

TOMORROW'S WORLD

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The **Bible**

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Will Mankind “Obliterate” the Bible?

If you honestly look at the facts, most of our Western, formerly professing “Christian nations” are swiftly turning away from almost every vestige of biblical morality.

No! I am not kidding! The very few who still believe the Bible need to face that absolute **fact**. *For God is not mocked*. And when you *Tomorrow’s World* subscribers read about or see on your television news of the continuing breakup of the traditional family unit, when you see increasing millions of young people “living together” without benefit of marriage, when you see increasing millions of children growing up without two parents—or perhaps with *no parents*—when you see our financial crisis growing even worse, when you see unusual upset weather conditions, powerful **earthquakes** and soon-to-come horrible **disease epidemics**, please realize that our Creator specifically *warned us* of these many disasters. Again, *God is not mocked!*

Writing about the supposedly *educated* and *smart* people of his time, the Apostle Paul stated: “Professing to be wise, they became fools” (Romans 1:22).

Then Almighty God inspired Paul to continue: “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” (vv. 26–28). No, rebellious carnal mankind does **not** like to retain God in its knowledge. For the *true* God—the *God of the Bible*—shines His “light” of Truth and righteousness on those willing to listen. But, as Jesus said, “...men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19).

Also, God inspired the Apostle Paul to describe the normal, fleshly “carnal mind” of most humans: “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because *the carnal mind is*

enmity against God; for it is *not subject to the law of God*, nor indeed can be” (Romans 8:6–7). Notice the “key” issue! The mind of most people is at “enmity” against God. **Why?** “For it is not subject to the **law** of God.”



Rebellion Against Liberty

Rebellious human beings do not like a God who *commands them* what to do! So they—perhaps unwittingly—are influenced by Satan the Devil to be at “enmity” against their very Creator and His righteous law—described in His word as

the “law of liberty” (James 2:12).

Speaking to our forefathers, Almighty God warned those who disobey Him, “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 26:15–16).

As we have pointed out many times, the Hebrew word translated “terror” can certainly include the meaning of “terrorism”—the very first **warning sign** God gave our western nations on September 11, 2001! Later in this same scriptural passage, God stated: “And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 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” (vv. 18–20).

As all of *you* watch the decline of the American and British-descended people, please **wake up!** Realize that as the prophesied “terrorism” increases, as “wasting diseases” such as AIDS and **cancer**

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increasingly destroy our people, and as our national power and prestige continue to plummet downward, the great God—the *God of the Bible*—remains alive! And if we “obliterate” the Bible from our own understandings—if we do not come to heartfelt individual and national **repentance**—then the God of the Bible will **obliterate** our God-rejecting, rebellious and terribly immoral societies!

For God warned our peoples of the terrible **consequences** of rebellion against their Creator and His instructions. Among them: “The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail” (Deuteronomy 28:43–44).

Chastisement and Change Ahead!

Please **wake up!** This is **real**. It is **now** beginning to affect *your very lives* and the lives of your friends, your children and your grandchildren.

For as carnal mankind tries to “obliterate” the Bible and to **stamp out** the deep respect mankind ought

*Rebellious human beings may try to **obliterate** God’s word, but they will ultimately fail!*

to feel for God and His inspired word, the very **real God** will “chastise” our entire rebellious society. He will soon *replace* the God-forsaking and God-forsaken society with the Kingdom of God! As the inspired Apostle Peter stated, the great God will soon “...send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive *until the times of restoration of all things*, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:20–21). An entire *new society* will be established at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as King of kings to **rule** over the nations *here on this earth* (Revelation 5:10).

The Ten Commandments will become the very foundational principles for perfect government under Jesus Christ. Men will learn to deeply respect and **honor** their parents—that is the fifth commandment. They will **not** commit adultery or

break up the normal family in any way by **perversion** or other means. Families will be strong and teach their children to **love** the ways of God and learn **how** to love God and **how** to love other human beings made in the image of God. Mankind will then truly **understand** that Jesus Christ really meant it when He stated: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word of God**” (Luke 4:4).

Rebellious human beings may try to obliterate



God’s word, but they will ultimately fail! Instead, Almighty God will **obliterate** **all** human societies

and nations that **defy Him**, that “despise” His commandments and that are, even now, bringing upon millions of human beings a degree of despair, suffering and seeming hopelessness almost beyond belief.

Christ and the Bible Vindicated!

Describing the soon-coming and *very real* Kingdom or **Government** of God under Jesus Christ, your Bible states: “He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor... Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy. He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight” (Psalm 72:4–14).

Are you preparing for that wonderful prophesied time? Are you studying your Bible? If you, personally, want to genuinely know the God of the Bible, and have His genuine blessings and protection in the times ahead, I urge you to act now! Have you enrolled in our absolutely free *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*? If not, I urge you to do so. Be diligent in making yourself ready for the day of Christ’s return, and *God speed that day!*

5 God's Master Plan

Most of mankind has no idea what God is doing in our world today. In the Bible, God reveals His Plan for our future and eternity!

10 The Unknown God?

The more you know about the creation, the more you will see the hand of the Creator, and come to know the God of the Bible more closely.

16 You Can Understand the Bible!

God's word is not for armchair philosophers and hobbyists; it is a tool you can use to make your life better and prepare for eternity!

22 The Pursuit of Dreams

Are your dreams just idle fantasies, or are they giving you hope for the very real future God has promised?

29 The Sleeper

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Does our Creator have a **master plan** in working out His supreme *purpose* for all mankind? Very few humans seem to be aware of that purpose. Yet, it is not only very meaningful, but **absolutely inspiring** when you truly grasp what our *Creator is doing!*

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As thousands of you *Tomorrow's World* subscribers are no doubt aware, the vast majority of professing Christians have *very little knowledge* of what the Bible actually says. Many respected, independent pollsters have clearly demonstrated for years that most churchgoers very seldom *study* their Bibles. Some will often read an occasional Psalm or “inspirational” portion of the Bible. But far fewer actually *study* the Bible to sincerely seek understanding of God’s purpose, *His way of life* and His **will** as to how we humans should live.

Sadly, because they do not understand God’s plan, millions of professing Christians have no idea that when Jesus Christ returns to this earth, **everything** is going to *change*. First of all—as we have proved repeatedly in this magazine—the ultimate *reward* for true Christians is **not** “going off to heaven forever” with nothing to do. Describing Jesus Christ’s Second Coming, your Bible states, “Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall

reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15).

So Christ will soon rule “*the kingdoms of this world*”—**not** up in heaven! Secondly, His saints will assist Him in teaching and ruling over the nations *right here on earth*. As Revelation 5:9–10 points out, Christ has *redeemed* us by His blood and has “made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign **on the earth**.” Therefore, soon after Christ’s Second Coming, the *entire world* will begin to learn to practice *God’s way of life*.

Notice what your own Bible describes about this soon-coming joyous era. After describing how Jerusalem will be taken in battle and “half of the city shall go into captivity,” the Bible tells us that Christ will go forth to fight the nations and “His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives” (Zechariah 14:1–4). In verse nine, the story continues, “And the LORD shall be King *over all the earth*.” Continuing in verse 16, Almighty God tells us in His inspired word: “And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. If the

family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16–19).

My friends, can we believe *what the Bible actually says*? *Think!* Most of you reading this grew up in "traditional" Protestant and Catholic churches keeping Christmas and Easter. Yet those days—like many other religious festivals on church calendars—are never even mentioned in your Bible!

Why is this? Why do most people today ignore the seven festivals that God establishes in His word, which Scripture shows **will** soon be observed by all the world in Christ's coming Kingdom—a time of "restoration of all things" (Acts 3:20–21)?

The amazing truth is that God's plan for mankind is revealed in the seven annual festivals He gave His people in the Bible. **If** you who read this are willing to *do what God says now*, you will end up being "pioneers" in obeying your Creator and will certainly be among those kings and priests assisting Christ in **ruling** the entire world and bringing about an entire world full of *peace, prosperity* and **joy** which the world has always longed for but never been able to achieve. God's own calendar reveals His master plan for our world—and for you!

God's Calendar: Seven Commanded Festivals

In your Bible, you will find that Jesus Christ and the apostles *did observe* the religious festivals described

GOD'S OWN CALENDAR REVEALS HIS MASTER PLAN FOR OUR WORLD—AND FOR YOU!

in the Old Testament. They are **not** "Jewish" festivals but religious observances commanded for all human beings, which—as we saw in Zechariah 14—absolutely **will** be observed by the *entire world* in a few years when Christ's feet are again upon this earth. In fact, the New Testament Church of God began on one of these festivals—the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4).

Pentecost was **not** merely a "one-time event." For later in the book of Acts, Luke's inspired account tells us that Paul was going to observe another Pentecost: "For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost" (Acts 20:16).

Earlier in Acts 20, Luke wrote about his travels with Paul: "But we sailed away from Philippi *after the Days of Unleavened Bread*, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days" (Acts 20:6). So Paul and his companions were observing the "Days of Unleavened Bread" in a *Gentile* city—just as they, in fact, observed **all** of God's Holy Days throughout the book of Acts.

Interestingly, in the very pagan Gentile city of Corinth, Paul—the apostle to the Gentiles—commanded the Christian brethren: "Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. *Therefore let us keep the feast*, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:6–8).

So, here is a *New Testament command* for the Gentiles at Corinth to "keep the Feast"—definitely the *Feast of Unleavened Bread* which God commanded in the Old Testament and which *continued to be kept* until it and other apostolic practices were *stamped out* by a professing Christianity that brought in more and more

pagan festivals in place of those Almighty God had commanded. As the respected Protestant historian, Jesse Lyman Hurlbut—writing about the

period between 313AD and 476AD—acknowledges: "The forms and ceremonies of paganism gradually crept into the worship. Some of the old heathen feasts became church festivals with change of name and worship. About 405AD images of saints and martyrs began to appear in the churches, at first as memorials, then in succession revered, adored, and worshipped" (*The Story of the Christian Church*, p. 79).

So, although the early “Christian” leaders were accommodative to the pagans around them, God warned our spiritual forefathers against following the customs of the surrounding heathen nations, saying: “Do **not** inquire after their gods, saying ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’ You shall **not** worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods” (Deuteronomy 12:30–31).

Jesus Christ warned the religious leaders of His day, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition” (Mark 7:9). Notice carefully Jesus’ comment about rejecting the commandment of God by following **human tradition**. This is very definitely the case when we consider which days God made holy. For virtually no one keeps the days introduced by the pagans **and** also observes the biblical Holy Days that God commands and which Christ and the Apostolic Church observed—days that, when kept and understood, reveal His “master plan” for humanity.

In effect, you have to **choose**. Even in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea during stormy weather, the Apostle Paul **chose** to observe the Day of Atonement (Acts 27:9). Many Protestant commentaries acknowledge that “the fast” commented on here had to be the Day of Atonement—commanded by God in the Old Testament. Yet Paul was **not** in some synagogue but out in the ocean on a Roman prison ship with mainly Gentiles surrounding him. As **all** of us should do, he was following *Christ’s example* in keeping holy the days that God made holy.

In 1 Corinthians 11:23–26, Paul tells us how we are to keep the **Passover** service. Again, the “Passover” is one of God’s seven annual festivals commanded to be kept by His people forever.

