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Tomorrow's World

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

WHEN Will Jesus Christ Return?



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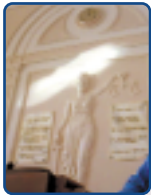
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True Christians Need COURAGE

The enormous upheavals described in this month's lead article will test the mettle of every person on this planet. Many of those who are willing to seek the praise of God *rather* than the praise of men may go through unimaginable trials and persecutions. They will certainly need a high degree of courage and fortitude.

These are qualities possessed by nearly every great biblical leader and most genuinely great men and women in secular leadership positions as well. Courage is something that may come naturally to some. But it can also be developed to a high degree by sincere and persistent effort. Courage is a quality which all of us truly *need* in the years just ahead if we are to follow the true Christianity of the Bible.

For Jesus said, "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also" (John 15:20). And again, "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever KILLS you will think that he offers God service" (John 16:1-2).

Jesus Christ also stated in Matthew's gospel: "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.... And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 10:34, 38-39). And the Apostle Paul specifically warns all true Christians. "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12).

Have you learned to *think through* and "pray through" what you would do in a situation when obeying God might cost you your life? All of us need

to do this and we need to "feed" on things that will tend to build courage and fortitude in our basic character. We need to *think* about courage, *read* about courage and *pray* for courage.

One of the most inspiring examples of courage in modern times was set by Sir Winston Churchill—Prime Minister of Britain during her darkest hour near the beginning of World War II. For at that time, Britain was outgunned, outnumbered and every indication was that Britain was close to her end as a free nation. Following are some of the words Winston Churchill spoke to the British people during those trying times.

To the House of Commons on June 4, 1940:

Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of the Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight in the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air; we shall defend our Island whatever the cost may be.

Again, to the House of Commons on June 18, 1940, Churchill stated:

Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this Island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a

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WHEN Will Jesus Christ Return?

By Roderick C. Meredith

Imagine the bold headlines announcing “Jesus Christ Has Returned”! Imagine the “headline news” on radio and television: “We interrupt this program to give you the shocking news that Jesus Christ has just returned to this earth! Our Middle East correspondent reports that Jesus has descended to the Mount of Olives—just east of Jerusalem—and seems to be preparing to make His way into the city!”

WOW!

Would *that* not be something? And yet the very *real* return of Jesus Christ to planet earth is going to be far more awesome and dramatic than the description given above. Such awesome and dramatic events will occur that there WON'T BE any telecasts or printed news coming out that day—or probably for many days afterward!

Pollsters have found that about one in four professing Christian adults in the United States expect Jesus Christ to return to this earth. But the vast major-

ity of them indicate that they are unsure as to *when* and *how* Christ will return—and what will happen after that. The reason is because even most professing Christians are biblically ILLITERATE. Aside from a few favorite New Testament passages or Psalms they may read occasionally, most churchgoers have *no idea* what the Bible teaches. In fact, most of them, when asked, have been unable even to name the four Gospels!

In the field of religion, most “mainstream” ministers are quite liberal and may not even believe that Jesus was an actual person—or that He died, was resurrected and then ascended to heaven. So they often think of the idea of Christ's Second Coming as a theological “myth,” or at the very most as something that is very indefinite and “way off.”

I well remember hearing, in person, one very famous evangelist thundering to his audience, “Christ may come TONIGHT! Yet, on the other hand, present events may just be another stage in the great human drama that may last another *thousand years* before Christ's return!”

Frankly, either of these extremes is ridiculous. And those who espouse such ideas have virtually *no understanding* of biblical prophecy whatsoever or they would not arrive at such conclusions. Either extreme is wrong.

Need to Really BELIEVE God's Word

The key to understanding is to *genuinely believe* what God says in His inspired Word. Notice God's instruction in 2

Peter 1:19: “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” The King James version translates this as, “the SURE word of prophecy.” For the Creator God who inspired the biblical prophecies has the power not only to *foretell* the future, but also to *bring to pass* what He has said He would do! God tells us, “Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done” (Isaiah 46:9–10).

After describing an *entire series* of events to occur just before His Second Coming, Jesus said, “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.... So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Luke 21:28, 31–33).

If you really BELIEVE what Christ says, you will know that a *specific series of events* will transpire just before He returns. And you will *know* and *believe* that when these events are under way, mankind will indeed be in the “last generation” of human civilization, as we have known it. And you will know that there is NO WAY that Christ’s return could be as far as *1,000 years off!*

Though this may shock some of you, nevertheless you also need to understand that there is NO WAY that Christ’s return could be *tonight* or *tomorrow night* or even

next year! How DARE I say that? Because God’s inspired Word tells us that “heaven and earth may pass away,” but that Jesus’ description of this entire *series of events* will NOT pass away!

Again, if you truly BELIEVE God’s inspired Word, you will not come up with these kinds of extreme conclusions—one way or the other. Yet some professing Christian ministers seem unable even to grasp the fact that we are in the “last days.”

Are We in the “Last Days”?

There are literally dozens of indications that we are in the prophesied “last days.” Let me give you just a few.

First, in Jesus’ famous Olivet Prophecy, He warns us to watch for the “abomination of desolation” described by Daniel the prophet, which will be “standing in the holy place” (Matthew 24:15). Nearly all scholars agree that the original “abomination” was a statue of either Zeus or Jupiter Olympus which was forcibly placed in the Temple of God by Antiochus Epiphanes in 168BC. However, many recognize the principle of *duality* here—that is, both a typical and anti-typical (or later) fulfillment of this same prophecy.

Certainly, the final “abomination of desolation” to which Jesus referred is obviously *after* Jesus’ human lifetime. Notice God’s instruction to Daniel near the end of Daniel’s prophecy: “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the TIME of the END. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall

understand. And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the ABOMINATION of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days” (Daniel 12:9–11).

Clearly, then, there must be some sort of temple or altar in Jerusalem at the END of this age where the “daily sacrifice” (v. 11) is being offered. And *that* is when the final “abomination” is set up. This passage also indicates that the Jews at the time of the END would have a significant presence in Jerusalem. None of this makes sense without a revived state of Israel, a Jewish Jerusalem and a rebuilt temple. So the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, and the 1967 Jewish takeover of the old city and the Temple Mount are very significant events. These *already fulfilled* indications tell us that we are indeed in the prophesied “time of the END.”

Another clear indication that we are in the “end times” is found in Matthew 24:21–22. Jesus had been asked, “What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the END of the age?” (v. 3). After describing a series of events and the placing of the “abomination,” Jesus stated: “For then there will be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, NO FLESH would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.” Here, Jesus predicted the most *awful* and *enormous* national punishment in history and the possibility of COSMOCIDE if God did not supernaturally intervene.

Cosmocide—the annihilation of all flesh—was not possible even during World War II. For although two atomic bombs were dropped to end the war with

Japan, there were *no more bombs available* until months or years later. According to many authorities, it was not until about 1957

unthinkable before the 20th century began. In addition, the advent of radio, television and especially now, the widespread use of computers, have contributed to a virtual EXPLOSION in human knowledge when compared to past ages.

We are *definitely* living in the “last days”! Christ will undoubtedly return within the lifetimes of the young people growing up today—and

many of us older folks may also live to witness this awesome event.

Let the BIBLE Interpret the Bible!

Sad to say, many human prognosticators and interpreters of Bible prophecy will often read a biblical prophecy and then *imagine* what it is all about! Of course, the *correct* way to understand the Bible is to honestly and thoroughly put together ALL the scriptures dealing with any subject—including prophecy—and then through careful study and heartfelt prayer come to *understand* the whole picture.

For instance, when you *carefully compare* the prophecies of Daniel, Revelation and Jesus’ Olivet Prophecy as recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, a pretty clear picture emerges as to *when* and *how* Christ will return.

Notice Revelation 1:1: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants; things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.” Here we find that this is *Christ’s* revelation—NOT the Apostle John’s! We also read that the stated *purpose* is to reveal things or events that would shortly “take place.”

In Revelation 2 and 3, we find an inspired description of the eras or ages of God’s true Church. The *final* church era, Laodicea, is characterized as being “lukewarm.” So even the majority of the true people of God in the END-times are apparently overcome by a degree of worldliness and are influenced by our fun-seeking “me” generation. Revelation 4 and 5 describe the transcendent GLORY of God. Then chapter 5 describes how Christ only is found worthy to open the seals of Revelation and begin this revealing of end-time events.

Revelation 6, then, describes *in order* the events of the first six seals. Study it carefully and compare especially with Matthew 24:3–9. First, we find the description of the “white horse.” This is clearly identified in Matthew 24:5 as a wave of *false prophets* sent out to use Christ’s name and yet DECEIVE the masses! (see also Revelation 12:9). Next, we read of the “red horse” sent out to “take peace from the earth.” Matthew 24:6–7 enlarges on this and shows that this will include not only war, but also WORLD WAR. The *third seal*, the “black horse” of Revelation 6 describes tiny bits of food being carefully weighed—obviously a time of FAMINE. Matthew 24:7 describes this next event as “famine.”



Cosmocide, the annihilation of all flesh on earth, remains a threat despite moves towards disarmament. Weapons of mass destruction exist in large numbers and have proliferated into the hands of smaller nations.

that—between the U.S. and the Soviet Union—enough atomic weapons existed to annihilate all humanity.

So with the return of many of the Jews to Israel in 1948, and the degree of atomic weapons proliferation in 1957, we certainly entered the “time of the end” by then—if not even before then.

Also, in Daniel 12:4, God told Daniel, “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the END; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” Note that massive use of transportation facilities would mark the end-time, and a vast increase in man’s knowledge would occur. Again, since World War II we have come to take for granted the tens of millions of people hurtling through the air in our modern airplanes and jumbo jets. In almost every corner of the earth, men are now driving automobiles to and fro and are traveling around in a manner that would have been

Then the fourth seal is a “pale horse”—a SICKLY looking horse—which brings *death* and the *grave*. And Jesus concurs in Matthew 24:7 that the next prophesied event in this *series of events* leading up to His Second Coming is indeed PESTILENCE—a *major disease epidemic* of unprecedented proportions. For after describing these four MAJOR events, the inspired John tells us, “Power was given to them over a FOURTH of the earth, to KILL with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth” (Revelation 6:8). And Matthew 24:7 adds that EARTHQUAKES will also be a significant factor during this time period.

A “fourth” of the earth to perish? Most scholars acknowledge

In this inspired description, the fearful GREAT TRIBULATION and the “Day of the Lord” have not yet even begun!

The GREAT TRIBULATION

The *fifth* seal of Revelation is, in fact, describing the *Great Tribulation*. The emphasis here is on the church aspect—upon the fact that many of the people in God’s true Church will be *persecuted*, martyred as they were in past ages (Revelation 6:9–12). But other scriptures—including Matthew 24:21–22, Luke 21:22–24 and Jeremiah 30:4–7—tell us that this horrifying Tribulation will be not just upon the true Church but on the *physical* nations of Israel AND Judah—including the United

States and British-descended nations of the world. For biblical and historical PROOF of this, write or call us today and ask us for a copy of our booklet, *What’s Ahead for America and Britain?* It will be sent to you absolutely FREE upon your request.

