

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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**PRAYER:  
OUR LIFELINE  
TO GOD**



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

## WHY DO PEOPLE “DROP OUT” OF CHURCH?

Over the last decade or two, *millions* of Americans have dropped out of “mainstream” Christianity! The situation is similar in Britain, Canada and elsewhere. Many people are simply turned off by what they call “organized religion.”

Why are increasing millions of professing Christians going about inventing their *own* religion—seeking “spiritual values” *apart* from attendance at any organized denominational church? The results of a recent survey conducted by the program on Public Values at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, were shocking to many. The 2008 survey asked, “What is your religion, if any?” Only **one** response grew in every single state: **none**. About 15 percent of the American people claim no religion at all. As *Seattle Times* columnist Lance Dickie recently reported, “Old mainline churches of Protestantism are statistical figments of their graying imaginations. The Episcopal Church represents 1.1 percent of the population. Internal feuds drove away a million parishioners—about a third—from 2001 to 2008. The number of ‘Christians, unspecified’ grew from 8 million in 1990 to 16 million in 2008, but the attitudinal shift is even bigger. . . . Indeed, the idea of a personal God is losing ground to a vague, deist force” (“America’s evolving religious profile is a revelation,” March 19, 2009).

Again, *why*? What is going on?

The *truth* is that people are increasingly discovering that modern professing “Christianity” *does not have* the answers people need in their lives. It does not really explain the real *purpose* for human existence. It does *not* explain the meaning of current events and the exciting prophetic occurrences that are taking place. In fact, most modern churchianity is out of touch with *ultimate reality*.

My friends, as the old saying goes, “**Truth** is a powerful thing.” It is hard to hide from the Truth, evade the Truth and run from the Truth. For eventually it will catch up with you. As many of you readers know, the genuine **Truth** is that this world’s “Christianity” has departed very far from what Jesus Christ and the original apostles practiced and taught. This world’s “Christianity” often contradicts itself in many, many ways. It often tells us to “keep the commands” of God. Yet it **denies** the command to keep the seventh day holy—which God’s word clearly commands from one end of the Bible to the other. It *denies* the instruction to keep the annual Holy Days which God instructed His

people to keep—and which the early New Testament Christians kept and which *will be kept* in the coming Millennial reign of Christ (Zechariah 14:16–19).

In fact, mainstream Christians often deny that your Bible *clearly describes* Jesus Christ’s coming thousand-year reign on this earth as King of kings (Revelation 11:15). They seem unable to read or understand the following clear statement in God’s inspired word: “Do you not know that *the saints will judge the world*? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” (1 Corinthians 6:2). As God’s word tells us, “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him *I will give power over the nations*—‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father” (Revelation 2:26–27).

And, again, God’s word describes the “new song” sung by the true saints describing how Christ has “redeemed” us by His blood, “and have made us kings and priests to our God and *we shall reign on the earth*” (Revelation 5:8–10).

And finally, “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and *shall reign with Him a thousand years*” (Revelation 20:6).

Modern professing Christianity seems to have cut itself off from the basic **reason** our Creator made us in His image—to become *His full sons* and join Christ in **ruling** over this earth during the coming thousand-year period! *That is why* we are to “overcome” and grow in grace and in knowledge. *That is why* we are to develop our spiritual strengths and talents in every way. For if all we had to do was “roll around heaven all day,” then there would be *no need whatever* to develop real character!

But the God of the Bible has called us to be “kings and priests” in His coming government over this earth. That calling gives us a genuine **purpose** for our lives. It gives us a **reason** to overcome, to grow spiritually and to become more like Jesus Christ. And it gives us, also, a genuine **reason** why we should learn to **keep God’s commandments** and His *entire way of life*. For, very soon, we will be called upon to *teach that way* in Christ’s coming Kingdom—if we are really “overcomers.”

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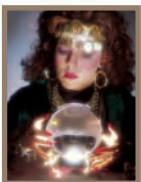


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### 10 Prayer: Our Lifeline to God

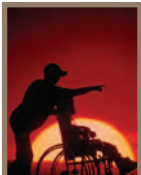
As you face the stresses of daily life, are you making the time to come closer to God, to receive the peace and guidance only He can give? If you have never learned to pray, you still can!

