

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

March-April 2009

[www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org)



**Will the Dead  
Live Again?**





# The Problem of Biblical Illiteracy

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

The Bible describes a time of massive deception that will *soon* be upon us. World conditions and specific prophecies indicate that we truly are now in the biblically prophesied “last days”—the last several years of *this* world’s civilization. The Apostle Paul was inspired to describe our time this way, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:1–5).

But most people do *not* “turn away” from churches and religious leaders who deny the authority of God. Rather, most people are in their “comfort zone.” They have their relatives, their family and friends—and their “neighborhood churches.” Unless they are really *shaken*, they are not about to leave. These people tend to “go along” with whatever form of religion is presented in the comfortable surroundings of “their” church and they are very easy to deceive because they do **not** genuinely *study the Bible* with an open mind and they do not bother to really “prove”—or to *disprove*—the religious ideas promulgated by their church or denomination.

“What’s *wrong* with this?” you may ask.

**Everything!**

Because your Bible clearly reveals that a very *real* Satan the Devil “walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

Also, the Apostle John describes Satan as “that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who *deceives the whole world*” (Revelation 12:9). John also describes a coming political/military combine called the “Beast” which will dominate the *entire world* at the very time of the end—“All who dwell on the earth will worship him” (Revelation 13:8). A few verses earlier, John explains how the world “worshipped the dragon [*Satan!*] who gave authority to the beast” (v. 4). Then, John describes “another” beast who speaks like the “dragon” and who causes the world to worship the first beast. This second beast—a soon-coming powerful religious leader, “performs *great signs*, so that he

even makes *fire* come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he *deceives* those who dwell on the earth by those signs” (Revelation 13:13–14).

Will *you* be among those who are deceived by this soon-coming false prophet?

Sadly, the answer may be a resounding “yes” for many of you! For it is *so easy* to “drift along” and allow yourself to be part of this world, regardless of where it is going. This is human nature. **All** of us have it! We **all** have to fight it and overcome it! Even when Jesus Christ was on earth, the very ones who supposedly studied the Bible the most were often **deceived**. The Apostle John tells us, “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42–43).

It is very easy for preachers to claim, “The Bible says” this or that—making statements that are often in *total contradiction* to what the Bible actually says! How can they get away with this? Respected religious author, Stephen Prothero, Chairman of the Religion Department of Boston University, reminds us: “Surveys that are more scientific have found that only one of three U.S. citizens is able to name the four Gospels, and one of 10 think that Joan of Arc was Noah’s wife. No wonder pollster George Gallup has concluded that the United States is ‘a nation of biblical illiterates’” (*Charlotte Observer*, March 18, 2007). That is *why* people can often become confused about biblical teaching on abortion, homosexuality and other supposedly controversial topics.

For many years, I offered on our telecast a \$1,000 reward to *anyone* who could show me from a genuine translation of the Bible—**not** a paraphrase or interpretation, but a respected translation—any scripture that says the reward of the saved is “going to heaven.” Obviously, *no one* took the offer. Because *there is no such verse* in the Bible! Rather, Jesus Christ said, “*No one* has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man” (John 3:13). This statement would have to include Abraham—“the father of the faithful,” and

**(Continued on page 30)**

## How Your Subscription Has Been Paid

*Tomorrow’s World* has no subscription price. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of Living Church of God members, and by others who have chosen to become co-workers in proclaiming Christ’s true Gospel to all nations. Donations are gratefully acknowledged, and may be tax-deductible.



## Cover

### 10 Will the Dead Live Again?

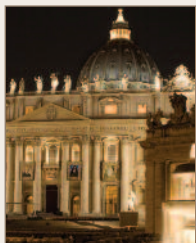
Are you worried about non-Christian friends and loved ones who have died? Are they condemned forever to an ever-burning Hell? Your Bible reveals a hope-filled truth that few today understand!

## Features



### 4 God's Kingdom Is a REAL Government!

What will you be doing for eternity? Many Christians have only a vague idea of their eternal destiny, but Scripture reveals the truth of the matter: God will establish a literal governing Kingdom in which today's Christians will participate! Will *you* be there?



### 16 Papal Primacy?

Is there an unbroken "apostolic succession" of Roman bishops extending from Peter to the present Pope Benedict XVI? What does history reveal about long-standing claims of special authority for the Bishop of Rome?



### 22 The Sign of Jonah

Did you know that Jesus said there would be just one sign of His Messiahship? Shockingly, many today who call themselves Christians are involved in religious customs that actually deny this crucial sign! Could you be one of them?

## More...

### 28 The Power to Choose

"Actions have consequences" is a phrase we are used to hearing. But are we really aware of just how broadly this principle applies? Our choices can make the difference between success and failure in our lives.

- 9 Questions & Answers
- 14 Prophecy Comes Alive
- 21 Letters to the Editor
- 26 Tomorrow's Youth
- 31 Television Log

*Tomorrow's World*® is published bimonthly by the Living Church of God™, 2301 Crown Centre Drive, Charlotte, NC 28227. ©2009 Living Church of God. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Canada subscriptions: Canada Post Agreement Number 40034253. Send change of address information and blocks of undeliverable copies to P.O. Box 409, Mississauga, ON L5M 2B9. Postage paid at Charlotte, NC and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Tomorrow's World*, P.O. Box 3810, Charlotte, NC 28227-8010.

*Tomorrow's World* is protected through trademark registration in the United States, and by international treaties. Trademark registration pending in other countries. The symbol ®, appearing herein, does not indicate trademark registration in countries where it is not yet registered or protected by treaty.

All scripture references are from the *New King James Version* (©Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

**PHOTO CREDITS:** ©CORBIS, ©ISTOCKPHOTOS, ©LIQUIDLIBRARY, ©2009 NEWSKOM, ©PHOTOS, ©PHOTOSPIN, ©TOMORROW'S WORLD

**EDITOR IN CHIEF** Roderick C. Meredith  
**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR** Richard F. Ames  
**EXECUTIVE EDITOR** William Bowmer  
**REGIONAL EDITORS** Rod King (Europe), Bruce Tyler (Australasia), Gerald Weston (Canada)  
**ART DIRECTOR** Donna Prejean  
**PROOFREADERS** Sandy Davis, Linda Ehman, Genie Ogwyn, June Olsen  
**BUSINESS MANAGER** J. Davy Crockett, III

A golden scale of justice is the central focus, set against a glowing blue globe. The scale is perfectly balanced, with both pans hanging at the same level. The globe behind it shows the continents of North and South America. The background is a deep blue with a bright light source on the right, creating a lens flare effect.

# God's Kingdom Is a REAL Government!

By Roderick C. Meredith

Many think of the Kingdom of God as something abstract, but your Bible reveals that it is a genuine world-ruling government, led by Jesus Christ, in which today's Christians will play a wonderful role!



**M**illions of professing Christians have been told that they will “float off to heaven” with *nothing* to do but just sit for eternity staring at the face of God.

What does the Bible say?

It is vital to realize that the Bible is the *only* sure guide to what will really happen in the future. Various human prophets and prognosticators have all kinds of ideas and guesses—most of them *wrong*. The inspired revelation of God tells us—often in detail—what will happen. The Holy Bible alone reveals not only the future, but also the great *purpose* being worked out here on the earth.

The Apostle Peter was inspired to tell us: “We have also a more *sure word* of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19, *KJV*).

He then reminds us that “prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21). So God, through the Holy Spirit, directly inspired the prophecies of the Bible.

Scripture makes it very clear that Jesus Christ—now seated at God’s right hand—will come back to *rule* the nations of this earth as King of kings: “Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15). We are told to think and meditate on what God is doing: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When

Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:1–4). As these verses state, do you want to appear with Christ in *glory* when He returns? If so, you and I need to *believe* what God tells us in His inspired word. We need to be willing to *do* what God commands us to do. For if we continue to believe the lies and misrepresentations of mainstream Christianity about “going to heaven,” and if we act on their deceptive teachings about the entire *way* of salvation, then we will simply be “missing” when Christ comes to set up His government on this earth!

### **Picture the REALITY of Christ’s Government!**

God’s inspired revelation tells us that He will “send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:20–21). Verse after verse in your Bible shows that God will *restore* His government, His law and His way of life to this entire earth.

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 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” (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). In our mind’s eye we should picture the *glory* of Christ’s return as King of kings—the great shout of the archangel’s voice announcing the arrival of Earth’s sovereign Ruler, and the mighty blast of the Last Trumpet! When Christ’s returns, the above verse says that we will be “with the Lord.” So where will that be?

The inspired “prayer of the saints” says very clearly that Christ has made the true saints “kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:9–10)—*not* up in heaven! Revelation 20:6 describes the reward of God’s true saints, to join Christ’s ruling Kingdom in 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 20:6).

Speaking in the first person, Jesus Christ tells us: “And he who *overcomes*, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels—as I also have received from My Father” (Revelation 2:26–27). Those true Christians who overcome themselves, the world and Satan will be given *awesome* responsibilities under Jesus Christ in ruling the nations and in straightening out the wretched problems of this world’s society. Will we rule directly under Jesus Christ? Or does the living Christ already have a *plan* in mind—an entire governmental structure that He and the Father will use in Tomorrow’s World?

The prophet Abraham is called the “father” of the faithful (Romans 4:1, 11–12, 16). He, along with Isaac and Jacob, will be in top positions—perhaps similar to cabinet ministers or key advisers—in Christ’s coming government (Matthew 8:11). Other outstanding servants of God from ancient times will also be in top positions. In the “vision” of the coming Kingdom of God (Matthew 17:1–9), both Moses and Elijah were shown to be key figures in that coming Kingdom.

God described King David of ancient Israel as “a man after My

own heart, who will *do* all My will” (Acts 13:22). What will David do in Christ’s world-ruling government? Many scriptures give the answer! Hosea tells us, in a prophecy for the “latter days,” that: “the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days” (Hosea 3:4–5).

And God tells us that after the ten-tribed “House of Israel” *and* the House of Judah (the tribes of Judah and Benjamin) return from their coming captivity, “‘it shall come to pass in that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the LORD their God,

and David their king, whom I will raise up for them” (Jeremiah 30:8–9). Ezekiel 34:23–24 and Ezekiel 37:24–25 describe David as the coming king over the tribes of Israel—with the Jews and Israelites finally reunited as one nation again (vv. 19–22). There will be *no more* “anti-Semitism” when all the tribes of Israel finally realize that they are truly brothers!

Serving directly under King David, ruling each individual tribe or nation of Israel, will be the Twelve Apostles. Jesus Himself promised them: “So Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judg-

ing the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matthew 19:28).

### True Saints Given RULERSHIP

If you and I truly surrender to God, and Christ uses us in His coming government, what might we be doing? In the inspired “Parable of the Minas” (the mina was a denomination of money), the faithful servants of God were given *rule* over cities in Christ’s government: “Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over *ten* cities” (Luke 19:11–19).

“But,” some liberal scholars will exclaim, “this was just a parable. You surely don’t think Jesus was foretelling *actual* rulership over *real* cities here on earth, do you?”

Yes! I certainly do!

For even the Apostle Paul—*not* speaking in para-

bles—clearly stated: “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” (1 Corinthians 6:2–3).

*Do you see?* For nearly 2,000 years, various scholars, monks, bishops and theologians have desperately tried to “water down” the consistent teaching of Scripture that a literal *government* will be set up on this earth under the direct rulership of Christ and the resurrected saints! Yet the early Christians all understood and believed this inspired truth. Writing of the beliefs of the early Church, renowned historian Edward Gibbon writes in

chapter 15 of his monumental work, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*:

“The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of the creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition which was attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed to six thousand years. By the same analogy it was inferred that this long period of labour and contention, which was now almost elapsed, would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand years; and that Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection.”

Back in the book of Daniel, Almighty God revealed that at the time of the end, “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Daniel 7:27). So, as we have seen, Peter stated that God has spoken of Christ’s coming rule over the earth and the “times of restoration of all things” by the mouth of *all* His holy prophets since the world began (Acts 3:21).

We have also seen that Christ and the Father have a *specific governmental structure* planned, with definite responsibilities outlined for Abraham, Moses, David, the Apostles and other true saints of God. We, the “ordinary” saints—if we will yield to let Christ rule our lives—will also be given positions



of responsibility ruling individual cities or perhaps specific departments in Christ's government—ruling from the new world capital in Jerusalem. What an *exciting* life we have just ahead of us in Christ's soon-coming Kingdom!