The Great Tribulation involves a massive national PUNISHMENT upon the physical nations of Israel who have

FAILED to honor their covenant with God and have turned aside into gross immorality and hedonism. They have a “form” of religion—even of Christianity—but *deny* the POWER and authority of the Creator God! (2 Timothy 3:5). Professing Christians of our day will no doubt challenge God’s right to punish His people. God answers, “WHY do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable.

Because of the multitude of your INIQUITIES, because your SINS have increased, I have done these things to you” (Jeremiah 30:15).

Immediately *after* the Great Tribulation comes the *sixth* seal, the “heavenly signs” (Revelation 6:12–16). Again, Matthew 24 corroborates this perfectly, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (v. 29).

Then comes the “Day of the Lord”—the time of God’s full wrath upon ALL the rebellious nations of the earth (Revelation 6:17). After a large number of both Israelite and Gentile peoples are “sealed” and are protected from God’s final wrath (Revelation 7), then the “trumpet plagues” begin.

The first plague scorches one-third of the trees and ALL the green grass on the earth (Revelation 8:7). In quick succession, the following plagues turn a third of the sea into blood, destroy one-third of the fish and one-third of all ships, poison one-third of the springs and rivers of water and blot out much of the light from the sun, moon and stars (vv. 7–12).

The fifth and sixth plagues describe what may be a totally sophisticated, gargantuan “Star Wars” type of attack by the European Beast Power upon its enemies. Then, a powerful counter-attack by a MASSIVE army of *200 million warriors*—probably composed of millions of Russians, Mongolians and Chinese troops who have NOT submitted to the arrogant European dictator also called the “Beast.”

Finally, after a three-and-one-half-year Tribulation and CAPTIVITY for the peoples of Israel, a



The Bible says many shall run to and fro in the end times. Modern transportation, especially air transport controlled by high-tech tracking systems, grows steadily—crowding world airways.

that this is NOT talking about one-fourth of the earth’s surface—which is mostly ocean, mountains and desert anyway. It is speaking of one-fourth of the ENTIRE POPULATION of this earth! Without any increase in the earth’s present population (now about six billion), one-fourth would represent about one and one-half BILLION people to be destroyed by these first four “horsemen.”

three-and-one-half-year period of powerful prophesying and “warning” to the Beast Power by the “two witnesses,” and a three-and-one-half-year period of protection for the *truly faithful* people in God’s Church (see Revelation 11:3; 12:14), Christ returns in magnificent GLORY at the seventh trump! (v. 15).

TION from the dead at Christ’s Second Coming!

Also, just *before* the Tribulation, the seventh “revival” of the Holy Roman Empire takes place and a final emperor/king/dictator wins the support of ten leaders of nations in Europe, which will comprise the final, prophesied Beast Power (Revelation

the WOMAN RIDES the BEAST! (vv. 3, 7, 9).

The term “woman” is used in a number of scriptures in God’s Word to symbolize a church. In 2 Corinthians 11:2, the Apostle Paul is inspired to describe the true Church as a “chaste virgin” to Christ. In Ephesians 5, Paul describes the Church as being in the place of a woman (vv. 23–25). In Revelation 12:6 and 12:14, the Church is pictured as a “woman” fleeing to a place of safety in the “wilderness.”

However, in Revelation 17 God is describing a great FALL-EN church, “The mother of harlots and abominations of the earth” (v. 5). John was inspired to tell us: “I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. But the angel said to me, ‘Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns’” (vv. 6–7). So this spiritually DRUNKEN church is also a great PERSECUTING church. And it will be sitting on and guiding the Beast, the final revival of the Holy Roman Empire.

As this foul religious/political system comes together in Europe and as a great false prophet arises “according to the working of Satan, with all POWER, SIGNS, and LYING WONDERS” (2 Thessalonians 2:9), untold millions of Americans, Canadians, British and Europeans will be tempted and will even be *pressured* to become part of this rotten system. Many of you reading this now may be tempted to “join,”

The forces of the Beast Power will also conquer the Jewish State of Israel and take over much of the Middle East—no doubt to gain control of the Arab oil reserves to fuel their war machine!

Other Strands of the Story

Meanwhile, just *before* the Great Tribulation, a powerful Arab combine will get together and threaten and provoke the coming European Beast Power (Daniel 11:40–45). Notice that this is at the “time of the END.” The more heavily armed and sophisticated Beast Power will swoop down on this “king of the south” like a “whirlwind.”

The forces of the Beast Power will also conquer the Jewish state of Israel and take over much of the Middle East—no doubt to gain control of the Arab oil reserves to fuel their war machine! As we have seen, the next event is the attack upon the “house of Israel” (Jeremiah 30)—the Great Tribulation. This will absolutely be a “time of trouble such as NEVER was since there was a nation” (Daniel 12:1). Soon after this massive Tribulation and Day of the Lord, Christ will return, “and many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake” (v. 2) in the RESURREC-

17:8–12). Foolishly, the leaders of this awesome, military power think their sophisticated weaponry will somehow prevail even against Christ! They try to do battle even as the returning Christ and the armies of heaven descend in power, “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (v. 14). All this clearly shows the degree of *deception* and spiritual BLINDNESS, which will have come over the *leading men of the earth* at that time. Indeed, the “god of this age” has absolutely “blinded those who do not believe” (2 Corinthians 4:4). Please remember that, until Jesus Christ returns to this earth, this is SATAN’S world!

Remember also that this coming Beast Power is not only a military and political power. It is a “tool” that will be used by the great HARLOT described also in Revelation 17. For as these scriptures clearly tell us,

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What's Ahead for Russia?

By John H. Ogwyn

This last decade has witnessed changes on the world scene which would have seemed unimaginable, even to informed observers, throughout most of this century. At the center of these dramatic changes have been events in Russia, the heart of the old Soviet Union. For those with vivid memories of the Cold War days of the 1950s and 1960s, the peaceful lowering of the red hammer and sickle flag from above the Kremlin was a sight they never expected to witness. Yet lowered it was.

In its September 2, 1991 issue, *U. S. News & World Report* proclaimed on its cover, "Russia Reborn." Describing the optimistic hopes and aspirations of those heady days, the magazine went on to declare, "Following the failed coup, a new age has dawned in the Soviet Union. The Communist Party is effectively dead, Gorbachev is no more than a figurehead and Boris Yeltsin is the hero of the new Russian Revolution" (p. 27).

Much has happened since that momentous day in August 1991 when Boris Yeltsin climbed up on a tank in Red Square and faced down the Communists. The Soviet Union splintered into 15 independent republics, and there were high hopes for prosperity, democracy and harmony with the West. The Cold War was over and "we won," declared many editorial writers and pundits.

Somewhere on the road to "living happily ever after," something happened. Russia's economy has imploded and been riddled with corruption. While some few have become fabulously wealthy and billions of dollars have been deposited in Swiss bank accounts, the average Russian has seen his standard of living actually decline. In 1999, Russia had to stand by impotently and watch its traditional ally, Serbia, be pounded by the West. A sure sign of how far its prestige and great-power status had fallen was seen in how easily the Western alliance shrugged off Russian protests and proceeded to do as it wished.

More recently, Russia has been bogged down in a civil war in Chechnya, a Russian province in the Caucasus Mountain region. But the problem is not simply Chechnya. The entire Caucasus area is a hotbed of unrest and nationalistic strife. Though it is still confronted with ethnic unrest within its borders, and a feeble economy, Russia now has a newly elected President, replacing the ailing Boris Yeltsin.

What does all of this portend for the future of Europe and the future of the world? What kind of role is Russia destined to play in the years ahead? Also, what about Bible prophecy? Does it mention Russia, and if so, what does it tell us? In order to understand the future, we need to first understand the history and background of the modern Russian state and then see what the Bible actually has to say about tomorrow's news events.

Heir to an Empire

The hammer and sickle insignia of the Communist Party gave way to the old double-headed eagle of Imperial Russia early in the last decade. What is the significance of this old imperial symbol and what does it say about the way that the Russians have viewed

themselves? To understand this, we must go back to the **original** East-West divide and to one of the defining moments in world history.

The East-West divide of the 20th century had its origin about 17 centuries earlier in a decree issued by a Roman Emperor. By the third century AD, the Roman Empire stretched from Britain and the Atlantic coast of Spain all the way east to the Euphrates River. It included both North Africa and the Balkan region of Europe. Because of its vastness, Emperor Diocletian decided to divide it, for administrative purposes, into the Eastern Roman Empire and the Western Roman Empire. One of his subsequent heirs, Constantine, erected a new capital for the Eastern Empire on the site of ancient Byzantium and christened it New Rome. His followers dubbed it Constantinople. After the time of Emperor Constantine this administrative division became permanent. When the Western Empire collapsed in 476AD with the death of its last emperor, Romulus Augustulus, the Eastern Empire continued on.

The ancient Hebrew prophet, Daniel, writing about 1,000 years earlier in Babylon on the Euphrates, foresaw all of this. In Daniel 2 the prophet recounted a dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had experienced a few days earlier and explained its significance. In the dream the king had seen a huge statue with a head of gold, chest and shoulders of silver, thighs of brass, two legs of iron, and feet of an iron and ceramic mixture. The head of gold, Nebuchadnezzar was informed, symbolized his own Babylonian kingdom. After him was to arise another kingdom, historically the Medes and the Persians, who overran Babylon in 539BC. The Medo-Persian Empire was to be followed by a third kingdom, the Greek realm of Alexander the Great and his successors. The fourth kingdom was symbolized by two legs of iron and can be none other than the Roman Empire. It is in the days of the final ten kings who are the heirs of ancient Rome, symbolized by the toes on the feet of iron and clay, that the God of Heaven will intervene and set up a Kingdom that will never be removed (v. 44).

The Roman Empire's East-West divide is clearly symbolized by the two iron legs. In Western Europe, the Latin, Germanic, Catholic realm was the heir of the Western Roman Empire. In Eastern Europe, the Greek, Slavic, Orthodox realm was the heir of the Eastern Roman Empire. This produced a religious, cultural, and political divide that has affected the history of Europe to this day. The divide started with a political demarcation that resulted in a cultural distinction. In the West the Latin language and culture spread outward from Rome and shaped much of Europe. Ema-

nating from Constantinople, it was Greek language and culture that shaped much of the Slavic east.

In 861, Prince Rostislav of Moravia applied to the Byzantine Emperor at Constantinople for missionaries. The emperor sent two brothers from Thessaloniki: Cyril and Methodius. Since the Slavs did not have an alphabet to fully express their language in writing, one of the brothers developed one modeled after the Greek alphabet. To this day the alphabet used in Russia, Serbia, and Bulgaria is known as Cyrillic.

