**A RIGHT TO DIE?** Independence **Scotched?** 

**PROPHETIC** TRENDS for 2015

# 

Will God Bless *You* and **Your Finances**?

# **Study to Avoid Deception!**

he highly regarded modern philosopher, Søren Kierkegaard, in his Attack Upon Christendom, wrote: "The Christianity of the New Testament simply does not exist. Millions of people through the centuries have little by little cheated God out of Christianity, and have succeeded in making Christianity exactly the opposite of what it is in the New Testament."

So each of us needs to prove what we believe by really studying the Bible. We need to accept what the Bible says rather than reading our own pre-conceived ideas into the Bible.

Think for a moment. Why is professing Christianity divided into more than 400 competing denominations and sects? Why do churches calling themselves Christian have so many differing beliefs and practices? Could it be that God is the author of confusion? Or might there be another explanation?

#### **Many Shall Deceive**

Consider the warning Christ Himself gave: "For many shall come in my name, saying [that] I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:5, *KJV*). Jesus did not say here that only some few would come in His name, but rather that "many shall come"! They come as "Christian" preachers, proclaiming Jesus as the Christ—yet deceiving many! In other words, there was to be a mass deception based on the false teachings of the many who would claim to come "in Jesus' name."

Frankly, it is easy for religious teachers to appropriate the Son of God's name as a cloak for their personal doctrine, whether or not what they say has any relationship at all to the real Jesus' life or teachings! That is why the Apostle Paul tells us: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21, *KJV*). Each one of us is responsible to "check up" on the doctrines we are taught—whatever the source. Do not make careless assumptions! Be sure you know what the Bible really says!

Paul further admonishes: "For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted; you may well put up with it!" (2 Corinthians 11:4). In other words, Paul feared that some of the Church members of his day would fall prey to "counterfeit" ministers and would come to accept a false gospel about a false Christ!



What about you? Is it possible that you have put up with "another Jesus"? Might you have been deceived into believing in a false portrayal of Christ—along with a false message merely purported to have come from the true Jesus? How can we know what is true—and what is not?

Again, we need to truly **study** the Bible to attain genuine understanding. We need to be willing to open-mindedly consider if we have been following the "traditions of men" rather than the commandments of God (Matthew 15:3).

#### How to Study

As we study the Bible, we need to learn to let the Bible interpret the Bible. In other words, if something seems unclear, then we should let the plain, clear verses help us understand those that are not clear. We need to learn also to study the Bible straight through like we would any other book. Many people simply skip around here and there and read sentimental verses of encouragement. While this may help at times, it does **not** give genuine understanding of the whole plan and purpose of God which He reveals in His instruction manual for mankind—the Holy Bible.

#### **How Your Subscription Has Been Paid**

*Tomorrow's World* has no subscription price. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of Living Church of God members, and by others who have chosen to become co-workers in proclaiming Christ's true Gospel to all nations. Donations are gratefully acknowledged, and may be tax-deductible. Begin by studying the Gospel of Matthew—the first book of the New Testament. Read right through Matthew slowly, marking what you feel are the important verses. Then, next day, review these verses you have studied and read slowly—meditating and marking—a few more chapters. In this way, you will become familiar with what the Bible actually says **not** what misguided men may tell you that it says!

In fervent personal prayer, ask God for understanding. Be willing to follow the Christianity of Christ no matter what. Always remember the Apostle Paul's vital statement: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live

In fervent personal prayer, ask God for understanding. Be willing to follow the Christianity of Christ no matter what.

by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, *KJV*).

Through the promised Holy Spirit, will Christ live the **same** kind of life in you that He lived more than 1,900 years ago in the human flesh? Hebrews 13:8 tells us: "Jesus Christ is the **same** yesterday, today, and forever." Did Christ keep the Ten Commandments while He was in the human flesh? John 15:10 tells us, "I have **kept** my Father's commandments."

So, where did you get your religion? How did you come to believe the things that you believe? Did you find your religious concepts in the Bible? Or did you get your religious ideas from family and friends?

Frankly, most people do not get their religion out of the Bible. It may hurt to have to admit that. But it can easily be proved in the vast majority of cases.

#### Will You Change?

It is very difficult for most people to admit they have been wrong. Human pride just does not want to do that. Yet, according to the inspired Word of God, that is the beginning point of true Christianity. When Jesus Christ began His ministry, He told His listeners over and over, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). And the Gospel of Mark tells us: "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent**, and believe in the gospel.'" (Mark 1:14–15). Again, Jesus later said, "I tell you, no; but unless you **repent** you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).

The word "repent" means to **change**. Yet, again, most people are **not willing** to admit they have been wrong and they certainly **do not** want to change! As Sir Winston Churchill said, speaking before the House of Commons: "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened."

If God has made it clear how to have His rich financial blessings, will you do what He requires to have them? Read my article, "Will God Bless You and Your Finances?" on page 5 of this issue. And will you follow Christ's command to "watch" as endtime prophesied events begin to be fulfilled at an ever-faster pace, as we approach the time of Christ's return? Read Mr. Richard Ames' article, "Prophetic Trends for 2015," on page 10 of this issue. Read every article in this issue, and study the scriptures each

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author cites. Scripture is the very mind of God in print, and as you become more familiar with the Word of God,

and learn how to apply it in your life, you will grow closer to your Savior and experience His blessings as never before. So, do not miss this great opportunity that God is giving you to learn and change and grow!

As the end of this age approaches, may God help you genuinely study His inspired Word and prove what you believe from the Bible. Then, you will be on a solid foundation. And you will come to genuinely know God—and the resurrected Jesus Christ at God's right hand—in a way you have never experienced before.

Rodent C Meelith

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*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* –Matthew 6:21

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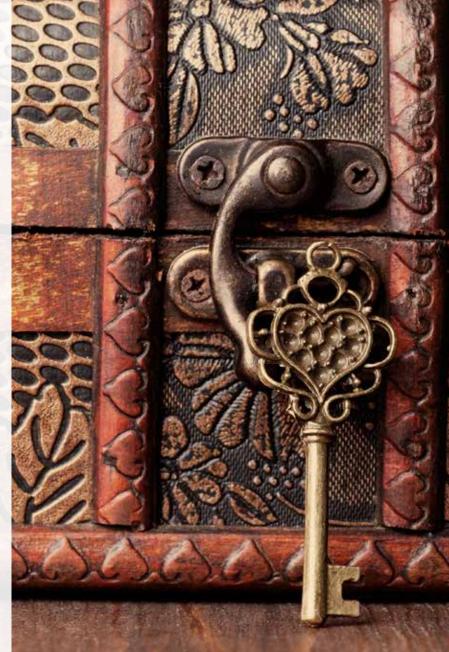
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# Will God Bless You and Your Finances?

How can you know that the God of creation will be "on your side" in the traumatic times just ahead? How can you **be sure** that He will bless your financial situation and your family as the end of this society approaches? You need to **know**!

#### By Roderick C. Meredith

Il around us, we can see that our society is changing in dramatic fashion! *Never* have there been so many changes happening so quickly as in recent years. Same-sex marriage—unthinkable in polite discussion just a few years ago—is increasingly accepted as the "law of the land." Violence in our cities seems to be taken as routine, and many even blame the law-enforcement authorities rather than the criminals. Many young people feel that there are no job opportunities for them, though they have amassed tens of thousands of dollars in student loan debt.

Our society is certainly in turmoil. Many of our forefathers here in America, Canada and Britain would "turn over in their graves" if they could suddenly come alive and witness what our political and religious leaders have been allowing and even "pushing" to happen.

We have the constant refrain of so-called "Christian" ministers jumping on the homosexual bandwagon and trying to put a guilt trip on those who oppose some of the vilest behavior described or condemned in the entire Bible. We see that countless *millions* of young people in our nations are "living together" without benefit of marriage. Hollywood seems to enjoy pushing this approach—as the institution of marriage crumbles, and our society begins to come apart along with this and other dangerous changes. Meanwhile, the Ebola virus is spreading. Russia is flying jet aircraft that threaten NATO airspace, and is helping implement a virtual "invasion" of parts of Ukraine as the United States and NATO do essentially *nothing*. And *all over the world* we see political and military "upsets" happening at an unusual rate.

#### **God Must Intervene**

*If* you believe or even partially understand the Bible, you can grasp that the Eternal God **must** intervene and begin to *stop this* **if** He acts according to the statements in His own inspired Word, the Holy Bible. The eternal God is certainly "in charge" of world events. The inspired Word of God tells us: "The LORD brings the *counsel of the nations to* **nothing**; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance" (Psalm 33:10–12).

Yes, the counsel of the Lord "stands forever." For God is **real**. He **will** bring about those things that He has said. He *will* **bless** those who genuinely trust and obey Him!

Again, the God that gives us life and breath tells us, "Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath" (Isaiah 45:22–23).

#### Do We Really Look to God?

Truly, there is "no other" God who has the power and the will to guide world events and to **bless** those who truly serve Him. Frankly, my friends, that is the *starting point* of any discussion about the important issues of life. And *all of us* need to fully *realize this* as we consider the future safety—both **physically and financially**—of ourselves, our families and loved ones.

We know that we want to receive God's blessings as generously as He will give them. But does He require anything of us? In discussing the need for true Christians to "give generously," Almighty God states: "But this I say: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6). Then, God lets us know that He is "in charge" and able to bless those who do give generously. For He states in concluding this section of scripture, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work" (v. 8). So God is "able" to give us the "breaks" and give us everything we need even in times of trouble or national upsets, weather upsets, disease epidemics or whatever. For He is God!

Our great God, the God of creation, tells us repeatedly in the Bible that He "owns" everything. And that if we pay Him a "tithe" of our income, we are simply giving back to Him what is His. We are showing that we truly "fear" Him, honor Him and love Him. We are willing to do as He says. Most of you subscribers to Tomorrow's World know that God has given us an understanding of prophetic events far beyond what the average person or even minister begins to grasp. God is using us in this Work to get His message to the world in a more powerful way year by year. So we would be remiss if we did not remind you, occasionally, of God's *direct instruction* on *tithing* and the **blessings** you will receive if you are willing to obey your Creator and "seek first" the Kingdom of God above all else-even in financial ways!

#### What God's Word Reveals

What is the "mind of God" regarding our *financial responsibility* to the Creator who gives us life and

breath? What does **God** clearly reveal in *His inspired Word*? After describing the events regarding Israel's exodus from Egypt and the trials and tests and **punishments** God administered to ancient Israel, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Now all these things happened to them as **examples**, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Corinthians 10:11).

One of the primary examples given in the entire



Old Testament is the example of Abraham. For Abraham is called "the *father* of all those who believe" (Romans

4:11). He is also called three different times, "the friend of God" (James 2:23; 2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8). Through Abraham's constant obedience to God (Genesis 26:5), Abraham is used as an example of God's own character in a way *no other man* has been in the Bible (Genesis 22).