In John 7, we are told how Jesus Christ—setting us an **example**—went up “secretly”—as it were—to keep the Feast of Tabernacles even though His life was in danger by so doing! Earlier, He had commanded His brothers: “You go up to this Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, for My time is not yet fully come” (John 7:8). Would Jesus have commanded His own brothers to do something **contrary** to God’s will? *Of course not*. For again, Christ was setting us an example of what it means to be a *genuine Christian*

and obey the way of God. So Jesus **observed** the Feast of Tabernacles just as we will see the *entire world* doing within a few years!

Throughout the New Testament, we find that Jesus Christ and His genuine followers were observing the seven annual festivals given by Almighty God. **Seven**, by the way, is used throughout the Bible as a number of completion or **perfection**. As most of you know, God’s weekly Sabbath day falls on the **seventh day**, **not** just any day of the week or of man’s devising.

Again, remember that Jesus Christ was sent into this world as the “**light**” of the world to set us an **example**. True Christians *will follow* that example. As the Apostle Paul instructed the Christians of his day, “Imitate me just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). So each of us needs to exercise the *faith* and the **courage** to follow the **example** of Jesus Christ and the original Church of God. Even though God’s festivals are *fully listed* only in the Old Testament, it is very clear that they were commanded for God’s true people **forever**, and the example of Christ and His true followers shows that *they are to be observed*.

Each Festival Has Specific Meaning

My friends, Satan the Devil has done a masterful job of **deceiving** most people into believing that

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Church Today?



whatever is “Jewish” is bad! Yet—throughout the Bible—it is clear that God sent forth His basic teachings

in centuries past and gave them to His people Israel *in the letter*—not yet revealing the full *meaning* of what He was telling them to do. Jesus told the Gentile woman He met at Jacob’s well: “You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, *for salvation is of the Jews*. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:22–24).

Indeed, salvation originated and is “of the Jews” since God gave His basic teachings through ancient Israel and fully expounded them through Jesus

MASTER PLAN CONTINUES ON PAGE 26

h Canada!



SQUANDERING THE BLESSINGS OF THE SEA



In May of 1497, Master John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto) sailed from Bristol, England on what would become Britain's first naval exploration of North America. On June 24, Cabot disembarked, likely in Newfoundland. Upon returning to Bristol on August 6, he brought not gold or silver, but news of a territory claimed for England, and of a treasure that would prove to be more valuable than precious metal. He had discovered in the seas off Newfoundland the richest fishing grounds on the planet.

An acquaintance of Cabot, Raimondo de Soncino, wrote to the Duke of Milan in December 1497 describing these huge fish populations (*The Discovery of North America*, p. 52). Canadian historian James Careless relates this scene: "It was a sea so thickly swarming with fish that it seemed almost solid, and baskets let down on ropes from the deck of the ship could be taken up crammed full" (*Canada: A Story of Challenge*, p. 25).

For five centuries, the waters off Newfoundland and Nova Scotia filled the holds of thousands of vessels every year. There seemed no end to the bounty. Yet suddenly, in 1992, the Canadian government announced a moratorium on the fishing of northern cod. The most plentiful fishing ground on the planet had seemingly collapsed.

Communities were devastated, and thousands were suddenly without a livelihood. Everyone sought an explanation for the disappearance of the cod. The Department of Fisheries blamed everything from water temperature to growing seal populations. Experienced fishermen knew these were not serious factors in the collapse of this ancient resource. Many fishermen felt the problem was an alteration of the marine environment caused by new fishing practices.

In the 1950s, "High Sea Bottom Trawling" had been initiated. Large ocean-going vessels began to drag enormous bag-shaped nets over the ocean bottom. These nets are up to 2.5 km long and 60 meters (200 feet) wide at the mouth, which is held open by two trawl doors of up to two tons apiece. The net is preceded by a row of steel balls (bobbers) called "rock hoppers," which serves to lift the mouth of the net over obstacles on the ocean floor ("Coral Champions," *Canadian Geographic*, May 2002).

Trawling Problems

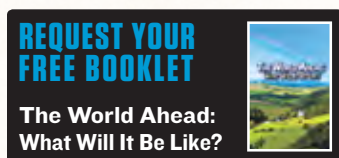
Fishermen suspected that trawl nets, which were operating at depths up to 6000 feet, were destroying the ocean floor ecology, and impacting the ability of fish species to survive and repopulate. In 1983, a Nova Scotia fisherman named Sanford Atwood began a campaign to implement a moratorium on the deep-sea trawlers, especially in sensitive areas. Atwood was a longliner—one who fishes with a long line strung with hundreds of baited hooks. He and others had argued that the trawlers, each capable of taking 600 tons of catch, saw a high percentage of their catch deemed undesirable and tossed back into the sea dead or dying. But this was by no means the biggest problem.

In a report from the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition entitled "Why the world needs a time-out on high-seas bottom trawling," scientists from Cambridge University, and Oceanography institutes in the U.S. and Canada, explained that deep sea fish will congregate in massive numbers in food-rich waters to spawn. The trawlers target these spawning congregations. They write: "As with most fisheries where spawning aggregations are targeted these declines [in population] were not recognized until it was too late to mitigate them"

(June 2005, p. 8). In addition, numerous studies have shown the dragnets are destructive of spawning beds, drastically reducing the production of the next generation of fish.

Coral Beds Destroyed

Sanford Atwood knew of these effects, but he had another concern, perhaps the most significant of all. He, and fellow fisherman Derek Jones, had for years tried to draw a linkage between the collapse of the fishery and the destruction of deep-sea coral beds. To most people, coral lives in warm and relatively shallow water; thus many discounted the existence of the deep-sea species. In 2001, after convincing some academics of the existence of these deep corals, Atwood guided a Canadian research vessel, the *Martha L. Black*, to



a spot in the ocean off Nova Scotia that fishermen knew as "Hell's Hole." There a robotic submarine sent

back from a depth of 1600 feet images of colourful and flourishing corals ("Coral Champions," p. 52).

It was in these deep coral fields that fishermen had long known their best catches would come. "For example, when you're over strawberries, a soft red coral known to scientists as *Gersemia rubiformis*, you set your gear for haddock, while the bubblegum tree (*Paragorgia aborea*), which grows to a height of at least three metres [ten feet], is good for cod and halibut. Moreover, Atwood knew that when a bottom trawler, or dragger, had swept an ocean sector, the forests were gone and so were the fish" (*ibid.*, p. 54).



Some governments are starting to take steps to protect selected areas from destructive bottom trawling. Will it be too little too late?

For centuries, Canada's eastern sea provided sustainable and profitable catches, as long as fishing methods were not destroying sustainable ecology. What, then, permitted the present situation?

Many leaders in other nations recognize the answer all too well. At a 2008 meeting in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, the question was asked, "What is the greatest threat facing mankind today?" Dr. Xu Jia Lu, an elderly and wise man serving as Vice Chair of China's National Congress, gave a straightforward response: "Human greed." Perhaps nothing more accurately describes the plight of the east coast fishery.

Blessings at Risk

Long ago, the descendants of Abraham were to enjoy—among other things—the "blessings of the deep" (Genesis 49:25). But Israel was also warned that if they broke God's law, they would lose the blessings they had been given. Greed flourishes in the absence of God's law.

The prophet Hosea was long ago inspired to predict that the descendants of ancient Israel, prior to the return of Christ, would act to destroy the blessings they have been given, including the bounty of the sea:

"Hear the word of the LORD, you children of Israel, for the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: 'There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed. Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; **even the fish of the sea will be taken away**'" (Hosea 4:1-3).

It remains to be seen whether governments, companies and others in authority will act on the overwhelming evidence and have the courage to opt for long-term sustainability as opposed to short-term profit. Will Hosea's warning be heeded?

—Stuart Wachowicz

The Unknown God?

Can You Really Know Him?



The Areopagus
(Mars Hill)

By Gerald Weston

During his ministry in Greece and Macedonia, Paul traveled to the great city of Athens. While there, he made this comment about the “religious” atmosphere of the society: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you” (Acts 17:22–23).

What was Paul talking about? On Mars’ Hill—also called the Areopagus—was found a temple dedicated not to one of the major Athenian gods such as Zeus or Athena, but rather to “the Unknown God.” The Athenian religion included the idea that there were other gods unknown to the Greeks, but sought to appease even those unknown gods and to gain their favor.

In the ancient world it was commonly believed that there were many gods—gods that ruled over various parts of the heavens, such as the sun or moon. Some thought gods were more local, and that they only had power within a particular country. Some think of “the Unknown God” as more or less a placeholder for any and all gods not known to the worshiper. Others identify it with a specific-but-unidentified being outside the Greek pantheon.

What a contrast this is to the Bible’s account, which proclaims that the God of Israel is the only God and He is the Creator—the One who rules over everything on this earth and in the heavens above.

So, do you know the unknown God—the one whom Paul proclaimed on Mars Hill?

Are you sure?

Many religions claim the Bible as their guide. But they often present wildly conflicting and even contradictory ideas. So, can we trust the Bible as the source of ultimate truth? Consider for a moment the scientific alternative. Much of modern science posits a world without God. The universe is a large and complex place, but scientists have tried to explain it without need for a Creator. But even most scientists today believe that there is no past eternity of matter, and that our universe was formed in a “Big Bang” about 14 billion years ago. Canadian science journalist and author, Bob McDonald explains:

“According to the Big Bang theory, the universe was born out of an unimaginably hot soup of energy with pressures so high that nothing with mass could exist. Even quarks, the smallest particles known, would have been squished into pure energy... Somewhere along the line, energy turned into matter. That is, into quarks, protons, electrons, atoms, molecules, particles, planets

and, eventually, human beings trying to figure the whole thing out. If the universe hadn't developed these interesting little lumps, we wouldn't be here" ("It's not a 'god' particle," *CBC News*, December 16, 2011).

According to many scientists, energy somehow turned into matter, and matter turned into us. But where did all that energy come from? What was its origin? Science has no explanation. Neither does science know how and why energy, which apparently was around forever, came to the point of the Big Bang.

When we look at *us* we see the marvel of design. The human body and mind give evidence of intelligent engineering, function, and planning. The same goes for all living things: whether we look at birds, insects, reptiles, fish, or mammals, we see beauty, design and purpose. We also see an ecosystem on this planet that works together in harmony to support the existence of all life forms.

Is it really that difficult to see the hand of Intelligence in all of this? Paul affirmed to the Athenians that there is a God behind it all. "God, who

unable to duplicate this process? After all, they know which chemicals make up life.

Let us suppose that they could bring all the right chemicals together and connect them in just the right way, kind of like putting together a complicated puzzle. Now let us suppose that they could hold them all together for a few moments. In order to create a living cell, they would need to wrap this amazing puzzle in some kind of specialized bag or membrane to hold it all together. This is sometimes portrayed as a bubble, something we might see in a pool of water. Sorry my friends, but we must burst this bubble. There is nothing simple about the membrane that surrounds a cell and the idea that this would happen by chance is a bit insulting to our intelligence. Think about it. For this cell to survive, its DNA would have to contain detailed instructions on how to make this protective cellular wall. So which came first? The cellular wall that holds together the DNA and all the other structures of the cell, or the DNA that gives instructions on how to build the cellular wall?

