Evolution and Tolerance

Which Church Should You Attend?



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THE BURNING QUESTION



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Does "Going to Church" Really Matter?

re you a "stay-at-home Christian"? Maybe you are one of the many millions who, having seen the divisions and confusions among so much of professing Christianity, would rather stay at home to worship God in your own way. For the world's churches are almost entirely teaching a message diametrically opposed in important ways to the real message of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

But where did the very idea of "church" come from? Notice what the Apostle Paul wrote: "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24–25).

Certainly, we do see "the Day" approaching—the end of this present age is not far off, and many of you reading this "Personal" should see it for yourselves when it comes! But how can we stir each other up if we are not together on our day of worship? How can we exhort one another if the television or the Internet is our only connection to God and His people?

Please understand. Television and the Internet are wonderful tools for sharing the true gospel of the coming Kingdom of God. With them, we can reach untold millions who might not otherwise hear the Truth. Jesus Christ Himself commanded His followers: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Yet, to most who hear the gospel message, it will simply be a "witness." When the prophesied endtime events fall upon them, they will not be able to say, "Nobody warned me." But out of the millions who hear the message, a few will respond. What does Christ tell us? "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen" (Matthew 28:19–20).

When God calls people, He calls them to live His way. That way of life, filled with the Holy Spirit, is a

way of doing our best to obey His instructions. And one of those instructions, as noted above, is that Christians are to assemble themselves together. Read my article on page 5 of this issue, and consider the question, "Which Church Should You Attend?"

Maybe you are nervous about meeting others who believe as you believe. Maybe you have had bad experiences in the past. I understand. But I urge you to "break out of your shell" and strive to obey God in ev-



ery way—including this very basic way. For God wants His people to assemble

together. One way in which this Work tries to reach out to those whom God is calling is through what

we call our "*Tomorrow's World* Presentations." A *Tomorrow's World* Presentation usually consists of

two ordained ministers of Jesus Christ, each giving a short and powerful message about end-time prophecy or Christian living. There is no charge to attend, and no donations are requested. Many people come to a presentation and for the first time in their lives find themselves among other like-minded Christians, in an environment where they can ask questions. Some tell us that they have learned more in one afternoon than they learned in decades at their former churches!

Is God Failing?

Yes, there are many churches where people can attend services week after week, year after year, and learn practically nothing about the Truth. Maybe they learn a few rote prayers, and some sentimental

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Tomorrow's World has no subscription price. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of Living Church of God members, and by others who have chosen to become co-workers in proclaiming Christ's true Gospel to all nations. Donations are gratefully acknowledged, and may be tax-deductible. stories about a "little Lord Jesus." But they are not being taught about God's power, or about what God is doing in this present age. Have you ever asked yourself: "If God is all-powerful, and if He is trying to save everyone in this age, why is He failing?" Surely an omnipotent God would not fail at something so important! Those of you who are regular readers of this magazine understand the answer: God is calling only a select few in this present age. For He is training a small group of true Christians who will rule under Jesus Christ in the coming Millennium—a time when the whole world **will** be taught the Truth of God.

If God is opening your mind to understand this truth, there is no way you can be satisfied attending some church that probably meets on the wrong day.

Come and "check us out"! Come to a Tomorrow's World Presentation near you. We hold these presentations around the United States and Canada, and around the world, throughout the year.

Even if it meets on God's Sabbath, the typical worldly church will tell you all sorts of unbiblical things, perhaps paying more attention to the confused writings of a prophetess or of a self-appointed "Apostle" or "Prophet" than to the plain words of Scripture. If this describes you, then I urge you: come and "check us out!" Come to a *Tomorrow's World* Presentation near you. We hold these presentations around the United States and Canada, and around the world, throughout the year. For a complete list, go online to *TomorrowsWorld.org*, where we keep the schedule up to date at all times.

God is training Christians in this age to become the leaders in the world to come! For the "firstfruits" in this age will be born into the very Family of God at Christ's Second Coming, to assist Him in His benevolent Kingship in the coming Kingdom of God. Christ will be the topmost leader—the Leader of leaders and today's Christians will lead under His leadership. Yes, leadership is a topic vital for today's Christians. This is one reason why I am happy to share with you, in this issue, an article about Winston S. Churchill, the British Prime Minister whose leadership saved Britain during the darkest days of World War II. Read Mr. John Meakin's article on page 18. Especially in our day, when true leaders seem to be few and far between, we can learn much from Churchill's example. Most importantly, we can see that Churchill, though far from a perfect man, refused to give up in the face of adversity. He "endured to the end"—as Christians also are commanded to do (Matthew 24:13).

Hope for the Unconverted?

But what of those—like Churchill himself—who, despite a productive life, do not live God's way? Are they condemned to eternity in hellfire? Read Mr. Richard Ames' article on page 10 of this issue. Yes, there is hope for your unconverted relatives, and for the millions who have lived and died without ever hearing the name of Jesus Christ or His true teachings!

But you, my friends, are different. God has given you a witness through this magazine, through the *To*-



morrow's World telecast, and through our Internet presence at *TomorrowsWorld.org*. If God is calling you to

be one of His firstfruits, this is your opportunity for salvation. Do not let it slip away! If you are beginning to understand the biblical seventh-day Sabbath, the annual Holy Days and the 7,000-year "Plan" through which God is preparing humanity for a glorious destiny, then contact the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 4 of this magazine) and ask for a ministerial contact. And if there is a *Tomorrow's World* Presentation near you, do not hesitate—call or go online and request your free invitation right away!

For God may be calling you to be one of His leaders in tomorrow's world. But He is counting on you to respond. Will you do your part? I pray that you will.

Roder & C Meelith

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Are you attending "the church of your choice"? Is this just a matter of personal preference, or did Jesus Christ give clear guidelines for the Church that His people would attend?

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Which Gluck Should You Attend?

By Roderick C. Meredith

B illions of people just "drift" into certain vital decisions that will affect *their entire lives. Should you?* One of those decisions is where *you* should attend church. Many, many people just follow their parents or friends into whatever church they happen to be in. Others try to look for the church with the "best parking lot," or the best *youth program*, or the "best choir."

What?

If there is a real God-the Creator of the heavens and the earth who is *right now* intervening in human affairs to send His Son back to the earth as King of kings-then you and I had better be very careful where and how we try to worship that God! As most of you know, millions of people have been involved in horrifying religious wars over the various "splits" in the Catholic church and in the Protestant movement as well. They took the truth-as they understood it-seriously. Today, for most people, God is "way off" and not "real." So attending church is more of a "social thing" or a way to "meet the right people" in your business or profession to help you get ahead. However, Jesus Christ said: "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24). Jesus also said: "Your word is truth" (John 17:17).

Can you worship God "in vain?" *Jesus* said so! He told the religious leaders of His day about the people they were leading: "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And **in vain** they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:8–9). *Be honest!* Does the church you presently attend follow the traditions of **men**?

When you go into a church service, do you hear a pretty *complete explanation* of important passages in the Bible describing the *whole purpose* of human existence, the **reality** of the God of heaven, the **reality** of His present intervention in human affairs and **why** Almighty God devoted about **one-fourth** of the Bible to **prophecy**? *Do you*? As the American and British-descended people are brought down and God continues to "**break the pride** of our power," it is **vital** that you worship God as you prepare for the **Judgment Day**!

God DOES Have A True Church

Somewhere on this earth, God does have a true Church. That Church is teaching the full **Truth** of the Bible. It will be a Church where the *whole purpose* of human existence is explained and the *vital prophecies* of the Bible are also explained and made **real** to all who attend.

For Jesus also said: "I will build **My** church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). The word "Hades" means **the grave**. So

WHICH CHURCH?

the grave and all the powers of hell **will not** be able to destroy Christ's Church down through the ages. The **true** Jesus Christ is the *living Head* and Ruler of *His own Church*. "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all" (Ephesians 1:22–23).

If *you* are willing to expend the time and intellectual energy to *check up* and **prove it**, you **will** be able to find that Church today! For it is the Church that will be preaching the full Truth of the Bible. As the Apostle Paul told the elders of Ephesus: "For I have not shunned to declare to you the **whole counsel** of God" (Acts 20:27). So God's *true Church* will be composed of those who genuinely **study** the Bible and sincerely follow the very *first instruction* of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospels: "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** of God'" (Luke 4:4).

It is obvious that Jesus was certainly including what we call the Old Testament in this statementfor there was no New Testament written at that time! The entire Bible was inspired by God and is written for us to **study**, to *understand* and to **obey**. The Apostle Paul was inspired to write: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The words contained in our own Bible are the words we should live by-not some other "books" written by men which are not part of the inspired manuscript God guided to be part of His Holy Bible. But Scripture is intended to give us reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. Most churches do **not** let the Bible **correct** them where they are wrong. They will go right on following the "traditions of men" even though these traditions are exposed over and over to have come directly out of paganism and are often directly con*trary* to the Bible!