## Christ's GLORIOUS Kingdom

God's word gives us a detailed description of Christ's return and the early years of His Kingdom: "Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives" (Zechariah 14:1-4). Then God reveals: "And the LORD shall be King over all the earth" (v. 9). So Christ and the saints will be on the earth—*not* up in heaven!

Immediately after Christ's return, He will punish all the nations that fought against Jerusalem (vv. 12-13). Then "the *wealth* of all the surrounding nations shall be gathered together: gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance" (v. 14). So, as we shall soon see, God will bless the physical peoples of Israel and Judah with awesome *wealth*, when they have repented and have been brought to the land of Israel after their national captivity.

*What then?*

Most mainstream Christians have heard *nothing* about what God next reveals, because they have never been taught about the Sabbath and the religious festivals God gave for *all* of mankind

through all ages. Notice what happens next after Christ's return: "And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain" (vv. 16-17).

The world's professing Christians have been taught that God's Sabbaths and Festivals are "Jewish"—and so ought not to be observed. The living Christ will *shake* these people by literally cutting off their water and finally sending "plagues" on them if they stubbornly refuse to come up and "*keep the Feast of Tabernacles*" (v. 18).

Egyptians, Chinese, Americans—all will learn to keep this inspiring Festival of God (and *all* of God's Festivals!) which pictures the millennial rule of Christ and the resulting great "fall harvest" of souls when God's Truth will permeate the earth. When God first gave these Feasts to ancient Israel, the fall festival was called the "*Feast of Ingathering*" (Exodus 23:16). Jesus and the Apostles kept this Festival (John 7:1-14) and all of God's Festivals. Soon, God will require the whole world to *keep* these Festivals that picture His great

*plan*. Please write for our very informative booklet, *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*, if you would like to learn more about this vital subject.

It may now be difficult for us to imagine the thrill and the *joy* of untold thousands of people from all over the world coming to Jerusalem to keep God's Festivals. For they will know that Christ the King will literally be there in person—not only in Spirit. They will come up to rejoice in God's blessings in Tomorrow's World and to *worship* the King of kings!

As the author of beauty and good music, God guided King David and King Solomon and others to organize magnificent choirs to sing praise to God at special occasions (1

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

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



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

**or download it from the Booklets  
section of our Web site  
[www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).**



Chronicles 15:16; 2 Chronicles 5:13–14). Can you imagine the awesome music that will accompany the Festivals of God and the worship of the living Christ at Jerusalem? Can you imagine the magnificent processions of dignitaries, and of men and women from all walks of life, streaming into the Holy City—*thrilled* at the opportunity to see and to directly worship their Creator? Many will bring with them beautiful gifts for Christ the King. Nearly all will bring with them precious things with which to *worship* the “Lord of Hosts” who will be sitting in person on His throne in Jerusalem!

Since Jesus Christ is “the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8), there will undoubtedly be many occasions during His thousand-year rule like the one cited above, when there will be throngs of singers and musicians in perfect unison singing, praising and worshipping God, when “the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the *glory* of the LORD filled the house of God” (2 Chronicles 5:13–14).

## **Obedience Brings BLESSINGS**

The prophet Isaiah tells us: “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the *law*, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:2–3).

God’s great spiritual *law*—the Ten Commandments—will be the

basis for Christ’s rule in Tomorrow’s World. Through the teaching and guidance of Christ and His resurrected saints, the whole world will learn *how* to love and worship God and how to genuinely love and care for their neighbors. God’s word describes that time: “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).

Isaiah was inspired to describe the scene when thousands of Israelites will be brought back from slavery and even many of their children restored to them: “Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with *joy*; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you” (Isaiah 60:4–5). Then notice the physical *blessings* which will be poured out on regathered Israel and Judah: “Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; and the ships of Tarshish will come first, to bring your sons from afar, their silver and their gold with them, to the name of the LORD your God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because He has glorified you. The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for in My wrath I struck you, but in My favor I have had mercy on you. Therefore your gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night, that men may bring to you the *wealth* of the Gentiles, and their kings in procession” (Isaiah 60:9–11).

It will be as when God restored to Job “double” what He had taken from him (Job 42:10). Truly, the spoiled and arrogant peoples of the

so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel are today found among the American and British-descended peoples and the peace-loving nations of northwestern Europe. Be sure to request and study our *free* booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, if you do not yet understand this basic truth.

Unless an unprecedented national *repentance* occurs, our peoples are to be humbled, chastened and taken into national *slavery*! Then, when we have begun to “learn our lesson,” God will bring our peoples back to the land of Israel and *bless* them in a truly awesome manner.

Then, as we have seen, the *law* will go forth from Jerusalem. The entire world will learn God’s true *ways*—and *peace* and *joy* will at last permeate the entire earth! Finally, the “new covenant” will be understood and practiced by both the “house of Israel” *and* the “house of Judah” (Jeremiah 31:31). For God says: “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My *law* in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (v. 33).

When Satan is banished at the beginning of Christ’s rule (Revelation 20:1–3), and the nations return to the borders God long ago established for them (Acts 17:26–27), people will quickly get over their hostility to God and His great spiritual *law*. There will then be outward *peace* over the entire earth. And an “inner peace”—the “peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7), will descend on most of mankind in a manner never before experienced in all human history.

God’s ways are *good*. The blessings of Christ’s soon-coming glorious Kingdom will truly be *magnificent*. God speed that day! ■



# Questions & Answers

**QUESTION:** I keep reading in your magazine about Jesus Christ's soon-coming Millennial rule on the earth. If God knows that our world is in such a mess, and He knows that only He can make it better, why would he wait thousands of years and allow so much suffering in the meantime? A truly loving God would not wait, would He?

**ANSWER:** God is not unaware of mankind's failings, nor is He happy about them. "God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Every one of them has turned aside; they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one" (Psalm 53:2-3).

Most people assume that in spite of the wretched condition of our world, God is trying to save it—and its people—right now. But if we assume that God is trying to save mankind now, His actions may be hard to understand. More than two-thirds of people alive today do not even claim to be Christian, and most of the "Christians" do not believe or practice what Jesus taught. We know that there is no name other than Christ's by which we can be saved (Acts 4:12), yet we know that most human beings are not now being saved by that name—and countless millions have not even heard it. If God is trying to save mankind now, He is failing miserably.

The truth is that if God were trying to save mankind now, He would be succeeding! Scripture reveals that God is only calling a relative few in our present age. These are the "firstfruits" of the saved (James 1:18; Revelation 14:4). Most people who have lived and died will not hear the true Gospel until God resurrects them to physical life in the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-12). To learn more about this wonderful aspect of God's plan, please read "Will the Dead Live Again?" on page 10 of this issue.

What purpose does this plan serve? Why not save everybody at the same time? God is creating a family, and those whom He is now calling will be married to Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:9) and will be added to His family so they can

serve under Christ during the Millennium, when the whole world will be under God's government and will learn to live by His ways. To learn more about God's government, please read "God's Kingdom Is a REAL Government!" on page 4 of this issue.

If Jesus Christ returned today, some would still say, "We could have ruled ourselves without Your help!" The truth is that humanity as a whole will not seek God until its ways have brought such great distress and anguish that people conclude there is no way of escaping total annihilation. Left to themselves, human beings will bring the world to the brink of cosmicocide. Eventually, our world will face such a time of terrible war and devastation that unless Jesus Christ were to return, all life on the earth would be extinguished. "For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days" (Mark 13:19-20). Until then, God is allowing human beings to prove for themselves that their selfish ways bring only misery, suffering and destruction.

However, as noted above, God is calling only a relatively few people right now. Those whom He is calling will have the amazing opportunity to become "firstfruits"—the first group of human beings to enter into His family as glorified Spirit beings—to assist Jesus Christ in ruling the nations. So: "Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7).





# Will the Dead Live Again?

By Richard F. Ames

**M**ost of us have experienced the loss of a loved one, a friend or a neighbor through death. Death sobers us. When someone around us dies, we take the time—or we *should* take the time—to consider the deeper questions of life. What happens after a person dies? Will we ever see our loved ones again?

Death sometimes comes unexpectedly. The German insurance firm Munich Re reported that in 2008, more than 220,000 people died in disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes and floods. Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar accounted for 130,000 of those deaths—the largest death toll from a single natural disaster since the Sumatra earthquake and tsunami took the lives of nearly 230,000 in December 2004. When the Yellow River flooded from July through November 1931, more than a million Chinese drowned, and some estimates of total flood deaths approach four million. Truly, we live in a dangerous world, where unforeseen hazards can take us by surprise and change our plans forever.

Some disasters are man-made, like the disaster of war. Estimates of World War II deaths vary, but sources concur that well over 50 million died during that terrible conflict—including tens of millions of civilians. In the 20th century, when we combine state-sponsored genocides, political purges, and war-related deaths, the figure approaches 300 million!

Death is tragic whenever it comes, but it is also routine. World population researchers report that in 2008,

about 8.2 out of every thousand people died—more than 55 million men, women and children! Many died of natural causes, at the end of long and productive lives, but their deaths were no less painful to their loved ones.

Most people try to console themselves by believing in some kind of life after death. The Barna Research Group in 2003 released a study documenting Americans' ideas about the afterlife. Barna found that 81 percent believe in an afterlife of some sort. Only 10 percent said they are certain there is no afterlife; another 9 percent said there might be an afterlife. Barna found that 76 percent of those surveyed believe Heaven exists, and 71 percent believe in the existence of Hell.

Barna found that Eastern religious concepts are gaining popularity in America; 18 percent of those surveyed said they believe in some kind of reincarnation, and 34 percent believe they can communicate with others after death (“Americans Describe Their Views About Life After Death,” October 21, 2003).

*What confusion!* We need to search the Bible for the truth about life and death!

## **Dante's Hell**

If you are like most of the people Barna surveyed, you believe in an ever-burning Hell where people are being tortured right now. Perhaps you think some of your own relatives are suffering unbearable torment at



this very moment, while you are reading this article.

Where did you get your beliefs about Hell? Many would be surprised to learn how many of today's stereotypical ideas of Hell come not from the Bible, but from the writings of a 14th century Italian poet. Dante Alighieri, author of *La Divina Commedia* (or, in English, *The Divine Comedy*) wrote his lengthy poem as an allegory, to comment on the social and political problems of his nation. His depiction of Hell featured nine descending regions of ever-greater eternal torment for sinners. In one section of Dante's poem, titled *Inferno*, we find that lustful sinners receive the mildest punishment in the first circle of Hell; the lowest realms of Hell are reserved for those whom Dante considers history's most repugnant traitors—not only Judas Iscariot, but also the Roman traitors Brutus and Cassius, who were implicated in the murder of Julius Caesar.

Sadly, many Bible students just accept an idea of Hell like Dante's, and ignore the plain meaning of familiar scriptures. Perhaps they learned about Hell from their parents, or from a pastor, and never saw for themselves the plain truth of God's word.

Notice: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Dante portrays sinners enduring eternal life in the flames of Hell, but your Bible says something different—that sinners earn death—the *absence* of life!

Remember what Jesus said in what may be the Bible's most famous verse: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should *not* perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Our Savior described a contrast between life and death. On the one hand, *everlasting life*; on the other hand,

*to perish*. To "perish" means to be destroyed, or "to come to nothing." Jesus came that we might not be destroyed forever. He came to give us the possibility of eternal life, which we do not now inherently have.

Are you surprised to learn that we do not have immortal life now? Can the human soul be destroyed? Yes, God says it can! Notice what our Creator spoke through the prophet Ezekiel: "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4).

Yes, your Bible reveals that there is a lake of fire, into which *unrepentant* sinners will be thrown—and destroyed (Revelation 20:14–15; 21:8). Dying in the lake of fire, they will experience the "second death" (v. 8), from which there is no resurrection.

### Is God Unfair?

Some religious thinkers, like the Protestant reformer John Calvin, have taught that God created billions of souls whom He has knowingly predestined to suffer in Hell for eternity. Others say that God wants to save all souls, but that it is up to Christians to reach the world with His message—and, *if they fail*, the souls who have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ will spend eternity being tormented in Hell.

Would a loving God really be so cruel and unfair? Some theologians say that since they know God is fair, even those who never hear Christ's name or message can be saved. But that is *not* what the Apostle Peter taught. He proclaimed the name of Jesus Christ, and warned that "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

How can we reconcile Peter's plain words with the truth of a lov-

ing and just God? Jesus berated the peoples of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum who had rejected His message. Notice what He said to the people of Capernaum: "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be *more tolerable* for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you" (Matthew 11:23–24).