Even if all this somehow just happened without any intelligent oversight, would we have life? The answer is, no. You can have all the parts of the organism in

just the right configuration, but you still do not have life until something gives it life. Science writers often speculate that a spark (perhaps a bolt of lightning) suddenly jolts our puzzle to life. But so far man, with all his intelligence, has never been able to put the puzzle together from scratch,

THEY SAY ENERGY SOMEHOW TURNED INTO MATTER, AND MATTER TURNED INTO US. BUT WHERE DID THAT ENERGY COME FROM? SCIENCE HAS NO EXPLANATION!

made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things" (Acts 17:24–25).

Is Life So Simple?

Have you ever wondered why scientists are unable to duplicate even the simplest forms of life? Consider. We are told that somehow, by accident, various non-living chemicals came together in some primordial soup and began to link up in a manner that produced life. But is it that simple? If so, why are scientists

much less jolt it to life. In fact, we have difficulty giving life to whole organisms that were once alive. Occasionally when someone stops breathing we are able to bring him back, but unless the heart starts beating and the lungs start pumping rather quickly, rapid deterioration sets in and any hope of restoring life ceases.

One day, in a biology course I was taking, our professor explained how scientists had mixed various chemicals and produced simple amino acids—the building blocks of proteins, which are the building blocks of life. He did not explain that they had carefully mixed just the right chemicals together in a



very controlled environment, nor the fact that we do not see this happening anywhere in nature. But aside from that, he then began talking about the first single-celled life. I then asked: “How did you go from a few amino acids to a very complicated and fully developed functioning cell?” His surprising answer? “That is the biggest gap in evolution, but since we are here, we know that gap was bridged.”

Of course, we are not disputing the fact of our existence, but the means by which we came to exist. Without dispute, he was promoting as fact a theory that he had to admit contains a huge problem. Unless evolution can explain the first cell (it cannot), how can it possibly account for all the remaining marvels of life?

There Is a Source!

Paul and the Bible claim that there **is** an alternate explanation, an Intelligence at work who created the universe and gives life. This is the God the Athenians did not know. Furthermore, that Intelligence has a plan for man: “...for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring’” (Acts 17:28).

Offspring? This should give us pause to consider. Why did He create man in His image and His likeness? What is God’s purpose in this?

A purely materialistic view, also called *naturalism*, would claim that there was a time when only energy existed. Where it came from no one knows, but somehow in the course of time, they say, energy became so concentrated in one location (no one knows how or why) that it burst forth in a big bang and somehow changed from energy to matter. This matter rattled around, forming stars, planets, and a host of other heavenly bodies and systems. On one of

these planets, non-living chemicals somehow came together to form an elaborate puzzle. It had no life, but before it could deteriorate, it was jolted to life by a spark of some unknown kind, a very tiny spark because our single-celled critter-to-be was very tiny.

Then this very lonely single-cell organism somehow knew it needed food and where to find it from non-living matter. It knew how to consume food, and it survived long enough to somehow reproduce; though how it knew it had to do so and how it learned to do so no one knows—it just did, because by chance when the puzzle was put together, it had all the necessary DNA codes and structures! And over the course of millions of years it eventually produced all the life forms we see today.

The alternative to blind chance producing such an end product is *super-naturalism*; in other words, God. The God that Paul and the Bible teach made man in His image and likeness. Why?

King David asked this question: “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained. What is man

that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; You have put all things under his feet” (Psalm 8:3–6).

This was God’s intent for man from the beginning (Genesis 1:26), but for what purpose was man made to rule? The Apostle Paul answered King David’s question: “For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But



now we do not yet see all things put under him” (Hebrews 2:8).

Today, we see that much of planet Earth is indeed in subjection under mankind. Human beings have domesticated wild animals to use as beasts of burden, as pets, and even as food. Yet it is also evident that mankind’s current rule is very limited, and does not extend much beyond some very simple aspects of physical life on our planet. Ultimately, we know we are physical beings and are destined to die, so why has

loving Creator God can get our attention. “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

What is this glory that shall be revealed in us? What could possibly excite us to want to learn more and to worship the Creator? It is that we look to a future time when we will be in a harmonious family relationship with Him: “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the

sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from

“IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING... FOR WE ARE ALSO HIS OFFSPRING”

God placed us in this unique rulership position? The Bible answers this question.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” (Romans 8:14–17). And also: “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:18).


Consider what you have just read: we are described as children of God, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, sons and daughters; and God is our Father. Can we not begin to see **why** we are made in the image and likeness of God? While we try to lower God to be in our image, after the imagination of our hearts, He is in the process of making us in His image!

This process involves learning our Father’s ways and developing His very character so we may live in harmony with Him for all eternity; and sometimes this character development involves pain and suffering. Sadly, sometimes that is the only way a

the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now... even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption [sonship], the redemption of our body (Romans 8:19–23).

The Grand Design

If we are the product of blind chance, then living for today and forgetting about the future may make sense. But, if God is real, perhaps you should consider living for a future in the Family of God. Human beings were not created as mere animals to live and die without hope. **We are different!** Faith, hope, and conscious planning for the future are part of what makes us different. Romans 8 tells us that Christ was only the firstborn among **many** brethren: “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren... He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:29, 32).

This is the plan of the “Unknown God” that Paul proclaimed to the philosophers at Athens—the God who is still unknown to most of the world today. 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

The Real God: Proofs and Promises God is not a mystery to those whom He calls and who respond to His word. Request a **free** printed copy from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



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Human Trafficking Makes a Comeback

In his 1789 speech opening a parliamentary debate about slavery, famous English statesman William Wilberforce described the misery of African slaves taken in transit to the Americas. He revealed the horrifying statistics that 4 percent of slaves met their end before sailing, 12 percent perished during their voyage and another 33 percent died very soon after arrival. This man, whose tireless efforts almost single-handedly brought about the legislation to end slavery in Great Britain, told his audience, "You can look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know."

Wilberforce spent most of his life campaigning for the abolition of the slave trade, and his doggedness over the years forced his fellow politicians to face the reality of the sorrow and suffering of slaves, and *not* to "look the other way."

In 1833, Parliament passed the Slavery Abolition Act, and the Royal Navy was commissioned to stop and search any ship on the high seas and release all slaves on board. Countries found to be continuing the practice were penalized and many lost out on valuable trade with Britain.

Just two years after Queen Victoria ascended the throne in 1840, the very first World Anti-Slavery Convention was held in London. Its important proceedings served to stimulate a new, enlightened wave of emancipation legislation that would change Britain immeasurably. "By 1857 there were forty-five treaties but it was not until the 1860's that they covered all of the major embarkation ports of the Atlantic slave trade" (David Eltis, *The Abolition of the Slave Trade*).

Was that the end of slavery? By no means.

Wherever human greed and selfishness can prosper, they will inevitably produce the evil of human exploitation—and, sadly, the age-old curse of slavery is still with us today.

Women and Children Enslaved

In 2009, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) commissioned a report on what has become a fast-growing modern slave trade.

The UNODC survey was carried out in 155 countries and revealed that "Worldwide, almost 20 percent of all trafficking victims are children. However, in some parts of Africa and the Mekong region [of Indochina], children are the majority (and up to 100 percent in West Africa)" (UNODC, "Report on Human Trafficking Exposes Modern Form of Slavery," February 12, 2009).

In early 2013, the British Home Secretary Theresa May said tougher sanctions would be brought in to tackle modern-day slavery in the UK. *BBC News* reported, "The number of cases discovered in the UK has risen by 25 percent in the last year, according to government figures" ("Theresa May on tougher sanctions for slavery crimes," October 18, 2013). "A new report has revealed that 1,186 victims were referred to the authorities in 2012... The report revealed that the largest number of victims were from Nigeria, Vietnam, Albania, Romania and China" (*BBC News*, "Human trafficking gets life term in drive on slavery," October 18, 2013).

David Hanson, the Labour opposition shadow immigration minister, chastised the government for its poor prosecution record. He highlighted the fact that of the 946 victims reported in 2011, there were only six convictions recorded against their perpetrators. He said, "The government also needs to wake up to the fact that 60 percent of trafficked children simply go missing again in the UK after they've come to the attention of the authorities" (*ibid.*).

Furthermore, 79 percent of human trafficking involves sexual exploitation. With the advent of mass transportation methods, a young woman could be taken off a street in Birmingham, drugged, and several hours later be found in the hands of Middle Eastern

sex-slave owners. Perhaps it is no surprise that women and girls are the main targets of the sex trade, but what is a surprise is that 30 percent of the *traffickers* are women.

“Bondservants” Sanctioned in the Bible?

Some are surprised to learn that, in the Old Testament, God allowed a carefully regulated form of indentured servitude to be practiced. Yet this should not be equated at all with slavery. One of the many vital differences between that system and modern-day slavery is that the servant became a *willing* participant,

The Bible warns of a time, in the near future, when chattel slavery on a large scale will occur, driven by the revival of an ancient empire centred in Europe!

not unlike those today who chose to enlist in the military.

An Israelite who was a bondservant could work for his master for seven years and then go free. But if he wished to, he could ask to become a permanent bonded servant.

“But if the servant plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out free,’ then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever” (Exodus 21:5-6). For someone in ancient Israel who was not able to manage his or her financial affairs, this could be a real and even welcomed option.



As can be seen, this type of benign form of servitude, though still open to abuse, could actually serve to protect vulnerable people.

Former Slavers Enslaved?

The Bible predicts a time in the near future where chattel slavery on a large scale will occur. In the years just before Jesus Christ’s return as “King of kings and Lord of lords,” the world will be led by a cruel Babylonian system. As it is being destroyed, those who

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The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy



have profited from its corrupt and evil ways will “weep and lament” (Revelation 18:9) because their trade will

suddenly end.

Verse 11 states, “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her [Babylon], for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver; precious stones... bronze, iron and marble... and **bodies and souls of men.**” Other scriptures identify who many of these slaves will be.

Long-time readers of *Tomorrow’s World* understand that the British-descended people as well as those from the United States and other northwestern European countries arise from the ancient people of Israel of the Bible. God warns them through His prophecies that their profligate and evil lifestyle will cause Him to punish them through national captivity. The agent of their capture He will use will be the resurgent Babylonian system centred in Europe.