Over the next couple of centuries there was intense rivalry in the eastern part of Europe between Rome and Constantinople. Moravia, Slovakia, and later Hungary and Poland were won to the Latin

Church and its rite. In the meantime, "Bulgaria, Serbia, and Russia accepted the Slavonic liturgy and alphabet, gave their allegiance to the Greek Church, and took their culture from Byzantium" (*The Age of Faith*, Will Durant, pp. 535–536).

In 1054, during the pontificate of Pope Leo IX, the rupture between the Orthodox Church of the East and the Catholic Church of the West became official. The real reasons for the rupture were more political than religious. In 800AD the Pope had crowned the Frankish King Charlemagne as Roman Emperor in the West, thereby rejecting the Eastern Emperor's claim which had been exercised since Justinian's Imperial Restoration in 554. As historian Will Durant put it, "...the papal coronation of a rival Roman emperor, the papal drive into Greek Italy—these galling political events, and not the slight diversities of creed, severed Christendom into East and West" (p. 544).

Then, in 1453, Constantinople fell to the Turks and the Eastern Roman Empire came to an end. The niece of the last emperor fled to Rome where she spent her adolescence. Several years later she was married to Ivan III, Grand Duke of Muscovy, in a ceremony per-



The imperial double-headed eagle, symbol of the Byzantine Caesars, became in the 13th century the coat of arms of European Russia. Russian rulers considered themselves to be eastern Caesars and protectors of the Orthodox Church. © PhotoDisc Images

formed by the Pope himself. The Pope desired that the marriage would contribute to a reunification of the Orthodox and Catholic churches under the Roman Pontiff. "As a descendant of the great East Roman imperial family, Sophia was the driving power behind Ivan's rise to supremacy and behind Russia's claim to Constantinople's heritage... Since Constantinople had fallen to the Turks, she also led him to lay claim to the title of 'Tsar'..." (*History of Russia*, Walter Kirchner, p. 35). Tsar (or Czar) was the Russian form of Caesar. The ancient Russian name for Constantinople had been Tsargrad, "City of Caesar."

It was at this time that the imperial double-headed eagle, symbol of the Byzantine Caesars, passed to the Russian Grand Dukes. From that time on, the Russian rulers viewed themselves as the heirs of the eastern Caesars and the protectors of the Orthodox Church.

The Origins of the Russian People

We need to understand who the Russian people are and where they came from. In order to recognize Biblical prophecies about them, it is necessary to know their origin. Actually, several related tribes anciently migrated into European Russia and became the ancestors of the three branches of the Russian peoples: the Great Russians, the Little Russians and the White Russians. History, culture and language unite these people, though they initially sprang from different ancestors.

In earliest times we find two nations, identified in the Bible as Meshech and Tubal, dwelling in the easternmost part of Asia Minor along the southeastern shore of the Black Sea. These closely related nations were called Mushki by the Assyrians and Moschi by the Greeks. To their east were a related people, the ancient Medes, who dwelt between the Black and Caspian Seas. These peoples, under the leadership of the Medes, played a prominent role in the destruction of the Assyrian capital, Ninevah, in 612BC.

The fifth and fourth centuries BC saw increasing conflict between the Persian and Greek realms, with peoples such as Meshech, Tubal, Lud (Lydia), Medes and Elamites being drawn into the fighting. By the close of the fourth century BC the Greeks, under Alexander the Great, had triumphed over Persia. It was the subsequent Greek invasion of eastern lands that resulted in pressure on people living between the Black and Caspian Sea to migrate north into the Scythian plains. Many different peoples, including remnants of the exiled northern ten tribes of Israel, inhabited the vast plains of Scythia during the coming centuries.

According to the *Cultural Atlas of Russia and the Soviet Union*, by the second century BC an "...Iranian nomadic people...[whose] federation of tribes eventually seems to have included a strong Slavonic element..." (p. 34) were settled north of the Black Sea. This confederation of peoples was drawn from Elamites and Medes, together with Meshech and Tubal. By this time they must have been speaking a common language, proto-Slavic, akin to Old Persian. The name the Slavs call themselves comes from *slovo*, which means "word," and stresses the sense of a linguistic community that is distinct from "non-understanders," the meaning of *nemets*, the general Slav designation for Germans.

From north of the Black Sea the Elamites gradually spread west and south, giving rise to the Slavic population in central and southern Europe. The tribes who traced their descent from the ancient Medes moved a little north and west to lay claim to the rich farmland of Little Russia, the Ukraine. From Meshech and Tubal came the Great Russians, who spread north and east, eventually establishing Moscow and the principality of Muscovy. The River Moskva, named for the people of Meshech (called Mushki or Moschi anciently), gave its name to the city and principality.

For many centuries there was a trading route that stretched from the Baltic Sea down the Dnieper River to the Black Sea and thence to Constantinople. The Slavs traded furs, wax, honey and amber in the markets of Constantinople for the luxuries of the Greek world. The Greeks heavily influenced the Russian Slavs for hundreds of years. In 989 the Russian prince Vladimir officially adopted Orthodox Christianity and married the sister of the Eastern Roman Emperor, Basil II. As historian Will Durant notes, "...thereafter, till 1917, Russia, in religion, alphabet, coinage, and art, was a daughter of Byzantium" (p. 448).

In 1223, the armed Mongol horsemen of Genghis Khan swept all the way to the Volga River. By 1240, all of Russia, including the Ukraine, was under Mongol domination. This yoke was not thrown off till 1480. In the aftermath, Russia began a massive expansion, settling the vastness of Siberia throughout the 16th and 17th centuries and also expanding south into the Central Asian lands of the Mongols themselves. By the dawn of the 18th century, Tsar Peter the Great had turned his eyes west and sought to learn western skills so that Russia might modernize and become a truly great power. Playing a crucial role in the Napoleonic

Wars, Russia was drawn into the European vortex of the 19th century.

In 1917 the defining moment in Russia's 20th century history occurred with Lenin's successful communist revolution. For almost 75 years Russia and communism seemed synonymous. Yet in the



Peter the Great led an expanding Russia into the modern western world. He envisioned a modernized Russia becoming a truly great power by adopting western skills.

aftermath of the Soviet Union's breakup almost a decade ago, Russia has found itself shorn of great-power status and in the humiliating situation of having to beg economic aid from the West. Russia retains the world's second-largest nuclear arsenal, but because of its economic situation, is politically impotent on the world scene. On the home front, squabbling factions blame each other as well as alleged Jewish and American conspiracies. Wounded pride coupled with military power and economic and political impotence is a dangerous combination and has produced seething resentment, as the world will no doubt learn in the months and years ahead.

Russia's Future

Bible prophecy shows that there is to arise on the world scene, in the years immediately ahead of us, a European superpower, which will supplant the dominance of the English speaking nations. This will be a seventh and final revival of the old Roman Empire. This time, as Daniel 2 makes plain, it will not only be a revival of the Empire in the West, but will also include nations which are heirs of Byzantium as well. Ten future European rulers will give their power to one great super-leader, who will be viewed as the only one who can save the world from impending disaster. At the head of this German-dominated union of nations, he will work in alliance with a charismatic religious leader to bring the whole world under his sway. This union will offer promises of worldwide economic prosperity, as well as centralized military and political power, to ensure peace and security. A

coming revival, led by a powerfully charismatic religious leader, will provide the common identity needed to weave a fractured world into a global unit.

However, this ten-nation European union of the heirs of the Eastern and Western Roman Empires will have inherent fatal flaws. Daniel likens it to an attempted mix of iron and ceramic clay. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* makes some interesting observations in this regard. "The text clearly implies that this final phase will be marked by some sort of federation rather than by a powerful single realm... Out of this mixture of iron and clay come weakness and confusion... The iron and pottery may coexist, but they cannot combine into a strong and durable world-order" (Vol. 7, pp. 47-48). For a short time, however, there will be a worldwide trading combine that will certainly include the Russian nation (Ezekiel 27:13), the modern nations descended from ancient Israel and Judah (v. 17), as well as many others. The merchants of the earth will grow fabulously wealthy as a result (v. 33, cf. Revelation 18:11, 15). But after a European-led conquest of America and Britain and an occupation of Israel in the Middle East, deep seated suspicions and distrust will begin to surface within this alliance (cf. Daniel 11:41-45).

From the days of Charlemagne there have been several ill-fated attempts by Rome to reunite the Eastern and Western Roman Empires under her sway. The Papacy has long desired to restore the fractured unity of the professing Christian world by bringing the Orthodox and Protestant communities back under its wings.

In the last 200 years, both Napoleon and Hitler failed in efforts to conquer the English-speaking nations, largely because they were fighting with Russia at the same time. This will not happen next time! Though this coming seventh revival of the old Roman Empire will initially appear to be far more successful than all such previous attempts, this final effort to reunite Rome and Byzantium is also doomed to failure.

The ten leaders who will give up power to the coming super-leader will ultimately realize that they



Many of today's Russians still dream of a return to their superpower days under communism. Communist Party adherents continue to demonstrate their love of Lenin.

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Questions & Answers

QUESTION:

In Matthew 12:32, Christ said, “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” Why would blasphemy be forgiven when it involves Christ, yet not be forgiven when it involves the Holy Spirit?

ANSWER:

Blasphemy is taken very seriously by God, and is one of the human habits we are commanded to eradicate. In Colossians 3:5–8, Paul said: “...put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry... anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.”

In the Old Testament, the English word “blasphemy” is translated from the Hebrew “*ne’atsah*,” which means, literally, “to scorn.” The word “*naqab*” is also translated “blaspheme.” Although it literally means “to puncture” or “perforate,” it can be used in the figurative sense as well. In the New Testament, the Greek word “*blasphemo*” carries the same meaning. In a modern sense, blasphemy includes scorn, disregard, disrespect or even hostility toward God.

In ancient Israel, blasphemy was severely punished. God told Moses, “Then you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death’” (Leviticus 24:15–16).

How does blasphemy relate to us? Obviously, cursing, slandering or reviling God is blasphemous and should never be done. Using euphemisms such as “gosh,” “gee whiz,” or “golly,” are also forms of blasphemy. They may seem harmless, but they denigrate God’s name, and violate the Third Commandment (Exodus 20:7).

We can also blaspheme God through our actions. In James 2:7 we were reminded that showing partiality, or disrespect to other people, reflects a blasphemous attitude toward God, who is their

maker. Our wrong behavior can also give opportunity for others to dishonor God. After David’s adulterous affair with Bathsheba, the prophet Nathan told the king that his actions did not only reflect upon himself, but upon God. He said, “...because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die” (2 Samuel 12:14–15).

Under the New Covenant, Christ explained that blasphemy, like all of our sins, can be forgiven. He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter” (Mark 3:28).

In fact, it is possible for people to blaspheme God without even realizing it. This is what Christ was alluding to in Matthew 12:32, when He said, “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him.” When the people of Christ’s day saw Him, they saw a human being. They did not see Him in all His former glory and magnificence. In His humility, He understood this, and forgave their slander, defamation and even hostility.