So we should certainly *want to follow* Abraham's example!

Though Abraham was truly a great man, an even greater Personage is introduced in Genesis 14:18–20: "Melchizedek," King of Salem. This great Personality is described in Hebrews 7:1–3: "For this Melchizedek,



king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to *whom also Abraham gave a* **tenth** *part of all*, first being translated 'king of righteousness,' and then also king of Salem, meaning 'king of peace,' without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually."

As you read this chapter carefully, it becomes obvious that Melchizedek was not a man, but was actually the Personality who became Jesus Christ Himself in the New Testament! And God tells us in verse 9, "Even *Levi*, who receives tithes, paid **tithes** *through Abraham*, so to speak."

This *powerful example* of Abraham—the "father of the faithful"—**paying tithes** to Melchizedek ought to make any God-fearing person want to follow the example of the father of the faithful—**if** that person wants to be truly faithful to his Creator! And, as is indicated in Hebrews 7:9, it is not merely a matter of

#### **Tithing Always Part of God's Plan**

In Genesis 26:3–5, we find the story of how God spoke to Isaac and described how He had given Abraham awesome blessings of national prosperity and millions of descendants. **Why? "Because** Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My **commandments**, My **statutes**, and My **laws**." Certainly **tithing** was one of these *statutes* (Leviticus 26:46; 27:30). So Abraham was simply obeying commandments and statutes that God had *already revealed* long before Moses was ever heard of! And so, Abraham became the "friend of God!"

Near the end of the Old Testament, in the book of Malachi—a sort of "bridge book" that leads right over into the New Testament—God told our forefathers, *"For I am the LORD, I* **do not change**" (Malachi 3:6). God has certain basic commandments and statutes that *last forever* for human beings. **Tithing** is certainly one of these. For the inspired instruction continues, *""Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But* you say, *'In what way have we robbed You?* In **tithes** 

## GOD MAKES IT CLEAR THAT WE OWE HIM A TITHE—A "TENTH"—OF OUR INCREASE. Our creator is our ultimate "landlord"

and **offerings**. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and

"giving" a tithe to God—for Levi "paid" tithes through Abraham. The original example tells us that Abraham was aware that God was "possessor of heaven and earth." God is our Creator, our Sustainer and our Provider. He makes it possible for us to breathe the air that we breathe, drink the water that we drink and eat the food that we eat. Most human beings simply *do not think about that*! But God—through His inspired Word—makes it clear that we **owe** Him a tithe—a "tenth"—of our increase. For He is our ultimate "Landlord" and our God.

Abraham's wonderful example cannot be refuted by those who would falsely claim that tithing was simply part of the "Law of Moses"! For Moses was *not even born* when Abraham set us the example of tithing! Later, we find that the patriarch Jacob also indicated that he would give a "tenth"—a tithe—to God (Genesis 28:22). pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it'" (vv. 8–10).

Because our human nature is basically selfish, and because God is not "real" to most people, most human beings and even *most ministers* come up with excuses as to why we supposedly do not need to tithe. *Why?* The Bible answers: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (Romans 8:7). Carnal people seem naturally to resent the idea of a powerful God, who has a "**law**," telling them what to do!

So the typical arguments against tithing usually acknowledge that tithing *was a law* under the Old Testament, but that it is not required in the New Testament. Yet, Jesus Christ Himself clearly explained, "Whoever therefore *breaks one of the least of these commandments*, and teaches men so, shall be called **FINANCES** CONTINUES ON PAGE 29



# "Old Tomorrow"— The Patriot Statesman





**In Kingston, Ontario**, at the old Cataraqui Cemetery, one could miss an unpretentious granite marker engraved with a simple inscription: *John Alexander MacDonald*, 1815– 1891, At Rest.

One would not suspect that this grave contains the remains of one of the great driving forces behind the creation of the Dominion of Canada. MacDonald was a talented, hard-working visionary who left two great legacies—the unification of British colonies in northeastern North America into a single nation, and the expansion of this union across the continent to the Pacific and Arctic Oceans.

MacDonald was born in Glasgow, Scotland in January 1815. Five years later, his parents left for Kingston, located in what was then Upper Canada. His ability was considerable, and he was selected to article for a local law firm at the age of 15. At 20, he was inducted into the Law Society of Upper Canada. In those early days, his political views were somewhat shaped by a brief rebellion in Upper Canada, influenced and to some extent supported by republican sentiment south of the border. While he helped subdue the rebellion, he also defended some of the rebels, building his reputation as a defence lawyer.

In the 1840s MacDonald won a seat in the Upper Canada legislature. By 1854 he became Premier. MacDonald continued his law practice throughout his political career. While rigorously defending the right of an individual to voice a dissenting opinion, MacDonald sought opportunities to create workable coalitions of people, political parties and businesses to achieve big ideas. *"MacDonald would be bold enough to make*  tough decisions and sensible enough to submerge his own ego to support a cause" ("Canada's Patriot Statesman," *Library and Archives Canada*). In a land with a strong English-French divide, MacDonald, who spoke French, built partnerships with French Canada—and notably with "Father of Confederation" George Etienne Cartier—uniting two peoples in a common vision.

#### **The Big Picture**

Seeing big solutions and making them reality took great skill and wisdom, but also humility and the ability to inspire. There is a story told by former Prime Minister John Turner that illustrates this quality of MacDonald:

> David Thompson, a Liberal Member of Parliament (MP)... had just returned to Parliament after an extended absence due to illness.... Thompson reported that: "The first man I met was [Liberal leader Edward] Blake; he passed me with a simple nod as if he had forgotten I was away. Then I met [Liberal MP Richard] Cartwright, who was just as cold. Then I met Sir John, who rushed across the Chamber, slapped me on the shoulder, grasped my hand, and said, 'Davy, I am glad you are back again; I hope you will live many a day to vote against me.' It was pretty hard not to follow a man like that" (*ibid*.).

Following the 1864 U.S. election, the Republicans, to placate Irish Americans, put forward the Canada Annexation Bill in July of 1866. Fear of annexation by the U.S.

was the greatest single factor that enabled MacDonald and his allies to bring about a consensus for union.

Consequently in 1866, the British parliament passed the British North America Act, much of which Mac-Donald drafted. July 1, 1867 was selected as the date on which the Dominion of Canada would be born. MacDonald was the obvious choice to become the first prime minister. Many challenges lay ahead, but his vision, patience and willingness to respect other opinions enabled him to be a unifying force.

MacDonald now focused on the expansion of Confederation westward to the Pacific. He led the task of bringing the province of Manitoba into existence (1870), followed by the addition of British Columbia (1871). The latter required the promise of a transcontinental railway, the greatest single project ever undertaken by the Canadian government, requiring massive funding. In the process MacDonald and his government were caught up in a major financial scandal resulting in his government's defeat in 1873. Yet in 1878 he returned. The populace sought a visionary with a record of delivery. MacDonald went on to win four consecutive elections, stabilizing the young nation. He believed in a strong central government willing to spend on national interest projects. He oversaw the development of a national police force that would become the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to bring order to the West. He was faced with a national crisis when a rebellion occurred in the North West. These challenges required firmness and balance.



Quebec Conference of 1864; MacDonald seated, fourth from left

#### **Strength Through Trials**

In all of this, MacDonald endured many personal trials. His first child died at 13 months, and his first wife (Isabella), became afflicted with a debilitating disease that took her life 13 years later. MacDonald, shaken by these events, had been a loyal husband and loving father. Ten years later he married again. He deeply loved his new wife, Susan Anges, but they were soon devastated when their daughter was born severely handicapped. He made every effort to be with his family members as much as possible.

Adele Perry in "The Mounted Police and Prairie Society 1873-1919" writes: "While Prime Minister Mac-

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Donald was confronted with the illness of his wife, personal financial crises and many pressing problems of the

nation, he delayed the formal approval of a western police force until the time was right. This caused Commissioner Irvine of the North West Mounted Police, whose operations were delayed awaiting approval, to refer to MacDonald as 'Old Tomorrow'" (p. 8). The nickname stuck!

It was characteristic of MacDonald to evade difficult issues until the right moment for success. History underscores the wisdom of waiting to implement policies until needs are identified. In the end, he achieved nearly all of his visions. Canadian Senator Hugh Segal writes of Mac-Donald, "He could always build a coalition on an issue that mattered... That was his most compelling success. There's a point in any partisan debate where you've got to stand back and realize there is something more... and that is loyalty to your country" ("Canada's Patriot Statesman," *Library and Archives Canada*).

"Old Tomorrow" gave a young nation vision and focused leadership. MacDonald was not without faults and weaknesses, but lack of love of country and family were not among them. Sincerity, vision, teambuilding, determination and integrity are what God is looking for in His future leaders—those who are willing to work on perfecting their own character and supporting the announcement of God's coming rule on the earth, while waiting for Him to select the right moment to restore righteous government to all the world. This can be your destiny—in Tomorrow's World.

-Stuart Wachowicz

# **PROPHETIC** TRENDS FOR 2015

Bible prophecy gives us an outline of future events. Jesus Christ told His followers to "watch" for the signs of the end-times (Matthew 24:42).But what are the signs we should be watching? What can we really know from Scripture? We need to be prepared for 2015... and beyond!

#### By Richard F. Ames

n 2014, the drama of human history and its violence and war continued unabated. Coalition forces attacked the extremist Islamic force called ISIS. Military jets from several countries bombed ISIS targets in Iraq and even in Syria. Russia's military marched into the Crimean Peninsula and claimed it as its own territory. Japan and China clashed over disputed island territories. Palestinian military bases in Gaza fired more than 4,000 missiles into Israel, some as far as Tel Aviv, killing dozens of Israelis, and prompting Israel to send land forces into Gaza to stop this action, killing or injuring thousands of Palestinians in response. Extremists even beheaded journalists, as bloody evil raised its wicked specter. In West Africa, thousands died from the Ebola disease. As many of you know, Jesus of Nazareth warned that there will be terrible disease epidemics in the prophetic end-times, the age in which we are now living! He warned, "And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:7-8).

#### Wars, Conflicts and Terrorism

But will we ever see the end of conflict, wars, and violence? And is there anything you can do to escape the dangerous times ahead? Jesus gave an outline of prophetic events in the famous "Olivet Prophecy" (so-called because it was spoken on the Mount of Olives). You can read it for yourself in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. The Savior stated, "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:6–7).

Has human nature changed since Christ spoke those words? No! The last hundred years brought us two world wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, several Middle East wars and terrorism across the U.S., Great Britain, and many other nations. Nations against nations, ethnic groups against ethnic groups, religious sects against religious sects—violence continues, and at the very end will increase even further.

World history has demonstrated that governments and alliances cannot produce lasting peace. The Apostle Paul quoted the prophet Isaiah, who stated this troubling reality: "And the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Romans 3:17–18).

