



TOMORROW'S WORLD

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AMERICA'S LAST DAYS?



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

SPIRIT WARFARE!

Behind the scenes of major world affairs—and yet absolutely *permeating* all world affairs and social movements—is the fact that real *spirit warfare* is being waged for the control of mankind's hearts and minds. Even most professing Christians do not begin to realize *how real* this is! Remember, Jesus said to His disciples near the end of His life, "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me" (John 14:30). For the ruler—or, as the *King James Version* puts it, "prince"—of this world was indeed coming through the person of Judas Iscariot to try to destroy Christ.

Jesus stated, "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out" (John 12:31). Satan is also called "the *prince* of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2). For Satan and his demons "work." They *never* grow tired. They *never* quit.

I pray that all of you dear readers begin to realize that Satan the Devil is out to **destroy every last vestige** of true Christianity, especially in the modern nations descended from ancient Israel! As our longtime readers understand, we in this Work do not feel that "mainstream Christianity" truly understands most of the Bible. That is obvious to those who really *study* the Bible with an open heart and mind. However, vicious Satan wants to destroy even the part of true Christian teaching and human decency that is extant in "mainstream" Christianity—or in *any* type of professing Christianity!

For we are on the verge of a genuine "Spirit War"—and the *precursors* of that war are already underway. The Apostle John was inspired to tell us about a soon-coming time—near the very **end** of this age—when "war broke out in heaven." He describes how Satan the Devil has had to be cast back down to earth—"that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who *deceives the whole world*; he was cast to the earth and his angels were cast out with him." Then the "accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down." And the peoples of this earth are warned, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having *great wrath*, because he knows that he has a **short time**" (Revelation 12:7–12).

Think!

Satan knows that the United States is—in one sense—the "last bastion" for people to have full freedom of religion and the ability to preach it on radio, television and through other media. He hates the nation's regard for *any* kind of Christianity, and he leads an entire "kingdom"—including *myriads* of **demons**—in order to achieve his destructive objectives against it!

In the book of Daniel, God describes "spirit wars" that are often waged *behind the scenes*—yet **powerfully** influencing the affairs of many nations. When Daniel was seeking God with all his heart, God sent an angel to encourage and instruct him. *Satan did not like this*—so he had *demons* attempt to distract God's messenger. Daniel describes this encounter in Daniel 10:12–14. When God's angel did arrive, he let Daniel know, "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia" (v. 13). A little later, God's angel reveals to Daniel, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince" (vv. 20–21).

Yes, God's faithful angel had to "fight" with the "prince of Persia"—clearly one of the *demon spirits* God allowed to influence the various kingdoms of that day.

Can we doubt that *various similar events* are happening behind the scenes today? The peoples of this nation—and most of our Western nations—are being heavily influenced by spirit beings! Millions are being turned against the ways of God so powerfully that they are **outraged**—in an absolutely unprecedented manner—against even those who would stand up for traditional views of marriage, the family and other historically sanctioned institutions.

It all gets back to the divine **law** of Almighty God—the Ten Commandments. Men have now presumed to *take upon themselves* the authority to decide *what* is

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AMERICA'S LAST DAYS?

By Roderick C. Meredith

Your entire future is on the line! It is now being influenced by forces beyond your control. You need to understand.

We all know that people like to make fun of “doom and gloomers.” Normally, it is certainly better to look on the bright side and try to be positive about life. Things go easier that way—at least in the short run—*normally*.

Okay.

We *should* learn to be positive about life. For there is a magnificent “great purpose and design” being worked out here on earth, as Sir Winston Churchill famously said. Very few truly understand the awesome *purpose* for which we were all given life and breath. That purpose has great meaning—and should give everyone wonderful *encouragement* when they start to under-

stand and to fulfill their genuine purpose.

However, *right now* there are deep fissures in our entire society. A violent shift *away* from traditional morality and decency is taking place on a massive scale. We read daily of top political leaders and business executives lying, stealing, “cheating” on their income taxes, having “affairs” and indulging in other skullduggery of all sorts. We see that the mainstream media is almost “pushing” for the breakdown of traditional family values and almost everything that we considered normal and decent in the past. Increasing emphasis on the “rights” of perverts and deviants is being pushed in our faces in a way that would have been absolutely *shocking* even 15 or 25 years ago! Yet, nearly 6,000 years of recorded human history tell us plainly that the traditional family unit—one man and one woman—has *always* been the basis of all decent society. Every nation and every society that has abandoned this standard has gone *down*—and out.

If there is a real God—a Spirit Personality who created and now rules this universe—what does *He* think about all of this? And, most important of all, what is He going to do about it?

Very few professing Christians today believe in the absolute authority of the inspired word of God, the Holy Bible. They are not acquainted with the *real God* who inspired the Bible and who created the heavens and the earth. They neither know nor understand the detailed proofs showing God’s *specific intervention* in dealing with ancient cities and empires

in the past—exactly as He prophesied in His word! Because of our mounting sins and wretchedness, that very real God is now poised to intervene in human affairs in a dramatic way—a way never before experienced in human history!

How dare I presume that I know what God is going to do? Who gives puny *me* the “right to be right”?

Who?

How Can I Be Sure?

Let me explain by telling you some **facts**. And *God help you* to listen! For this information will affect *your very life* over the next several years.

As a young boy growing up in southwestern Missouri, living in a traditional family and attending a “mainstream” Protestant church, I began to hear a man named Herbert W. Armstrong preaching over the radio during the winter of 1944-45. Even as Germany was being pulverized by British bombing at night and American bombing by day (*the British* invented radar and were able to use it), Mr. Armstrong was saying that—in spite of its apparent downturn and defeat—Germany *would* rise again and lead a United Europe. He gave *specific* prophecies from the Bible showing why this would occur—and how it would affect America and Britain near the end of this age. Later, I was able to attend Ambassador College in Pasadena, California and hear him explain in greater detail literally *dozens* of biblical prophecies giving the overall “Master Plan” that God is working out here below—detailing *specific Bible prophecies* that were going to happen.

After graduating in 1952, I was able to travel to Britain with Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and their elder son, Dick Armstrong, to help start the Work there. During the

summer of 1954, I traveled with them to Belfast and then on to Glasgow, Manchester and London for a series of public meetings for our radio listeners there. Mr. Armstrong told the British people very forcefully and directly that they should **repent** of breaking God’s laws, and should turn back to the God of the Bible—or else they would *lose* the great “sea gates” God had given the British and American peoples. He mentioned the Suez Canal and Singapore and the Malacca Straits specifically, among other sea gates.

Mr. Armstrong went on to **warn** that—*unless* they truly repented and turned to God—the British Empire would “be no more”! He was *directly* describing in advance—in 1954—the demise of what had been, in fact, the *greatest* empire in human history! For the Roman Empire—even at its zenith—did not begin to compare with the worldwide spread of the British Empire through vast parts of Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the Middle East and Canada.

Think! Mr. Armstrong was making *colossal* claims about specific details involving some of the major nations of the world. How could he *possibly* know that such things were going to happen *many years in advance*? And at a time when *no one else* was predicting such catastrophes?

It Began Happening!

Two years later, my wife and I were sent to stay in London to help the Work get going there. During that very winter of 1956-57, the famous Suez Crisis occurred. Influenced by American Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, the U.S. pressured British, French and Israeli paratroopers to withdraw from the Suez Canal and give it to the Egyptians, who were trying to

take it away from Britain. The British were *very upset!* Normally kind British friends would tell me, “We don’t love you today, you know!” They tried to be nice about it, but they were *deeply hurt*, feeling *betrayed* by an America that had pressured them to give up one of the greatest and most important “sea gates” in human history—a vital passage having great influence on military strength and international commerce.

Later, Britain would lose control of the Bab el Mandeb—southern entrance to the Red Sea, and of many other sea gates, including the Strait of Hormuz, now recognized as *vital* in the current Middle East situation. Another loss was the famous Simon’s Town sea base in South Africa, controlling ocean routes around southern Africa. In addition, Singapore and the Straits of Malacca were also removed from British control. China-watchers today know that the Straits of Malacca are once again often in the news as a sea gate of vital importance in the power struggles and commercial activities of our present world economy.

The U.S. has also lost its few sea gates, culminating with the decision by American President Jimmy Carter to give up control of the Panama Canal. Today, only *two* significant sea gates remain under control of the British—Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands. Yet news comes almost every month that Britain is under increasing pressure to give up control of these important national assets. After years of watching world events, I personally feel that within just a few years at least one of these—if not both—will be gone from British control. I can picture myself writing a follow-up article, “And Then There Were None!”

Long-time *Tomorrow’s World* readers have probably already read

our truly insightful and eye-opening booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It gives specific *proof* that shows where the American and British-descended nations fit in Bible prophecy. It shows how the great God promised them control of these vital “sea gates” at the *time of the end*, but also prophesied that this control would be lost. If you have not yet received or studied this booklet, please *call the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine)* or write to us today for your own copy, which will be sent absolutely free, postage paid, upon your request! You need this information!

Just as he had showed from Scripture what would happen to the sea gates, Mr. Armstrong also warned publicly, during the 1960s and 70s, that although the Soviet Union’s control of the nations of Eastern Europe seemed solid, Bible prophecy indicated that *they would break away*—that the Berlin Wall was going to *come down*, and that Germany would once again be reunited and become the center of European power! How could that man possibly know about such truly world-shaking events decades *in advance*? *No one else* was prophesying or predicting such things! The supposedly knowledgeable “news pundits” did not

say *one word* about this ahead of time—for they did not know or understand the specific prophecies in the Bible!

But those who had been listening to what Mr. Armstrong taught from the Bible did understand. They had been warned *in advance* of what would happen! I recall a memorable editorial published on December 7, 1989, in the Hendersonville, Tennessee, *Free Press*: “Like a great many Americans I have been watching the current political situation in East Germany with interest. While many have expressed surprise at the recent events and at East German cries for reunification of East and West

America’s End-Time Enemy: Russia or Germany?

“No all-out full-scale war is prophesied between Russia and the United States. The famous prophecy of Ezek. 38 and 39 foretells a Russian invasion of Palestine, much later, not against the North American continent.”

—*The Plain Truth*, August 1950, p. 2

“...the world will be dumbfounded to see Germany emerge suddenly in a power never equalled by Hitler—by a union of ten nations in Europe, probably including some at present puppets of Russia—in a gigantic United States of Europe. This definitely *is* prophesied!”

—*The Plain Truth*, August 1950, p. 4

“Russia may give East Germany back to the Germans and will be forced to relinquish her control over Hungary, Czechoslovakia and parts of Austria to complete the ten nation union. Europe will have a free hand to destroy America and Britain as prophesied.”