Where do **you** stand? Will you have the **faith** and **courage** to "check-up" on this and **act** on what you find to be the **Truth**?

Nearly all scholars acknowledge that in Revelation 12, the true Church is pictured as the bride. She is being "persecuted" by the "dragon"—described in verse



9 as Satan the Devil. Although the zealous members are taken to a place of safety, in verse 17 God describes the devil as going to make war with the "remnant" of the true Church—those left behind.

In Revelation 14:12, God goes on to describe His faithful people: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that *keep the* **commandments of God**, and the **faith** of Jesus." These are the people, God indicates, who will be protected from the soon-coming Great Tribulation and the horrifying plagues of God that immediately follow!

Does it make any difference how you worship God? Do *you* want to have *His divine protection* in the perilous times just ahead? Of course you can worship in the church of "your choice"—as the Sunday religious-page ads often say. Of course you can follow the ideas of your relatives, friends and associates! But will *they* "be there" to protect you during the coming world upheaval? More importantly, will they be there to "save" you in God's judgment?

Why not prove to yourself that the Bible is the inspired revelation, from the Creator, of basic spiritual knowledge otherwise inaccessible to mankind? Why not see what the word of God—the Bible—says about where God's true Church is today?

Let the Bible Guide Your Decisions

When Jesus Christ came in human flesh, He *regularly met* with fellow Jews in the synagogue on the Sabbath. The Gospel of Luke tells us: "Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. So He came to Nazareth, where He had been

brought up. And *as His* **custom** *was, He went into the synagogue on the* **Sabbath day**, *and stood up to read.* And He was handed the book of the prophet **Isaiah**" (Luke 4:14–17).

So it was Jesus' "custom" to worship on the seventh-day Sabbath with His fellow Jews. When it came His time—as an adult male Jew—to read God's word in the Sabbath services, He was handed the book of Isaiah. After reading a passage that, in fact, predicted *His very ministry*, Jesus "began to say to them, 'Today this **Scripture** is fulfilled in your hearing" (v. 21).

Jesus called the book of Isaiah "Scripture"—*the very word of God*! He taught, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Here, the Son of God validated what we call the "Old Testament" as **Scripture**—and He said we should live by that inspired Scripture! So all *true* Christians—genuine followers of Jesus Christ—must be willing to live by the inspired teachings of Scripture, *as Jesus commanded*.

The original, *genuine* Church was first and always focused on *teaching* and *preaching* the **inspired word** of God! At services, the ministers and elders *explained* and expounded the Bible—reading *directly* out of the Bible and showing its true explanations of the purpose of life, the laws of God and His plan for all of our lives. Church services seldom if ever emphasized history, philosophy or the "traditions of men."

Although church choirs and activities can cer-

worship Him and learn **His Truth** is on an *entirely different level*!

Jesus told a Gentile woman who worshiped God in a "different" way: "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and *those who worship Him* **must** *worship in* **spirit** *and* **truth**" (John 4:21–24).

If you wish to *genuinely* serve and worship the God of the Bible and His Son Jesus Christ—if you truly want their blessing and protection during

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perilous times just ahead—you should earnestly, persistently and **honestly** try to find the Church that

Jesus Christ built, of which He is the living Head (Ephesians 1:22), the Church that actually preaches and teaches His **full Truth** (Acts 28:30–31) and is doing *His Work* on earth today! You must be willing to sincerely and zealously "seek" the true God. You must be willing to serve and worship Him *in the way* **He** reveals in His inspired word!

Of course, it may be more "convenient" to go to the church of your family or friends, or to the closest

THE ORIGINAL CHURCH WAS FIRST AND Always focused on teaching and Preaching the inspired word of god!

tainly be enjoyable, Church services are truly helpful only insofar as they *fully explain, exhort* and *inspire* believers to truly believe and obey the words of the Bible and to let Christ *live His life in them* through the Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20). Socializing and friendship are wonderful features of the true Church of God. But much of that kind of human interaction can also be found in the Rotary Club or Lions Club or other social forums. Coming before the Creator to neighborhood church. It may be more "fun" to attend a church with a big choir or lots of activities. Yet the Christ of the Bible earnestly warns us, "But **why** do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' *and* **not** *do the things which I say*?" (Luke 6:46). So *why* go to a church where entire passages

and books of the Bible are rarely, if ever, thoroughly explained and expounded in the worship services? Where people attending are not really having their lives, thoughts and actions **changed** by the powerful preaching of God's word? Where the *one-fourth* of the entire Bible that is *inspired* **prophecy** is rarely explained? Where the members gain virtually no understanding that we are now living in the "last **WHICH CHURCH?** CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

Evolution and Tolerance





Canada prides itself on being a tolerant and diverse country. But is it diverse enough to accept those who do not believe in the theory of evolution? Notice this recent news report:

Rick Nicholls, an Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), found himself skewered by the media for revealing that he doesn't believe in evolution. In the wake of his ridicule and condemnation, another politician has been scandalized by the media and his political party. "Veteran Conservative MP James Lunney, who has repeatedly expressed skepticism about the theory of evolution, is quitting the Tory caucus, citing a deliberate attempt to 'suppress a Christian worldview' at the 'senior levels' of politics" (*The Globe and Mail*, "B.C. MP quits Conservatives to defend views on evolution," March 31, 2015).

It appears that Canada's most conservative political party can no longer tolerate those who find fault with the theory of evolution. Certainly, politicians are good at reading the direction in which the wind is blowing, so what does this say about the likelihood of questioning evolution in one of the more liberal-minded parties? Questioning evolution is just not politically correct. Tolerance may be found elsewhere, but not when it comes to the theory of evolution.

Television news reports add a dimension not found in print. It is easy to see the not-so-subtle disdain projected by television news reporters toward any "poor ignorant soul" who might not toe the politically correct party line. It is doubtful that reporters would remain on major television programs if they gave any indication of sympathy towards someone perceived to be so foolish as to question evolution in 2015! Diversity is the name of the game, except when a diversity of opinion may challenge a carelessly held belief in an over-reaching scientific theory that will not tolerate any opposition.

Interestingly, some of the most vocal and powerful voices questioning evolution do not come from the religious right, but from highly educated scientists and philosophers. Michael Denton, who received part of his education at the University of Toronto, considers himself an agnostic, even though he is generally credited as the one who ignited the Intelligent Design movement. The late Antony Flew, after 50 years promoting atheism, authored There Is A God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind. Flew concluded that new evidence in microbiology could lead to no other conclusion. Yet, while his scientific analysis led him to recognize an intelligence behind life, Flew did not identify that intelligence with the God of the Bible; he assumed an impersonal intelligence at the core of the design of the universe.

At the University of Guelph, just a couple hours up the road from Rick Nicholls' riding ("electoral district" would be the term familiar to U.S. readers) in Chatham/Essex/Kent, Professor Michael Ruse taught philosophy courses for 35 years. Ruse, a passionate advocate for evolution, has since retired to Florida, but he would be among the first to recognize Nicholls' right to express his contrary view about evolution. Ruse, who calls himself a "skeptic" rather than an "agnostic," regularly debates proponents of Intelligent Design, and co-authored Debating Design with I.D. advocate William Dembski.

Ruse is the author of an essay titled, "Why I Think the New Atheists Are a Bloody Disaster." He points out that there are certain metaphysical underpinnings that accompany evolutionary theory, to the dismay of many prominent evolutionists who have been angered by his work. Ruse wrote: "If teaching 'God exists' is teaching religion—and it is—then why is teaching 'God does not exist' not teaching religion? Obviously it is teaching religion." Though some try to imagine a kind of "theistic evolution" not supported by the actual scriptures of any

The more we learn from microbiology about the complexity of life, the more faith it takes to believe in a random, unplanned, chance convergence of the many complex events that would need to occur make life to "just happen"

religion, the fact is that "macro-evolution"-the idea that one species can develop into another-is by definition a theory that has no need for God.

The more we learn from microbiology about the complexity of life, the more faith it takes to believe in a random, unplanned, chance convergence of the many complex events that would need

to occur to make life "just happen." And it is significant that, despite all our technological advances and knowledge about the building blocks of life, mankind has not even once been able to replicate this process and create life from non-life.

Skeptic Denton, in his blockbuster book, Evolution: A Theory in Crisis, explains why so many people are eager to jump on the bandwagon of evolution. He writes: "The fact that every journal, academic debate and popular discussion assumes the truth of Darwinian theory tends to reinforce its credibility enormously. This is bound to be so because, as sociologists of knowledge are at pains to point out, it is by conversation in the broadest sense of the word that our views and conceptions of reality are maintained and therefore the plausibility of any theory or world view is largely

dependent upon the social support it receives rather than its empirical content or rational consistency. Thus... the validity of Darwinian theory... could not even conceivably be wrong" (Denton, pp. 74-75).