#### **Continuing Developments in Europe**

What other major trends can we expect in 2015? Chapter 17 of the book of Revelation describes the revival of a mysterious "Beast" power. We read: "There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time" (Revelation 17:10).

Regular readers of this magazine understand that this European superpower will be a revival of the ancient Roman Empire. Ten kings or kingdoms will



Joint counterterrorism exercises in Karachi, Pakistan



form a powerful alliance with the Beast power. "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful" (Revelation 17:12–14).

Does this surprise you? Even the original *Douay-Rheims Bible*, translated from the Latin Vulgate for use by Roman Catholics, includes this startling admission about the "Beast" of Revelation 17. Describing verse 11, the commentary acknowledges, "The beast spoken of here seems to be the Roman Empire, as in chapter 13." The Douay-Rheims commentary on Revelation 13:1 is as follows: "The picture of the first beast is based on the seventh chapter of Daniel. This beast is the figure of kingdoms of the world, kingdoms founded on passion and selfishness, which in every age are antagonistic to Christ and seek to oppress the servants of God. Imperial Rome represents this power."

Bible prophecy reveals that the political entity that becomes a revived Roman Empire will be un-

der the control of a "woman"—biblical symbol for a church—who "rides" the Beast and controls it. We read: "And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYS-TERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of it is prophesied to happen before Christ returns. So, watch for the rise of a powerful European conglomerate of states, as it prepares the way for the final endtime revival of the Roman Empire.

#### **Heavenly Signs?**

Many of you who read this magazine may be familiar with self-appointed preachers who have come up with wild ideas about the supposed "blood moons" of 2014–15. What are these? They are an astronomical phenomenon, recurring in cycles every 550 years or so, in which four total eclipses of the moon appear

### THE END-TIME REVIVAL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE WILL GROW INTO AN ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER AND WILL DOMINATE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

in shades of deep red. A press release by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration described the Moon's coloring as "sunset red" and described each eclipse as filling the

the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement" (Revelation 17:3–6).

Yes, the prophesied end-time Beast power is also referred to as Great Babylon. This superpower will only last for a few years. The Apostle John writes, "After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen,



is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every

unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury'" (Revelation 18:1–3).

This end-time revival of the Roman Empire will grow into an economic superpower and will dominate international politics. It will exercise such modern military might that it will even fight against Christ at His coming, as we read in Revelation 17:14. Will all of this fall into place in 2015? Almost certainly not. But Moon "with a coppery glow and transforming the Moon into a great red orb." The first two of the four occurred last year on April 15 and October 8. This year, the eclipses will fall on April 4 and September 28. Will any of these herald Christ's coming? No! The truth is that your Bible describes a future event even more breathtaking than these blood moons. "I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood" (Revelation 6:12). The heading in some Bibles just above this section is "Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances"—and indeed, these will make the "blood moons" pale by comparison.

In the actual fulfillment of the "sixth seal" as prophesied by Scripture, the cosmic disturbances will be unprecedented. Notice: "And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great



"And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" —*Revelation 6:13–17* 

day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"" (Revelation 6:13–17).

These cosmic disturbances will introduce the Day of the Lord, the "great day of [Christ's] wrath." What lessons can we learn from these heavenly signs? When they come, they will herald not the beginning of the Great Tribulation, but rather the end of that event and the start of the Day of the Lord—the final year of human history before Jesus Christ's Second Coming!

During the Great Tribulation, the world will experience Satan's wrath against true Christians and on the Western nations, descendants of the House of Israel. Scripture tells us that this time, unique in all history, is the time of Jacob's trouble: "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:7). Remember that Jacob's name was changed to Israel. The house of Israel became the "lost" ten tribes—the American and British-descended peoples, including the nations of northwest Europe.

Has God given signs in the heavens before? Yes, He has! Read about the darkness that fell when Jesus was being crucified—that was on Wednesday, April 25, in 31AD. The people of Jerusalem saw a supernatural darkness for three hours (Matthew 27:45). Later that night, a lunar eclipse also occured. The Apostle Peter, in his inspiring Pentecost message, quoted the prophet Joel in describing heavenly signs yet to come. "I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (Acts 2:19–21).

#### Watch Jerusalem!

The city of Jerusalem, and especially the Temple Mount area, continue as a source of conflict between Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians. In recent years, small numbers of Jews have been making preparations to restore the animal sacrifices that ended in 70AD when the Second Temple was destroyed. Israeli courts have prohibited attempts by Jewish activists to establish their worship services on the Temple Mount.

We know from the prophet Daniel that in the end-time, there will be a revival of animal sacrifices and then their prohibition, paralleling what occurred



View of Temple Mount, Jerusalem

under the Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes, who in 167BC issued a decree prohibiting sacrifices in the Jerusalem Temple. Anciently, Antiochus further profaned the temple. He erected a statue of Jupiter Olympus in the temple and directed everyone to worship it.

Similarly, the book of Revelation warns of a future occupation of Jerusalem by a Gentile power. "Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, 'Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months'" (Revelation 11:1–2).

What will happen during this time? "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days" (Daniel 12:11). If the daily sacrifice is to be taken away, then it must first begin—at some time still ahead of us. My friends, when that happens, you will know that the end of this world's civilization is about to come.

#### **Christians Must Prepare!**

On the one hand, it may be easy to become discouraged by all the suffering and the trends we see around us. On the other hand, when we know that prophesied events are still a few years away, it may also be easy to stop paying attention to Christ's commands. What warning did our Savior give us in this regard? "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:34–36).

As Christians, we must remain alert to the prophecies Jesus gave us. We must not fall asleep spiritually. The Apostle Paul gave us this admonition: "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. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:11–12).

Dear readers, we are living in the exciting prophesied "end-times." End-time prophecies that have



been in place for thousands of years are "speeding up" toward fulfillment as never before. We look forward

to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, who will soon return to establish the Kingdom of God on planet Earth. So we must be prepared. Even if Christ does not return for a few more years, we cannot let our guard down individually, as any one of us might die tonight. We must draw close to God in 2015, and we must stay close to Him. As we do, we can be informed and encouraged by the fulfillment of prophesied events as we obey Christ's command to "watch" in 2015 and beyond!

#### MAY WE SUGGEST?

**Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in World Affairs** Christ told His followers to "watch" as end-time prophecies come to pass. Request a **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



#### "...and the life was the light of men."

Iways keep a flashlight handy in your home or workplace, or when you travel. Keep it accessible, and keep it powered. You never know when you might need one. This may sound like Common Sense 101, but light really **can** save your life. So, unsurprisingly, light is one of the most important concepts in the Bible.

Never take light for granted. It is one of the basic needs of life. Even in the black ocean depths, untouched by daylight, there are life forms that use light, and are equipped to produce "bioluminescence" for a variety of functions. Plants need it. Animals need it. You need it.

Flip a switch, and you bring one of your most important senses to bear against unseen dangers—and there are many creatures that find bright light very inconvenient. Some of the peskiest critters bolt at the first ray of sudden light—like raccoons and other nocturnal invaders, and the ubiquitous cockroach. Light can be even more useful for keeping human pests and animal predators away.

Light also provides safety during emergencies, when cars break down at night or power grids fail and we find ourselves stumbling in literal darkness—but that is not the only darkness in which we stumble.

#### The Light of Men

The Apostle John wrote concerning Jesus Christ: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (John 1:1–5). In this passage John clearly identifies Jesus as existing long before His conception on earth, and as the true spiritual Light of mankind.

The word "light" in these passages, *phos* in the ancient Greek, literally means "radiance" or even "spiritual illumination" in some cases, and is derived from the root word *phaō*, meaning "to make manifest." And, when John said that this light shone against the darkness (the ignorance and waywardness of this world, Romans 1:20–22), the darkness could not comprehend (or overcome) it.

As you can see, this was a very powerful light. In what ways does the light of Christ, and the knowledge of God's ways, illuminate life and chase away shadows?

Matthew 18:15, one of the most underused scriptures in the Bible, shows one way. By bringing a matter that offends us before a neighbor, rather than concealing it and trying to get our own way, we "shine a light" on the situation, and at the very least act with transparency (John 3:20–21) regardless of the other person's actions.

#### **God Shines His Light**

God's word, too, shines the light—through instructions about prayer, especially what the Bible calls intercessory prayer (1 Timothy 2:1–3). Fervent, sincere prayer made by those obedient to God's will "avails much" (James 5:16) and will not go unseen by God. Diligent prayer even for those who may be your enemies goes a long way with God (Matthew 5:43–45).

#### REQUEST YOUR FREE BOOKLET Christian Baptism: Its Real Meaning

If we force ourselves to make the effort, the path to forgiveness, resolution and true peace of mind becomes

clear and well lit. We shine the light of mercy on others, and in so doing, God will shine it on us (Mark 11:25). There are few better ways to chase away the shadows of emotional turmoil and resentment—and the greater the resentment, the greater the relief.

Finally, the Gospel offers the true knowledge of the way to repentance and salvation. When God calls someone into His family, He makes the way known through the gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3; Ephesians 3:4–6). This revelation comes directly from God, and cannot be comprehended without His help. But once God shines this light into your eyes, and you trust in Him (Isaiah 50:10), the door is opened for you never to walk in darkness again.

That light is more precious than any other, but it comes only with a calling and a great cost, and must never be taken lightly. Is it being offered to you? If God's call is beginning to light your life, do not delay act on it while you can!

-William L. Williams

# 置London CALLING

# Parliament and the "Right to Die"?



n ongoing debate continues to brew in the Parliament building of Great Britain in the United Kingdom. It involves the "right to die" and goes back as far as 2006. On July 28, 2014, the House of Lords conducted the second reading of the bill put forth by Lord Falconer of Thoroton, which lasted some ten hours. The bill went forward to a committee for further review, which is only the beginning of a long process that could see Royal Assent happening in the not-too-distant future. Assisted suicide continues to gain traction in various parts of the world, but what exactly would be the ramifications if this bill receives the "Royal stamp of approval"?

The essence of the "Right to Die" bill gives license to individuals who are mentally competent but terminally ill, or suffering from chronic, unbearable physical pain to choose to have a doctor or family member assist them in dying according to the "Dignity With Dying" movement, which is actively promoting the concept of *assisted dying*. An opposition group, "Care Not Killing," is lobbying against the passage of the "Right to Die" bill in favour of better methods of palliative care, as their name implies.

#### **Behind Closed Doors**

In the U.K. assisted dying is not legal, yet instances of it are known to have occurred. Sabine Michalowski, Law Professor at the University of Essex, is in favour of some degree of legalisation to allow "assisted dying." In an Al Jazeera interview, she explains how attempted suicides are happening behind closed doors. She states how this is seen by some as a viable reason to allow "compassionate assistance to die" (*Aljazeera.com*, "Who decides when it is time to die?" January 31, 2014), but simply making something legal in a court of law does not necessarily change inherent moral and ethical facts.