—*The Good News*, April 1952, p. 16

As Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in the August 1950 issue of *The Plain Truth*, “Bible prophecies reveal the *general* course of world events” (p. 2). Certain details will only become fully clear when the prophesied times are immediately upon us. However, Scripture makes plain the overall sequence of end-time prophetic events, which is unlike what most self-styled “prophets”—or even the world’s best prognosticators—propose based on their limited human understanding of world events.

Ever since the time of the Apostle Paul, overeager Bible students—deeply desiring Christ’s return—have “set dates” that turned out to be incorrect. Even the Apostle Paul, correctly describing the resurrection at Christ’s return, expected he would be alive for that momentous event (1 Thessalonians 4:15). By now, experience should have taught Christians that we know “neither the day nor the hour” of Christ’s return.

However, Scripture has given us clear signs for which to watch (Matthew 24). More than 50 years ago, during a time when most religious and political leaders only saw the potential for conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, this Work recognized that Bible prophecy put the end-time focus on “Assyria”—Germany, not Russia—as the aggressor that would ultimately put an end to the dominance of the American and British-descended nations (see Psalm 83:8; Isaiah 10–11). Truly, those who are watching world events unfold today realize that Scripture’s “big picture” panorama of the end-time prophetic sequence remains sound, as explained more than 50 years ago through the ministry of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, which we in this magazine are continuing.

—William Bowmer

Germany, I have to admit I haven't been too surprised by these events. The reason I haven't been particularly surprised is that for years I have occasionally read the publications of... the late Herbert W. Armstrong... Armstrong predicted that the Berlin Wall would some day come down and the two German states would once again reunite into a powerful nation."

Why did Mr. Armstrong understand what so many other ministers failed to understand? How could he so well know the details of these prophesied events *ahead of time*? Why are most of today's ministers and religious leaders still virtually "in the dark" about the major prophecies being worked out here on earth, right in front of their eyes?

How to Understand

The "key" to the answer is found in Psalm 111:10: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever."

Although the *entire Bible* is filled with scripture after scripture indicating this same basic fact, Psalm 111 shows very clearly that God gives understanding to those who **obey** His commandments! In the New Testament, we read the Apostle John's understanding of this principle: "And whatever we ask we receive from Him, *because we keep His commandments* and do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:22).

This point is given very clearly in literally *scores* of scriptures! If people are willing to actually do what God says—quit arguing and reasoning around God's clear instruction to obey His commandments and His laws—then God will—in fact, *hear their prayers* and they will receive *far more answers* to

prayer. And they will have far greater *understanding* of the Bible, of world events and of the *powerful prophecies* now being worked out in human affairs!

My friends, with the terrible *financial crisis* now affecting the entire world, and through the unprecedented *moral upheaval* also affecting most of our nations, God is beginning to *humble* us and prepare us for the **final events of this age**—which are clearly prophesied. We find that our leaders are now virtually "pushing" various forms of immorality upon the American people! The promotion of so-called "gay rights," the increasing number of laws and government policies promoting easy access to abortion (the **murder** of unborn children!), the increasing coarseness of blasphemous and vulgar speech on television and in other media—all these and *many more* signs *clearly indicate* that the moral underpinnings of our society are being destroyed, bit by bit, slowly but surely. May God help each of us to *wake up* before it is too late!

Now, increasingly restrictive legislation, curtailing the ability to speak plainly the truths of the Bible, is being proposed in many legislatures to make it more and more difficult for true ministers to obey God's command: "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1).

Increasingly, this society's "popular opinion" leaders—in the media, the legislatures and the courts—will be defining as "the bad guys" those of us who strive to uphold traditional values and to teach the basic moral and spiritual principles that have *always* defined the American way of life! The American and British-descended peoples are on a moral toboggan slide that will lead straight into the Great Tribulation! *No wonder* our Creator will have to administer loving correction to our peoples!

By the time this happens, even many "mainstream" Christians will realize that "something had to give"—even though many of them will not yet have surrendered to fully obey the God of the Bible.

The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?

The Kingdom of God will bring peace and joy to billions who will experience the loving millennial rule of Jesus Christ, assisted by today's Christians who are now preparing for a special role of service as part of their Savior's own family.



**Write for our FREE booklet,
*The World Ahead:
What Will It Be Like?***

**or download it from the Booklets
section of our Web site
www.tomorrowworld.org.**

Some few, even if they do not know the full Truth, have enough common sense to see in a general way what is going on. You may have seen the recent comments by Billy Graham's daughter Anne, who was asked how a loving God could allow a terrible tragedy like Hurricane Katrina. Here is her very thoughtful response: "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

Be Willing to LEARN and to ACT!

Will you be willing to genuinely *obey* the God of the Bible? We in this Work are trying to reach out to you in every way that we can, to give you *specific proof* from the Bible that our society is *going down* and *out* unless we genuinely turn to the real God and obey His commandments—all ten of them!

Why do so many perverted leaders in our society keep pushing and pushing for these immoral and ungodly ways? The Apostle Paul was inspired to give the answer: "And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting" (Romans 1:28).

Again, God inspired Paul to tell us *why* people seem to resent the true God of the Bible: "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).

Think! The God of the Bible clearly reveals that the normal, physical, carnal mind is at "enmi-

ty" against God, *because* people do not like the idea of a *real* God who *tells them what to do!* So they will not submit to the "Law of God." They have come up with various forms of so-called "Christian" teachings and practices—many of which are *diametrically contrary* to the revealed teachings of Jesus Christ and the *way of life* which He and the original apostles *lived*, setting us an example.

This Work is a continuation of the powerful Work established by God through Herbert W. and Loma



D. Armstrong back in 1931! A number of our leaders—including myself—were taught *directly* at the feet of Mr. Armstrong. We *know* God's Way of life, and we have seen fulfilled—in detail, in our own lifetimes—many, many prophecies that Mr. Armstrong explained! We know that the Bible says what it means, and *means what it says*.

As you follow the Work of the *Tomorrow's World* telecast and this magazine, may God help you to *understand* what we are teaching! For we could certainly have *many more* supporters if we would go "mainstream" and preach the soft and smooth things of mainstream Christianity. But we have chosen a different way. For God has called us *out* of this present world and He is using us as the "advance guard" of the coming Kingdom or *Government* of God to be set up on

this earth by Jesus Christ within the lifetimes of most of you! *It is coming!* The terrible times of suffering during the Great Tribulation—and then the Day of the Lord—are coming upon us much more quickly than many realize.

Along with our powerful booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, I hope many of you will also contact us to request your **free** copy of our powerful booklet, *The Beast of Revelation*. And for those of you who *really* are willing to put forth the physical and mental effort to *learn* and to *grow* in the full understanding of true Christianity and the "way of escape" in the difficult years ahead, please request your **free enrollment** in the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. It will truly open your eyes! It is not some list of our

opinions where we claim "the Bible says"—rather, we show you in detail the *specific scriptures*, with historical references and other *facts* to help you truly *understand* and *prove to yourself* what God's revelation, the Holy Bible, is truly all about—and to help you understand the **great** purpose being worked out here on this earth today!

As America's national power and prestige continue to deteriorate, as the morality and way of life of the American and British-descended peoples speed downward in their toboggan slide, may God help you to *understand*—and to *act!* Speaking of our times, Jesus Christ commanded: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36). ■

Questions & Answers

QUESTION: If God is all-powerful, why does He allow Satan to be the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4)?

ANSWER: Scripture makes it clear that the devil—Satan—is currently in charge of planet Earth. Even Jesus Christ Himself, shortly before His arrest and crucifixion, acknowledged Satan’s authority: “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me” (John 14:30).

How does the devil exert his rule? He influences world events by injecting his evil ideas into the minds of human beings, much as a television transmitter broadcasts its signal into the air to be received in people’s homes. This analogy can help us see why Scripture calls Satan the “prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others” (Ephesians 2:2–3).

Was there always a Satan? No! God created a powerful and beautiful archangel named Lucifer, who—along with Michael and Gabriel—served at God’s throne in heaven. Why did this Lucifer (Latin for “light-bringer” or “morning star”) fall and become Satan (Hebrew for “accuser” or “adversary”)? You can read about this in Ezekiel 28:12–19 and Luke 10:18.

Lucifer and a third of the angels (Revelation 12:3–4) rebelled against their Creator, and were cast out from God’s presence (vv. 7–9). Evidently, Lucifer and his angels had been given the task of preparing the earth for its part in God’s plan for humanity. Unhappy with the role God had given him, this powerful archangel led an unsuccessful rebellion against God the Father and the Word (Luke 10:18; Isaiah 14–15).

Satan failed in his rebellion, but he remains in the office God gave him, where he is ironically still instrumental in God’s plan. You see, human beings are spending 6,000 years living their own way, influenced by Satan’s spirit of selfishness and

evil. They are writing with their own blood, sweat and tears the history of what it is like to live in disobedience to God’s way.

The Word came to the earth a little more than 2,000 years ago as a human being—Jesus Christ. By living His perfect life—filled without measure with the Holy Spirit—He demonstrated that with God’s help, human beings can live in obedience to God, and reject Satan’s way (Galatians 2:20).

It is because of Jesus Christ that Satan’s rule on the earth will soon end. That is why the devil is only called the god of “this age.” An age is soon coming when Jesus Christ will replace Satan as the ruler of this world. We call that time “the Millennium.” Jesus Christ, who came to the earth as a human being and lived a perfect sinless life, will return as King and topple Satan from his rule.

Since the Millennium is not here yet, what can we do to escape the evil effects of Satan’s rule? Those who accept Jesus Christ’s sacrifice can, through the power of the Holy Spirit, come under God’s government *now* and receive the power to resist Satan’s influence in their lives. “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:7–8).

God is watching to see who is obeying Jesus Christ, and who has surrendered to evil. “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now, ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’” (1 Peter 4:17–18).

When the Prince of Peace returns to set up His government over the nations, Satan’s rule will end. “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out” (John 12:31). God speed that day!



THE BRIGHT LINE

By Dexter B. Wakefield

Lawyers describe a “bright-line rule” as a clear standard, derived from objective facts, that leaves no room for ambiguity or interpretation. Unlike regulations that involve “balancing tests,” bright-line law is clear-cut. “Was he over age 21?” “Were her Miranda rights read to her?” The bright line is a clear criterion of demarcation—you are either on one side of the issue or the other.

God, too, often sets out clear lines of demarcation. Whether it is separating wheat from tares, grain from chaff or sheep from goats, God is well able to sort out His people, and indeed the whole universe He has created.

One of the many “bright lines” dividing the way people respond to God is their attitude toward His word—particularly to His revealed prophecies. When people see Bible prophecy being fulfilled, those who do not “retain God in their knowledge” (Romans 1:28) respond very differently than those who allow God’s word to inform them about what they are witnessing.