So, are Messrs. Lunney and Nicholls really out of touch with reality? And should their sincere question-

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ing of an unproven theory rob them of a place in the diversity kettle in which Canadians pride them-

selves? Have they been given a fair shake in the media and among their fellow parliamentarians? Not according to Lunney:

> "My remarks were inflated by media, blended with other unrelated but alleged heretical statements and became a top story on national media creating a firestorm of criticism and condemnation ... it is clear that any politician or candidate of faith is going to be subjected to the same public scrutiny in coming elections.

> In a society normally proud of embracing difference, the role of the media and partisan politics in inciting social bigotry and intolerance should be questioned. Such ignorance and bigotry cloaked in defence of science is as repugnant as bigotry of any other origin. It is based in a false construct from another century and is a flagrant violation of a society that is multicultural, multi-racial and multi-faith and strives to be accepting of differences" (The Globe and Mail, March 31, 2015).

Whose "reality" matters, anyway? Certainly not the facile acquiescence required of the politically correct; the Bible warns that only fools claim there is no God, and that these fools' deeds are corrupt (Psalm 14:1; 53:1). Will you believe the arguments of those whose anti-God, pro-evolutionary ideas will "end in destruction" (Philippians 3:18-19)? Or will you believe that God the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, are truly the ones who created all things? (Isaiah 42:5; John 1:3). There is evidence! The choice is yours to seek it.

—Gerald E. Weston



Who is in hell right now? Your unconverted relatives? People who never heard of Jesus Christ? Your Bible explains the truth about the afterlife, and what really happens when you die!

By Richard F. Ames

s 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 2007, the Gallup Organization released its "Values and Beliefs" poll, revealing that 81 percent of Americans believe in a heaven, and 69 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.

Asleep Until the Resurrection

Under questioning by the Sanhedrin, the Apostle Paul explained his most cherished beliefs. 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

AS SHOCKING AS IT MAY SOUND, When People die they remain Dead Until the resurrection

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 resurrections 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 Messi-

ah'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 entered 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 1, 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?

Perhaps the most common concept of hell in the Western nations today comes from the famous Italian poet Dante Alighieri, who wrote his *Divina Commmedia* or *Divine Comedy*, consisting of three parts: *Paradiso, Purgatorio* and *Inferno, or Paradise, Purgatory* and *Hell.*





Sheol (Hebrew: לוֹאָש): a pit, grave, hole in the earth

In Dante's *Inferno*, the poet Virgil guides Dante on a mythical journey through hell. At Hell's entrance is a foreboding sign, with the words: "Abandon All Hope, You Who Enter Here." Virgil tells Dante what he can expect on his journey. "I'll be your guide, and you will follow me, and I will lead you through a world of pain where dead souls writhe in endless agony and clamor, as they cry, to die again" (Canto I, p. 24).

Many will be shocked to learn that this vivid imagery does **not** come from your Bible! The Hell of Scripture is not what Dante portrayed! But if that is true, what and where is Hell? The above-mentioned Matthew 10 reference gives us part of the answer. 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." By its very definition, we can understand that no one is burning in *sheol*!

Along with *Gehenna*, which describes the fire that will destroy the souls of the wicked (Matthew 10:28), your New Testament includes two other Greek words that are translated as "hell." 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 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 oppor-

NO ONE NEEDS TO FEAR THAT Others are being denied their <u>Own opportunity for salvation</u>

tunity 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 *biblia*. 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 consequences of mankind living its own way in this present age, and compare it against the reality of the Millennial 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 (John 5:29). 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!



MAY WE SUGGEST? *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* God is both fair and just, and will offer salvation to all human beings! Request a **free** printed copy of this booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



I, HUMAN?

In our high-tech world, do human beings really understand their true potential?

osmologist Stephen Hawking believes "the development of full artificial intelligence [AI] could spell the end of the human race." Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX and product engineer of Tesla Motors, warns that AI might be one of the greatest threats facing our civilization. Are such fears justified? Will AI be the doom of the human race?

During the mid-20th century, the noted science-fiction writer Isaac Asimov grew frustrated with the common and simplistic sci-fi theme of deranged robots with "Frankenstein complexes" turning on their human masters. He wrote a series of short stories (*I, Robot*, 1950) offering new perspectives of how and why AI might turn on humanity. But, just as the fear of world-conquering AI preceded Asimov, it has outlived him—and continues to inspire the

popular imagination, and movie after movie, more than ever.

Movie critics often deride films like *Terminator*, *Oblivion*, and even the movie adaptation of *I*, *Robot* as the simplistic "Frankenstein's monster" scenarios Asimov deplored. Yet these movies have remained popular which is unsurprising, as they reflect ongoing real-world worries.

Consider this recent statement from *The Economist*: "Dread that the abominations people create will become their masters, or their ex-

ecutioners, is hardly new. But... with supercomputers in every pocket and robots looking down on every battlefield, just dismissing them as science fiction seems like self-deception" (May 9, 2015).

Which Danger Is Greater?

Yet, what should worry us more: our ever-more-amazing machines and computers from phones to toys to weapon systems—or our own human nature? From *I, Robot* to *Terminator* and beyond, these stories share a sobering undertone that goes beyond simple murderous machine mayhem. They suggest AI could decide to take over, not just to preserve itself, but even to fulfill its robot mission by protecting mankind from self-destruction—even if this meant enslaving the very life forms it was made to protect.

Given these fears, alongside modern advances in technology, it is no surprise that commentators from many fields ask: what are the limits of AI? Will machines one day fully recognize—and even perfectly imitate or develop—human emotions? And when, if ever, will mankind's creations develop the intelligence to take matters into their own hands, unstoppable by their human creators?

Albert Einstein, the famed physicist and theoretician, once said, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." But, even during Einstein's time, nuclear weapons had put humanity within reach of its own complete annihilation—with or without the help of AI.

The Bible does not specifically tell us what kind of technology will be directly involved in our age's last

Will machines one day imitate or develop human emotions?

great battle. However, it does make painfully clear that despite our great progress, left to ourselves we will ultimately "corrupt" our "way on earth," (Genesis 6:12) and ultimately destroy ourselves (Matthew 24:21–23).

It also assures us that not even our own "intelligent machines" will save us. Our only salvation will come from a different source: our God and Creator, who is still in the process of designing and fashioning us so that we will one day learn a better way to use our human intelligence.

That better way concerns first an "elect" whom God is calling now—but will ultimately encompass everyone who will come to accept it. God planned it from the beginning (1 Peter 1:17–20), and it starts for each of us with Jesus Christ. Will you start learning your true potential, today?

—William L. Williams

置London CALLING

Seventy Years After VE Day: Unity Lost?



n May 8, 1945, millions of civilians and armed forces personnel exuberantly celebrated on the streets of London. After years of nightly blackouts to lessen the threat of bombing raids, public buildings like Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament were lit with floodlights. Church bells rang out across the country, tugboats on the River Thames sounded their horns, and Union flags and bunting decorated buildings everywhere.

May 8, 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, or VE Day—the day the carnage and horrific events of six years of warfare officially came to an end in the European arena. In his speech to the nation that day, Sir Winston Churchill, the wartime Prime Minister of Great Britain, praised the fortitude and stiff upper lip of a population unified in the face of war. "I say that in the long years to come not only will the people of this island but of the world, wherever the bird of freedom chirps in human hearts, look back to what we've done and they will say 'do not despair, do not yield to violence and tyranny, march straightforward and die if need be—unconquered.'"

Over the intervening years how well has Britain lived up to this lofty rhetoric? Are the people of Britain today setting the same powerful, stalwart example of unity in the face of external threats to the freedom and well-being of the nation? So much has changed since 1945.

Return to Normalcy?

After World War II, everyone's hope was for a rapid return to pre-1939 conditions, in which Britain enjoyed world power status. But this was not to be. Britain, exhausted and depleted by all the effort involved in her defense of freedom and democracy, was on the verge of bankruptcy. The Lend-Lease program sponsored by the U.S. from March 1941 to assist its allies with food, oil and materiel abruptly ended in September 1945. This was replaced by the Anglo-American Loan Agreement in July 1946, but now the relationship became one of patron-client, with America calling the shots. One of the conditions of the loan, charged at a controversial two percent interest, was the ending of Imperial Preference, in which sterling currency and trade within Britain's dominions and colonies predominated. Sterling would no longer remain the world's reserve currency and barriers to global trade were to be dismantled. British interests in the Pacific were to be ended, favoring the development of U.S. power in the region. Britain's days of being a world power were now truly over.

