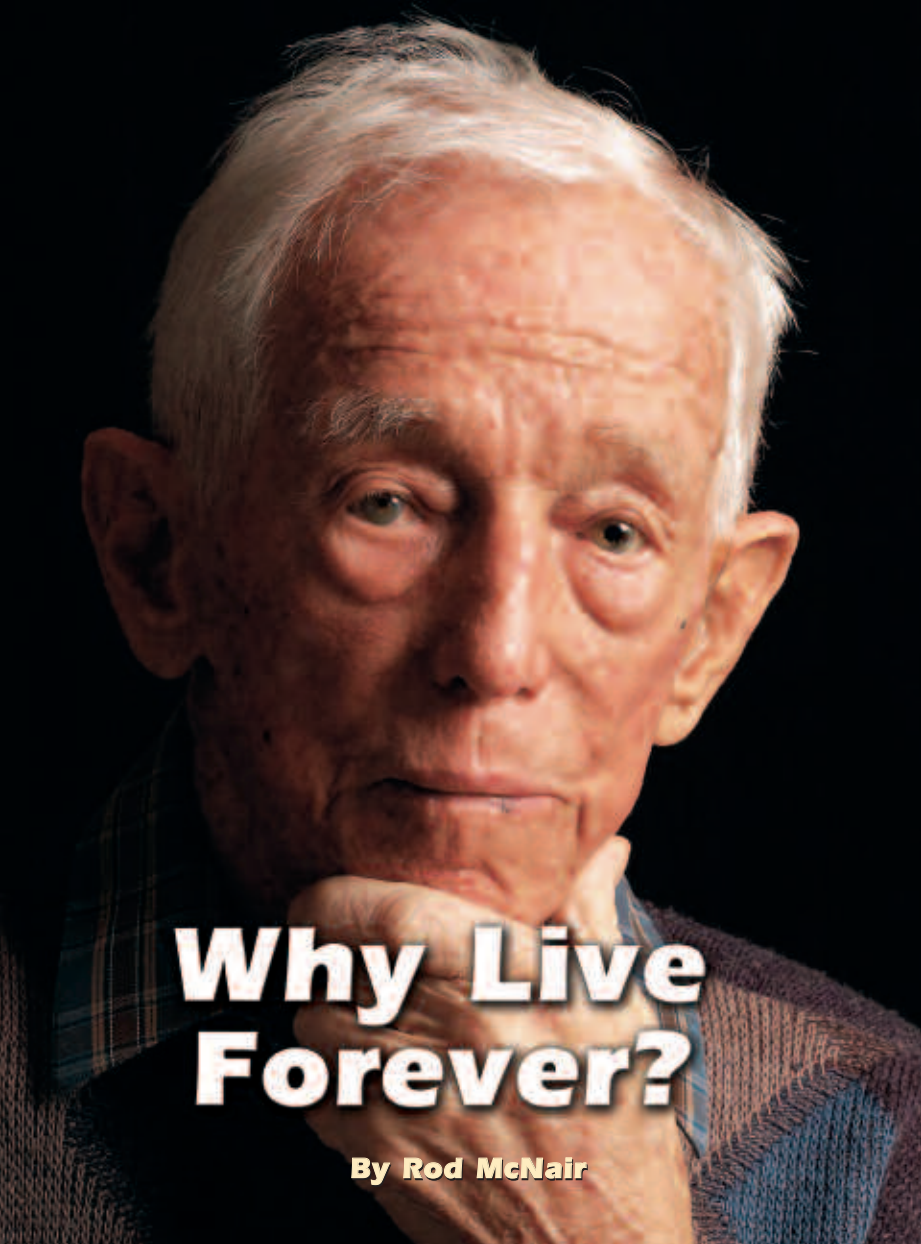
By contrast, those whom God calls at the Great White Throne Judgment will be able to compare their former lives—lived in this age while influenced by Satan, society and self—with the Millennial environment in which God will have resurrected them, and most will surely accept God’s offer of salvation and eternal life.

Because these firstfruits must “overcome” in a more difficult environment, God even prom-

ises them a “better resurrection” (Hebrews 11:35). They will become members of God’s Family at Christ’s second coming, and will assist Him in ruling this earth during the Millennium, the thousand-year period when the world will live in peace and harmony under Christ’s rule in preparation for the Great White Throne Judgment, which will occur after the end of the Millennium. After the Great White Throne Judgment, all human beings will have heard the true Gospel, and those who have rejected it will be burned up in a lake of fire, destroyed forever in the “second death” (Revelation 20:14–15).

God expects His people to be preaching the true Gospel until Christ returns (Matthew 24:14, 46). Even so, we understand that most people who pick up a copy of *Tomorrow’s World* magazine are not being “drawn” by God in this age. For them, the articles they read will merely serve as a “witness,” so that in the future they cannot say, “Nobody told me! God isn’t fair!”

God expects us to act on what He has taught us. Even after baptism, we retain our free moral agency. Salvation is a gift we cannot “earn”—but we can reject that gift if we willfully rebel against our Savior. So if you are understanding what you read in this magazine, do not squander the amazing opportunity God is giving you, to become one of His firstfruits who—as kings and priests—will have the unique privilege of ruling under Jesus Christ in the Millennium. Keep reading *Tomorrow’s World magazine*, and comparing what you read here with what you find in your Bible. If you think you may be ready for baptism, please write for your free copy of *Christian Baptism: Its True Meaning*, or contact one of our representatives at one of the addresses listed on page 30 of this magazine.



Why Live Forever?

By Rod McNair

If there is an afterlife, what is its purpose? You can know!

Will you live forever? Many people believe they will. But have you ever asked yourself: “What for?” Is there a great purpose for life, now and forever? Is there a *reason* to live on into eternity? If there is, does the Bible hold any clues not only to the *what* of the afterlife, but also the *why*?

The debate about life after death has raged for millennia, and is as important today as it was centuries ago. A 1991 *International Social Survey Program* study found that 78 percent of Americans believed that the existence of an afterlife was either “definite” or “probable.” By contrast, only 39 percent in Russia and 14 percent in what was then East Germany believed in an afterlife. The survey found that Americans were “over 25 percentage points more likely than the British and New Zealanders to believe in heaven and more than twice as likely to believe in hell.”

But what do people believe they will be doing in the afterlife? Will they gain “oneness” with the “world soul”? Will they achieve

supreme happiness? Will they simply gaze at the glory of God? Many conflicting opinions exist. But we can look beyond opinions, and find what God’s word says on the subject!

Eternal Life in the Flesh?

For many years, scientists have sought to find ways to extend the human lifespan. Great strides have been achieved in the last century through better nutrition and health care. But some scientists are searching for ways to actually attain “eternal life” in the flesh. Aubrey de Grey, founder of Strategies for Engineering Negligible Senescence, believes he has identified “the seven causes of aging—seven types of molecular or cellular damage—each of which ‘is potentially fixable by technology that already exists or is in active development.’”

Other scientists accept the inevitability of death in the present, but seek to arrest the corruption of the body through cryogenics until better technology is available. For a fee of \$28,000 to \$35,000, the Cryonics Institute offers to “freeze” its members at death, in anticipation of better healing technology in the future. “When and if future technology allows, our member patients hope to be healed, rejuvenated, revived, and awakened to a greatly extended life in youthful good health, free from disease or the aging process.”

But is that really the ultimate goal—just extending physical life for hundreds of years? What about individuals who are plagued by pain, heartache, regret, and loneliness? The Bible reveals that for the first 1,500 years or so of human history, lives routinely lasted for centuries. Adam—the first created man—lived for 930 years; Seth, his son, lived for 912 years; Enosh next lived for 905 years; Cainan for 910 years; Mahalaleel for 895 years; his son Jerod for 962 years; his grandson Methuselah for 969 years (apparently dying in the Flood; see Genesis 5:5–27).

Did these long lives bring utopia, with happiness and contentment for all? Was

there peace throughout the world? No! “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart” (Genesis 6:5–6). A lengthened life does not by itself mean a *fulfilling, purposeful life*.

Of course, human beings have a natural desire to try to avoid or escape death. But regardless of our attempts to create eternal life in the flesh, “it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Death truly is an enemy of mankind (1 Corinthians 15:26). But death will finally be destroyed. Human beings’ destiny is not to live forever in the flesh, but those who willingly submit to God and His ways *can* live forever, because of their Savior, Jesus Christ. As Jesus said, He is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

Joining the “World Soul”?

But just what is the purpose of eternal life? Is it somehow to join (or re-join) a cosmic life force? For many in the Western nations, the idea of a “personal” resurrection is losing ground to Eastern ideas of spirituality. Buddhists believe in continual reincarnations; what author Gregg Stebben calls “the complex path, through life after meaningless life, to nirvana, a state of blissful nothingness, a cosmic void,” being “at one with the world soul” (*Everything You Need To Know About Religion*, p. 10). Increasing numbers of Americans are adopting a version of this doctrine; author Bill Newcott points out that one recent survey showed 23 percent of AARP members believe in some form of reincarnation. According to Jeffrey Burton Russell, professor emeritus of history at the

University of California, Santa Barbara, this is a *sea change* in American religious beliefs. “If you took this study 50 years ago, the belief in reincarnation would be down at about 1 percent. Generally, the traditionally clear Christian vision of heaven has declined, while the vaguer visions of the continuation of life have taken its place” (“Life After Death,” *AARP The Magazine*, Sept.-Oct. 2007).

The idea of “becoming at one with the cosmic essence” at death has been around for millennia. In ancient times, some believed that the souls of their kings, at death, entered the heavenly bodies such as the planets, moon, and sun. “Plutarch states that the Egyptian priests expressly taught ‘that Cronus, Osiris, Horus, and all their other principal deities were once mere men, but that after they died their souls migrated into some one or other of the heavenly bodies, and became the animating spirits of their new celestial mansions’” (*The Worship of the Dead*, Garnier, p. 14).