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# SATAN AND HIS DEMONS

By Roderick C. Meredith

**Is there a real Devil? Does he actually have millions of spirit beings at his command? Can they affect you? You need to know!**

**I**t is fashionable nowadays to deny the existence of an actual spirit being called Satan the Devil. We are supposedly so “advanced” in our education and understanding of things, that even many otherwise intelligent people deny the very existence of the Creator Himself—and they certainly think that the idea of a real Satan is an ignorant relic from the Dark Ages.

But what *is* the truth of the matter?

Leaving aside all sentimentality and intellectual pride, can we *prove*—from the inspired word of God and from documented human experience—that there is a *real* Devil? Of course, even using the Bible as a reliable reference is anathema to some. But *if* you, personally, have an open mind, you had better *read on!* For the effect of Satan and his demons is awesome—and Satan’s actions are *right now* affecting the world around you more than you may even begin to imagine!

This civilization, this “age”—the 6,000-year period from Adam until the return of Jesus Christ—has been, and still is, a society

dominated by Satan the Devil and millions of fallen angels or “demons” who followed him in rebellion against the Creator God.

Satan is *not* just a generalized term for evil. Satan is *not* a blind force. Satan the Devil is a *powerful spiritual personality*—originally created by God as a cherub—who rebelled against his Creator. His original name “Lucifer” means “light bringer,” but since his rebellion he has been called “Satan”—which means “adversary.”

Notice how the mighty Lucifer plotted to overthrow *God!* His great capacity and his vanity made him decide to compete with his very Creator. “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit” (Isaiah 14:12–15).

## Satan Has a KINGDOM

After maneuvering to gain followers, Satan was cast out of the “mountain” or *Kingdom* of God. As Revelation 12:3–4 indicates, Satan was able to draw after himself *one-third* of the angelic host in his rebellion against God! In the Bible, these fallen angels are called “demons.” So, Satan now has literally *myriads* of fallen angels who are his followers—and, in that sense, he has a “kingdom” over which he rules in the spirit world.

He also holds power on the earth. In Ezekiel 28:10, we first read a description of the human prince of Tyre, a powerful man who—in the human sphere—was the *absolute leader* over this “New York” of the ancient world. But Ezekiel then shifts his focus to the *real* “power behind the throne”—the behind-the-scenes king of this pagan city-state. Notice, “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper,

sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created” (vv. 12–13). Here we find a personality who existed millennia before Tyre—in the “Garden of Eden”! Yet this personality was a *created* being (v. 15), **not** a member of the God Family.

In this way, Ezekiel reveals that **Satan** was the ultimate ruler of this Gentile city-state.

Satan is also revealed as an extremely *conniving* personality. When Matthew describes Jesus’ experience of being tempted by Satan in the wilderness, we see that this evil being is even willing to quote Scripture, twisted to his own purposes. Satan even had the audacity to quote Scripture to the *author* of Scripture, Jesus Christ! “Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: “He shall give His angels charge over you,” and, “In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.”’” (Matthew 4:5–6).

Then, Satan again tempted Jesus, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me” (v. 9). Notice how Christ *acknowledged* that the worldly kingdoms were under Satan’s control. He *did not dispute* Satan’s rule over the world’s governments!

Rather, Jesus knew the spiritual principles involved, and correctly applied the appropriate scripture, saying: “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve’” (v. 10). Jesus chose to *obey* His Father, and to receive His reward in *God’s* time and in *God’s* way.

Later, when Jesus’ enemies accused Him of using Beelzebub to cast out demons, He replied, “Every kingdom divided against itself is

brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. *If* Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. **How then will his [Satan’s] kingdom stand?**” (Matthew 12:25–26).

Satan **does** have a kingdom! As we have seen, he is the invisible “god” of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). He is the prime deceiver of individuals and nations. “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and **Satan**, *who deceives the whole world*; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9).

### **Satan Wields Influence**

Satan is the spirit being who, in the very near future, will powerfully influence—and, finally, perhaps even possess—a charismatic political dictator who will lead a mighty world superpower arising in a revived and militant united Europe. *Amazing!* Satan will be the “god” who animates and empowers the false religious system that will undergird this world-dominating economic and military power! Please do not just believe me or take my word for this—look at the Bible for yourself!

God’s word foretells that this coming oppressive system will literally be *energized* by **demons**. “After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.’ And I heard another voice from heaven saying,

‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues’” (Revelation 18:1–4).

Satan will motivate these coming world rulers to *fight against Christ Himself* at His return as King of kings and Lord of lords! But Christ will depose Satan, and the wicked rule of this evil being will come to a sure end. “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” (Revelation 17:14).