What puts us beyond the reach of forgiveness is explained in Mark 3:29 and Matthew 12:32. Where are people headed when they, as the Pharisees in Matthew 12:24, knowingly see good and call it evil, or when they deliberately label the righteous work of the Holy Spirit as the work of Satan the devil?

We find the answer in Hebrews 10:26–29. “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”

Forgiveness can only be given to those who seek it and repent, not to those who knowingly trample the pearls of God underfoot. The intentional, knowing, contempt of God’s Holy Spirit at work is a potentially fatal attitude to have.

The Ten Commandments



By Mark Mendiola

When people think of the Ten Commandments, tablets of engraved stone often come to mind. The Holy Bible, in fact, shows that God Himself wrote those famous commandments on stone tablets with His own finger. He personally gave them to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 31:18). Upon seeing the Israelites worshipping a golden calf after returning from the mountain, Moses shattered the tablets by throwing them down in anger. Preservation of the Ten Commandments, however, was so important to God that He had Moses return to Mount Sinai, where another set of tablets was completed (Exodus 32:19, 34:1-4, 28).

Yet, today many want to completely remove the Ten Commandments from public view or consideration—in effect outlawing the greatest, most sacred Law ever given to mankind! It is ironic and almost unthinkable, but in United States courtrooms American lawyers and judges are hotly debating the legality of displaying the Ten Commandments. This is the very law on which Judeo-Christian principles and civil laws have been based in the western world for hundreds of years.

Representations of Moses and the Ten Commandments are featured in the architecture of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. A marble relief portrait of Moses also is displayed over the main entrance to the U.S. House of Representatives chamber as the central figure among 23 historic lawgivers featured. It is the only portrait that directly

The Ten Commandments are today considered ancient and outmoded by many. Yet the Bible plainly shows that they should be taught to our children “that it might be well” with our nations for generations. By rejecting those commandments, nations bring a host of problems and curses upon themselves.

✧ A Sacred Law for All Nations

faces the House rostrum for every speaker to see.

Despite these architectural acknowledgements of the significance of Moses and the Ten Commandments, the Supreme Court ruled in 1980 that the Ten Commandments could not be posted in public schools or taught to the nation's children in public classrooms. In that *Stone vs. Graham* ruling, the Supreme Court decided that posters of the Ten Commandments displayed in Kentucky schools promoted religion and could not be allowed. That decision contradicted the Kentucky Legislature, which believed that it is beneficial to expose students to the world's most famous moral code—also known as the Decalogue.

The Supreme Court came down strongly against Kentucky's rationale by ruling: "The preeminent purpose for posting the Ten Commandments on schoolroom walls is plainly religious in nature. The Ten Commandments are undeniably a sacred text in the Jewish and Christian faiths, and no legislative recitation of a supposed secular purpose can blind us to that fact."

Justices on the highest U.S. court also shockingly concluded, "If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the schoolchildren to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey, the Commandments." Apparently, the justices believed this was an undesirable outcome!

However, following last year's Columbine High School massacre in Littleton, Colorado, and repeat-

ed fatal shootings at schools nationwide, many Americans see nothing wrong with students obeying commands against killing, stealing, coveting and dishonoring parents! In fact, they wish young people would read, meditate upon, venerate and obey the Ten Commandments. A Gallup/CNN/USA Today poll conducted in June 1999, showed that 74 percent of Americans favored allowing public schools to display the Ten Commandments.

Reacting to an outbreak of violence and lawlessness nationwide, the U.S. House of Representatives in June 1999 voted 248-180 to pass an expansive juvenile justice bill containing a declaration that state governments have the authority to post the Ten Commandments in all public buildings, including schools.

Many state officials also continue to challenge an aggressive attempt on the part of the American Civil Liberties Union and others to remove any display of the Ten Commandments in courthouses or on government property.

There have been legal clashes in California, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Utah where government officials have defended the right to display the Ten Commandments. In fact, Alabama's governor in February 1997, threatened to call out state troopers and the National Guard to protect a carved rendition of the Ten Commandments in a judge's courtroom!

It is truly a sad commentary that the United States, as the leading nation of the western world, is

suffering a constitutional crisis over whether the Ten Commandments can even be displayed. From Old to New Testament, the Bible upholds those commandments as an irrevocable, sacred law. Before the nation of Israel crossed over the Jordan River into the Promised Land, Moses admonished the Israelites to keep God's commandments and teach them to their children and grandchildren for generations to come.

"Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?" (Deuteronomy 4:6-8).

He then reminded them to instruct their children in God's law and commandments. "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren" (Deuteronomy 4:9).

For the United States or any nation to draw near to the Living God and reap His blessings, the Bible is plain, we must carefully observe His law and commandments and teach them to successive generations. That is how we can obtain wisdom and under-

standing. The book of Proverbs plainly shows the fear of God is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom (Proverbs 1:7, 9:10).

Following his admonition, Moses went on to outline God's Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 5:6–21). The first four commandments show how to express love toward God—having no other gods before Him, not creating images of worship, not profaning His name and keeping holy His seventh-day Sabbath. The remaining six commandments illustrate how to show love toward others—honoring parents and not murdering, committing adultery, stealing, lying or coveting.

After the Ten Commandments were recited, notice how God lamented: “Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!” (Deuteronomy 5:29).

By rejecting or breaking God's Ten Commandments, the United States and other nations are bringing curses on themselves. If the first four commandments that teach respect for God are not kept, the last six also are held in low esteem. The U.S. and other countries are witnessing an outbreak of social problems as a result of violating God's commandments. It is not well with our nations!

Moses, however, emphasized: “Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of

your life, and that your days may be prolonged. Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you” (Deuteronomy 6:1–3).

Yes, God wants our children instructed in His Ten Commandments. Yet, how many young people, let alone adults, can actually recite them at a time when they are held in such contempt? “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:6–9).

Congressional Support

Some U.S. congressmen, advocating the posting of the Ten Commandments in schools and other public places, recognize young people are growing up without any sense of right and wrong, and are aimlessly adrift without a moral compass to give them direction as they face difficult choices.

Rep. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., in June said his background as an educator convinced him that posting the Ten Commandments would make a difference. Isakson chaired the Georgia Board of Education before his election to Congress in February 1999. “The majority of the Ten Command-

ments are felonies under the laws of the United States,” Isakson said. “Posting them has the effect that the individual who reads them may



Among the outspoken congressional supporters of posting the Ten Commandments in schools and public places are (from left): Charles Canady, R-Fla., Robert Clement, D-Tenn. and Robert Aderholt, R-Ala.

consider them. Right's right, and wrong's wrong. The important thing is that I don't think we can lose sight of the fact that what people hear and see... has a great effect on them.” However, Isakson said, “In the end, how children are raised by their parents will determine how messages will be delivered. There is only so much a government can do or should do, but in the end we are a free society.”

Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Ala., sponsored the amendment to the House juvenile justice bill that included the Ten Commandments provision. He explained that developing courses based on the Ten Commandments was not what he or the supporters of his amendment had in mind when they spoke out in favor of the postings. “Every one of the supporters of this amendment understands that Congress should not mandate that anyone should bow to one particular religion,” he said, but “to completely divorce ourselves from the fact that our country was founded on the basis of the Ten Commandments is wrong.”

James Madison, fourth president of the United States, is considered the father of the U.S. Constitution. He said the

American form of government is based on citizens conducting their lives in accordance with the Ten Commandments. "We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government,



President Abraham Lincoln called the Ten Commandments an "excellent and perfect moral code."

John Adams, second U.S. president and a contemporary of Madison, also said, "It would be impossible to govern without God and the Ten Commandments."

Abraham Lincoln said: "It seems to me that nothing short of infinite wisdom could by any possibility have devised and given to man this excellent and perfect moral code. It is suited to man in all conditions of life, and includes all the duties they owe to their Creator, to themselves and to their fellow man."

Aderholt said he did not expect posting the commandments would lead to an overnight change in the nation's moral character nor would it have prevented the sort of violence that occurred at Columbine High School.

Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., said, "It is an undeniable historical fact that the Ten Commandments serve as the basis of the legal system in the United States and most of the western world, and to recognize that seems to me

upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God," Madison stated.

to be nothing more than recognizing reality. I don't believe that the schools should be involved in religious instruction. I do believe that students going through school should know about the Ten Commandments."

Rep. Robert Clement, D-Tenn., said, "The Ten Commandments, in my opinion, cross all religious faiths and beliefs. Just posting the Ten Commandments on the side of a building is not going to change hearts and souls, but I do believe that if we can make more people aware of the Ten Commandments...that it would be helpful to get people to think and reflect and maybe even to believe in a Higher Power."

Law on Our Hearts

Under the Old Covenant, God wanted the Ten Commandments posted and taught to children. Under the New Covenant, He also wants them written on our hearts and minds. "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be My people" (Hebrews 8:10).

Jesus Christ came to amplify that law and make it even more binding spiritually (Isaiah 42:21). In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ said to His disciples, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets, I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." (Matthew 5:17). He then went on to expound the spiritual applications of the commandments against murder and adultery (vv. 21–22, 27–28).

On another occasion, Christ said, "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for He wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" (John 5:46–47). He also said, "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17), specifically citing the commandments against murder, adultery, stealing, bearing false witness and dishonoring parents.

Ministers who claim Christ did away with the law and that the Ten Commandments are no longer in effect are hard-pressed, however, to explain the Apostle Paul's plain statements in his epistle to the Romans praising the commandments and God's law. "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet,'" Paul wrote. "Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good" (Romans 7:7, 12).

He also described God's law as spiritual and said he delighted in it (Romans 7:14, 22). In Romans 13, he gets even more specific, "For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,' and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the



According to President John Adams, it would be "impossible to govern without God and the Ten Commandments."

fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:9–10).

The Apostle John, who was especially loved by Christ, repeatedly linked the commandments with God’s love. He recorded that Christ said: “If you love Me, keep My commandments.... He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him” (John 14:15, 21). Christ also stated, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love” (John 15:10).

Jesus Christ Himself kept the Ten Commandments in spirit and letter! Like Christ, the Apostle John stressed the importance of keeping God’s commandments to fulfill God’s love—even to the end of his long ministry. “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3–4). “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.... Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit [that] He has given us” (1 John 3:22, 24).

The Apostle John could see an assault against God’s commandments, and love growing cold in his day. Throughout his writings, he hammers away at the need to keep them to have God’s love. “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:2–3).

End-Time Lawlessness

While exiled on the Isle of Patmos at the end of his life, the Apostle John was given remarkable visions of conditions that would prevail prior to the return of Jesus Christ about 1,900 years later. In the Book of Revelation, he records those visions and continues to emphasize the importance of keeping God’s commandments right to the very end of the age.

John describes Satan the devil launching an all-out attack on God’s Church and true saints at this end time. Notice, how he describes them, “And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).

God has expected Christians down through the ages to keep His commandments just as Jesus Christ and the early apostles and disciples did. “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

Yet Satan hates those commandments and broadcasts hostility against them. Jesus Christ indicated that, prior to His return, God’s law and commandments would be broken with impunity. “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12).