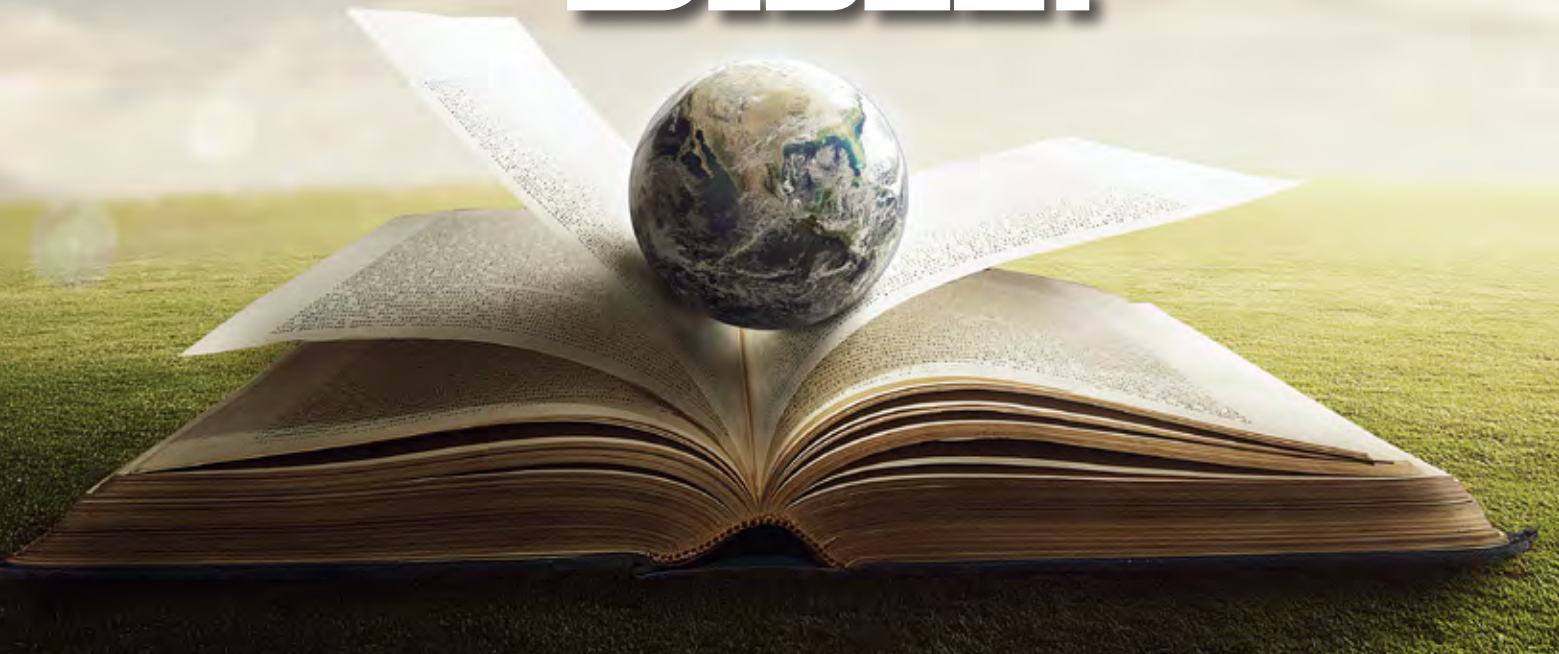
Consider the following from our booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*: “The prophet Ezekiel speaks of a future time when Israel will be re-gathered after the return of the Messiah in power and glory. ‘The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity... Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel’” (p. 43).

It may be hard to believe that these great nations that have dominated world trade and military power will be brought down to a state of cruel bondage, but such are the words of Almighty God.

—Rod King

GROSSBRITANNIEN
IRELAND

You Can **UNDERSTAND** The **BIBLE!**



By Richard F. Ames

The most important book in the world is the Holy Bible. Chances are, you have a Bible somewhere in your home. Yet, most human beings know little about this amazing book and what it contains. This book reveals the mysteries of life. It reveals the future of mankind. And the Bible can help you in many ways, even far above your greatest hopes and dreams.

And yet to many, the Bible is a mysterious book. For them, it is like a puzzle that is difficult to put together. If we have the big picture, we search for similarities in color or shape. By trial and error, we might piece together a small section here, and a small section there. With some perseverance we may even complete the picture.

So, what **is** the Bible? Is it just a book written by ancient nomads who created a god in their own

image? Is it just a book of human wisdom to stimulate our thinking? Or, is the Bible the divinely inspired word of the Creator God? Can the Bible answer the great mysteries of life? And can the Bible predict the future and your potential place in it?

Year after year, the Bible is the world's best-selling book! It is the most important book in the world. You need the courage to read the Bible and investigate for yourself! Chances are that you have a Bible on your coffee table—or stored away in a closet somewhere. But how many even read the Bible? If you do not read this book, you could be missing out on the most exciting, mind-expanding information and knowledge the world has ever known!

Billions of people around the world own Bibles. Even as far back as 1950, one reputable magazine reported that “by the end of 1950 (the 500th anniversary of Gutenberg’s invention), over two billion Bibles and parts of Bibles will have been

printed, with 25 million more being added each year” (*Antiquarian Bookman Magazine*, November 18, 1950). Ninety-three percent of Americans own a Bible, and 27 percent own four or more, according to the Princeton Research Center.

If you do not have a Bible, I urge you to buy one. If you have hidden your Bible in a closet or a dresser somewhere, I encourage you to find it and read it. In this article, we will consider five vital benefits of Bible reading and study—five ways the Bible can help you! I urge you to make Bible reading a daily part of your life. As Lord Tennyson commented: “Bible reading is an education in itself” (*Halley’s Bible Handbook*, p. 18).

According to one Gallup poll, “about six in ten Americans (59 percent) say they read the Bible at least on occasion... Readership of the Bible has declined from the 1980s overall, from 73 percent to 59 percent today. And the percentage of frequent readers, that is, those who read the Bible at least once a week, has decreased slightly over the last decade, from 40 percent in 1990 to 37 percent today” (“Six in Ten Americans Read Bible At Least Occasionally,” *Gallup Poll*, October 20, 2000).

How Important Is the Bible?

So, how important is the Bible in your life? Do you read it at least once a week? How frequently do Americans read the Bible? Gallup reports: “In terms of frequency of readership, 16 percent of Americans say that they read the Bible every day, 21 percent say they read it

complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Or, as the *NIV* Bible translates it, “All Scripture is God-breathed.” Or, as the *English Standard Version* translates it, “Scripture is breathed out by God.” The Creator wants us to find the true way to successful living and eternal life. And He has revealed that way of living in your Bible!

The Bible is the word of God. Those who strive to live by the Bible and practice the way of life taught by Jesus Christ and the scriptures, will gain wisdom and understanding. Jesus said, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). We all want the abundant life. As Jesus said in John 10:10, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

Yes, you **can** understand the Bible, and you can enjoy its awesome benefits. Let us consider five key ways in which the Bible can benefit you, and bring you and your family peace, joy—and incredible blessings.

1: Better Relationships with People

One of the biggest problems some of us have is getting along with others. We may have conflicts with our boss, with our wife or husband, with our children or parents, or with friends and family. We may argue over finances, or housekeeping chores, or spending too much time with social media. Can the Bible help **you** to get along better with others? Yes, it can, **if** you follow its instructions. Remember the two Great Commandments? Jesus said, “You shall love the

LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 22:37–39).

When you apply these great commandments, you can improve your relationships with others. Another principle, to improve your relationships with others, is to be forgiving. How many people hold on to grudges? They refuse to let go. They just will not forgive. Remember what Jesus taught in the model prayer, often called the Lord’s Prayer: “And forgive us

THE CREATOR WANTS US TO FIND THE TRUE WAY TO SUCCESSFUL LIVING AND ETERNAL LIFE. AND HE HAS REVEALED THAT WAY OF LIVING IN YOUR BIBLE!

weekly, 12 percent say they read the Bible monthly, 10 percent say less than monthly and 41 percent say that they rarely or never read the Bible” (*ibid.*)

How important is reading the Bible? What does the Bible say about itself? The Apostle Paul told the young evangelist Timothy, “**All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be

our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Matthew 6:12). Do you pray that way? Do you forgive others? Are you patient in dealing with friends, relatives, and co-workers? Applying these biblical principles can help change your life dramatically!

2: True Success, Fulfillment and Happiness

The Apostle John quotes Jesus pointing out the contrast between the ways of the world and the ways of God. “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). You can have true success and abundant living, **if** you acknowledge the Savior in all your thoughts and actions every day. There are so many wonderful biblical principles that promise us true success. The Apostle Paul stated, “I can do **all things** through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). And notice this key to God’s blessing: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6).

God promises to guide us along the path to life and success, **every day, if** we acknowledge Him. One guiding principle is that we should pray about everything that worries or concerns us! As the Apostle Paul tells us, if we acknowledge God in **all** our ways, He **will** direct our paths (Philippians 4:6).

There is a cause for every effect. The Bible gives us the true principles for success. We need to seek the true values in life, not the carnal, selfish, lustful values. King David was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). Consider his advice about true success: “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:1–2).

Notice the result of meditating on God’s law and His way of life: “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper” (Psalm 1:3). This is true success in life.

There are many more exciting principles to successful living in your Bible. Just read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, 6 and 7. Read the Proverbs. You can live successfully, happily and abundantly.

3: Life’s True Meaning and Purpose

The ultimate purpose of human life is to have a personal relationship with God! That is a profound truth! Think about it! And Scripture reveals that this relationship is a loving family relationship.

God created the human family—and He wants you to be a part of His **divine** family. The Apostle Paul wrote: “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole



family in heaven and earth is named” (Ephesians 3:14–15). Yes, God is the Father of a Family—and He wants **you** to be a part of a creative family, to experience activity and joy for all eternity! Yes, your Bible can help you understand your ultimate destiny.

How do we become God’s children? After repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). We then become God’s begotten children as the Apostle James describes it: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he [the Father] us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures (James 1:17–18, *KJV*).

4: The Way to Life Beyond Death

One of the greatest worries for human beings is that all of us now living will eventually die. Those who reject the revelation and truth of God have no hope for the future. But the Bible reveals the truth of life after

UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 23

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is there a difference between a meeting and a convocation?

Question: In Matthew 18:20, Jesus told His followers that “where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Does this mean that individual Christians can establish their own places of worship on the annual Holy Days and the weekly Sabbath?

Answer: To understand this verse, we need to read it in context. Verses 18–19 show that the topic is the authority of the ministry to make binding decisions concerning matters of conflict, not individual Christians meeting together. Even the expression “in My name” implies that the gathering is to represent Christ. What does Scripture tell us about Christians gathering to worship on the Sabbath and annual Holy Days?

- Christians must not forsake assembling together (Hebrews 10:25). This is a general principle, but is especially apt in regard to days of worship.
- We are to worship on days God has made “holy” (Leviticus 23). We are told to worship in the place God has chosen (Deuteronomy 16:15–16). A shepherd’s flock cannot feed itself, and God’s people should assemble where He has chosen to feed them. Those who for some reason cannot assemble together with other Christians must at the very least be sure to feed on God’s word through the nourishment He provides.
- Sabbath and annual Holy Day assemblies are to be “convocations” (Leviticus 23).

People often misunderstand the word “convocation,” thinking that it is just another word for “meeting.” However, note this definition of “convoke” from *Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary*: “to call together to a meeting.” This dictionary lists the following synonyms: *summon, call, cite, convoke, convene, muster*—meaning “to demand the presence of.” In other words, someone must do the convoking—or calling—of the meeting. But, since this is a holy convocation, to whom has God given the authority to call such a meeting?

The Hebrew word translated as “convocation” throughout Leviticus 23 is *miqrā*. The *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* states, “literally, the word means ‘convocation’ or ‘a called-out gathering.’” The *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* says this about the word *miqrā*: “its most usual meaning is reserved for the seven special convocation sabbaths... Such days (and the weekly Sabbath as well) included a formal summoning of people to worship by the blast of trumpets.”

We see the meaning further expanded when we read, “These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times” (Leviticus 23:4). The word “proclaim” is translated from the Hebrew word *miqrā*, which may be translated “call” in the sense of proclaim, and occurs about 80 times in Scripture with this meaning.

God always works through His ministry—whether through the priesthood in the Old Testament or the ordained ministry in the New Testament. Throughout Scripture, it was **never** up to individuals to decide for themselves when and where the sacred assembly was to be held. Likewise, today, the ministry calls us to worship, and proclaims the particular meeting place.