For the population of Britain, many restrictions like the rationing of the war years continued, even until 1954. The sustained aerial bombardment during the war had focused on major cities and industrial regions. Key places where the trade and transportation infrastructure was now needed, had to be re-established rapidly as the economy got back on its feet. In 1947, U.S. Secretary of State, George Marshall proposed the European Recovery Program (ERP), or Marshall Plan as it became known. He was convinced economic stability would provide political stability in Europe. Much of the Marshall Plan's \$13 billion worth of loans were used to buy manufactured goods and raw materials from the U.S. and Canada, with Britain commanding the largest share of more than \$3 billion.

Looking back, the positive economic effects of the plan may have been less than the political ones. The

ability of allied European governments to somewhat relax their austerity measures and rationing improved the general morale of their citizens and brought more political stability. Subsequently, without evidence of extremely strong public discontent, any potential foothold for communist political ideas was minimized. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was established in 1949 to focus on the freedom and security of its member states in this North Atlantic region. NATO can trace its roots back to the strong trade relations established under the Marshall Plan.

Ultimately, with the benefit of 70 years of hindsight, the Marshall Plan can also be seen to have kick-started European integration—something many European leaders could see at the time was required to ensure peace and increased prosperity. The Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) was started in 1948 by Robert Marjolin of France to administer the Marshall Plan funds. Ultimately the European Economic Community (EEC) later established in 1957 would draw on valuable experience gained with the OEEC structure and organisation.

Burdened Britain

Today, 28 member states of the European Union are still undergoing economic and political growing pains on a major scale as new EU memberships spread eastwards. Germany's influence is increasing step by step as the influence of other Western European nations declines.

Today Britain is chronically weak and burdened by mountainous debts, despite a nascent recovery in the economy. Her armed forces are but a faint shadow of what she possessed after World War II. Since Britain joined the E.U. her capacity to govern herself has been vastly eroded, leading to deep divisions and wrangling as to whether or not the country should remain part of the E.U.

to how best to recover from the country's deep economic malaise. Following the outcome of the recent general election in which a slim majority Conservative government attempts to govern, the prospect of Scotland breaking up the U.K. has become a serious possibility. David Cameron, recognizing this disunity threat, stated in his first speech as the re-elected Prime Minister, "We will govern as a party of one nation, one United Kingdom." At the same time the German newspaper Die Zeit pointed out, "Mr. Cameron's promised referendum on EU membership could

Britain is now faced by internal, existential threats

to the U.K. itself, brought about by wrangling related

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drive the Scots and the English even further apart" ("Election 2015: Stability at the top as David Cameron keeps

key Cabinet ministers in-as it happened" Daily Telegraph, May 8, 2015).

It is ironic that VE Day in 2015, intended as a national celebration of unity and victory, should follow immediately after one of the most divisive general elections in living memory, in which disunity has predominated.

Churchill Wondered

Sir Winston Churchill asked another thought-provoking question in his VE Day address in May 1945: "When shall the reputation and faith of this generation of English men and women fail?" Where today are leaders of Churchill's stature? Read "Churchill: A Lesson in Leadership" on page 18 of this issue.

From what we see in today's news, Great Britain has been massively diminished by both internal and external factors since Churchill uttered these words. She risks becoming Little Britain, a dis-United Kingdom, inward-looking and shorn of her previous standing in the world, unable to govern herself and increasingly even to defend herself or her interests, facing an uncertain economic future.

You need to learn why all this is happening and what God prophesies for the years ahead. Read our powerful booklet The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy and request our reprint article "Resurgent Germany-A Fourth Reich?" for more biblical background on these modern day events.

—Simon Roberts







"We are all worms, but I do believe that I am a glow-worm." —Winston Churchill to Lady Violet Asquith, 1906

By John Meakin

hroughout his long and combative political career, many concluded that Winston Churchill's character and leadership were simply not up to the demands of the highest political office. Nonetheless, Churchill "glowed" so brightly as Prime Minister in World War II that historians credit him with saving the United Kingdom from what otherwise would have been ignominious defeat.

At the 50th anniversary of his death, and the 70th anniversary of V-E Day, what lessons can we learn from the life of this remarkable man?

Born to Lead?

Winston Churchill was born in 1874 to an aristocratic English family made famous by the exploits of his forebear John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, who led English forces to success in the War of the Spanish Succession against the French (1701–1714). Subsequent generations of the family, however, were not nearly so distinguished. His father, Lord Randolph Churchill was a younger brother of the 8th Duke and married the American socialite and heiress, Jennie Jerome, making Winston half American.

Randolph was a Conservative politician whose driving ambition was to become Prime Minister. He was an outstanding speaker who rose to become Secretary of State for India and Chancellor of the Exchequer. But his career foundered and his life was cut short by illness; he died aged 43 in 1895. Winston idolized his father and saw his own future task in life as fulfilling his father's potential; he too would become a Member of Parliament.

Winston was very intelligent but not self-disciplined or well behaved at school. Yet, those who met him commented that even as a schoolboy Winston possessed unusual qualities that marked him out as extraordinary, with genius and the capacity to work hard and at a speed that would take him far in the direction he wanted to go.

Young Winston particularly had the strongest sense of his own personal destiny. Even as a teenager he had an uncanny intuition that one day he would be in command of the defenses of London and that he would save London, the nation and the Empire (*In Search of Churchill*, Martin Gilbert, p. 215). Most would not disagree that humanly he became the savior of his country, just as he had anticipated. Churchill saw himself as "a man of destiny, intended by Providence to play a heroic role on the stage of history" (*Churchill, the Unexpected Hero*, Paul Addison, p. 3).

From Battlefield to Ballot Box

From his youth, Winston knew he wanted to join the army after finishing his schooling. He trained for the cavalry with the explicit purpose of seeing action, gaining medals and making himself as widely known as possible before pursuing a political career in Parliament.

His strategy was to write about his exploits for British newspapers and in books, earning not just money, but also reputation along the way. He also immersed

CHURCHILL

himself in continuous self-education, reading voraciously on historical and political topics to prepare for his chosen future. Later in life, he quipped that "history will be kind to me for I intend to write it."

Famously, he took part in battles in Cuba, India, Egypt, Sudan and South Africa before leaving the army in 1900 to further his political career by lecturing widely on his military experiences and the books he had written about them. By this time, he had become financially independent and so widely known his biographer Robert Massie calls him "the most famous young man in England"—that he was able to win election as a Conservative Member of Parliament at the tender age of 26.

Driven to Succeed

It is said that Churchill's political career was like the ups and downs of the British children's game "Snakes and Ladders." First elected as a Conservative, he moved to the Liberal Party in 1904. An opponent of socialism, he nevertheless helped draft Britain's first unemployment pension law and pressed for budget reforms that would have greatly increased taxes on rich Britons to subsidize new and expanded welfare programs.

World War I, with its horrors of mustard gas and trench warfare, made a generation of Britons wary of military entanglements. Yet Churchill saw the importance of Britain's continued military strength. Returning to the Conservative Party in 1924, he served under Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin as Chancellor of the Exchequer until Baldwin's government fell to Labour, led by Ramsay MacDonald.

Thus began Churchill's "wilderness years." Having spent most of the previous 20 years in one key government post or another, Churchill endured his next decade in virtual exile among his more popular political colleagues. Few wanted to hear his message that Britain would face danger if it did not rebuild a strong military. Few took seriously his warnings of the growing threat posed by a resurgent Germany, chafing under the strictures of the Versailles Treaty.

A Turning Point

When Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, who not long before had proclaimed "peace in our time" and championed his ac-



A young Churhill as Member of Parliament for Oldham in 1904

cord with Adolf Hitler, did not have the confidence of the British people. So who would lead Britain?

King George VI, whose job it was to nominate a new Prime Minister, consulted with top British leaders, and only one name consistently emerged as uniquely fit to lead Britain in its crisis time of war: Winston Churchill.

In retrospect, it is easy today to take for granted Britain's victory in World War II. But that victory was by no means assured in the dark days of 1940. John Lukacs, the eminent American historian, devoted his masterly book, *Five Days in London: May 1940*, to

Books About Churchill

To learn more about this pivotal figure in Anglo-American history, you may want to read a good biography of the man. For readers who enjoy serious historical works, we suggest:

The Last Lion, Volumes 1, 2, and 3, by William Manchester and Paul Reid (1983, 1988, 2010)

Churchill, by Paul Johnson (2010)

Churchill: Visionary, Statesman, Historian, by John Lukacs (2002)

CHURCHILL CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

If you give it all away, how can you be a generous giver?

Question: Acts 4:32–35 shows Christian brethren holding "all things in common." Does this mean that some form of "spiritual communism" is God's ideal way? Should churches today try to follow this biblical practice?

Answer: We read in the book of Acts: "Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common... Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need" (4:32–35).

What should we make of this? Should Christians sell their belongings, or sign them over to a church or its leader?