God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah by fire (Genesis 19). Yet Jesus Christ said it will be "more tolerable" for Sodom in the day of judgment than for Capernaum. How can that be? Christ said that if Sodom had seen His works, its people would have repented, and God would have spared that wicked and perverse city.

So, what will happen at the day of judgment? As we will see, Scripture describes a great resurrection to judgment *after* the Millennium. Notice how your Bible describes the first group of people being resurrected, and the pivotal words at the end of that description: "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 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" (Revelation 20:4–5).

The first resurrection will include "those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God" (v. 4). These saints included in the first

resurrection will *be raised to immortality* and will reign with Jesus Christ for a thousand years (v. 4). Yet, during this time, “the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished” (v. 5). Obviously, the dead of Sodom will not be in this first resurrection.

Let us understand. If there is a *first* resurrection, there must be a *second* resurrection! The people of Sodom will be raised to *physical life* in the second resurrection, which will occur after “the thousand years were finished”—after a thousand years of Jesus Christ’s millennial reign on planet Earth. Why will they be raised to physical life? To be judged, as we will soon see.

Does this surprise you? Many today have forgotten that from its very beginning, God’s true Church has proclaimed the reality of Jesus Christ’s coming millennial reign on Earth (to learn more about this wonderful time, please read “God’s Kingdom Is a Real Government,” on page 4 of this issue). Noted historian Edward Gibbon wrote the following, in his famous book, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*: “The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the Second Coming of Christ. As the works of the creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition which was attributed to the Prophet Elijah, was fixed to six thousand years. By the same analogy it was inferred that this long period of labour and contention, which was now almost elapsed, would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand years; and that Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection” (chap. 15, sec. 2).

Yes, as Gibbon points out, the first century Church—the apostolic Church—understood that the saints would rule with Christ for a thousand years, preceding a “general resurrection.”

What will occur at this “general resurrection”? The “rest of the dead” (Revelation 20:5) will be resurrected to *physical life*. You can read a description of that time in Ezekiel 37.

Who are the “rest of the dead”? They are the masses of humanity who never genuinely converted to Christianity. They include the peoples of Tyre, Sidon, Sodom and Gomorrah, whom Christ said will receive favor and tolerance, upon repentance, at their time of judgment. They include even the peoples of Israel whom God spiritually blinded (Romans 11:25).

### **Blinded for a Reason?**

God wants us to learn important lessons as preparation for eternal life in His family. So, sometimes God spiritually blinds people so that they can learn lasting lessons. Then, when these people are finally called in the White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11–13), they will eagerly respond to God’s calling and will be converted. Remember, the Apostle Paul said that God had blinded Israel in part. The Apostle writes: “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that *blindness* in part has hap-

pened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so *all Israel will be saved*, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins’” (Romans 11:25–27).

**When** will “all Israel” be saved? At the Great White Throne



Judgment, a time when all the spiritually blinded who have died will have their eyes opened to the word of God. If God wanted to save everyone right now, do you really believe He would be incapable of doing so? Of course not! God’s plan, as revealed in your Bible, is that those who are blinded today are included in His plan—so He can *save them later!*

The Apostle Paul pointed out that God had called some Gentiles, and some from Israel. But the rest, he wrote, were spiritually blinded. “What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and *the rest were blinded*. Just as it is written: ‘God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should *not see* and ears that they should *not hear*, to this very day’” (Romans 11:7–8).

Does that surprise you? Jesus did *not* call everyone in His day to conversion. Remember, at the end of His 3½-year ministry, He had just



120 disciples (Acts 1:15). Jesus said, “Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand” (Matthew 13:13).

What will happen at this resurrection to judgment? Books—*biblia* in the original Greek—will be opened (Revelation 20:12). What are those books? The books of the Bible! For the very first time in their existence, billions of human beings will have their eyes opened, and they will have their opportunity for salvation!

Please understand. This is not a “second chance.” This is the time Jesus foretold, concerning the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah, Tyre and Sidon. The Apostle John wrote: “Then I saw a *great white throne* and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books” (Revelation 20:11–12).

### Hope for Billions!

Yes, the dead will live again! Billions whom God spiritually blinded will have their eyes opened in the Great White Throne Judgment. These resurrected people will learn God’s way and put it into practice, drawing closer to their Savior as they prepare to become eternal and immortal children of God. This process will take place over a lifetime (Isaiah 65:20), just as members of the Church today—the “house of God”—are now being judged over our lifetimes (1 Peter 4:17). Some of your friends and loved ones may be part of that future judgment. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “All Israel shall be saved” (Romans 11:26). Indeed, God is not keeping

salvation for just a relative few; He desires that *all* human beings be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).

Most human beings have lived and died without even hearing the name of Jesus Christ. Others may have heard only a false gospel about Jesus. These people will have their opportunity for salvation during the Great White Throne Judgment. To learn more about that wonderful time, write for your free copy of our informative booklet, *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* It will help you understand the plan a just and loving God has established to save the vast majority of human beings after they respond to His Truth.

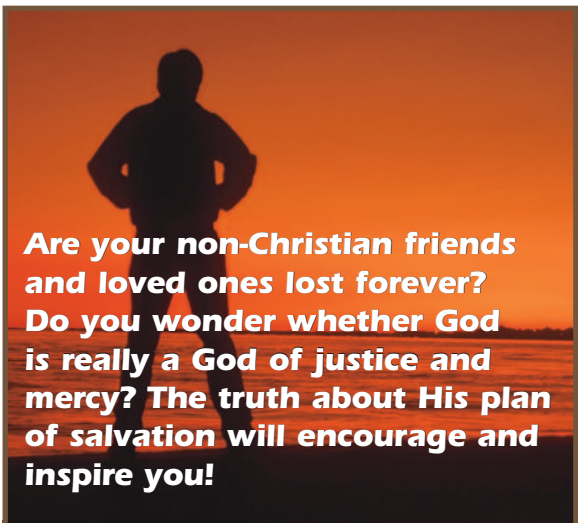
But what will you be doing when Christ returns? Will you be in the first resurrection? Notice: “This is the *first* resurrection” (Revelation 20:5). If God is calling you, you need to respond. You need to seek God with all your heart, so you can be in the first resurrection when Christ returns. You can read about that inspiring time in the resurrection chapters of your Bible: 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4. Faithful Christians are resurrected to rule with Christ here on earth! As it states, “they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

The resurrection that will take place when Jesus Christ returns is a resurrection to *immortal life*. God will give faithful Christians the awesome gift of eternal, immortal life at that

time. This is called a “better resurrection” (Hebrews 11:35). Why? The second resurrection will give life to those who had been blinded, but the first resurrection is a resurrection to immortality! Faithful Christians of our present age who take part in that first resurrection will be born into the Kingdom of God as immortalized, glorified children of God. We will inherit the earth, and rule with Christ on this earth for a thousand years, as kings and priests (Revelation 5:10). During the Millennium, Satan will be bound and unable to influence humanity (Revelation 20:2). Those whom God is calling today must overcome Satan’s influence—something those in the Millennium will not need to contend against until Satan is again

(Continued on page 29)

## Is This the Only Day of Salvation?



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

Write for our **FREE** booklet, *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).

# Prophecy Comes Alive

## A World Deceived!

Why are there so many religions in the world? Why are there so many conflicting ideologies warring for people's allegiance? And why have human efforts to achieve peace and happiness failed again and again? The Bible *reveals* answers to these sobering questions in prophecies that are coming alive today!

Though many have viewed Scripture as simply a collection of myths and legends, it reveals why the world is the way it is, and explains what lies ahead. Your Bible describes a powerful spirit being known as "the Devil and Satan, who *deceives the whole world*" (Revelation 12:9–10). Scripture refers to this being by various names—Lucifer, Satan, the Devil, the evil one, the great dragon, and the serpent of old (see Isaiah 14; Matthew 6:13).

Satan is also described as "the god of this age" who has *blinded* human beings to the real source of truth (2 Corinthians 4:3–4). As the "ruler of this world" (John 14:30) and the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), Satan influences human thought processes by broadcasting his warped ideas—which unsuspecting people pick up in their minds and assume are *their own* ideas. This is the *ultimate source* of the perversions that have influenced so many religions, ideologies and cultures in our world. Since Satan is described as a murderer and a liar, and as the "father" of lies (John 8:44), it is no wonder that the world has experienced so much trouble, tragedy and bloodshed down through history!

### Religious Deception

The Bible points out there are ultimately just two ways of life: God's way of truth and right, and Satan's path of error and wrong. The book of Genesis reveals that Satan deceived the first human beings into choosing his lies and rejecting God's way—a choice that seemed appealing but led to big problems (Genesis 3; Proverbs 14:12).

When God revealed Himself to the Egyptians through Moses, Egypt's religious leaders soon realized that their gods were powerless before the true God (Exodus 8:19). In the book of Isaiah, the God of the Bible scoffs at the powerless, man-made idols worshipped by pagan nations (see Isaiah 44:9–11; 46:5–11),

yet Scripture records that the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar came to recognize the real God and acknowledged Him as such (see Daniel 4:34–37).

In the first century AD, the Apostle Paul noted that the idol-worshiping Greeks of Athens even had a statue to the "Unknown God"—so Paul told them who that God really is (Acts 17:16–34). In his letter to the Romans, Paul spoke against misguided pagan teachers "who suppress the truth in unrighteousness," and he charged that "even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind" (Romans 1:18–32). The book of Revelation describes a woman (symbolic of a church), dressed in scarlet, who *deceives the world* with her false doctrines. Her great false church

will support a coming beast power in Europe, and is linked symbolically to the seven hills of Rome, as well as to ancient Babylon as the fount of our world's evil political and religious systems (Revelation 17:1–9). The Scriptures state that Satan will empower both the beast and a church that has spread false religious ideas (see Revelation 13; 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10). Indeed, the Bible reveals that Satan—the "god of this age"—is the author of the fighting, the bickering and the misguided false religions around us.

### Counterfeit Christianities

Both the Bible and history reveal that "Christianity" has not escaped Satan's deceptive efforts. The New Testament warns repeatedly about false teachers who claim to be ministers of Jesus Christ, yet deceive many into following corrupted versions of Christianity (Matthew 7:15–20; 24:3–5; 2 Thessalonians 2; 2 Timothy 3; 2 Timothy 4; 2 Peter 2). The Apostle Paul describes misguided ministers who claim to be Christians, but who actually serve Satan when they preach about *another Jesus* and *another gospel*—contrary to what is found in Scripture (2 Corinthians 11:3–4, 13–15).

Jesus, the Apostles and the early Church never participated in weekly Sunday worship; they observed the biblical seventh-day Sabbath as they had been taught (see Luke 4:16; Acts 13:13–14, 42–44; 16:11–15;





17:1–2). Yet, today, most who call themselves “Christians” worship on Sunday—a day of worship established almost 300 years after the apostolic era by the Roman Emperor Constantine at the Council of Nicea! Religious leaders around Constantine’s era also began to enforce their teaching that Jesus’ birth was to be observed on December 25—a day on which pagans celebrated the rebirth of the Sun—though the Bible nowhere commands the observance of Christ’s birth, and in fact shows that Jesus was not born in the cold of winter. Jesus was actually born in the milder temperatures of autumn, when shepherds could stay out at night, tending to their flocks (Luke 2:8). Ignoring biblical truths, however, false leaders reasoned that “Christianizing” formerly pagan holidays would make it easier to win pagan converts—even though Scripture tells God’s people not to adopt the customs of other religions (Deuteronomy 12:30).

Historian Will Durant states plainly, “Christianity did not destroy paganism; it adopted it... Christianity was the last great creation of the ancient pagan world” (*Caesar and Christ*, p. 595). Religious pollster George Barna has observed that “a great deal of what we Christians do for Sunday morning church did not come from Jesus Christ, the apostles or the Scriptures... Strikingly much of what we do for ‘church’ was *lifted directly out of pagan culture* in the post-apostolic period” (*Pagan Christianity*, Viloa & Barna, p. 6). These are facts of history, yet most “Christians” today do not realize how much their practices reflect centuries of religious corruption.