Can we even begin to imagine the depth of a **deception** so **massive** that literally *millions* of human beings will be seduced into fighting Christ Himself at the Second Coming? Surely this can help us recognize the reality of what it means when the Bible so clearly indicates that Satan the Devil massively deceives the “whole world”—*far beyond* what most people have realized!

The inspired book of Daniel gives us an amazing insight into the spiritual dimension—often picturing Satan and his demons as in *direct control* of pagan nations, as we see throughout the Bible. When Daniel set about to humble himself and *seek God*, an angel assured him that his “words were heard” and that God would soon intervene (Daniel 10:12). Then, the angel told Daniel, “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia” (v. 13). Later, the angel confided in Daniel, “Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come” (v. 20).

Here we have a clear description of “spirit warfare” occurring—usually *behind the scenes*—as a powerful influence on the rise and fall of

nations and leaders, and on which nations win and lose wars. These events are *real*. And similar events in the *near future* will also be *influenced dramatically* by spirit beings under the influence of Satan the Devil!

That is why the Apostle Paul warned the Gentiles at Ephesus that they had “once walked according to the course of this world, according to the **prince** of the power of the air, the **spirit** who now **works** in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). Later in that epistle, he returns to that same theme, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

So Satan the Devil truly is the “god” of this world! He is a genuine spirit being who greatly influences the actions of human beings. Subject to God’s overruling power, he is *allowed* to strike at nations, influence the behavior of demented dictators and rulers—and cause this world to be heading for *disaster*!

### **Satan’s Religious Deceptions**

In the religious sphere, the Bible makes very clear that Satan has his *own* churches and his *own* ministers. For Satan has certainly been shown to be the *actual power* behind the “throne” of the great false church described in Revelation 17. And the Apostle Paul was inspired to give us this warning about Satan’s false ministers: “If he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which

you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!” (2 Corinthians 11:4).

Paul warned, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works” (vv. 13–15).

Over the centuries, Satan has tried to ensure that most people would not recognize the true Church of God and the true Gospel it preached. To encourage religious confusion, Satan has inspired hundreds of sects, churches and religious groups each to have *their own* special brand of religious thought—each church with a certain “personality,” as it were—to appeal to just about any thought or feeling a person could have. In fact, there *are* real demonic *personalities* from the spirit world guiding many false churches.

A number of churches make claims to be the “true Church” Jesus established. Yet when the real truth is found, *very few* recognize the true Church for what it is, even though most churches claiming to be the “true Church” teach a message **totally different** from the true Gospel that Jesus Christ and the early apostles preached. If you would like to know more about how and why this came to be, please call us or write us **immediately**, or go to our [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org) Web site, and request a **free** copy of our very informative booklet, *Restoring Apostolic Christianity*.



In our day, Satan has used radio, television, film and the Internet to pander to the lusts of mankind, break up homes and otherwise influence human beings—such that billions are unable to recognize the Creator God or acknowledge that His word is truly inspired. Yes, most of mankind remains *blinded* and *deceived* (Revelation 12:9).

### **Satan Has Demons**

God clearly shows that fallen *spirit beings* are set by Satan over various worldly governments—often having great influence and power over their activities (Daniel 10). Also, *many* New Testament scriptures clearly indicate that Jesus Christ was totally aware of Satan’s demons and their activity, as we see in Mark’s account of Jesus casting out a demon when His disciples could not do so (Mark 9:17–29).

In Mark’s account, a demon had made a man’s son *unable to speak*. This demon caused its victim to have epileptic-like **seizures**, in which he was at times thrown down to wallow on the ground and made to foam at the mouth. Jesus’ disciples were *unable* to cast this demon out. Finally, Christ came and *rebuked* the unclean spirit: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more” (v. 25).

Here, it is obvious that Christ did not speak to the *person*, but rather to the **demon**! For such evil spirits may be responsible for a large number of cases of so-called “mental illness.”

Even though most mental illnesses may have come upon people because of birth defects, accidents or sickness, as the end of this age approaches it may become *increasingly obvious* that *demon spirits* are involved in some of the horrifying and outrageous behavior labeled as “mental illness” by God-rejecting observers!

Yes, we need to be *fully aware* of the **spirit world**—and of Satan and his **demons**!

### What Should You Do?

Throughout the Bible, Christ shows us that we need to be *proactive* in preventing Satan from deceiving us, taking us away from the Truth or even influencing or possessing us or our children or loved ones! God instructs us through the Apostle James, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:7–10).