It is no coincidence that as God’s commandments and law of love are rejected in society, criminal acts of indescribable hatred and violence are breaking out throughout the land. Notice what the Old Testament prophet Hosea

warns are the national consequences of breaking God’s Ten Commandments: “Hear the word of the LORD, you children of Israel, for the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: ‘There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed after bloodshed. Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away...’” (Hosea 4:1–3).

Oh, that there were a heart in all of us that we would read, meditate upon, venerate, obey and keep all of God’s Ten Commandments, that it might be well with us, our children and grandchildren forever! Think of how much different our nations would be if no one broke the commandments against killing, stealing, cursing, lying, coveting or dishonoring our parents or our God. Society would be radically transformed almost beyond comprehension. Then, lawyers, judges and legislators would not need to debate whether the Ten Commandments could be posted in public places or taught to our children.

Such a wonderful utopia is coming and will be established on earth when Jesus Christ returns as the Great Lawgiver and King of kings in Tomorrow’s World. “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). EWTN

Letters to the Editor

BIBLE STUDY COURSE

I completed Lesson One of your *Bible Study Course*. It was excellent. Do you have any other lessons available? Thank you for all of your effort in publishing God's word.

J. K., Spring, TX

Editor's note: *Those who are interested in receiving the Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course are encouraged to send in the subscription card found in this magazine. You will then automatically receive the first four lessons, approximately one month apart. With Lesson Four you will receive a brief test, covering the material in the first four lessons. Those who return the test will then automatically receive the next four lessons.*

MEAT IN DUE SEASON

Wow! Talk about meat in due season! The *Tomorrow's World* issue of March-April 2000 really impressed me as to how well each article builds on the others and of how well everything ties in together. Each article stands on its own, and yet they all fit perfectly together. Each one makes a strong case for God, and all together give a powerful witness which cannot be refuted or denied! Never had I seen so much unity and cohesiveness in a magazine since the *Plain Truth* under Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. You touched on all areas of life which certainly affect each and every one of us. These articles truly keep pace with our world and our lives today. Thank you for your timely issue. My congratulations to Dr. Meredith and all the writers for making this the best magazine in the world!

V. E., Los Angeles, CA, via the Internet

First let me say that I am glad there is someone carrying on Mr. Armstrong's legacy. I was sad to learn of the tragic results when the

Worldwide Church of God changed Mr. Armstrong's teachings and doctrines. It made me question my faith and the church. Then I saw your television program and learned that my spiritual education was not in vain. Thank you for continuing Mr. Armstrong's ministry and restoring my faith.

D. H., Washington, DC

I just wanted to comment on your article in the March-April issue of *Tomorrow's World*, "Rebuilding Healthy Families." I found it to be one of the finest and most encouraging and useful articles I have read in *Tomorrow's World*. Its practical and priceless counsel is not only going to be of value in my family life but in my other interpersonal relations as well. Thank you for such a wonderful article written with such love and concern for life and family. May God always smile on you and all of your co-workers.

I. S., via the Internet

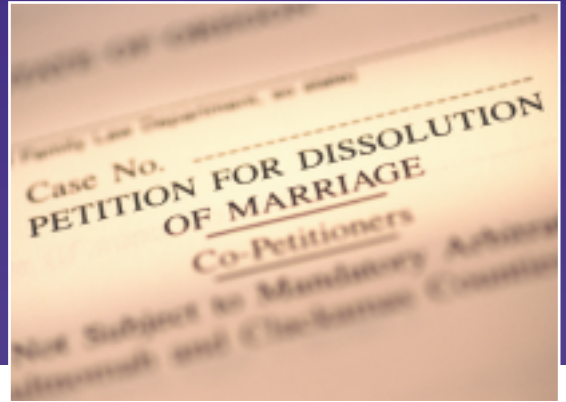
I want to thank you for the magazines and booklets I have received. They have certainly opened my eyes to what is going on in the world and the church today.

T. L., Tylersport, PA

Editor's Note: *A photo in the March-April Tomorrow's World showed a Russian lady reading from a book that appears to have a Christmas theme on its cover. As that issue's "Holidays or Holy Days?" article explains, Christ's followers should not observe man-made holidays that conflict with God's law. The photo was not meant to suggest otherwise, and we apologize for any confusion it may have caused.*

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

Cultures in Crisis



What is happening to America and the West? Where will it lead?

The last half of the 20th century has seen an *almost unbelievable* shift in the cultural values of the Western World. Today, television and movies screen themes of sex, violence and vulgarity that were *unthinkable and impermissible* only 35 years ago. News reports routinely discuss *incredibly* brutal and senseless crimes and topics that have been *historically taboo*—homosexual marriage, “gays” parading openly, and radical feminists shouting that traditional marriage is a tool for male oppression of women and abuse of children. Educators now describe to children *as normal*, behaviors that have been traditionally regarded (and still are by many) *as perversions*. Today lying is socially acceptable if it serves a purpose. For some, rape has become a form of recreation. Angry youth feel that murder is something to do if you are bored, upset or just want to make a statement!

People who lived a century ago would be *shocked* to see what is accepted today without comment! Yet many are deeply troubled by modern trends. Perhaps this includes you! Nearly 75 percent of Americans see “cultural decline” as *the major problem* facing our nation today—and they are not alone! This disturbing wave of social change is surging around the globe. Many wonder just what is happening to America and

the West? What is driving this *incredible transformation* of our moral values? Where will this cultural sea change take us? Is there a solution?

Surprising as it may seem, the Bible predicted our modern dilemma! The Scriptures not only *foretold* our cultural crisis, but the inspired word of God explains *why* this moral transformation is occurring, its true significance, and *where* it will take us. *You* need to understand what lies ahead!

The Real Issue!

Unfortunately, the issues that generate controversy, inflame emotions and make news headlines—abortion, gay rights, liberal feminism, the rejection of traditional sex roles, the redefinition of the family, skyrocketing divorce, sex education—are *only the surface issues*. They generate a smokescreen that obscures the real issue at the heart of all these problems. The real issue centers on the questions of *what is right*, and *what is wrong*—what is ultimately good, and what is evil and ultimately intolerable? How we answer these questions will determine whether America and the West will continue to follow right and wrong *as traditionally defined in the Bible*, or whether we will embrace the “progressive ideas” promoted by secular, liberal, New Age propagandists. They say that all values are relative, that absolute truth does not exist, and that people can decide what is appropriate and right for themselves. Will our guide be divine revelation or human opinion and human reason? This is the bottom line, the “cultural war” that is tearing at the fabric of Western society.



Sobering Significance

But there is much more to this battle than just an argument over religion and philosophy. What is at stake is *the future of Western civilization*. We are in the process of tossing overboard the fundamental principles upon which America and the West were built. We are abandoning the central role of religion in our culture. We seem intent on discarding biblical-based morality and the belief that a transcendent God inspired immutable laws to govern human relationships. We are at a crucial “pivotal point” in the history of Western civilization.

George Washington advised in his farewell address: “Let us *with caution* indulge the *supposition* that morality can be maintained without religion... reason and experience *forbid us* to expect that national morality can prevail in the exclusion of religious principle” (*A Nation without a Conscience*, LaHaye, p. 22). Thomas Jefferson asserted, “no nation has ever yet existed or been governed without religion. Nor can be” (*One Nation, Two Cultures*, Himmelfarb, p. 86). John Adams stated: “Our Constitution was made *only* for a moral and religious people. It is *wholly inadequate* to the government of any other” (LaHaye, p. 55). U.S. Senator Dan Coats has commented, “*No culture can survive* without a moral consensus, shared beliefs about right and wrong, a common standard of truth” (*Ibid.* p. 5). Dwight Eisenhower believed: “Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, and most basic, expression of Americanism. Without God, there could be no American form of government, nor American way of life” (*Ibid.* p. 70). These are *powerful warnings* that echo across the centuries!

The fundamental issue in the culture war that has enveloped America and the West is the *jettisoning* of our religious heritage and traditions. By embracing relativism (the idea that there is no absolute truth and individuals determine values for themselves) we *undermine* traditional values, we *destroy* our sense of right and wrong, and we *damage* our ability to make crucial decisions (see *The Age of Consent*, Knight, p. 14). The rejection of biblical-based values of morality does not bode well for the future of America. Although America has played an exceptional role in the 20th century, America “is not exempt from the rules that sustain civilization” (LaHaye, p. 8). Speaking of Western Europe, where religion has *even less* influence than in America, President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic lamented, “the first global civilization in the history of mankind is also the first atheistic civilization in the history of mankind” (Himmelfarb, p. 94). The culture wars raging in Western society have moved us into dangerous territory. As journalist/historian Otto Scott has observed, “no great civilization... has ever outlasted the loss of its religion” (LaHaye, p. 22). This is sobering to contemplate!

Principled Path to Greatness

A century of expanding secular influences and increasing hostility to traditional religion in the media and academic circles has led many to assume that Christian values are useless, outdated artifacts of a bygone era. This view, however, reflects a *dangerous ignorance* of our own history! America and Britain did not become world powers by accident. Many nations

have envied our rise to prominence, our wealth, stability, power and influence, and not a few have sought to discover the “secret” of our success. Yet nearly all investigations arrive at the *same surprising conclusion!*

Veteran Italian journalist Luigi Barzini lists the *rigorous Protestant ethical code* of “prudence, diligence, discipline, perseverance, honesty... tenacity, self-control, fair play” as a *crucial element* in Britain’s rise to prominence (*The Europeans*, p. 37). Distinguished Professor of History, Gertrude Himmelfarb, writes that the [*biblically-based*] Victorian values of “work, thrift, temperance, fidelity, self-reliance, self-discipline, cleanliness, godliness” were *preeminent* and “almost universally accepted” in British culture during Britain’s ascent to greatness (*One Nation, Two Cultures*, p. 5). The decline of British prominence has followed the erosion of these fundamental values.

Alexis De Tocqueville, the French political philosopher writing in the 1800s about the secrets of America’s greatness, states, “the *religious atmosphere* of the country was the first thing that struck me on arrival in the United States” (*The Character of Nations*, Codevilla, p. 224). He describes a nation where people worked hard and attempted to live godly lives, valued the family, revered marriage, punished adultery, treated sexes equally—yet recognized different natural roles for each sex. These basic ideas were taken directly from the Scriptures. De Tocqueville observed that “on the Sabbath, America came to a halt and that after church the typical American read the Bible. No where else in Christendom was the Old Testament read so much and the notion of God as lawgiver so widespread” (Ibid. p. 227). The character of Americans was molded by biblical values. These were the values that drove America on the road to its destiny. Yet these are the values that America is abandoning!

Sociologist James Hunter writes that *biblical theism*—the belief in the God of the Bible and the necessity of following His laws—provided the “*cultural cement* in American public life” (*Culture Wars*, p. 71). Nearly all Americans accepted and followed the same biblical guidelines regarding marriage, family, sex roles and personal behavior. A prominent American rabbi stated in 1903, “this country is, as everybody knows, a creation of the Bible, particularly the Old Testament” (Ibid.). More recently, Rabbi Daniel Lapin has observed, “Christianity, has been responsible, among other things, for the founding of America, *the greatest civilization the world has ever known*, and for making America great” (*America’s Real War*, p. 12).