Considering Satan’s hand in the process, it is not hard to see why there are so many different varieties of “Christianity.” However, Jesus said, “I will build My church”—not *churches* (Matthew 16:18)—and the Apostle Paul urged Christians that “there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Down through the ages, our world has seen a wide variety of governments, philosophies and economic the-



ories rise and fall. Monarchies, despots and dictatorships have emerged and disappeared. Around 350BC, the Greek philosopher Plato observed a repeating cycle in the structure of nations’ government—monarchy to aristocracy to democracy to anarchy to dictatorship—because the failings of each led to the next, and none could last too long unchallenged in the hands of human beings (*The Lessons of History*, Durant, p. 75). Democracies and republics have appeared and disappeared quickly on the world stage. Philosophical systems of stoicism, rationalism, humanism and agnosticism have had their day and *failed* to provide lasting answers to the big questions of life. Human-devised theories of communism, socialism and capitalism have *failed* to achieve the golden ages they once promised. All these systems have *failed* because human beings have not understood that, “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Psalm 127:1). Unless plans and ideas are built on the solid rock of God’s word, they will fail (Matthew 7:24–29).

### Darkness Before Dawn

Bible prophecy long ago foretold that world conditions will continue to deteriorate until the return of Jesus Christ (see 2 Timothy 3–4). Jesus revealed that human efforts and ideas will eventually bring this deceived world to the *brink of annihilation*, and that “unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22). Scripture reveals that Jesus Christ will return to the earth as “Prince of Peace,” to establish a world government from Jerusalem that will bring joy, harmony and prosperity to the whole world (Isaiah 2:2–4; 9:6–7). He will establish *one religion* on earth, pointing all people to the one true God and His way of life (Isaiah 30:20–21; Zechariah 14:16–20). At that time, the one “who deceives the whole world”—Satan the Devil—will be banished from the face of the earth (Revelation 20:1–2), and we will see the dawn of a new age: the Kingdom of God!

—Douglas S. Winnail

# Papal Primacy?

By Douglas S. Winnail



## Is the Pope in Rome really the current earthly representative of Jesus Christ, in apostolic succession from the Apostle Peter?

**T**he Roman Catholic Church is the world's largest religious organization, comprising almost 60 percent of those who call themselves Christians. It *presents itself* as the sole modern representative of a tradition that it says can be traced back to the apostles. Roman Catholics believe the current Pope, the Bishop of Rome, to be the direct successor of the Apostle Peter, whom they call the first Pope.

*But is he, really?*

Your Bible shows that religion and religious figures will play significant roles on the world stage at the end of the age—and that religious deception will

be widespread. Jesus Himself warned, “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name... and will deceive many” (Matthew 24:4–5). So it is vital that we understand *what is behind* the claim of papal primacy. Is it an indisputable fact, a legendary tradition, a myth or a matter of political intrigue? This issue will have a dramatic impact on your life and the future of the world in the years just ahead!

Scripture records an exchange in which Jesus told the Apostle Peter, “you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18). Roman Catholics





use this verse as evidence that the “office of the Pope does not derive from any human authority, nor from the Church, but directly from God. It is God’s creation, ‘for the preservation of unity,’ as St. Thomas Aquinas remarks. It was given by Christ Himself to St. Peter and to his successors *to the end of time*. Our Lord [Jesus Christ] declared the primacy of Peter” (*Catholic Belief*, Cartmell, p. 16). Roman Catholics assert that when Jesus told Peter, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (v. 19), those keys “are a symbol of supreme authority” and made Peter “master” of the kingdom of heaven (*ibid.*).

The Roman Catholic Church *claims* to be “apostolic in her *origin* because she has been built on ‘the foundation of the Apostles’ (Ephesians 2:20). She is apostolic in her *teaching* which is the same as that of the Apostles. She is apostolic by reason of her *structure* insofar as she is taught, sanctified, and guided until Christ returns by the Apostles through their successors who are the bishops in communion with the successor to Peter... The Pope, Bishop of Rome and the Successor of Saint Peter, is the perpetual, visible source and foundation of the unity of the Church. He is the vicar [substitute or representative] of Christ” (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, pp. 61–63).

Are these claims valid? One key piece of evidence for Petrine primacy is the assertion that the Apostle Peter founded the Church in Rome and was martyred there, as indicated by early writers including Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, Dionysius of Corinth and Irenaeus of Lyons. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* claims, in its article, “Peter”: “It is an indisputably established historical fact that St. Peter labored in Rome during the last portion of his life, and there ended his earthly course by martyrdom.” The article mentions the tradition of a “twenty-five years’ episcopate for St. Peter” in Rome from about 42 to 67AD, and notes that Peter’s first epistle was written from “Babylon”—which it takes as a coded name for the city of Rome. The article then insists: “The essential fact is that Peter died at Rome: this constitutes the *historical foundation* of the claim of the Bishops of Rome to the Apostolic Primacy of Peter.”

Is this a valid claim? As recently as 1950, pronouncements by Pope Pius XII that “Vatican archeologists had found the tomb

of St. Peter beneath the high altar” of St. Peter’s Cathedral in Rome *appeared* to confirm Catholic teachings and validate a belief that originated before the time of Constantine (*Time*, January 1951). However, there is more to the story!

### Roman Claims

Certainly, the doctrine of papal primacy based on apostolic succession from Peter—the so-called “Petrine theory”—has been standard Roman Catholic teaching for centuries. It rests on a particular interpretation of one key passage of Scripture, in which Jesus stated, “you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church... I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven” (Matthew 16:18–19). However, a careful study of this passage and other scriptures reveals something *quite different*. In the original Greek text, Jesus’ statement is actually a play on words. The Greek word for “Peter” is *petros* (meaning a small stone), and the Greek word for “rock” is *petra* (meaning a huge rock or mountain). The Bible clearly shows that **Jesus Christ is the “Rock”** upon which the Church was founded (see 1 Corinthians 10:4; 1 Peter 2:4–8; see also Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 28:16). Jesus was referring to Himself and His teachings as the *petra* on which the Church was to be founded, and acknowledging Peter (a *petros*) as *one* of the foundation stones. This agrees with other scriptures that show the Church was *not* founded upon Peter *alone*, but was “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone**” (Ephesians 2:20). Notice how in the above quote from *The*

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, this vital last part of the verse is omitted—to misleadingly suggest a very different meaning! Such twisting of Scripture is one reason why the Roman Catholic claim for power based on Peter’s supposed primacy has *never been accepted* by the Eastern Orthodox churches, and why it was *rejected* by the Protestant reformers (see *Civilization Past & Present*, Wallbank, p. 133).

Upon closer examination, other early evidence that supposedly “proves” Peter lived, worked, founded a Church and died as a martyr in Rome also becomes *less than convincing*. The Book of Acts is *silent* about where Peter went after he was released from prison in Jerusalem around 33AD—it merely says he “went to another place” (Acts 12:17). According to Scripture, Paul confronted Peter in Antioch over the issue of circumcision ca. 45AD, and Peter appears in Jerusalem for a conference around 49–50AD. Yet, according to Catholic tradition, Peter had already been the Bishop of Rome for some years at this time! The suggestion that Peter’s salutation from “Babylon” (1 Peter 5:13) meant that he wrote the book in Rome ca. 60–64AD—is *merely a supposition*. In fact, the first cryptic scriptural reference to Rome as “Babylon” is found in Revelation 17:5, which was written some 30 years later!

It is interesting that Catholic scholars want Peter’s reference to “Babylon” to indicate Rome, to validate the idea that he labored in Rome—yet they *shun* any suggested

link between Rome and the woman referred to as “Mystery, Babylon the Great” in Revelation 17:5. This is *not being consistent* with Scripture!

Another early source, sometimes cited to support Peter’s sojourn and



martyrdom in Rome, is a much-disputed passage in the First Epistle of Clement, written ca. 100 AD. However, the passage only mentions that Peter suffered “many torments” before he died, and as scholar Oscar Cullman notes, “the place where Peter suffered many torments, is *not mentioned at all*”—it is simply assumed by scholars interpreting the

text (*Peter: Disciple-Apostle-Martyr*, pp. 91–93). *The Letter of Ignatius of Antioch to the Romans*, which dates to the beginning of the second century AD, refers to commands given by Peter and Paul but, as scholars note, “*not a word is said* to indicate that the two apostles were in Rome”—it is *surmised* by those interpreting the text (*ibid.*, p. 110). Professor Cullmann, a German-born theologian and ecumenical scholar, concludes that on the basis of the evidence available, “The founding of the Roman Church by Peter can *neither be proved nor regarded as probable*.... Of an episcopal office of Peter *nothing is ever said*” (*ibid.*, p. 113). Other modern reference works offer the same conclusion: “The tradition that Peter was the founder of the church at Rome and its first bishop *lacks historical evidence*. The Bible gives *no* indication of such. In fact, there is *no historical proof* that Peter was ever in Rome, although historians grant the possibility of his going

there toward the very end of his life” (*The New Unger’s Bible Handbook*, p. 633).

Even the alleged location of Peter’s grave—supposedly under the altar in St. Peter’s Cathedral in Rome—does not hold up under closer scrutiny. Although Pope Pius XII announced in 1950 that St. Peter’s relics had been found, evaluation of the evidence by other scholars *failed to validate* the Pope’s claim (see *Time*, January 1, 1950). The relics later turned out to be the bones of a woman and some farm animals. A more recent text makes this statement, “since all reliable information about the place of Peter’s execution and burial is lacking, the possibilities concerning it continue to remain as so many open questions” (*History of the Church*, Jedin, p. 118). The bottom line is that nothing has been proved about either the death or burial of Peter in Rome—it *all rests on dubious tradition!*

## Developing a Dogma

So, if there is no historical proof that Peter was ever in Rome, that he founded the Church in Rome, or even that he died in Rome, *how* and *why* did the idea of papal primacy based on succession from Peter develop? Two informative books by noted Roman Catholic scholars (*Saints & Sinners* by Dr. Eamon Duffy of Cambridge University and *The Catholic Church* by Dr. Hans Kung of the University of Tübingen) provide parallel accounts of the rise of the idea of papal primacy and the *dogma* of apostolic succession from Peter. Both acknowledge that *nothing* in the New Testament links Peter with Rome. The Bible reveals that the *Apostle Paul* wrote the book of Romans, and Paul fails to even mention Peter in the greetings he conveys to more than 20 brethren in Rome (Romans 16). When Paul



came to Rome ca. 60AD, he found that the Jewish leaders there had not even heard about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God (Acts 28:17–24). If Peter had been the bishop of Rome for decades by that time, would Christ’s message really have been unknown there?

The idea that Peter was in Rome is a second century AD notion that grew in prominence in the fourth century AD, after Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. Scholars Duffy and Kung demonstrate how bishops of Rome made a concerted effort to *gain preeminence* over other churches through a variety of claims and schemes. Irenaeus of Lyon compiled a list that purportedly traced the leaders of the Roman Church back to Peter and Paul. However, Dr. Kung points out, “Bishops of the Catholic Church (like those of the Anglican and Orthodox Churches) are fond of *calling themselves* ‘successors of the apostles’... [yet]... *It cannot be verified* that the bishops are ‘successors of the apostles’ in the direct and exclusive sense... the earliest list of bishops [compiled by Irenaeus]... is a *second century forgery*” (Kung, pp. 30–31).

Several early bishops of Rome tried unsuccessfully to assert that their power rested on Jesus’ words to Peter in Matthew 16:18–19. Toward the end of the second century AD, Bishop Victor of Rome tried to force the churches of Asia Minor to keep the Roman Easter instead of the Passover, but his efforts were *resisted* by Church leaders in Asia Minor, who traced their observance of the Passover to the teachings and example of the Apostle John. Around 250AD, a bishop of Rome named Stephen claimed supremacy over other churches in a dispute over which church had the better tradition, but the other churches *resisted* his claim (Kung, p. 49). A bishop of Rome named Damasus

(ca. 380AD), described as a “ruthless power broker,” used the saying about Peter as the “rock” to bolster his claims for power. He also spoke of his “apostolic seat” as if no other church mattered, and he constructed monuments to martyrs to enhance the position of the Roman Church (Duffy, pp. 37–39).

It is important to remember that although all of these bishops of Rome are called “Popes” today, the first to actually claim that exclusive title was Siricius (ca. 390AD). By 450AD, Leo the Great was “hammering home” the supposed Petrine link to Rome and the papacy, even

much of Europe and Africa. Although widely accepted as authentic during the Middle Ages, the document was later determined to be an *outright forgery*, created ca. 750AD. In fact, during Sylvester’s lifetime, he was *never* referred to as a universal Pope, and his cure of Constantine’s leprosy is nothing more than *legend*.