The Bible *does* describe a greater oneness with God, which the saints will achieve at the resurrection. Jesus Christ prayed for His disciples: “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one” (John 17:22–23). However, people who become spirit beings will also have distinct spiritual bodies and personalities. They will not just be part of a dumb and blind cosmic force. The Apostle Paul explained what will happen to a person’s body buried in a grave in the ground: “It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” (1 Corinthians 15:44).

Eternal life is not just about changing to another energy state—it is about having a real, obedient

relationship with a real, personal God (John 17:3)! But what will the saints be *doing* for all eternity?

Eternally Searching for Happiness?

Perhaps attaining happiness is the purpose of eternal life? Will that be the highest goal for the saved? Many believe so. But who defines happiness—and how it is achieved?

Many equate eternal happiness with sensual, terrestrial pleasure—good food, beautiful sights and even sexual fulfillment. The ancient Irish believed that the good traveled at death to a “land of eternal youth, where the sun was never hidden behind the clouds, and where all the Irish women were beautiful” (Stebben, p. 16). The Qur’an pictures Muslims spending eternal life “on lined couches, reclining therein face to face. There wait on them immortal youths with bowls and ewers and a cup from a pure spring wherefrom they get no aching of the head nor any madness, and fruit that they prefer and flesh of fowls that they desire. And [there are] fair ones with wide, lovely eyes, like unto hidden pearls, reward for what they used to do” (Surah 56:15–24).

Sensual happiness in the afterlife—especially regarding sex—is a widely embraced idea. Author Newcott cites Barnard College professor of religion Alan F. Segal, who writes: “Americans see life after death as a very dynamic thing. You don’t really hear about angels and wings, sitting on clouds playing melodies... They talk about humor in the afterlife, continuing education, unifying families—like a retirement with no financial needs... A lot believe there will be sex in the afterlife, that it’ll be more pleasurable.”

Christ *did* say that the future for resurrected saints would be terrestrial,

not celestial, and that it would be exciting and fulfilling! In the parable of the talents, He referred to the Kingdom as “the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:21). In Matthew 5:5, He taught, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”—not heaven! Revelation 21 describes a “new earth,” with the “holy city” coming down to earth, to be the habitation of God forever. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples in human form, and even enjoyed a meal of fish and honey with them (Luke 24:42).

The physical creation will be a beautiful and enjoyable dwelling place for the resurrected saints to dwell in with God. Yet satisfying the senses will not be the ultimate goal of resurrected Christians living on earth! Christ explained, for example, that sexuality will not be a part of the resurrected saints’ experience; that “in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven” (Matthew 22:30; see Galatians 3:26–29).

Living in the Kingdom of God—under God’s laws, through His Spirit—will be a joyful experience! But happiness *in itself* will not be the ultimate goal and purpose for eternal life.

Gazing at Glory Forever?

If the ultimate goal of eternal life is not satisfying sensual pleasures, is it achieving *spiritual* bliss through looking into the face of God, or floating on clouds forever? In 1336, Pope Benedict XII described the Roman Catholic idea of the afterlife: “And after such intuitive and face-to-face vision and enjoyment has or will have begun for these souls, the same vision and enjoyment has continued and will continue without any interruption and without end until the last Judgment and from then

on forever” (“Benedictus Deus: On the Beatific Vision of God,” *The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church*).

Looking into the face of God will be an awesome and thrilling experience, as the Apostle John explained: “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2). To see God the Father on His throne, and to see Jesus Christ—whose face shines like the sun—will be exhilarating! But will the saints simply gaze at them, unendingly, for all eternity?

Commentator Anthony Hoekema observed, “Life in heaven sounds downright boring, if some descriptions are to be believed... This future life is often seen as an eternal existence without bodies. Also, it is thought of as ‘above,’ somewhere off in space, far removed from this earth—an escape, in fact... Are we then to spend eternity in space, disembodied spirits who flit from cloud to cloud, plucking golden harps in an endless day off?” (“Heaven: Not Just an Eternal Day Off,” *Christianity Today*, September 20, 1985).

Certainly, the resurrection of the saints has a greater purpose than just staring at God, or lounging around on clouds. *But what is that purpose?*

Created for Work!

To understand our spiritual destiny, we must recall the commission God gave when human beings were first placed on the earth. God gave Adam and Eve “dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that

creeps on the earth” (Genesis 1:26). The human family was given *responsibility* to govern—to rule—over God’s creation. In turn, Adam was to dress it and cultivate it. He and his descendants were to help in God’s creative work of enhancing and beautifying the earth!

Adam failed the test of obedience, and Satan the Devil was able to ensnare and entrap all of humanity (Revelation 12:9). But through the work of the Messiah—Jesus Christ’s life, sacrifice, resurrection and second coming—the Devil will ultimately be overthrown (Revelation 20:2, 10). At Christ’s second coming, the earth will be returned to a millennial, Eden-like state (Isaiah 51:3).

But whom will God use to restore the world? The resurrected saints! Scripture clearly describes their role: “[You] have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:10). God also instructs His saints: “But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations” (Revelation 2:25–26).

In the parable of the minas, Christ explained the leadership role the resurrected saints will be given, as a reward for their faithful service: “Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities’” (Luke 19:16–17). The saints’ role will be to rule over the earth with Christ (Revelation 3:12, 21).

As commentator Hoekema explains, “...The Old Testament reveals that the ultimate destiny of man is an earthly one... According to the parable of the talents, the master’s reward to the faithful servants is this: ‘You have been faithful

with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things' (Matthew 25:21, 23, *NIV*). 'Being in charge' or 'ruling over' (*KJV*) many things suggests a busy program of administrative activity... In these... parables, the reward promised consists not of idle rest but of service."

But what will happen after the general resurrection, after the Millennium—the prophesied thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth—has ended (Revelation 20:4, 12)? What will the saints do after obedient and converted human beings have been glorified, and the incorrigible have been reduced to ashes in a lake of fire (Malachi 4:3)?

The Earth... and Beyond!

God inspired the Apostle Paul to write about our ultimate destiny: "For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: 'What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands'" (Hebrews 2:5–7). The resurrected saints will not only help God rule over the earth; they will also "judge"—govern, or manage—the angels (1 Corinthians 6:2–3)!

There is more! Paul wrote further, "You have put all things in subjection under his feet" (Hebrews 2:8). What did Paul mean by "all things"? The Greek used here, *ta panta*, is *all-inclusive*, meaning "every, the whole" (*Strong's Dictionary*). The Weymouth translation renders "all things" as "*the universe.*" *All things* will be put under the dominion of the resurrected saints, working through God's Kingdom.

In other words, even though all things—the whole universe—are not currently under humanity's dominion, they will be (Hebrews 2:8)! Can we grasp that? Just as God originally gave human beings dominion and rulership over the earth, His ultimate goal is for us to rule over the entire universe! In the same way that we were meant to work on and beautify the earth, God has also called us to assist Him in refashioning and "planting" the desolate planets throughout the vast universe (Isaiah 51:16).

But why has God created *human beings* to help Him rule the earth—and the universe?

Joining the Family Business

When God created man and woman, He created them "in His own image" (Genesis 1:27). While the animals were made after the animal kind, *human beings were made after the "God" kind!* All members of the human family, created by God, are rightly called His children. But through the indwelling of His Spirit, and actually being *born again*, human beings can become part of God's spiritual family. As Jesus told Nicodemus, "unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

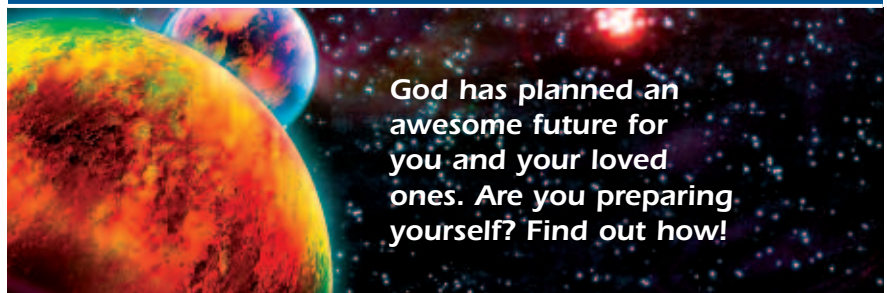
When does this "second birth" occur? At the resurrection! Jesus Christ became the "firstborn" from the dead at His resurrection (Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5; Romans 8:29). Since He is the "first," this implies that others will follow! Paul explained that Christ is "declared to be the Son of God with power... by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4).

God wants to share the "family business"—rulership over the entire universe—with His children! Human beings' destiny is to be born into the family of God, as the "heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17).

Eternal life—the greatest gift God could bestow on His children—will have a great and awesome purpose! Eternal life is not just for human existence indefinitely. It is not for joining the "world soul." It is not to pursue sensual pleasure or even to achieve "heavenly bliss." As members of the divine family of God, obedient, faithful and resurrected saints will share in the work and mission of the family—governing and beautifying the entire universe in peace and righteousness, forever!

Thank God for our awesome destiny—and God speed the day when His plan for each of us is complete! ■

Your Ultimate Destiny



Write for our **FREE** booklet, **Your Ultimate Destiny**, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

Your Allies Will Forsake You!