It is simply impossible to escape the fact that *biblical values* molded the character of the American

and British peoples. De Tocqueville and others have noted that America and Britain, forged by Judeo-Christian principles, became the preeminent examples and bearers of culture around the globe—lights to the world! The Bible reveals this is exactly what God intended to happen (see Deuteronomy 4:1–10). (To explore this incredible story further, request our free booklet *What’s Ahead for America and Britain?*).

Sowing the Wind

But how could we be *deceived* into discarding such valuable religious principles—principles that shaped our national character and set us apart from the nations of the world? The pages of the Bible and the lessons of history tell the story. The Scriptures describe Satan, the Devil, as the adversary of God, “who *deceives* the whole world” (Revelation 12:9). Satan deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He said that by eating the forbidden fruit and defying God’s instructions they would become like God and be able to determine right and wrong—for themselves (Genesis 3:1–5, see also *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 51). This argument sounds reasonable, but the results are deadly (Proverbs 14:12). The truth is that *God determines* what is right and what is wrong. We merely *decide* whether to obey or reject what God has *revealed*. Satan, however, has continued to promote this same lie down through the ages—that morality does not need to be based on religion or the Bible, it can be determined by individuals—*apart from God*.

Adam Smith, the 18th century Scottish economist wrote: “In every civilized society... there have been always *two different schemes* or systems of morality... the one may be called the strict or austere; the other the liberal, or... the loose system” (Himmelfarb, p. 3). The Bible reveals one of the fundamental challenges of life involves choosing between two different ways of living (Deuteronomy 30:15–20). In America and Britain the strict or religious scheme *dominated* our culture until the mid 20th century. The loose schemes of morality existed on the fringes of our society, primarily among the so-called “decadent elite” who had nothing but disdain for Bible-based morality (Ibid. p. 7). This *fringe element* found fertile ground in the growing secularization and urbanization of society, the decline of religious influence, the increased power of the media and the “dissolvent effect” of two world wars on traditional behavior and belief (Ibid. p. 10). The explosive growth of higher education in the 1950s gave increasing numbers of young people “access to the *worldview-changing experiences* of university life”

that undermined traditional values (Ibid. p. 13; Hunter, p. 63).

In the 1960s, a *social revolution erupted* in nations of the West as these trends merged (Himmelfarb, p. 19). Free speech became a license to public profanity and vulgarity! The “make love, not war” notion fanned sexual promiscuity! The “tune-in, turn-on, drop-out” slogan was a ticket to an acid-rock music nightmare! The rebellion of the Sixties, according to theologian Peter Jones, was a rebellion “against the Christian religion” and “Western Judeo-Christian culture” (*Spirit Wars*, p. 23–24). The goal of this “destructive generation” was nothing less than the *overthrow of Christian values and dismantling of Western civilization!* Their “tools” were *rejection of authority and rejection of biblical sexual mores* (Ibid. p. 19). The damage has been widespread!

Unfortunately, the same tools are still being used. The anti-establishment rebels have grown up and now occupy positions of power in government, courtrooms, universities, seminaries and in the media—where their agenda continues! The social revolution of the Sixties has become the *cultural war* of today. As crusader Charles Dobson has stated, “We are in a civil [cultural] war of values and the prize to the victors is the next generation—our children and grandchildren” (Hunter, p. 64). It is a “war of ideas, it’s a war about our way of life” (Ibid.). In biblical terms, we have truly sown the wind and reaped the whirlwind—just as God warned over 2,000 years ago (Hosea 8:7).

But what are the *actual fruits* of the uninhibited choices that many in America and the West have been making since this social revolution began in the Sixties? The outcome is hardly what was promised or expected! Unraveling the Christian moral code—which was to liberate us from oppressive restrictions—has unleashed a host of “social pathologies” or “diseases of democracy” that were virtually non-existent fifty years ago. Historian Himmelfarb catalogues a sad list, “. . . the collapse of ethical principles and habits, the loss of respect for authorities and institutions, the breakdown of the family, the decline of civility, the vulgarization of high culture, and the degradation of popular culture” (Himmelfarb, p. 20). By tolerating everything, we now stand for nothing! Where self-discipline once prevailed, *self-gratification* now reigns!

Looking at specific issues, the *undeniably negative* results of this “liberating” revolution are even more shocking! By removing the stigma from divorce, America now claims the highest divorce rate in the world. The family, long considered the basic building block of strong, stable societies, is literally *under assault* in the Western world. The liberation of women from marital responsibilities and sex roles outlined in the Bible, has resulted in more women in therapy and on tranquilizers than ever before. Combined with easy divorce, the “women’s lib” movement has spawned a huge jump in single parent families and the feminization of poverty. Homosexuality is touted as a normal,



The free speech emphasis of the Sixties resulted in vulgar and profane productions like “Hair” advocating the “tune in, turn on, drop out” mentality of the acid-rock generation.

alternative lifestyle, yet homosexual men die at *half* the age of heterosexual men! Banning the Ten Commandments and undermining respect for authority has led to a 400 percent increase in the incarceration rate in the United States! We pass out contraceptives in high schools to reduce teen pregnancy, yet parental disapproval is a greater deterrent. Cohabitation rates have increased over 800 percent in the last 35 years in spite of the

fact that those who marry have a 50 percent greater chance of divorce than individuals who did not cohabit before marriage (see Himmelfarb, pp. 20–28). The jettisoning of biblical guidelines for sexual morality and decency has “led to a progressively savage, deviant and predatory sexuality” (Knight, p. xxiii). The entertainment media in most Western nations is now awash in vulgarity, violence and filth of all kinds.

These are the *actual fruits* of the progressive, secular, liberal, anti-Christian revolution that erupted in the Sixties. Yet, *incredibly*, those who advocate a return to the biblical values that contributed to our greatness are labeled as small-brained, narrow-minded fundamentalists who desire to “turn the clock back” to the repression and oppression of the stifling Fifties!

Surprises Ahead!

But just where are America and the West heading? What will happen to our nations as we abandon principles that made us great? Concerned observers see danger ahead, but are reluctant to make predictions. Historian Himmelfarb cautions that we “are liv-

ing off the religious capital of a previous generation and that that capital is being perilously depleted” (p. 146). She further warns, “cultural revolutions are least susceptible to reversal” (p. 144). Judge Robert Bork advises, “we are well along the road to the moral chaos that is the end of radical individualism... Gomorrah is our *probable* destination” (*Slouching Towards Gomorrah*, pp. 331, 343).

Author and researcher Jim Nelson Black discusses many of the same disturbing issues and trends we have covered in this article in his sobering book *When Nations Die: Ten Warning Signs of a Culture in Crisis*. He sees in America many of the *same problems* that plagued the Roman Empire during its decline. While noting the signs of danger, he suggests, “*Perhaps* we have not yet reached the point of collapse... *Perhaps* Western civilization is in for a *renewal*...” (p. 247). Tim and Beverly LaHaye conclude their book *A Nation Without a Conscience* with an optimistic series of “what ifs.” They suggest *if we change*, “the entire world would rejoice in the restoration of America’s conscience” (p. 271). But will America and the West change in time to avert a cultural disaster? Can we know the future? What does Bible prophecy reveal?

Anciently, God warned Israel—the ancestors of America, Britain, and other Western nations—that when they were blessed above all other people to be careful *not to forget God* (Deuteronomy 6:10–12, 7:6, 12–14, 8:11–14). However, God foresaw by the end of the age, their rebellious descendants would turn from God’s way and become “utterly corrupt.” God prophesied that “*disaster will fall upon you* because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord” (Deuteronomy 31:27–29, *NIV*). Russian social critic, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, testifies to the accuracy of end-time Bible prophecies when he states, “the principle trait of the entire twentieth century... **Men have forgotten God**” (LaHaye, p. 53). By rejecting biblical morality, we are becoming an increasingly secular, self-indulgent, godless culture! This is the *root cause* of our problems.

In prophecies that have a *dual* application to both ancient and modern Israelite nations, God describes His chosen people as a sinful, rebellious nation that is *sick from head to toe* (Isaiah 1:1–6). They would become like Sodom and Gomorrah (Isaiah 1:10). As they reject God’s law, the stabilizing supports of their society will crumble (Isaiah 3:1–3). Children (impulsive, unprincipled individuals) will be their princes, and “women rule over them” (v. 4–5, 12). The revolt of youth against the establishment and the rise of radical feminism have been two of the most prominent developments of the twentieth century. God prophesied the

leaders of Israel “cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths” (v. 12). Today it is the secular, liberal leaders in religion, government, academics and the media that are waging the cultural war against traditional Christian values. They are “Pied Pipers” leading our nations to destruction! Isaiah lists a series of social pathologies that result from the rejection of God’s law—materialism, self-indulgence and moral degeneracy, lying to promote evil, corrupt justice and calling “evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:1–24). In the last 50 years we have seen the *total inversion* of values that God prophesied would occur. Today the deviant is called normal, and normal is now termed deviant! But will we change? Will we see a revival and renewal?

Here again, the Bible provides a sobering insight into the future. Jeremiah foretold a “time of *Jacob’s trouble*... in the *latter days*” (Jeremiah 30:7, 24). Speaking of the Israelite nations (Jacob) he said: “Your affliction is *incurable*, your wound is severe... you have *no healing medicines*,” and that God will punish Israel for their sins (Jeremiah 30:12–14). God warns: “Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will reprove you” because “...you have *forsaken* the Lord your God” (Jeremiah 2:19). God indicates “the plunderer [a powerful foreign nation] will *suddenly come*” upon His stubborn and rebellious people (Jeremiah 6:16–19, 22–26). Hosea indicates the nations of Israel will “*stumble* in their iniquity” (Hosea 5:5), and be “*destroyed* for lack of knowledge... because you have forgotten the law of your God” (Hosea 4:6). Isaiah and Ezekiel speak of Israel being *devoured and taken into captivity* by a foreign nation (Isaiah 1:20, 5:13, 24–30, 9:8–14; Ezekiel 12:10–11, 20:23–24). Bible prophecy indicates *nothing* about a revival in the latter days. This period of national punishment (Jacob’s trouble) is significant, in that it will occur *just before* the return of Jesus Christ (see Jeremiah 30:1–3, 8–9). God’s solution involves correction!

However, the Scriptures also indicate that God will *gather* repentant Israelite nations *after* their punishment (Isaiah 11:11–12) and use them, once again, as a force for good in the world (Isaiah 19:23–25). This will be *after* the return of Jesus Christ when the kingdom of God is established on earth. During the millennial reign of Christ and the saints, the world will be taught the true way to peace and happiness (Isaiah 30:20–21). The Kingdom of God will bring an *ultimate restoration* of biblical values that will impact all peoples of the earth (Acts 3:19–21). This is what the Gospel is all about. You can have a part in this exciting challenge if you are not deceived by the cultural war that is raging today! FW

The Father of the Family



By Fred Dattolo

“The greatest social tragedy of the last 30 years has been the collapse of fatherhood.” This dire assessment of the American family was made in an article by Wade Horn (*Policy Review*, July 1997). Horn outlines three ideas about parenting and children that took root in the 1970s and were heavily promulgated in the 1980s. These ideas greatly contributed to the collapse of fatherhood.