Notice that we find no such practice mentioned in the epistles of Paul, Peter or John. We do not find this practice repeated elsewhere in congregations under the apostles' authority. Surely, if the apostles had intended to make this a normal Church practice, they would have continued it at least somewhere else as they evangelized other regions. Rather, we find the opposite: the apostles affirmed the idea of private property, while continuing to encourage generous Christian charity.

The New Testament writers did not condemn personal ownership; rather, they assumed it. That people had a right to their own property simply was not an issue for them. For instance, the commandments against stealing and covetousness confirm personal ownership of property and state that God condemns taking what is not yours (Exodus 20:15, 17). Christ and the apostles affirmed these commandments (i.e. Matthew 5:19; Mark 10:19; John 14:15, 21; 1 John 2:3–4, 22; 3:24; 5:2–3; 2 John 6; Revelation 12:17; 14:12). And there are numerous instances in the New Testament of the ownership of houses (i.e., Acts 10:6; Acts 12:12; 21:8; Romans 16:3–5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15). We find examples of property ownership by Church members throughout the New Testament.

While personal ownership was taken for granted, generous charity was encouraged. God is love, and giv-

ing is inherent in His character. If we had no personal ownership, how would we learn to give and be generous? "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). To be cheerful givers, we must have something to give.

A husband and wife, Ananias and Sapphira, sold some land, but held back some of the proceeds in a hypocritical attempt to get credit for a gift to the Church. "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God'" (Acts 5:1–4). Clearly, Peter thought Ananias and Sapphira owned their property and its sale price.

So, why did the brethren in Jerusalem share their possessions shortly after the Church was founded there on Pentecost? Consider that many new breth-

The New Testament writers did not condemn personal ownership; rather, they assumed it.

ren had journeyed far to Jerusalem for Pentecost and had stayed after receiving the Holy Spirit. They would have had considerable need, and the generosity of the local members provided for them.

Sadly, some covetous modern-day ministers give Christianity a bad name when they try to use Acts 4:32–35 to take the property of misguided believers. To do so is **not** biblical! "And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words..." (2 Peter 2:2–3).

God's word teaches us to use what we own responsibly and charitably, to build a giving character—like His. Generous giving is following God's example. God requires a tithe from His servants, but He expects us to exercise our free will when we give offerings.

COMES ALIVE

Forgotten Lessons

any people today are concerned that world events are heading in a *dangerous* direction. Spreading violence, global brutality and widespread corruption in governments and society dominate the news. Many see the erosion of Western society's foundational Judeo-Christian values and the ensuing moral decay—and they wonder, *where are these trends leading*? What does the future hold? While critics scoff, Bible prophecies *reveal* that our modern world is approaching a fateful milestone in history.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ promised His disciples that He would return (John 14:1-3) and set up His kingdom on this earth (Daniel 7:27; Acts 1:6). He also predicted that His second coming would *surprise* many (Matthew 24:44). Yet, He told believers to "watch" for a series of specific events indicating that His return was near (see Matthew 24). One prominent sign that Jesus said would immediately precede His return would be that conditions in the world would resemble an earlier moment in human history, right before a worldwide crisis, "as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:37). We are witnessing these end-time prophecies *coming alive today!*

Days of Noah

Many assume the biblical story of Noah is simply a myth. Yet, Jesus refers to the events of Noah's day as *fact*. The Apostle Paul warned us to learn from these ancient events because they "were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Corinthians 10:11). Noah lived during a time when God dramatically intervened in human affairs for definite reasons—reasons that are re-emerging today. The Bible

records that God brought human civilization to a standstill because "the wickedness of man was great... and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... The earth was also corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence... for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth" (Genesis 6:5-12). Humankind had turned totally away from God and His ways in headlong pursuit of evil. That is why God *destroyed* the ancient world with a flood.

The Scriptures and historical sources reveal sobering parallels between Noah's time and our age. The Bible states that men of Noah's day "took wives for themselves of all whom they chose" (Genesis 6:2). Considering the wickedness that characterized the times, rabbinical scholars 1,500 years ago observed these unions probably included other men's wives, other men, and even animals. The influence of this perverted behavior persisted beyond the flood when a homosexual act took place between a drunken Noah and his grandson Canaan (Genesis 9:20-25). The Bible clearly labels this kind of sexual activity as an "abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). God terminated a civilization that had gone totally off track—one riddled with violence, perversion and all sorts of evil-and this historical record has been preserved as a warning for us today.

Sodom, Gomorrah and Beyond

Both the Bible and history demonstrate that human civilizations have a tendency to turn away from biblical standards of conduct. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah provide a vivid example of how human wickedness results in divine punishment. The Bible records that a major reason why God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah was the people's rampant homosexuality. When two angels visited Lot, who lived in Sodom, "the men of Sodom, both old and young... surrounded the house... they called to Lot and said to him, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have sex with them'" (Genesis 19:1-5, NIV). The prophet Ezekiel records that the sins of Sodom also included "pride, fullness of food ... abundance of idleness" and lack of support for the poor and needy (Ezekiel 16:49-50). However, the biblical account refers to the activities that characterized the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as an "abomination" to God-which is how God views perverted sexual practices (Leviticus 18:6-24). As a result of these sins, "the LORD rained brimstone and fire [burning sulfur] on Sodom and Gomorrah" (Genesis 19:24). Archeologists have found ancient settlement remains (Early Bronze III), located near Bab edh-Dhra on the southeastern edge of the Dead Sea, showing evidence of destruction by earthquake and fire (see Archeological Study Bible). God's punishment for wickedness was final!

Warnings Ignored

A sobering lesson for us today is that throughout history, multiple warnings of impending divine judgement were ignored and ridiculed by people who heard them. Noah was a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5) who warned his generation of its impending demise for about 120 years (Genesis 6:3), yet only eight people— Noah's family—heeded the warnings. Lot's sons-in-law thought he was "joking" when he told them to flee from Sodom because it was going to be destroyed (Genesis 19:14). The prophet Ezekiel repeatedly warned the nations of Israel (Samaria) and Judah (Jerusalem) that God would punish them because they had *forgotten* why Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed—yet they



were guilty of similar abominations (Ezekiel 16:46– 52)—and they suffered terrible consequences.

The Apostle Paul predicted that "in the last days" men would be "lovers of themselves, lovers of money... proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents... unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:1-5)—an accurate description of our modern world. Today, we live in a society that



is increasingly violent and corrupt—just as in the days of Noah. Beheadings, crucifixions and torture are again

making news. Adultery, fornication, pornography and divorce are rampant in the Western world. The acceptance and promotion of homosexuality and same-sex marriage—once condemned as perverted behaviors are now termed "alternative lifestyles" and are rapidly spreading in nations that once professed belief in biblical morality. Killing unborn babies by abortion has gained acceptance, and euthanasia is an option in some of these same nations.

When societies ignore the lessons of history and begin to live as if there is no God—as if there is no such thing as right or wrong-there will be consequences. David wrote in the Psalms that only fools say "There is no God" (Psalm 14:1) and "nations that forget God" will be destroyed (Psalm 9:17). A series of prophets warned the ancient Israelites they would suffer divine punishment because they had forgotten God (Hosea 8:14; Jeremiah 13:24-27)—which included military defeat, destruction of their cities and foreign captivity. Moses warned the Israelites, "after my death you will become utterly corrupt... and evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger (Deuteronomy 31:29)—which is where we are today. In spite of these ancient warnings, Bible prophecies reveal that "scoffers will come in the last days" who will forget history's lessons, ignore warnings and mock the idea that Jesus Christ will return (2 Peter 3:1-10). We need to remember George Santayana's sobering observation, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." As the world approaches another critical turning point, the question is: Will you forget, or will you remember the lessons of history?

—Douglas S. Winnail

days"? Where they are not shown the specific events to "watch" for that will precede Christ's return to this earth?

Why, indeed, would **anyone** want to waste their time in a place like that?

It Is Time To "Get Real!"

As **end**-time prophetic events speed up—as the **prophesied** droughts, earthquakes, disease epidemics and acts of **terrorism** begin to affect us more and more—are the clapping, singing people in some neighborhood church going to "save" you? *Who* can genuinely protect you and your loved ones if you are unwilling to *seek* and to *worship* the God of the Bible "in *spirit* and in **Truth**"?

Through *Tomorrow's World* magazine and this Work, *you* have been brought into contact with the true Church of God. *If* God is truly opening your mind, and *if* you have the courage to **act** on the Truth, I encourage you to "follow through." *Check up* on us even more. **Prove** what we are teaching out of the words of *your own Bible*. Our teaching can easily be *validated* and *proved* from the Bible itself—for it *is* the **Truth**.