Each of us needs to do everything we can to “draw near” to the *true God* of the Bible. As the end of this age approaches, we need to recognize that a genuine “spirit war” will soon occur in heaven and that Satan will come roaring down to earth—backed, probably, by millions of perverted spirit beings who will assist him in deceiving and disorienting a God-rejecting mankind (Revelation 12:10–12). Scripture **warns** us—again and again—that we are in a “spiritual warfare” against Satan and his demons (Ephesians 6:10–17).

God inspired the Apostle Peter to remind us, “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling” (1 Peter 4:8–9). You and I need to go *all out* in seeking the God of the Bible! Frankly, it is time to quit “playing church,” often “toying” with religion as a relatively unimportant side issue in our lives. For, as the end of this age swiftly approaches, we really do

**need** to be close to the God of the Bible, and to have His divine protection—from human forces as well as from the **spirit forces** of Satan the Devil. We do **not** need to fear. But we must do *our part* to draw close to God, and then **believe** in His promises of absolute protection during the difficult times ahead.

As the Apostle Paul instructs: “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the **wicked one**. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is **t h e w o r d o f** God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:13–18).

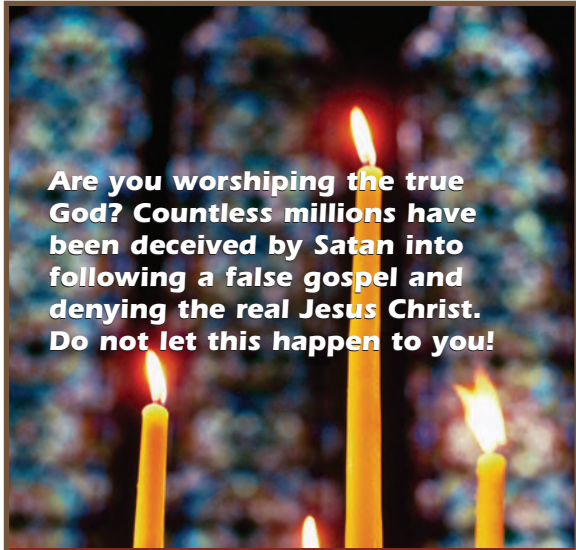
Do *you*, personally, really go all out “praying always”—truly seeking God, and trying to *do what He says*? Do *you* genuinely **study** the Bible and ask God for the understanding and strength to obey His inspired word? Do you do all you can to “walk with God” as have His true servants through the ages?

Each of us needs to ask, and to truthfully answer—these

vital questions. For Satan *does* have a “kingdom.” God has allowed His adversary to be the “god” of this world during the first 6,000 years of human existence—years that are now drawing swiftly to a close. At the very end of his influence, in desperation, this evil being will even influence **millions** to **fight against** Christ (Revelation 17:14) before he is finally bound and cast into the “lake of fire”—never again to trouble humanity (Revelation 20:10).

Dear reader, *you* need to recognize the awesome power of Satan and his demons, and your need for the **protection** of the Creator God who has **total power** over Satan. Be sure to “seek” the true God, and He will deliver you and bring you into His everlasting Kingdom—if you do your part. ■

## Satan's Counterfeit Christianity



**Are you worshiping the true God? Countless millions have been deceived by Satan into following a false gospel and denying the real Jesus Christ. Do not let this happen to you!**

**Write for our FREE booklet, *Satan's Counterfeit Christianity* or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).**

# National Amnesia

Once the nation of the United States of America was established, what role did religion play in the years following? Was there a wall of separation between religion and the state? Many believe that the founding fathers delivered the nation from the influence of religion and the Bible. Let us examine the facts.

"As Alexis de Tocqueville observed fifty years later (after 1791), 'In France, I had always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom marching in opposite directions. But in America I found that they were intimately united and that they reigned in common over the same country'" (*Religion in American Public Life*, introduction by Martin E. Marty, p. 145).

The evidence that the Bible played an important part in the United States is found all around. For example, we have such cities as Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Smyrna, Georgia; and Moab, Utah. The *McGuffey's Reader* was used in many schools for nearly a century. The *McGuffey's Reader* contained moral and biblical references, alongside classical material. In Washington, DC, religious references are found throughout the Capitol. The House Chamber contains the reference: "In God We Trust." In the Cox Corridor are the words: "America, God send His grace on Thee." In the Supreme Court

building can be found the image of Moses with the Ten Commandments.