In June 2007, Professor Lawrence Mead gave the annual John Bonython lecture at the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, Australia. Mead, a well-respected professor of American government and public policy at New York University, noted that what he called the “Anglo nations”—the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand—“stand supreme” in the world today. In his presentation, titled “America Will Prevail,” Mead pointed out that these nations are the “richest of all countries... are the mainstays of international institutions dedicated to peace and development... have a capacity to project power overseas that no other countries can match... they are more or less running the world.” Mead concluded: “American primacy is deeply rooted and unlikely to be challenged... I see no end to that any time soon.” Yet Bible prophecies reveal that *dramatic changes are coming* that will impact the American and British-descended nations in sobering and unexpected ways. World events indicate that these ancient prophecies are *coming alive* today!

National Prophecies

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, God told him to record a number of prophetic warnings for His “chosen” people (Deuteronomy 7:6). Moses told the Israelites that they would be blessed if they obeyed God’s instructions (Leviticus 26:1–13), and delivered God’s warning: “If you do not obey Me... and if you *despise* My statutes... you shall be *defeated* by your enemies. Those who *hate* you shall reign over you... I will *break* the pride of your power” (Leviticus 26:14–19). Moses was not just talking to the Jews; he was speaking to the “children of Israel” (Leviticus 24:2; 25:2; 27:2). The children (or “house”) of Israel consisted of twelve tribes (see Numbers 10:11–28). The Jews come from the tribe of Judah, but eleven other tribes—descending from the sons of Jacob—gave rise to other nations (For more on this vital topic, please request our free booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*).

Shortly before the children of Israel entered the “Promised Land,” Moses repeated similar instructions to them, warning that “if you do not obey the voice of

the LORD... The LORD will cause you to be *defeated* before your enemies... you shall become *troublesome* to all the kingdoms of the earth... you shall become an astonishment [an object of scorn and ridicule]... among all the nations where the LORD will drive you” (Deuteronomy 28:15, 25, 37).



God’s prophets centuries later repeated very similar warnings. Jeremiah records: “O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel... you have played the harlot with many lovers [trusting in allies instead of God]... Your lovers will *despise* you; they will *seek your life*” (Jeremiah 2:4; 3:1; 4:30). Later, Jeremiah offers this sobering prophecy that looks ahead to the end of the age: “it is the time of *Jacob’s trouble* [trouble for *all* the nations descended from Jacob]... all your lovers have *forgotten* you; they do not seek you... In the *latter days* you will consider it” (Jeremiah 30:7, 14, 24). Ezekiel records: “I have delivered her [the ten tribes of Israel] into the hand of her lovers... I will stir up your lovers against you [Jews of Jerusalem]” (Ezekiel 23:9, 22). The book of Lamentations describes Jerusalem: “All her friends have dealt *treacherously* with her; they have become her enemies... Her adversaries have become the master... and mocked at her downfall... [she will say] ‘I called for my lovers, but they *deceived* me’” (Lamentations 1:2, 5, 7, 19).

Ancient Prophecies Make Modern News

Many today fail to understand that Bible prophecies are often *dual*. Many prophecies that had an initial fulfillment in ancient times will have an ultimate fulfillment in the future, particularly as we approach the end of this age.

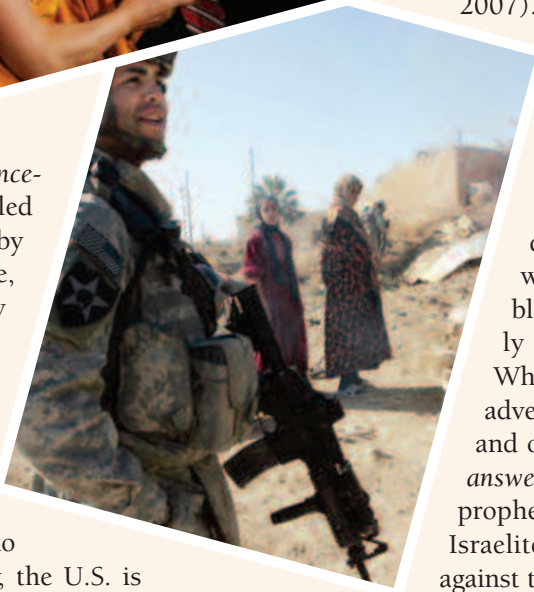
The U.S. is certainly experiencing trouble abroad—with Iraq, Iran, Russia, China, Somalia, North Korea, Afghanistan and other nations—along with weather-related disasters at home, burgeoning deficits and a declining dollar. One former Bush administration official said, “I am hard pressed to think of any other moment in modern times where there have been so many challenges facing this country simultaneously.” Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State, has

commented that her nation is facing a “perfect storm” in foreign policy (*The Washington Post*, July 6, 2006). Recent polls reveal many citizens in foreign countries feel the United States is playing “a mainly negative role in the world” and “cannot be trusted to act responsibly in the world”

(BBC, January 23, 2007; *Agence France-Presse*, April 17, 2007). The U.S.-led invasion of Iraq—largely supported by Anglo nations, but resisted by Europe, Russia and China—is extremely unpopular both at home and among U.S. allies.

A thought-provoking *Newsweek* article, *The End of Pax Americana*, observed that while the unmatched strength of its military has given many nations the stability to experience prosperity and democracy, the U.S. is now *losing the power* to force others to follow its lead. The article concludes: “Given the rampant anti-Americanism abroad today, the fading of Pax Americana may inspire much glee” (December 13, 2006).

U.S. officials continue to aggravate both allies and adversaries. Turkey—a NATO ally of the U.S.—was offended when the U.S. Congress last year considered labeling as “genocide” the killing of as many as 1.5 million Armenians in the waning years of the Ottoman Empire. If Turkey were to break with the U.S., America would lose vital supply lines to Iraq, which it maintains through air bases in Turkey (*Charlotte Observer*, October 19, 2007). Chinese leaders were *infuriated* when U.S. President George W. Bush awarded the Congressional Gold Medal last October to the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan Buddhist leader who for decades has spoken powerfully against Chinese policies. China holds much of America’s foreign debt, and is building the world’s largest navy (see *WorldTribune.com*, September 19, 2007). If the Chinese shift their holdings in American dollars to the euro, the American economy and its over-extended military will be in real trouble. In the



Middle East, the current Israeli government has considered appeasing Israel’s enemies by dividing Jerusalem with the Palestinians—even while Iran and its Muslim cohorts in Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinian Territory remain committed to *obliterating* the Jewish nation of Israel (*Charlotte Observer*, October 12, 2007; *IsraelNN.com*, October 24, 2007). Around the world, the once-solid alliances of Israelite nations are turning sour.

Why Troubles?

But why are the nations descended from ancient Israel—which God had “chosen” and blessed—facing so many seemingly intractable problems today? Why are former allies becoming adversaries of the U.S., Britain, Israel and other Anglo-Saxon nations? The *answer* is recorded in your Bible’s prophecies, which *foretold* that the Israelite nations’ allies would turn against them in the latter days. Through Moses, God warned the Israelites that they would lose their allies, “if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes” (Leviticus 26:14–15). Moses also foretold that Israel would stray from God, warning that “after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And *evil will befall you in the latter days*” (Deuteronomy 31:29). God thundered: “Because they have *forsaken* My law which I set before them, and not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts... I will send a sword after them until I have consumed them” (Jeremiah 9:13–16). He charged: “Because you have *forgotten* Me and cast Me behind your back, therefore you shall bear the penalty of your lewdness and your harlotry” (Ezekiel 23:35). But even if the modern descendants of ancient Israel do not change their ways in time to avoid the consequences of their actions, *you* as an individual *can* begin to make changes in your life—if you *heed the warnings* of prophecies that are *coming alive* today!

—Douglas S. Winnail



Why Do We Get High?

By Douglas S. Winnail

*Is there a missing dimension in our lives?
Why do so many turn to drugs for an answer?
What should you do?*

The world is awash in chemical substances that promise pleasure—but that bring danger. Millions self-administer these potentially deadly substances in spite of their well-publicized risks and documented fatalities.

Why do people of all ages take such risks? Why would someone willingly court disaster? You might be surprised to learn that the ultimate keys to understanding and combating substance abuse are not found in clinical programs or medical textbooks, but in the Bible! The evidence is sobering—and it is encouraging!

The Chemical Minefield

If something can be ingested, injected, inhaled or absorbed into the human body, it can be abused! In the United States alone, nearly one-third of the population either abuses drugs or has a relationship with someone who is chemically dependent! Other countries face a similar problem.

Alcohol produces pleasurable effects by relaxing muscles and sedating the brain so worries temporarily vanish. In *moderate* amounts, alcohol produces healthful changes in the human body. But frequent alcohol use at intoxicating levels clouds judgment, slows reflexes, causes memory loss, damages the heart and liver, weakens the immune system and produces birth defects. Drunkenness is directly linked to accidents, job loss, violent crime and suicide. In short, alcohol abuse kills and maims. It disrupts and destroys the very fabric of human society.

Tobacco use is “the most serious and widespread addictive behavior in the world and the major cause of preventable deaths in our society” (*An Invitation to Health*, Hales, p. 399). Smoking is directly linked to heart disease and strokes, to lung, breast and bladder cancer, to respiratory diseases like emphysema, to miscarriage, and—in children of smokers—low birth weight, birth defects and mental retardation (*ibid.*, pp. 403–408). Smokers have a rate of premature death three times higher than non-smokers, and experience five times as many heart attacks.

Millions ingest what they consider “recreational” drugs—chemical substances consumed for thrill and pleasure. Among them, LSD and PCP are hallucinogens that alter mental perception and promote a feeling of superhuman strength, yet can trigger violent

behavior and psychotic attacks. Cocaine and amphetamines provide a temporary feeling of heightened energy and confidence, but damage the heart and brain. Designer drugs such as ecstasy—a common sight at all-night dance parties called “raves”—create feelings of warmth and openness yet can *permanently* damage brain cells and can even kill the user (see *Time*, June 5, 2000, pp. 62–73).