#### **Categories of Dying**

The AI Jazeera broadcast goes on to state that "assisted dying," where terminally ill patients have the right to self-administer life-ending drugs, is already allowed in four U.S. states. "Assisted suicide," where an individual is not dying but suffering chronic pain or is disabled, is allowed in Switzerland. "Voluntary euthanasia," wherein a doctor is allowed to administer life-ending medication, is allowed in Belgium and the Netherlands. Lastly, "euthanasia" is when a third-party administers life-ending medication, sometimes without the consent of the individual.

*Dignitas*, the Swiss company, actively takes part in the termination of life for those with "an illness which will lead inevitably to death, unendurable pain or an unendurable disability," according to their Web site. They carry out the instructions of terminally ill persons, accompanied by a family member or friend, to end their life. For those who use the *Dignitas* organisation to perform the assisted suicide, there is risk. At this time, the laws in the U.K. state that assisting others with suicide is not allowed. In fact, prosecution for being an accomplice to homicide—*murder*—can be the result; however, to date, no one has been prosecuted for this capital offence.

#### Change Is in the Air

In Quebec, Canada, a long-standing opponent to assisted dying, Dr. Catherine Ferrier, a geriatric specialist



and the president of the Physicians Alliance Against Euthanasia, stated emphatically that she believes politicians were trying to institutionalise "killing patients and calling it healthcare" (*ibid*.). On June 5, 2014, Bill 52 was passed which now allows for a patient in Quebec to choose to die (*CBC.ca*, "Quebec passes landmark end-of-life care bill," June 5, 2014).

How long before the British Parliament follows this slippery slope, opening the door to a dramatic and far-reaching devaluation of human life? If death is considered a "human right," then where will the line be

How long before the British Parliament follows this slippery slope, opening the door to a dramatic and far-reaching devaluation of human life? If death is a human right where will the line be drawn? drawn to define what constitutes murder and what does not? Already, as of January 2014, laws in Belgium have made legal the decision of terminally ill children, as well as those children who have chronic unbearable physical pain, to decide to end their own life. A BBC News article reveals how Dr. Gerlant van Berlaer, a paediatrician at U.Z. Hospital Brussels, views

youth euthanasia: "We are not playing God—these are lives that will end anyway" (*BBC.co.uk*, "Belgium divided on euthanasia for children," January 8, 2014).

Abortion is a tragic and sad result of mankind thinking it can determine for itself what is right and what is wrong. Not that long ago, abortion was unthinkable to most in Western society. And just as attitudes toward abortion have changed dramatically, will the time come when those who are in chronic pain or are terminally ill, whether young or old, may also be treated as just so much insignificant tissue? Humanity seems intent on taking matters of life and death into its own morally illequipped hands.

#### **Vital Moral Guidance**

What does the Bible have to say about the matter of life and death? Is life or death a *human right* we possess? Where can we find the answers?

Ecclesiastes 8:6-8 tells us, "Because for every matter there is a *time* and *judgment*, though the misery of man increases greatly. For he does not know what will happen; so who can tell him when it will occur? **No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, and no one has power in the day of death.**"

The Apostle Paul, in explaining to the Athenians about the true God, said, "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, *since He gives to all life, breath, and all things*" (Acts 17:25). God has created us and given us life. God is the one who is in control of when we die. We should not usurp from God His power to bring about or allow death.

This fact of life remains: "...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). God gave the command, "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13) to protect the sanctity and value of human



life. This command includes "self-murder" otherwise known as suicide. Those assisting others in suicide

become accomplices to murder in the eyes of Almighty God!

#### **An Amazing Future Awaits!**

Every human being is precious in God's sight and He has an incredible plan in store, but we must choose to live. "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19). Please request our inspiring booklet, *Your Ultimate Destiny*. Every human has the right to seek life to the full, though it may require courage to do so.

—Adam J. West

# NDEPENDENCE SCOTCHED?

# What Does Scotland's "No!" Mean for the United Kingdom and Bible Prophecy?

#### By John Meakin

hat an incredible rumpus the Scottish Referendum caused last September! The simple question had been "Should Scotland be an Independent Country?" Yet not for a moment did the diverse peoples of the UK ever imagine that a majority of the Scots would vote YES... until ten days or so before the referendum when one single opinion poll of around 50 percent indicated that they just might!

The result was simply electrifying, and pandemonium ensued! Voices from every corner of the UK and around the world joined together in an appeal for the Scots not to separate. Every reason was brought forth as to why such a move would be counterproductive and fraught with peril. Politicians of every party mobilized. The Prime Minister, David Cameron, delivered an impassioned plea to keep the "family of nations" intact. "Millions of people," he said, "would be utterly heartbroken by the breakup of the UK."

But it is no exaggeration to say that many among the NO vote sensed that theirs was now a lost cause. Momentum seemed to swing decisively towards a YES campaign that was increasingly gripped by an emotional frenzy at the imminent prospect of independence. How wrong they and the polls turned out to be!

#### A Surprising Victory

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP), confidently sensed victory and proclaimed that loyal and patriotic Scots would, of course, only vote YES. Every awkward and difficult question he was asked was simply brushed aside as so much scaremongering; for him the future of an independent Scotland could only be rosy, no matter how much evidence piled up to the contrary. The NO campaign, latterly in the form of previous UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown (himself a Scot), emotionally insisted that remaining part of the Union was wiser, safer, more secure, and therefore the more *patriotic* decision to make for this and future generations.

In the privacy of polling booths up and down the country, Scottish voters, free from the ugly and sometimes violent scenes of hatred and public intimidation, voted in droves to say NO. When the final result became known, Scotland by a wide margin of 10 percent, had decisively rejected the idea of separating from the Union. The United Kingdom of Great Britain would remain intact, after all. To many it seemed like some kind of miracle had taken place. But the Yes campaign was quite naturally heartbroken; Alex Salmond's lifelong dream to break up the Union now lay in tatters and he promptly resigned his position as SNP leader.

Within the United Kingdom, the broad majority breathed a collective sigh of relief, and comments from leaders around the world expressed pleasure at the Scots' decision. Even Queen Elizabeth II acknowledged her approval, saying: "Now, as we move forward, we should remember that despite the range of views that have been expressed, we have in common an enduring love of Scotland, which is one of the things that helps to unite us all."

#### The Reason For Union

But why was there such strong opposition to the Union among so many Scots? What lies at the root of their rather surprising antipathy? What is next for the United Kingdom? Is the constitutional crisis now over? Can everyone relax and get back to business as



usual? What lessons can be learned, particularly from a biblical perspective, in the light of this spectac-

ular *near-miss* that almost put an end to one of the most successful union of nations in all of history?

The answers to all these questions revolve around one bigger question: *What is the Union for? What is its purpose and reason for being?* The answer is sur-

#### INDEPENDENCE SCOTCHED?

prising and largely forgotten in the mists of time. But it is important and relevant to the challenges we face today.

#### **The Darien Disaster**

Back in the late 1600s, the Scots felt left behind in the colonial race and were eager to catch up. Previous attempts at establishing colonies had failed so, in 1696, the Scottish entrepreneur and financier, William Paterson,

who was also a co-founder of the Bank of England in 1694, helped form the Company of Scotland with the express purpose of establishing a colony called Caledonia on the Darien Isthmus (modern Panama) in Central America. Subscriptions of £400,000 were pledged, a vast sum for the day (£40 million in today's currency), and more than four times the annual revenue of the Scottish government. The project was destined to provide an early example of financial mania.

Things went badly wrong due to misallocation of assets, poor planning and execution, disease, bad

weather, inadequate supplies, poor communica-

tions, and opposition from established and more powerful nations like Spain, Holland and England.

In retrospect the project was ill-advised, ill-timed and ill-fated. Morale collapsed, the colony was aban-

but bankrupt and seemed fated never to be a great

colonial power.

doned and investors lost everything. Scotland was all

But help was on hand from a surprising source.

There had been talk of Union between Scotland and

England for some years. After all, the nations had

much in common: they shared the same language,

ends, and they were contained on the same island

were subject to the same monarch, held essentially the same religious beliefs, their laws had the same



#### Darien Isthmus, Panama

with the same "liquid walls." United with the far larger and richer England, it would be possible for the small and relatively poor Scotland to yet realize her burning ambitions.

What England now offered Scotland was a Protestant Union as a bulwark against Catholic France; the new United Kingdom would be called *Great Britain* and in return for ending the Scottish Parliament, Scotland would share in its governance by sending representatives to the Westminster Parliament in faroff London. The Company of Scotland would be end-

## WHAT ENGLAND WAS OFFERING SCOTLAND WAS A PROTESTANT UNION AS A BULWARK AGAINST CATHOLIC FRANCE: A NEW UNITED KINGDOM

ed, the weaker Scottish pound would be dropped in favour of Sterling, and in return Scotland would gain access to England's vast free trade area, including her colonies and plantations. Taxes would

be equalised, and duties on certain Scottish commodities would be waived.

But by far and away the greatest English incentive for Union was provided by "the Equivalent." All the money lost by investors in the Darien Scheme would be repaid along with five percent annual interest. This would benefit 3,000 Company of Scotland shareholders plus 1,500 others from military and civil lists. The lump sum was a little under £400,000. These arrangements were all agreed to. Thus the Union began as a short-term financial bargain between two political elites. Cash in hand came before sovereignty and nationalism. It was pragmatic rather than idealistic politics.

#### SCOTCHED? CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

#### **Observing the Sabbath commandment**

**Question:** I have just discovered that the weekly Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday, as the Bible says. What should I do to "keep it holy" as we are commanded in Exodus 20:8?

Answer: Some mistakenly think of the Sabbath as a time when God oppresses us by forbidding our doing what we want. But it is actually a time He created for mankind, giving us relief from the week's stress and focusing our attention on the One who made that day and set it apart for His holy purpose. "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27–28).

Why do we keep the Sabbath? It is one of the Ten Commandments, which God gave and which Christ Himself observed and taught His followers to observe (Matthew 19:17). We read: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the



LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore

the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8–11).

Each Sabbath, we turn away from our labor and from frivolous activities such as watching sports, or taking in entertainment on the television or the Internet that draws our attention away from God and His plan for us. This frees our time to read Scripture, pray and meditate on the things of God. On the Sabbath, we are to focus on learning about God and worshiping Him. Those who live within a reasonable traveling distance of a group of true Christian believers should come together in worship and fellowship. "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day [of Christ's return] approaching" (Hebrews 10:24–25).

Christ explained that we are to do good on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:12). A person who saves an endangered life on the Sabbath is not violating it; Christ healed the sick on the Sabbath, for which the Pharisees plotted to destroy Him (vv. 13–14). However, Christians must examine their consciences to

When we keep God's true seventh-day Sabbath properly, He blesses us richly.

be sure they do not misuse Christ's command. It is proper for a Christian to save a life on the Sabbath, but it is not proper to earn money on the Sabbath by doing one's regular business with the excuse of "helping" people.

