

March—April 2000

# Tomorrow's World

...For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.



What Is True  
Christianity?



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**All scriptural references are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.**

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## Real Understanding

*Tomorrow's World* magazine is different. In this magazine, we want to give you readers not only precious knowledge of the meaning of life and of the time in which we live, but real *understanding* as well.

Over the years, I have been either the employer or the supervisor of a number of individuals with high IQs. They were good at memorizing and repeating back information. Some were very good in technical or mechanical fields. But I found that possessing a high IQ did not give these people greater understanding or wisdom. Rather, for some of them, their high intellectuality only enabled them to find *five things* to worry about instead of *one!*

The news media generally report only *what* is happening. They seldom really try to understand *why*. And when they do, they are often pitifully wrong. The genuine understanding of the great *purpose* of life, and of the *causes* behind major events, of the real *reasons* for success and failure, is rarely understood. Yet understanding is critical if we are to obtain true success—if we are to obtain genuine peace of mind, happiness and fulfillment in this life, and *eternal* life in the Kingdom of God.

A multi-millionaire in his own time, and one of the wisest men of the 20th century, Bernard M. Baruch, has been called “the counselor of presidents.” Amazingly, he was a confidant and counselor of *seven* different presidents of the United States! In his fascinating autobiography, *My Own Story*, Mr. Baruch states: “Whatever I saw others accomplish, I was driven to try to do myself. Only after much effort did I learn how to control my feelings, and do what I could do best, leaving what I could not do well to others. If there was any “key” to this process of growing up, it lay in the systematic efforts I made to subject myself to critical self-appraisal. And as I came to know myself, I acquired a better understanding of

other people.... I have found that failure is a far better teacher than success.” This last sentence is a very insightful observation. Because, when you understand it, *God Himself* is giving mankind six millennial “days”—6,000 years—to *write* the lessons of human experience and FAILURE. Then, when Satan the Devil is banished during the coming millennial rule of Christ—and men’s minds are open to the Truth—humanity will finally UNDERSTAND the lessons of the last 6,000 years. They will finally turn to God and be willing to listen to *His* wisdom and *His* understanding.

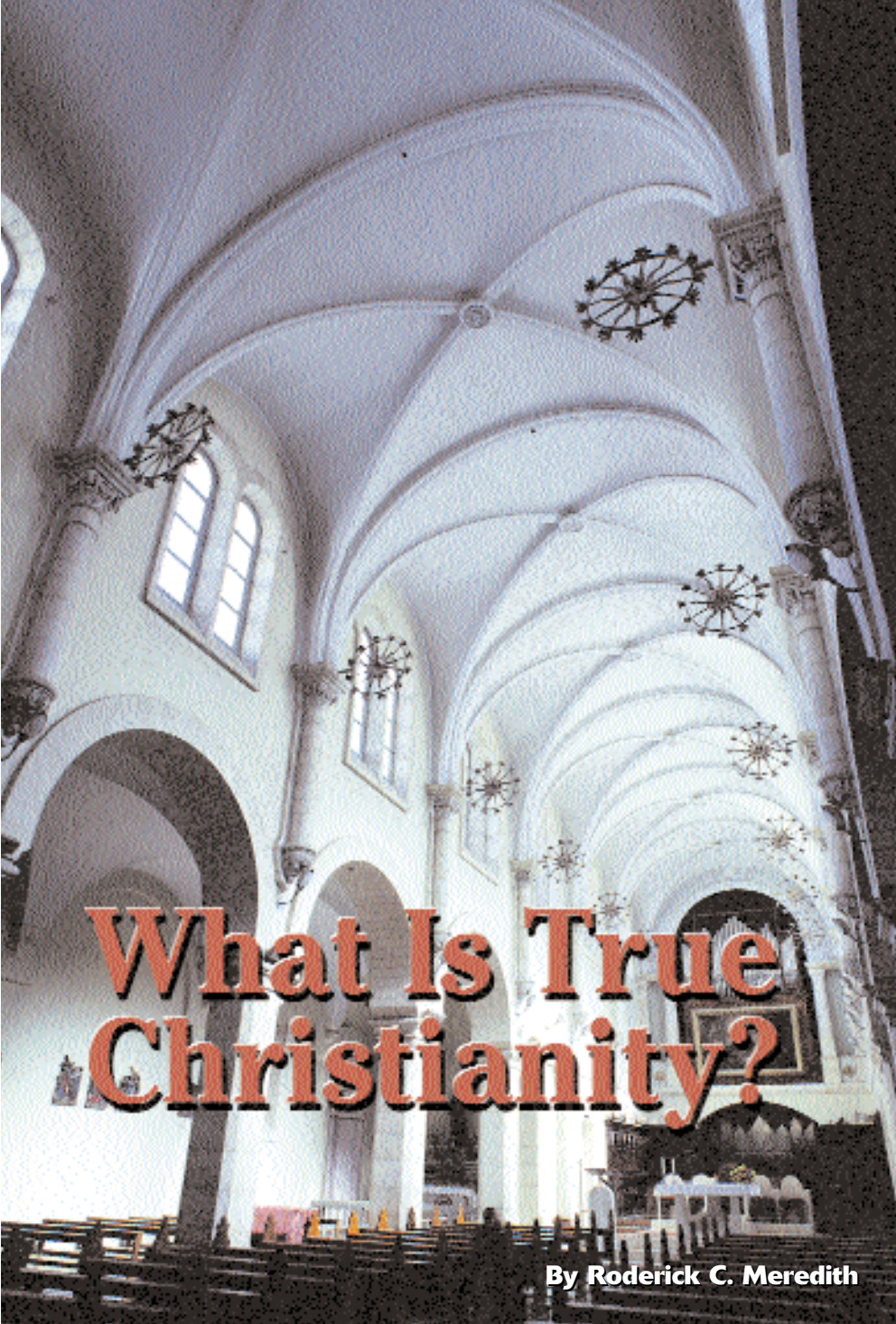
Many of you reading this will not really wake up until the prophesied END-time events actually begin to occur in full force. Even the minds and hearts of the great men on earth have often turned to God at times of genuine crisis. Though often appearing totally confident and even “cocky” on the outside, one of the greatest generals in United States history—General of the Army Douglas MacArthur—often turned to God just before major battles when many thousands of human lives were at stake.

Remember, General MacArthur made the famous statement “I shall return” when America was overpowered and he was ordered to leave the Philippine islands at the beginning of World War II. Describing the invasion and the major battle at the beginning of that return, General MacArthur writes:

The big guns on the ships opened fire at dawn. The noise, like rolling thunder, was all around us. The *Nashville*, her engines bringing to life the steel under our feet, knifed into Leyte Gulf. The ominous clouds of night still hung over the sea, fighting the sun for

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# What Is True Christianity?

By Roderick C. Meredith

“Christian” civilization. In fact, the professing Christian church *directly instigated* a series of “holy wars” during the Middle Ages, called the “Crusades” (*Encyclopædia Britannica*, 11th ed., *Crusades*). The article describes the supposed BLESSING put on the murderous and blood-thirsty activities of the Crusaders: “The knight who joined the Crusades might thus indulge the bellicose side of his genius—under the aegis and at the bidding of the Church; and in so doing he would also attain what the spiritual side of his nature ardently sought—a perfect salvation and remission of sins. He might butcher all day, till he waded ankle-deep in blood, and then at nightfall kneel, sobbing for very joy, at the altar of the Sepulchre—for was he not red from the wine-press of the Lord?”

Were THESE men *true followers* of the humble carpenter of Nazareth who said: “Love your enemies”?

Yet remember that these men called themselves by the NAME of Christ—Christian. It seems that nearly all western religions, philosophies and sects must persist in applying the *name* of Christ to their ideas, teachings and practices. In ancient times, the pagans openly and honestly *acknowledged* their worship of the various “gods” and demon spirits of their own choosing.

## The NAME of Christ is Often Misused

Since the life, death and the *resurrection* of the Son of God, a great DECEPTION has resulted in the placing of Christ’s NAME on every type of pagan, heathen,

**I**t is high time someone pointed out what *true* Christianity is all about! So-called “mainstream” Christianity is losing millions of members. Scores of different ideologies and different types of “New Age” teachings are now coming to the fore, but the pure religion of Jesus Christ seems to be *totally neglected* by most religious leaders.

WHY?

And what is WRONG with the mainstream Christianity that millions have grown up in and are taking for granted? Do not all these churches teach the Christianity of Christ?

The truth is that the greatest and most bloody wars in all human history have been waged primarily in Europe—the very heart of western,



perverted philosophy of man that has come along!

Shocking as it may sound, the fact that many churches, doctrines, ideas and practices of men are called “Christian” *proves absolutely NOTHING!*

Did Christ start these ideas and institutions? Do they follow His teaching and His example?

How can you KNOW?

Almighty God inspired the Apostle John to describe the Devil as “that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, who DECEIVES the WHOLE WORLD” (Revelation 12:9). Again, in Revelation 20:1–3, God describes how Satan will soon be restrained “that he should DECEIVE the NATIONS *no more.*”

These inspired scriptures certainly show that most people and nations have been misled and DECEIVED by Satan the Devil! This, very frankly, is the “key,” which explains WHY there are so many obvious contradictions in our supposedly “Christian” society. It shows why this world is so mixed up and CONFUSED about what the word “Christian” really means. It shows that our civilization has NOT been following Christ, but has been DECEIVED into going *many different ways* under Satan’s confusing influence!

Strangely, yet at least honestly, some of this world’s noted religious leaders and scholars have acknowledged that our professing “Christianity” has NOT EVEN SERIOUSLY TRIED to follow the literal *teaching and example* of Jesus Christ—its supposed Author!

Observe also this revealing and even shocking quote from highly respected historian Will Durant:

Christianity did not destroy paganism; it adopted it. The Greek mind, dying,

came to a transmigrated life in the theology and liturgy of the church; the Greek language, having reigned for centuries over philosophy, became the vehicle of Christian literature and ritual; the Greek mysteries passed down into the impressive mystery of the Mass. Other pagan cultures contributed to the syncretist result. From Egypt came the ideas of a divine trinity... and a personal immortality of reward and punishment; from Egypt the adoration of the

Mother and Child, and the mystic theosophy that made Neoplatonism and Gnosticism, and obscured the Christian creed; there, too, Christian monasticism would find its exemplars and its source. From Phrygia came the worship of the Great Mother; from Syria the resurrection drama of Adonis; from Thrace, perhaps, the cult of Dionysus, the dying and saving god... The Mithraic ritual so closely resembled the eucharistic sacrifice of the Mass that Christian fathers charged the Devil with inventing these similarities to mislead frail minds. **Christianity was the last creation of the ancient pagan world...** [The Eucharist] was a conception long sanctified by time; the pagan mind needed no schooling to receive it; by **embodying the “mystery of**

the Mass,” Christianity became the last and greatest of the mystery religions [The Story of Civilization, pp. 595, 599].



Public emotionalism typifies certain forms of so-called Christianity. © Presslink Image

This noted historian here plainly acknowledges that church leaders did NOT take Jesus’ life and HIS TEACHING as the standard for their so-called “Christian” churches!

Ask yourself, honestly: *What other true standard* could there possibly be?

### What IS a True Christian?

Our dictionaries have preserved part of the truth about what a “Christian” is *supposed* to be. *The American College Dictionary* states: “Christian, pertaining to or derived from Jesus Christ or His teachings... believing in or belonging to the religion of Jesus Christ.”

But what was the teaching of Jesus Christ? What was His religion—Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, “Mind Science”—what?

The *only* authoritative answer is found in the *inspired record* of what Jesus *did teach* and of the

perfect EXAMPLE He set for us to follow. Your Bible contains this inspired record!

With the above questions in mind, we need to *look into it—honestly—openly—without prejudice.*

What DID Jesus—the Author of true Christianity—actually TEACH and DO? And remember that a true Christian is one who follows Christ and His teaching!

## What Jesus DID Teach

At the beginning of His ministry, “Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel’” (Mark 1:14–15).

The word “kingdom” means *government*. Jesus was talking about the coming *government* of God over this earth. He commanded: “REPENT, and believe in the gospel!”

To “repent” means to be so sorry that you are not only willing to quit—but to *turn around and go the other way*. Of course we must repent of SIN. But *what is sin?* God answers: “Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4, KJV).

So we must *repent* of disobeying God’s *Government*—of *breaking* His *LAW*!

Again, notice Jesus’ *own inspired words* on the subject: “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17). In other words, Jesus in His own life *perfectly performed* the spir-

itual intent and purpose of God’s law. *Why* did He do this?

Let God answer! In His inspired prophecy about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, Isaiah wrote: “The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will MAGNIFY the law and make it honorable” (Isaiah 42:21, KJV).