Nearly half of the drug abuse in the United States involves the misuse of prescription drugs. This involves not only deliberate misuse such as forged prescriptions, Medicaid frauds and black market sales, but also errors made by physicians and accidental misuse of prescribed drugs—especially by the elderly (see *Prescription Drug Abuse: The Hidden Epidemic*, Colvin). Many observers have become concerned about the astonishing increase in the use of Ritalin, a physician-prescribed drug given to American children diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Caffeine—the active ingredient in coffee, tea and a variety of soft drinks—may be “the most-used drug in the world” (Hales, p. 345). Extremely high levels of caffeine ingestion have been tentatively linked to heart problems, breast lumps and bladder cancer. Large quantities of caffeine can cause irritability, nervousness, insomnia and gastrointestinal disturbances. Continued use of caffeinated beverages can lead to psychological and physical dependency (see *Drugs, Society and Human Behavior*, Ray & Ksir, pp. 230–232).

Costs of Abuse

Many widely used chemical substances damage the brain, heart and lungs of the user, as

well as the bodies of the user’s unborn children. Drug use contributes to the leading causes of death in the world—heart disease, stroke and various types of cancer. Drug abuse also generates an incredible financial burden for society. The total cost of substance abuse in America has been estimated at more than \$240 bil-



lion per year (Colvin, p. 100). In the U.S., approximately “one out of five hospital beds is occupied by someone with substance abuse as a contributing factor” and nearly “50 percent of all preventable deaths are related to some aspect of substance abuse” (*ibid.*). A World Bank study indicated that “tobacco use causes a net global loss of \$200 billion per year” (*World Health*, p. 23). Substance abuse and its consequences are major medical and social problems.

But *why* do young people and adults around the world use and abuse dangerous chemical substances that clearly have the capacity to damage and destroy our brains, our bodies, our families and ultimately our societies?

Underlying Causes

Scholars and journalists commonly assert that substance abuse is due to poverty, low self-esteem and genetics. Drug users are said to be *victims* of their environment and their heredity. Observers often downplay or ignore important evidence that points in *another direction*. While some may indeed have a biological sensitivity to alcohol and other chemicals, there is also a well-recognized *psychological aspect* of substance abuse—involving the choices individuals make for themselves.

Numerous studies indicate that most people begin using drugs out of *curiosity*. Many are *lured by the illusion* that a magical substance can make you happy, outgoing and confident, and can provide meaning for an otherwise empty life. Many are looking for a way to deal with depression or to escape the pressures of life or the boredom of daily routines (Hales, p. 318). Many begin to use and abuse chemicals for social reasons—to fit in and gain acceptance, to enhance low self-esteem, or make an impression and be noticed. Advertising promotes the mistaken idea that you need to ingest chemicals to have fun. Millions of impressionable people watch substance-abuse behaviors modeled in movies or on television. Culture also plays a role in substance abuse. Russians, for example, “are the world’s heaviest drinkers”—as the director of a Moscow clinic commented, “if you don’t drink in Russia something is wrong with you” (*World Press*, November 1997, p. 44). Many other cultures share this viewpoint!

Perhaps the most instructive information available today comes from extensive research on young people. Their risk factors are pri-

marily social and psychological—involving the influence of parents and peers, who shape their values and behaviors. People with more risk factors will be more prone to abusing chemicals. In other words, substance abuse increases when individuals lack positive guidance and good role models, do not uphold healthy values, and have stronger relationships with negative peers than with supportive parents.

Research indicates that young people who associate with *non-conforming* peers involved in a *deviant subculture* are more prone to substance abuse than young people who have personality problems or face socioeconomic difficulties (Ray & Ksir, p. 13). While genetics may be a factor for some who develop chemical dependencies, *formative environmental influences* appear to play a much more significant role.

Real Solutions

Today, the medical model of addiction dominates the thinking of much of the Western world (see *The Diseasing of America: Addiction Treatment Out of Control*, Peele). This model suggests that people who abuse chemical substances or have behavior-related problems are nothing more than victims of faulty genes, which produce internal chemical imbalances. Yet this widely

TAKE A PILL?

“We used to have a word for sufferers of ADHD. We called them ‘boys.’” So quips one psychoanalyst quoted in *Shyness: How Normal Behavior Became a Sickness*, by Northwestern University professor Christopher Lane.

Expenditures on drugs to combat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder are on the rise. Britain’s National Health Service alone is likely to see expenditures on ADHD drugs reach £101 million by 2012, up from £17 million in 2006, and the U.S. is likely to see annual ADHD drug expenses top \$4 billion by 2010, according to a University of Heidelberg study released in November 2007.



Yet many observers, like Lane, are now questioning the widespread emphasis on drugs. Last November, researchers at the National Institute for Mental Health reported that the brains of children diagnosed with ADHD matured in a normal pattern, but with a delay of up to three years in some brain regions. “Finding a normal pattern of cortex maturation, albeit delayed, in children with ADHD should be reassuring to families and could help to explain why many youth eventually seem to grow out of the disorder,” explained Philip Shaw, M.D., who led the research team. Among 223 ADHD sufferers studied, half of 40,000 brain cortex sites reached peak thickness at age 10.5, compared to age 7.5 in a control group of youngsters without the disorder. Intriguingly, the NIMH’s Multimodal Treatment Study of

Children, which has been monitoring children’s ADHD treatments since the 1990s, has found that drug treatments such as Ritalin work no better than therapy after three years of treatment.

The controversy rages on. Books like David Healy’s *Let Them Eat Prozac: The Unhealthy Relationship Between the Pharmaceutical Industry and Depression*, and *The Loss of Sadness: How Psychiatry Transformed Normal Sorrow into Depressive Disorder*, by Allan Horwitz and Jerome Wakefield, point out the shared interests of psychiatrists eager to gain patients and a drug industry eager to sell prescriptions.

Healy, former secretary of the British Association for Psychopharmacology, decries what he calls the “biobabble” the pharmaceutical industry uses to draw a simplistic and misleading causal link between depression and serotonin deprivation in the brain; pill-pushers are quick to offer serotonin replacements, not mentioning that effective counseling can by itself often spur the body’s own serotonin production. Horwitz and Wakefield agree, also faulting the American Psychiatric Association, which in 1980 reclassified many former “neuroses” as full-fledged medical ailments.

Now that science is recognizing how therapy may be more effective than drugs to treat these emotional disorders, perhaps it is also time to consider the therapeutic value of a time-tested biblical prescription—the family unit—a safe and loving environment where a father provides guidance and resources, and a mother supplies the personal attention so vital to young children’s development.

accepted theory promotes the *false notion* that people “have little control over their lives... It also *excuses lawlessness* by wildly mixing up moral responsibility with disease diagnosis” (Hales, p. 18). Indeed, much of the “conventional wisdom” about substance abuse undermines *personal responsibility*. Even most programs that attempt to cultivate the capacity to “say no” to drug abuse are incomplete in significant ways.

Studies in human behavior have identified important factors associated with the *prevention* of substance abuse. Young people who “are religious, attend school regularly, get good grades, have good relationships with their parents and do not break the law are the students who report the least drinking and drug use” (Ray & Ksir, p. 13). Such powerful values and positive behaviors are initially fostered in the home by competent and caring parents and other adult members of the family. Promoting positive values that foster personal responsibility—by right education, positive peer influence and a good example—is a *documented and proven* method of preventing and combating substance abuse.

But there is more to the story! If people are to “say no” to drugs and other risky behaviors, they must have *compelling reasons* beyond just wanting to stay healthy and improve their self-image. Writing in the *Unesco Courier*, Federico Mayor stated, “To fight the demand for drugs, we have to go to the *root* of the problem and give life a *purpose*... we must offer young people not just a means to live but a *reason* to

do so” (December 1998, p. 9). Young people and adults need to be informed about the personal and social consequences of substance abuse, and to develop “refusal skills” enabling them to say no in tempting-yet-dangerous situations.

On a more fundamental level, we all need to understand the ultimate reasons for avoiding risky and destructive behaviors. Those reasons are not found in

Risk Factors for Substance Abuse

1. **Early alcohol intoxication**
2. **Adult examples of drug use**
3. **Peer approval of drug use**
4. **Parental approval of drug use**
5. **Absence from school**
6. **Poor academic achievement**
7. **Low educational aspiration**
8. **Little religious commitment**
9. **Emotional distress**
10. **Dissatisfaction with life**

(*Drugs, Society and Human Behavior*, Ray & Ksir, p. 14)

medical textbooks or treatment manuals—they are *revealed* in the Bible.

The Biblical Dimension

Today, people commonly hold to the philosophy, “If it feels good, do it!”—but this is a shortsighted viewpoint with dangerous consequences. In a world devoid of meaning, millions become hooked on a search for new and different sensations. Tragically, our secular society has thrown away the *divine road map* that explains in detail not only *how* to live life, but *why* we need to live a certain way. The Bible shows the way out of substance abuse.

Scripture *reveals* the *true purpose* of life and the *real reasons* for living a certain way—for knowing

when to say *yes* and when to say *no*. In Genesis, we learn that the Creator of the universe made us in His image (Genesis 1:26–27) and that we are to *take care* of what God created (Genesis 2:15). The Bible calls the human body “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). Christians realize that their body is “the temple of God,” and are mindful of Scripture’s warning that “if anyone *defiles* the temple of God, God will destroy him” (1

Corinthians 3:16–17). *Personal responsibility* and facing the *consequences* of one’s own actions are fundamental themes throughout Scripture. God made us free moral agents so we could learn to make wise choices (see Deuteronomy 30:15–20). Parents and leaders must teach younger gen-

erations how to lead a truly abundant life (Deuteronomy 4:6–10; 6:7; Proverbs 22:6). Young people must be taught—and shown by example—that the laws of God are practical (Proverbs 3:1–2). Experienced adults must convey the lesson that “there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12).