When we keep God's true seventh-day Sabbath properly, He blesses us richly. "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father" (Isaiah 58:13–14).

God's Sabbaths are a time of joy and of physical and spiritual refreshing. "When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast" (Psalm 42:4).

To learn more about the meaning and observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, please request a free copy of our booklets, *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* and *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan.* Write to the regional office nearest you (listed on page 4 of this magazine) or go online to *www.tomorrowsworld.org.* 

# COMES ALIVE

# The Demise of the West

hat lies just ahead for the once-prosperous Western nations that have dominated the world for the last five centuries? Why is the influence of the United States in the world declining? Why has once-powerful Britain needed to struggle to remain united? What has happened to the glory of France? Why has immigration changed the face of Canada? Why are the nations of Australia and New Zealand challenged by rising Asian powers? Why are Western nations that once served as models of freedom, prosperity and morality plagued by growing internal strife and falling prestige on the world stage? Few now realize that Western decline was predicted long ago in Bible prophecies that are *coming alive* today!

#### **Prophetic Promises and Warnings**

Most people today, including biblical and academic scholars, do not understand that the modern Western nations listed above are actually mentioned in Bible prophecies. As a result, few recognize *why* these nations are in trouble and what their future holds. The Scriptures record that God made a series of promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—that their descendants would multiply and spread around the world, becoming a blessing to other peoples.

Because of Abraham's obedience, the descendants of Israel's twelve tribes were promised to dwell in choice places of the earth and eventually gain possession of the gates of their enemies. The descendants of Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, were prophesied to ultimately become a great nation and a great company of nations, respectively. History records that specific nations of the Western world have actually fulfilled these ancient promises.

The Bible also reveals *why* God gave Abraham and his descendants these promises. When the Israelites fled Egypt, God entered into a covenant with them and gave them His laws so they could become a model nation and a light to the world (Deuteronomy 4). However, God warned them against disobedience: "But if you do not obey Me... and if you despise My statutes... I will break the pride of your power" (Leviticus 26:14-19). God foretold that disobedience would bring wasting diseases, drought, and invasion; "those who hate you shall reign over you" (v. 17).

Moses later warned the Israelites that if they turned away from God, they would wind up in debt to foreign nations, that aliens among them would rise to prominence and the Israelites would become "the tail" and eventually go into captivity (Deuteronomy 28:15-46). Looking into the distant future, Moses told the Israelites, "evil will befall you in the latter days" because "you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you" (Deuteronomy 31:29). Numerous prophecies warn that the demise of the Israelite nations will come "suddenly" (Deuteronomy 7:4; Isaiah 30:12-14).

Most Bible scholars recognize that many Old Testament prophecies are *dual*—with an initial fulfillment in the ancient world and the ultimate fulfillment toward the end of the age. History records that ancient Israel and Judah did turn away from God and were enslaved by Assyria and Babylon. Today, the modern descendants of the Israelites are also turning away from God and are heading for a similar fate!

#### **Modern Realities**

History records that religious leaders from Britain and Holland and other northwestern European nations played major roles in spreading knowledge of the Bible to distant parts of the world. History also records that America was founded on biblical principles and Judeo-Christian beliefs and moral values.

However, in the last 50 years, these biblical values have come under persistent attack in our increasingly secular culture. Today, the theory of evolution (creation without a Creator) is taught as fact. Prayer, the Bible and the Ten Commandments have been expelled from schools, while secular teachers and liberal theologians promote the idea that sex outside of marriage is not



a sin and that homosexuality and same-sex marriage are acceptable and normal. Secular historians also claim that "blessings" enjoyed by Israelite nations of the West did not come from God, but are just a matter of "luck"—being in the right place at the right time. For many people in modern Western societies, God is simply not in the picture and His laws are no longer relevant.

#### **Connect the Dots?**

Today, few people are "connecting the dots" between turning away from God and the declining influence and growing troubles in our modern Western nations. However, some have been sounding warnings that echo ancient biblical prophecies! More than 25 years ago, prominent theologian Carl Henry saw the connection between the rejection of Judeo-Christian moral values and rising rates of divorce, teen pregnancies, cohabitation, use of drugs and suicide. He noted that "American society is being penetrated as never before by alien religious influences that the West unhesitatingly once called pagan"—propelling us toward a "cultural Armageddon" (*Twilight of a Great Civilization*, pp. 174–175). Today, these same trends are even more visible, not only in America, but throughout the Western, supposedly"Christian," world.

Nearly a decade later, Judge Robert Bork documented the dangerous direction of these same social trends in his book, *Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline*. Congress rejected Judge Bork's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court because the conservative values he espoused were out of step with the liberalizing, anti-Christian trend developing in America.

Similarly, researcher Jim Nelson Black noted in his book *When Nations Die* the parallel between trends in America and the visible symptoms of decline during the demise of Ancient Rome, Carthage and other historical empires: the rise of lawlessness, loss of economic discipline, weakening of cultural foundations, increasing materialism, decay of religious belief, rise of immorality and the devaluing of human life—all of which are happening today in the Western world.

About the same time, Harvard professor Samuel Huntington stated in his book *The Clash of Civilizations* that the age of Western dominance is "ending" and "the fading of the West" reflects "a civilization in decline" (pp. 81-91). More recently, author and presidential advisor Patrick Buchanan has noted: "The America we grew up in is gone. The unity and common purpose we had when we could together pledge allegiance to a flag that



stood for 'one nation, under God, indivisible' is gone... America is disintegrating... What once united us is dis-

solving. And this is true of Western civilization" (*Suicide* of a Superpower: Will America Survive to 2025?, pp. 6-7).

Economic historian and Harvard professor Niall Ferguson warned in 2010 of the "sudden collapse" of America's "empire" due to the country's rising debt, and that this could happen "in the next five years" (*AspenDailyNews.com*, "Historian warns of sudden collapse of American 'empire," 6 July 2010).

Bible prophecies have long-foretold the demise of the Israelite nations of the Western world at the end of the age because they would turn from God and forget the lessons of history. Those ancient prophecies are *coming alive* in the events we are witnessing today! —*Douglas S. Winnail*  Crucially, history shows that most of Scotland was not in favour of Union on these terms. Small wonder then, that when all the cash arrived at Edinburgh destined for the Scottish elite, a mob had assembled to hurl abuse and stones at the convoy. It was perhaps symbolic of the ambivalent way Scots have viewed the Union ever since, "repelled by the surrender of their national sovereignty, but at the same time willing to take the cash and opportunities it offers" (*The Price of Scotland*, Douglas Watt, 2007).

The great enduring lesson is that desires for national self-determination will always be a formidable force and have to be handled with great care.

#### **Great Britain Astride the World**

And so, the Treaty of Union became law on May 1, 1707. Thus began one of the most fruitful unions in history. Allied to a powerful and ever more dominant England, Scotland could now give full vent to its restless, entrepreneurial spirit of empire building. As the British Empire developed, it took on a distinctly Scottish flavor with the Scottish gifts of invention, leadership, management, entrepreneurship and finance in great evidence. All this created great wealth and prosperity across the UK.

The idea and success of *British-ness* gave rise to the Scottish Enlightenment, the industrial revolution



will it break ranks and cast its lot with the European Union?

and one of the greatest benign empires the world has ever seen—now a thriving Commonwealth of Nations reflecting British values of democracy, freedom and liberty. Above all we should not forget *the vital spiritual dimension* commonly attached to being British. Christian ideals, values and principles were also extensively spread around the world. Great Britain helped maintain the balance of power across Europe, containing the ambitions of Spanish, French, German and Soviet plans for expansion. Back home it pioneered social welfare, greater social equality and a national health service. To a large extent it was *Great Britain* that made the modern world.

But following two world wars and the collapse of the British Empire, the idea of British-ness has changed beyond all recognition. The center of economic and military power has migrated to the United States. Immigration and multiculturalism have dra-

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matically changed the face of Britain. The rise of the European Union (EU) has fundamentally changed

the way Britain is governed, and has removed many of her own powers of self-determination—so much so that just as a sizeable chunk of Scotland would like to secede from the United Kingdom, so a sizeable chunk of England would like to secede from the EU.

Perhaps most significantly, Great Britain has progressively turned away from God and the biblical values Britain once stood for and exported around the world. Britain has, in many ways, lost its way and increasingly lost its sense of national purpose in the world. It badly needs to rediscover that purpose.

#### Saving the United Kingdom

Rejection of the idea of Scottish separation does not mean business as usual. The task now is how to keep the Union together and content, even as times have changed so profoundly and the constituent nations are clamoring for more and more equal treatment.

The astonishing levels of energy and political engagement unleashed on both sides during the referendum campaign have only served to confirm the Scots' strong appetite for constitutional change and greater national self-determination. Yet, if change comes to Scotland it must come, in the name of fairness, to other countries within the Union as well. There is widespread feeling that the current Westminster political system is not working effectively in favor of all. Divisions and frustrations apparent within the Union need healing, and Westminster now has a unique opportunity to create a dramatically different kind of Union fit for the aspirations of all its parts. Constitutional reform is now a major topic of discussion. And the General Election just around the corner in May 2015 only highlights the urgency of making far-reaching fundamental changes.

#### **God's Perspective on the United Kingdom**

As longtime readers of this magazine will know, we understand from Scripture that a majority of today's British peoples are the modern descendants of ancient Ephraim—whom God promised would become a great company of nations (Genesis 48:14–19). The four nations of the Union, and the other nations of British background (e.g. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Southern Africa) fulfil this prophecy as none other.

Inherent within God's blessing to Ephraim (and the rest of ancient Israel) was the commission to represent God's way wherever it went (see Exodus 19:5-6). Herein lies the greatest source of national purpose it is possible to imagine; to set an example of a people dedicated to living according to God's standards and laws. "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?" (Deuteronomy 4:6-8).

Much of Britain's body of law, built up over centuries, was based on the laws of God found in the Bible. But the nation is progressively moving away from this

solid foundation. Most have forgotten God's warning that comes right after that great statement of purpose, "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren" (v. 9).

The consequences of disregarding God's laws are clear: God withdraws the blessings associated with keeping those laws. Ultimately, we should never forget that it is God who builds up and tears down nations and alliances according to His sovereign will (Job 12:23; Exodus 19:5).

Clearly it was God's will for Great Britain to survive intact at this time. But it was a tantalizing, close-run event—a dramatic wake-up call. Many serious challenges remain for those who hope to create more cohesion and unity among the nations of the United Kingdom. From Bible prophecy, we know that before Jesus Christ returns the United Kingdom will endure further decline from its former glories. But its citizens can individually—as can we all—heed God's warning and draw close to Him. Will you?

#### MAY WE SUGGEST?

**The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy** God's dealings with these nations are a vital key to understanding end-time prophecy. Request a **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



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# "It Is **Well** With My Soul"

TODAY

t is easy for us, young or old, to be overcome by our problems. Nevertheless, our attitude is a choice we make, no matter how difficult our circumstances.