I encourage you to *call* or *write* today and ask for more of our *free* literature. As you have probably noticed, *all* of our literature is absolutely *free*. If you really want to understand, there are **two vital booklets** I especially urge you to request. *Restoring Original Christianity* will open your eyes to what *really* happened to "mainstream" Christianity and what a true Christian should do. *Where Is God's True Church* *Today?* will clearly spell out—with specific **proofs** from the Bible—the vital *identifying signs* of God's true Church so you can recognize *where* that Church is today.

The organization that publishes *Tomorrow's World* strives to **really** follow the *Bible*. As you know, we in the Living Church of God try to follow all of the above truths with all our hearts. That is why we strive to powerfully proclaim to the whole world the end-

THROUGH THIS WORK, YOU HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO CONTACT WITH THE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD

time prophecies of the BIble. That is why we do all we can to specifically warn the Israelitish peoples of the coming Great Tribulation. With our Headquarters in Charlotte, NC, offices all around the globe, scores of local congregations with resident ministers, worldwide radio, television and Internet coverage and a growing *publishing work* including this very article and *Tomorrow's World* magazine, that message is *going out with increasing* **power**.

Now, *you* must decide what to do about this article. Perhaps it will merely be helpful to you to consider these obvious, biblical identifying "signs" of where God is working—where His true Church is today.

But if your interest goes beyond that—*if* God is calling you and *if* we can *serve you personally*—do not



hesitate to write us at the address of our office nearest you. We can answer your questions by mail. *Or, if you request it,* a fully-trained representative of this Work will call on you in person at a time and place agreeable to you.

You must decide.

If you would like to visit with a minister or representative of this Work, then **call** our office nearest you as listed on the "Regional Offices" page near the front of this magazine. Or *write* or email our nearest office, if you prefer. Just state your desire for a visit and give your address and/or phone number so our representative may contact you. Be assured that *no one* will show up without previously *scheduling* a visit at a time and place agreeable to you. Our minister or representative will be there simply to *answer your questions* about the Bible or about this Work and the Living Church of God.

There will be *no pressure* for you to "join" anything and *no solicitation* of money for *any* purpose. But *you* will have the opportunity to talk with a *true* minister or representative of Almighty God and more thoroughly *check us out* in a personal way and ask about attending worship services or a Bible study **if** you wish. Often, our minister may suggest that you read more literature, *prove* the truths of the Bible to yourself more thoroughly and be more sure of your com-

AS THE END OF THIS AGE SWIFTLY APPROACHES, WE SHOULD NOT JUST SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING!

mitment *before* attending any meetings. For we want *you* to be sure. We are trying to *serve you* in your quest for eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

However, if God is truly opening your mind and "calling" you, we are sure that you will be delighted to meet with others who have been willing to genuinely give their lives to God and in service to their fellow man. You will find a group of happy people often with little children—who bring their Bibles to services, and are like the Bereans, who "received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:10–11). There will usually—depending on the size of the group and the local situation—be singing of hymns, announcements of any activities, news of the Work, helpful sermons and a great deal of enthusiastic visiting and fellowshipping after the meetings.

May God help you to "prove all things: hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV). As the end of this age swiftly approaches, we should not forever sit around speculating and doing nothing! God rewards those who zealously act on the Truth and do all they can to get involved in serving Him and in serving their fellow human beings in God's service. As James was inspired to tell us: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22). Again, be sure to request a free copy of our extremely helpful and thoroughly documented booklets, Restoring Original Christianity and Where Is God's True Church Today? My friends, you really **need** these vital booklets to **prove** to yourself where God is working! So take action! Contact us right *now-before you forget*-and request your **free** copies of these booklets!

God help *you* to understand and to get involved while you still have the opportunity! You may now

be in your "comfort zone" in some other church fellowship. Or you may be among the *millions* of "nones"—those people who belong to *no church* and are often *bored* or simply "turned off" by the emptiness of "mainstream" religion. But—if God is calling you at this time—your Creator wants you to be an *active part* of His Church in genuinely

preparing for His kingdom and powerfully **warning** our peoples of the coming Great Tribulation.

As the prophetic events *this Work* tells you about continue to occur and intensify, and as God opens your mind to the great **Plan** He is working out, be sure to **act**. May God grant *you* the understanding, the faith and the **courage** to *take action*!



Where Is God's True Church Today? How can you be sure God is leading the church you attend? Request a **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at *TomorrowsWorld.org.* PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



Shades of Grey or Living Color?

TODAY

ow can anyone explain the popularity of the recent bestseller book series, *Fifty Shades of Grey*, and the subsequent movie? Though the books and movie portray a value system that would seem alien to any sincerely practicing Christian, polls show that the book has been read by as many as nine percent of American women who call themselves Christian. What is the appeal? Could it be, at least in part, that the very premise of the title—"shades of grey"—captures the worldly human desire to see right and wrong not as absolute, but as situational and relative?

Indeed, even among many professing Christians, modern morality has been reduced to "shades of grey" as long-held absolutes are discarded as obsolete. This even applies to something as fundamental as the male-female relationship.

For example, is it wrong for a man and woman to have sexual relations before marriage? Some say that living together is a good "trial run" for marriage—to see if there is compatibility. Other couples might not go that far, but would have no problem sleeping together from time to time before marriage. For others, sleeping together would be taboo, but foreplay would be okay, since they might see kissing and petting as just part of getting to know someone they are falling in love with. So is this another grey area? Is extramarital sexual activity just a matter of personal choice?

What about pornography? Is it okay to view erotic, pornographic images as long as there is no physical contact? Is pornography just a "victimless crime"? A "grey area"? How about sexually promiscuous lyrics in music? Is it OK to listen to music that glorifies fornication? Or is it only wrong if you sing along? Is this just a grey area that is up to personal choice, with no real right and no real wrong?

What about the roles and responsibilities of men and women within families? Is there a difference between how a man should fulfill his role of father and husband, and how a wife should fulfill her role as wife and mother? Or is it all just a "grey area"?

Other "Grey Areas"?

We need not look far to find other "grey areas" in our culture.

In any civilized nation, murder is recognized as a crime. Yet, on January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that a woman can murder another human being if it is in her womb. Over the past forty years, debate has raged over the issue of when the baby is actually a human being. Is abortion murder after conception? Or is the fetus not really a person until weeks and even months have passed? For many in our culture, this is a "grey" area.

And what about violent video games? Is it OK to pretend-murder someone, as long as it is "just a game"? What is the line between "harmless fun" and "de-sensitizing ourselves to violence"? One of the challenges of growing up in a culture that does not recognize God's authority is the challenge of seeing through the fog of "grey areas."

How can we see past the grey? How can we see the full spectrum of what God intends for us?

The Full Spectrum

What is "grey" anyway? According to Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, the color grey

is "a neutral or achromatic color, meaning literally that it is a color 'without color.'" Applied to ethics, grey describes situations with no clear moral value. In a world without God's revelation, everything is painted with a grey moral brush. None can say whether any decision, any action, or any thought is completely good or bad!

But, here is where mankind is missing out.

In the Bible, we read that God planted a garden full of trees. We're told that these trees were "pleasant to the sight and good for food" (Genesis 2:9). What kind of trees do you imagine were there? Think of the colorful array of trees in our beautiful world. Apple trees, pear trees, peach trees, apricot trees, plum trees, bananas, mangos... The list goes on and on!

And God said that Adam (and Eve) could eat all of them! God said, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat..." (v. 16). In other words, He gave Adam and Eve a colorful, beautiful, delicious world of wonderful trees to enjoy. They could touch them, study them, plant more of them, and eat from their delectable fruit.

In a sense, they had the "full spectrum" of trees, just as we can visually see a full spectrum of beautiful colors. Why do we see color and not just grey? The reason has to do with how our eyes are made. The "rods" in our eyes enable us to distinguish shades of grey—all



the way from white to black. But, with addition of "cones," our vision comes alive with color. They enable our brain

to recognize blue and green, red and yellow, orange and indigo. In fact, some scientists say that we, as humans, can distinguish ten million different colors! (Wyszecki, *Color*, p. 824).

There may not have been ten million, but a lot of different trees were available for Adam and Eve. There was only one exception—one tree was "off limits" (v. 17). That tree represented rebelliousness toward God and deciding for themselves what was good and evil. Yet they gave up all the trees of the garden—including the most precious, the tree of life—for the one tree they could not have.

Living in Ten Million Colors

The notion of "shades of grey" conjures up a sense of a mixture of good and bad. A "grey area" is an area that might be right and might be wrong. We, as humans,



have a penchant for dabbling in the moral middle ground. But God did not create life to be an endless series of compromises between right and wrong. God gives us a colorful spectrum of millions of right, positive, productive, energizing, success-creating things to do, think and say. These are all facets of loving God and our fellow man, and we fall into trouble when we turn away from them.