Individuals must be encouraged to “ponder the path of [their] feet” (Proverbs 4:26), to set worthwhile goals (Matthew 6:33), to do their best (Ecclesiastes 9:10) and to choose their friends carefully (Proverbs 1:10–19). The way to real happiness involves making wise decisions (Proverbs 3:13–15)—not searching in vain for a chemical that will magically bring relief!

The Bible also gives specific guidelines regarding the use of

chemicals. Scripture warns repeatedly against drunkenness and the abuse of alcohol (Proverbs 20:1; Romans 13:13; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:10; Ephesians 5:17–18; 1 Peter 4:1–3). However, the Bible also recognizes the healthful aspects of alcohol (1 Timothy 5:23) and promotes its responsible use in a variety of ways (Deuteronomy 14:26; Ecclesiastes 9:7; Matthew 26:29).

The Bible teaches moderation (Philippians 4:5, KJV). When that message is missing, especially in the home, problems occur. Young people who see the abuse of alcohol and other substances tolerated at home tend to seek out peers who act in similar ways, which leads to continued abuse.

Following biblical guidelines will go a long way toward preventing the abuse of chemicals!

Not only does the Bible give us reasons and specific instructions for preventing substance abuse; it provides personal case studies for our admonition. God gave Solomon wisdom (1 Kings 3:9–12), but he apparently learned some lessons the hard way—by experience! Solomon described his futile attempt to find happiness by pursuing whatever physical pleasures his heart desired—the proverbial wine (Ecclesiastes 2:3), women and song. His experiment was an abysmal failure, and he came to hate his life (v. 17).

What lesson did Solomon ultimately learn? “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into *judgment*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 KJV). Solomon understood this ultimate reason to shun substance abuse—that our Creator will hold us accountable for our actions! When Jesus Christ returns to Earth, He will reward those who have learned to make wise choices and live according to God’s law, but He

Individuals must feel there is something better in the world than drugs” (Hales, p. 369). The “medicalization” of substance abuse—treating it merely as a disease—ignores the ultimate cause of substance abuse. By removing the abuser’s feelings of guilt, it takes away powerful motivating factors for avoiding abuse or

changing destructive behavior.

The Bible explains that God will reward those who walk in His ways and *overcome* behavior problems. Our Creator not only reveals the true purpose for human life; He also outlines the way that leads to happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. When that knowledge is

missing from people’s lives, it is no wonder so many are irresistibly lured by the temptation to get high. But those who turn to God can be healed of their addictions and other problems, and by obeying His loving guidance can find a joy in their lives that no drug could ever provide! ■

Factors Preventing Substance Abuse

1. Purpose in life
2. Strong system of values
3. Positive parental example
4. Close relationship with parents
5. Positive peer influences
6. Academic achievement
7. High educational aspiration
8. Regular school attendance
9. Regular church attendance
10. Realistic long-term goals
11. Knowledge of consequences
12. Hope of a reward

will punish individuals and nations for ignoring that law (Matthew 25:31–34; Revelation 11:18).

Substance abuse has plagued mankind through the ages. Yet research indicates that “drug addiction is highly treatable *if patients are motivated and feel they have something to live for...*

Does God Heal Today?



There is no problem God cannot heal, if you understand how He can work in your life! You can experience the abundant life He wants for you!

Write for our FREE booklet, *Does God Heal Today?*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Today I received your September-October 2007 issue, and as soon as I opened the first page and saw "How to KNOW God" I went to it and read the whole lot. What a brilliant article. Thank you for the message. I'd like to say thanks again for all the free booklets and magazine issues you have sent me.

M. G., Virginia South, Australia

To my dearest friends at *Tomorrow's World*, I can't thank you enough, you deserve to be thanked and praised for all your wonderful work educating me and others with the amazing truth about God, and His kingdom, which I am looking forward to. I see the devil and his schemes and rely on your programmes and *Bible Study Course*, your magazines and booklets, to overcome Satan. You guys are brilliant, and I can't thank you enough. I thank God every day for your organization, and I want everyone to know the truth. I wish your programmes could be displayed on national TV so everyone can see, like BBC, instead of the things we watch today. Thank you once again.

P. L., Croydon, Surrey, United Kingdom

After reading the Questions & Answers in the November-December 2007 issue I was shocked. I am a Korean veteran. I spent a year there with the U.S. Marine Corps, 1953-1954. If it were not for our fighting and killing America's enemies, you would not be able to publish this magazine.

R. R., Livonia, MI

Thank you again for your *Bible Study Course*. It keeps me digging into my Bible, fitting everything together from Genesis to Revelation. It keeps me searching for the Truth according to God in His word. This world grabs me and I get started off again, caught up in the cares of this life, and another lesson will show up in the mail-

box. As I take it out and start digging into my Bible again, I see how easily I get distracted. I hope you people know what a great help you are to us. God certainly does!

D. A., Waverly, TN

Some time ago I received the booklet, *Your Ultimate Destiny*. I was tremendously blessed with that teaching. Many Christians live our lives without having an idea of what God's children's eternal life would be like. I learned through that teaching that it is worth serving God. I have a better understanding of what it means being created in God's image and likeness.

L. R., Bay Shore, NY

I have never read a more powerful article than "Christmas: Harmful to Children?" (November-December 2007) that exposes the falsehood of the "Christmas" myth. I, for one, never lied to my children that there was a "Santa Claus." It caused the downfall of my marriage but I don't regret it. I have the peace of mind of knowing I didn't support a falsehood that is more damaging than Biblical truth is uplifting.

J. K., San Pedro, CA

My husband and I would like to thank you for the magazines and communications you send to so many people. You are bringing new light to all people who did not know the Bible. *Who Controls the Weather?* was excellent, and we have seen all the signs of drought, and many other disasters. Hopefully, more and more people will be reading your publications. The United States is in a sad state of affairs with the name of God being omitted from monuments, the pledge of allegiance, and courthouses. We have been studying for two years now and it has changed our lives.

R. S., Brimfield, IL

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. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number.



Should Christians Keep the Sabbath?

By Richard F. Ames

Can a Christian worship on any day? Should Christians be setting aside any special days as sanctified or holy?

Different religions set aside varying days as holidays and times of worship. While most of the world's 2.1 billion professing Christians worship on Sunday, 1.3 billion Muslims keep Friday as their weekly day of worship. Millions of Jews observe the Sabbath—their day of rest and worship—from sunset on Friday through sunset on Saturday.

Does it matter which days we observe? And does God care when we worship Him, as long

as we do worship Him? Most professing Christians just accept whatever their parents or church taught them as tradition. Until I was a young adult, that is what I did, too. When I was a boy, I asked my mother, “Why do we keep Sunday, when the fourth commandment in the Bible teaches us to keep the Sabbath, the seventh day?” She gave me some vague answer, which I accepted at the time. But can *you* answer that question? Which day is the Christian Sabbath?

Where do today's professing Christians get the idea that Sunday is the Christian day of worship? You may be shocked to learn that some religious sects teach that their church's tradition carries more authority than the Bible! Notice this statement from Anglican theologian Isaac William: “Where are we told in Scripture that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day.... The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, not because the Bible, but because the church, has enjoined it” (*Plain Sermons on the Catechism*, vol. 1, pp. 334, 336).

Is William right? Does the Bible—the word of God—carry less weight than church tradition? What example did Jesus Christ set, Himself? Notice what the Bible says about Jesus' own practice at the start of His ministry. “So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read” (Luke 4:16).

Yes, it was Jesus' regular custom to worship on the Sabbath! What day of the week was that? Since the time of Jesus, and centuries before, the Jewish community has very carefully documented its observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, from sunset Friday through sunset Saturday. We know from thousands of carefully kept records that the seven-day cycle of the week has not been broken. Those who worship on the seventh day today are worshipping on the same day Jesus did!

Ask yourself: did Jesus set His example of keeping the Sabbath, and all the biblical precepts, so that we would not need to? Shockingly, this is what many preachers teach today! But did Jesus even once tell His followers to ignore His example? No! Not only did Jesus keep the commandments, He instructed others to keep them as well. He said, “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). Jesus'

answer clearly showed He was speaking of the Ten Commandments.

Paul's Example

We have seen that it was Jesus' practice to observe the Sabbath. Did the Apostle Paul—the "apostle to the Gentiles"—observe the Sabbath, or did he set an example showing that Gentile Christians need not do so? Remember, Paul was trained as a Pharisee, and knew Scripture very well. When Paul was in Greece, in the city of Thessalonica, he preached for three Sabbaths in a row to the Jews in the synagogue. Notice that this was Paul's custom—he regularly preached on the Sabbath. "Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, 'This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ'" (Acts 17:2–3).

So, we see that Paul regularly preached to the Jews on the Sabbath. But did he also speak to the Gentiles on the Sabbath? Notice what he did in the Gentile city of Corinth, in Greece. "And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks" (Acts 18:4)! Yes, Paul preached to the Gentiles on the Sabbath!

If Paul expected Christians to keep a Sunday observance instead of the seventh-day Sabbath, we might expect him to speak to Christians—at the very least, to the Gentiles—on Sunday. Is that what your Bible shows he did? Notice Paul's example in Antioch, in what is today the nation of Turkey. What happened after Paul's usual Sabbath sermon to both Jews and Gentiles in the synagogue? "So when the Jews went out of the synagogue,

the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath" (Acts 13:42).