To *magnify* does NOT mean to destroy but to *show forth and*

*enlarge* an object or a thing to the fullest possible extent. Jesus *perfectly fulfilled* and *magnified* God’s law to show us its fullest spiritual application and also to

*set us an EXAMPLE* that we should follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

J e s u s continued in

this same discourse: “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, *and teaches men so*, shall be called *least* in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever DOES and TEACHES them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19). So according to Jesus’ *literal teaching*, you have to both DO and TEACH even the LEAST of God’s commandments if you are to become great in His Kingdom.

Isn’t that PLAIN?

Throughout the rest of this teaching, commonly called the “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus continued to MAGNIFY God’s

law and bring out the spiritual *intent* and *purpose* of that law for Christians with God’s Spirit.

## How Jesus MAGNIFIED the Law

He showed that we are not only to restrain ourselves from literal murder, but that to even HATE a brother—involving as it does the *spirit of murder*—is bringing us into *judgment* before the spiritual law of God. He vividly illustrated how one can commit adultery not only by performing the literal act, but by LUSTING after a woman in his heart (Matthew 5:21–31).

*Read these examples* in your own Bible. *Think about them*. In every case, they obviously do NOT do away with God’s law but rather make it *all the more binding!*

Matthew’s fifth chapter ends with Jesus’ instruction: “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (v. 48).

*Obedience* to God and His law is the keynote in the entire Sermon on the Mount. Jesus declared: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

Later, notice Jesus’ *own words*—His teaching—on *how to be saved*. “Now behold, one came and said to Him, ‘Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?’ So He said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. *But if you want to enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS*” (Matthew 19:16–17). Then (vv. 18–19) Jesus proceeded to name some of the *Ten Commandments*.



**Outgoing love and concern for those in need are qualities of a true Christian. In Matthew 25:40 Christ said “...inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me.”**

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## God's Government Has Laws

Speaking about the New Testament Gospel, which He preached, Jesus stated: "The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the *kingdom of God* has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail" (Luke 16:16–17). Here Jesus clearly showed that God's *Kingdom* or GOVERNMENT—is inseparably connected with God's Law. He showed that the law would NEVER fail! Then He went on to show *what law* He was talking about (v. 18) by commenting on the commandment concerning adultery—one of the *Ten Commandments!*

So the good news of God's *Kingdom* is inseparably related to the Law of God as contained in the *Ten Commandments*. Jesus always *magnified and kept THIS LAW* during His lifetime. He said: "I have kept My Father's commandments" (John 15:10).

After His resurrection, as Christ was commissioning His disciples to preach His message to ALL NATIONS—certainly including the Gentiles—Jesus commanded: "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" (Matthew 28:19–20).

Here Jesus is clearly and plainly telling His apostles to go out to *all nations* preaching exact-

ly the SAME message of *obedience* to God's LAW and His *government* as He Himself had taught them!

But carnal-minded men REBEL at the teaching of *obedience* to God's commandments. They say it is IMPOSSIBLE for human beings to obey God's law. They come up with many different excuses for disobeying the commandments of God and teach that you are saved by a sentimental acceptance of Christ's NAME or PERSON without any real *obedience* to Him or God as your LORD and MASTER!

### Jesus Set a Perfect Example

Remember that a Christian is *one who literally follows the example of Jesus Christ!* Jesus was the "light" that God sent into the world to show man HOW he ought to be living. "That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world" (John 1:9).



Peter was inspired to write: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an EXAMPLE, that you should follow His steps: Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth" (1 Peter 2:21–22). Jesus OBEYED God. He did NO SIN—and sin is the "*transgression of the law.*" He *obeyed God and suffered persecution willingly* and in all this set us

an EXAMPLE that we *should follow His steps!*

The Apostle John wrote: "He who says he abides in Him [Christ] ought himself also to walk [to live] just as He walked" (1 John 2:6).

This passage clearly shows that the true Christian must LIVE just as Jesus Christ did live—following His example. *The New English Bible* renders this in more modern English: "Here is the test by which we can be sure that we are in Him: whoever claims to be dwelling in Him, *binds himself to LIVE as Christ Himself lived.*"

So we are LITERALLY to follow the inspired EXAMPLE of Jesus Christ's perfect life! And we have seen that Jesus DID KEEP the Ten Commandments—LITERALLY (John 15:10).

If you really *study* the inspired record of Jesus' life carefully, you will see where Jesus *prayed constantly* on both knees to God the Father and *fasted* when He was in need of being especially close to God (Mark 1:35, 2:20, 9:29). You will see where Jesus *literally OBEYED* the fourth commandment—setting us an example (Luke 4:16, 31). You will see where Jesus *refused* to be drawn into worldly wars and *politics* (John 18:36–37).

You will see that Jesus OBEYED the commandments of God both in the letter AND in the spirit; that He lived a life of GIVING and SERVICE; and that He conducted Himself as an *ambassador* of a foreign kingdom or government—God's Government in heaven, which will soon come to replace ALL governments on this earth. Therefore, Jesus had *no part* in the *religions, politics, wars and disputes* of His time.

True Christians are LITERALLY to follow His marvelous



example! AND Paul was inspired to write: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

Christ has NOT CHANGED. He will guide you to live the *same kind of life* today that He DID LIVE in His own human body more than 1900 years ago! And remember, Jesus “was in ALL POINTS *tempted like as we are, yet without sin*” (Hebrews 4:15, KJV).

## How You CAN Follow Christ’s Example!

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write: “Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His” (Romans 8:9). In plain language, if you are without God’s Spirit you are NOT a Christian!

But *what good* is the Holy Spirit, some will ask, *what does it do?* Jesus answers: “If you love Me, *keep My COMMANDMENTS*. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another *Helper*, that He may abide with you forever; the *Spirit of truth*, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells *with* you and will be *in* you” (John 14:15–17).

Then Jesus continued by saying: “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you” (v. 18, KJV). Obviously He was going to come to and “comfort” BY this spirit, which would dwell IN the disciples. He stated in verse 23: “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My WORD [obeying His commandments]; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” It is obvious that both Jesus and God the Father do not come down and live INSIDE of someone in bodily form! Rather, they live IN the Christian *through the Holy Spirit!*

And Jesus continued by stating: “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (v. 26). Notice that the same Spirit emanates out from Christ and the Father. That Spirit TEACHES Christ’s true followers and helps them remember and apply the Truth.

So it is that the Apostle Paul could exclaim: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, *but CHRIST liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20, KJV).

Here we see that—*through the Holy Spirit*—Christ comes to live His LIFE literally IN the true Christian who not only lives by faith in Christ, but by the very faith OF Jesus Christ—the *same faith that guided and motivated Him in His human body over 1,900 years ago!*

Through the Holy Spirit, then, you receive the very *nature and power* of Christ to *obey* the commandments, laws and ways of Almighty God! But it is actually CHRIST doing it.

However, you must *surrender* your will to Him, and you must REPENT of your *lawlessness* and ACCEPT CHRIST as your SAVIOR and as your Lord and MASTER! Then you must *yield* and *strive* to be an *effective instrument* in His hands!

*Now can you understand?*

It is actually CHRIST who keeps the commandments all over again—just as He did over 1,900 years ago—in *your mortal*

*body!* It is His righteousness operating in your body, which you have *willingly yielded* to Him as *His instrument*.

## HOW the Holy Spirit Functions

The inspired formula for receiving God’s Holy Spirit was given by Peter on the Day of Pentecost, 31AD “Then Peter said to them, ‘REPENT, and let every one of you be BAPTIZED in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and *you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*’” (Acts 2:38).



**Children suffer terribly in societies founded on greed, warfare and poverty. True Christianity, if practiced, would solve the problems of greed, warfare and poverty.**  
© Presslink Image

Since your old self must be *buried* or *baptized* for the remission of SIN, you must REPENT of *sin!* Recall that “*sin is the transgression of the law.*” So you must *repent* of BREAKING GOD’S LAW!

You must be *baptized* in a watery grave as an outward acknowledgement of the *death penalty* you have brought on yourself by disobeying the LAW of your Creator, and of your *willingness* to let the *old self die*. Then, after real *repentance* of your rebellion against God and your own carnal ways and desires, and fulfilling the ordinance of humility in being bap-



tized and accepting Christ's shed blood as payment for your past sins in FAITH, you are PROMISED the "gift" of *God's Holy Spirit*. Then, through His Spirit, Christ places His nature within you—His *love*, His *faith*, His *strength* to overcome your own weaknesses and the temptations of Satan and of this world.

The LOVE you receive through God's spirit is not mere human love, but the very love of God, because the "LOVE of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:5).

Now *how* does this love operate?

Let Christ's Word give the true answer! "For this is the *love of God*, that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).

It is through God's love placed in us by His Spirit that we are enabled to KEEP His commandments!

Not through *your strength*, but through the spiritual POWER, which God's Holy Spirit imparts, you CAN follow the perfect example of Jesus Christ. You CAN yield to let Jesus live the *same kind of life in you*, which He DID live over 1,900 years ago—keeping the *same laws of God*, worshipping on the same Holy Days which God ordained, remaining *separate* from this world's society, politics and wars, and—through constant Bible *study*, earnest *prayer*, occasional fasting, and consistent spiritual *overcoming* and GROWTH—you can yield to let God fashion you in His *spiritual image* to be *born of Him* in the resurrection as His LITERAL SON—*possessed of His very nature!*

This is, in fact, the very PURPOSE of your existence!

## Who are the True Christians?

Down through history, God has *always* set apart and *marked* those who truly serve Him by *keeping His commandments and His LAWS*. The Apostle John was inspired to write: "He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a LIAR, and *the truth is not in him*" (1 John 2:4).

The *true* God does not even hear our prayers unless we *keep His commandments!* "And whatever we ask we receive from Him, *because we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS* and do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:22).

God further states: "Whoever transgresses and *does not abide* in the DOCTRINE of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the DOCTRINE of Christ has *both the Father and the Son*. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do NOT receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds" (2 John 9–11).

This true *teaching*—the matter of OBEDIENCE to the true God and His LAW—is of PARAMOUNT importance in the eyes of God! Even in the final book of your Bible, the book of Revelation, this standard of OBEDIENCE is used as a sign of IDENTITY of God's true Church down through the ages.

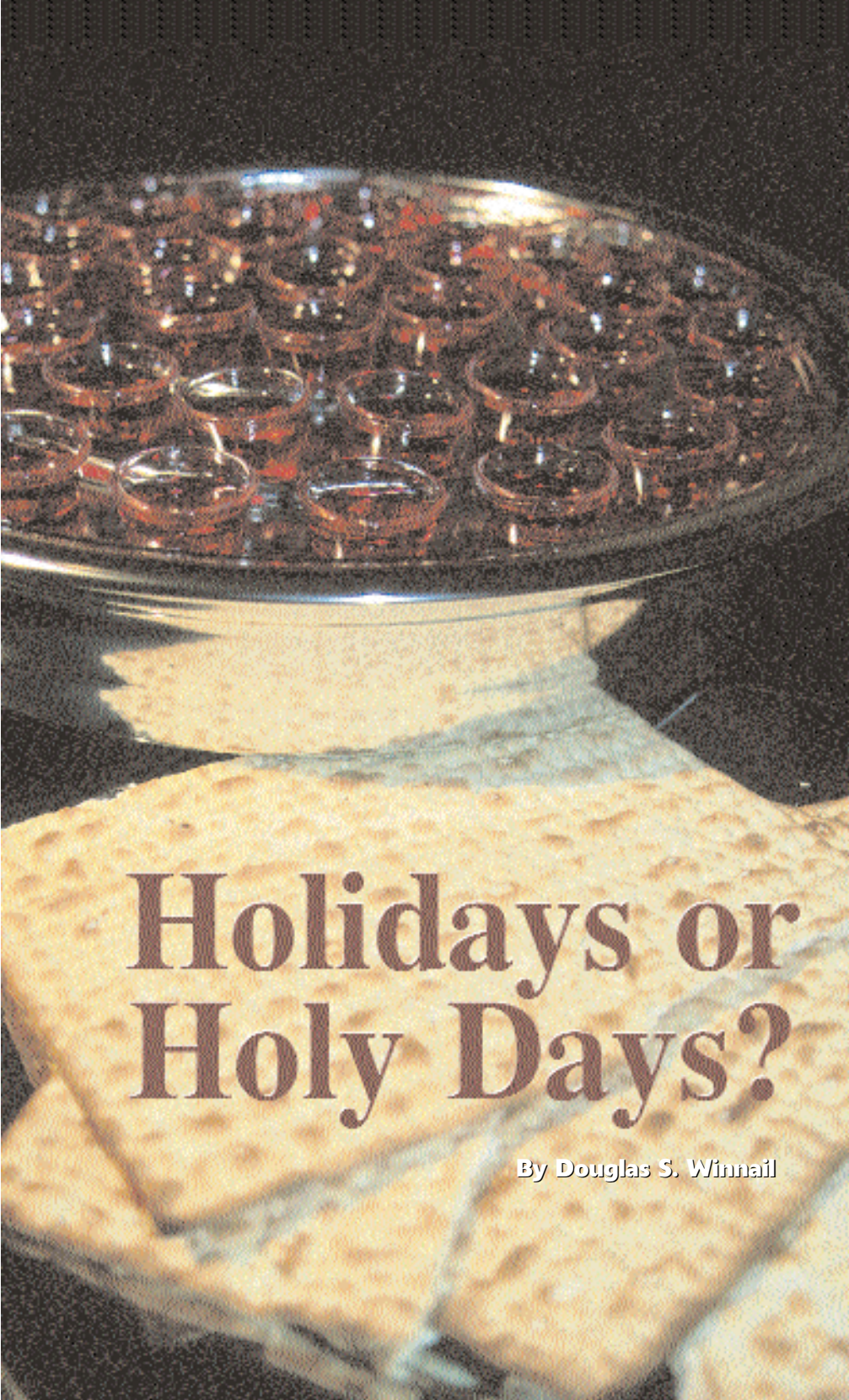
Notice! Speaking of the true Church, which has to flee from the Devil at the time of the end, God says: "And the dragon [Satan the Devil] was enraged with the woman [the true Church], and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17).