Another notorious forgery, the *Pseudo-Isadorian Decretals*, contains hundreds of *falsified documents*—purportedly from earlier centuries—seeming to support medieval Popes’ claims to power. As later scholars recognize, the forger-

---

### **The Roman Catholic Church teaches that Mary, Jesus’ mother, remained a perpetual virgin, yet Scripture clearly shows that she had other children after Jesus (Mark 3:31–32; Luke 8:19–21).**

---

likening the founding of the Roman Church by Peter and Paul to the founding of Rome by Romulus and Remus (Duffy, pp. 43–44). At the Council of Chalcedon (451AD), Leo’s supporters declared that “Peter had spoken through Leo” (Duffy, p. 45), yet the Council rebuffed Leo’s expansive claims of supremacy and gave Rome and Constantinople *equal status* (Kung, pp. 64–65).

Increasingly grandiose papal pretensions continued into the Middle Ages, as ambitious and unscrupulous Popes used *blatantly forged documents* to support their assertion of universal power. One such document is the *Donation of Constantine*, purportedly formulated by the Roman Emperor Constantine in the 330s AD out of his supposed gratitude for being schooled in the Christian religion and healed from leprosy by Pope Sylvester I. This document granted Sylvester and his successors sweeping power to preside supreme over all other bishops, and also over

ies “gave the impression that the early church had been ruled by papal decrees down to the details of its life” (Kung, p. 82). Even today, some careless teachers accept and repeat these papal claims for universal authority, forgetting or ignoring the *fraudulent basis* of these claims.

Roman Catholic claims for papal primacy also rest on the idea that their organization has faithfully preserved the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostles down through the ages. Yet, when you actually compare Roman Catholic teachings with Scripture, *glaring discrepancies* become obvious. The Bible reveals that Jesus Christ, the Apostles and the early Church all observed the Sabbath and the biblical Holy Days (see Luke 4:16; John 7:8–10; Acts 17:2; 1 Corinthians 5:7–8). However, the Roman Catholic Church, beginning around the time of Constantine, appropriated Sunday worship, Easter, Christmas and a host of “saints’ days” *from paganism*—yet not only is there no biblical precedent or com-

mand to do this, Scripture actually warns *against* adopting pagan practices (see Deuteronomy 12:29–32; Jeremiah 10:2).

Scripture shows that the early Church taught that the Kingdom of God would be established on this earth at Jesus Christ's return, yet the Roman Catholic Church has taught that *it is* the Kingdom of God, and has *rejected as heresy* the true biblical teachings about the Kingdom of God. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that Mary, Jesus' mother, remained a perpetual virgin, yet Scripture clearly shows that she had other children after Jesus (Mark 3:31–32; Luke 8:19–21). Even though Peter and other apostles were married (Mark 1:30; 1 Corinthians 9:5), the Roman Catholic Church has established a "discipline" of priestly celibacy, despite Scripture's plain instruction that the forbidding of marriage is a Satan-inspired idea (1 Timothy 4:1–3). It is interesting to note that in contrast to the long-standing Roman Catholic custom of kneeling to kiss the ring of a bishop or pope, the Apostle Peter *refused* such homage (Acts 10:25–26). These are just a few of many examples of how the Catholic Church has *departed* from apostolic teaching!

For more than 1,500 years, ambitious individuals have sought to use the Roman Catholic bishopric of Rome to advance their claims of universal authority, using social, political, theological, legal—and even military—pressure, along with deception and forgery, to achieve their goals. These clever and sometimes unscrupulous men have *departed* from the doctrines of the early Church—even claiming to be the supreme and exclusive vicar of Christ on this earth. But even many Catholic scholars recognize the falsity of their claims. As Kung plainly states, "The claims that they made

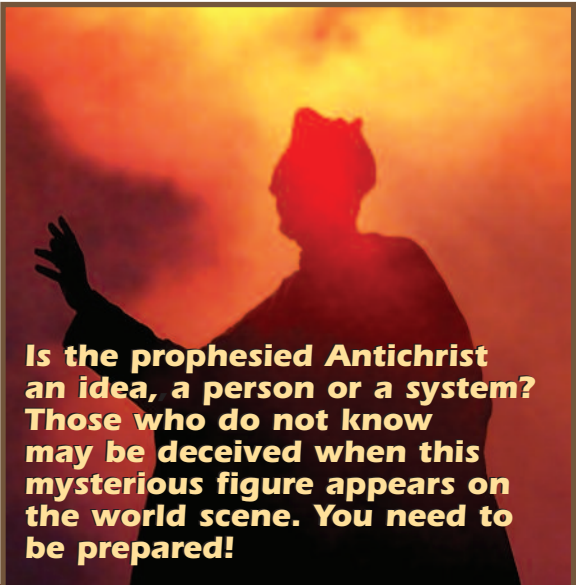
may have had *no biblical and theological foundation*, but over the centuries these [claims] entered church law as *accepted facts*. Thus to many people today, both inside and outside the Catholic Church, what the Roman bishops of the fourth and fifth centuries *attributed to themselves* in a growing awareness of their power seems to be what is originally Catholic" (Kung, p. 50). Thus we see that the claims of papal primacy based on apostolic succession from Peter do not rest on solid evidence, but on *dogma*—ideas stated with authority, but lacking in real historical evidence! In the last analysis, these claims rest not on history or Scripture, but on *dubious human traditions*!

### Prophetic Significance

Just how do these sobering facts of history relate to us today? **End-time Bible prophecies** offer important and informative insights. As we have seen, Jesus warned that false teachers would cause massive deception at the end of the age (Matthew 24:3–5). The Apostle Paul warned that leaders would depart from the true Church and use false and misleading teachings to gain followers (Acts 20:29–37). Paul also warned that at the end of the age, many people would "turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables" (2 Timothy 3:1–8; 4:1–4). Paul further

warned that just before the return of Jesus Christ, a powerful and influential religious leader would do miracles that would *delude* many people into *believing lies*—because they would not love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:1–12). This false religious leader will be in league with a powerful political leader who will gain control of a revived Roman Empire that will arise in Europe (see Revelation 13; Revelation 17; Daniel 2). You need to realize that the claims of a soon-coming religious leader, who will use his supposed "apostolic succession" to assert primacy over a universal church, will be based on nothing more than *dogma* and *fraud*. Beware! ■

## Who or What Is the Antichrist?



**Is the prophesied Antichrist an idea, a person or a system? Those who do not know may be deceived when this mysterious figure appears on the world scene. You need to be prepared!**

**Write for our FREE booklet, *Who or What Is the Antichrist?* or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).**



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I just read your article about racism in America ("Racism in America: A Thing of the Past?", January-February 2009), and I was pleasantly surprised by the truthfulness, fairness and thoughtfulness of this article. Our individual beliefs on race and politics are the "little gods" that we like to hold on to forever. When I saw the title of this article, I just knew it would be slanted. Not from malice but because that subject can be strongly affected by what I call the "little gods we keep syndrome". But it was not! Including the section called "What Constitutes Racism." I know of some who think racism is only of those who have the power to enforce an outcome. Not that they don't believe racism can't happen in reverse but without the power to affect an outcome, it is of little consequence. But this article pointed out how God looks at it. Thanks.

B. C., Indianapolis, IN

You know what? I wish to say thank you. I say thank you because when I walked into the post office yesterday I could not believe what I found after opening the box. I say thank you because I found my request, *Successful Parenting: God's Way*, read it and the message is so relevant to me being a young parent and a teacher, Believe me, this booklet will help many Kenyan parents. I say thank you for the good work and please keep on.

R. N., Nairobi, Kenya

I stumbled across your Web site and began to read different booklets. After each and every booklet, I have become more inspired. I had always thought and had been taught that being a good person and following the "Golden Rule" was enough. Little did I know or even expect to learn how wrong I have been. I have continued to read one or more booklet[s] per day. I have ordered several as well as your *Bible Study*

*Course*. The more I read and learn, the more I want to read and learn. I want to pass on this great feeling I am enjoying onto others, but I believe to best do this I must leave behind my ignorance and enter into knowledge. I just wanted to thank you and tell you how much your booklets have affected me over these last few days.

M. F., Cluster Spring, VA

Thank you so much for your amazing teachings. I have learned more of the Bible and God's wonderful plan in the last three months than I have in the last 30 years from my church.

L. K., Burlington, KY

I have been receiving *Tomorrow's World* magazine for years, and I must say I have learned more about the word of God with more understanding than ever before. I have also learned more of history than in all my years attending school. Thank you very much!

N. G., Jamaica, NY

Since I've received the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*, I've really enjoyed reading my Bible. I don't believe I've ever had a desire to read it like I do now. The *Bible Study Course* has opened my eyes to the Truth of the Bible, and I eagerly await to learn more. Thank you for offering it freely. It means a lot to me and I am sure it does to many others.

P. M., Douglas, GA

Your article on "A Return to Rome?" (November-December 2008) just amazed me! Never did I think that scripture would refer to the Protestant Reformation! As I read it, I was preparing to go to sleep. The article put me back on my feet in a big hurry!

A. G., Winona, MN

**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.**



# The Sign Of Jonah

By Rod McNair

## Just what is the “sign of Jonah”? What does it have to do with you and your future?

“**S**how us a sign—then we’ll believe you are the Messiah!” That was the challenge the religious leaders of His day issued to Jesus Christ. They wondered if this man was the Messiah, as some were claiming—and they demanded that He *prove* it!

What did He do? He did give them a sign, telling them: “A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah” (Matthew 16:4). Another gospel account records these words of Jesus: “This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation” (Luke 11:29–30).

That sign, if we can identify it, will reveal the Savior of the world.

Christ’s miracles were amazing signs of God’s power and ministry. His works testified of Him (John 14:11). To the disciples of John the Baptist, Jesus showed signs of healing the blind and cleansing the lepers—which the Messiah was

prophesied to do (Isaiah 61:1). Yet Christ said that the primary sign to identify Him as the Messiah would be “the sign of Jonah.”

What was the sign of Jonah—and what does it have to do with us today?

### A Call for Repentance?

Some believe that the “sign of Jonah” was simply Jesus’ call for those in His audience to repent—much as Jonah had also preached a call to repentance. Notice: “Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me” (Jonah 1:1–2, KJV).

Later on in the account, we find what Jonah taught: “And Jonah began to enter into the city a day’s journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them” (Jonah 3:4–5, KJV).

The inhabitants of Nineveh responded to Jonah’s impassioned call to repentance. From the least to the greatest, all turned from their sinful lifestyle. “And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not” (Jonah 3:10, KJV).

Yes, both Jonah and Jesus preached about repentance. But was this the sign of which Jesus spoke? Or was there something else?

### A Symbolic Resurrection?

Some say the sign of Jonah was his symbolic resurrection from the dead, which foreshadowed Christ’s resurrection. After all, when Jonah



fled on a ship, was thrown overboard and was swallowed whole by a sea creature, he was as good as dead! We even have a record of his prayer—from inside the stomach of his captor! “Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish’s belly. And he said: ‘I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, and He answered me. Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice’” (Jonah 2:1–2). The Hebrew *sheol* can also be translated as “the grave.” Jonah knew that without God’s dramatic intervention, his life would be over!

Yet God freed Jonah from his horrible underwater prison! In a sense, God brought Jonah back to life! Jonah described it: “For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the floods surrounded me; all Your billows and Your waves passed over me... The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; the deep closed around me; weeds were wrapped around my head. I went down to the moorings of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed behind me forever; yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God” (Jonah 2:3, 5–6).

Jonah was *figuratively* resurrected from the dead, much as Jesus Christ was *literally* resurrected from the grave. Is this the sign of which Jesus spoke? Or is it something else?

### In Jesus’ Own Words

If we look carefully at Jesus’ own words, we can see the key behind the sign of Jonah. “But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. **For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in**

**the heart of the earth’”** (Matthew 12:39–40).

Three days and three nights—this is the sign Jesus gave to establish His Messiahship. Our Savior staked His very identity on what some might brush off as a seemingly trivial detail!

But remember: our Creator is a God of perfect timing. He gave exact instructions for keeping the Passover on time (Exodus 12:12, 22). He gave human beings exact instructions for keeping a specific day of rest and worship (Exodus 20:8). He instructs us to observe specific annual Holy Days throughout the year (Leviticus 23). When it comes to prophecy, He has perfect timing, knowing the “end from the beginning” (Isaiah 46:10). Indeed, the prophet Daniel foretold the timing of Christ’s first coming, hundreds of years in advance (Daniel 9:24–26). So we can understand that the death and resurrection of the Savior of the world would occur with perfect timing.