Consider the case of Horatio Spafford. As a lawyer in his early 40s, Spafford lived in a north side suburb of Chicago with his wife, Anna and his five children. In 1870 their only son died from scarlet fever. A few months later he lost his entire life savings in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. As a successful lawyer, he had invested heavily in real estate in the Chicago area, which was devastated by this disaster.

Two years later, in 1873, the Spaffords decided to go on a much-needed vacation to Europe on the SS Ville du Havre. Delayed by last minute business, he sent his wife and daughters ahead, promising to follow in a few days. On November 22, 1873 the ship was struck by an iron sailing vessel, the Loch Earn, and it sank into the Atlantic in just twelve minutes, killing 226 people on board.

When the survivors of the shipwreck landed in Europe, Anna Spafford cabled her husband: "Saved alone. What shall I do?" All four daughters had died in this tragic accident. Horatio immediately left Chicago to meet his grieving wife and accompany her home. In the midst of his sorrow, while passing near the place of his daughters' death, he was inspired to write the words to the hymn "It Is Well With My Soul," an influential and enduring piece that remains popular to this day. In spite of these series of tragic events, the Spaffords later had three more children. Then in 1881 the family set sail for Jerusalem, along with baby Bertha and their newborn Grace. There they founded a group called the American Colony, whose mission was to serve the poor. The lyrics in Spafford's hymn reveal his attitude and approach to dealing with these heavy trials, and his determination to stay strong in all circumstances. It is an inspiration to us all!

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll, Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well, with my soul."

#### Why Suffering?

The Spaffords are not the only ones to suffer great loss. Many have had to endure heavy, and often inexplicable calamities, even at very young ages. But why does God allow human suffering and tragedy? Why does He allow accidents to take lives? Why does He allow war, murder, and other horrible things to take place?

God does not want humanity to suffer. He is compassionate, full of mercy, longsuffering and kind. He loves everyone He has created! Soon the Father will send His Son back to planet Earth to bring peace and an end to much of the suffering and pain we are experiencing today.

So why is there so much suffering in the world today? Right now, the world as a whole is cut off from God. Since the very dawn of human history, starting approximately 6,000 years ago, beginning with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, mankind has chosen to reject God and His ways. Adam's and Eve's choice set the pattern for all mankind, and the record of human history lists mistake after mistake, resulting in heartache after heartache. Mankind has chosen to listen to the advice of the serpent instead of God.



Anna Spafford

Horatio Spafford

Keep in mind that Satan is the god of this present evil age (Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 2:1-3). And because sin prevails on this earth, suffering has been the result—and death the end of everyone (Romans 6:23). The world, as a whole, does not follow the teachings of the Bible. God has given man the freedom of choice. Therefore, God generally keeps His hands off and stays out of the lives of those who reject Him and His message. That is why there is so much suffering.

#### **Even God's Servants Suffer**

History shows that God has allowed even those who serve Him to suffer. In the first few chapters of the Bible we read of the murder of righteous Abel by his rebellious brother Cain. Of God's faithful followers we also read: "Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise" (Hebrews 11:35-39).

Jesus Christ also suffered while He walked this earth. He was falsely accused, maligned, spit upon, slapped in the face, cruelly beaten, and eventually crucified!

And so God tells us: "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though



some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that

when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:12-13). But He adds to this:

"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter" (vv. 15-16).

Why does God let the righteous suffer? Because it allows those tested to build holy, righteous character and it gives absolute and undeniable proof of where their allegiance lies.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, And has shed His own blood for my soul.

God's plan includes an opportunity for salvation for everyone who has ever lived, or ever will live. All who have had a loved one die can take heart in God's promise: "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14). God is fair! He is just, merciful, and compassionate. We will see our loved ones in the resurrection.

#### **God Knows What He Is Doing**

Even though we may not have all the answers to why God allows some to die untimely deaths, remember that He knows what He is doing, and that in the end "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

It takes great character to accept God's will humbly, and to avoid blaming Him in the face of tragedy—to acknowledge His sovereign control over all circumstances, and to worship Him even in times of great adversity. Yet we as Christians know that there will be an end to suffering. As Spafford wrote:

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend; Even so, it is well with my soul.

Christ's return **is** just around the bend. God speed that day!

-Sheldon Monson

#### **Entertained by death?**

I twas simply a trip to a major retail bookseller with a friend who wanted to pick up a book. Who knew it would be an eye-opening experience? Unless you go to movie theaters, watch a lot of popular television shows, or peruse the popular books at your favorite retailer, you may not be aware of the current obsession involving vampires, zombies and other macabre subjects and creatures. As I walked through the sprawling store, I saw a huge display of books under a large sign with the heading "Paranormal Romance." Other sections had other similar categories of books and games with the themes of the "living dead" and other demonic characterizations.

I suppose this craze gained momentum over the past few years with the popularity of the Harry Potter series of books and blockbuster movies. Then *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies came along with colorful adventures spiced up with a big dollop of demonic characters.

Now the whole dark, paranormal genre of entertainment has taken on a distinctly sexual connotation. This titillating possibility seems to be particularly attractive to young teens who are just becoming aware of their gender and are, it seems, drawn to this subject as something new, strange and exciting.

Publishers, moviemakers and the popular music industry, always sensitive to fashionable trends, have hit a gold mine of interest with the mass marketing of related products. Many parents are oblivious to the impact of such aberrant behavior, and purchase for their children all sorts of clothing and related items with this theme.

#### All in Fun?

You might be thinking, "Aww, just lighten up! It's all in fun. Let the kids enjoy it." Perhaps if the whole pattern of such activity did not have a sinister, demonic undertone, one might take it all in stride as a harmless fad. But, in fact, it is evil—and wrong on several levels.

It might surprise you to know that such activity has been around since ancient times and the Bible has much to say about it. For example God, through Moses, gave this instruction: "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD..." (Deuteronomy 18:9–12).

A number of other scriptures condemn the practice of casting "spells" or attempting to communicate with the dead.

#### The Dead Know Nothing

The basic premise behind today's derelict ideas about the "living dead" is based on a classic untruth—that the dead live on in some other form of existence,



when, in fact, the Bible plainly states they do not. Wise King Solomon understood this when he wrote, "For

the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing" (Ecclesiastes 9:5). He also wrote, "for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (v. 10).

There are many wholesome and worthwhile activities for young people today, but one has to seek them out. If your children or grandchildren are enamored with today's grisly, malignant obsession with vampires, zombies and other ghoulish foolishness, consider the admonitions from Scripture as you steer them toward more beneficial and enjoyable entertainment.

Read our powerful booklet, *Satan's Counterfeit Christianity*, to learn how so many ideas completely contrary to Christ's teachings have become acceptable even to most who call themselves Christians. It will help you stay close to God as you strive to please Him even in the midst of the modern obsession with evil.

-J. Davy Crockett, III



least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great *in the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 5:19). Therefore, as should be obvious for all who have eyes to see, Jesus specifically indicates that His true disciples are to obey even the "least" of God's commandments!

But did Jesus Himself *clearly indicate* that tithing was still to be done?

Yes! *He did*. Notice His words: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe

## JESUS SHOWS THAT HE EXPECTS THOSE Who practice love, justice, mercy and faith also to practice tithing!

of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone" (Matthew 23:23). Here, Jesus shows that He expects those who practice love, justice, mercy and faith *also* to practice tithing! Any honest teacher of grammar—if it were *any other topic*—would agree that Christ is telling us not to leave tithing out! We must not leave tithing "undone"! *How clear!* 

#### Not by Bread Alone

My friends, Jesus Christ said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4). So it should be very clear to any true Christian that we really should obey what God clearly states in His inspired Word! And if you understand the whole tenor of *dozens* of statements in the Bible, you can understand that God does not appreciate people who are always trying to "get around" what He asks us to do! Yet, He will *bless* us, *protect* us and guide our lives for good **if** we sincerely seek His will and try to *let Christ live within us* through the Holy Spirit. In fact, that is the best *one verse definition* of

a true Christian in the Bible. For the Apostle Paul was inspired to write: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, *KJV*).

*If* Christ truly lives within us through the Holy Spirit then we will obviously be looking for ways to *honor* God, *obey* God and do *everything we can* to further the Work of God preparing for the coming glorious Kingdom of God soon to be set up on this earth. We will "want" to be involved in what Christ is doing. We will deeply desire for Christ to live His life within us. And we will "seek" God and Christ in every way we can so we will come to have the "mind of God" in every way and walk with Him now and forever.

As in many areas of the true Christian life, tithing involves our willingness to genuinely **trust** in the God who gives us life and breath. Over and over in the Bible, God indicates that He will *richly bless* those who truly love Him and **trust** in Him. Among scores of similar scriptures, notice what God inspired King David—the man after God's own heart—to tell us in Psalm 37:3–5: "Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."

#### God Looks on the "Heart" of His People

My friends, we are definitely at the end of an age. As the events swirling around us indicate, God is now beginning to intervene in world affairs in increasingly powerful ways. He—through His servants and His true Church—is *preparing the way* for Jesus Christ's return as King of kings!

God wants *all* of us to be in His Kingdom, each in due time. But first, He has to know where our "heart"



is. Jesus Christ tells us, "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'—as I also have received from My Father" (Revelation 2:26–27).

It is the **overcomers** who, in the Millennium, will join Christ in ruling over the nations of this earth, ending centuries of confusion and war. God will give this privilege to those who are **zealous** in serving



their Maker—not to those who are "lukewarm." In fact, describing people living in the very last era be-

fore His return, Jesus said, "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth" (Revelation 3:16). God wants each of us—those who will be part of His coming "team" of saints resurrected to rule the earth—to be "on fire" **now** for His Kingdom, for His purpose and for His great commission to *powerfully proclaim His message* to a dying world while we have the opportunity! is calling at this time. He said, "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together" (v. 36).

Indeed, you will **not** be "worse off" because of giving to your Creator a **full tithe** of your income and any other "increase" you may receive (Proverbs 3:9)! Rather, you will "receive wages" which lead to **eternal life**! You will be given a greater position of honor and opportunity if your "heart" is truly in doing God's will and helping in the proclamation of His message in every way you can.

#### You Need To Act!

It is in that spirit that I urge *all* of you to practice God's law of tithing. It is in that spirit that I encourage all of you to ascertain *where Christ is working*—to be sure that you pay your tithe to the *true representatives* of Christ who are teaching *His message* to the world today, explaining *His inspired prophecies* and actually doing *His* Work at this time.

God reveals that those who faithfully **obey** their Creator in this vital financial matter will be **blessed** 

in many ways. He promises to "open

for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that

there will not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10). Although

# GOD WANTS ALL OF US TO BE IN HIS Kingdom, each in due time. But, first, he has to know where our "heart" is

So, to those who are looking for an excuse—for *any possible way* to deny the need to tithe—God's Word clearly indicates that they are pursuing a *lost cause*! Such people are not truly surrendered to God. They are not fervently involved in wanting to do His will, nor do they want to proclaim Christ's message to the world with all of their being.