And, at the very END of your Bible, as His final message to YOU, God states: "Blessed are those who *do His COMMANDMENTS*, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14).

True Christianity then, the Christianity of *Christ*—is a WAY of life! It involves the Living Jesus Christ living *His* life within us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Then we can truly worship God in the way *He* tells us to. We will be given spiritual LOVE to have the genuine out-flowing concern, the patience, the kindness and the mercy we need toward our fellow human beings.

Through His Spirit, we will "walk with God" on a daily basis—reflecting Jesus Christ in every facet of our lives. We will overcome the downward pull of sin and—through Christ in us—we will SURRENDER to let God form within us *His* very nature and character. And so God Himself will prepare us and qualify us to RULE with Christ in the coming Kingdom of God *soon to be set up on this earth!* "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations; 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'; as I also have received from My Father" (Revelation 2:26–27).

For *real* Christians are called not just to be "nice" people—NOT just to "roll around heaven" all day with nothing to do. Rather we are called to join with Christ in RULING this world and bringing genuine *peace* and JOY to the earth when Christ's Kingdom becomes a glorious reality at His Second Coming. That is the very *purpose* for those called now to be *true* Christians. TW



# Holidays or Holy Days?

By Douglas S. Winnail

**Does God want Christians to observe Lent and Easter? How did these customs originate?**

The spring of every year is a busy time in modern Western societies. For those who profess the Christian faith, the spring months contain a series of important holidays—Lent, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. As the calendar moves toward summer, most Christians observe Pentecost, while Roman Catholics and Anglicans also celebrate Ascension Day and Assumption Day somewhat later. Not surprisingly, in our modern materialistic age, many commercial interests also thrive on these same holidays—clothing manufacturers, the travel industry, promoters of Easter eggs, and makers of Easter baskets and chocolate bunnies.

While these traditions are deeply embedded in Western culture, few seem to know or understand where these customs came from or what the Bible actually says about such practices! Most professing Christians *assume* that to observe these traditions is to follow biblical teachings and that this is pleasing to God. However, this well-meaning assumption could not be further from the truth. Historical sources clearly show where these customs originated. The Bible also plainly reveals how God views these practices. If you truly want to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and please God, you need to understand the difference between man's holidays and God's Holy Days.

## **Origins of Easter**

Easter is one of the most important festivals in mainstream Christianity. It is observed to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and



for many individuals it is one of the few times in the year when they actually attend church. Yet the Bible contains *absolutely no instructions* that Christians are to observe Easter or celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ! The *Encyclopædia Britannica* plainly states, “there is *no indication* of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament or in the writings of the Apostolic fathers... neither the Lord nor his disciples enjoined the keeping of this or any other festival” (11th ed., *Easter*). The article continues, “the name Easter... is a survival of old Teutonic mythology... is derived from Eostre or Ostara, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring.” Another source describes Ostara as a German pagan goddess of fertility and that “to reveal the origins of the Christian celebration of Easter... we need look no farther than Ostara’s ancient image” that is accompanied with eggs and bunnies (*Celebrate the Earth: A Year of Holidays in the Pagan Tradition*, Cabot, p. 113, 1994).

This same theme—a great mother goddess of love and fertility—is found in the Babylonian goddess Ishtar (often pictured as a mother holding a child), the Phoenician goddess Astarte, the Greek goddesses Aphrodite, Artemis and Diana, and the Roman goddesses Juno and Venus. According to Babylonian mythology, Ishtar was hatched from a *giant egg* that fell from heaven into the Euphrates River. Eggs have long served as sacred symbols of fertility in pagan religions around the world (see *The Two Babylons*, Hislop, pp. 108–109, 1916). Rabbits, because of their fecundity, are also used as fertility symbols. The sobering fact of history is that the Easter festival, with its eggs and rabbits, has nothing to do with the resurrection of the biblical Jesus Christ. The festival and its familiar symbols are the *remnants of pagan customs* that crept into Christianity over the centuries.

## Origins of Lent

Lent is a 40-day period of penitence and fasting observed by many professing Christians in the spring of the year. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends at Easter, commemorating Jesus Christ’s 40 days of fasting in the wilderness. Here again, the Bible gives *no instructions* that Christians are to observe these practices! The observances of Ash Wednesday and Lent rest on traditions. But where do these traditions come from?

The *Encyclopædia Britannica* records that the first acceptance of a 40-day Lenten observance does not appear until the 7th century AD, and the first mention of a Lenten fast (of shorter duration) surfaces in the records of the Council of Nicaea in 325AD (11th ed.,

*Lent*). Tertullian, writing in approximately 200AD, mentions a fast between Good Friday and Easter Sunday (ibid.). However, Christian historian Alexander Hislop plainly states that Lent was *not observed* by the early Apostolic church. He writes: “the observance of the 40 days *had no existence*, as long as the perfection of the primitive church remained inviolate... the forty-day abstinence was *directly borrowed* from the worshippers of the Babylonian goddess” (*The Two Babylons*, p. 104). Hislop also records that a 40-day Lenten period was also observed by pagan Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and Mexicans, and by Devil-worshippers in Kurdistan (ibid., p. 105). Hislop continues, “among the pagans this Lent seems to have been an indispensable preliminary to the great annual festival in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammuz, which was celebrated by alternate weeping and rejoicing” (ibid.). Tammuz was a Babylonian god and the youthful lover of the goddess Ishtar. In order “to conciliate the pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and pagan festivals *amalgamated*” by adjusting the calendar observances of these festivals (ibid., p. 105). Here we see again that the so-called Christian observance of Lent is merely a continuation of widespread ancient pagan practices that were subtly incorporated into mainstream Christianity over the centuries!

## More Festivals Adopted

Many Christians observe the Feast of the Ascension 40 days after Easter, to commemorate Christ’s ascension to heaven—in spite of the fact that there are *no instructions* in the Bible to observe such a festival. According to the *Encyclopædia Britannica* there is “*no discoverable trace* of it [the observance of this festival] before the middle of the 4th century” (11th ed., *Ascension*). Pagan Germanic mythology, however, observes on the same day as the Ascension feast, a festival called Mjollnir that celebrates the hammer of Thor (*The Pagan Book of Days*, Pennick, p. 72, 1992).

In late summer, on August 15th, some Christians observe the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. Some believe that Jesus returned to earth and carried His mother’s body to heaven—even though there is *no indication* in Scripture that this ever occurred. For this very reason, the festival was rejected by most Protestant churches during the Reformation (*Encyclopædia Britannica*, 11th ed., *Assumption*). Christians who believe in the Assumption base their belief on apocryphal sources that date from about 400AD. It first appears as official teaching in the Byzantine church in

the late 500s, from where it passed to the Western church in Rome (ibid.). It is sobering to see the parallels in Babylonian, Greek, Roman and Chinese mythology, in which there are stories of a god who descends into hell to recover the body of his mother and carries it to heaven. The rescued woman is revered as a “Mother... The Holy Virgin... distinguished by her *immaculate conception*” (*The Two Babylons*, pp. 125–126).



As we have seen again and again, ancient pagan beliefs have been incorporated into mainstream Christianity by merely giving the old myths and practices a new “Christian” face. This is why even knowledgeable Catholic historians like Will Durant write: “Christianity did not destroy paganism; it

adopted it” (*Caesar and Christ*, p. 595, 1972). The question then arises: Can a person who sincerely desires to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, as found in the Bible, observe holiday customs that are so clearly based upon pagan traditions? Does it matter to God? Does the Bible offer any instructions?

## What the Bible Condemns

Contrary to what many would like to assume today, the Bible explains clearly how God feels about man’s tendency to absorb pagan festivals into the religion He revealed to His chosen people. The first of the Ten Commandments states: “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3). The second commandment states: “You shall not make for yourself any carved image... you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God” (Exodus 20:4–5). When human beings give pagan festivals and practices new names, and continue to observe the old ways, they put pagan customs before, or in place of, instructions from the true God.

Some argue that as long as people feel in their hearts that they are worshipping God and honoring Christ with their efforts, they are much better off even though they continue to follow formerly pagan customs. But this argument simply runs contrary to what the Bible reveals. Moses was instructed to warn the Israelites about pagan religious customs they would encounter when they entered the Promised Land. He wrote, “take heed to yourself that you are *not ensnared* to follow them... *do not inquire* after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I will do likewise.’ *You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way*; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods” (Deuteronomy 12:30–31). God clearly proclaimed to the nation of Israel: “Whatever I command you, *be careful* to observe it; you *shall not add* to it nor take away from it” (Deuteronomy 12:32). Some of the fertility rites associated with the worship of the goddesses of spring (Ishtar, Astarte, Diana, Venus, Bel) included human sacrifice and acts of sexual promiscuity and perversion. This is why God takes such a strong stand against incorporating pagan customs into the religion outlined in the Bible.

However, the record of history reveals that the Israelites repeatedly ignored the commandments of God, and slipped back into idolatry. Shortly after the Israelites were supernaturally delivered from Egypt, they grew impatient while Moses was receiving instruction from God, and they turned to Aaron, Moses’ brother, for leadership. Aaron fashioned a golden calf (worshiped in Egypt) and told them: “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt” (see Exodus 32:1–8). Aaron then proclaimed the next day a feast to the Lord. What followed, as part of the idolatrous worship, was feasting, partying and sexual indulgence—which led God to tell Moses “your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt *have corrupted themselves*” (ibid.). Hundreds of years later, Jeroboam led ten tribes of Israel into idolatry by reintroducing the worship of golden calves and by changing the dates of God’s ordained festivals (1 Kings 12:26–33)—which the Bible labels as a *serious sin* (1 Kings 14:15–16). This is how God views the adoption of pagan customs that have given rise to many of modern Christianity’s holiday traditions.

God sent a series of prophets to the nation of Israel in an attempt to warn them of the impending consequences of adopting the idolatrous religious practices of their neighbors. Isaiah was instructed to write: “Your appointed feasts My soul hates” (Isaiah 1:14–15). Amos recorded: “I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies”



(Amos 5:21–23). Hosea warned Israel: “I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her New Moons, her Sabbaths—all her appointed feasts” (Hosea 2:11). God told Ezekiel to explain to the elders of Israel that they were punished by God and went into national captivity because “they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which are before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt... they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments... and they greatly defiled My Sabbaths” (Ezekiel 20:8, 13). One idolatrous practice that God called an abomination involved women weeping for Tammuz (one source of Lenten customs) and “worshipping the sun towards the east” (Ezekiel 8:14–20)—a practice that continues in Easter sunrise services today.

But just what statutes and judgments did God’s chosen people despise? What Sabbaths did they defile?

### What the Bible Commands

When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, His intent was to make them a *model nation* that would be a light to the world. This is why God gave them specific statutes and judgments, and warned them not to tamper with His instructions. They were to *carefully* follow and teach God’s ways to succeeding generations (see Deuteronomy 4:1–9). God’s instructions to Israel included a series of *divinely appointed festivals* that were to be observed every year—including weekly Sabbaths, and annual Sabbaths or Holy Days (see Leviticus 23). In the spring of each year the Israelites were to observe the Passover in the month of Nisan, at the beginning of the 14th day, in the evening, followed by the seven-day Festival of Unleavened Bread (with the first and last day being Holy Days). In early summer, the Feast of Pentecost was to be observed as a Holy Day. These are the *only* festivals that God commanded His people to observe during this time of the year.