Often, *how* people think determines *what* they think. In the years ahead, as more and more Bible prophecies come to pass, we will see great differences in *how* people think about the events they observe—which will lead to a great difference in *what* they *think* and *do* in response to those events.

Jesus Christ says that the mind informed only by carnal human vision is *blind* to spiritual things—and that there are some things only God can reveal. God reveals that the world is in darkness, but God’s word illuminates it for us—if we are willing to see.

Some people reject what God reveals, and assume that they are informed *solely* by the world around them. Others, however, are *also* informed by faith—God’s revealed knowledge. Which way you choose will create a *bright line* that will divide you from others in your responses to the future events you observe. **How will you respond to prophecy being fulfilled?**

A time may come—sooner than you think—when you will need to face such a scenario. Imagine what if—just what if—Middle East stability deteriorates even further, until the resulting war and its consequences (curtailed energy supplies, nuclear weapon fears and global economic chaos) cause all the parties involved to accept what would today be dismissed as a “radical” solution. Imagine that, in exchange for territorial concessions and recognition of a Palestinian state, Arab nations recognize Israel’s right to exist. Imagine that—in exchange for allowing Arab control of East Jerusalem under the auspices of an international peacekeeping body governed from Europe—Orthodox Jews would be allowed

to resume their ancient sacrifices, and perhaps even build a temple.

If you are a long-time reader of *Tomorrow's World*, you know that the Bible foretells an amazing role for the city of Jerusalem in end-time events. But if you did not know about Bible prophecy, and a time came when someone told you that an Israelite prophet had foretold recent political developments thousands of years ago, what would you say? Would you say, "Well, it's just a coincidence that came about naturally from ongoing world circumstances"? Or would you ask, "What else did God prophesy?"

Recently Fulfilled Prophecy

Modern Israel is the most improbable of nations. Recoiling against the tax burden under King Solomon's son Rehoboam, the northern 10 tribes revolted and formed a separate kingdom under Jeroboam (1 Kings 12). Because of their sins, the northern kingdom, which the Bible calls "the House of Israel," went into captivity under the Assyrians (721BC), leaving the southern kingdom of Judah, consisting of Judah, the small tribe of Benjamin and a portion of the Levites, under the rule of the kings of Judah. Next, the idolatrous kingdom of Judah went into Babylonian captivity (604BC), subsequently repenting and returning to the holy land (after 539BC). This nation was known later as Judea under Roman rule, and after Rome's destruction of the Jewish state in 70AD, the Diaspora of the Jews began, scattering them throughout the known world.

But God had said that the descendants of the ancient kingdom of Judah, whom we know today as the Jews, would return to their land and reestablish their place "in the latter days," the time just before the coming of the Messiah. Notice what

God said about this time through the prophet Zechariah, when Judah was in Babylonian captivity: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. In that day," says the LORD, "I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, "The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the LORD of hosts, their God." In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, *but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem*" (Zechariah 12:2–6).

This has actually happened in our lifetime! Judah has returned to ancient Judea and retaken Jerusalem, just as prophesied long ago. In a series of wars, Judah has burned the surrounding hostile nations like "a fiery torch in the sheaves," and it is the *governors of Judah*, not its king, that are doing the torching. The little nation of Israel is accurately described as "a firepan in the woodpile." And Jerusalem is truly "a heavy stone for all peoples" and is becoming more so every year.

But those who do not believe in God's power to foretell the course of history dismiss this all as just a normal progression of events. Firmly educated in the dogma that they can only be informed by the physical world and what they can reason

from it, they can rationalize almost anything away. For them, there is no God who can reveal things they cannot otherwise know.

The Unlikely Case of Jerusalem

Why Jerusalem? Today it may seem natural that Jerusalem should be such an important place in the world—simply because for the last century it has been prominently in the news. But, why Jerusalem? On reflection, the city seems a very unlikely point of contention. It is not on a major trade route like most great world cities. Its location came about because of the Spring of Gihon in the Kidron Valley, at the base of the old city. Jerusalem possesses no great natural resources, unlike some other Middle East cities such as Abu Dhabi. It has no sea access, unlike London, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, Capetown or even Haifa. Jerusalem's geography is unremarkable; it sits on low mountains between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River Valley.

Jerusalem sits astride the primary north-south invasion route of the Middle East. If you want a peaceful place, Jerusalem is not for you! It has a violent history, beginning as an old Jebusite village that King David took in a military raid. The king bought a nearby threshing floor, and his son—King Solomon—built an extraordinary temple there. And nothing has been the same since. For centuries since the first Muslim conquest, that one small patch of rock in Mount Moriah has been guarded by the Dome of the Rock mosque. In our day, Jews, Christians and Muslims all look to the city as among their holiest sites.

Why Jerusalem? Is there something going on that the world cannot see? *Logically*, it should not be *that* important, but the Bible

explains why modern political events involving Jerusalem are consistent with prophecies dated millennia ago: *the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has an ancient claim on the city*. Through the prophet Zechariah, God revealed, “Again the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her.” Thus says the LORD: “I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain”’” (Zechariah 8:1–3).

Jerusalem, site of Solomon’s Temple and the prophesied headquarters of God’s future Kingdom on this earth, is coveted even by those who oppose God. Notice what the Apostle Paul wrote: “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?” (2 Thessalonians 2:3–5).

This ancient place belongs to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—yet someone else covets it. Is it possible that world events are slowly becoming focused on one small area of rock on a low mountain called Moriah—or Zion—in the Middle East? The Temple Mount in Jerusalem is prophesied to be the eye of the storm in future world events. Few in this world can yet see it, but can we see it? How

will we react to the occurrence of the actual events that God foretold? *Are we informed by faith?*

The prophet Daniel revealed that in the days leading up to the



end of this age, a great leader will arise and invade Jerusalem. “And the people of the prince who is to come [a worldly ruler] shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.... Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; [7 years] but in the middle of the week [3½ years] he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate...” (Daniel 9:26–27).

This ruler will take away the reinstated daily sacrifices from the holy place. “And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall **take away the daily sacrifices**, and place there the abomination of desolation” (Daniel 11:31).

This is when the Great Tribulation begins—when the sacrifices are taken away. But in order for the sacrifices to be taken away, they must first begin, whether in a rebuilt Temple or on an altar at the holy place! Are you aware that, for the first time in nearly two millennia, groups of Jews are preparing to resume the ancient sacrifices?

Implements are being prepared, vestments are being made, priests are being identified and an attempt is even being made to reinstitute the Sanhedrin. And could it be that the Temple already exists—only in pieces—ready to be assembled on the site as it was in Solomon’s day (1 Kings 6:7)?

Farmers are even raising cattle in the hope of providing the “red heifer” needed for the re-sanctification of the priesthood (Numbers 19:1–10). Without that sanctification, the sacrifices cannot be made—so those who are watching end-time prophetic events know that the slaughter of the red

heifer is one of the first major milestones in this final sequence of end-time events.

How Will You Respond?

Your response will depend on how you are informed—do you have God in your knowledge or not? This makes a big difference in what you are able to see. God says that the prophets are our eyes. “For the LORD has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep, **and has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets....** The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed.... Therefore the LORD said: ‘Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men...’” (Isaiah 29:10–13).

The Apostle Paul explained it further. “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting” (Romans 1:28).

Some say, "I'll wait until I see all these things happening, and then I'll start obeying God."

According to God's word, those with this attitude may be deceiving themselves. "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because *they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness*" (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12).

At that time, the true Church of God will undergo severe persecution. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and *you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved*" (Matthew 24:9-13).

Keeping God's law and believing God's word will give a good understanding to those who retain God in their knowledge (Psalm 111:10). But those who do not retain God in their knowledge—who reject His revealed knowledge—will react differently from those who accept it, and will be on the other side of a *bright line*. They will be vulnerable to deception.

The Bible tells us that the world will go forth and *fight against* the hope of mankind—the true Messiah, Jesus Christ. *And, to them, it will seem like a reasonable thing to do.* "Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to bat-

tle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity [a divided Jerusalem is prophesied], but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle" (Zechariah 14:1-3).

Where Are We Now?

If you are a long-time reader of *Tomorrow's World*, you know that we have long preached the biblical warning that as the end of this age approaches, there will first be a financial and military collapse of the United States and Great Britain. A great religious and political power will rise in Europe—a revival of the Holy Roman Empire—and will perform wonderful signs and speak great things. With the blessing of this power, some kind of agreement will be made that allows the resumption of the ancient Temple sacrifices (with or without a full new Temple building). When those sacrifices are stopped, this will mark the beginning of a 3½-year period of great tribulation over the whole world that culminates in the return of Jesus Christ.

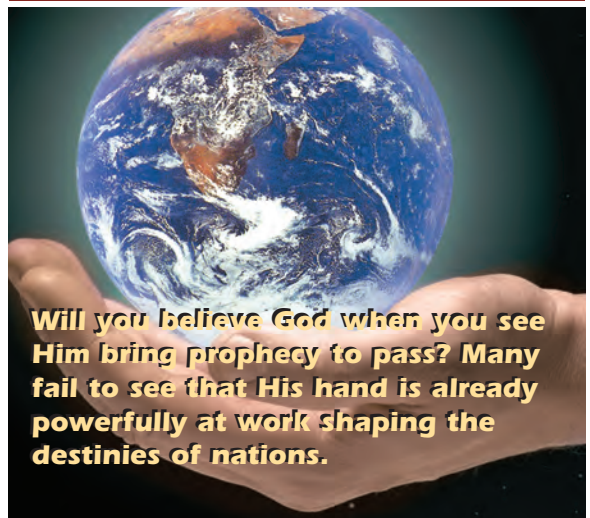
Most of the world will brush off these developments as the natural workings of ordinary human political and military effort. They will deny God's hand in what occurs, and will even fight

against Him at the very end of this age. But those who are informed by God's word will be different.

How are *you* informed? Do you assume that you can only trust the physical world around you—or do you accept the fact that you can also be informed by faith—God-revealed knowledge. But once we are informed by faith, we must *act* on it. Christ will separate the sheep from the goats—the wheat from the chaff—His holy ones from those of the world. Which you are depends in no small part on whether you are willing to *believe* what God says and *act* on it while you can.

Jesus advised us: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36). *Will you?* ■

Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in World Affairs



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LONDON CALL

NKOSI SIKELEL' IAFRICA

I was in South Africa earlier this year, on the day of their national elections. The outcome was a certainty—the African National Congress (ANC) would be re-elected with a clear majority. Yet many outside South Africa do not realize that the ANC has changed quite a bit since it took power in the “rainbow nation,” under Nelson Mandela, in 1994.