The first idea is the notion of the “androgyny ideal.” This is a concept that belittles the differences between men and women and urges that both genders ought to behave in exactly the same way. Consequently, parenting experts (so-called) began teaching that fathers and mothers ought to *parent* in exactly the same way, too. Fathers were expected to behave more like mothers. Parenting gurus warned that it was risky to use the term “father” and that the correct term was “parent.” The model of the androgynous father essentially feminized the role of the father. As a result, the father’s role in the family was largely negated and no longer considered essential.

This led to the development of a second idea—that of the “superfluous father.” As the androgyny doctrine was accepted, it was easy to reason that fathers were no longer necessary in a “modern” family. Many psychologists asserted that children did not need a father to grow up normally. Some even began to espouse that children were better off *without* their fathers! Horn quotes from a 1982 article in the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* which suggests that the “two-parent family is hierarchical with mother and father playing powerful roles and children playing subordinate roles. In the female-headed family, there is no such division. Women and children forgo much of the hierarchy and share more in their relationships.... There is a general lack of conflict, and decisions are made more easily and quickly.” According to Horn, by 1994, a stunning 62 percent of women between 18 and 29 years old agreed with the following statement, “One parent can bring up a child as well as two parents.”

But society and Scripture have long recognized that the family with two parents is the foundation of godly stability between generations. “Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12). Amid today’s fragmenting families, both father and mother must strive to “honor” and be honorable—neither abusing nor neglecting their family responsibilities.

Horn also notes that some have tried to minimize the role of the parent by promoting “the myth of resilient children.” The long-established view that children are vulnerable and that they require guidance by *both* parents in a world ruled by adults began to be questioned.

Divorce advocates have challenged the belief that parents in a troubled marriage ought to stay together for the sake of the children. If children were indeed subject to stress and disruption because of divorce, many did not want to be burdened with the guilt. Thus, the notion of “resilient children” provided the easy way out. Divorce and the subsequent absence of the father (in most cases) would now be more readily acceptable

because, after all, children were far more resilient than once thought.

Are they really?

Reaping the Results

Notice some statistics collected by the United States Bureau of the Census and other sources (found at fatherhood.about.com). Fatherless homes in the United States account for 63 percent of all youth suicides, 71 percent of all high school dropouts, 75 percent of all teens in chemical abuse centers, 85 percent of all children exhibiting behavioral disorders, 85 percent of all youths in prison and 90 percent of all homeless and run-away children! Clearly, the diminishing role of the father has wreaked havoc on the family—especially the children.

The National Center for Fathering (NCF) has also accumulated evidence (see www.fathers.com) showing that many of the social problems in the United States are related to fatherless homes. In 1996, young children living with unmarried mothers were five times as likely to be poor and ten times as likely to be extremely poor. The NCF has gathered evidence that shows fatherless children are at a dramatically greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse. Studies also reveal that children from fatherless homes are more likely to have physical and health problems, lower academic achievement and aspirations and are much more likely to be involved in premarital sex. Many studies prove that the consequences of having families without fathers are *staggering*. This lifestyle choice is unraveling the very fabric that holds a stable society together because tomorrow's

leaders—the children—are the ones most adversely affected.

How did society get into this situation? Where did the assault on the father of the family begin? You may be surprised at the plain truth of the matter.

Fatherhood Assailed

There is a conspiracy to remove the father from the family! It is aimed *primarily* at the



Father of all creation—the Living God Himself! God repeatedly reveals Himself in the Bible as our Father. Isaiah 64:8 is just one example. In fact, God is “the Father from whom *every family* in heaven and on earth *derives its name and nature*” (Ephesians 3:15, *Moffatt*). This scripture has profound implications. The human family was created by God and patterned after the God Family (Genesis 1:27–28). The God Family is presently composed of God the Father, Christ the Son—who was the first *born* as a divine Son of God by the resurrection (Romans 8:29)—and many other *begotten* sons of God if they have God's Spirit (Romans 8:14). In other words, the physical father in a human family was meant to be a representation of our spiritual Father in the God Family!

The perpetrator of the conspiracy against fatherhood is Satan the devil himself. From the time that “iniquity was found in [him]” (Ezekiel 28:15), the devil has sought to overthrow God the Father and thwart His plan for mankind so *he* could rule the universe instead (Isaiah 14:12–14). Humans are a threat to Satan the devil! He knows that God's plan for mankind is to put “all things in subjection under his feet” (Hebrews 2:6–8). “All things” refers to the whole universe—already inherited by Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:2). Yet, we humans—if begotten as sons of God—are ultimately destined to become *joint heirs with Christ* over the whole universe (Romans 8:16–17)! The devil hates that idea because what he tried to take by force will be *given* to those human beings ultimately born of God!

Through the institution of the family (and the Church), God the Father intended that we learn to become like Him—to build the same character that He has intrinsically. God is perfect, holy, with righteous spiritual character—completely without sin and always willing and able to make perfect decisions. He permeates love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). Ponder these characteristics awhile and reflect on the statistics given earlier about the effect on so many children who are raised in fatherless homes. Is it more difficult for children deprived of their fathers to understand true love, have real joy and peace, and learn to be longsuffering, kind and good? Is it more difficult to be faithful, gentle and exercise self-control? In many cases, it certainly is. Many studies have shown that fathers

provide unique qualities to parenting that help to properly shape a child's character.

The point is that God seeks godly offspring nurtured in a true family environment where both a husband and wife are faithful to Him and to each other (Malachi 2:14–15)! Satan the devil, in seeking to block man's destiny, has launched a full-scale assault on fatherhood! If children can be deprived of a relationship with their physical father, it becomes more difficult to relate to their spiritual Father and thus jeopardizes the relationship that God the Father desires from His children.

Threats to Fatherhood

For the time being, God has allowed Satan to be the ruler of this world (John 14:30) and to deceive the whole world (Revelation 12:9). The time is soon coming when he will be removed as this world's ruler (John 12:31). Meanwhile though, he has used his powers as "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2) to endanger the father's proper place in the family. We see it all around us! For example, notice how fathers are depicted in most television sitcoms. They are often portrayed as buffoons or idiots. They are often ridiculed and made fun of. The father's authority is often repudiated—if any authority exists in the first place! Imagine the impact such "entertainment" has on boys growing up without a father in the home. For many young boys, the sick sit-com portrayal of masculinity is their primary role model.

Another threat to the demise of fatherhood is something the Bible calls "shameful." Notice Romans 1:27, "Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for

one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due." God says homosexual behavior is a perversion (Leviticus 18:22). The growing homosexual movement is an affront to the Creator who made mankind *both* male and female. Jesus Christ said it Himself in Mark 10: 6–9, "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." Clearly, God has not "joined" same sex relationships. It is totally unnatural. Only in the physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman in marriage does a bond of commitment exist, that was not intended to be easily broken. It is the same level of commitment that children need from *both* parents to be raised most effectively. The child benefits from *both* the motherly and fatherly traits unique to each gender, *both* of which were created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27)!

Yet another problem threatens the stability of fatherhood—men who succumb to the rampant proliferation of alluring sexual images and services in advertising, in the work place, on television, on the Internet and so on. Husbands need to flee from these traps! God knows that a wife most of all *needs* to be loved and honored (Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7). Love and honor is shattered when a husband breaks the marriage covenant. In God's eyes, it is a treacherous act (Malachi 2:14). A husband's unfaithfulness will often devastate his wife. This can

destroy the family and estrange the children from their father.

Sometimes, even religion teaches concepts contrary to God's purpose. Many children grow up in a religion where priests (who stand in the place of God) are referred to as "father." The priests are not allowed to marry, let alone have children. The subtle implication is that God has no real children either. However, God's very purpose is to produce children for His family (Romans 8:29) and He reserves the *title* of "Father" for Himself alone (Matthew 23:9)!

As noted earlier, God created the physical family as a representation of His spiritual Family. As such, the father of the family has a vital role to play.

The Father's Contribution

DADI (Dads Against the Divorce Industry) is an organization devoted to reinstating the role and value of fatherhood and the American family. DADI has assembled information from various studies that demonstrate the father's clear, irreplaceable and essential role in the development of a child. What follows is a summary of the research that articulates the unique and complimentary roles of fathers and mothers. These excerpts are quoted from DADI's Internet web page www.dadi.org.

"A child who does not have a close and sustaining relationship with his or her biological father is far less likely to have such a relationship with any adult male. Fathers provide a significant role model. Modeling is one of the most potent learning processes. Sons learn from their fathers about male responsibility, achievement, suitable assertiveness and independence. The discipline and

authority that men bring to raising boys, particularly teen boys, are very difficult for a woman to achieve.” (cf. Proverbs 29:15).

“Daughters learn from their fathers, as they cannot from their mothers, how to relate to men. Daughters learn to appreciate their own femininity from the one male who is most special in their lives; they learn about heterosexual trust, intimacy, and differences.... Loving and being loved by their fathers, they learn they are love-worthy.”

“Fathers ‘play’ differently, and they tend to emphasize play more than caretaking. Fathers’ play is likely to be both physically stimulating and exciting—a ‘rough and tumble approach.’ Fathers, partly through play, teach the character trait of ‘self-control.’ Children who roughhouse with their fathers quickly learn that biting, kicking, and other forms of physical violence are not acceptable. They learn when enough is enough. Fathers give children practice, within the highly-charged emotions of rough and tumble play, in regulating their own emotions and recognizing others’ emotional clues.” Note that self-control is one of the attributes of God’s character (Galatians 5:23).

“In disciplinary terms, fathers are universally regarded as more authoritative and firm. Fathers set limits which must be obeyed, and often determine quick action.” (Compare Proverbs 13:24). “Fathers stress justice, fairness, and duty (based on rules), while mothers stress sympathy, care, and helping (based on relationships).” Notice the instruction from God the Father in Lamentations 3:27 (*Living Bible*) that it is good for a youth

to be under discipline—to have rules and responsibilities.

“Fathers engender ‘agency’ (drive for independence, individuality, and self-fulfillment) while mothers engender ‘communion’ (the need to be included, connected, and related). Commu-



nion and agency are extremely difficult for either a man or a woman *alone* to combine effectively. The attempt is likely to lead to role confusion.”

“Perhaps the most ‘astonishing’ finding is that early childhood father involvement is the most important factor in the development of the character traits ‘empathy’ and ‘compassion.’” These traits are most often lacking in people with antisocial and criminal tendencies.

“The offspring of warm and affectionate fathers, 35 years later in life, were much more likely to be happily married, mentally healthy, and to have good relationships with friends.”