Most people today assume that these biblical Holy Days were only given to the Jews, and that they are no longer required of Christians. This idea, however, does not agree with the facts of history or the plain statements of Scripture. The *Encyclopædia Britannica* states: “The first Christians *continued* to observe the Jewish festivals, though in a new spirit” (11th ed., *Easter*). This is exactly what the Bible reveals. Jesus was taught by His parents to keep the Spring Holy Days (Luke 2:41–42). He was still keeping those same Holy Days with His disciples before His death (Luke 22:1–11)—although in a new spirit (see vv. 14–20). Jesus instruct-

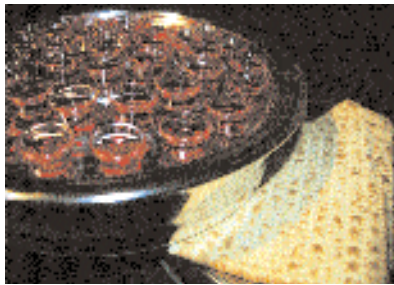
ed His disciples to “follow Me” (Matthew 4:19). This is why, years later, we find the Apostle Paul urging the Corinthian church to “keep the feast”—referring to the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread (1 Corinthians 5:7–8). In the book of Acts we see Paul, some 20 years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, still keeping not only the weekly Sabbath (Acts 17:2, 18:4), but the annual Holy Days (Acts 18:21), and using the Holy Days as benchmarks to indicate important times of the year (Acts 20:6). Paul and the other Apostles were taught by Jesus Christ to keep the Holy Days. They continued to teach what He had commanded them to teach (Matthew 28:19–20). But why are these Holy Days important to God?

### Purpose of the Holy Days

The annual festivals (see Leviticus 23; Deuteronomy 16) given by God to the Israelites—and observed by Jesus Christ, the Apostles and the early church—picture the *major steps* in God’s plan of salvation for mankind. The spring Holy Days commemorate the *initial* steps in that plan, foreshadowing the work of Jesus Christ. The Passover, observed in the evening at the beginning of the 14th of Nisan, is a memorial of Christ’s sacrifice for the sins of mankind (compare Exodus 12:1–6; John 1:29). It is through repentance (turning with sorrow from breaking the laws of God), and the acceptance of Christ’s sacrifice, that we can be forgiven of our sins (Acts 2:38). The Bible defines sin as the transgression of God’s law (1 John 3:4)—which would include not keeping the Holy Days. Eating unleavened bread for seven days during the Days of Unleavened Bread is designed to help Christians become aware of the need to eliminate sin (pictured by leaven) from our lives. This is why Paul told the Corinthians to “purge out the old leaven... of malice and wickedness” (1 Corinthians 5:7–8). Overcoming and eliminating sinful thoughts and actions is part of the challenge of living as a Christian (see Romans 12:21; Revelation 3:12). By observing the annual festival of Pentecost, which pictures the outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit (Acts 2), we are reminded of the spiritual power that God makes available to us to help us in this overcoming process. However, the Bible also plainly states that God only gives His Spirit to those who *obey* him (Acts 5:32). The Holy Spirit also imparts an understanding of God’s word and His plan of salvation (1 Corinthians 2:7–16).

So we can see that God commands observance of the annual biblical Holy Days. When we repent of breaking God’s laws, and begin to obey Him, we have access to His Holy Spirit, which lets us begin to under-

stand the Word of God. If we choose not to observe the Holy Days that God commands, and we decide to keep holidays that originated in paganism, and if we continue to perpetuate customs that God condemns, we *disobey* God and no longer have access to His Spirit. Our understanding of spiritual issues will become clouded. Scripture indicates that disobedience produces spiritual blindness (see Romans 1:21, 11:8–10). **When humanity loses sight of the Holy Days (which happens when keeping pagan holidays) it loses sight of God’s plan of salvation for mankind. The real purpose of human life disappears from view.** This happened to ancient Israel. It happened over the centuries



**In the spring of each year the Israelites were to observe the Passover in the month of Nisan, at the beginning of the 14th day, in the evening, followed by the seven-day Festival of Unleavened Bread**

to the church that Jesus and the Apostles began. It happens today. This is why God has put so many warnings in the Bible not to tamper with His instructions. This is why the Holy Days were commanded to be kept *forever* (Leviticus 23:14, 21, 31, 41).

## **A Lesson of History**

The historian Edward Gibbon records that the Apostolic church “united the law of Moses with the teachings of Jesus Christ” (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chap. 15). The early church fled from Jerusalem when the Romans destroyed the city in 70AD. After languishing for over 60 years in Pella, “a considerable part of the congregation *renounced* the Mosaic law” which the church had observed for over a century (*ibid.*). This was done not to obey God, but to gain admission to the new Roman colony that Hadrian established at Jerusalem, which forbade admission to Jews (or to those whose religious practices would make them appear Jewish). Gibbon indicates that a major part of the early Jerusalem church *compromised* their beliefs in order to cement their union with the emerging universal Christian church (*ibid.*).

This sentiment against anything that appeared to be Jewish continued to build throughout the first several centuries of the New Testament church era. Under the influence of the Apostle John, the churches in Asia Minor continued to observe the Passover on the 14th of Nisan, while churches in

the western part of the Roman Empire began to observe Easter.

We read of an encounter (in 159AD) between Polycarp (the Bishop of Smyrna and a disciple of John) and Anicetus (the Bishop of Rome), in which Polycarp argued successfully against dropping the Passover observance on the 14th of Nisan in favor of Easter. However, about 40 years later, Victor, the bishop of Rome, excommunicated Polycrates, a leader of the church in Asia Minor (and a disciple of Polycarp) for refusing to go along with Easter observance—which was becoming the accepted custom in Christendom. At the time of Polycrates (about 200AD), the churches in

Asia Minor were the only ones still keeping the Passover on the 14th of Nisan instead of Easter. They did so because

they were taught to do this by the Apostle John, who had been trained by Jesus Christ. This debate over keeping Passover on the 14th of Nisan or observing Easter is called the *Quartodeciman controversy*. It was finally settled by the Roman Emperor Constantine at the Council of Nicaea in 325AD when it was decreed that the Christian world would keep Easter and “that none should hereafter follow the blindness of the Jews” (*Encyclopædia Britannica* 11th ed., *Easter*). However, remnants of the Apostolic Church that kept the Holy Days continued to exist on the fringes of the Roman Empire—but these Christians, though faithful to Apostolic Christianity, were branded as heretics.

The lesson of history is that a church council, presided over by a sun-worshipping Roman emperor who was converted to nominal Christianity on his deathbed, *simply overruled* the Scripture and disregarded the clear example and teachings of Jesus Christ and the historical record of the Apostles.

Now that you know how pagan holidays came to be observed by many of this world’s Christian churches, you may have some thinking to do. Why not learn about the God’s Holy Days? When you begin to keep God’s festivals, you will be walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. You will begin to practice true Apostolic Christianity. You will begin to grow in your understanding of the Bible and God’s plan of salvation for mankind. The spring Holy Days picture vital steps in that plan—but they are just the beginning. The fall Holy Days are even more exciting. We will look into that subject in a future article. <sup>[TW]</sup>



# Questions & Answers

## **QUESTION:**

As a result of your magazine and booklets, I am grasping a deeper understanding of God's word. However, my mate wants nothing to do with it. My zeal for Bible study and sharing nuggets of truth with him have been met with rejection and resentment. Therefore, what can I do to encourage my mate?

## **ANSWER:**

Disbelief, hatred and alienation from relatives are trials Jesus prophesied all true Christians would experience (Luke 12:51–53). Since human nature resists change, the very mention of truth can upset a non-believing mate (Romans 8:7). Out of misguided zeal, some people have attempted to force their mates into believing as they do, by “beating them over the head” with newly found understanding. Jesus Christ never forced anyone to believe and neither did He “brow-beat” people into submission. He simply lived God's way and willingly sacrificed Himself as the perfect example for all of us to follow. Likewise, you can be a positive tool in God's hands to encourage and perhaps win your mate over.

First, reassure your mate that a commitment to God's word will also mean a commitment to loving him or her. A believing husband's love will be demonstrated by a willingness to sacrifice himself for his wife “just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25–29). Would a non-believing wife disagree with such profound attention and care for her? Absolutely not!

A believing wife will be striving to deeply respect and love her husband (Ephesians 5:21–24). God says that the real beauty of a woman is on the inside—“the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God” (1 Peter 3:3–4). Who would be upset with an attentive, loving, and faithful wife—possessing a priceless atti-

tude? Therefore, believing husbands and wives should encourage their mates that God's way of life will be good for their marriage.

Secondly, become a bright shining example of what you are learning. Your acts of kindness, and consideration toward your mate will confirm your words of sincerity. For example, some mates may object to their spouses studying their Bibles or reading Bible literature *in front of them*. Try to be sensitive to their perception. Why are they sensitive? Do they feel you are neglecting them? Truly, Jesus stated we should seek the Kingdom of God first and His righteousness. However, some things should be done in private, such as prayer and fasting (Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18).

What, therefore, *should* your mate *see*? Jesus said, “You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before men, that they may see *your good works* and glorify your Father in Heaven” (Matthew 5:13–16). So powerful is this “spiritual light” that a non-believing husband can be “won” by the wife's conduct (1 Peter 3:1–2). In other words, it is possible that God may use your example to open your mate's eyes to the truth!

Thirdly, pray fervently for your wife or husband that God would move your mate to seek Him. The exciting good news is that God desires that all humanity have the opportunity to be saved (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4). Every human being will be given the chance to repent of resentment and rebellion toward God. Only upon true repentance, baptism and the receiving of God's Holy Spirit, can deep-seated resentments be overcome.

While you wait for God to answer this prayer, continue to ask the Father for wisdom. It takes godly wisdom to love your mate, to salve over misunderstandings, and make peace. Indeed, the qualities of Christianity will endear you to your mate, and at the same time you will be an encouraging reflection of the Kingdom of God.





# Rebuilding Healthy Families

By John H. Ogwyn

**J**ack and Wanda seemed to have an ideal family. Their friends at church knew them as a handsome young couple with four attractive children. Jack was a skilled tradesman, and Wanda was a full-time homemaker. They lived in a nice home in a nice subdivision. All in all, they seemed to personify the American dream to most who knew them.

There was a darker side, however. Much of what their friends thought they knew about Jack and Wanda was an illusion. Though the couple kept up a good front for years, eventually cracks began to appear in their facade. You see, Jack had a drinking problem and it was growing steadily worse. It was the family secret.

As Jack's drinking increased, Wanda became more resentful, and the fights between them grew more frequent and intense. By the time Jack finally acknowledged that he had a problem, and sought help, Wanda was so overcome with bitterness, resentment and hurt that she no longer cared. Over the next several years, this "ideal family" came apart—with tragic results for each member. Their lives went from dream to nightmare.

This, of course, is not an isolated situation. According to a United States government report on alcoholism, almost 18 million adults in the United States were classified as problem drinkers. Of course, it is not merely the drinkers who have a problem. As in Jack's case, the problem drinker directly affects the lives of others, especially the children who grow up in that environment.

The patterns of how we function in life are developed in childhood. The most important aspects of what we believe—about ourselves and the world around us—are formed by the lessons learned at home. There are millions of adults who grew up in alcoholic homes. Millions more grew up with other scars. According to Susan Froward, co-author of *Betrayal of Innocence*, at least ten million American women have been incest victims. While these particular statistics are based upon the United States, similar figures apply in Britain, Canada and Australia.

As we look around our hurting world, we should recognize that no one comes from a perfect background. However, millions have grown up in circumstances that have left *particularly* deep scars. These scars will, if not addressed



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and healed, simply perpetuate the sins of the fathers onto the children—even to the third and fourth generations (see Numbers 14:18).

With so many coming from unhealthy family backgrounds, does that mean that all of these millions have no chance for future happiness? Are *you* automatically doomed to repeat the problems of the family in which you grew up? Is it really possible to break the cycle and rebuild a healthy family?

### **Honestly Facing the Past**

The problem, of course, is not that people set out with a goal of being unhappy. They simply do not know how to do the things that produce happy results! So many times, growing up in a deeply troubled family environment, children promise themselves that they will not put their own children through such traumas in the future. Yet just the opposite is usually the case. Problems are perpetuated. Why?