Back then, the Zulu people—under the banner of the Inkhata Freedom Party (IFP)—offered a real alternative. In this year’s election, however, Jacob Zuma—a Zulu leader widely loved despite corruption and rape charges, recently withdrawn—was at the helm of the ANC and assured the party’s victory.

Many People as One

Unique among national emblems, South Africa’s post-1994 flag bears six colours—black, white, gold, green, blue and red-orange. Its diverse shades are said to represent the colours of the people who settled this rich land at the farthest south latitude of the great continent.

Many who only know the nation’s modern history do not realize that the first settlers in the Cape Colony, working for the Dutch-East India Company, saw practically no black Africans for nearly 200 years. Aside from some early skirmishes, the Dutch lived a peaceful life in their new homeland. They would come to have far more trouble with the British than with the Bantu.

To an impartial outside observer, it seems as if each of the three main players in South Africa’s modern history has “had its day in the sun.” British, Afrikaners and indigenous Africans have each worn the mantle of rule.

It is not hard to understand that God has been watching to see how these peoples handle power—and, in particular, how they treat their fellow South Africans. Ultimately it is He who sets

the times and boundaries of nations’ rule (Acts 17:26). It is by His will that kings reign or fall (Proverbs 8:15–16). What lessons can we learn from the history of this beautiful yet often-troubled land?

In the years after Jan van Riebeeck arrived in South Africa in 1652, many Dutch—and later the French Huguenots—brought their farming techniques, cattle, sheep and grapevines to their new home. These early settlers were a religious people who deeply believed that God had given them their new country (To learn more about God’s hand in the history of the modern descendants of ancient Israel, please request our booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy.*)

At the same time, to the east, Bantu tribes—including the Zulus—were migrating down from Zimbabwe into the present area of Kwa Zulu Natal. Zulu leader Shaka, thanks to his superior military prowess, expanded his empire into other tribal lands after driving Zulu neighbours into submission.

In 1795, the British annexed the Cape for the British Crown. The Dutch “Boers” (*boer* is Dutch for “farmer”) could not tolerate the British presence; when in 1833 the British Empire declared freedom for all slaves, Boer “Trekks” moved eastward into the area of the Orange Free State, where they clashed with Shaka’s brother Dengane. After Zulu warriors murdered Boer leader Piet Retief and his party, the “Voortrekkers” promised their God that they would remember Him with an annual Covenant Day if He would give them victory. Yet, no sooner than victorious Boers had settled their new land, British settlers tried to dominate them, seeking gold and diamonds. The Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902) ensued, leading to great sorrow for Boers who



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saw their farms destroyed and their families persecuted and incarcerated. Many died of disease, and some Afrikaners to this day still harbour animosity toward the British.

British domination did not last; the Afrikaners had the next turn to hold power. Under Prime Minister D.F. Malan, a vocal champion of Afrikaner nationalism, the National Party came to power in 1948 and expanded South Africa's prior segregationist policy into what became known as "apartheid." Non-white South Africans were subjected to strict separation in all areas of life. By the 1970s and '80s, international condemnation of these policies had led to United Nations sanctions, which ultimately caused Prime Minister F.W. de Clerk in 1990 to bring an end to apartheid and to call for elections for all South Africans.

Many white South Africans feared a backlash of vengeance for the years of apartheid, so there was much surprise when Nelson Mandela instituted a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, with the stated goal of encouraging old foes to work through the hatreds of the past. This mandated process of self-examination helped foster a relatively peaceful transition to majority rule in South Africa, and the nation in 1994 rejoined the Commonwealth of Nations after more than 30 years of isolation,

Since then, South Africa has faced serious problems. Nearly a million skilled white South Africans have departed for other English-speaking countries, a trend hastened by government policies awarding many senior and responsible positions on the basis of race—a sort of reverse of the racial policies that in previous years had been used to favour whites. Will these policies lead to a more harmonious and successful society for all? Remember, God is watching, as He did the British and Afrikaners before.

But it could have been worse. Unlike Zimbabwe, its neighbour to the north, South Africa has for the most part moved forward cautiously, aware that in order to secure prosperity for black South Africans, there must be room for all South Africans to exercise their productive expert-

ise, and to work with overseas companies. To this day, Afrikaner and British farmers, winegrowers and self-employed businessmen help keep South Africa going, alongside their black countrymen.

The growing European Union is watching South Africa. Germany in particular is concerned about the nation's strategic metal deposits. Thirty percent of the world's titanium reserves are in South Africa. Even as Britain and America fall into increasing economic decline, how long will it be until the European nations—with which South Africa has long had an affinity—decide to step in more aggressively to compete with the increasing prominence of China on the African continent?

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica

Soon after a new flag came a new national anthem. Where once South Africa held on to two competing anthems—one in Xhosa, one in Dutch—its peoples now share one. This country with a flag of six colours now has a national anthem with portions in each of five languages—Xhosa, Zulu, Sesotho, Afrikaans and English. It begins with words from the 19th century Xhosa hymn, *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica* ("Lord, Bless Africa"), and ends with these poignant words in English:

"Lord, we ask you to protect our nation.
Intervene and end all conflicts.
Let it be so, forever and ever."

What does the future hold for South Africa? Its people have known hardships that few in the English-speaking world have yet had to experience. They have seen the failure of one human government after another. More than most in the prosperous West, they can cry out with real feeling to God, "Thy Kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10). Yet, despite the nation's troubled history, a glorious future awaits South Africans of every colour and background—and all the peoples of the world—when Jesus Christ returns. To learn more about that wonderful future, please request your free copy of our booklet, *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?*

—Rod King



“ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN...”

By Rod McNair

On the 40th anniversary of mankind’s first step on the moon, what is our place in the universe? Will we ever really “conquer” space?

As the countdown neared zero, the Saturn V rocket engine roared to life. The fiery smoke billowed upward, for a moment almost appearing to engulf the tiny spacecraft perched atop the rocket. As the smoke cleared, Apollo 11 rose slowly and gracefully in the bright Florida sky. The time was 9:32 a.m. (EDT), July 16, 1969. Eager viewers watched from the ground at the Kennedy Space Center, and from their living rooms around the world, until the 363-foot ship carrying three Americans disappeared into the heavens.

Within twelve minutes, the crew was in orbit around the earth. Three days later, the intrepid explorers were orbiting the moon. On the next day, July 20, 1969, 500 million pairs of human eyes were glued to television sets around the world to watch an event that

some consider a more important milestone than the first crossing of the Atlantic Ocean or the building of the pyramids in Egypt.

Astronaut Neil Armstrong spoke his now-famous words when his foot touched the fine dust of the earth’s only natural satellite: “That’s one small step for man, a giant leap for mankind.” Leaving the shelter of their lunar module, “Eagle,” Armstrong and fellow astronaut Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin became the first two human beings ever to walk on the moon.

Forty years later—on the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing—what is the future of manned space travel? Have we conquered space? Will we ever? Will human beings ever really live “out there” in outer space? Believe it or not, *your Bible has the answers.*

How It Began

On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first man-made object to orbit the earth. Recognizing the political and military issues at stake, U.S. President John F. Kennedy in 1961 committed his nation to the goal of putting a man on the moon by decade's end.

But the desire for space travel did not begin in the years after World War II. Author Tom Crouch reminds us of the words of astronomer Johannes Kepler, who in the 16th century wrote: "There will certainly be no lack of human pioneers when we have mastered the art of flight... Let us create vessels and sails adjusted to the heavenly ether, and there will be plenty of people unafraid of the empty wastes..." (*Aiming for the Stars: The Dreamers and Doers of the Space Age*, p. 10).

The best thinkers of the past could only imagine—somewhat fancifully—how travel outside of the earth might be. As writer Ron Miller describes, "In 1638, author Francis Godwin described being carried to the Moon by geese... In 1657 author Cyrano de Bergerac made fun of Moon travel stories by launching his hero in a rocket... In 1865 author Jules Verne shot his astronauts to the Moon from a giant cannon" (*Space Exploration*, p. 6).

As the world entered the 20th century, these dreams began to turn into reality. As a young boy, Dr. Werner Von Braun dreamed of interplanetary travel. Author Michael Neufeld recounts how Von Braun's imagination was captured by an article in an astronomy magazine, which "described an imaginary trip to the moon... It filled me with a romantic urge. Interplanetary travel! Here was a task worth dedicating one's life to! Not just to stare at the moon and the planets but to soar through the heavens and actually explore the mysterious universe! I

knew how Columbus had felt." (*Von Braun: Dreamer of Space, Engineer of War*, p. 4). Von Braun would later work for the United States space program after the war, playing a significant role in the Apollo project.

A major breakthrough for space travel came in October 1942. At the Baltic coastal town of Peenemunde, Germany successfully tested its first supersonic rocket. Speaking to the group gathered that day, project manager Walter Dornberger commented: "We are the first to have given a rocket a speed of thirty-three hundred miles per hour." He added, "Our rocket today reached a height of nearly sixty miles. **We have invaded space with our rocket; we have proved rocket propulsion practical for space travel...**" (*Countdown: A History of Space Flight*, T. A. Heppenheimer).

Twenty-seven years later, on the day when Armstrong and Aldrin walked on the moon, President Richard Nixon telephoned them from the Oval Office. What did he say? "This certainly has to be the most historic phone call ever made," the President said. "Because of what you have done, **the heavens have become a part of man's world**" (*The Image Empire: A History of Broadcasting in the United States From 1953*, Erik Barnouw, p. 328).

Yes, we have "invaded" the heavens—the space surrounding the earth *has* become a regular part of our world. In the last four decades, thousands of satellites have been launched into the earth's atmosphere by the United States, Russia, Japan, France, India, Israel, Australia, the United Kingdom, the ESA (European Space Agency), and China. All this "space traffic" has left much dangerous debris in orbit, sometimes traveling at thousands of miles per hour, with the potential of doing horrific damage to other satellites and manned vehicles. That is one reason why the world was

alarmed when, in January 2007, China shot down one of its aging Fengyun weather satellites. The blast released "a hailstorm of dangerous orbital debris," further threatening other satellites and orbiting craft ("Space Wars," *Scientific American*, March 2008, p. 79).

To add to the "extra-terrestrial traffic," commercial airliners may soon be taking their passengers higher than they have ever gone before! The German space agency DLR is developing a "Spaceliner" that will "fly at 14,000 miles per hour and deliver 50 passengers from New York to Sydney in less than 90 minutes—through space" ("Hypersonic Commercial Flight: 2050," *Popular Science*, May 2009, p. 38). This is only one of several carriers booking tickets, for prices as high as \$200,000 and more!

Realistically, is this as far as men and women will ever travel? Or is it inevitable that human beings will someday colonize the moon, planets, and beyond? Is that our destiny?

To the Moon— and Beyond?