If Jesus or the Apostles had changed the commanded day of worship to Sunday, here was a perfect opportunity for Paul to tell the Gentiles, "No, you don't have to wait until next Saturday, we Christians now worship on Sunday. Meet with us tomorrow!" *But he did not do that!* What does your Bible say? "On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God" (Acts 13:44). Paul taught the Gentile Christians on the Sabbath! He also commanded the Gentile Corinthians to follow his example. Remember Paul's instruction, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). Or, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (NIV). Yes, Jesus, Paul, and the Apostles set an example for all Christians in observing the Sabbath!

Why the Change?

Since the example of Christ and the apostles is clear, we may wonder: when did "mainstream" Christianity begin to observe Sunday instead of the seventh-day Sabbath as a day of rest? Notice: "Tertullian (202AD) is the first writer who expressly mentions the Sunday rest: 'We, however (just as tradition has taught us), on the day of the Lord's Resurrection ought to guard not only against kneeling, but every posture and office of solicitude, deferring even our businesses lest we give any place to the devil'" (article: "Sunday," *The Catholic Encyclopedia*). That was not until 202AD, more than 170 years after the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah, Jesus Christ!

Later, in the fourth century AD, the Roman emperor Constantine enforced Sunday worship through-

out his empire. Constantine had been a pagan sun-worshiper. He gave the following edict in 321AD: "On the venerable day of the Sun let all magistrates and people ... rest" (article: "Sunday Legislation," *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*).

Disobedience to the emperor's command could mean death to Sabbath-keeping Christians. Just a few years later, the Roman church also passed a startling decree at the Council of Laodicea. It declared: "Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, resting rather on Sunday. But, if any be found to be judaizing [keeping God's Sabbath], let them be declared anathema from Christ" (*A History of the Councils of the Church*, p. 316). Christian Sabbath-keepers were labeled as heretics.

Both the government and the churches moved against Christian Sabbath-keepers. Yet the true Christianity of the first century—which never stopped following Christ's example of keeping the fourth commandment—has continued to this day, in spite of persecutions over the centuries. Millions in the United States today forget that many of the first American settlers crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the 17th century in search of religious freedom in the colonies of North America. Thousands came to Rhode Island to take advantage of its royal charter, granted in 1663 by King Charles II of England, which guaranteed religious freedom in the colony. To this day, that charter remains on display in the Providence, Rhode Island statehouse.

Seventh-day Sabbath-keepers were among those who came to Rhode Island seeking religious freedom. Stephen Mumford and his wife, who came to Newport, Rhode Island in 1665, were the first Christian Sabbath-keepers docu-

mented to have settled in Rhode Island. Others followed, and by 1729 their group had expanded so much it needed a larger meeting hall. That hall, built in 1729, is still being preserved by the Newport Historical Society.

If you are ever in Newport, Rhode Island you may want to visit that historic building. Inside the hall is a raised pulpit. Behind the pulpit are two

large plaques, inscribed with the Ten Commandments. At the bottom of the second plaque is the Apostle Paul's bold statement, "Do we then

make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law" (Romans 3:31, KJV). Yes, these New Testament Christians affirmed their allegiance to Christ's statement, "But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." These Christians correctly understood that Jesus' teachings insisted on His followers' obeying and observing the Ten Commandments!

Sabbatarian church records, preserved in the Newport Historical Museum, contain members' names and contributions. Significantly, the church describes itself in those records as "keeping the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus, and in particular the Lord's Seventh-Day Sabbath."

Some Seventh-day Sabbath keepers were prominent citizens of Rhode Island in the 18th century. Two of the colony's governors—Richard Ward and his son Samuel—were seventh-day Sabbath-keepers. Even the first president of Brown University—James Manning—was a Sabbatarian!

The Sabbath Before Moses?

Some today believe Sabbath observance was instituted as a Jewish custom at Mount Sinai, when Moses received the tablets containing the Ten Commandments. Is this so? No! Notice how your Bible describes what is called "creation week."

We read that God created man and woman on the sixth day. What then happened on the sev-



In 1672, a group of Christians in Newport, Rhode Island began a Sabbath-keeping congregation; pictured above is their meeting hall, built in 1729.

enth day? "Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made" (Genesis 2:1–3).

Yes, the seventh-day Sabbath is a memorial of the creation—and it points to the true God and true Creator of the universe. It had meaning from the very creation, and it still has deep meaning for

Christians today, who look at the seventh-day Sabbath as a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ's thousand-year reign on the Earth during the Millennium.

What did Jesus claim about His relationship to the Sabbath? Did He say He was Lord over Sunday—that Sunday was the Lord's day? No! Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27–28). If Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, what day is the Lord's day? Sunday? No! The Sabbath is the Lord's Day—Jesus Himself said so! In fact, the expression "Lord's Day" appears only once in the Bible, in Revelation 1:10. There, it refers to the prophetic period known as the Day of the Lord, which leads up to the Second Coming of Christ. It does not refer to a day of the week.

The book of Hebrews depicts the Sabbath as a foreshadowing of the Earth's millennial rest, as well as a memorial of God's rest at creation. Regarding the ancient Israelites' disobedience on their way to the promised land, we read, "For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God" (Hebrews 4:8–9). The original Greek word for "rest" in verse 9 is *sabbatismos*, which means "a Sabbath-keeping" (see *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*). Both the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New International Version* translate verse 9 as "a Sabbath rest."

Yes, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, even to this day! But is it merely a symbolic rest, or is it a literal Sabbath rest? If you have access to a copy of the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, you can see for yourself that in other contexts, including secular Greek

writings not dependent on this verse from Hebrews, that *sabbatismos* plainly and literally means “Sabbath observance” or “Sabbath celebration.” There is no question that this verse is a New Testament statement about a literal Christian observance of the Sabbath!

If Christians are to cease from their works, just as God ceased from His (Hebrews 4:10), we must ask: how did God cease from His works? Scripture gives us the answer: “For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: ‘And God rested on the seventh day from all His works’” (Hebrews 4:4).

There is no guessing here! New Testament Christians are supposed to rest just as God rested—on the seventh Day! Both the Old Testament and the New Testament give Christians the clear example and instruction to keep the Sabbath day holy! If you consider the Bible your authority, rather than some church tradition that claims to overrule the Bible, you have no other choice! So, what is your authority?

Scripture or Tradition?

Earlier in this article, we read one Anglican theologian’s plain admission that it was church tradition, rather than Scripture, which brought about a Sunday observance in place of the seventh-day Sabbath. Other theologians concur. Noted Roman Catholic theologian James Cardinal Gibbons wrote, in his book *Faith of Our Fathers*, the following bold statement: “But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.” Gibbons admits that if the Bible is your authority, you have no

basis for observing Sunday. Scripture, as he writes, enforces “the religious observance of Saturday.” Gibbons acknowledges that it was the Council of Laodicea in the fourth century AD—not the pages of your Bible—that caused the professing Christian world to change from the seventh-day Sabbath to a Sunday observance.

Similarly, prominent Southern Baptist minister Harold Lindsell, a former editor of *Christianity Today* magazine and Southern Baptist minister, wrote: “There is nothing in Scripture that requires us to keep Sunday rather than Saturday as a holy day.”

What should you do? You need to study your Bible and decide whether you will live by “every word of God” as Jesus admonished us in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4. Jesus said He is Lord of the Sabbath. He observed the seventh-day Sabbath regularly, and He did

not break the law. As He said, “I have kept My Father’s commandments” (John 15:10). Will you follow the example of Jesus Christ and the instructions of your Bible? Or will you oppose them, in order to follow the tradition of men?

If you still have any doubt about which day is the Christian Sabbath, notice what your Bible teaches about the coming Kingdom of God, where Jesus Christ will rule all nations on Earth. “For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make

shall remain before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon [month] to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,’ says the LORD” (Isaiah 66:22–23).

In God’s Kingdom, everyone will keep the seventh-day Sabbath. What a wonderful world that will be. True Christians, in their worship, are foreshadowing that time today. ■



Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?

God has set aside the time from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday, as a special time to rest from our works, and to turn our attention to our Creator. Following God’s instruction can bring indescribable joy and peace to your life!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

Watch and Warn

Our Future Is Written in History

Scripture shows us vividly what happens when a society goes against God's law and seeks its own pleasure. When the Lord announced His determination to deal with the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah, He went with two angels to gauge the depth of the cities' depravity. "And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know" (Genesis 18:20–21).

Abraham begged the Lord to save the righteous inhabitants of those two cities, and He agreed to spare Sodom and Gomorrah—if just ten righteous people could be found there (Genesis 18:23–33). But in the end, the only ones spared were Abraham's nephew Lot and two of his daughters (Genesis 19:12–17).

As soon as Lot reached the neighboring town of Zoar, "the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground" (Genesis 19:23–25). Sadly, Lot's wife did not escape the destruction; though God had saved her from Sodom's destruction, she disobeyed the angel's instruction that she not look back upon the city she was fleeing. As punishment, God turned her into a pillar of salt (v. 26). Even the righteous may suffer loss during times of national tragedy, as Lot did.

The Pursuit of Pleasure

Sydney, Australia hosts an annual "Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras" that has become notorious as one of the world's largest "gay pride" celebrations. Other Australian cities have their own similar festivals; this January 19 marks the 20th anniversary of "Midsumma"—billed as "Melbourne's Gay and Lesbian Festival."

In the United States, the economy of Las Vegas thrives because of the sex and gambling industries. New Orleans, before Hurricane Katrina brought flooding and devastation to its citizens, was known for wild debaucheries, exemplified best by its annual "Mardi Gras" celebration. Southern California is headquarters for many entertainment conglomerates, and its San Fernando Valley has for decades been known as the world capital of the pornography industry.

New Orleans has been ravaged by floods. Australia and the western U.S. have been parched by drought. Last October, southern California was scorched by terrible firestorms.