Much can be traced to the lessons and survival strategies we learn as children. The hurt, the fear, and the resentments accumulated during childhood are carried into adulthood. Those feelings are all too often carried into new relationships. Those who never learned to trust as children lack the ability to enjoy true intimacy as adults. They were never taught by their parents how to relate to others (Proverbs 22:6).

To change, one must first face the past honestly, looking into the mirror of God's law (James 1:23–25). Truth is the gateway to real freedom. While we cannot choose our past, we can make choices about our future. Before we can go forward, we must face where we are in life and how we got there. By understanding the dynamics of our family system,

we can come to understand things about ourselves—why we think and feel the way we do.

When a child grows up believing that his best will never be good enough, or that he must struggle to earn love, or that he is responsible for everyone else's happiness, he will have real problems in establishing healthy adult relationships.

Facing the past is not about blaming Mom and Dad—it is about becoming honest with ourselves. We can never work on a problem that we do not see or will not admit. Taking inventory of our own lives, including our feelings and the beliefs that underlie them, is crucial. If we want the future to be different from the past, we must specifically identify what we intend to do differently. Good intentions of “doing better” are not nearly enough. What *exactly* will we *do* differently? None of us can change in generalities, only in specifics!

Pretending that nothing is wrong does not make it so. We must not deceive ourselves (Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:22). However, when we honestly face an issue, we can see it for what it is, and we can make choices. This is a first step in dealing with childhood wounds.

### **Forgiving and Letting Go**

Terrible events leave deep scars. One of the hardest ways to respond to hurtful and unfair events is to let go of them. So often, we can feel justified in holding on to resentments because of life's unfairness. In the long run, however, resentments hurt most the ones who harbor them.

The Bible is the world's premier psychology book. The Creator, the one who designed the human heart and mind, authored it. In its pages are the stories of many real life men and women,

the choices they made, and the consequences of those choices.

One of the most tragic episodes recorded in scripture is the series of incidents that culminated in the rebellion of Absalom, son of King David. The story did not start with Absalom's rebellion, of course. It started almost ten years earlier with the rape of his sister, Tamar, by her half-brother, Amnon. In the aftermath of this incident, Absalom seethed with a deep inner rage for two years. He was furious about what had happened to his sister (2 Samuel 13).

After two years, Absalom invited all of his brothers to his ranch for a barbecue. Taking advantage of having coaxed Amnon away from Jerusalem, he killed him and fled the country. King David was devastated by the news. He had now lost two sons, one dead and the other in self-imposed exile. After about three years, there had been no contact between King David and the estranged Absalom. A ruse by Joab, who was a nephew as well as a close aide to the king, resulted in King David sending word to Absalom to return to Jerusalem. After his return, though, Absalom still was not invited to spend time with his father, or even to see him face to face. King David was so hurt by what Absalom had done that he simply could not bring himself to reconcile completely. Several more years passed, and Absalom grew increasingly resentful of his father.

Finally, Joab succeeded in breaking the logjam once again, and the king invited Absalom to visit him (2 Samuel 14:21). There was an outward reconciliation, but Absalom was now so consumed with resentment that he began to plot a revolution to seize his father's throne. When he thought the time was ripe, he struck. At first it

seemed that he would be successful, but in the end his army was defeated in battle. Before the armies had clashed, King David had



instructed the soldiers not to hurt Absalom, but to “deal gently for my sake with the young man.” Those instructions were ignored and Absalom was killed. David was devastated. “O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place!” he cried. “O Absalom my son, my son” (2 Samuel 18:33).

This whole tragic account is about holding on to deep hurts and resentments. Were those hurts real and understandable? Of course they were! However, and this is the point, they had a devastating effect on those who held on to them.

Jesus Christ emphasized, over and over, the importance of forgiveness—of letting go of the resentment and hurt. As He was taken to be executed, He Himself exercised unilateral forgiveness. Speaking of the soldiers who were carrying out His crucifixion, He said, “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34).

One of the most important decisions anyone who has come out of a hurtful background can make is to let go of the hurt and resentment. It is often hard to do, since we consider ourselves entitled to those feelings because of what happened. Yet resentment is the source of most spiritual maladies and, when retained, is the root from which bitterness grows.

Face the past honestly. Acknowledge the hurt and loss. It is okay to grieve a loss, but then let it go. Whether to hold on to past hurts or to release them is *your* choice. Choose to forgive and to go forward.

### **Trust and Respect**

Trust and respect are elements at the heart of healthy relationships. Hurtful experiences in a sick family environment undermine proper respect and damage the ability to trust. But why are these elements so vital, and what can be done to rebuild them?

In healthy families, good communication is one of the most important tools. Knowing others’ thoughts, ideas and feelings allows problems to be addressed and resolved. Using negative and hurtful words, and not listening attentively, will stifle attempts at communication. “But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife” (2 Timothy 2:23). Failure to show respect to other family members will undermine their willingness to express what is really on their minds. No one wants to be held up to ridicule or belittled. We only really open up to those with whom we feel safe. A dysfunctional family is not a safe, emotional environment. As a result, its members do not learn healthy communication skills.

If you grew up in such an environment, then you must learn new and different skills if your current family is to have a different atmosphere than did your family of origin. Much of this hinges on building an atmosphere of trust and respect (1 Peter 2:17; Hebrews 12:14). Trust is built up by consistently carrying through in many little things. People feel respect when they are paid attention to and treated with courtesy.

Your mate will never open up to you until he or she feels safe in doing so. How do you create this safe environment? First, you must ensure that private comments are never repeated in a way that embarrasses the person who confided them to you (Proverbs 25:9). Also, confessions of inner fears or insecurities must never be saved up as ammunition to be thrown back in the face of the one who said it the next time there is a disagreement.

Where there are people, there will inevitably be conflict from time to time. But when an atmosphere of trust and respect prevails in the home, that conflict will be resolved in healthy ways. Concentrate on building trust and showing respect by both your actions and your words, even in times of conflict (Philippians 2:3). With time, there will be tangible results. None of us can make someone else change, but we can choose to make changes in our own lives.

### **Achieving Balance**

“Balance,” it has been said, “is a razor’s edge!” Overcompensating—going from one extreme to another—seems to be the human tendency. Substituting different extremes does not promote balance.

Some family systems are so rigid and controlling that they sti-



fle family members. Others are so loose and permissive that they produce a sense of chaos. Neither of these is a healthy balance. If one mate is too strict, lenience from the other mate does not produce balance. A structured environment, by contrast, produces proper balance in the home, in which each family member is still able to be an individual.

In unhealthy families, the leader either abdicates his responsibility to guide or else seeks to control all the other members. What is a healthy leadership style? The early New Testament church provides an interesting example. After all, the Church is called the “household of God” (Ephesians 2:19) and has many of the characteristics of a family.

From Acts 6:1 we learn that the number of the disciples in Jerusalem had multiplied to many thousands. Next, we learn that problems arose with certain ones feeling that their needy were being neglected. How did the leadership respond? They could have called everyone together and “chewed them out” for voicing complaints. They could have become defensive, responding that they were doing the best that they could, and putting a guilt trip on those who complained. They did neither.

Instead, they listened to what was being said! After listening, they called everyone together and established the parameters of a solution. They next delegated, to those closer to the situation, the responsibility for filling in details. In this case, the problem was resolved by preparing a list of individuals who met the qualifications the Apostles had enumerated. The result was received positively, and the Church grew even more (v. 7).

The Apostles avoided making several of the most common mis-

takes that cause people to be frustrated with their leaders. They did not stifle communication by becoming angry with those who brought them unwelcome news. Neither did they frustrate the Church by going to extremes of either failing to respond and provide leadership or else trying to micro-manage and control every facet of the solution.

This is a clear picture of how healthy leadership works, and how it applies to the home just as much as to the Church or to other contexts. Listening, establishing parameters and guidelines, and then giving people room to work out specifics are all-important keys to balanced leadership.

A dysfunctional family is an unbalanced environment. Rebuilding healthy families that function properly always involves a restoration of balance. Children must be given guidelines and parameters of acceptable behavior. However, within those boundaries, they should be allowed to develop their own individual tastes and interests.

Families should neither be disconnected and uninterested in one another’s lives, nor enmeshed and entangled in each other’s lives. There is a healthy balance in maintaining interest and involvement while still giving others room to be individuals and resolve problems. In Genesis 2:24, the Creator God said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined unto his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” A new family unit was to be created. Of course, loving children will continue to honor and respect their parents, and loving parents will remain deeply interested in the welfare of children and their new families.


Unhealthy, dysfunctional families perpetuate themselves—but not because people consciously

seek them. They persist because people lack the knowledge, the skills and the will to build something better. How, then, can you



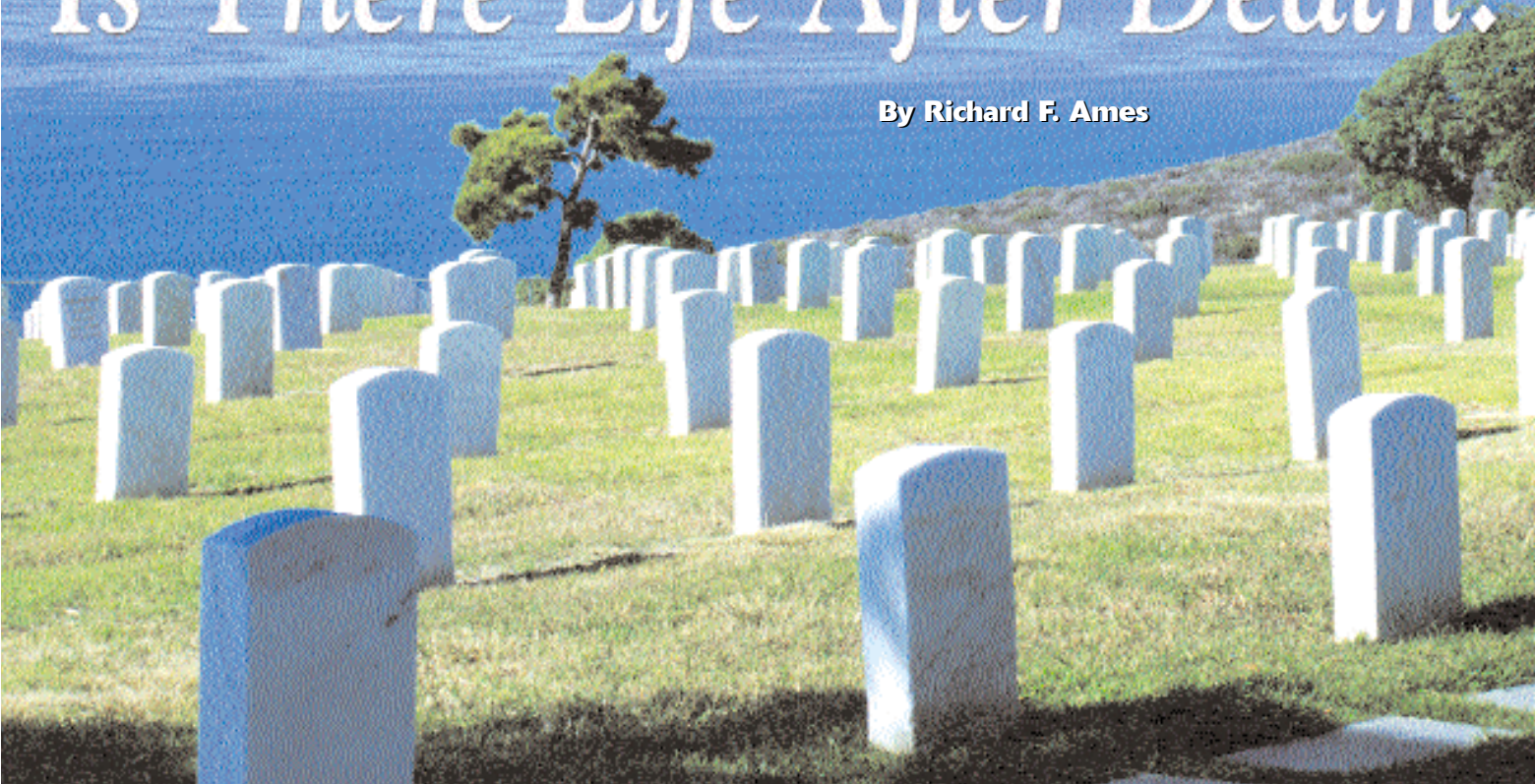
guarantee that your future will be different than your past?