Certainly, there are occasions when a person is



not able to travel to a designated meeting place, and God makes provision for that. For example, a wife may not

be able to travel to the Feast of Tabernacles because of childbirth, so God says that at least the males should go (Deuteronomy 16:16). God is a God of love and compassion, and does not expect His people to travel when they are sick or otherwise indisposed.

As for the weekly Sabbath, the same principles apply. If someone lives too far from a holy convocation, God’s ministers may make arrangements so that the distant brethren can receive audio or video copies of sermons or worship services, or can connect by phone or Internet. But it is vital that we remember the biblical pattern—it is God’s ministry, not the individual believer, that has been given authority to determine the place of worship.



THE Works OF HIS HANDS

The Marvelous Human Hand

Around the world, museums have been established to preserve some of mankind's greatest works of art. At the Louvre, in France, you can walk the halls and discover the genius of Leonardo da Vinci in the face of the Mona Lisa and the skill of Michelangelo in the features of his famous statue of David. At the Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, you can see examples of the finest engineering feats performed by mankind.

Yet there may be no work of art, no more wonderfully engineered contraption, than the simple human hand. It may be very easy to take the hand for granted, but it is a wonder of design, and represents the work, talent and mind of a wondrous designer.

Indeed, Sir Isaac Newton—scholar, mathematician and one of the greatest scientific minds in human history—is said to have remarked, "In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God's existence."

Because we use it every day, we may think of the hand as nothing so remarkable. After all, we have grown up with it. It has been with us, serving our needs, day in and day out. We use it to drink our coffee, to call someone on our cellphone and to tie our shoelaces. We may compare our hands to others' and conclude that ours are too small or too large, too dainty or too rough.

Yet the anatomical facts and figures, alone, are enough to give us pause. A normal human hand is composed of 29 bones, 29 joints, well more than 100 ligaments, 35 muscles, and a vast array of nerves and arteries. Control of the thumb, alone, requires nine individual muscles and the cooperative effort of three major nerves in the hand.

A Complex Tool

But the numbers, themselves, are not what make the hand so astounding. What reminds us of the power of the hand's design is *what we are able to do* with those bones, joints, ligaments, muscles and nerves.

The capacity of the human hand is stunning in its ability to achieve, at will, a seemingly infinite number of shapes and configurations through the use of its array of dexterous fingers. Approximately one-quarter of the portion of the brain dedicated to movement is devoted to controlling motions of this exquisite device alone. The particular combination of strength, flexibility, dexterity and fine-tuned motor control exhibited by our two hands is unmatched in the created world.

While many muscles work together to move our hands, it is noteworthy that—for all the fantastic movements our fingers can make—the fingers themselves contain *no muscles at all!* Our fingers are moved individually—with the finest of control and sensitivity—by tendons threaded through them and attached to muscles all the way up in the *forearm!* The tendons are pulled like the strings of a marionette, in an intricate, coordinated dance—working with the muscles in the hand to create the vast range of movements of which our hands are capable.

And the hands are more than a means of *manipulating* the world around us—they are powerful sensory organs that we use, through our sense of touch, to *learn about* the world around us.

At the Fingertip

The human fingertip, for instance, is a sensory device possessing an incredible capacity for detection—with a sensitivity that the finest human engineering is only

just beginning to match in the realm of robotics. Recent studies have shown that our fingerprints—unique patterns on our fingertips—are much more than a means of identifying criminals; they greatly enhance the finger’s ability to feel sensations, increasing the amount of information fed to our brain about surfaces we touch and explore. Even the fingernail—a seemingly “dead” mass of tissue—is a finely tuned sensory instrument, transmitting even the subtlest pressures and movements to a network of nerves in the cuticle and nail bed, allowing the brain to create an accurate mental model of what the fingernail is touching.

It is no surprise, then, that robotics engineers find the creation of a man-made artificial hand one of the most daunting design challenges. The human hand represents a marvel of design and engineering. Consider that the same hand that can grip a blacksmith’s hammer and wield it with powerful, driving force is also gentle and sensitive enough to feel the presence of a single human hair on a smooth surface *and* to pick up that hair. The hand is capable of shaping itself into a watertight scoop to lift a drink from a mountain stream, or tightly closing itself into a fist to be used like a battering ram. It is even dexterous

and sensitive enough to accomplish the task of tying our shoes with our eyes closed. It is the “omni-tool,” flexible and created able to accomplish a boundless number of tasks—something no human construction has come anywhere near matching in its simplicity and power!

The human hand is capable of remarkable feats



of strength and endurance—serving as the mountain climber’s single greatest tool and strong enough to

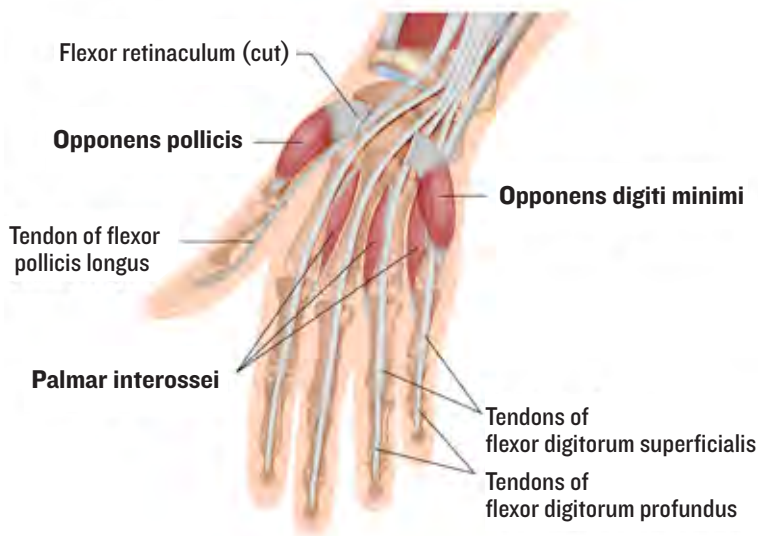
suspend the body’s weight for a time with the strength in the fingers, alone. Yet it is every bit as capable of communicating the love of a newborn child’s mother and father, through the most gentle caresses and the softest of touches.

Its fingers are strong, durable and sturdy, creating one of the most capable and formidable grips of any creature on earth. Yet they are nimble and artfully dexterous, able to take on a seeming infinitude of configurations to the point that entire languages, such as American Sign Language, can be built on the foundation of their flexibility.

Muscles of the Hand

(right hand, palmar view)

Deep



The Work of God’s Mind

So easy to take for granted, the human hand represents a magnificent achievement of the mind of a loving and caring God—unassailable evidence of His artistry and engineering skill, available and, quite literally, always at hand.

Nearly three thousand years before Newton marveled at the divine design of the human thumb, King David of ancient Israel understood such sentiments. Perhaps reflecting on the level of design he saw in his own human body—even possibly staring at his own remarkable hand—he noted, “*I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well*” (Psalm 139:14).

Indeed, marvelous are His works. We truly *are* fearfully and wonderfully made!

—Wallace G. Smith

THE PURSUIT OF DREAMS

What you dream about can make a difference!

There was a time when my brother and I searched for hidden treasure on the farm, and we certainly left holes everywhere we went. As kids, we spent hours in the hot sun digging. It was not hard work because we shared a common—if childish—dream, and it was real to us at the time. Too many of us have lost the excitement of having a dream.

Of course we have to qualify what we mean by dreams. We understand that some dreams are fantasies—like the imaginary buried treasure of my youth—and are worthless, while some are real hopes and goals that we work for and seek to achieve.

There are also literal dreams, as everyone knows, the kind we have in our sleep, and they can be pleasant—as when some of us dream of flying—or they can be sad or frightening. Some people even believe that these dreams can have spiritual or prophetic importance—and this can definitely be the case, as we will see.

However, no matter what form or definition they take, dreams are significant—and very important in the Bible. “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18; *KJV*). When there is no vision, some might even say no hope for a better future—no dream—people become discouraged.

And sometimes, when our hopes or dreams—however good—become unattainable for various reasons, we must learn to change our hopes, and find a new dream that ultimately makes life worth living. This is not always easy, but the Bible offers a way to do just that, with an ultimate goal that can give hope in the darkest of times.

There was a very special dream—one that came to a man in his sleep, was filled with prophetic meaning, and predicted the coming of a Savior whose life and work represent the greatest “dream” of all—and it is very soon to become a reality!

The Book of Daniel reveals: “Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him” (Daniel 2:1). The story goes on to tell how the king wanted someone to interpret the dream and finally asked

God’s servant, Daniel. And by the awesome revelation of God, Daniel was able to tell the meaning: “Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision” (v. 19). The dream of Nebuchadnezzar, inspired by God, was interpreted through a dream, also given by God to Daniel. Daniel’s dream detailed five world ruling “kingdoms” (governments), with the final one to be an everlasting kingdom. History shows that the Babylonian, Persian, Greek and Roman empires have all come and gone—and that one more remains: “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...” (v. 44).

Reading about these dreams can help revitalize ours, if we “have ears to hear.” They show us a future greater than any buried treasure—a true pearl beyond value (Matthew 13:45–46). Four kingdoms have come and gone. The fifth is on the horizon.

In the New Testament, Peter’s sermon on Pentecost

We must find a new dream that ultimately makes life worth living.

reminded the people of the prophecies of Joel: “But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams’” (Acts 2:16–17).

Spending all your energy digging for physical treasure, or sitting idly waiting for the lottery, are futile pursuits.

However, visualizing a world of peace can be the best medicine you can take. That world will come about whether we participate or not. So, why not blow the dust off of your Bible and capture a true dream, one that Daniel prophesied years ago and that you can be a part of?

—Charles Knowlton



death. Look at what the Apostle Paul wrote the young evangelist Timothy. Notice just how important the Bible is to our eternal life: “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:14–15).

Why do we need “salvation”? Every human being will die! We all need to be saved from eternal death! You and I need salvation. We need forgiveness of our sins. Why? Because sin produces eternal death. Scripture tells us: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). What we **earn** by our sinful life is **death**. But God sent a Savior to the world, Jesus Christ. He paid for our sins by His shed blood. So, **if** we follow the Savior’s instructions, we can be forgiven of our sins. As Jesus Himself preached, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel!” (Mark 1:15). And, as the Apostle Peter urged his listeners, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [forgiveness] of sin; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).




The Bible is able to make you wise unto **salvation** through Christ Jesus. There will be a glorious life beyond death, when faithful Christians assist Christ in producing lasting peace among all nations under the Kingdom of God. You can be there in tomorrow’s world if you seek first the Kingdom of God, and if you look forward to the glorious resurrection described in the resurrection chapters, 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4.

5: The Bible Helps Us Prepare for the Future

Bible prophecy reveals how God will intervene in world affairs. It gives us the good news of mankind’s ultimate destiny. We have already seen that God’s purpose is to **prepare us** for His Kingdom here on earth! True Christians will reign with Christ for a thousand years as kings and priests. True Christians will be transformed, born into the Kingdom of God, at the resurrection. That can be **your** future. Notice this glorious event when Christ returns. The Apostle Paul writes about the resurrection, when true Christians inherit the Kingdom of God, and when we are **changed** from mortality to immortality. “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:50–52).

What a glorious future God promises us! At the resurrection, we become immortal. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’” (1 Corinthians 15:53).