In Genesis 2:24, God told Adam that a man should leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. In other words, it is appropriate and good to leave the family of our birth and begin a new family, sexually and emotionally joined to a mate. We can choose our mate, marry and create a life with an endless number of biblically appropriate choices as to how we can live a happy and productive life together (Proverbs 5:18). God gives us shades of beautiful living colors when He guides us into the roles He intended for husband and wife (Ephesians 5:22–33). These beautiful "colors" of biblical marriage are so much better than the "grey areas" of male-female physical attraction mixed with lust, fornication and adultery.

How about the second example from above? Why wade into the murky "greyness" of vicarious murder in a video game? Why rationalize the murder of a baby in the womb by counting the number of days since conception?

Our God and Creator of the universe proclaimed that He came to this earth that we might have life in abundance! (John 10:10). We need not live in the "greyness" of man's moral confusion. Instead, we can learn to see the bright colors of righteous, uplifting actions and be **blessed**!

—Jonathan McNair

what he felt was the pivotal moment during the war: the final week of May 1940.

At that time, France was on the brink of falling, America and Russia had not yet joined the war, and Nazi troops were powering towards the Channel, putting the entire British army in northern France in imminent danger of being overwhelmed. Lord Halifax and British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, voices of appeasement in the UK Cabinet, pressed Churchill to ask Hitler for terms of surrender. German invasion of Britain was threatening and imminent, and Britain stood alone—all seemed lost. Lukacs summarizes, "during those five days in London, the danger, not only to Britain but to the world, was greater and deeper than most people still think" (p. xiii).

And upon one man's broad shoulders rested the decision only he could make. Would Britain throw in the towel, or stand and fight, come what may? Truly it was a defining moment... a turning point... that could have changed subsequent world history. Hitler would never come closer to victory than this fateful moment.

Surrender Unthinkable!

It was May 28, the eve of the Dunkirk evacuations, and Churchill's response to the entire Outer Cabinet—25 somber men seated around the table—was unequivocal. "Of course, whatever happens at Dunkirk, we shall fight on!... We shall go on and we shall fight it out, here or elsewhere, and if this long island story of ours is to end at last, let it end only when

A Historic Historian

Churchill not only made history; he wrote voluminously about it. Among his most notable works are:

A History of the English-Speaking Peoples, Volumes 1-4 (1956-58)

The Second World War, Volumes 1-6 (1948-53)

Other works can help give a broader appreciation of the man and his times. For those developing a deeper interest, you may want to consider these lesser-known works by Churchill:

Painting As a Pastime (1948)

Thoughts and Adventures (1932)

Murrow put it, Churchill "mobilized the English language and sent it into battle." It was closely accompanied by Churchill's grasp of *history*... of Britain, the Empire and America and their dominant values that made everything worth fighting for.

However, the war was not won then! Britain simply could not win it without the support of Russia and America, which was yet to come; but, importantly, "Churchill was the one who did not lose it. Then and

WAS GOD IN SOME WAY PREPARING CHURCHILL FOR THE FATED HOUR? INDEED, HIS SUCCESS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THIS WAS SO.

there he saved Britain, and Europe, and Western Civilization" (Lukacs, p. 2). He bought time, the opportunity to fight on and prevail. And today we can be eternally thankful for Churchill and a hard-

each of us lies choking in his own blood upon the ground" (Lukacs, pp. 2–5).

Churchill's words seared like an electric shock through Parliament and the nation. For this was not one man's resolve alone—it was overwhelmingly also the will of Parliament and the people. And then in rapid succession came his famous speeches that confirmed Britain would fight on and never, ever surrender. Truly, as American broadcast journalist Edward earned Allied victory—Britain, America and the empire standing together, brother to brother. We are only here today because of that notable victory.

The Will of God

Churchill was not a religious man, nor did he profess to be a Christian. "King and Country" for him was the nearest thing to religion, and Parliament is where he worshipped most. Yet he had a keen sense of di-



vine guidance and the rule of law, as evident when he spoke to a joint session of the United States Congress on December 26, 1941, stating famously that a "great purpose and design is being worked out here below of which we have the honor to be the faithful servants."

Consider the words Lukacs uses to describe Churchill's eventual triumph: "[He] succeeded because of his resolution and—allow me to say this—because of God's will, of which, like every human being, he was but an instrument. He was surely no saint, he was not a religious man, and he had many faults. Yet so it happened" (p. 218). Was God in some way preparing Churchill for the fated hour? Indeed, his success seems to indicate that this was so.

Churchill's reputation was controversial throughout most of his life. He was clearly very clever, with flashes of pure genius, and was highly motivated to succeed, with a powerful ego. He possessed prodigious energy, drive, memory and powers of concentration, and his courage and bravery were never in question. He was a tenacious individualist, very sure of himself and his opinions, and built to lead from the front. He was an outstanding and fearless speaker with an intuitive grasp of problems and their solutions.

But, he could also come across as exceedingly pushy and arrogant, ambitious for office and power,

Five Points for Churchillian Success

"Winston Churchill led a full life, and few people are ever likely to equal it—its amplitude, variety, and success on so many fronts. But all can learn from it, especially in five ways" writes Paul Johnson in his book on Churchill.

- Always aim high. Learn to write a good sentence. Master your nation's history. Read widely important works of literature....
- 2) There is no substitute for hard work. Balance flat-out work with restorative leisure and appropriate rest....
- Never allow mistakes, disaster—personal or national—accidents, illnesses, unpopularity, and criticism to get you down. Cultivate the values of courage, fortitude and resilience....
- 4) Churchill wasted an extraordinary small amount of his time and emotional energy on the meannesses of life: recrimination, shifting the blame onto others, malice, revenge seeking, dirty tricks, spreading rumours, harboring grudges, waging vendettas. Learn to forgive, make up and move on. Learn the art of sublime magnanimity....
- 5) The absence of hatred left plenty of room for joy in Churchill's life. He had a love of jokes. He liked to paint and sing. He drew his strength from people and imparted it to them in full measure.

(From Churchill, by Paul Johnson, pp. 162-166).

boastful and belligerent. He was by nature conceited, impetuous and self-willed. Rarely did he acknowledge others or apologize.

Yet Churchill's wife Clementine was among those who recognized what she called the deeper "nobility of purpose" that his ambition strove to fulfill. "He sought to stand above the crowd not out of selfishness or vanity, but because he believed in the greatness of his country and the universal validity of the principles-above all that of individual freedom-that through the evolution of its long history it had come to represent" (Churchill, John Keegan, p. 172).

V-E day on May 8, 1945 saw the end of the war in Europe. Churchill had wanted to continue the wartime coalition until Japan, too, surrendered, but the Labour Party refused. In the resultant general election, Labour won by a landslide-a rejection more of the values of the Conservative Party than of Churchill himself. After many years of hardship, a majority of the country was won over by the plethora of Labour promises for a better life ahead. For Churchill this proved in retrospect a blessing. He was spared the agony of dealing with Britain's inevitable contraction of global power, the pain associated with the birth of Israel and the Korean War. It afforded time for a reduced workload with more powers delegated to younger men.

Churchill moreover could turn much of his attention to writing, and would become known for the four volumes of his History of the English-Speaking Peoples, and the six volumes of his very personal magnum opus, The Second World War, which indeed helped to fulfill his youthful boast that history would be kind to him, for he would write it.

Lessons for the Future?

Lukacs, in assessing the consequences of World War II, ends on a dark yet prescient note about the state of civilization. "At best, civilization may survive, at least in some small part due to Churchill in 1940. At worst, he helped to give us... 50 years. Fifty years before the rise of new kinds of barbarism not incarnated by the armed might of Germans or Russians, before the clouds of a new Dark Age may darken the lives of our children and grandchildren" (p. 219).

As of 2015, it has been 75 years-not just 50-since Britain's "darkest hour" and the desperate Battle of Britain in the skies above England. And the storm clouds of new forms of barbarism are indeed now rising.

Lukacs' cautionary words echo what the Bible tells us. The world has yet to go through an excruciating, short period of darkness, war and tyranny even worse than World War II. When this time comes, the world is going to need a true Savior to extricate it from the brink of oblivion-to light the way out of darkness into a new and permanent era of unlimited peace.

But this will not be another exceptional human leader like Churchill. This will be the returning, all-powerful King of kings, Jesus Christ, the Messiah Himself. And His face and character shines more than a little brighter than a glow worm; it shines like the sun (Revelation 1:13-16)!

In his 90 years, Churchill spent 55 years as a Member of Parliament, 31 years as a government minister and nearly nine years as Prime Minister. He was a prominent figure in World War I and a dominant one in World War II. Yet, along with his active life of public service, he also published some 10 million words in 40 books including his war memoirs, which gained him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953. He also painted more than 500 paintings to widespread critical approval (see Johnson, p. 162).