First, you must choose to acknowledge the past honestly, and then to let it go. You *can* make a choice to turn loose of hurt and to replace it with forgiveness. Forgiveness, after all, is a choice! Instead of being controlled by fears and insecurities developed over a lifetime, begin to develop a deep, personal relationship with your Creator. When you choose to be guided by trust in God, rather than fear of people and circumstances, you will find whole new vistas of life opened to you. Seek to build trust and respect into all of your relationships by giving respect and showing yourself trustworthy. Finally, seek balance by learning how to be involved without being enmeshed.

We live in a world of hurting and broken family relationships. Yet, regardless of your background, it is possible to rebuild a healthy family. Your Creator has provided the instruction book, but you must put His instructions into practice to gain new knowledge and new skills. Seek help and go forward. The result will be worth all of the hard work that may be ahead! 

# Is There Life After Death?

By Richard F. Ames



One of life's greatest mysteries is the question of what happens to a person after death. Does a dead person's soul go to Heaven or Hell immediately upon dying? What does the Bible say about life after death?

Facing the death of a loved one, particularly if the loss is sudden and unexpected, is one of life's greatest trials. We sorrow and mourn over such a tragedy. Our family and friends are very precious to us. Whether death strikes at a young age, or at the end of a long life, we experience the pain of loss. And we wonder, "Will we ever see them again?" When we consider the end of life, we ask, "Is there any hope for the future?"

Yes, there *is* hope for the future! There is hope for your deceased son, daughter, husband, wife, relative or friend. How do we know that there is hope? Because God Almighty, the very Creator of life, reveals in your Bible the answers to the mysteries of life.

As physical human beings with a physiochemical existence, we will all die. But after we die, will we live again? The Bible tells us plainly that: "...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

Regular readers of this magazine know that there is an awesome purpose for each individual's life, and an awesome future ahead. But what exactly does the Bible say about Christians who die? Do they go to Heaven immediately when they die?

## Heaven or Sleep?

The Apostle Paul wanted his readers to know the truth about the resurrection. "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).

The Apostle Paul refers to death as a sleep. He does not describe the dead as being active or alive in Heaven. They are asleep or dead until the coming of Christ—His Second Coming. We read: "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



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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 at Christ’s Second Coming “with the trumpet of God.” That is the last trumpet, the seventh trumpet described in the book of Revelation. Scripture reveals that the dead in Christ will *then* rise. True Christians who have died are not resurrected until Christ returns! Those of us who are alive when Christ returns will join those who have long been dead, all resurrected to receive the promised gift of eternal life! That resurrection is the hope that all genuine Christians look forward to.

On one occasion when the Apostle Paul was being examined by the Jewish Sanhedrin, he talked of the resurrection. He spoke to the assembly of both Pharisees and Sadducees: “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? Absolutely not! Paul was looking forward to the resurrection from the dead at the return of Christ! In the book of Philippians, the Apostle Paul spoke 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 this may seem, the Bible teaches that when we die, we remain dead until the resurrection. The Apostle Paul never speaks of the dead as being alive in Heaven or Hell! He refers to deceased Christians as those who sleep in Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:14). Sleep is used here as a metaphor for death.

## The Example of Lazarus

Jesus Himself also used the metaphor of sleep. Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha of the town of Bethany, was ill, and died before Jesus arrived. Jesus told His disciples: “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.’ Then His disciples said, ‘Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.’ However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead’” (John 11:11–14).

Lazarus had died from a sickness. Did he go to Heaven at the moment of death? If he did, Jesus

would have had to command Lazarus to give up his new spiritual glory and come back to a mundane physical life. That makes no sense! Lazarus did not go to Heaven. Neither did he go to the mythical ever-burning Hell! Lazarus was dead. Jesus said so.

Lazarus had been in the grave four days, placed in a tomb with a large stone covering the entrance. We read: “Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, ‘Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?’” (John 11:39–40).

Jesus, the Son of God, was about to demonstrate the power of the resurrection. In this case, it was a resurrection to physical life, not the resurrection to glory and immortality. Jesus told Martha, “Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day’” (John 11:23–24).

Martha knew about the resurrection—the same resurrection the Apostle Paul later wrote about. “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die’” (John 11:25–26). Notice that Jesus said, “Though he may die, he shall live.” Once the great resurrection takes place, the glorified, resurrected saints will never die! That is the promise of eternal life! But it requires faith in the Savior of the world—the One who is the “resurrection and the life.”

After the stone was removed from the entrance to the tomb, Jesus called out to the dead Lazarus. “He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Loose him, and let him go.’ Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him” (John 11:43–45).

Lazarus was resurrected to live out the remainder of his natural life. This awesome miracle testified that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the Son of God. But the chief priests and Pharisees were upset at the miracle of Lazarus’ resurrection—and from then on, they plotted to put Jesus to death. You can read about this in the remainder of John 11.

## Dead Until The Resurrection

We have seen that the Bible teaches that a dead person remains dead until the resurrection. Both the Apostle Paul and Jesus referred to death as a sleep,

and one who is dead has no consciousness—remaining in the grave until the resurrection. Note what Jesus said in John 5:28, “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28–29). Other translations use the word “judgment” instead of “condemnation.” Yes, the hope for all of us is the resurrection. Faithful Christians are resurrected to immortality at the Second Coming of Christ!

Scripture shows that immortality is a gift from God! “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 truth of the resurrection can comfort those who grieve.** © Corbis Image

the scripture does not state “the wages of sin is immortal life in Hell-fire.” The wages of sin is death, the absence of life. If you already had an immortal soul—if you already had eternal life—then you would not need it as a **gift** from God. Eternal life is a wonderful gift through our living Savior, Jesus Christ!

The Apostle Paul describes this dramatic transformation that takes place at the time of the last trumpet announcing Christ’s return. “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’” (1 Corinthians 15:51–54).

Yes, there will be victory over death at the last trumpet. And in the same verse we see that “this mortal must put on immortality.” But why should there

be a need for immortality if we humans already have an immortal soul? The Bible reveals that souls are not immortal. A soul can die! For instance, the prophet Ezekiel tells us, “The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). The Hebrew word for “soul” is *nephesh*, which means physical or natural life. The same word *nephesh* also refers to animal life in Genesis 1:21.

These Old Testament verses are clear. But what does the New Testament tell us about souls? In Christ’s own words: “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 [Gehenna fire]” (Matthew 10:28). Yes, God is able to **destroy** both soul and body in Gehenna fire. Many other scriptures also demonstrate that human beings do not have an immortal soul. As God inspired the prophet Ezekiel to state, “The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20).

The good news is that we will be resurrected. Take a look at the example of King David, a man after God’s own heart. Has he gone to Heaven, as many believe? Or is he still in the grave? In the Kingdom of God, King David will be the ruler over all the tribes and nations of Israel and Judah (see Ezekiel 37:24; Jeremiah 30:9). Certainly David should be in Heaven, if the righteous go there the moment they die. But the Bible clearly shows that David is not there! On the day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter gave the very first inspired sermon of the New Testament Church, during which he said, “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). **After** the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, David was still dead and buried! Peter went on to state plainly: “For David **did not ascend** into the heavens” (Acts 2:34). David is awaiting the resurrection, as are all the other faithful saints!

We have learned that faithful Christians will be resurrected at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth, at the last trumpet. They will be transformed from mortal to immortal, from a natural body to a spiritual body. It will be a glorious time!

But what about those who have never been converted to true Christianity? What happens to

**Continued on page 29**



# Letters to the Editor

## SOLID FOUNDATION

You people are the biblical definition of a fool. I doubt very seriously you will go to heaven, and if you do you will be very low because of the curse Christ spoke of to those who change the word of the Gospel.

D.E., via the Internet

**Editor's note:** *We share your concern about those who change the word of the Gospel. Indeed, some professing Christians teach that their denomination's literature is actually part of the Bible, or mentioned in the Bible, or of status equal to the Bible. True Christians reject these ideas, and look to the Bible—without man-made additions—for God's Truth. All the articles in this magazine are based on the solid foundation of the Holy Bible.*

*We agree with you that we will not go to heaven at death. The Bible teaches clearly that those who die are "asleep" in the grave, not languishing in a bodiless state in heaven, and that when they are resurrected they will either be raised as spirit beings serving God, or as physical beings awaiting judgment. To learn more about what happens after death, please read the article by Mr. Richard F. Ames, Is There Life After Death? on page 20 of this issue.*

I would like to take this time to say "thanks" for all the literature that is presented on the Tele-cast for FREE! As we all know there are few things FREE in this old world any more. So thanks again!

J.B., Tyler, TX, via the Internet

God bless you for such a spiritual, informative magazine. May God bless us all as we endeavor to reach all sectors of mankind in the day in which we live. "Even so, come quickly, Lord."

S.B., Anderson, SC, via the Internet

## GREAT ARTICLES

I enjoyed very much the *Personal* in the October-December 1999 issue, and the *Uncovering Apostolic Christianity* article. They were very uplifting to digest. Thank you for the dedication and determination to tell it like it really is!

E.Z., Oakland, NJ

Please thank Mr. Ames for the wonderful article *The Power of Prayer* in the October-December 1999 issue. May God bless all in this end-time commission.

J.W., Los Angeles, CA

I just want to thank you for adding Mr. Mark Mendiola to your writing staff. His articles are so good—hard-hitting, like Mr. Armstrong's were. I think it is wonderful to be able to read such powerful articles.

W.T., Big Sandy, TX

## BIBLE STUDY COURSE

I have been in God's Church for 25 years, yet I am learning things from the *Bible Study Course* that I never knew before. I especially appreciate the choice of what seem like the "perfect" scripture verses to answer the particular questions being asked. All of the questions and answers tie in so smoothly to the main topic question of each section; as you look them up, you realize how completely they support and answer the question. It is a very satisfying feeling to be studying such "plain truth" again! I know I am growing in knowledge; I just pray that I will also grow in the application of that knowledge.

D.R., Williamson, SC

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





# *Is Time Running Out*

# *For the U. S. Economy?*

By Mark Mendiola

Americans and many others in the western world are enjoying unprecedented lifestyles made possible by seemingly unbridled prosperity. Yet, could the bull market come to a halt? Many economists and analysts are starting to wonder.

**T**he surging American economy ended 1999 with a bang that astounded even the most bullish economists. The roaring '90s spawned the longest economic expansion in United States history as Americans reveled in the lowest unemployment in nearly 30 years, strong corporate profits, low inflation, a robust stock market, federal budget surpluses and steady growth in personal incomes.

All major U.S. stock market indicators ended 1999 at record highs. The Nasdaq, Dow Jones Industrial Average and Standard

& Poor's 500 all completed an unprecedented fifth straight year of double-digit percentage gains, with the Nasdaq rising a spectacular 86 percent last year. Some experts forecast the economic expansion that began in March 1991 to continue through February 2000, exceeding the record 106 consecutive months of growth in the 1960s.

The Clinton administration's first seven years were years of great plenty in the United States, with economists marveling at the expansion's strength and duration as the "Goldilocks"

economy continued to defy gravity and normal business cycles. More than 20 million jobs were created in the U.S., and the stock market rose more than 2.5 percent in value during that period.

The Federal Reserve raised interest rates three times in 1999 to put the brakes on the accelerating U.S. economy, but failed to slow it appreciably as consumer spending—which accounts for about two-thirds of the entire economy—stoked it red hot. There seemed no end to the spending binge by Americans



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intoxicated by an endless upward spiral in wealth and abundance.

Some historians say the affluence enjoyed by Americans, and others in the western world, is unprecedented. Never have so many enjoyed so much for so long! Yet, are there indications the remarkable growth could come to an abrupt end?

## Ominous Parallels

“We are living in an age of increasing prosperity and consequent increasing earning power of corporations and individuals. This is due in large measure to mass production and inventions such as the world never before has witnessed. ... Applications of these inventions to business means greatly enhanced earning power. This is a new and tremendously powerful factor in the [business] world and one which never before existed.”

One might expect the previous quote to have been uttered by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, describing what he has called a new economic era in which high technology is boosting productivity without fueling inflation. It was made, however, by Yale University Professor Irving Fisher in the *New York Times* on Sept. 5, 1929, only six days after the Dow Jones Industrial Average's then-record close of 380.33 on Aug. 30, 1929.

Fisher said, “Stock prices are not too high, and Wall Street will not experience anything in the nature of a crash. There may be a decline in stock prices, but not anything in the nature of a crash.” Less than 10 weeks later, the Dow Industrial Average plunged 47 percent! Within three years, it would be down a shocking 87 percent.

With the advent of the 70th anniversary of that infamous stock

market crash of Oct. 29, 1929, much has been written of the haunting parallels between the 1920s and the 1990s. In both decades, the U.S. was the dominant economic power. American consumers were rushing to invest in stocks to take advantage of a wild market; labor unions were subdued; farm commodity prices were at rock-bottom levels; corporate mergers were increasing; tax cuts promised extended prosperity, and morals were on the skids. In the '20s, however, only 3 percent of the nation owned stock—as opposed to about 49 percent or 80 million shareholders today.