“Daughters who have had the benefit of healthy father involvement, develop a stronger ‘internal locus of control’—they are more independent, self-possessed, and more likely to assume responsibility for the consequences of their actions. Father-deprived girls show ‘precocious sexual interest, derogation of masculini-

ty and males, and poor ability to maintain sexual and emotional adjustment with one male.”

“The conclusions from a large body of existing research are inescapable. Fathers are far more than just ‘second adults’ in the home. Involved fathers—especially biological fathers—bring positive benefits to their children that no other person is as likely to bring.”

The Father Restored

The greatest social tragedy of the last 30 years has been the collapse of fatherhood. The mythical ideas that led to its collapse and the ensuing effect on our children has been very harmful. The conspiracy to destroy fatherhood, as perpetrated by the devil, is still going strong. However, some do recognize the benefits of fatherhood and the great need to restore the role of fathers to the family. Furthermore, many single mothers have discovered that they can petition our Father in heaven for help because He is a very real Father of the fatherless to those who seek Him (Psalm 68:5).

When Jesus Christ returns to this earth, true family values will be restored for *everyone!* He will usher in perhaps the greatest social *triumph* of the next millennium—the restoration of the father as the leader of the family. Fathers will be taught how to be respectable, effective leaders, how to truly love and honor their wives and how to be inspiring role models for their children. Consequently, the family will become a tremendously positive vehicle for children to develop the character needed to become the very offspring of God! Thus, God’s purpose for mankind will be fulfilled! TW

WHEN WILL CHRIST RETURN? (continued from Page 8)

to lend support or at least “go along”!

DO NOT *do it!*

For God Himself directly warns against our participation in this satanic system: “COME OUT of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her PLAGUES. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities” (Revelation 18:4–5). Indeed, the direct plagues of God are going to fall upon this system and ALL those who are part of it! (see Revelation 16).

So WHEN Will Christ Return?

I do NOT want to exaggerate. But I tell you most sincerely that Jesus Christ will not return to this earth until we have experienced the most spine-tingling, earth-shaking, and COLOSSAL events

since mankind has inhabited this planet. Professing Christian ministers who say, “Christ could come TONIGHT,” are so out of touch with the truths of the Bible that it is almost unbelievable!

On the other hand, as momentous events quickly impacted on one another back in 1989–90 with the shocking and unexpected breakup of the former Soviet Union’s control over Eastern Europe, so the events preceding Christ’s return will probably attain a very swift momentum. And for those true Christians who go to sleep before Christ’s return, He really *could* “come tonight.” For none of us knows exactly how many days or years we may have left in this human existence.

In any case, remember that God Himself clearly reveals in His inspired Word an *entire series* of events to occur *before* Christ’s coming. If you are willing to genuinely SURRENDER your life to God and to let the Living Christ RULE *your*

life, you may indeed become part of that “little flock” of God, part of that true Church that is taken to a place of SAFETY on this earth during the soon-coming Great Tribulation (Revelation 12:14).

Speaking of these events, Jesus Christ commands us all: “So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, THIS GENERATION will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. WATCH therefore, and PRAY always that you may be counted worthy to ESCAPE all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:31–36). [TW]

WHAT’S AHEAD FOR RUSSIA? (continued from Page 12)

have been betrayed by the religious system in which they placed confidence. They will turn on it with intense fury (Revelation 17:16). Jeremiah 51:7–11 indicates that the Ukrainian Russians, descended from the ancient Medes, will be in the forefront of what will probably be a nuclear attack on Rome itself (cf. Revelation 18:9–10).

There are other prophecies, in Ezekiel 38 and 39, which describe an alliance of the Russians with the Mongol-descended nations of China and the Far East. The timing of this particular prophecy, with its description of an invasion of regathered Israel, is actually a few years after Christ’s return, NOT before it. This is made plain when we see in Ezekiel 38:11–12 that Israel (all 12 tribes, not just the Jews) is described as having been regathered from the nations. They are settled in a land of prosperity and peace without any apparent defenses, or for that matter, even locks on the doors.

After the returning glorified Christ destroys the armies that had gathered at Armageddon (Revelation 16:16, 19:19–21). He will regather the remnant of captured Israelites and bring them back to the ancient land of their fathers. He will establish a Kingdom headquartered at Jerusalem, which will ultimately spread out to the whole earth. This will evidently take place over a period of a few years and it is clear that some people will need some extra convincing! The future alliance described in Ezekiel refers to this time period, and not to the immediate future.

The Russian people have had a long and turbulent history. Ground down and exploited by oppressive, autocratic rulers and hollow and bankrupt ideologies, they have had to struggle to endure and survive. The time will come when, like all nations, they will no longer be deceived, but will finally experience the good news of the Kingdom of God. Not until that time will the Russians undergo a real religious, cultural, political and economic rebirth. Finally, Russia’s sad and difficult history will have a happy ending! [TW]

TRUE CHRISTIANS NEED COURAGE (continued from Page 3)

new dark age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science.

Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will say, “This was their finest hour.”

And on July 14, 1940, Churchill spoke to the entire British nation by radio:

And now it has come to us to stand alone in the breach, and face the worst that the tyrant’s might and enmity can do....

We are fighting *by* ourselves alone; but we are not fighting *for* ourselves alone. Here in this strong City of Refuge which enshrines the title-deeds of human progress and is of deep consequence to Christian civilization; here, girt about by the seas and oceans where the Navy reigns; shielded from above by the prowess and devotion of our airmen—we await undismayed the impending assault.

Perhaps it will come tonight. Perhaps it will come next week. Perhaps it will never come. We must show ourselves equally capable of meeting a sudden violent shock, or what is perhaps a harder test, a prolonged vigil. But be the ordeal sharp or long, or both, we shall seek no terms, we shall tolerate no parley; we may show mercy—we shall ask for none.

My friends, the time may come when we also may have to “stand ALONE in the breach.” We may also have to say, as the original apostles said when threatened for their very lives by the entrenched religious hierarchy of their day, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

As we read the inspired accounts of men and women of God in ages past, we should think and meditate, “Let us be like this”!

For our Father in heaven commands us through His Word, “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13). After the death of Moses, when Joshua had to carry on in his place, God told Joshua, “Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous...” (Joshua 1:6–7).

Just *how* will you and I measure up in the years ahead? Will we weaken? Will we compromise in various situations? Will we even join the bestial system described in Revelation 17 in order to “save our hides”? In spite of God’s warnings, will we accept the dread “mark of the beast”? (Revelation 13:16–17).

Just how *deep* is our conviction of the REALITY of God and of the absolute truth of His inspired Word?

Again, before the coming darkness falls, each of us needs to absolutely PROVE to himself or to herself that God is, indeed, the very *real* Spirit Personality who created and who now RULES over the universe. We need to be *sure*. We need to know—and to *know* that we know—the basic truths about God and His purpose.

Through the pages of *Tomorrow’s World* magazine and our booklets, our tapes, our extremely helpful *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course* and other means, we will try to assist you in coming to “know” the true God. We will assist you in building an unshakable FAITH in the God of the Bible—the God who will SOON intervene in human affairs and send His Son to this earth as King of kings.

But in the years before that glorious event, we may indeed need to “stand ALONE” at times. We will need a depth of *faith* and COURAGE beyond human strength to hang in there and keep the faith. So *now* is the time to build that powerful relationship with the Living God and, through His Spirit, to develop the *courage* and *fortitude* to go through the trials and tests ahead, which we cannot now even fully comprehend.

Now is that time.



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International

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Adelaide: *ACE*—Ch 6/31, SUN 11:30 am

Brisbane: *BRIZ*—Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am

Perth: *CETL*—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

—NEW ZEALAND

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

—MEXICO

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

—PHILIPPINES

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

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

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

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

—CANADA (nationwide)

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

United States

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

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

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

AR, Little Rock: *Comcast*—Ch 18, FRI 9:30 am

AZ, Phoenix: *Access*—Ch 22, TUES 2:30 pm

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

AZ, Tucson: *Access*—Ch 54/62, FRI 6:00 pm; SUN 12:00 pm

CA, Anaheim: *Adelphia*—Ch 3, WED 6:00 pm

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

CA, Eureka: *Cox*—Ch 10, FRI 5:30 pm

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

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

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

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

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

CA, Sacramento: *RCCTV*—Ch 75, WED 7:00 pm

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

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

CA, Sonora: *TCCCA*—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm

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

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

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

FL, Ocala: *Cox*—Ch 35, SUN 10:00 am

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

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

FRI 2:00 pm

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

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

IA, Dubuque: *TCI of Iowa*—Ch 45, THUR 5:00 pm; FRI 1:30 pm;

MON 3:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am

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

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

IL, Bloomington: *AT&T*—Ch 10, SUN 10:00 am; WED 8:30 pm

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

IL, Peoria: *AT&T*—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm

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

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

IN, Flora: *Marcus*—Ch 2, WED 8:00 pm

IN, Frankfort: *Marcus*—Ch 2, WED 8:00 pm

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

IN, Monticello: *Marcus*—Ch 2, WED 8:00 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

MN, Duluth: *Public Access*—Ch 24, SAT 7:00 pm; SUN 7:00 pm

MN, Minneapolis: *NW Community*—Ch 35, SAT 10:30 pm;

SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NM, Rio Rancho: *CABLE ONE*—Ch 51, THUR, 7:00 pm

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

NV, Gardnerville: *Community Access*—Ch 26, SAT 3:00 am

& 3:00 pm; SUN 3:00 am & 3:00 pm

NV, Reno/Sparks: *SNCT*—Ch 30/16, SUN 7:30 pm

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

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

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

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

NY, Port Jefferson: *TCI*—Ch 1/99 MON 9:00 pm

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

NY, Rochester: *Community TV*—Ch 15, SAT 10:30 am

OR, Ashland: *Community TV*—Ch 15, FRI 5:00 pm

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

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

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

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

SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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HI, Kahului: *Akaku*—Ch 44, SAT 9:30 pm

HI, Lihue: *Ho'ike*—Ch 12, TUE 1:30 pm

HI, Kauai: *Ho'ike*—Ch 12, MON 1:30 pm

HI, Maui: *Akaku*—Ch 44, SAT 9:30 pm

HI, Lanai: *Akaku*—Ch 3, 12 & 13, SAT 9:30 pm

HI, Molokai: *Akaku*—Ch 3, 12 & 13 SAT 9:30 pm

HI, Kaihua-Kona: *Na Leo*—Ch 14, TUE 10:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm

HI, Hilo: *Na Leo*—Ch 2, TUE 10:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm

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

IN, Anderson: *Insight*—WED see local TV guide

IN, Kokomo: *Insight*—WED see local TV guide

IN, Noblesville: *Insight*—WED see local TV guide

IN, Richmond: *Insight*—WED see local TV guide

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

NH, Hanover: *CATV*—Ch 6, SUN 5:00 pm; MON 5:00 am; 11:00 am

Radio Stations:

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

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

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

Barbados, Barbados, *CBC*—900 kHz AM, MON 8:00 pm

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

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