But humanity needs far more than this in the leader who will save us from World War III. Not only will Jesus Christ return to save humanity from destroying itself (Matthew 24:21-22), He will establish God's Kingdom on earth in which the glorified saints, by the grace of God, will reign with Him from Jerusalem and around the world (see Revelation 11:15-18; Revelation 5:10:20:4).

What few today realize is that faithful Christians can be part of that glorious future! Those who repent, receive baptism and God's Spirit, accept Christ's sacrifice and live His Way are preparing for future roles of service-roles that will see them reborn in the Kingdom of God not as mere "glow worms" but as spirit beings shining with the radiance of God, serving a world

where no one will learn war anymore.

MAY WE SUGGEST? Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in World Affairs How is God working with the Britishdescended peoples at the end of this age? Request a **free** printed copy of this booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



LETTERS TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Thanks very much for the books and the magazines. Where will I start or how will I start to appreciate how much your publications have blessed me and people around me? You see the things that are happening around the world, many people see it just as random events and conflict but the *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return* booklet really polished my understandings and opened my eyes to discover new things.

-T. I., Limbe, Cameroon

In reading the booklet, *Who or What Is the Antichrist?*, I was somewhat intrigued by the challenge regarding the Ten Commandments. So, I wrote to an old college friend, now a minister in a very liberal mainline Protestant church. I asked this specific question: "Pastor, does God require true Christians to keep the Ten Commandments?" I fully expected him to answer with one word, that being, "Yes." However, I was quite surprised as to the answer I received, which is as follows: "No, but it is a semantic point. Jesus says he came not to do away with the law, but to fulfill it. In the process he changed the focus. Rather than the laws of the Torah he expressed the law of love. Living the way of Jesus will fulfill the law from a positive standpoint." This makes no sense to me. How is it that Christianity has become so perverted and distorted in our world today?

-M.B., Wichita, KS

By intervention of the Holy Spirit, it seems your magazine was delivered to my home in error. I delivered it to its proper owner, but would like to receive your publication for myself. I am also interested in your *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. I find your publication informative and timely, given the world events shown on our TV screens.

L. M., Chatham, Ontario, Canada

Whilst I have appreciated receiving your informative magazine in the past, I cannot accept receiving a magazine with the May-June 2015 disgusting picture on the cover. I was both shocked and horrified when I took your magazine out of my post box to see the evil large ISIS picture on the cover. To those not familiar with your magazine, it would certainly look like a publication promoting ISIS, and not a decent and respectable Christian organization teaching the good news about the Kingdom of God coming soon. Therefore, I have to cancel my subscription to the *Tomorrow's World* magazine immediately, please.

R. S., Flinders Lane, VIC, Australia



Editor's Note: A number of readers have commented on the cover of our May-June 2015 issue. Some praised it for its newsworthiness and frank portrayal of world events. Others objected to it, for a variety of reasons. Some told us that the cover showed a staged provocation by anti-American terrorists, which because it was staged should not have been publicized. Others took for granted that the cover showed an authentic event, but said they did not want the *Tomorrow's World* magazine to make them think about the gruesome events that likely followed in the moments after the cover image. One cannot read Scripture carefully and avoid the unpleasant subject of beheadings; Revelation 20:4 indicates that some Christians will be beheaded for their testimony, and Scripture documents the beheadings of Goliath (1 Samuel 17:51) and John the Baptist

(Matthew 14:10). Even so, the purpose of this magazine is not to shock readers for shock's sake. Rather, we strive to analyze world events plainly and honestly in light of Bible prophecy. As such, we certainly regret any upset or offense our May-June 2015 cover may have caused some readers.

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The Human Eye: Window of the Mind

very image of every moment we witness throughout our lives will be collected for our appreciation by two small miracles from God we can too easily take for granted: our amazing eyes. Have you considered the startling wonder of design that your eyes represent?

As I type this article, my wife and I are driving eastward to Charlotte, North Carolina in the eastern part of the United States, and, at this particular moment, we are passing through the beautiful Smokey Mountains. Within the span of a few moments, my eyes collect a diverse host of remarkable images: from broad, sweeping vistas to small and delightful details. At one time, I take in the whole of a mountainous skyline, noting its ragged boundary against the blue sky, as well as the rich shades of green flowing down in thoroughly forested hillsides.

At the far away top of one mountain, I can make out a single branch on a single tree, even its individual leaves. Then, within a moment, I shift my gaze to a beautiful field of golden wildflowers just outside my window. Soon, our car passes into a tunnel, exchanging the world of the very bright for the world of the very dark. Yet, through it all, I see, continually and without interruption, and drink in the scenes of my surroundings.

All of these sights were mine within a few seconds' time, demanding my eyes to adapt almost instantly and automatically to different needs. To do this, the eye requires some of the most intricately designed and coordinated mechanisms in the entire human body.

How It Works

Light enters the eye through the *cornea*—a hardy, clear, flexible structure at the front of the eye. The cornea

exhibits remarkable design that allows it to serve two purposes. First, it is a tough, self-healing structure to withstand the biomechanical stress of its role as a shield for the inner eye, protecting it from debris and pollutants. But it also begins the work of *focusing* the images coming into your eye, accurately bending the light so that it passes through the *pupil*, the opening at the center of the *iris*.

As the eye's gateway, the iris not only gives each of our eyes their distinctive colors—say, blue, brown, or green—but it also has the remarkable ability to precisely and automatically change the size of the pupil, just as the shutter of a camera does, in order to vary the amount of light entering the eye with speed and incredible precision.

Continuing into the eye, the light passes through the crystalline *lens* behind the iris to complete the focusing process. But, unlike the glass lenses of a *camera*, the lens of your *eye* is a flexible, organic structure, which constantly and quickly changes shape as needed in order to perfect its focusing power.

The light, now focused, passes through the transparent *vitreous fluid* of the inner eye, which simultaneously provides the pressure needed to maintain the eye's round shape, delivers nutrition to the eye's retinal vessels, and acts as a medium for the incoming light to pass undisturbed from the lens onto the *retina*.

The retina at the back of the eye acts as a projector screen, upon which the image is focused by the cornea and the lens. It is composed of more than 130 *million* highly sensitive, microscopic retinal cells. These cells vary in type—from rod-shaped cells, which are designed to maximize light processing to help us see in dark conditions, to cone-shaped cells, which are sensitive to color and which also provide for sharp vision and the detection of small details. In fact, there are three types of cone cells, each designed to detect one of the three primary colors of all visible light: red, blue and green. Working in combination, these three types of color-sensitive cells are able to detect virtually *any* color in the visible spectrum.

When the focused light strikes a retinal cell, a chemical cascade occurs that transforms the *light* energy into *electrical* energy, which is then sent through the approximately one *million* nerve fibers of each eye to your brain, which decodes and interprets the signals into the image you "see."

And *all* of this is happening *constantly* at unimaginable speeds! As your eye is continuously flooded with light and images from ever-changing scenery, this system is constantly at work: expertly and automatically moderating the quantity of light entering the eye to optimize for brightness, focusing that light with astonishing precision as it travels through multiple layers of materials and fluids, converting the light photons to



electrical signals, and sending them in a code intelligible to the brain so that you can enjoy the blessing of *sight*.

And yet, the description of the apparatus and machinery of the eye presented here is only a summary. Time would fail us to tell of all the remarkable structures that work together in concert to form the fully functioning eye: the sclera, the extraocular muscles, the choroid, the fovea—the list would go on and on. Suffice it to say that the two small orbs through which the sights around us are harvested for our consumption and consideration are a marvel of design and engineering that no human craftsman has been able to match.

Appearance of Design

As Robert Jastrow, the famous agnostic astronomer and astrophysicist, once said, "The eye appears to have been designed; no designer of telescopes could have done better. How could this marvelous instrument have evolved by chance, through a succession of random events?" (*The Enchanted Loom*, pp. 96–97).

Jastrow, an evolutionist, was simply paraphrasing and reflecting on the thoughts of Charles Darwin, him-



self—the originator of evolutionary theory. Calling the eye an organ of "extreme perfection and complication," Darwin had once commented: "To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree" (*The Indelible Stamp*, ed. J. D. Watson, p. 444)

Still, Darwin reasoned that it *might* be so, and many evolutionists have struggled to show that his faith in his theory was correct. But even the best explanations they have crafted about how such a marvel as the human eye could have come about through blind, unguided natural processes are, to put it kindly, highly speculative fantasies and oversimplified models based on unfounded assumptions—exhibiting more imagination than evidence.

There is still no satisfactory explanation, apart from the design of an intelligent Creator, for the miracle of engineering we call the *eye*.

Those eyes—the ones you are using right now to read this article—are the windows to the world that God has crafted for our minds, through which the images of our lives and the glories of His creation continue to shine brightly for our enjoyment and contemplation. And like King Solomon, we too can praise Him for His works: "The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both" (Proverbs 20:12).

-Wallace G. Smith

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