Did the Pharisees understand what Jesus was saying about His time in the grave? *Of course!* After His death, they came to Pilate with an unusual request. “On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, ‘Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, “After three days I will rise”’” (Matthew 27:62–63).

The chief priests and Pharisees feared that Christ’s disciples might try to *fake* His resurrection, *following the exact timetable He gave*, thus continuing His influence even after His death. In response, Pilate authorized additional security to make sure the grave was not tampered with (vv. 65–66).

Christ’s audience understood the sign. But *most did not want to believe it* when Jesus was resurrected, and they did not accept Him as the Messiah.

### Just “Parts” of Days?

Was Jesus really in the grave for three days and three nights? Why should we care? What difference does it make for us? Only that it was the very sign of His Messiahship! *To reject it is to reject Him.*

Yet there are hundreds of millions of well-meaning people today who observe “Good Friday” as the supposed day of Jesus’ death, followed by “Easter Sunday” as the alleged day of His resurrection. But look carefully at the chart on the next page. From daylight Friday to daylight Sunday is *only two* nights and just *parts* of three days! There is no accurate way to interpret that time as the “three days and three nights” which Jesus gave as a sign!

Some scholars say that Christ’s “three days and three nights” is just a linguistic idiom, rather than a precise expression of time. They claim that “three days and three nights” can refer to *any portions* of three days and three nights. For example, commentator Adam Clarke contends: “Three days and three nights, according to this Jewish method of reckoning, included any part of the first day; the whole of the following night; the next day and its night; and any part of the succeeding or third day” (*Clarke’s Commentary*, Vol. V, p. 140).

Yes, there is one Jewish tradition of counting parts of days as a whole. As Clarke also explains: “The tradition is, that R. Eliazar ben Azariah said, ‘A day and a night make an *onah*: and a part of an *onah* is as the whole’” (*ibid.*).

But if we dig deeper, we find that there are also other Jewish traditions for counting days. Some rabbis taught that an individual day or night—not only a combined day and night period—could be defined as an *onah*. Again, quoting Clarke: “How much is the space of





head, He gave up His spirit. Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away” (John 19:30–31).

Readers sometimes assume that this Preparation Day must have been the Friday before a weekly Sabbath. But Scripture reveals that this Sabbath was in fact a “high day”—one of the *annual* Holy Days of Leviticus 23! Jesus was crucified after taking the Passover, *as* our Passover, then His body was taken to the tomb before the Holy Day known as the First Day of Unleavened Bread.

### Does It Matter?

Some of you reading this may be shocked to learn about timing you have never understood before. Others may ask, “What does it matter? Why worry about these technical details, when surely it is enough just to believe on Christ?”

Most professing Christians *assume* that Jesus Christ was resurrected on Sunday morning. Why? Because from childhood they were taught the “Easter story.” But what does the Bible say? “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, **while it was still dark**, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him’” (John 20:1–2).

On the first day of the week, *while it was yet dark*, Mary Magdalene came, and Christ was already risen! *Jesus Christ did not rise at sunrise*. He rose sometime Saturday night.

No, there was no “Easter sunrise service” in the early Church—even according to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*: “The name Easter... is derived from Eostre, or Ostara, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring... There is no indication of the obser-

vance of the Easter festival in the New Testament.” (1911 ed., p. 828).

So, where did the idea of a “sunrise service” come from? Amazingly, the Old Testament records God’s people holding a “sunrise service” during a time of national apostasy and rebellion against Him! Notice what the prophet Ezekiel was inspired to write: “Then He said to me, ‘Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these.’ So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD’S house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east” (Ezekiel 8:15–16).

What were Israel’s apostate priests doing? They were worshipping the sun, toward the east, following pagan rituals! Not only that, but the women were *weeping for Tammuz*. “And He said to me, ‘Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing.’ So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD’S house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz” (Ezekiel 8:13–14). Tammuz was the Mesopotamian god of fertility, whose story of birth, death and resurrection each spring was said to symbolize the power of nature’s renewal. The “Easter bunny” and the practice of coloring “Easter eggs” are modern descendants of ancient fertility rituals, having everything to do with pagan worship and nothing to do with the worship God ordained in Scripture! Easter worship is nothing but a counterfeit that does not

## THREE NIGHTS



(Continued on page 29)

# Tomorrow's Youth

## 'The "Blame Game"'

April 30 of this year will mark U.S. President Barack Obama's 100th day in office. Obama came to Washington on a platform of "change" and "hope"—but he is certainly not the first to build a campaign around upbeat-yet-vague themes. Older readers may remember that "Morning in America" was the theme of hope and change that brought Ronald Reagan to the White House 28 years ago.

One other common point these two very different administrations share is that their supporters are often quick to blame the previous administration for all that ails the nation. Throughout the Reagan administration, problems were "Jimmy Carter's fault" while successes were Reagan's. Throughout the administration of George W. Bush, problems were "Bill Clinton's fault"—but successes were credited to Bush. Now, facing difficult times in the opening days of a new administration, how often do we hear failures excused as "George Bush's fault"?

Blame is all around us—not just in politics, but in business, at school, and among family members. Perhaps even today you have either participated in—or heard someone—blaming others for a mistake, fault or error that has caused inconvenience or pain.

But just because blaming is so common, does that mean it is good—or even necessary?

### Why Do We Blame?

Imagine that when you come home from school one day, you notice that your brother is having a snack and watching television, and your dog is not in the backyard where he should be. You also find your brother's baseball glove on the grass by the backyard gate.

Putting these facts together, you quickly conclude that your brother absent-mindedly let the dog out of the gate. You then launch into a tirade that escalates into a full-fledged argument. Your brother protests that he did not let the dog out, but you ignore his protests and insist that he is to blame. Finally, he storms out of the room, refusing to talk to you for the rest of the day.

What happened here? The *facts* were indisputable: a missing dog and a baseball glove by the gate. However, the blame began when *your mind* drew conclusions based on the facts. Your train of thought may have been, "My stupid brother let the dog out the gate! Why is he always so careless and irresponsible? Doesn't

he care? He's in the house watching television while our dog is running loose in the neighborhood!"

Yes, the seeds of blame are planted by what we see happening, but they become full-grown in our *reaction* to what we perceive. When that reaction is

fueled by hurt and negative emotions, our response can turn toxic. But will your hurt bring the dog home any sooner? Will blaming your brother help the two of you find the dog and put away the glove where it belongs?

When we are tempted to lash out and blame others, we should first ask ourselves: What will the blame accomplish? Will it heal the situation, or will it prolong the hurt? (James 5:16).

### Blaming Comes Easy

Blaming others is a universal human tendency. In fact, the Bible shows us that the first human beings assigned blame after disobeying God's instructions in the Garden of Eden. After Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God asked him, "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" (Genesis 3:11). Adam's first reaction was to blame his wife: "Then the man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate'" (v. 12). Not only did Adam attempt to deflect the blame onto his wife; he even seemed to implicate God in his answer!

The blame game did not end there. After hearing Adam's response, God asked Eve, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate" (v. 13).





Blame is as old as the human race. But it did not help Adam and Eve. Does it help you and me?

## Plenty of Blame

Certainly, other people's actions affect us. Our parents have made choices that have helped to determine who we are. When friends accept or reject us, we may feel constrained to conform, or change, or stand apart, in ways that may sometimes feel uncomfortable. Teachers, employers, the government—all have an influence on our lives, and can give us excuses to blame our circumstances on other people. There is plenty of blame to go around! (Romans 3:23).

We all make mistakes. Some of our mistakes are small and go almost unnoticed. Others can do harm to many people around us. To prevent future mistakes, it can be wise and helpful to identify what caused the mistakes, so we can avoid repeating them in the future. But *finding a solution* is not the same as *assigning blame*. Can we change the past? No! But we may be able to understand what happened, and be able to improve our future as a result. You could blame Adam and Eve for “making the mess we’re in”—but would that help you improve your own life? Instead of reacting with anger about the past, there comes a point where the best step we can take is to understand how we can make things better now. It may be hard to let go of our anger at someone who caused a problem we are now facing—but ultimately this is the only way to grow, and to move toward resolving the problem.

## A Lesson from History

Is this just a lot of talk? In the real world, what happens when we refrain from assigning blame? The Apollo 13 lunar space mission, launched 39 years ago

this April, shows us an excellent example of how NASA (the U.S.’s National Aeronautics and Space Administration) used this principle to save lives and resolve a dangerous situation.

Apollo 13 was en route to the moon, two days after its April 11, 1970 launch, when a Service Module oxygen tank exploded, forcing astronauts Jim Lovell, Fred Haise and Jack Swigert to take refuge in the smaller Lunar Module for their return trip to Earth.

However, there was one major problem: the Lunar Module was designed to sustain two people for two days, not three people for the four days it would take to return to Earth.

The 1995 movie *Apollo 13* dramatized events of this remarkable mission, as NASA’s Mission Control team worked with the crew to bring them back safely. One scene shows an argument flaring when astronaut Haise blames their predicament on crew member Swigert. Mission commander Lovell quickly shuts down the argument with his response: “All right, look. We’re not doing this, gentlemen. We’re not going to go bouncing off the walls for ten minutes ‘cause we’re just going to end up right back here with the same problems—trying to figure out how to stay alive!”

Lovell’s words make a crucial point. No matter how we got here, our circumstances are what they are, and that is what we need to focus upon. Assigning blame changes neither our circumstances nor our objectives. It is interesting to note that the real-life Jim Lovell denies that the argument portrayed in the film actually took place. The Apollo 13 astronauts, he says, did not waste precious time on blame. In this case, the “blame game” was a Hollywood dramatization. Assigning blame may indeed be dramatic, but it does not provide solutions. Whether you are leading a nation, finding a lost dog or flying a damaged spacecraft back to Earth, the “blame game” is a wasteful—and sometimes dangerous—distraction (Proverbs 10:12).

—Phil Sena



# The Power to Choose

“Freedom of choice” is a hallmark of American national identity. Sadly, many do not realize that freedom of choice carries the potential not only for great good in our lives, but also the potential for great harm.

From every choice we make, there are resulting consequences that we must accept. Our lives are ruled by cause and effect. The Creator of the universe has set in motion certain laws, both physical and spiritual, that regulate the world of cause and effect.

We all know about the laws of physics, which affect how physical objects interact. When we drop something heavier than air, gravity ensures that it hits the ground. Gravity is always in effect, whether we “believe” in it or not. If you drop a bowling ball on your bare foot, the law of gravity does not care if your action was accidental; you will still be hurt. Yet just because the law of gravity can be an agent of harm, it does not follow that the law is inherently harmful. That same law of gravity ensures that, when you go out to your driveway in the morning, your car has not drifted off into space because of the blowing wind.

Similarly, God has established spiritual laws. Like gravity, these laws are concrete and stable, and they “work” whether or not we believe in them. Like gravity, these laws themselves are invisible, but their effects are equally real. They affect how people interact with each other, and with their Creator.

When someone tries to ignore the law of gravity, the effect will quickly be visible. When someone tries to ignore God’s spiritual laws, the effects are just as real, though they may take longer to notice. Instead of a bowling ball on a broken foot, ignoring God’s spiritual law can lead to broken marriages, shattered relationships, failed jobs and even ruined lives.

What are these spiritual laws? God has summarized them in ten principles widely known as the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1–17).

What might happen if you were to violate the first four commandments? What if you were

to have the “almighty dollar” as your god, line your walls with idols, use God’s name in vain continually, and conduct business even on God’s weekly Sabbath of rest? Would you feel the pain immediately, the way you would feel a bowling ball crashing on your foot? Maybe, but maybe not. You might for a while believe that you were getting away with “disobeying” God’s spiritual law, but there would be penalties. Whether or not you even knew about these spiritual laws, by violating them you would be keeping God from being actively engaged in your life, where He could intervene and bless you.

The same is true for the next six commandments, which govern human relationships. What if you were to disrespect your parents, murder those who got in your way, become unfaithful to your spouse, steal your neighbor’s car, lie to your boss and lust after every person or possession you see? Would you feel the pain right away? Maybe, but maybe not. Yet, sooner or later, you *would* pay the penalty—and your life would be miserable as a result.

God’s spiritual laws are a blueprint for human happiness. They are in effect, just like gravity,

whether or not you choose to “believe” in them.