God wants all of us to be in His family for all eternity. You need to know the future. You need to study your Bible and learn more. 

MAY WE SUGGEST?

Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course The Bible can help you in all aspects of your life, if you live by what it says. Request a **free** printed copy from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.





Think Before You Ink!

I remember witnessing a baffling phenomenon when I was a teen in the mid-1970s. An enterprising California advertising man marketed and sold what he called “the perfect pet”—the Pet Rock.

Packaged in a small cardboard carton perforated with breathing holes, an ordinary rock was nestled in straw. Each came with a “birth certificate” for the rock—and a training manual, *The Care and Training of Your Pet Rock*, containing instructions for teaching the rock to “stay” or “roll over” or “play dead.”

Pet Rocks became wildly popular in the latter months of 1975, making their creator a millionaire, but the craze had run its course by early 1976 when sales dramatically fell off.

Such is the pattern of a fad, which *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* (Eleventh Edition) defines as “a practice or interest followed for a time with exaggerated zeal.” This definition accurately describes many other practices that ride a wave of popularity, but eventually lose their momentum.

Fads Are Always With Us

The truth is, fads occur all the time. As hard as it is to believe, there are currently popular entertainment artists, fashion trends and television shows that will someday be out of style. At the time Pet Rocks were selling, I was wearing four-inch platform shoes and a polyester leisure suit with a gold chain around my neck! I can assure you that I no longer wear such clothing.

Another truth about fads is that some, such as Pet Rocks and leisure suits, have no lasting negative

consequences. Sadly, however, some fads have long-term effects that can stay with us for the rest of our lives, even bringing lasting regret to those who participated in them.

Consider the recent surge of interest in the ancient practice of tattooing. For many years, tattoos carried a negative stigma, as they were commonly associated with sailors, bikers and gang members. More recently, however, a 2012 poll found that as many as one in five (21 percent) adults in the United States have at least one tattoo—that is a sharp increase from the 14 percent reported in 2008 (*The Harris Poll*, February 23, 2012). Inking has become so commonplace that it is not uncommon to see grandmothers sporting tattoos! And instead of subtle, easily hidden markings, many today make multiple trips to the parlor to cover large portions of their bodies with intricate and complex “body art.”

Making Your Mark?

Marking the skin has been practiced in many different civilizations, going back at least as far as 3000bc (“Tattoos: The Ancient and Mysterious History,” *Smithsonian.com*, January 1, 2007). People’s reasons for getting tattoos appear to be as varied as their cultures, as ways “to place protective or therapeutic symbols upon the body, then as a means of marking people out into appropriate social, political or religious groups, or simply as a form of self-expression or fashion statement” (*ibid.*).

Today, the inked often say their tattoos make them feel sexy, attractive, strong or spiritual (*The Harris Poll*,

February 23, 2012). However, there remains an element of cultural defiance associated with tattoos. This same poll reports that 25 percent of the respondents say they feel rebellious wearing tattoos—and half of those without a tattoo view people with tattoos as more rebellious.

These findings lead to an important personal question for those who are thinking of going under the needle: “What is my motivation?” People are great at rationalizing their desires, and they offer many reasons for wanting tattoos. But are their desires really their



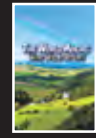
own, or are they giving in to peer pressure to “fit in” with the crowd or “be cool” by wearing a tattoo?

Richard Sawdon Smith, a professor in the Arts and Media Department at London Southbank University—and a tattoo-wearer himself—gets right to the point in explaining why many people have tattoos: “This is actually a kind of way of empowering myself by saying, ‘This is my body, and I’m in control of it’” (“Would you hire a tattooed employee?,” *BBC Newsnight*, September 4, 2013).

Yes, tattoos are a powerful personal statement, and they proclaim a “me first” attitude that does not mind getting “in your face” to show off one’s pride in his or her own body, for all to see. Yet, for those who follow God, the approach of “pleasing myself first” is the exact opposite of the outflowing concern for other people

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FREE BOOKLET**

**The World Ahead:
What Will It Be Like?**



that defines God’s love. The Apostle Paul wrote that “love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not

behave rudely, does not seek its own” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5). That kind of love is not what most people associate with a tattoo!

And this is not just a New Testament perspective. Long ago, God commanded His people, “You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19:28). As the designer of the human body, God proclaimed it as “very good” after creating man and woman—without tattoos (Genesis 1:31)!

Consider the Consequences

Not long ago, a man came to me in tears as he described his regret about the tattoos that covered both of his arms. He was wearing a long-sleeved shirt, ashamed to show me what he called the “evil” markings he once had thought were “awesome.” He was much younger when he got his tattoos, and had recently had a change of heart. He had investigated tattoo removal services, but the cost would be thousands of dollars and not completely effective. This dilemma was the reason for his tears.

Many who get tattoos when they are young find out later that they cannot easily find a good job, since many employers do not want to hire employees with obvious tattoos. Some people can afford the cost and the pain of tattoo removal, but others have no choice but to live with the visible evidence of a decision they have come to regret (“Teenagers get rid of their tattoos—and start a new life,” *BBC News*, August 14, 2013).

Thankfully, this is all unnecessary for those who are wise enough to look past the present popularity of a fad and project forward to their future: “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished” (Proverbs 22:3).

—Phil Sena

Christ and His apostles. Remember, Jesus was a **Jew**. *Do not ever* get into an “anti-Jewish” spirit, which will lead you *right out of God’s Kingdom and eternal life!*

One of Jesus’ first instructions is given in Luke 4:4: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” The **only** written “word of God” extant at that time is what we call the Old Testament. So the basic foundational teachings are certainly set forth in the Old Testament and Jesus Christ quoted from the Old Testament as “scripture” many, many times—as did His apostles throughout the New Testament.

A complete “listing” of the Holy Days of God and His festivals is given in Leviticus 23. You should *study* this entire chapter carefully and note that these festivals were declared to be “statutes” that were to be observed *forever*. And when Almighty God describes the time of Christ’s Second Coming and

themselves were **not** done away along with the sacrifices. And the inspiring instruction of Zechariah 14 indicates that God’s days will certainly **continue** to be kept—and finally kept—by **all** human beings once Christ returns and the “times of restoration” are indeed upon us at Christ’s Second Coming. As clearly shown by the powerful passage we saw earlier in Zechariah 14, the statutes describing God’s religious festivals are **not** “done away” in any manner, shape or form. For these wonderful religious festivals do picture the magnificent **plan** of our Creator.

So, again, let me now set forth an **overview** of *all seven* of God’s annual religious festivals so we can better understand His **Master Plan** as revealed through them. First comes the solemn observance of Christ’s suffering and death on our behalf. The Bible calls this the “Passover.” It pictures our acceptance of

GOD’S CALENDAR PICTURES THE GREAT SPIRITUAL HARVEST HE PLANS TO REAP

the re-gathering of His people at the beginning of Christ’s reign on earth, He states: “I will put My Spirit within you and *cause you to walk in My statutes*, and you will keep My judgments and do them” (Ezekiel 36:27). So God’s people will be taught to walk in His “statutes” in that time when Christ is ruling *on this earth* in Tomorrow’s World.

Please understand! We certainly do not mean to indicate that every “letter of the law” of these Old Testament passages is to be carried out by New Testament Christians! As Paul clearly explained throughout the book of Hebrews, the animal sacrifices, washings and other rituals were only given as a “school master” for a limited time. They were “concerned **only** with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed **until** the time of reformation” (Hebrews 9:10). So certain sacrifices and washings were done almost **every** day of the week. Special sacrifices were, indeed, placed on God’s weekly and annual Sabbaths. But these sacrifices were only imposed *for that time*—“**until** the time of reformation.”

The **example** of Christ and the apostles keeping these Holy Days certainly indicates that the days

Christ’s broken body and shed blood, which He offered as our Savior. But remember, this is only the first step in God’s Plan for us! Next, we need to **grow** in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18) and begin to put our old

sinful ways and habits completely out of our lives. This “overcoming” process is pictured by the Days of Unleavened Bread, a seven-day festival that begins with one annual Holy Day and ends with another.

God’s master plan reveals that we in the Spirit-begotten Church—the “little flock” (Luke 12:32)—are just the “firstfruits” of the great spiritual harvest that will occur after Christ’s Second Coming. So, God’s third annual festival, the Feast of Pentecost or Feast of “Firstfruits,” pictures the fact that only a very small spiritual harvest is being reaped by God at this time. God is **not trying** to save the whole world now. Otherwise He *would be doing so*—and the **billions** of unbelievers of past ages and even in our present day in China, India and other nations would quickly come to full understanding of the true God and genuine acceptance of His Son as their Lord and Savior!

Month Seven Pictures END-Time Events!

The next step in God’s master plan is pictured by the Feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24). This festival pictures the cataclysmic events at the **end** of this present age and Christ’s second coming. Trumpets were literally used in ancient Israel as alarms of

war. In our day, at the climax of a series of wars and worldwide upheavals, Jesus Christ will return and the dead will be raised “at the **last trumpet**” (1 Corinthians 15:51–52).

After that, God will supernaturally bind Satan and put him into the bottomless pit “so that he should **deceive** the nations **no more**” (Revelation 20:3). Finally, with Satan bound, man can become “at one” with God. This is clearly pictured by the *fifth* annual festival—the Day of Atonement.

After Christ’s return, God will pour out His Spirit and begin to enlighten **all of humanity** with the true understanding of His great plan. At that time, God says, “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). This is pictured by our joyous observance of the sixth annual festival in God’s Plan—the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles or “Feast of Ingathering” (Exodus 34:22).

God’s calendar is based upon the harvest seasons of Israel. It pictures for Christians the spiritual harvest God plans to reap—first, the small spring harvest pictured by the Feast of Firstfruits, then, at the **end** of this age, the massive autumn harvest pictured by the Feast of Ingathering.

After all of this, you might wonder, what part of God’s master plan could there still be left to picture? The answer is found in the seventh and final festival God gave His people. What will happen to the untold **billions** of people of past ages who **never understood** virtually anything about the true God,

about Jesus Christ, or about God’s *purpose* for their lives? What will happen to these “unsaved” billions of human beings since “there is **no partiality** with God” (Romans 2:11)?

The answer is found in the festival known as the Last Great Day (John 7:37). This festival pictures the time when God will—for the **first** time—open the minds of billions to understand His word, and give them a genuine opportunity to have their names written in the “Book of Life” (Revelation 20:11–12).

From our first acceptance of Christ as Savior, to the picturing of His Second Coming, all the way until the Last Great Day picturing the time when **all** human beings will finally have a real opportunity for salvation—these God-given, God-inspired festivals reveal the **magnificent** plan of God. The pagan religious festivals that Satan has foisted off on a deceived humanity are indeed a cheap substitute. For, in reality, they picture a false god, a false Christ and lead to the acceptance of a false gospel, which directly contradicts the true message that Christ and the apostles preached!

God's Calendar Observed TODAY!