The Federal Reserve is on the horns of a dilemma because it must decide when and by how much interest rates need to be raised without pricking what appears to be a swelling bubble.

In a speech given to the Economic Club of New York on Jan. 13, 2000, Greenspan observed: “When we look back at the 1990s, from the perspective of say 2010... that 2010 retrospective might well conclude that a good deal of what we are currently experiencing was just one of the many euphoric speculative bubbles that have dotted human history.”

In an April 18, 1998 article titled “America's Bubble Economy,” the respected British magazine *The Economist* reported: “In the late 1920s, the Fed was also reluctant to raise interest rates in response to surging share prices, leaving rampant bank lending to push prices higher still. When the Fed did belatedly act, the bubble burst with a vengeance. The longer that asset prices continue to be pumped up by easy money, the more inflated the bubble will become and the more painful the economic after-effects when it bursts.... One way

or another, America's stock market is about to play a more important role in America's monetary policy than at any time since the 1920s. It would be better if this were to happen sooner rather than later.”

David W. Tice, who manages the Prudent Bear mutual fund and advises more than 150 institutional investors, reports bank loans surged by nearly \$63 billion in four weeks of the fourth quarter, after growing \$19 billion during the entire third quarter. Of those loans, almost \$27 billion were for investments in securities or the stock market. In the 17 weeks prior to Jan. 14, 2000, the nation's money supply expanded by \$342 billion!

In November 1999, President Clinton signed a bill that dismantles the financial safeguards installed in the 1930s to prevent a recurrence of the 1929 market crash. The new bill, in effect, repeals the Glass-Steagall Act, which had erected “firewalls” to separate banks, investment firms and insurance companies, prohibiting them from engaging in each other's businesses.

Securities investments and insurance are not federally insured, unlike bank deposits, exposing consumers to even greater risk. Congress and the Clinton administration also have pushed to invest Social Security funds in the stock market as if its escalation will go undeterred indefinitely. Should the market take another plunge, millions of dollars in retirement funds could be wiped out.

## Market Mania

Many young investors do not remember a time when the raging bull market has not stampeded to greater heights. Much of that rapid growth has been accelerated by the 72 million Baby Boomers

born after World War II rushing to invest, almost in a panic, before they start to reach retirement age. The public seems thoroughly sold on the notion of stocks as cannot-miss long-term investments. They were shaken, however, last September when the Dow Jones Industrial Average nose-dived 1,300 points from its August high before pulling out of its tailspin.

They also have forgotten “Black Monday” when the Dow plummeted 508 points—or more than 22 percent—in a single day on Oct. 19, 1987, the culmination of an eight-week slide in which the Average lost slightly less than 1,000 points, or about 36 percent of its value. More than half the Dow’s gains from 1982 to 1987 were wiped out in only 39 trading days. That would be like today’s Dow level of 11,000 falling nearly 4,000 points during the same period.

As the market has relentlessly charged through one psychological barrier after another, its volatility also has intensified, with 100-point swings in either direction becoming common. On Nov. 14, 1972, the Dow closed above the 1,000 level for the first time in history. The Dow closed above 10,000 for the first time on March 29, 1999. It closed above 11,000 for the first time on May 3, 1999. There seems no end to the dizzying heights it can achieve. Yet, the dramatic rise is starting to worry some analysts.

Writing for the Associated Press, David Sturges observed that because investors are reluctant to cash in their shares, increased consumer spending must come from additional borrowing. However, “the private savings rate has now turned negative. For the first time in recent history, households as a whole are spending more

than their incomes,” Sturges wrote in the Nov. 7 wire story.

Dr. George Reisman, an economics professor at Pepperdine University, observed that the U.S. personal savings rate has been declining from a meager 2.5 percent of personal income in 1996 to 1.8 percent in 1997 to a miniscule .4 percent in 1998. In the spring of 1999, it declined into negative territory.

Reisman noted the growth in the nation’s money supply has swollen by nearly 25 percent since December 1995, financing corporate mergers, acquisitions and stock repurchases. “Stock prices have been rising on the foundation of nothing more than an increase in the quantity of money.”

Rosy economic projections have created a “wealth effect” in which Americans appear to have substantial profits on paper, but unless those profits are cashed out, they would not be realized in a market driven by emotions. Greed drives markets up. Fear drives them down.

### **Biblical Forecasts**

Economists are said to be experts who will know tomorrow why the things they predicted yesterday did not happen today. Yet, as we read within the pages of the Holy Bible, Old Testament prophets and New Testament Apostles foresaw and accurately predicted centuries ago the economic conditions so prevalent in society today. They explicitly described the contagious, widespread materialism dubbed “affluenza” by a Public Broadcasting System report a few years ago.

Describing the house of Jacob, the Prophet Isaiah foresaw a time when “Their land is also full of silver and gold, and there is no end

to their treasures; Their land is also full of horses, and there is no end to their chariots. Their land is also full of idols; They worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made” (Isaiah 2:7–8).

The Apostle Paul said that covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). He also warned that the last days would be perilous, and men would be lovers of themselves, lovers of money and lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:1–4). It is not popular to warn of punishment coming on our people, who think they can blatantly break God’s spiritual and economic laws without paying the consequences.

Yet, a day of reckoning looms. “Now go, write it before them on a tablet, and note it on a scroll, that it may be for time to come, forever and ever; That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; Who say to the seers, ‘Do not see,’ and to the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits’” (Isaiah 30:8–10). Isaiah also warns: “Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel: ‘Because you despise this word, and trust in oppression and perversity, and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach ready to fall, a bulge in a high wall, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant, and He shall break it like the breaking of the potter’s vessel, which is broken in pieces’” (vv. 12–13).

Yes, those trusting in this world’s financial system for their economic security could be in for a very rude awakening if they find their savings and investments shattered overnight in another crash. Relying on the “irrational exuberance” of economists and



stockbrokers is like leaning on a wobbly wall for support. The Apostle Paul also warned the return of Jesus Christ would be preceded by a time when men would espouse “peace and safety!” prior to “sudden destruction” (1 Thessalonians 5:2–3).

Notice how the Prophet Ezekiel also warns of a similar time of complacency and smugness prior to destruction: “Because they have seduced my people, saying, ‘Peace!’ when there is no peace—and one builds a boundary wall, and they plaster it with untempered mortar—say to those who plaster it with untempered mortar, that it will fall. There will be flooding rain, and you, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall tear it down. Surely, when the wall has fallen, will it not be said to you, ‘Where is the mortar with which you have plastered it?’” (Ezekiel 13:10–13).

## Storm Clouds on the Horizon

Foolish men build houses on sand, Jesus Christ warned. When rain descends, floods come and winds batter such houses, those structures collapse, and great is their fall (Matthew 7:24–27). More analysts are warning that the financial foundation of the United States and the western world is not rock solid. The phenomenal resurgence of the U.S. economy is fraught with peril. It has been built in large part on a mountain of debt and profligate spending.

While Congress and the White House have trumpeted the first balanced U.S. federal budget in decades, little has been said of the fact the national debt, or the accumulation of annual budget deficits, stands at about \$5.76 tril-

lion and continues to grow at the rate of \$211 million a day! Each U.S. citizen’s share of this debt is about \$21,000. Despite the strong economy, the number of Ameri-



**A bullish exuberance is gripping the world’s stock markets, which has some economists worried.**

© PhotoDisc Image

cans filing personal bankruptcies in 1998 also reached a record 1.4 million; up more than 300 percent since 1980.

The nation’s trade deficit for 1999 was projected to be \$252 billion, 53 percent higher than 1998’s record \$164.3 billion deficit, meaning that dollars spent on foreign goods are flowing out of the U.S. in staggering amounts. Increasing imports of crude oil at prices not seen since the Persian Gulf War are worsening that deficit. Oil prices have shot up from \$11 a barrel last February, and conceivably could hit \$30 a barrel soon. God warns in Deuteronomy that if His commandments are not kept: “Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out” (Deuteronomy 28:19).

Prominent economists told the U.S. Trade Deficit Review

Commission in mid-1999 that if imports and exports are not balanced, a serious threat could face the U.S. economy. This could lead to a sharp drop in the dollar’s value, driving down stock and bond prices in the United States as foreign investors dump their dollar-denominated holdings.

*U.S. News & World Report* recently stated: “The dollar’s weakness is also ominous for Americans on Main Street. If a declining dollar triggers a sell-off on Wall Street, consumer demand would severely contract. And with foreigners no longer so willing to trade real goods and services for financial paper, Americans will have to either dramatically reduce their consumption of imports or ship much more domestic production abroad. Either way, if the decline in the dollar continues, it will cause a dramatic shift in the U.S. economy.”

## Historic Warnings

Ignoring warnings by several previous Presidents, the United States appears headed into the same pitfall of prosperity, which trapped other nations throughout history. Thomas Jefferson once cautioned: “I place economy among the first and most important virtues, and public debt as the greatest of dangers. To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt.”

Theodore Roosevelt was even more blunt: “Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity and hardihood—the virtues that made America. The things that will destroy America are prosperity at any price, peace at any price, safety first instead of duty first,

the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life.”

Those warnings remind us of what the Prophet Amos admonished: “Woe to you who put far off the day of doom ... who lie on beds of ivory, stretch out on your couches, eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall; who chant to the sound of stringed instruments, and invent for yourselves musical instruments like David; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint yourselves with the best of ointments, but are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph” (Amos 6:3–6).

Tough economic times—even worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s—are looming for American and British peoples living in spoiled nations accustomed to soft, luxurious lifestyles. God Almighty, Who gave them the power to get wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18), will determine exactly when these nations He has so abundantly blessed will be afflicted.

The massive U.S. economy has been compared to a super tanker steaming along on troubled waters, but perhaps it is more analogous to the Titanic. It was the largest, most luxurious, most expensive ocean liner ever constructed and put to sea, symbolizing an era in which material progress had assumed an almost religious status. Some of the wealthiest, most prominent aristocrats in the U.S. and Britain were aboard on its maiden voyage. Engineers, journalists and the Titanic’s officers all said it was unsinkable.

Nothing came to symbolize that Edwardian era or Gilded Age more poignantly than the Titanic. It was described as a floating palace, a technological masterpiece, and an

industrial wonder of the world. The Titanic’s captain, Edward J. Smith, commented: “I cannot imagine any condition which would cause this ship to founder. I cannot conceive of any vital disaster happening to the vessel. Modern shipbuilding has gone beyond that.” One man even said, “God Himself could not



**The Titanic was the largest, most luxurious oceanliner ever constructed. It represented an era of material progress and elegance and was said to be unsinkable.** © Presslink Image

sink this ship!” Americans and Britons were worshipping the work of their own hands.

After the Titanic was launched in April 1912, however, ominous warnings of dangerous ice ahead were ignored. Passengers were not prepared for the sudden destruction that ensued. The Titanic struck an iceberg and sank within two hours and 40 minutes! Only 705 passengers survived on lifeboats and 1,520 passengers drowned or died of hypothermia. Only hours before, they had been eating, drinking and making merry.

Bible prophecy plainly shows there is going to be a recurrence of such disaster on a national scale. The American and British peoples are steaming full speed ahead to their own rendezvous with catastrophe!


Jesus Christ, the prophets and Apostles all warned that the Great Tribulation to come would be pre-

ceded by a time of incredible wealth and prosperity. Christ said, “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it shall come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the earth” (Luke 21:34–35).

A snare is a trap that springs shut suddenly when least expected. The Apostle Paul also warned of being ensnared: “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:9–10).

U.S. currency is stamped with the motto “In God We Trust.” Yes, in God we should trust, but most Americans and Britons are trusting in their own abilities to create wealth!

“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life!” (vv. 17–19)

Unless our peoples repent as a nation and reverse course, they are doomed to suffer the most ignominious economic collapse ever experienced in 6,000 years of history. God help our nation to repent and turn to Him wholeheartedly before the rapidly inflating bubble bursts! 



## IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH? (continued from Page 22)

them when they die? Dr. Roderick C. Meredith has recently written a booklet on this topic; if you have not already requested his booklet *Is This The Only Day of Salvation?*, we encourage you to write for it at the address on page two of this magazine.

### How Many Resurrections?

In the book of Revelation, we find that when Christ returns, Satan will be incarcerated and bound in the abyss for 1,000 years. When Christ returns, the faithful saints will be immortalized. “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the

there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God [this is the second resurrection], and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books” (Revelation 20:11–12).