Once, when Jesus was questioned about missing His lunch, He replied, "My **food** is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to *finish His* **work**" (John 4:34). Jesus went on to tell us that we should all do our part in "reaping the harvest" of those whom God God promises *no one* that he or she will be a millionaire, God will **never** forsake those who are truly faithful to Him (Hebrews 13:5). He will watch over them, bless them financially, protect them and guide them as they learn to "walk with Him" in sincerity and truth. May God help us to understand, and to *do* what His Word clearly reveals. May God help each of us do *our part* **zealously** in carrying out His Work at the end of this age! May God help *you* to understand and to learn to genuinely *trust* in your Creator. Then, as you truly "walk" with Christ in *every area* of your life, you will soon walk hand in hand with Him right over into *eternal life* in the Kingdom of God!



**God's People Tithe!** God promises His greatest blessings to those who step out in faith and strive to obey His commandments. Request a **free** printed copy of this booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



### THE LUNCH BUCKET THEORY

#### How can bosses and employees work well together?

any years ago, I experienced for myself a phenomenon that is an all-too-common problem in workplace relations between labor and management. I owned a small company, and decided that I would like to start profit-sharing with my employees as much as would be feasible. So, I rounded up an executive table and some chairs, and convened an employee meeting.

I opened the meeting by explaining that I had in mind a plan that would allow every employee to have a share in the company's profits. As the meeting continued, however, the conversation turned to one benefit after another that the employees thought they deserved. The standard holidays off with pay? Of course. Health insurance and life insurance? Certainly. Additional time off for religious observances? OK. Then came the request for paid uniforms, and even paid lunches.

Before I knew it, the meeting had come and gone, and I realized that I had opened a proverbial "Pandora's Box" in trying to accommodate my employees. A margin of profit still remained, but it was so small that I soon discovered that although I was taking fairly good care of my employees, I would be working for very little profit of my own.

I still have the table and chairs from that meeting, but the business failed in a few years when I could no longer afford to keep it going.

What went wrong? I call it the "lunch bucket theory." Of course, few workers carry lunch buckets any longer, but that is my fictionalized term for the principle that the worker has an investment in the place to which he (or she) carries a lunch bucket. If you are part of the company, you are part of the team, and you deserve part of the profit.

#### Labor and Management

Sadly, in our day, it is far too common for labor and management to try to exploit each other—even when doing so ultimately hurts the interests (and the profits) of both labor and management alike. What does the Bible have to say about all of this?

Scattered throughout Scripture are references to principles that apply to employers and employees. Both hold necessary and honorable positions. Consider: "Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor" (1 Timothy 6:1). Laborers should treat their employers not just with respect, but with honor. And employers have a similar duty toward their workers. "Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven" (Colossians 4:1).

Today, the gap between management and labor has grown, even to the point of outright hostility in many cases. Many employers who could provide jobs are re-



luctant to do so, fearing that they will be taken advantage of, and that they will not be able to reap the profit that will

sustain them and their business. In today's economy, those who carry the lunch buckets often have far more influence than management over whether a company can be profitable. Yet management plays a vital role that cannot be neglected if labor is to prosper.

#### Worthy of His Wages?

Consider the parable of the vineyard in Matthew 20. "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard" (v. 1). The landowner agreed to pay his workers a particular wage, as was his right (v. 15). Later in the day, he hired more workers, and at the end of the day he gave them the same payment as those hired earlier.

Scripture reminds us, "The laborer is worthy of his wages" (Luke 10:7). So, was the landowner overpaying his later hires? Or did he underpay the earlier hires? Instead of being grateful for their employment, recognizing the employer's prerogative and the contract they had made to become part of his enterprise, the earlier hires "complained against the landowner" (Matthew 20:11).

Does that sound familiar even in today's labor-management conflicts? As always, Scripture's guidance is timeless. Not until we return to the values Jesus Christ taught—values that are found in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation—will we be able to experience peaceful labor-management relations. —*Charles Knowlton (1927–2013)* 

### **A NOTE FROM** ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE

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We hope, though, that you will continue to enjoy and benefit from this magazine. We hope you will learn and grow, as we cover important topics in endtime prophecy and Christian living that will help you experience in your life, today, a foretaste of the prophesied future time when Jesus Christ will return to rule the nations in the coming Kingdom of God.

We at *Tomorrow's World* strive to take seriously Christ's commission to preach the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God to the whole world as a witness (Matthew 24:14). We know that the true Church of God is not a huge group of believers spanning a third or more of the world's population; rather, it is a "little flock" (Luke 12:32). Yet that little flock, to whom God has given the Holy Spirit, has been given a big commission. So we strive with all our might-and with the help of God the Father and Jesus Christ-to carry out that commission (Matthew 28:19-20). We hope you will appreciate what you find in this magazine, whether or not God is calling you to join us in supporting this Work to carry out that commission in the few remaining years before Jesus Christ returns. Thank you for your interest in Tomorrow's World!

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Mail your letters to "Letters to the Editor" at our U.S. address, or send e-mail to: Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

# TELEVISION LOG

AUSTRALIA				NEW ZEA	LAND				UK & NV	/ 1	EUROPE		
Nationwide	7Two	SL	J 7:00 a.m.	Nationwide	Prime	٢V	S	J 8:30 a.m.	Believe-TV		Sky TV 5	93	SU 10:00 p.m.
BARBADOS				SOUTH A	FRICA				Faith World		Sky TV 5		TU 8:00 p.m.
St. Michael	CBC 8	SI	J 9:30 a.m.	Nationwide	CTV/SA		SI	l 11:00 a.m.	Gospel		Sky TV 5		MO 7:00 p.m.
									WORD (TW	()	Sky TV 5		WE 6:00 a.m.
JAMAICA	TV/I	ci	17:00 a.m	TRINIDAI				17.00 a.m			Sky TV 5		MO 12:30 a.m.
Kingston	TVJ	20	J 7:00 a.m.	Port of Spain	CNC3-T	v	21	J 7:00 a.m.			Sky TV 5	90	SA 12:00 a.m.
CANADA			AK Anchorage	GCI	SA 10:00 p.m.	ID	Boise	KNIN	SU 7:00 a.m.		Duluth	Public Access	
Nationwide Networ	<b>ks</b> (All times	Eastern)	Anchorage	KIMO	SU 6:00 a.m.		Idaho Falls	KPIF	SU 7:00 a.m.		Duluth	Public Access	
Vision	SU	4:00 a.m.	Fairbanks	katn Kjud	SU 6:00 a.m. SU 6:00 a.m.	IL	Chicago	CANTV	Various*		Minneapolis Minneapolis	MCN MCN	SA 8:30 a.m. SU 8:30 a.m.
5 6 7 - 5 1		J 5:30 p.m.	Juneau				Chicago	WGN	SA 1:30 a.m.		Minneapolis	MTN	TH 12:00 a.m.
		0 1:30 a.m.	AL Dothan Dothan	WDFX WTVY	SU 7:30 a.m.		Chicago	WGN America	SU 7:30 a.m. MO 5:00 p.m.		Minneapolis	NWCT	SA 10:30 p.m.
		J 4:30 a.m.			SU 7:00 a.m.		Moline Peoria	Mediacom WHOI	SU 7:00 a.m.		Minneapolis	NWCT	SU 4:30 a.m.
		3:00 a.m.	AL Montgomery	WBMM	SU 7:00 a.m.		Quincy	WIGEM	SU 7:00 a.m.		Minneapolis	NWCT	SU 10:30 a.m.*
СНСН		J 8:30 a.m.	AR Fayetteville	KHOG	SU 7:00 a.m.		Springfield	Insight	TU 5:00 a.m.		Rochester	KTTC	SU 7:00 a.m.
СПСП	30	0.30 a.m.	Fort Smith	KHBS	SU 7:00 a.m.		Springfield	Insight	TU 1:00 p.m.		Roseville Roseville	CTV CTV	TU 8:00 p.m. WE 4:00 a.m.
UNITED STATES			AZ Phoenix	KASW	SU 7:30 a.m.		Springfield	Insight	TU 10:00 p.m.		Roseville	CTV	WE 12:00 p.m.
		>	Phoenix	KASW	SA 5:30 p.m.	IN	Fort Wayne	Comcast	SU 9:00 a.m.		St. Paul		rk SU 8:30 p.m.
Nationwide Netwo			Prescott	Community	SU 12:30 p.m.	KS	Parsons	TWPAR	WE 7:00 p.m.	MO	Columbia	KOMU	SU 7:00 a.m.
Angel One		8:00 p.m.	Prescott Tucson	Community Access	SA 11:30 p.m. SU 7:00 p.m.		Salina	SCAT	TH 5:00 p.m.		Jefferson City	KOMU	SU 7:00 a.m.
		10:00 p.m.					Salina	SCAT	FR 5:00 p.m.		Joplin	KFJX	SU 8:30 a.m.
		7:00 p.m.	CA Bakersfield Chico	KGET KHSL	SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m.		Salina	SCAT	SA 9:00 a.m.		Kansas City	KCWE	SU 7:30 a.m.
	IH IH	9:00 a.m.	Eureka	KUVU-LP	SU 8:00 a.m.	KY	5		SU 7:00 a.m.		Springfield	KRBK	SU 7:30 a.m.
BET	WE	7:30 a.m.	Eureka	Sudden Link	SU 8:00 p.m.		Latonia	PEG	WE 5:30 p.m.	MS		WBGP	SU 7:00 a.m.
CW Plus	I2	8:00 a.m.	Fresno	KFRE	SU 7:30 a.m.		Latonia Lexington	PEG Insight	TH 12:00 a.m. Various*		Columbus	WCBI	SU 7:00 a.m.
CWTIUS		2:00 a.m.	Garden Grove	Time Warner	SU 9:30 a.m.		1.000				Greenwood Hattiesburg	WBWO WBH	SU 7:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m.
			Garden Grove	Time Warner	SU 6:30 p.m.	LA	Alexandria	KBCA	SU 7:00 a.m.		Jackson	Time Warner	SU 10:00 a.m.
IMPACT	SU	11:00 p.m.	Monterey Orange County	KION / Time Warner	SU 8:00 a.m. MO 5:00 p.m.		Baton Rouge Lafayette	WGMB KLWB	SU 9:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m.		Jackson	Time Warner	WE 4:00 p.m.
WGN America	SL	J 8:30 a.m.	Palm Springs	KCWQ	SU 8:00 a.m.		Monroe	KNOE	SU 7:00 a.m.		Meridian	WTOK	SU 7:00 a.m.
WORD Network	SI	J 7:30 a.m.	Palm Springs	KCWQ-LP	SU 8:00 a.m.	м/	A Cambridge	CCTV	SU 3:00 p.m.	MT	Billings	KTVQ	SU 7:00 a.m.
World Hetwork		E 1:00 a.m.	Sacramento	RCCTV	M0 5:30 p.m.	1.15	Cambridge	CCTV	WE 9:00 a.m.		Butte	KBZK	SU 7:00 a.m.
		7:00 p.m.	Salinas	KION	SU 8:00 a.m.		Cambridge	CCTV	FR 11:00 a.m.		Butte	KXLF	SU 7:00 a.m.
			San Diego San Francisco	Time Access	SU 6:00 p.m. WE 8:00 p.m.		Everett	ECTV	TU 1:00 p.m.		Glendive	KWZB	SU 7:00 a.m.
11000							Everett	ECTV	SU 9:00 p.m.		Great Falls Helena	KRTV KMTF	SU 7:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m.
DISH Network*	(All times	Eastern)	<b>CO</b> Grand Junc.	KJCT	SU 7:00 a.m.		Malden	Access	SU 11:00 a.m.		Missoula	KPAX	SU 7:00 a.m.
Angel One Ch.			CT Naugatuck	Tele-Media	MO 9:30 p.m.		North Adams		WE 8:00 p.m.	NC	Charlotte	WAXN	SU 7:00 a.m.
		7:00 p.m.	New Haven	WZME	SU 11:00 p.m.	ME		Community	SU 9:00 a.m.	NC	Greenville	WNCT	SU 8:00 a.m.
	T⊦	19:00 a.m.	DC Washington	WACW	SU 6:30 a.m.		Westminster Westminster	Adelphia Adelphia	TH 10:00 a.m. FR 10:00 a.m.		Hickory	WHKY	M0 7:30 p.m.
Impact Ch.	9397 SU	11:00 p.m.	IA Des Moines	KCWI	SU 7:00 a.m.					ND	Fargo	WDAY	SU 7:00 a.m.
DIRECTV* (All ti			FL Gainesville	WCJB	SU 8:00 a.m.	ME	Bangor Brunswick	WABI TV3	SU 8:00 a.m. SA 8:30 a.m.		Bismarck	KWMK	SU 7:00 a.m.
and the second second second		and the second second	Jacksonville	WCWS	SU 6:30 a.m.		Brunswick	TV3	SU 6:30 a.m.		Minot	KWMK	SU 7:00 a.m.
		E 7:30 a.m.	Panama City	WJHG	SU 8:00 a.m.		Presque Isle	WBPQ	SU 8:00 a.m.	NH	Hanover	CATV8	TH 7:00 p.m.
WORD Ch.		J 7:30 a.m.	GA Albany	WBSK Cable	SU 8:00 a.m.	М		Charter WBAE	SU 8:00 a.m.		Hanover	CATV8	FR 7:00 a.m.
		E 1:00 a.m.	Augusta	WAGT	SU 8:00 a.m.		Detroit	Comcast	SU 7:30 a.m.		Hanover	CATV8	FR 1:00 a.m.
-		? 7:00 p.m.	Macon	Сох	SU 5:00 p.m.		Kalamazoo	CACTV	SU 9:30 a.m.		Hanover	CATV8	M0 6:00 a.m.*
For the most up-to-date listings please go to: <i>TomorrowsWorld.org/tvr-log</i>		Macon	Cox	TU 7:30 a.m.		Kalamazoo	CACTV	WE 11:30 a.m.	NV	Reno	KREN	SU 8:00 a.m.	
go to. Torriorrows	wonu.org/	tvi-log	Macon Macon	Cox WBMN	FR 2:00 p.m. SU 8:00 a.m.		Lansing	WLAJ	SU 8:00 a.m.	NY	Albany	WCWN	SU 7:00 a.m.
							Marquette	WBKP	SU 8:00 a.m.		Albany-Troy	Time Warner	M0 3:00 p.m.
			IA Dubuque	Mediacom Mediacom	MO 3:30 p.m. MO 7:30 p.m.	M	Cloquet	MEDCLO	FR 10:00 a.m.		Batavia	Time Warner	SU 2:00 p.m.
			Dubuque Dubuque		TU 10:00 a.m.*		Cloquet Duluth	MEDCLO KDLH	SA 4:00 p.m. SU 7:00 a.m.		Batavia	Time Warner	TU 5:30 p.m.
			Dubuque	reducom	u		Dulutil	KULH	507.00 d.III.				