The **seven** religious festivals commanded by Almighty God to His people truly picture the Master Plan that God is working out here below. If you would like to *learn more* and if you would like to learn and *prove to yourself* the details about these festivals and their full description in the Bible and *how to keep them*, be sure and write us or call us immediately

God's Master Plan
Seven Annual Festivals

	Leviticus 23	Hebrew Calendar	2014	2015
Passover	v. 5	Nisan 14	April 14*	April 3*
Days of Unleavened Bread	v. 6	Nisan 15–21	April 15–21	April 4–10
Pentecost	vv. 15–16	Varies (counted)	June 8	May 24
Feast of Trumpets	v. 23	Tishri 1	September 25	September 14
Day of Atonement	v. 27	Tishri 10	October 4	September 23
Feast of Tabernacles	v. 34	Tishri 15–21	October 9–15	Sept. 28–Oct. 4
Last Great Day	v. 36	Tishri 22	October 16	October 5

*Observed on previous evening

God's Master Plan

Meaning of the Festivals

Old Testament

Passover

Blood of a sacrificed lamb was placed around the doors of Israelite houses God "passed over" in slaying the Egyptian firstborn. (Leviticus 23:5)

Days of Unleavened Bread

A seven-day festival during which leavening is put out of dwellings and is not eaten (Leviticus 23:6-14)

Pentecost

A day celebrating the gathering in of the first and smaller of the two annual harvests; observed 50 days from a fixed point in the previous Feast (Leviticus 23:15-22)

Feast of Trumpets

Called *Rosh Hashana* by the Jews; a day of rejoicing marked by the blowing of trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25)

Day of Atonement

A day of fasting and repentance, known to the Jews as *Yom Kippur* (Leviticus 23:26-32)

Feast of Tabernacles

A seven-day celebration of the great fall harvest, observed by living in temporary dwellings for the duration of the Feast (Leviticus 23:33-43)

Last Great Day

Adjacent to the Feast of Tabernacles, this eighth day is considered a separate Feast. (Leviticus 23:36, 39)

New Testament

Pictures Jesus Christ's shedding His blood for the sins of mankind

Pictures the Christian's duty to "put out sin" from a life yielded to Jesus Christ

Pictures the Christian's receiving God's Holy Spirit

Pictures a time of war and plagues, concluding with Jesus Christ's Second Coming

Pictures the binding of Satan at the beginning of the Millennium and the world becoming at one with God

Pictures the Millennium, when the earth will be ruled by Jesus Christ and His saints

Pictures the "White Throne Judgment" at which all those not previously called will have the chance to hear the True Gospel and accept salvation



and ask for your *free* copy of our truly inspiring and eye-opening booklet entitled, *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*. This booklet will truly "open your eyes" to **truth** that very few professing Christians on earth have understood. For Satan the Devil does indeed have **his** "master plan" and he has **deceived** "the **whole world**" according to your Bible (Revelation 12:9).

So take action! Call us or write us *today* to request your *free* copy of this powerful and vital booklet to help you understand God's great purpose. If you are interested in observing God's Holy Days with those of us in this Work, please write or phone the Living Church of God office nearest you. Be assured that no one will call on you unless you request it. If you desire, one of our representatives will set up an appointment at a time and place *convenient for you*. You will **not** be pressured to "join" anything. In fact, our minister or local representative may suggest that you do further reading, take your time and be sure that you truly want to live by every word of God.

But once you start **acting** on the Truth, you will be delighted to find people of like faith with whom to fellowship, to study and to learn and practice together God's way of life. You will be part of a joyous spiritual "family" and have an opportunity to gain spiritual understanding and truth *right out of the Bible* in a way you have never done before. By *obeying* your Creator—by **acting** on the Truth—you will truly be preparing to be one of those kings and priests in Tomorrow's World. You will then be fulfilling *your part* in God's Master Plan for your life. TW

MAY WE SUGGEST?

The Holy Days: God's Master Plan You can understand what God has in store for you, your loved ones and the whole world! Request a **free** printed copy from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



THE SLEEPER

Are you awake to the world around you?

In the Old Testament book of Jonah, God instructed the reluctant prophet to deliver a warning to the city of Nineveh, an Assyrian stronghold. Assyria was traditionally a bitter enemy of Israel. Jonah unwisely attempted to shirk his duty and run away from his responsibility. To get away, he booked passage on a ship in Joppa (modern-day Jaffa) going to Tarshish, which was probably located in modern-day Spain.

Along the way, a great storm arose and threatened to break up the ship. The experienced mariners, terrified, started jettisoning the cargo and crying out to their gods for deliverance. All the while, Jonah was below deck—sound asleep. In desperation, the captain of the ship went below and confronted Jonah, demanding: “What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish” (Jonah 1:6).

Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Jonah confessed his involvement and was thrown overboard into the raging sea. Some may ridicule the account of what happened next, but—with a very special miracle—the tempest was quelled and God delivered Jonah using a great fish.

The ship captain’s urgent call to awaken is a familiar theme in the Bible. Many people simply tune out and “sleep” in the face of obvious danger or impending disaster, rather than face the brutal reality of their situation.

Today, a storm rages in our society as its morals and standards of behavior continue to decline. The

lines defining right and wrong, acceptable and unacceptable, have become blurred. What was once considered aberrant or deviant activity is even promoted as a “civil right.” Yet, most people are “asleep,” seemingly unaware of the spiritual and physical consequences.

Many mainstream Christian denominations, abandoning centuries of tradition and the plain commands of Scripture (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:27), are even ordaining openly practicing

homosexuals to their ministry. Increasing numbers of children are born outside of marriage. Drug abuse is widespread and often even legalized. Easy access to abortion has transformed modern society to an extent that would shock and outrage our great-grandparents.

Still, many people seem oblivious, going about their daily lives without considering the spiritual implication of these conditions. How should we react? The Bible gives clear and compelling instruction. In his letter to the Christians at Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote, “Do not be deceived:

Today, a storm rages in our society as morals and standards of behavior continue to decline.

‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’ Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame” (1 Corinthians 15:33–34). The message is clear; those who want to please God will not slumber, but will be preparing actively for the return of the Messiah in power and glory.

The message of the Bible is time-sensitive, with a sense of urgency. “And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed” (Romans 13:11). As our nation and the world careen toward anarchy with all the resulting problems, being spiritually awake and diligent in pursuing the Way of life given in the Bible will be essential to avoid personal disaster.

This familiar theme was again sounded in 1 Thessalonians 5:5–6: “You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.”

As you face the tempestuous days ahead, remember the captain’s words to Jonah, “What do you mean, sleeper? Arise; call on your God...”

—J. Davy Crockett, III



lines defining right and wrong, acceptable and unacceptable, have become blurred. What was once

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you so much for your free magazine *Tomorrow's World*. Recently I read the article "Enjoy it While You Can" written by Roderick Meredith [September-October 2013]. It was amazing and so true. My family was moved by what you said about the condition of this world. The only way out is God's law and his commandments kept. Lord God help us all. Another article, "Oh Canada!" was a good story on the beavers, and their knowledge and work as "furry hydro engineers." So many people should know about the beavers helping our environment. Not to destroy them. Thank you again and may God. Bless you.

P. P., Sarasota, FL

Thank you for sending me your informative magazine and booklet this past month. The articles have renewed my interest in searching the Scriptures for truth; a Berean heart has been revived. I would like to request further information...

S. A., Colac, VIC, Australia

My husband and I have been watching *Tomorrow's World* for the past month. We have subscribed and received your magazine. Today, we received the booklet *Who or What is the Antichrist?* I read it from cover to cover without putting it down. We have been Christians for over 20 years. In the last month, we have learnt more than in those 20 years. I have already requested your Bible Study Course and am looking forward to receiving it. I would like to request the following booklets: *The Beast of Revelation* and *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* Thank you for your dedication in getting the "TRUTH" out there.

A. W., Heathridge, WA, Australia

I would like to thank you very much for the DVD that you have sent to me. I appreciate it. It was a blessing for me. My prayer is

that God keep giving you wisdom in your ministry to help many people to find the way of God. Thank you and God bless.

R. C., Willemstad, Curacao

My wife and I thank all of you at *Tomorrow's World* for bringing forth the Truth of God's Word to the nations around the world. You have made us understand many truths of the Bible, and what God expects from us. Your hard work and faithfulness in bringing us the true Word of God has brought forth great change in my life, and that of my wife. Please keep up your great works in teaching the word of God around the world, and may God richly bless each of you, and may the love of Christ be with you always.

W. F., Cedar Park, TX

Thank you for your DVDs *The Apostles' Prophetic Journeys* and *Is there Life After Death?* May God increase your knowledge as you endeavor to minister to us.

O. N., Rubavu, West, Rwanda

Hello. I just wanted to thank all of you for trying to spread God's word all over the world. My daughter Gwen and I were reading *Tomorrow's World* magazine together and it had so much information and we felt blessed to read it. I worry very much about the state of our world and our peoples are suffering so much hurt and pain. I plan to join the food bank here and help give out food when needed. The jobs are gone and so many are homeless today. We [the United States] sent billions of dollars overseas to foreign countries aid yet we have none or crumbs for our peoples here. It seems God is trying to get our attention but we are not paying attention to the signs of Revelation.

P. C., Randallstown, MD

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TOMORROW'S WORLD

TELEVISION LOG



AUSTRALIA

Capital Cities & QLD TV4ME 74 SU 7:30 a.m.
SA 7:00 a.m. AET
COUNTRY VIC & NSW TV4 64 SU 7:30 a.m.
SA 7:00 a.m. AET

BARBADOS

St. Michael CBC 8 SU 9:30 a.m.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Angel One SU 8:00 p.m.
WE 7:00 p.m.
TH 9:00 a.m.

CW Plus SU 8:00 a.m.

IMPACT SU 11:00 p.m.

WGN SU 6:00 a.m.

THE WORD Network SU 7:30 p.m.
TU 1:00 a.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

LOCAL STATIONS (All times local)

AK Anchorage GCI SA 10:00 p.m.
Anchorage KIMO SU 6:00 a.m.
Fairbanks KATN SU 6:00 a.m.
Juneau KJUD SU 6:00 a.m.

AL Dothan WDFX SU 7:30 a.m.
Dothan WTVY SU 7:00 a.m.

AL Montgomery WBMM SU 7:00 a.m.

AR Fayetteville KHOG SU 7:00 a.m.
Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:00 a.m.

AZ Phoenix KASW SU 7:30 a.m.
Phoenix KASW SA 5:30 p.m.
Prescott Community SU 12:30 p.m.
Prescott Community SA 11:30 p.m.
Tucson Access SU 7:00 p.m.

CA Bakersfield KGET SU 8:00 a.m.
Chico KHSL SU 8:00 a.m.
Eureka KUVU-LP SU 8:00 a.m.
Eureka Sudden Link SU 8:00 p.m.
Fresno KFRE SU 7:30 a.m.
Garden Grove Time Warner SU 9:30 a.m.
Garden Grove Time Warner SU 6:30 p.m.
Monterey KION SU 8:00 a.m.
Orange County Adelphia MO 5:00 p.m.
Palm Springs KCWQ SU 8:00 a.m.
Palm Springs KCWQ-LP SU 8:00 a.m.
Sacramento RCCTV MO 5:30 p.m.
Salinas KION SU 8:00 a.m.
San Diego Time SU 6:00 p.m.
San Francisco Access WE 8:00 p.m.

CO Grand Junc. KJCT SU 7:00 a.m.

CT Naugatuck Tele-Media MO 9:30 p.m.
New Haven WZME SU 11:00 p.m.

DC Washington WACW SU 6:30 a.m.

IA Des Moines KCWI SU 7:00 a.m.