The yearning to be out in space—to go and explore the outer limits—is undeniable. Human beings naturally want to see what is over the horizon—even if that horizon may be interstellar! John Logsdon, director of the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University, said, "It's not primarily about science... **It's to test the belief that humans are destined to live in other places except earth**" ("Lunar Living," *Smithsonian*, July 2008, p. 19).

The problem is—human beings were not designed for space travel! This is an obvious obstacle to real space exploration. Even traveling to the moon—a relatively short distance of "only" about 238,000 miles—presents daunting and dead-

ly difficulties. Astronaut Michael Collins recalled the thoughts that raced through his head as he prepared to board Apollo 11 on July 16, 1969. He remembers calculating his chances for success—or even survival: “I think we will escape with our skins, or at least I will escape with mine, but I wouldn’t give better than even odds on a successful landing and return. There are just too many things that can go wrong. Fred Haise [the backup astronaut who had checked command-module switch positions] has run through a checklist 417 steps long” (*Apollo Expeditions to the Moon*, edited by Edgar M. Cortright, NASA SP; 350, Washington, DC).



Think about it! The 30 Apollo astronauts who eventually circled the moon, and the twelve moonwalkers who landed on it, trained for years, preparing meticulously for every detail. A mistake could mean their death, and the death of their fellow astronauts! Astronaut Aldrin related in his diary that since the lowest step of the lunar module was 3½ feet off the surface of the moon, they had to patiently practice climbing up and down the steps in their bulky suits—lest they find they could not re-embark after their moon exploration was completed!

Men and women have risked—and sacrificed—their lives to explore space. The space shuttles Challenger and Columbia were lost in tragic accidents in 1986 and 2003, killing all onboard. The Apollo 13 astronauts narrowly escaped death after an exploding oxygen canister damaged their equipment. The astronauts on Apollo 14 also narrowly escaped a tragic end. During their moonwalk, they almost became lost!

But even if the environment in space were not inherently hostile to living and breathing beings, the awesome distances involved in interstellar space travel make it unrealistic for us with our current technology. Experts say that a trip to Mars could take just a few months (one way). But what about traveling outside our solar system? The nearest star is Proxima Centauri, 4.2 light years away. At the speed of our present space shuttle—17,500 miles per hour—it would take explorers more than 160,000 years to reach the nearest star. There simply is not enough time in human life to do that kind of space exploration!

To Go Where One Man Has Gone Before!

Are human beings destined to live on other planets than the earth? Will distant galaxies someday be part of your world? God is offering His obedient children eternal life, without the bounds and limitations of human breath! There is truly a “great gulf” between physical humanity and the spirit realm. Jesus describes this in the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. In the parable, Jesus propels us hundreds of years into the future. He gives a glimpse of a future event when Abraham (by then a spirit being after the resurrection) speaks to a wicked man who, after being resurrected to physical life at the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11–15), is about to be thrown into the lake of fire after a lifetime of refusing God’s way. In this future event, Abraham tells this man, “And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so

that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us” (Luke 16:26).

What was Jesus talking about? He was explaining that, after the resurrection, there will be a vast gulf between the spirit world and the physical world. The obedient will be resurrected at Christ’s return to *spirit life*—to live forever. But the disobedient, rebellious and incorrigible will be raised to a resurrection of condemnation, to be thrown into the lake of fire (John 5:28–29). The great gulf is fixed between those raised to spirit life and those condemned to death.

The Bible shows that it is mankind’s destiny to inherit the earth as glorified Spirit beings. Scripture describes Abraham as “heir of the world” (Romans 4:13). Christ taught that the meek will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). Revelation 2:26 describes the overcomers ruling over the nations. The parable of the minas (Luke 19:11–27) shows that faithful Christians will rule over cities on the earth. Even the Father Himself will ultimately dwell on the earth, when the New Jerusalem descends to a “new earth” (Revelation 21:2–3).

But what will life on the earth be like for resurrected, glorified beings? They will have life inherent—like the resurrected Jesus Christ, who said that He will give us the glory He has (John 17:22). This may be hard to comprehend, but the Apostle John tried to express it as best he could: “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!... Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:1–3).

We cannot yet fully comprehend how we will be like God the Father or Jesus Christ. But when we

(Continued on page 29)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I recently received a copy of your magazine *Tomorrow's World*. The magazine was presented to me because of the cover title, "Racism in America: A Thing of the Past?" (January-February 2009). In reading your article, I found that your research was exceptionally well written. The historical scope reflected accuracy and illuminated myths that I believe many Christians hold. Your statement that racism is a moral issue is one with which I particularly agree. I appreciate your bold approach to such a 'taboo' subject in the Christian church.

M. B., Bradenton, FL

I recently received two booklets I ordered for free, I am very grateful. I found them to be very good. I am a young parent, newly married, and am so happy for the pointers on how to have a successful marriage. It is a fact that no road is easy, but it helps to have a torch at hand, to light up in those dark areas. Having been advised, I now look to the future, ready to meet the coming challenges.

K. K., Gweru, Zimbabwe

In your article, "Satan and His Demons," (May-June 2009), I did not understand what you were saying finally happens to Satan. Could you please clarify?

A. C., Mississauga, ON, Canada

Editor's Note: *The Revelation 20:10 reference in the article describes the very end of Satan's ability to influence human beings. Following the Revelation 17:14 events occurring at the end of this age, Satan will be bound throughout the Millennium, but he will be released for a brief time after its end. After stirring up rebellious humans, he will be thrown into the Lake of Fire, never again to trouble others.*

I have been following along these past years, as I look on from Germany at the USA and its role as the Great Empire in the world today. When I read "between the lines" I can easily understand how the next step can be predicted. The people of

my village praise Jesus and Mary with one set of rules. Yet, they will recognize things like Easter and go nutty over Christmas. Right now, as I write this e-mail they celebrate "Fasching." I guess that's the translation for the Mardi Gras that the Southerners in America like to celebrate. I have since stopped celebrating these "holidays." I will continue to read your magazine, and I like your website too.

S. S., Kumhausen, Germany

I have received your March-April issue of *Tomorrow's World* magazine and am elated at the teaching it contains. Please never stop doing what you are doing. We need you! When people like you teach and preach the uncompromised truth it encourages me to know that there are believers out there like you people who truly stand by every word of God to the best of their ability and teach others to do so. I have been receiving your magazine for quite a while and there is always at least one article that grips me with riveting information that is much appreciated and builds my faith and understanding. Please know that there are believers out here that support what you are doing, God bless all of you.

F. T., Richmond Victoria, Australia

I love you folks so much because you have such a wonderful magazine that plainly tells the truth about God's word. I finished reading the article "The Sign of Jonah" (March-April 2009)—and how "right on" it is! If only folks would read their Bible, they would see the truth.

S. A., Woodbridge, VA

I always see my brother reading these booklets, the topics of which always seem interesting, so one day I asked my brother to give one to me, *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* Honestly, I sometimes find myself doing things on the Sabbath that did not have anything to do with God. I was so ashamed, but I was glad I got in contact with that booklet. So that is why I chose to get my own! Thanks, and keep up the good work!

J. R., Westmoreland, PA

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

TOMORROW'S

A "Lucky" Break?

Millions of viewers have watched the YouTube video of Scotland's Susan Boyle singing "I Dreamed a Dream" from *Les Misérables* on the television show *Britain's Got Talent*. One reason that this video has received more than 200 million views is the unexpected contrast between the 47-year-old Boyle's beautiful, operatic voice and her rather plain appearance. At first glance, neither the judges nor the audience expected much from this seemingly unremarkable contestant. But as soon as she opened her mouth on the talent show stage, Simon Cowell and the rest of the judges had to admit that they had wrongly judged this book by its cover.

Boyle's performance made her an instant international celebrity, receiving attention, as the *New York Daily News* pointed out, "ordinarily reserved for those who meet a carefully promoted standard of elegance and glamour" ("The Susan Boyle Story: If Only She Could Freeze-Frame This Moment," May 4, 2009).

Few of us have a beautiful singing voice like Boyle's. So, what lessons can we learn from her seemingly sudden rise to fame? Is it just a story of a "plain Jane" made good? Is it about the fickle nature of fame? Amid all the publicity—a few may realize—the truth is that Boyle teaches us a far more fundamental lesson. Her decades of hard work and preparation laid the foundation that allowed her to seize the opportunity when it came.

An Overnight Sensation?

American inventor Thomas Edison famously said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it comes dressed in overalls, and looks like work!" Contrary to the romantic notion that Boyle's lovely voice was a deeply hidden secret before her appearance on *Britain's Got Talent*, the truth is that she showed it off frequently,



and worked on it for decades. And it was hard work. Because of a difficult birth, Boyle had a learning disability as a child, and was often teased by other children. As the youngest of ten children—six years younger than her next sibling—she found comfort alone in her room, singing along to records such as Donny Osmond's "Puppy Love." Her mother encouraged her to join the church choir at age 12, and she took part in a few school musical productions. As a young adult, Boyle took advantage of opportunities to sing at family gatherings, at a local hotel, and at karaoke pubs around Blackburn, her hometown.

Boyle took voice lessons, and attended the Edinburgh Acting School. Though her worldwide fame came suddenly, it came about after a lifetime of hard work that allowed her natural ability to shine. Her performance took millions by surprise, but it was no "lucky break" for this dedicated and persistent singer.

A Biblical Lesson

Of course, we do not find any biblical accounts of contestants wowing the judges by surprise at a talent competition. But the Bible offers many illustrations of the principle that we should develop our God-given talents and abilities to prepare for future opportunity. Even from childhood years, Joseph and Esther went through events that trained them for adult experiences they could not in their youth begin to imagine. Both Joseph and Esther encountered an amazing God-given opportunity after spending long years in preparation. This reminds us that timing is an important part of opportunity, and that while we need to do our part, we can trust God's hand in the timing of what He has for us.

Scripture also reminds us that we should not delay in developing our abilities. In Matthew 25:14–30, read Jesus'



parable of the talents. The word “talent” here is a Greek unit of currency, but the principle Jesus gives us does apply directly to our talents—our skills and abilities. Christ told of a wealthy man who gave his three servants different sums of money to care for while he was away on a long journey. Two servants understood that their master expected them to *use* the money they were given, and through their diligence they doubled the worth of their master’s investment. The third servant, however, simply buried his talent in the ground, to protect it from loss.

When the master returned, each servant was called to give an account of what he had done with his talents. The two who had doubled the wealth were called “good and faithful servants” and received generous reward. By contrast, the servant who “played it safe” was condemned as “wicked and lazy” and his talent was given to the servant who had turned five talents into ten.

One of this story’s many lessons is that each servant was *expected* to increase what was given to him. Similarly, though God has given each of us varying abilities, He has also provided opportunities we should use to develop and use the unique talents He has given us.