	Batavia	Time Warner	FR 7:30 p.m.		Austin	KNVA	SU 6:30 a.m.		
	Binghamton	Time Warner	M0 10:00 p.m.		Beaumont	KBTV	SU 6:30 a.m.		
	Binghamton	Time Warner	FR 8:00 p.m.		Beaumont	KFDM	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Binghamton	WBNG	SU 8:00 a.m.		Bryan	KYLE	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Brookhaven	Cablevision	SU 11:00 p.m.		Corpus Christi	KRIS	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Brooklyn	BCAT	SU 7:30 p.m.		Dallas	Community	SA 1:00 p.m.		
	Canandaigua	Finger Lakes	SU 11:30 a.m.				SU 11:00 p.m.		
	Elmira	WENY	SU 8:00 a.m.		Dallas	Community			
	Glenn Falls	Time Warner	FR 8:00 p.m.		Dallas	KTXD	SU 8:00 a.m.		
	Glenn Falls	Time Warner	M0 8:00 p.m.		Houston	KTRK	SU 9:30 p.m.		
	Glenn Falls	Time Warner	TU 8:00 p.m.*		Laredo	KGNS	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Hauppauge	Cablevision	SU 11:00 p.m.		Lubbock	KLCW	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Manhattan	MNN	SA 7:00 p.m.		Lufkin	KTRE	SU 6:30 a.m.		
	Oneida	Access	TH 2:00 p.m.		McAllen	KSFE-LP	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Oneida	Access	TH 7:00 p.m.		Midland	KWWT	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Queens	Public Access	M0 11:00 p.m.		Odessa	KWWT	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Queens	Public Access	TU 4:30 p.m.		Temple	KPLE	SU 7:30 p.m.		
	Riverhead Rochester	Cablevision	SA 10:30 p.m. SU 11:30 a.m.		Tyler	KLTV	SU 6:30 a.m.		
	Rochester	Finger Lakes RCTV	SA 8:30 a.m.		Waco	KWKT	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Rochester		TU 10:00 a.m.*		Watu	NWN	307.00 a.m.		
	Schenectady	WCWN	SU 7:00 a.m.	VA	Charlottesville	Comcast Cable	M0 8:00 a.m.		
	Syracuse	Time Warner	SU 7:30 p.m.		Charlottesville	WVIR	SU 8:00 a.m.		
	Webster	Cable Access	SU 9:30 a.m.		Chesterfield	Comcast	TH 6:30 p.m.		
					Fairfax	Public Access	M0 12:00 p.m.		
OH	Centerville	MVCC Times Warner	FR 2:30 p.m.	VT	Donnington	CAT	WE 0:70 a m		
	Cincinnati	Time Warner Time Warner	TH 8:30 a.m. SU 11:30 a.m.	VT	Bennington	CAT	WE 9:30 a.m.		
	Cincinnati Cincinnati	Time Warner	TU 1:00 p.m.		Bennington	CAT	TH 9:30 p.m.		
	Fairborn	CAC	TU 12:00 p.m.		Bennington	CAT	SA 8:00 a.m.*		
	Lima	WBOH	Various*		Burlington	Access	WE 2:30 a.m.		
					Burlington	Access	TH 11:00 a.m.		
UK	Oklahoma City	KAUI	SU 8:30 a.m.		Richmond	Access	M0 7:00 a.m.*		
OR	Bend	KTVZ	SU 8:00 a.m.		Springfield	Public Access	TH 10:00 p.m.		
	Eugene	KMTR	SU 8:00 a.m.		Springfield	Public Access	M0 12:00 p.m.		
	Medford	KTVL	SU 8:00 a.m.	\A/A	Everett	Comcast	WE 4:30 p.m.		
	Oregon City	Access WFTV	SU 8:00 a.m.	**/	Kennewick	Charter	SU 8:00 p.m.		
	Oregon City	Access WFTV	SA 8:00 a.m.		Kennewick	Charter			
	Portland	Community	SU 12:30 p.m.			endree.	TU 8:00 p.m.		
PA	Allentown	SETV2	FR 4:30 p.m.		Vancouver	Community	SU 8:30 a.m.		
	Bethlehem	SETV2	FR 4:30 p.m.		Vancouver	Community	TU 10:30 a.m.		
	Erie	WBEP	SU 8:00 a.m.		Vancouver	Community	WE 12:00 p.m.		
	Johnstown	Atl. Broadband	M0 10:00 p.m.	wi	La Crosse	WQOW	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Scranton	FOX	TH 5:00 a.m.		Wausau	Charter	TH 9:00 p.m.		
	Scranton	FOX	SA 5:00 a.m.		Wausau	Charter	FR 7:30 a.m.		
SC	Charleston	WCBD	SU 8:00 a.m.						
50	Myrtle Beach	WWMB	SU 8:00 a.m.	WV	Bluefield	WVVA	SU 8:00 a.m.		
0					Clarksburg	WVFX	SU 8:00 a.m.		
20	Rapid City	KWBH	SU 7:00 a.m.	W/W	Casper	KGWC	SU 8:00 a.m.		
TN	Chattanooga	Family Channel	SU 7:00 a.m.	VV	Casper	KTWO	SU 8.00 a.m.		
	Jackson	WBJK	SU 7:00 a.m.						
	Knoxville	WBXX	SU 7:30 a.m.		Chevenne	KGWN	SU 8:00 a.m.		
	La Follette	Comcast-WLAF			Cheyenne	KLWY	SU 7:00 a.m.		
	Nashville	WZTV	SU 6:30 a.m.		Cheyenne	KLWY	SU 11:00 a.m.		
ТХ	Abilene	KTXS	SU 7:00 a.m.		*Check local listings for additional airtimes				
in	Amarillo KVIH		SU 7:00 a.m.		throughout the week				
							morrowsWorld		

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#### UPCOMING TELECASTS

#### **Five Strategies for Prayer**

Are you frustrated in your prayers? Learn some vital tools for receiving answers to your prayers! January 22–28

#### **Could You Be Deceived?**

People who are deceived do not know they are deceived. How can you be sure you are not deceived? January 29-February 4

#### **God Heals!**

Jesus Christ suffered so you could be healed. How can you have the healing God has promised? February 5-II

#### **Doomsday and Armageddon**

What does your Bible teach about the end of the world? You need to know! February I2-I8

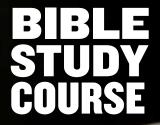
#### Who Is the Prophesied "Man of Sin"?

How will this mysterious figure, described in your Bible, affect the lives of you and your loved ones? February 19-25

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# Watch us on **CW Plus** Sundays at 8:00 a.m. ET Mondays at 2:00 a.m. ET

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