The Greek word for “books” is *biblion*. The books, or the Bible, are opened to the understanding of the masses of people for the first time. The resurrection to physical life from the valley of dry bones, described by the prophet Ezekiel, also takes place at this time. The Book of Life is finally opened to all of them. This will be their first opportunity to really learn the truth. This is not a second chance as some would like to call it. All human beings will be held accountable for their actions and thoughts. But this will be their first time for many to see their sins, to have the oppor-

**The comforting news is that no human being who has ever lived and died is now suffering.**

beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4–6).

The first resurrection, as it is called, is for the saints—faithful Christians. But if there is a “first” resurrection, there is also a “second” resurrection. The Apostle Paul spoke about the order of resurrections, explaining that Jesus Christ is the “first-fruits”—the first to be resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:20)—followed by those who are Christ’s (v. 23). After these come the “rest of the dead” mentioned in Revelation 20:5.

The “rest of the dead” are those who will come under judgment. They will be resurrected to physical life. But notice the good news concerning this judgment. After the Kingdom of God rules on this earth for a thousand years, there will be a great resurrection of billions of people to judgment. It is referred to as the White Throne Judgment. “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And

tunity to repent of their sins, and to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Yes, there is hope for non-Christians. Most of them will wait in the grave until the White Throne Judgment and then have their first opportunity to learn the truth and God’s way of life.

Then, ultimately, will come the final punishment for those who have sealed their conscience and their character to reject the love of God and the sacrifice of Christ. These incorrigibly wicked will be burned in the lake of fire and totally destroyed. Their souls and bodies will be destroyed in Gehenna fire, as Jesus said.

The comforting news is that no human being who has ever lived and died is now suffering. Death is the absence of life. “For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing...” (Ecclesiastes 9:5). The dead experience no conscious passing of time, they know nothing. So, in the next split-second of their consciousness, they will awaken in the resurrection.

Jesus Christ said: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live” (John 11:25). Yes, there is life after death—our hope is the resurrection! To those who really respond to His calling, who really repent and are baptized and who are faithful to their Savior, Jesus Christ, God promises a **glorious future** in Tomorrow’s World! TW

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## REAL UNDERSTANDING (continued from Page 3)

possession of the sky, but the blackness had given way to somber gray, and even as we saw the black outline of the shore on the horizon, the cloak of drabness began to roll back. On every side ships were riding toward the island. The battle for Leyte had already begun.

But the part most authors and Hollywood producers leave out of MacArthur's account is in the previous paragraph of his autobiography. Here, General MacArthur describes what he did the night before this momentous invasion of the Philippines:

Late that evening I went back to my cabin and read again those passages from the Bible from which I have always gained inspiration and hope. And I prayed that a merciful God would preserve each one of those men on the morrow.

Praying, reading and especially *studying* the Bible gives one a perspective that cannot be obtained *any other way*. For the Bible is the revelation of the Creator to mankind. It reveals the *real* lessons and purposes of life. When properly understood, it imparts wisdom and understanding more than all the other books on earth put together! The Bible is the revelation of the mind of God. In His Word, God tells us, "My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:1-6).

Notice that God tells us to treasure His "commands" if we wish understanding and wisdom. King David of Israel was inspired to state the same thing in Psalm 119:97-99: "Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your COM-

MANDMENTS, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more UNDERSTANDING than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation."

Again, true understanding and wisdom come by OBEYING our Maker. Then, God gives us genuine *understanding* of His will and of the real CAUSES of human problems and also *what* should be done about them.

Without this understanding that can come from God alone, most professing Christian ministers, most writers, educators, politicians and world leaders are walking about in a fog. They may have high IQs. They may have impressive personalities. They may be—in a human sense—very intelligent human beings. But they often miss out as far as *understanding* the real REASONS behind today's problems. And they lack understanding of world affairs and *where we are headed* because they neglect or reject the revelation of the "SURE word of PROPHECY" as the Apostle Peter called it (2 Peter 1:19, KJV).

In His Word, God describes the time when this BLINDNESS will be removed from men and women everywhere. "And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the VEIL that is spread over all nations" (Isaiah 25:7).

Meanwhile, the *Tomorrow's World* telecast and magazine will help lift that "veil" of blindness and lack of understanding for you readers who are willing to LISTEN. God inspired the psalmist to write, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a GOOD UNDERSTANDING have all those who *do His* COMMANDMENTS. His praise endures forever" (Psalm 111:10).

The dedicated men and women who produce this magazine do believe in OBEYING God's commandments. Therefore, we are able to impart to you real *understanding* of prophesied events, of the genuine *causes* and *effects* behind humanity's growing problems—and of the God-inspired SOLUTIONS, which will be implemented when Jesus Christ returns to this earth as King of kings.

That is WHY *Tomorrow's World* magazine can go above and beyond in giving you not only *information*, but UNDERSTANDING, which you will probably not be able to obtain from any other source.





# Tomorrow's World TV/Radio Log

## International

### —AUSTRALIA

Adelaide: *ACE*—Ch 6/31, SUN 11:30 am

Brisbane: *BRIZ*—Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am

Perth: *CETL*—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

### —NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: *Triangle Television*—Ch 41, SUN 5:00 pm

### —MEXICO

△ Mexico City: *Cambio*—1440 AM, SUN 12:00 noon

### —PHILIPPINES

Borongan: *Borongan Cable*—Ch 25, SAT 3:00 pm

Manila: *Home Cable*—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am

Naval, Leyte: *Naval Cable*—Ch 8, SUN 9:00 am

Hinabangan, Samar: *Omeréz*—Ch 7, SUN 9:00 am

### —CANADA (nationwide)

● ON, Toronto: *Vision*—SUN 6:30 pm (ET & PT)

## United States

AL, Birmingham: *Cable*—Ch 3, FRI 4:30 pm

AL, Montgomery: *TCI*—Ch 3, SAT 5:30 pm

AR, Fayetteville: *Access TV*—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm

AR, Little Rock: *Comcast*—Ch 27, FRI 9:30 am

AZ, Phoenix: *Access*—Ch 22, WED 10:30 pm

AZ, Prescott: *Cable*—Ch 13, SAT 9:00 pm; SUN 8:30 am

AZ, Tucson: *Access*—Ch 54/62, FRI 3:00 pm; SUN 7:00 pm

CA, Anaheim: *Century*—Ch 3, TUE 4:00 pm

CA, Buena Park: *Comcast*—Ch 55, THUR 7:30 pm

CA, Eureka: *Cox*—Ch 10, FRI 5:30 pm

CA, Garden Grove: *Time Warner*—Ch 6, SUN 10:30 am

CA, Modesto: *Cable One*—Ch 8, TUE 3:00 pm

CA, Norwalk: *Public Access*—Ch 55, THUR 5:30 pm

CA, Oceanside: *KOCT*—Ch 18, SUN 5:30 pm

CA, Riverbank: *SONIC*—Ch 9, WED 6:00 pm

CA, Sacramento: *RCCTV*—Ch 20, WED 7:00 pm

CA, San Andreas: *Media One*—Ch 4, TUE 4:00 pm

CA, San Diego: *Cox*—Ch 18, & 24 THUR 6:00 pm

CA, Sonora: *TCCCA*—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm

CA, Turlock: *Marcus*—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm

CT, Naugatuck: *Tele-Media*—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm

FL, Gainesville: *Cox*—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm

FL, Ocala: *Cox*—Ch 35, SUN 10:00 am

FL, Tampa: *Time Warner*—Ch 19 & 20, SAT 8:00 pm; SUN 8:00 pm

HI, Honolulu: *Olelo*—Ch 52, THUR 2:00 pm

IA, Des Moines: *AT&T*—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am

IA, Dubuque: *TCI of Iowa*—Ch 45, FRI 10:00 am; MON 3:30 pm

IA, Waterloo: *Cable*—Ch 2, WED 9:00 pm

ID, Pocatello: *Vision*—Ch 12, SUN 7:30 pm; FRI 1:00 pm

IL, Bloomington: *AT&T*—Ch 10, SUN 10:00 am;

WED 8:30 pm

IL, Chicago: *WGN*—Cable, SUN 6:00 am (ET)

IL, Peoria: *AT&T*—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm

IL, Springfield: *TCI*—Ch 4, TUE 6:00 pm

IN, Mishawaka: *TCI*—Ch 3, THUR 7:30 pm

IN, Flora: *Marcus*—Ch 2, SUN 10:00 am

IN, Frankfort: *Marcus*—Ch 2, SUN 7:30 pm

IN, Lafayette: *Insight*—Ch 13, TUE 8:30 pm

IN, Monticello: *Marcus*—Ch 2, SUN 10:00 am

KS, Chanute: *Cablevision*—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm

KS, Parsons: *Time Warner*—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm

MA, Cambridge: *CCTV*—CH 22, TUE 4:00 pm

MA, Malden: *Access TV*—CH 3, No set time

MD, Baltimore: *TCI*—Ch 5, SUN 4:00 pm

MN, Duluth: *Public Access*—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am;  
SUN 9:00 am

MN, Minneapolis: *NW Community*—Ch 35, SAT 10:30 pm;  
SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm

MO, Springfield: *KSPR*—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am

MO, St. Louis: *Double Helix*—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm

MS, Jackson: *Time Warner*—Ch 11, WED 12:00 am

ND, Bismarck: *CATV*—Ch 12, SUN 3:00 pm

NJ, Oakland: *Cablevision*—Ch 19/20, SUN 7:00 pm

NM, Albuquerque: *CCC27*—Ch 27, SUN 5:00 pm

NV, Carson City: *Access TV*—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm

NV, Gardnerville: *Community Access*—Ch 26, SAT 3:00 am  
& 3:00 pm; SUN 3:00 am & 3:00 pm

NV, Reno/Sparks: *SNCT*—Ch 30/16, SAT 12:00 pm

NY, Brooklyn: *BCAT*—Ch 56/69, SUN 3:30 pm

NY, Elmira & Corning: *Time Warner*—Ch 1, SUN 9:30 am

NY, Hauppauge: *Cablevision*—Ch 25, FRI 10:30 pm

NY, Port Jefferson: *TCI*—Ch 1/99 THUR 11:00 pm

NY, Riverhead: *Cablevision*—Ch 27, MON 4:30 pm

NY, Rochester: *Community TV*—Ch 15, SUN 10:00 am

OR, Portland: *MCTV*—CH 11, SUN 10:00 am; TUE 1:30 pm

TX, Corpus Christi: *TCI*—Ch 10, THUR 2:00 pm;

FRI 10:30 am; SUN 11:00 am;

TX, Dallas: *Community Television*—Ch 14b, FRI 2:00 pm;

SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am

TX, Temple: *KPLE*—Ch 31/46, SUN 7:30 pm

VA, Chesterfield: *Comcast*—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm

VT, Barre: Ch 7, SAT 9:00 pm; SUN 2:00 pm & 11:00 pm

WA, Bellingham: *TCI*—Ch 10, SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am

WA, Seattle: *TCI*—Ch 29, SAT 12:00 pm

WA, Vancouver: *Clark/Vancouver*—Ch 49, SUN 9:30 am

● IL, Chicago: *WGN*—National Cable,  
SUN 6:00 am (ET)



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**TELEVISION SUPERSTATIONS:**

**WGN: SUN 6:00 am ET**

**VISION, Canada: SUN 6:30 pm ET & PT**

**New Television Stations:**

**GA, Macon: Cox Cable—Ch 18, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am; FRI 2:00 pm**

**FL, Tampa: Time Warner—Ch 19 & 20, SAT 8:00 pm; SUN 8 pm**

**LA, Monroe: Time Warner—Ch 49, WED 10:00 pm**

**MN, Roseville: CTV—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; MON 3:30 & 11:30 am**

**NM, Rio Rancho: CABLE ONE—Ch 51, THUR, No set time**

**NY, Irondequoit: ICAT—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am**

**OR, Ashland: Community TV—Ch 15, No set time**

**Hinabangan, Samar, Philippines: Omerez—Ch 7, SUN 9:00 am**

**Radio Stations:**

**Trinidad & Tobago, TBC, Port of Spain—730 kHz AM, THUR 5:00 pm**

**United Kingdom, Manx Radio—1368 kHz AM, 89/97.2/103.7 mHz FM SUN 10:00 pm**

**Mexico, Mexico City, Cambio—1440 AM, SUN 12:00 noon**

\* **Barbados, Barbados, CBC—900 kHz AM, To be determined**

\* **Philippines, Ozamiz City, DXSY—1242 kHz AM, SUN 8:00 am**

\* **Philippines, Manila, DWBL—1242 kHz AM, Thursday 10:30pm**

**\* New Stations**

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