These laws of cause and effect are real, and they can operate for your benefit or harm. God said, “I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days” (Deuteronomy 30:19–20).

Each of us has the “freedom to choose” whether or not we will follow God’s spiritual laws. But just as our lives would be filled with problems if we stubbornly tried to deny the law of gravity rather than use it for our benefit, so too will we experience true freedom only when we choose to follow God’s spiritual laws—and we experience the blessings that come from obedience instead of the penalties for breaking those laws.

—Jeffrey Fall





## Will the Dead Live Again? (Continued from page 13)

released at the very end. Today's faithful Christians will help Jesus Christ guide the world to a peace and prosperity it has never before known, where Satan's influence will be removed, and God's Spirit will be available to everyone. Unlike today, when only a relative few are called, in the Millennium, *all* will know and be able to live God's way (Isaiah 11:9). This thousand-year period of peace and prosperity and spiritual abundance will prepare the earth for the Great White Throne Judgment, in which the rest of mankind will be taught and judged.

But what will happen to those who *reject* God's way—who

are not blinded, and are spiritually aware and accountable? What will happen to those who refuse to repent of their sins and who reject the sacrifice of Jesus Christ? God *will* punish them. Yet He will not allow human beings to suffer for all eternity. He will *destroy* them in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:13–15). This extinction in the lake of fire, the “third resurrection,” delivers eternal punishment for the incorrigibly wicked. The wicked will be tormented as they stand before the lake of fire. Then all the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire and burned up. They will live no longer. Remember: “For the wages of sin is *death*, but the gift of God is *eternal life*

in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

God has an awesome plan for all humanity. There is hope for our deceased loved ones, whom we may have feared were lost forever! Billions who have died will live again, and will have their minds opened to God's plan of salvation, which they had never before understood. We can take comfort in knowing that our deceased friends and loved ones will not be punished unfairly by a capricious God, but will be part of His magnificent plan to save them in His time, so they can hear the true Gospel, surrender to their Savior, Jesus Christ, and be a part of God's family for eternity. ■

## The Sign of Jonah (Continued from page 25)

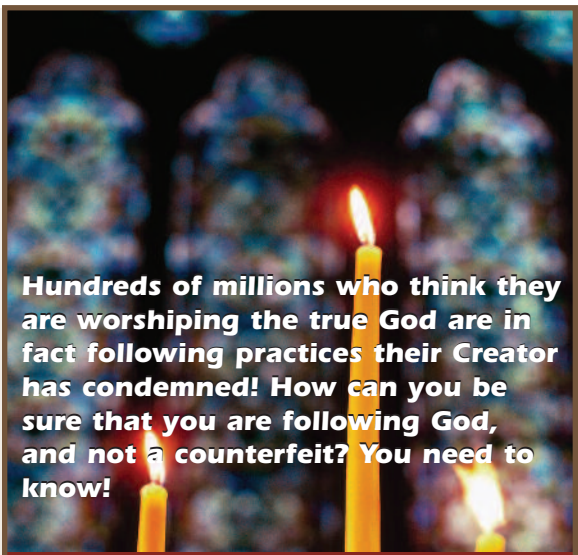
worship the true Christ at all (Matthew 24:24)! For more information, write for your free copy of our booklet, *Satan's Counterfeit Christianity*.

Put simply, the Friday-Sunday story *obscures and glosses over* the true Holy Days of God, denies the sign Jesus Himself gave, and sets the stage for the introduction of pagan ritual in place of what God ordained. By contrast, the Bible's plain Wednesday-Saturday account, with Christ in the grave for the 72 hours He prophesied, fulfills the sign He gave, *acknowledges the true Holy Days of God* and reveals the Easter sunrise story as impossible and unbiblical!

So, what about you? Do you worship the God of the Bible? Or do you just follow man-made traditions, such as Easter—even when they contradict Scripture? Are you willing to challenge your beliefs when proven wrong by the Bible? We must not be like these vain worshipers whom Jesus described: “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:8–9).

God *does* care how we worship Him (Deuteronomy 12:29–31). If we understand the sign of Jonah—which Jesus said was the *only* sign given of His Messiahship—we can begin to understand the true Jesus Christ of the Bible. When Jesus was raised from the dead after 72 hours in the grave, He fulfilled that sign. Do you accept His words that this was the sign of the true Messiah—which He gave to prove He is the Savior of the world? ■

## Satan's Counterfeit Christianity



**Hundreds of millions who think they are worshiping the true God are in fact following practices their Creator has condemned! How can you be sure that you are following God, and not a counterfeit? You need to know!**

**Write for our FREE booklet,  
*Satan's Counterfeit  
Christianity***

**or download it from the Booklets  
section of our Web site  
[www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).**

## The Problem of Biblical Illiteracy (Continued from page 2)

David, “a man after God’s own heart”—and *all* the great saints and servants of God in the Old Testament.

On the other hand, Jesus did say that the meek “shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). And, speaking in the first person, Jesus said over and over in the book of Revelation in various ways, “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” (Revelation 2:26–27). Obviously, these nations are **not** up in heaven but here on earth. Again, we read the “song of the saints” in Revelation 5:10, proclaiming that Christ, who has redeemed us has “made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign *on the earth*.” Again, John was inspired to tell us, “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 20:6).

No, Jesus Christ is *not* coming to take us away to heaven! Rather, He will return *to this earth* to straighten out the problems here on earth—with the assistance of the Spirit-born saints who will be resurrected and be given *a job* to do in assisting Christ in bringing real peace and happiness to a very confused world.

All this takes place at the “seventh trump” when Christ returns: “Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15). So it is the kingdoms *of this world*—**not** up in heaven—over which Christ and the resurrected saints will rule within a few years when He returns as King of kings.

Still, professing Christian ministers are misleading and confusing people when they give the impression that all they have to do is “just believe on Jesus”—*whatever* Jesus they have in mind—and then “float off to heaven” with **nothing** to do! This causes great harm to people by distracting their minds from the real **purpose** for our Christian calling and the *goal* we should all have of overcoming ourselves, the world and Satan—and *genuinely preparing* to assist Christ in ruling this world, which is so much in need of right government at this time, as I explain in my article on page 4 of this issue.

At this time of year, many are following a “Good Friday/Easter Sunday” tradition that is, in fact, a terrible *heresy*. For the basic identifying “sign” Jesus Himself gave of His very Messiahship is found in Matthew 12:39–40: “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. *For as Jonah was three days and three nights* in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” It should be obvious to any thinking person that you **cannot** fit in “three days and three nights” between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning! In this very issue, you can read more about this on page 22, in our article “The Sign of Jonah.”

May God help all of you who read this to *understand* the enormity of Satan’s sway over this confused world! May God help you to genuinely **study** the Bible—the inspired word from your very Creator who gives you life and breath! For the Bible clearly commands us, “**study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV).

We encourage all of you to enroll and genuinely *study* the *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*. It will be sent absolutely *free* upon your request, or you can sign up online at [www.twbiblecourse.org](http://www.twbiblecourse.org). Learn to *read carefully* the articles in our magazines and booklets—and *check up* in your own Bible the scriptures we cite. Learn to genuinely *prove* that what you believe is what the Bible actually says.

The Apostle Peter wrote: “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10–11). As you do this, with the true Christ beginning to *live His life* within you through the Holy Spirit, you may be granted a way of escape from the coming Tribulation and a position of honor and service in that soon-coming *everlasting Kingdom* of Jesus Christ.



**UNITED STATES:** P.O. Box 3810, CHARLOTTE, NC 28227-8010, [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org), PHONE: (704) 844-1970 ▪ **AUSTRALASIA:** PO Box 300, CLARENDON, SA 5157, AUSTRALIA, PHONE: (61) 8-8383-6288, FAX: (61) 8-8127-9667 ▪ **CANADA:** P.O. Box 409, MISSISSAUGA, ON L5M 2B9, PHONE: (905) 814-1094, FAX: (905) 814-7659 ▪ **NEW ZEALAND:** P.O. Box 2767, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, PHONE/FAX: (09) 268 8985 ▪ **PHILIPPINES:** PO Box 492, ARANETA CENTER POST OFFICE, 1135 QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES, PHONE: (63) 2-723-0499, FAX: (63) 2-414-5349 ▪ **SOUTH AFRICA:** PRIVATE BAG X7, HATFIELD, PRETORIA, 0028, PHONE: (27) 58-622-1424, FAX: (27) 58-623-1303 ▪ **UNITED KINGDOM:** BM Box 2345, LONDON, WC1N 3XX, PHONE/FAX: 44 (0) 844-800-9322.



# TOMORROW'S WORLD TELEVISION

## INTERNATIONAL:

### —AUSTRALIA

**NSW, Sydney:** TVS—Ch 31, SAT 5:00 am, SUN 6:00 am & 7:00 am  
**QLD, Brisbane:** QCTV 31-Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am  
**SA, Adelaide:** Access—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am; TUES 11:00 pm  
**VIC, Melbourne:** MCTC—Ch 31, SUN 7:00 am & 11:30 pm

### —BARBADOS

**St. Michael:** CBC—Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am

### —CANADA

**BC, Vancouver:** CHNU—Ch 11, SUN 1:00 am & 5:00 pm

### —JAMAICA

**Kingston:** TVJ—Ch 7, 9, 11 & 13, SUN 7:00 am

### —NEW ZEALAND

**Nationwide:** PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:00 am

### —PHILIPPINES

**Naga City:** PBN—Ch 5, SUN 8:00 am

**Naval:** Billnet Cable—Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am

### —SOUTH AFRICA

**South Africa Nationwide:** Channel G—SUN 8:00 am

### —TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

**Trinidad, Port of Spain:** CCN—Ch 6, SAT 3:30 pm

### —UNITED KINGDOM AND NW EUROPE

**United Kingdom:** WORD Network-SKY-TV—Ch 771, FRI 6:30 am

**The Gospel Channel:** Sky—Ch 590, MON 7:00 pm

## UNITED STATES:

**AK, Anchorage:** GCI—Ch 18, SAT 10:00 pm  
**AL, Birmingham:** Bright House—Ch 4, THUR 2:00 pm  
**AL, Troy/Montgomery:** WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 6:30 am  
**AR, Fayetteville:** Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm  
**AR, Little Rock:** KASN—Ch 38, SUN 9:30 am  
**AZ, Lake Havasu City:** KLUH—Ch 45, SUN 10:30 am  
**AZ, Phoenix:** Cox Cable—Ch 22, SUN 9:00 am  
**AZ, Prescott:** Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 12:30 pm  
**AZ, Tucson:** Access—Ch 73/98, SAT 12:30 pm; SUN 7:00 pm  
**CA, Eureka:** Sudden Link Cable—Ch 12, SUN 8:00 pm  
**CA, Garden Grove:** Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 9:30 am & 6:30 pm  
**CA, Glendora:** Time Warner—Ch 3/99, TUE 7:00 pm  
**CA, Los Angeles:** KHIZ—Ch 64, SUN 7:30 am  
**CA, Modesto:** Community Media—Ch 8, TUE 5:00 pm; FRI 1:30 pm  
**CA, North Orange County:** Time Warner—Ch 95/97/98 MON 5:00 pm  
**CA, Redding:** RCAC—Ch 11, SUN 8:30 am  
**CA, Sacramento:** RCCTV—Ch 20/96, MON 5:30 pm  
**CA, San Diego:** Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm  
**CA, San Diego:** Time Warner—Ch 19, SUN 6:00 pm  
**CA, San Francisco:** Access—Multi, WED 8:00 pm  
**CA, Sonoma:** TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm  
**CA, Turlock:** Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm  
**CT, Naugatuck:** Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm  
**FL, Gainesville:** Cox—Ch 55, SUN 10:00 am  
**FL, Jacksonville:** WTEV—Ch 47, SUN 7:00 am  
**FL, Ocala:** Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am  
**FL, Pensacola:** WJTC—Ch 44, THUR 6:30 am  
**FL, Tallahassee:** WTWC—Ch 40, SUN 7:30 am  
**FL, Tampa:** WTTA—Ch 38, SUN 8:00 am  
**GA, Atlanta:** PTV—Ch 24, TUE 4:30 pm  
**GA, Atlanta:** WATC—Multi—SUN 9:30 am  
**GA, Macon:** Cox Cable—Ch 18, FRI 2:00 pm, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am  
**GA, Savannah:** Comcast—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am  
**IA, Davenport:** Mediacom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm; WED 8:30 am  
**IA, Des Moines:** Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am  
**IA, Dubuque:** MediaCom—Ch 16, THUR 8:00 pm; MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm  
**ID, Boise:** TVTV—Ch 11, SUN 9:30 pm; MON 11:30 am  
**IL, Chicago:** WGN—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am  
**IL, Moline:** MediaCom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm  
**IL, Peoria:** Insight, Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm  
**IL, Springfield:** Insight—Ch 4, TUE 10:00 pm  
**IN, Bloomington:** CATS—Ch 3, MON 5:30 pm  
**IN, Fort Wayne:** Comcast—Ch 57, SUN 3:00 pm  
**KS, Chanute:** Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm  
**KS, Parsons:** Parson's Cable TV—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm  
**KS, Salina:** Community TV—Ch 21, check local listing  
**KY, Latonia:** PEG 17—Ch 17, WED 5:30 pm; THUR 12:00 am  
**KY, Lexington:** Ch 14, Check Local Listing  
**KY, Lexington:** WUPX—Ch 67, THUR 1:30 pm