What About You?

Whether you realize it or not, you have unique talents and abilities that you can develop. Perhaps those talents are yet to be discovered, so you believe you have none—or none of any worth, anyway. But I do not believe it! Everyone I have known has been given something, and usually quite a few things, for which they have natural ability. One of the ways to discover what you are good at is by analyzing what you love to do. In other words, what is it that you could spend hours doing without even realizing it? And is it something that you are naturally good at? As you analyze your talents, try not to limit yourself to just



the areas that typically are rewarded in our traditional school system, such as ability in words or numbers. According to the book *Seven Kinds of Smart*, author Thomas Armstrong shows there are at least five more areas of ability in addition to working with words or numbers. Armstrong lists music, pictures (abstract and conceptual ability), muscles (physical ability), people (ability to work with others) and the self (ability to know and understanding one-self) as other natural inclinations in most people. The point is that there likely are talents within you that can be developed. Taking the time now to explore what those are can lead you to extraordinary opportunities at the right time.

Now Is the Time

Boyle’s example shows us that talent and preparation, plus the right opportunity, equals success. However, “success” most often does not mean fame and fortune. What it does mean is the personal satisfaction of a job well done—of having worked hard to develop your natural abilities in ways that others appreciate. Most opportunities do not occur on national television, nor do they bring financial wealth, but the reward of doing something well is worth a lifetime of preparation.

Many adults look back and regret opportunities not taken in their youth—piano lessons, learning a new language, developing a skill. If you are a young person reading this article, *now* is the time to take a close look at yourself, and decide what special skills and abilities you would like to develop. This may mean trying something you have never tried before—to find out what you would like to do—or it may mean working hard to increase a talent you already recognize in yourself. Either way, if you start preparing now, you will be that much more ready when God gives you the opportunity to showcase your talent. Maybe that opportunity will come decades from now, as it did for Susan Boyle—but, if you start preparing now, it may come sooner than you think!

—Phil Sena



HEAVEN, HELL AND THE RESURRECTION

By Richard F. Ames

As a minister officiating at funerals over the years, I have seen many widows, widowers and other surviving family members comforted by the truths of their Bible—they know God’s word promises that their loved ones will be resurrected from the dead. On the other hand, I have witnessed the mental anguish of those who assume that an “unsaved” family member or friend is experiencing eternal torment in hell.

In 2004, the Gallup Organization released its “Values and Beliefs” poll, revealing that 81 percent of Americans believe in a heaven, and

70 percent believe in a hell. But beliefs about heaven and hell vary widely. Some get their idea of heaven and hell from works of fiction like the medieval Italian poet Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, while others look to scientific studies of “near death experiences” for clues about what happens after death.

Tomorrow’s World readers know that we look to God’s word for the answers to life’s most basic questions. What does your Bible say about heaven and hell, and about the future hope of those who have died? The good news is that the truth of Scripture can give hope to those who have been deceived by *false information* about heaven and hell.

Hope in the Resurrection

Under questioning by the Sanhedrin, the Apostle Paul explained his core belief. Defending the very basis of his *hope* for life beyond death, he made the *resurrection* the central issue: “But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, ‘Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the *hope* and *resurrection* of the dead I am being judged!’” (Acts 23:6).

Was Paul saying that he would go to heaven when he died? No! Paul was looking forward to the resurrection from the dead at the return of Jesus Christ! Paul wrote of his faith in Christ and his future goal of the resurrection, “that I

may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead” (Philippians 3:10–11).

As shocking as it may sound to those who have absorbed the world’s conventional understanding, the Bible teaches that when people die, they *remain dead* until the resurrection. The *resurrection* is the hope of true Christians! The Apostle Paul wanted us to know the *truth* about the resurrection. He wrote: “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. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are *asleep*” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–15).

Paul used sleep as a metaphor for death. “But surely,” you may be thinking, “there must be some sinners right now being tormented in eternal hellfire?” The Bible’s answer, you may be surprised to discover, is: *Absolutely not!*

Yes, as we will see later, Scripture explains that incorrigibly wicked sinners will be thrown into a lake of fire after the White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:14–15; 21:8). Your Bible calls this eternal punishment (not eternal punish-ing) the “second death”—the final death from which there is no future resurrection. But who goes to that eternal punishment, and when? As we will see later in this article, no one has yet experienced this punishment—and it may apply to fewer people than you expect!

Notice that the Apostle Paul does not describe dead Christians as being active or alive in heaven. They are asleep—dead—until they are resurrected at Christ’s second coming. Paul went on to write: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore *comfort* one



another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18).

Notice that this resurrection takes place “with the trumpet” of God.” That is the *last trumpet*, the seventh trumpet described in the book of Revelation (1 Corinthians 15:52; Revelation 11:15). Notice, too, that “the dead in Christ will rise first.” True Christians who have died will not be resurrected until Christ returns! Those of us who are alive when Christ returns will join those saints who have died in the faith. They will be resurrected to receive the promised gift of eternal life! That is what all genuine Christians today look forward to—the resurrection to immortality at Jesus Christ’s return!

Yes, Scripture contains many references to individual resurrec-

tions from death to physical life, as when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43). But the resurrection for which Christians hope is the resurrection to immortality—the first of three “general” resurrections described in your Bible.

Who Is in Heaven?

Where will Christians go when they are resurrected? Will they spend eternity in heaven? To begin to answer that question, we should ask: “Who is in heaven now?”

What about the heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11, often called the “faith chapter” of your Bible? Certainly, if *any* of them are in heaven, King David (whom God called a man after His own heart in Acts 13:22), must be—

but what does your Bible say?

On the Day of Pentecost in 31AD, the Apostle Peter preached to a large crowd. Telling them of the Messiah’s resurrection from the dead, he explained: “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is *both dead and buried*, and his tomb is with us to this day” (Acts 2:29). And, making it even more clear: “For David *did not* ascend into the heavens” (v. 34).

Jesus Himself made this point plainly, stating: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven” (John 3:13). The Apostle John recorded this statement about 60 years after Jesus’ death and resurrection, so he added a parenthetical statement about His Savior: “that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.” John’s

statement affirms that when he wrote his Gospel in the mid-90s AD, *only* Jesus Christ had ascended to heaven!

Scripture reveals that the saints will inherit the earth and “all things”—the universe (Revelation 21:7; Romans 8:32)! But that inheritance will *not* be given until the resurrection! The Bible clearly shows that the dead remain dead until the resurrection. The idea that people at death go immediately to heaven or hell is based on the pagan doctrine of the immortal soul, which is not in your Bible, but which came in to professing Christianity as it expanded throughout the Roman Empire and many former pagans brought their old doctrines into their new churches!

We need to understand that we were not *born with* immortality. It is a *gift* from God! Remember, “For the wages of sin is death; but the *gift* of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23, KJV). Notice that the scripture does *not* state, “The wages of sin is immortal life in hell-fire.” The wages of sin is not immortal life; it is *death*—the absence of life. If you already have an immortal soul, if you already have eternal life, then you do not need it as a *gift* from God. Yes, a soul can die! The prophet Ezekiel reminds us, “The soul who sins shall die!” (Ezekiel 18:4).

The Hebrew word for “soul” is *nephesh*, which means physical or natural life. In Genesis 2, the same word *nephesh* also refers to every “living thing”—to all animal life, including mammals, fish and birds. The Bible does teach that there is a human spirit, the spirit in man (1 Corinthians 2:11; Job 32:8, 18). But that human spirit is not an immortal soul.

Is the soul immortal? Jesus warned us: “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is

able to *destroy* both *soul* and *body* in hell” (Matthew 10:28). Yes, if you believe your Bible, you must admit, God has the power to destroy the soul!

What Hell Are You Talking About?

This passage of Scripture also gives us one answer to another common question, “Where is hell?”

The word Jesus used for “hell” in Matthew 10:28 was “Gehenna”—a term for the Valley of Hinnom, the burning refuse dump just outside Jerusalem, where trash was burned up and destroyed. In one sense, then, “hell” is the Valley of Hinnom. But the very word “hell” can be misleading, since there are four different words—three in Greek and one in Hebrew—translated as “hell” in your English-language Bible. Each of those words has a different meaning.

In the *King James Version* and *New King James Version*, the Hebrew word often translated as “hell” is *sheol*—which simply means “pit” or “grave.” It does not mean a place of ever-burning fire! That word *sheol* occurs 65 times in the Old Testament, yet in the *King James Version* it is only translated as “hell” 31 times! It is translated as “grave” another 31 times, and as “pit” three times. If you read the *New International Version*, you will see that it never translates *sheol* as “hell”—it simply uses the biblically

and linguistically accurate term “grave.” As you can see, *no one* is burning in *sheol*!

Your New Testament includes three Greek words that are translated as “hell”—*Gehenna*, *Hades* and *Tartarus*—yet each has a different meaning. As noted above, *Gehenna* describes the fire that will destroy the souls of the wicked (Matthew 10:28), not a place where souls will forever burn. The Greek word

Hades, like the Hebrew *sheol*, simply means “pit” or “grave.” If you read the *New King James Version* you will notice that *Hades* is often left untranslated.

The fourth biblical word translated as “hell” is the Greek word *Tartarus*. This word denotes a condition of restraint, and your Bible

shows that it applies to fallen angels, not to sinful human beings. Notice: “God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell [*Tartarus*] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment” (2 Peter 2:4).

So, as you can see, using the English word “hell” for all four words, with their three distinct meanings, does not accurately communicate the truth of your Bible. When someone asks you about hell, you should ask them to clarify: “What ‘hell’ are you talking about?”

Still, you may wonder: “Who goes to hell?” Is God unfair? We know that the name of Jesus Christ



Gustave Doré's 1863 woodcut depicts a scene from Dante's fictional *Inferno*, in which the poet finds Pope Nicholas III tormented for religious corruption. ©Photos.com 2009

is the only name by which anyone can be saved (Acts 4:12). So, does this mean that those who never heard the name of Jesus Christ will be condemned to eternal hell through no fault of their own? Or does God have two unequal standards for people, depending on whether or not they heard Jesus' name?

The answer may surprise you, and it should give you hope. God will give every human being an opportunity to hear the true Gospel. If they respond, accept Jesus Christ's sacrifice, and obey His commandments with the help of the Holy Spirit, they will be saved. "But what about the billions who have lived and died without hearing the Gospel?" The answer is found in the book of Revelation, which describes a future time known as the White Throne Judgment.

The "Books" Will Be Opened

Today's Christians who die in the faith, or who are alive at Jesus Christ's second coming, will be part of the "first resurrection" and will assist their Savior and King as He rules during the soon-coming Millennium on the earth. But if there is a "first resurrection" (Revelation 20:5) there must also be a second resurrection. That second resurrection is the White Throne Judgment. Here is its biblical description: "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the *dead*, small and great, *standing* before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books" (Revelation 20:11-12).