Is God trying to tell us something? If so, most are not listening. "These are just coincidences," some will say. Few have made a connection between immoral behavior and warnings Almighty God has given. And even fewer today realize that most individuals and governments are disobeying His financial laws! Even some of those who are quick to condemn others for their sexual sins may themselves be facing curses for their financial disobedience!



Penalties for the Profligate

You do not need an M.B.A. degree to understand that a business cannot survive long if its spending exceeds its income. Why, then, do irresponsible government officials fail to apply this simple principle to the budgets they control? And why do so many Americans follow their government's fiscal example? The U.S. Federal Reserve commissioned a study showing that while the average U.S. household income in 2005 was \$43,200, average annual household spending was \$46,409! In 1985, Americans were saving \$11 for every \$100 they earned; today, the savings rate is near—or below—zero! For a while, a government can stave off inevitable disaster (and hide the effect of such overspending) by printing more money—the government equivalent of writing a check on insufficient funds. But the longer the delay in bringing spending under control, the worse the collapse will be when it happens!

The sub-prime mortgage crisis is only the tip of a financial iceberg far more devastating than the one that tore open the hull of the Titanic. Hoping to spur consumer spending, the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank last December lowered its federal funds rate—the interest rate at which U.S. banks lend to each other overnight—to 4.25 percent. This rate in turn affects the rates at which banks lend to investors. For the moment, Japanese finan-

ciers may still find U.S. investments attractive, comparing this U.S. rate to the Bank of Japan's 0.5 percent. But as U.S. rates fall, other nations' markets look more attractive—the comparable Bank of England rate last December was at 5.75 percent, and the Reserve Bank of Australia was at 6.75 percent—which can only hasten investors' flight from the already weakened dollar.

Nations like China—which alone held \$1.3 trillion in dollar reserves as of December 2007—are watching in horror as U.S. currency plunges in value. How long will it be until they feel forced to dump their dollars in favor of the euro, yen and other stronger currencies? In October 2000, one euro would buy just 82 cents of U.S. currency. But as of December 2007, one euro was worth more than \$1.45. Investors who hold euros are profiting, while those holding dollars are seeing their investments waste away. America's day of financial reckoning is close at hand. What will the U.S. do if the overseas bankers who hold U.S. assets decide to foreclose the “mortgages” they hold on America? “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7). History is replete with examples of empires, such as ancient Rome, that overspent themselves into oblivion.

Curses or Blessings?

Jesus Christ told the parable of the “prodigal son” who squandered his wealthy father's bounty through immoral living, and who spent himself into such poverty that when a famine came, he could only find work doing menial labor for a swineherd. Despondent, the son returned to his father, begging for work as a servant. But his father welcomed him as a long-lost son (Luke 15:11–32).

Our nations have sinned grievously. Their actions—and ours—bring inevitable consequences. But God loves

every physical son and daughter He has created, and will give every human being the opportunity to become one of His Spirit-born children. He sent Jesus Christ to save us, and to set us an example by which to conduct our lives. But when Christians disobey Him and engage in immoral conduct, they disqualify themselves and inherit eternal death! “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are” (1 Corinthians 3:16–17).

Long-time readers of *Tomorrow's World* understand that human

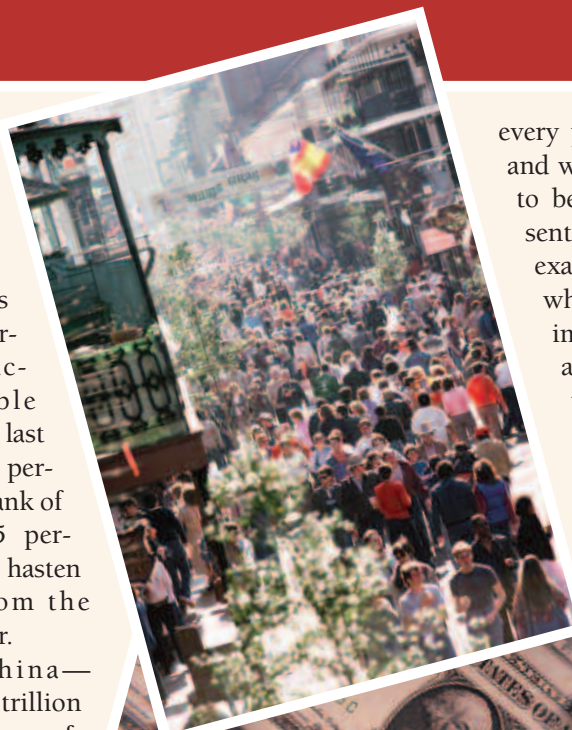
beings are nearing the end of the time their Creator allowed them to order their lives apart from Him and His law. A disastrous time is just ahead, but when it has passed, the survivors—and their descendants—will experience a wonderful millennial rest (Revelation 20:2–6).

Thankfully, like the prodigal son, we can repent of our disobedience, whether sexual, fiscal or otherwise, and

allow Jesus Christ to live within us. We can overcome our past mistakes, by using the gift of the Holy Spirit, which Christians have received through the laying on of hands at baptism. We read: “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:6–8).

The world seems never to learn from history, but you can. God has not left us without a warning. The Bible is filled with examples of the blessings that result from obedience, and the curses caused by sin. “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). No matter what mistakes our nations and our neighbors make, you as an individual can turn to God and learn the lessons of history!

—Don Davis



Smells Like Teen Marketing

As I read the comics one recent morning, a strip caught my eye. Its first panel showed a young man skateboarding, talking about something exciting: “It’s totally awesome, dude!” The third panel revealed the punch line: the skateboarder was in a commercial trying to get kids to invest in the stock market. The last panel showed two teenagers watching the commercial, as one said to the other: “I hate the way they all pander to our generation.”

This reminded me of a huge billboard I used to see during my daily commute in Dallas, Texas. It, too, showed a skateboarder—and featured a similarly blatant attempt at pandering to a market: “Look! This is cool! Check it out, teens!”

That billboard, however, was advertising a church.

There is nothing wrong with a church helping all generations see how God’s word is relevant in their lives. But, like the teenage protagonist in our comic strip, I am tired of seeing churches pander to teens and young adults.

“Hey, teens—our church is radical! Look, there’s a guy on a skateboard! You teens like skateboarding, right? And hey, look! A picture of a guy playing an electric guitar! All you young people like ‘rocking out’ like our middle-aged marketing execs said you do, right? Awesome, dude!”

Please! Such condescending appeals risk two dangerous consequences. First, they may cause exactly the opposite of the effect intended, as more savvy teenagers shy away from church because of the shallow attempts to “market” to them. Second, they may demean—or cause others to demean—the God to whom they are trying to point a generation. They portray God as someone so desperate to get teens into the church, that He is willing to do whatever it takes to seem “popular.”

In his August 24, 2002 *World* magazine article, “Stupid Church Tricks,” writer Gene Edward

Veith noted that “status-conscious teenagers know that those who are so desperate to be liked that they will do anything to curry favor are impossible to respect.” He is right, and appeals like this make God hard for teens to respect.

Give our youth more credit! As two important articles in major newspapers last year noted, there is a growing trend among young people toward more serious religious faith (*Wall Street Journal*, March 2, 2007; *USA Today*, July 9, 2007).

Newspaper reports tell us that some young people are even being drawn into the strict religion of Muslim fundamentalism. Do they convert to find a release for some pent-up anti-society sentiment? Or because they think they have found a religion that demands their respect, and does not pander to them? How sad!

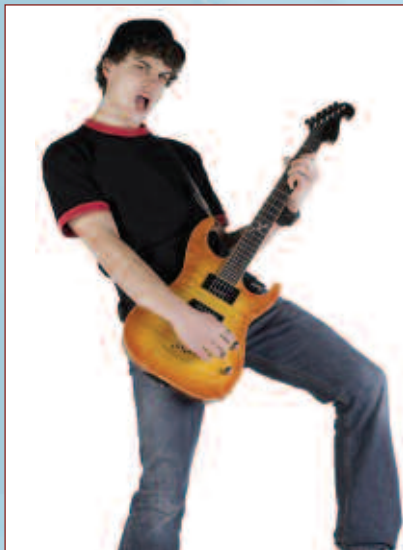
The true God of the Bible panders to no one. He demands

loyalty and faithfulness, and sets standards He expects His followers to strive to meet, saying: “You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy” (Leviticus 19:2). Yet He is also a remarkably personal God, who is relevant to our daily lives and who cares deeply about the trials we go through and the experiences we have—at whatever age we have them (cf. 1 Peter 5:7).

We should strive to present the true religion of the Bible to our teens and our youth: a religion they can respect—and a religion that respects them too much to pander to them.

If you would like to learn more about the true religion of God the Father and Jesus Christ—a religion beyond the pandering billboards—please write to the regional office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine) or go online to www.tomorrowworld.org to request your free copy of our booklet, *Restoring Apostolic Christianity*. It will help you grow closer to the God of the Bible—a God young and old alike can truly respect!

—Wallace G. Smith



Homosexuality (Continued from page 8)

involved in homosexuality: “God really **does** love you!” God is the Creator of every one of us. *All* human beings are made in His image. *All* are made with the potential to be *full sons* of God. The Bible tells us that God has given “the right to become **children of God**, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12). For God *is* a family. Your Father wants you to become *part* of that family, and He has special concern for you if you are willing to prove to yourself that He exists—and if you are willing to *obey* His inspired word.

The stakes are high! But God has *total* outflowing concern, which He showed by **giving** His only begotten Son to die for every one of us (John 3:16). He has *promised* to give us His Holy Spirit upon repentance and baptism (Acts 2:36–38). The Holy Spirit is the very *mind* and *character* of God implanted within us once we truly **repent** and *accept Christ* as our Savior, our Lord and Master, our High Priest and our soon-coming King.