**KY, Louisville:** WBNA—Ch 21, SUN 5:30 pm  
**LA, Baton Rouge:** KZUP—Ch 44, SUN 8:00 am  
**LA, Shreveport:** KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am  
**MA, Boston:** WBXP—Ch 68, WED 7:00 am  
**MA, Cambridge:** CCTV—Ch 22, FRI 11:00 am; SUN 3:00 pm, WED 9:00 am  
**MA, Everett:** Community TV—Ch 3, TUE 1:00 pm  
**MA, Malden:** Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am  
**MA, North Adams:** NBCT—Ch 15, WED 8:00 pm  
**MD, Baltimore:** Community Media—Ch 75, SUN 9:00 am  
**MD, Rockville:** Community TV—Ch 19, SAT 5:30 pm  
**MD, Westminster:** Adelphia—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am  
**ME, Auburn:** GFTV—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am; SUN 8:00 pm  
**ME, Brunswick:** Cable 7—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am; SUN 6:30 am  
**MI, Detroit:** Comcast—Multi, SUN 7:30 am  
**MI, Kalamazoo:** CACTV—Ch 19, SUN 11:30 am; MON, WED, FRI 5:00 pm  
**MI, Portage:** Access—Ch 19, 20, FRI 10:30 am, TUE 2:00 pm  
**MI, Saginaw:** Charter Media—Ch 16, THUR 2:00 pm  
**MN, Cloquet:** Mediacom Cable—Ch 7, FRI 9:00 am; WED 5:00 pm  
**MN, Duluth:** Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** Metro Cable—Ch 6, SAT 8:30 am, SUN 8:30 am  
**MN, Minneapolis:** MTN—Ch 75, THUR 6:30 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm  
**MN, Roseville:** CTV—Ch 21, TUE 8:00 pm; WED 4:00 am & 12:00 pm  
**MN, St. Paul:** SPNN—Ch 14, SUN 8:30 pm  
**MO, Joplin:** KOAM—Ch 7, SUN 7:00 am  
**MO, Kansas City:** KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 8:00 am  
**MO, Kansas City:** Time Warner—Ch 4, SUN 10:00 pm  
**MO, Springfield:** KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am  
**MO, St. Louis:** Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm  
**MS, Jackson:** Comcast—Ch 18, SUN 10:00 am; WED 4:00 pm  
**MS, Jackson:** WAPT—Ch 16, SUN 8:30 am  
**NC, Burlington:** Time Warner—Ch 5/10, SUN 9:00 pm  
**NC, Charlotte:** WAXN—Ch 64, SUN 7:00 am  
**NC, Charlotte:** WHKY—Ch 14/19, MON 7:30 pm  
**NC, Greensboro:** GCTV—Ch 8, SAT 7:30 am; SUN 10:30 pm  
**NC, Wilmington:** Time Warner—Ch 4, MON 10:00 pm  
**NH, Hanover:** CATV—Ch 6, SUN 6:00 pm; MON 12:00 am & 6:00 am & 12:00 pm; THUR 7:00 pm; FRI 1:00 am & 7:00 am & 1:00 pm  
**NJ, Cape May:** Comcast—Ch 9, SUN 11:00 am  
**NJ, Oakland:** Cablevision—Ch 76, MON 10:00 pm  
**NM, Albuquerque:** CCC27—Ch 27, SUN 6:30 pm  
**NM, Rio Rancho:** Cable One—Ch 51, THUR 7:00 pm  
**NV, Carson City:** BAC-TV—Ch 10, SUN 6:00 pm  
**NV, Gardnerville:** Community Access—Ch 16, SAT 4:30 am & 4:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am & 4:30 pm  
**NV, Reno/Sparks:** SNET—Ch 30/16, FRI 6:30 am  
**NY, Albany/Troy:** Time Warner—Ch 18, MON 3:00 pm  
**NY, Amsterdam:** Public Access—Ch 16, TUE 6:00 pm  
**NY, Batavia:** Time Warner—Ch 19, TUE 5:30 pm  
**NY, Binghamton:** Time Warner—Ch 4, FRI 5:00 pm  
**NY, Brookhaven:** Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 5:00 am  
**NY, Brooklyn:** BCAT—Ch 35/68, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Canandaigua:** FLTV—Ch 12, SUN 11:00 am  
**NY, Elmira & Corning:** Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 8:00 am  
**NY, Fairport:** FACT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Glens Falls:** Time Warner—Ch 18, FRI, MON-WED 8:00 pm  
**NY, Hauppauge:** Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 5:00 am  
**NY, Irondequoit:** ICAT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; WED 11:30 am & 7:30 pm  
**NY, Manhattan:** MNN—Ch 57/85, SAT 7:00 pm  
**NY, New York:** WRNN—Ch 62, SUN 10:30 pm  
**NY, Niagara Falls:** Community TV—Ch 20, MON 6:00 am  
**NY, Oneida:** Community Access—Ch 99, THUR 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
**NY, Oneonta:** Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm  
**NY, Queens:** QPTY—Ch 34/35, SAT 3:00 pm; TUE 9:30 pm  
**NY, Rochester:** Community TV—Ch 15, SAT 4:30 am  
**NY, Rockland County:** Cablevision—Ch 76, MON 10:00 am, SUN 4:30 am  
**NY, Staten Island:** CTV—Ch 34, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 12:00 pm  
**NY, Syracuse:** Community Access—Ch 98, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Utica:** Time Warner—Ch 99, MON 9:00 pm  
**NY, Wappingers Falls:** Cablevision—Ch 21, SUN 10:00 am  
**NY, Watertown:** Time Warner—Ch 99, SUN 10:00 am & 6:00 pm; MON 7:00 pm; TUE 7:00 pm  
**NY, Webster:** WCA—Ch 12, SUN 9:00 am  
**NY, West Seneca:** Time Warner—Ch 20, TUE 11:35 pm  
**NY, Woodbury:** Cablevision—Ch 115, SUN 10:30 am  
**OH, Centerville:** MWCC—Ch 23, FRI 2:30 pm

**OH, Cincinnati:** Time Warner—Ch 8 & 24, TUE 1:00 pm; THUR 8:30 am; SUN 7:00 pm  
**OH, Dayton:** DSTV—Ch 12, FRI 9:00 am; SUN 11:00 pm  
**OH, Fairborn:** CAC—Ch 23, TUE 12:00 pm  
**OK, Tulsa:** KMYT—Ch 41, SUN 6:00 am  
**OR, Ashland:** RVTV—Ch 15/31/95, SUN 10:00 pm  
**OR, Oregon City:** WFTV—Ch 23, FRI 4:00 pm; SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am; WED 4:00 pm  
**OR, Portland:** MCTV—Ch 11, SUN 12:30 pm  
**PA, Allentown/Bethlehem:** TV2—Ch 50, FRI 4:30 pm  
**PA, Johnstown:** Atlantic Broadband—Ch 9, MON 10:00 pm  
**PA, Lehighton:** BRCTV—Ch 13, SUN 8:30 am  
**PA, Reading:** BCTV—Ch 13/19, THUR 11:00 pm  
**PA, Sayre:** Time Warner—Ch 18, MON 4:30 pm  
**PA, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre:** FOX56 & WOLF—Multi Channels, THUR 5:00 am; SAT 5:00 am  
**RI, Providence:** WPXQ—Ch 69, MON 11:30 am  
**TN, Chattanooga:** WDEF—Ch 12, SUN 8:30 am  
**TN, Knoxville:** WVLR—Ch 48, SUN 7:30 am  
**TN, La Follette:** WLAF—Ch 12, WED 6:00 pm  
**TN, Memphis:** WPTY—Ch 24, SAT 6:30 am  
**TN, Nashville:** WDRV—Ch 17, SUN 6:30 am  
**TX, Austin:** Community Access—Ch 11, WED 7:00 pm  
**TX, Bryan:** KYLE—Ch 44, SUN 7:00 am  
**TX, Dallas:** KPXD—Ch 68, SAT 7:30 am  
**TX, Dallas:** Media Network—Ch 99/74, SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am  
**TX, Houston:** KPXB—Ch 49, SUN 9:00 am  
**TX, Lufkin:** KTRE—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am  
**TX, Midland:** KMID—Ch 2, SUN 9:00 am  
**TX, Temple:** KPLE—Ch 31/45, SUN 7:30 pm  
**TX, Tyler:** KLTV—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am  
**TX, Waco:** KWKT—Ch 44, SUN 7:00 am  
**VA, Charlottesville:** Adelphia—Ch 13, WED 5:00 pm  
**VA, Chesterfield:** Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm  
**VA, Fairfax:** FPA—Ch 10, MON 12:00 pm  
**VA, Norfolk:** WSKY—Ch 4, SUN 9:00 am  
**VA, Roanoke:** WDRL—Ch 24/54, SUN 7:00 am  
**VA, Virginia Beach:** Cox—Ch 99 & 51, SAT 8:30 am  
**VT, Bennington:** CAT—Ch 15, WED 9:30 am & 12:00 am; THUR 12:00 am & 9:30 pm; SAT 8:00 am & 4:30 pm  
**VT, Burlington:** Community Access—Ch 15, THUR 11:30 am & 12:00 pm  
**VT, Montpelier:** Community Access—Ch 15, THUR 9:00 pm, FRI 2:00 am & 3:00 pm  
**VT, Richmond:** Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 6:00 am, 9:00 am, 12:30 pm, 7:00 pm; MON 7:00 am, 1:00 pm  
**VT, Springfield:** SAPA TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:00 pm  
**WA, Everett:** Comcast—Ch 77, WED 4:30 pm  
**WA, Kennewick:** Charter—Ch 13/99, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm  
**WA, Vancouver:** FVTV—Ch 11, SUN 8:30 am, TUE 10:30 am, WED 12:00 pm  
**WI, Wausau:** Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am  
**WV, Charleston:** WLPX—Ch 29, TUE 7:00 am  
**WY, Casper:** KITWO—Ch 2, SUN 10:00 am  
**WY, Cheyenne:** KLVY—Ch 27, SUN 10:00 am

## ■ Nationwide Cable

WGN—SUN 6:00 am ET  
 WORD—SUN 7:30 pm ET  
 BET—THUR 6:00 am ET & PT

## ■ DirecTV

WGN—CH 307, SUN 6:00 am ET  
 WORD—CH 373, SUN 7:30 pm ET

## ■ Canada

VISION—SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON 1:30 am;  
 MON—FRI 3:00 am ET

ON, Toronto: *The Christian Channel*—Cable,  
 SUN 4:00 pm ET, WED 12:00 pm ET

# TOMORROW'S WORLD *Television Log*

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

**WORD:** SUN 7:30 pm ET

**VISION, Canada:** SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON 1:30 am ET; MON-FRI 3:00 am ET

**BET:** THUR 6:00 am ET & PT

## **NEW U.S.A. TELEVISION STATION:**

**NY, Riverhead:** *Cablevision*—CH 20, FRI 7:30 pm

## **NEW SOUTH AFRICA STATION:**

**South Africa Nationwide:** *Channel G*—SUN 8:00 am

## **TOMORROW'S WORLD TELECAST**



### **Why Must Christ Come Again?**

**Airs April 2-8**

Our world needs Jesus Christ more than ever!

### **The Superpower "Beast" of Revelation**

**Airs April 9-15**

End-time prophecy is coming to pass today!

### **Get God's Attention!**

**Airs April 16-22**

Learn how to pray *and* get answers!

### **The Antichrist Is Coming Soon!**

**Airs April 23-29**

Will you recognize this mysterious figure?

*Schedule subject to change*