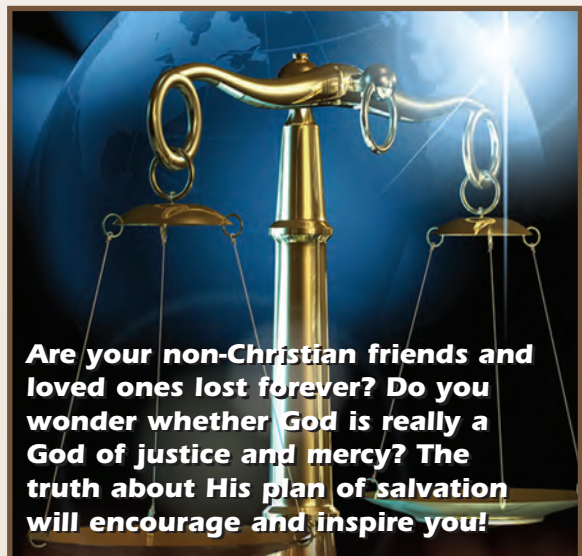
The Greek word for "books" is *biblion*. Yes, after the second resurrection, the "books"—the Bible—will for the very first time be opened to the understanding of the billions of human beings who lived and died before the Millennium without hearing the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Billions will have their first opportunity to learn the truth—and they will have one particular benefit we do not have today, since they will be able to see the results of mankind living its own way in this present age, and compare it against the reality of the world ruled by Jesus Christ. This is not a "second chance" for these people; it will be their one opportunity to understand the truth, repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Sadly, even in the White Throne Judgment, some will reject God's grace and salvation. They will refuse to repent of their sins and will reject Jesus Christ's sacrifice. God will not force these rebellious people to obey Him. He will destroy them in the lake of fire. Finally, those who lived and died knowing the truth, and who rejected it, will be raised for the third resurrection—the resurrection to eternal punishment through death (not eternal life) in the lake of fire. Yes, God is just. He reminds us, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord" (Hebrews 10:30). Standing before the lake of fire, the

wicked will be tormented, then they will be cast into the lake and burned up forever (Revelation 21:8). Never again will they live. "For the wages of sin is death [eternal death], but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Those whom God is calling today have the awesome opportunity to become part of His Family at the first resurrection. But no one needs to fear that others are being denied their own opportunity for salvation. If God has not opened the minds of your friends and loved ones, they will have their opportunity when God wills it. But if God is opening your mind, you need to act now and receive the amazing reward He has prepared for you! ■

Is This the Only Day of Salvation?



Are your non-Christian friends and loved ones lost forever? Do you wonder whether God is really a God of justice and mercy? The truth about His plan of salvation will encourage and inspire you!

Write for our FREE booklet, *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?*

or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

PROPHECY COM

A FAMINE OF THE WORD?

The 21st century began with a global resurgence of religion that surprised secular leaders and scholars. Fundamentalist religious movements are spreading in Africa, China, Russia and South America. Roman Catholic Pope Benedict XVI has spoken of “re-evangelizing” Europe. In North America, “back to-the-Bible” churches are thriving, while liberal “mainstream” churches are losing many members. Proponents of “intelligent design” are challenging evolutionary theory in classrooms and in the courts. All this excites many Bible-believers today, yet the Bible states that there will be a “famine of the hearing of the word” as we approach the end of this age. How can such a “famine” occur alongside a resurgence of religion? The answer is found in what the Bible reveals about religion at the end of the age—in prophecies that are *coming alive* today!

Spiritual Famine Ahead

God inspired the prophet Amos to record: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it” (Amos 8:11–12). This prophecy refers to a time when “the end has come upon My people Israel” (Amos 8:2), and it has dual applications to both the ancient nation of Israel and to modern nations descended from ancient Israel. A “famine” of hearing the truth occurs when the nations of Israel are taken over by a foreign power that prohibits the proclamation and practice of the true biblical faith. This happened

around 720BC when Assyrians carried the northern 10 tribes of Israel into captivity. It will happen again during the Tribulation, when the modern descendants of ancient Israel are punished for their sins (Matthew 24:9; Hosea 5:5; Jeremiah 22:5–9).



The prophet Daniel explains how this “famine” of hearing the truth will come about in the last days. In a vision, Daniel saw a “little horn” dominating the last seven revivals of the Roman Empire (the fourth beast; see Daniel 7:7–8, 19–20). This little horn will be a prominent religious figure (and his church), teaching blasphemous doctrines that contradict Scripture. This “horn” will work to change the calendar of religious observances, and will persecute those who follow Scripture (Daniel 7:21, 24–25).

History records that the bishops of Rome presided over councils that changed the weekly day of worship from the biblical Sabbath (the day observed by Jesus, His disciples and Christians in the apostolic era; see Luke 4:16; Acts 13:42–44; 16:11–13; 17:2) to Sunday. Pagan sun worshipers already observed Sunday; one rationale for the change was that it would make it easier for pagans to convert to this new form of “Christianity.” In a similar manner, Easter was substituted for the biblical Passover, and winter solstice celebrations were “Christianized” to attract pagans into the fold. Roman law backed these ecclesiastical decisions to accept non-biblical doctrines and practices in the name of “Christianity.” In recent years, the papacy has re-emphasized Sunday as a day of worship, and has urged the adoption of European laws enshrining Sunday as a holiday. Such laws could be used in the future to actively discourage observance of the biblical Sabbath and to promote conformity to Sunday observance.

Daniel saw a vision of another “little horn” that would cause the daily sacrifices in the temple in

MES ALIVE

Jerusalem to cease and would “cast truth down to the ground” (Daniel 8:8–14). This dual prophecy was initially fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes when he sacked Jerusalem in 168BC, set up a statue of Zeus in the Temple and offered swine blood on the altar—a great offense to the Jewish people. Antiochus pressured Jewish priests to compromise their religious practices and to accept the process of Hellenization. *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, in its comments on Daniel 8:11–12, states that Antiochus’ actions foreshadow “a determined effort made by a ruthless dictator to completely suppress the biblical faith” at the end of the age, who will attempt to foster religious uniformity.

In yet another vision, Daniel prophesied that a powerful end-time leader, with links to a revived Roman system, will make a seven-year covenant that will at first permit the Jewish people to resume sacrifices, “but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering” (Daniel 9:26–27). This covenant will begin as a token of religious toleration, but after three-and-a-half years “all pretense of religious toleration will be dropped” as this ruler attempts to enforce conformity to a corrupt religion (*Expositor’s Bible Commentary*). This influential end-time religious leader, and his efforts to stifle and obliterate true biblical religion, are clearly linked to the actions of false teachers at the end of the age (Daniel 12:11; Matthew 24:3, 11, 15; Revelation 17:1–5).

New Testament Insights

The New Testament provides key insights about end-time events that will contribute to “a famine... of the hearing of the word of the LORD.” Jesus said that in the years just preceding His return, “many will come in My name... and will deceive many” (Matthew 24:5). False teachers will preach about another Jesus and a different gospel, contradicting the Scriptures (2

Corinthians 11:1–4). Do not be fooled by this false Jesus and different gospel! Remember: Jesus, His apostles and the Church He founded kept a seventh-day Sabbath (from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday), and observed the annual biblical Holy Days. Historical sources and the biblical record show that Jesus was not born on December 25. The Bible states that no one but Jesus has gone to heaven (Acts 2:29, 34; John 3:13).

Human beings were not created to go to heaven, sit on clouds and play harps, but rather to reign on this earth with Jesus Christ in the coming Kingdom of God (Matthew 19:28; Revelation 1:6; 5:10; Daniel 2:44–45; 7:27). This factual biblical information will be suppressed at the end of the age, because it conflicts with traditional beliefs promoted by the religious system that will dominate the world.

The Bible indicates that as we approach the end of this age, militant religious activity will increase (Revelation 6:1–2). In the last days, people will have “a form of godliness,” but it will not be based solidly on the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:1–5; 4:1–4). An influential religious figure will use supernatural powers to deceive people to believe lies, and will suppress the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:1–12). False teachers will “bring in destructive heresies” and will ridicule biblical doctrines and speak evil of the truth, while they twist Scripture to support their erroneous ideas (2 Peter 2:1–3; 3:1–18). This climate of public opinion, critical and dismissive of true biblical Christianity, is developing today, and will culminate in an attempt to stamp out true biblical teaching—an attempt led by a powerful religious figure linked with a revived Roman system in Europe. It is vital that we understand where world events are leading today, and that we “seek the LORD while he may be found” (Isaiah 55:6) because a period of darkness is coming (John 9:4)—and with it will come “a famine... of the hearing of the word of the LORD.”

—Douglas S. Winnail



HUNGER OR HOPE?

More than 1 billion of the earth's nearly 6.8 billion inhabitants are chronically undernourished. Today alone, 16,000 children starved to death or died from hunger-related causes—this is one child every five seconds! And 2009 is predicted to be the worst year yet by far for global hunger. For millions and millions, hope is turning to hunger. Why?

President Obama told journalists in April that the recent "stimulus" measures were "starting to generate signs of economic progress." Indeed, we have seen some positive gains in worldwide stock markets. However, on April 16, the U.S. government reported that the number of people receiving jobless benefits exceeded 6 million for the first time, and housing construction unexpectedly plunged to its second-lowest level on record—fresh evidence that the recession is far from over.

Meanwhile, economists and world leaders such as the German finance minister point to massive monetary injections as greatly increasing the risk of serious inflation and a pattern of worsening "crisis after crisis" (*Financial Times*, April 12, 2009) in the coming years. But what is most sobering is that, regardless of which economic outlook prevails, in the time it took you to read these paragraphs, 45 more people just starved to death. Sadly, statistics giving economic hope remain intractably at odds with world hunger statistics.

What are the main causes of world hunger? Disruptive weather patterns add to economic volatility. Combine a worsening economic crisis with the fear of massive inflation. Now, couple these woes with a recent report that U.S. "farmers intend to idle millions of acres of land this spring as they cut production of most of the nation's major crops," and we see a recipe for worsening U.S. and world hunger. Not only will more people be stretched beyond their financial means, but U.S. food output will decrease by 7.8 million acres over last year, "the biggest one-year drop since 1987" (*Wall Street Journal*, March 31, 2009).

Luxury food item prices are also increasing. In 2008, Nestlé Foods increased chocolate prices

by 8.4 percent in Asia and Africa and by 6.8 percent in North and South America (*Wall Street Journal*, February 20, 2009). Nestlé warns of further price increases on the horizon. Similarly, Cadbury cites cocoa prices at 23-year highs as partially responsible for forcing it to consider further price hikes. Finally, notice that Colombian coffee prices are at 11 year highs, "forcing leading brands in the US to announce increases in their retail prices of almost 20 percent at a time when consumers are tightening their belts" (*Financial Times*, April 9, 2009).