Certainly, part of “coming out” of homosexuality involves completely turning away from this entire practice and from being involved with those people who may “drag” you right back into it! Scripture tells us, “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body” (1 Corinthians 6:18–20).

Remember, you do **not** overcome smoking by “hanging around” others who smoke, by keeping cigarettes “handy” in case you wish to take a puff. You should not be making it “easy” to slip right back into your old habit. The same principle applies to homosexuality. For your good,

think about this and *take action!* And always remember, there is a *tremendous reward* ahead for those who truly want to serve the God of creation and fulfill His will!

Each of us must be willing to go “all out” in order to attain the resurrection. Whether this involves coming out of homosexuality—or out of alcoholism, drug abuse or just plain *selfishness*—each of us *must* be willing to *do our part* wholeheartedly. And we are *promised* the help of a loving Father, and of a merciful High Priest who is *at this moment* sitting at God’s right hand, and is more than willing to hear our prayers (Hebrews 4:14–16). So, let us all **love** one another and **pray** for one another. We must have a profound outflowing concern for our homosexual relatives and acquaintances, and want deeply to help them in any way we can.

Long-time readers of this magazine understand that the United States and British-descended nations have been *wonderfully blessed* by God, being among His birthright people.

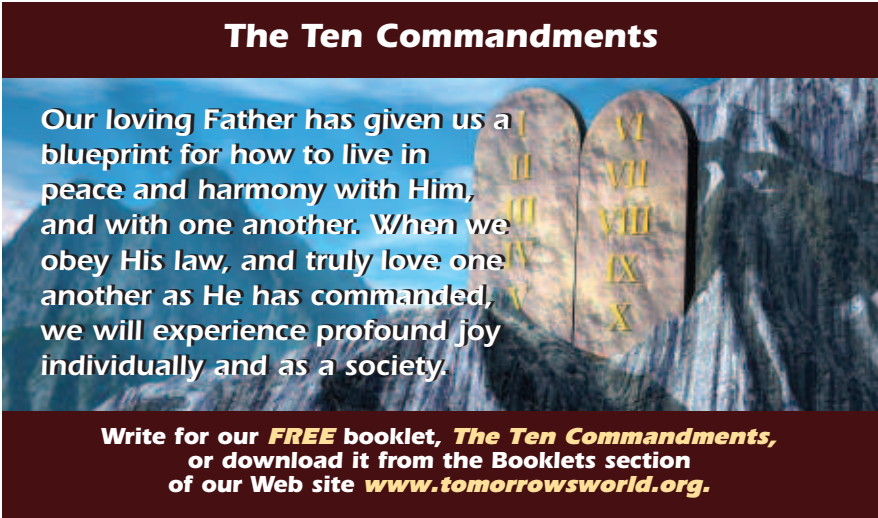
Yet, in a powerful prophecy given to our ancestors which *definitely applies to us today*, Almighty God warns us, “But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all

these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: *I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever* which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall *sow your seed in vain*, for your enemies shall eat it... *I will break the pride of your power*; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit” (Leviticus 26:14–20).

If we, as a people, persist in affirming, legalizing and even “congratulating” those among us who practice a way of life God calls an “abomination,” we *must expect* that a loving God will **chastise** us with increasing “terror”—or **terrorist attacks**—as the above prophecy indicates, with raging *disease epidemics*, alternating *droughts, floods, fires* and massive *earthquakes*. God will indeed “break” our national pride and power *unless we genuinely repent*.

God is not mocked! May He help each of us truly understand and turn to His ways while we still have the opportunity! ■

The Ten Commandments



Our loving Father has given us a blueprint for how to live in peace and harmony with Him, and with one another. When we obey His law, and truly love one another as He has commanded, we will experience profound joy individually and as a society.

Write for our **FREE** booklet, **The Ten Commandments**, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site **www.tomorrowworld.org**.

What to Watch in 2008

(Continued from page 2)

humble and to **weaken** our peoples *unless* we **repent!** In many different ways, God will “break” the pride of the American and British-descended peoples over the next several years. For we have been given God’s blessings, but now we have *turned our back* on Him.

A third ominous problem is the rising power of militant Islam. Most of you undoubtedly realize that—in starting the war against Iraq—the United States unleashed a “wave” of hatred and resentment across the entire Muslim world, affecting about 1.2 billion people! No matter how President George W. Bush and his advisors try to frame it, it is becoming a “religious war”—and radical Muslim imams are playing this to the hilt. It is already becoming one of the longest, most expensive and most debilitating wars in America’s history, and God is allowing it to “break” the U.S. by weakening and demoralizing the American military, by dividing the American people and by helping to literally **bankrupt** the American nation!

As the raging struggle against militant Islam continues in the Middle East—and all over the world—we will witness the rise of the prophesied “King of the South” (Daniel 11:40). This soon-to-appear Muslim leader will unite the “Arab nation”—as it is sometimes called—and will assemble the armies and weaponry of many Middle East nations into a “pan-Arab empire.” He will then be emboldened to provoke or attack the coming Beast Power in Europe, who will then come against him “like a whirlwind” with even more advanced weaponry.

This coming “King of the South” will arise “south” of Jerusalem, probably somewhere in the area that today comprises Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Another key to its location is God’s prophecy of what happens when the Beast attacks the King of the South and his allies: “He [the Beast] shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels” (Daniel 11:42–43).

Since the Beast’s wrath is directed especially *against Egypt*, this may indicate *where* the “King of the South” will be located. In any case, you and I are headed into some of the most hair-raising, bone-chilling, spine-tin-gling years in all human history!

As 2008 gets underway, you need to be absolutely sure you know *what* and *how* to “watch.” After describing the basic **end-time** events leading right up to His Second Coming, Jesus instructed us, “**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). We at *Tomorrow’s World* are “watchmen.” God has called us to this task of helping all who are willing to **understand** what lies just ahead, and who want to understand **why**. This is not always a pleasant task, because the “mainstream” churches actually **reject** the absolute authority of the Bible, in order to maintain the “traditional” ideas and practices of today’s professing Christianity. But, in His mercy, God may be calling *you* to a genuine understanding of His word, His prophecies for our time and His supreme **purpose** for your life!

So **keep reading**—and even **studying**—the *Tomorrow’s World* magazine each month. If you are in an area where it is available, keep viewing the *Tomorrow’s World* television program and following our message *in your own Bible*. If you have Internet access, you can always watch the telecast online, at any time of day or night, at www.tomorrowworld.org.

Remember, as I often say: “Don’t believe me, but believe what you read in the pages of *your own Bible!*” In each issue of *Tomorrow’s World* magazine, we give you specific information and proof about what is happening in world events and why. We sincerely hope and pray that you will put forth the effort to **prove** the truth of what we are saying, and then be willing to act upon God’s precious Truth, so you may find the genuine way of “escape” Jesus Christ described.



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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 1:30 am ET; MON-FRI 3:00 am ET

NEW U.S.A. TELEVISION STATIONS:

CA, Los Angeles: KPXN—CH 30, WED 5:30 pm

CA, San Francisco: Access—CH 29, TUE 6:00 pm

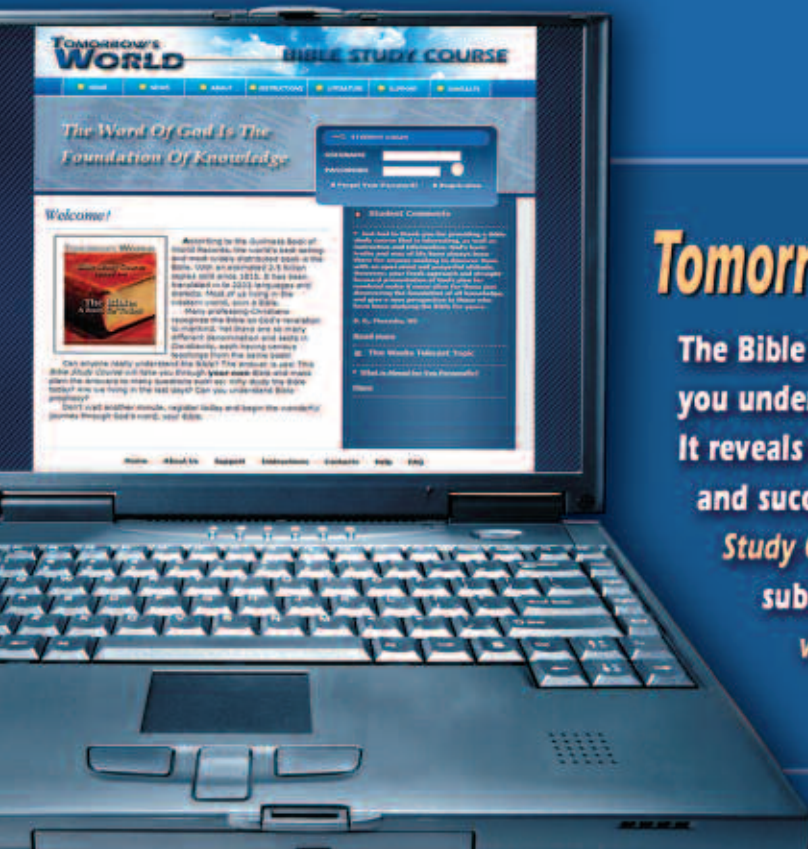
KS, Salina: Community TV—CH 21, MON & TUE 8:55 pm; WED 6:00 pm;
THUR 6:00 am; FRI 9:30 pm; SAT 2:30 am

LA, Lafayette: KLWB—CH 20, SUN 8:30 am

NY, Buffalo: KUTV—CH 29, SUN 7:30 am

NEW UNITED KINGDOM SATELLITE NETWORK:

United Kingdom: LoveWorld: SKY—CH 768, SUN 8:30 am



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