FL Gainesville WCJB SU 8:00 a.m.
Jacksonville WCWS SU 6:30 a.m.
Panama City WJHG SU 8:00 a.m.

GA Albany WBSK Cable SU 8:00 a.m.
Augusta WAGT SU 8:00 a.m.
Macon Cox SU 5:00 p.m.
Macon Cox TU 7:30 a.m.
Macon Cox SU 8:00 a.m.
Macon WBMM SU 8:00 a.m.

IA Dubuque Mediacom MO 3:30 p.m.
Dubuque Mediacom MO 7:30 p.m.
Dubuque Mediacom TU 10:00 a.m.*

ID Boise KNIN SU 7:00 a.m.
Boise TTVT SU 9:30 p.m.
Boise TTVT MO 11:30 a.m.

Idaho Falls KPFI SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago CANTV Various*
Chicago WGN SU 6:00 a.m.
Moline Mediacom MO 5:00 p.m.
Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.
Springfield Insight TU 5:00 a.m.
Springfield Insight TU 1:00 p.m.
Springfield Insight TU 10:00 p.m.

IN Fort Wayne Comcast SU 9:00 a.m.

KS Parsons TWPAP WE 7:00 p.m.
Salina SCAT TH 5:00 p.m.
Salina SCAT FR 5:00 p.m.
Salina SCAT SA 9:00 a.m.

KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.
Latonia PEG WE 5:30 p.m.
Latonia PEG TH 12:00 a.m.
Lexington Insight Various*

LA Alexandria KBCA SU 7:00 a.m.
Baton Rouge WGMB SU 9:00 a.m.
Lafayette KLWB SU 7:00 a.m.
Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.

MA Cambridge CCTV SU 3:00 p.m.
Cambridge CCTV WE 9:00 a.m.
Cambridge CCTV FR 11:00 a.m.
Everett ECTV TU 1:00 p.m.
Everett ECTV SU 9:00 p.m.
Malden Access SU 11:00 a.m.
North Adams NBCTC WE 8:00 p.m.

MD Baltimore Community SU 9:00 a.m.
Westminster Adelphia TH 10:00 a.m.
Westminster Adelphia FR 10:00 a.m.

ME Bangor WABI SU 8:00 a.m.
Brunswick TV3 SA 8:30 a.m.
Brunswick TV3 SU 6:30 a.m.
Presque Isle WBQP SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena Charter WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.
Detroit Comcast SU 7:30 a.m.
Kalamazoo CACTV SU 9:30 a.m.
Kalamazoo CACTV MO 5:00 p.m.
Lansing WLJ SU 8:00 a.m.
Marquette WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

MN Cloquet MEDCLO FR 10:00 a.m.
Cloquet MEDCLO SA 4:00 p.m.
Duluth KDHL SU 7:00 a.m.
Duluth Public Access SA 11:00 a.m.
Duluth Public Access SU 7:00 p.m.
Minneapolis MCN SA 8:30 a.m.
Minneapolis MCN SU 8:30 a.m.
Minneapolis MTN TH 12:00 a.m.
Minneapolis NW Community SA 10:30 p.m.
Minneapolis NW Community SU 4:30 a.m.
Minneapolis NW Community SU 10:30 a.m.*

Rochester KTTC SU 7:00 a.m.
Roseville TU 8:00 p.m.
Roseville CTV WE 4:00 a.m.
Roseville CTV WE 12:00 p.m.
St. Paul Nhd. Network

MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Jefferson City KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Joplin KFJX SU 8:30 a.m.
Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.
Springfield KRKB SU 7:30 a.m.
St. Louis WRBU SU 9:00 a.m.

MS Biloxi WBGP SU 7:00 a.m.
Columbus WCB1 SU 7:00 a.m.
Greenwood WBWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Hattiesburg WBH SU 7:00 a.m.

JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.

NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide Prime TV SU 8:30 a.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Port of Spain CNC3-TV SU 7:00 a.m.

UK & NW EUROPE

Believe-TV Sky TV 593 SU 10:00 p.m.
Gospel Sky TV 588 MO 7:00 p.m.
WORD (TWN) Sky TV 590 WE 6:00 a.m.
Sky TV 590 SU 12:30 p.m.
Sky TV 590 SA 12:00 a.m.

Jackson Time Warner SU 10:00 a.m.
Jackson Time Warner WE 4:00 p.m.
Meridian WTKO SU 7:00 a.m.

MT Billings KTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KBZK SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.
Glendive KRTV SU 7:00 a.m.
Great Falls KRVV SU 7:00 a.m.
Helena KMTF SU 7:00 a.m.
Missoula KPAX SU 7:00 a.m.

NC Charlotte WAXN SU 7:00 a.m.
Greenville WNCT SU 8:00 a.m.
Hickory WHKY MO 7:30 p.m.
Fargo WDAY SU 7:00 a.m.
Bismarck KWMK SU 7:00 a.m.
Minot KWMK SU 7:00 a.m.

NH Hanover CATV8 TH 7:00 p.m.
Hanover CATV8 FR 7:00 a.m.
Hanover CATV8 FR 1:00 a.m.
Hanover CATV8 MO 6:00 a.m.*

NJ Oakland CVNUNJ SA 8:00 a.m.

NM Rio Rancho Cable 1 SA 7:00 p.m.

NV Reno KREN SU 8:00 a.m.

NY Albany WCVN SU 7:00 a.m.
Albany-Troy Time Warner MO 3:00 p.m.
Batavia Time Warner SU 2:00 p.m.
Batavia Time Warner TU 5:30 p.m.
Batavia Time Warner FR 7:30 p.m.
Binghamton Time Warner MO 10:00 p.m.
Binghamton Time Warner FR 8:00 p.m.
Binghamton WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.
Brookhaven Cablevision SU 11:00 p.m.
Brooklyn BCAT SU 7:30 p.m.
Canandaigua Finger Lakes SU 11:30 a.m.
Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
Glenn Falls Time Warner FR 8:00 p.m.
Glenn Falls Time Warner MO 8:00 p.m.
Glenn Falls Time Warner TU 8:00 p.m.*
Hauppauge Cablevision SU 11:00 p.m.
Manhattan MNN SA 7:00 p.m.
Oneida Access TH 2:00 p.m.
Oneida Access TH 7:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access MO 11:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access TU 4:30 p.m.
Riverhead Cablevision SA 10:30 p.m.
Rochester Finger Lakes SU 11:30 a.m.
Rochester RCTV SA 8:30 a.m.
Rochester RCTV TU 10:00 a.m.*
Rochester RCTV TH 9:30 p.m.
Rockland Cty. WCVN SU 7:00 a.m.
Schenectady WCVN SU 7:00 a.m.
Staten Island Community SU 8:00 p.m.
Staten Island Community TU 2:00 p.m.
Syracuse Time Warner SU 7:30 p.m.
Webster Cable Access SU 9:30 a.m.

OH Centerville MVCC FR 2:30 p.m.
Cincinnati Time Warner TH 8:30 a.m.
Cincinnati Time Warner SU 11:30 a.m.
Cincinnati Time Warner TU 1:00 p.m.
Fairborn CAC TU 12:00 p.m.
Lima WBOH Various*
Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.
Eugene KMTR SU 8:00 a.m.
Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.
Oregon City Access WFTV SU 8:00 a.m.
Oregon City Access WFTV SA 8:00 a.m.
Portland Community SU 12:30 p.m.

PA Allentown SETV2 FR 4:30 p.m.
Bethlehem SETV2 FR 4:30 p.m.

Erie WBEP SU 8:00 a.m.
Johnstown Atl. Broadband MO 10:00 p.m.
Philadelphia WPSG SU 7:00 a.m.
Scranton FOX TH 5:00 a.m.
Scranton FOX SA 5:00 a.m.

SC Charleston WCBT SU 8:00 a.m.
Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.

SD Rapid City KWBH SU 7:00 a.m.

TN Jackson WBKJ SU 7:00 a.m.
Knoxville WBXX SU 7:30 a.m.
La Follette Comcast-WLAF WE 6:00 p.m.
Nashville WZTV SU 6:30 a.m.

TX Abilene KTXS SU 7:00 a.m.
Amarillo KVIH SU 7:00 a.m.
Austin KNVA SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont KBTV SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont KFDM SU 7:00 a.m.
Corpus Christi KRIS SU 7:00 a.m.
Dallas Community SA 1:00 p.m.
Dallas Community SU 11:00 a.m.
Dallas KTDX SU 8:00 a.m.
Houston KUBE TU 6:30 a.m.
Houston KUBE TH 6:30 a.m.
Houston KUBE FR 6:30 a.m.
Houston KUBE SU 7:00 a.m.
Laredo KGNS SU 7:00 a.m.
Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.
KTRF SU 6:30 a.m.
McAllen KSFE-LP SU 7:00 a.m.
Midland KWWT SU 7:00 a.m.
Odessa KWWT SU 7:00 a.m.
Temple KPLE SU 7:30 a.m.
Tyler KLTV SU 6:30 a.m.

VA Charlottesville Comcast Cable MO 8:00 a.m.
Charlottesville WVIR SU 8:00 a.m.
Charlottesville WTVR SU 8:00 a.m.
Chesterfield Comcast TH 8:00 p.m.
Fairfax Public Access MO 12:00 p.m.

VT Bennington CAT WE 9:30 a.m.
Bennington CAT TH 9:30 p.m.
Bennington CAT SA 8:00 a.m.*
Burlington Access WE 2:30 a.m.
Burlington Access TH 11:00 a.m.
Richmond Access MO 7:00 a.m.*
Springfield Public Access TH 10:00 p.m.
Springfield Public Access MO 12:00 p.m.

WA Everett Comcast WE 4:30 p.m.
Kennewick Charter SU 8:00 p.m.
Kennewick Charter TU 8:00 p.m.
Vancouver Community SU 8:30 a.m.
Vancouver Community TU 10:30 a.m.
Vancouver Community WE 12:00 p.m.

WI La Crosse WQOW SU 7:00 a.m.
Wausau Charter TH 9:00 p.m.
Wausau Charter FR 7:30 a.m.

WV Bluefield WVVA SU 8:00 a.m.
Clarksburg WVFX SU 8:00 a.m.

WY Casper KGWC SU 8:00 a.m.
Casper KTWO SU 11:00 a.m.
Cheyenne KGWN SU 8:00 a.m.
Cheyenne KLWY SU 7:00 a.m.
Cheyenne KLWY SU 11:00 a.m.

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

The Apostles' Prophetic Journeys

Where did Jesus Christ's apostles take His teachings in the years after His resurrection?
January 16-22

What Happens After Death?

Will you go to heaven? To hell? To oblivion?
How can you be sure? You need to know!
January 23-29

Success in Times of Stress

Your Bible contains vital strategies to help you find peace and fulfillment even in difficult times!
January 30-February 5

What Is Truth?

Many consider truth to be a subjective concept, but there is an objective answer!
February 6-12

God's Master Plan

Seven festivals given in Scripture reveal what God is doing in our lives!
February 13-19

Is God Alive?

Nietzsche said, "God is dead!" Can you prove him wrong?
February 20-26

Schedule subject to change

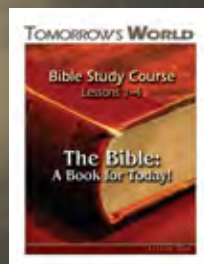


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