Regardless of short-term stock market gyrations, food availability and food price inflation will be major issues in coming years. Solutions to world hunger continue to be elusive because there are so many causes of world hunger.

For hundreds of millions of people, including most of the world's children, hunger is the reality. Hunger will take another 5,300 children while you sleep tonight. Hunger will take another 16,000 children tomorrow. For many, all they have is hunger. And, it is going to grow worse.

Passages such as Revelation 6:5–6, Isaiah 19:5–8, Jeremiah 14:1–6 and Joel 1:10–20 warn of unprecedented world starvation at the end of the age. We see this specter looming larger than ever before.

But promises such as Psalm 33:18–19 tell God's faithful servants that they personally do not need to fear starvation! And prophecies such as Amos 9:13–15 show us that after Christ's return, the nations will be blessed with tremendous abundance!

Many of us will be saddened by these world hunger statistics and starvation facts, but we will go on about our day. For now, we have our food. But in the time it took you to read this commentary, death took another 200 starving children.

One billion starving fellow humans need Christ to return soon. And it will grow much worse before it gets better.

Read our inspiring and hope-filled booklet *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?* to better understand what is coming. And, pray fervently that God will speed Christ's return.

—Wyatt Ciesielka



“One Small Step...” **(Continued from page 18)**

look at Scripture, the resurrected Jesus Christ was able to “walk through walls” (John 20:19). He was able to “appear or disappear” at will (Luke 24:31, 36). That is what we will be like! Like the glorified Jesus Christ, resurrected saints will no longer be bound by the laws of physics! Will we be able to fly above the clouds, explore the frozen polar regions or dive to the deepest ocean trenches without scuba gear? The ultimate possibilities—with a spirit body and inherent spirit life—are truly amazing!

Notice what the Apostle Paul wrote to explain our coming change at the resurrection: “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed...” (1 Corinthians 15:51–52). The Apostle Paul was explaining, in human terms, that being born into the spiritual realm means *receiving a spirit body not subject to the limitations of the flesh!*

One Giant Leap for Mankind

By its nature, the human body is now bound to the earth. God has uniquely and delicately built our planet just right to sustain human life. For example, the earth’s surface temperature only varies by about 150 degrees—the exact range within which human life can exist. By contrast, the rest of the solar system ranges in temperature from -459 degrees Fahrenheit (-273 degrees Celsius) on the dark side of interplanetary space to more than 27 million degrees Fahrenheit (15 million degrees Celsius) at the sun’s core (see “Energy in the Universe,” *Scientific*

American, September 1971, p. 59). The temperature in most of the solar system is simply inhospitable to human exploration without special gear and life-preserving equipment.

But beings with bodies of spirit are equipped for a whole new world of possibilities for exploration and discovery! While the earth is destined to be mankind’s home, Scripture gives us exciting glimpses of the possibilities of space travel in the future. The author of Hebrews wrote: “You have made him [mankind] a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet” (Hebrews 2:7–8). This describes the current role of humanity, ruling and governing over the earth.

Then, however, he goes on to expand the focus: “For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see *all things* put under him” (v. 8). The Greek phrase translated as “all things” would include the whole universe. As the *Jamieson, Faucet and Brown* commentary points out, “As no limitation occurs in the sacred writing, the ‘all things’ must include heavenly, as well as earthly things.” Ultimately, nothing in the created universe will be excluded from our dominion or rule. God wants to give human beings the opportunity to live and govern not just on the earth, but all over the universe!

As we reflect on the past achievements of mankind’s space programs, we are filled with admiration for the brave men and women who “pushed the envelope” of human endeavor. But as we appreciate human beings’ achievements, we are painfully reminded of our limitations. And we are awed that God has given us a way to leap over that great gulf separating us from Him! As King David pondered, while he looked out into the heavens, “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” (Psalm 8:3–4). Let us thank God for offering us the awesome gift of eternal life. If we submit to Him and obey Him, we will, at the resurrection, have the amazing opportunity to take “one giant leap for mankind” into the very Family of God! ■

Your Ultimate Destiny



God has prepared an amazing future for those who accept Jesus Christ as Savior and who use the Holy Spirit to live the Way Christ taught!

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or download it from the Booklets
section of our Web site
www.tomorrowworld.org.**

Spirit Warfare! (Continued from page 2)

“right” and *what* is “wrong.” The Eternal God who is *very real*—and is already beginning to intervene in human affairs as never before—has **not** given them any such right! From one end of your Bible to the other, God powerfully *condemns* homosexual practices. He also condemns adultery and fornication—and many other vile practices that are increasingly being approved of in our day. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul was inspired to tell us, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9–10).

Why do people try so hard to do away with the concept of a *real* God, a God with authority who governs the world and intervenes in human affairs? When I was growing up, one of the well-known philosophers and “intellectuals” made the following admission: “For myself, as, no doubt, for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation. The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. *We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom...* There was one admirably simple method of confusing these people and at the same time justifying ourselves in our political and erotic revolt: *We could deny that the world had any meaning whatsoever*” (Aldous Huxley, *Ends and Means*, p. 270).

Do you see?

These so-called “intellectuals”—now increasingly *in charge* of our whole way of life—even our businesses and our banks—have the basic concept expressed above! They do **not** believe in the God of the Bible! It is just as simple as that. Such a belief and such a respect for the inspired Bible is rejected because “it interferes with our sexual freedom”—paraphrasing Huxley’s comment. Of course, other vanities and lusts for money and power enter into the equation as well.

But if you personally want to escape the specific prophecies indicating that a “Great Tribulation” is com-

ing upon our peoples if we do not repent, then *you personally* need to *prove to yourself* that there is a very “real” God and begin to **obey** that God. For the plan of Satan is moving swiftly forward in America and the other English-speaking nations! Just a few months ago, only *one* American state permitted so-called “same-sex marriage.” Now, with the Maine legislature recently approving this practice, it appears that **five** states will begin to allow this abomination. With the media feverishly whipping up a storm of protest and even obscenity against anyone who stands up against this wave of immorality, I expect that it will not be long before *most* of our American states permit men to marry men and women to marry women!

If you really understand the motives and methods of these people—which are revealed in their *own writings*—then you will come to understand that, soon, they will also bring in “group sex” and “triad” marriage with one man or two women or two men and one woman or “group marriages” and allow so-called “man-boy love affairs” to continue, eventually approving *bestiality* and almost every vile practice that can be conceived by human beings under the influence of the perverted mind of Satan the Devil.

This is **real**.

My friends, *this* is where we are headed if we do not repent and get back to the laws of Almighty God as our standard of behavior. May God help *you* to understand, and to *act*, before it is too late. The darkness is falling more swiftly than many of you realize. As the Apostle Paul stated, “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 13:12).

If you want further help in **proving** the existence of a real God and the inspiration of His word, please *write us* or *call us* today and request your *free* copy of our truly eye-opening booklet, *The Bible: Fact or Fiction?* Also, be sure to request our very informative and inspiring booklet, *The Ten Commandments*.



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 Los Angeles KPXN THU 12:30 a.m.
 Monterey KION SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Palm Springs KCWQ SUN 8:00 a.m.
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 Miami WPXM THU 12:30 a.m.
 Orlando WOPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Panama City WJHG SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Tampa WXPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 W. Palm Beach WPXP THU 12:30 a.m.
 GA Albany WBSK SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Atlanta WPXA THU 12:30 a.m.
 Augusta WAGT SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Columbus WLGA SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Macon WBMN SUN 8:00 a.m.
 HI Honolulu KPXO WED 11:30 p.m.
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 KY Bowling Green WBKO SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Lexington WUPX WED 11:30 p.m.
 Louisville WBNA THU 12:30 a.m.
 LA Alexandria KBCA SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Lafayette KLWB SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Lake Charles WBLC SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Monroe KNOE SUN 7:00 a.m.
 New Orleans WPXL WED 11:30 p.m.
 MA Boston WBPX THU 12:30 a.m.
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 ME Bangor WABI SUN 8:00 a.m.
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 Grand Rapids WZPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Lansing WLAJ SUN 8:00 a.m.
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 MN Duluth KDLH SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Mankato KWYE SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Minneapolis KPXM WED 11:30 p.m.
 Rochester KTTC SUN 7:00 a.m.
 MO Jefferson City KOMU SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Joplin KSXF SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Kansas City KPXE WED 11:30 p.m.
 MS Biloxi WBGW SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Columbus WCBI SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Greenwood WBWD SUN 7:00 a.m.
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 RI Providence WPXQ THU 12:30 a.m.
 SC Charleston WCBD SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Myrtle Beach WWMB SUN 8:00 a.m.
 SD Rapid City KWBH SUN 7:00 a.m.
 TN Jackson WBJK SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Knoxville WPXK WED 11:30 p.m.
 Memphis WPXX WED 11:30 p.m.
 Nashville WNPX WED 11:30 p.m.
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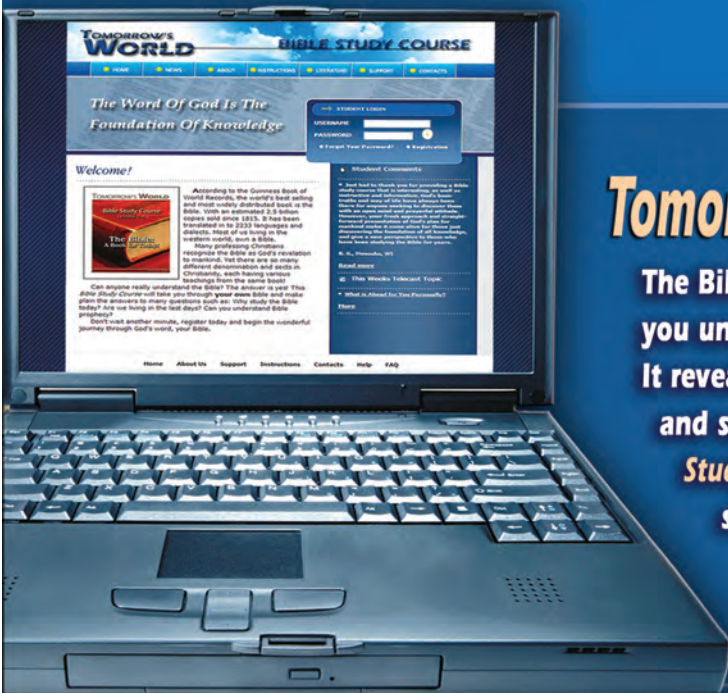
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