"With 75 percent of Americans in 1776 coming out of a Reformation background, there is no question that, historically speaking, rights were viewed as a gift of God, not the government. As Madison wrote, 'A right toward men is a duty toward the Creator...'. As Jefferson asked, 'Can the liberties



of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?' John Adams, for one, worried about some future day when freedom would be undermined if national lead-

ers came to believe that humans were but 'fireflies' and the cosmos was 'without a father'" (*ibid.*, pp. 146-47).

John Adams had a right to be worried. We live in a society that largely believes that we evolved from animals and that God did not create the cosmos. We have progressed dramatically in technology, but we have gone backwards spiritually and morally. Note the description that the Apostle Paul gives of our society today: "...in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers,

disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:1-4).

Modern Americans have forgotten their spiritual origins! We exude an aura of religiosity, but have forgotten the substance of God and His word. As Paul mentioned in 2 Timothy 3:5, "having a form of godliness but denying its power." We need to ask God to remove our national and individual amnesia and remember what we have forgotten! We need to remember that God is the living God. He is real and powerful. He intervenes in human affairs. He is the great Lawgiver and the Almighty Blessor.

We at *Tomorrow's World* are striving to do our part to warn this nation, as well as other Israelite-descended nations, to wake up and return to their God. Isaiah proclaimed: "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1).

Why?

So that our peoples can seek their God and avoid the punishment for disobedience towards Him. The Bible reveals great events that will affect the Israelite peoples just before the return of Jesus Christ. Be sure to read our free booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It will awaken you to vital information critical for you and your family to understand in the years ahead.

—D. Rand Millich



# Questions & Answers

**QUESTION:** In Matthew 18:20, Jesus said: “where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Does this mean that individual Christians can decide for themselves when and where they can worship on the annual Holy Days and the weekly Sabbath?

**ANSWER:** To understand this verse, we need to read it in context. Verses 18–19 show that the topic is the ministry making binding decisions concerning matters of conflict, not individual Christians meeting together. Even the expression “in My name” implies that the gathering is to represent Christ. What does Scripture tell us about Christians gathering to worship on the Sabbath and annual Holy Days?

- Christians must not forsake assembling together (Hebrews 10:25). This is a general principle, but is especially apt in regard to days of worship.
- We are to worship on days God has made “holy” (Leviticus 23). We are told to worship in the place God has chosen (Deuteronomy 16:13–16). A shepherd’s flock cannot feed itself, and God’s people should assemble where He has chosen to feed them. Those who for some reason cannot assemble together with other Christians must at the very least be sure to feed on God’s word through the nourishment He provides.
- The Sabbath and annual Holy Day assemblies are to be “convocations” (Leviticus 23).

People often misunderstand the word “convocation,” thinking that it is just another word for “meeting.” However, note this definition of “convoke” from *Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary*: “to call together to a meeting.” This dictionary lists the following synonyms: *summon, call, cite, convoke, convene, muster*—meaning “to demand the presence of.” In other words, someone must do the convoking—or calling—of the meeting. But, since this is a holy convocation, to whom has God given the authority to call such a meeting?

The Hebrew word translated as “convocation” throughout Leviticus 23 is “*miqrā*.” The *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* states, “literally, the word means ‘convocation’ or ‘a called-out gathering.’” The *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* says this about the word *miqrā*: “its most usual

meaning is reserved for the seven special convocation sabbaths . . . Such days (and the weekly Sabbath as well) included a formal summoning of people to worship by the blast of trumpets.”

We see the meaning further expanded when we read, “These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times” (Leviticus 23:4). The word “proclaim” is translated from the Hebrew word *miqrā*, which may be translated “call” in the sense of proclaim, and occurs about 80 times in Scripture with this meaning.

God always works through His ministry—whether through the priesthood in the Old Testament or the ordained ministry in the New Testament. Throughout Scripture, it was *never* up to individuals to decide for themselves when and where the sacred assembly was to be held. Likewise, today, the ministry calls us to worship, and proclaims the particular meeting place.

Certainly, there are occasions when a person is not able to travel to a designated meeting place, and God makes provision for that. For example, a wife may not be able to travel to the Feast of Tabernacles because of childbirth, so God says that at least the males should go (Deuteronomy 16:16). God is a God of love and compassion, and does not expect His people to travel when they are sick or otherwise indisposed.

As for the weekly Sabbath, the same principles apply. If someone lives too far from a holy convocation, God’s ministers may make arrangements so that the distant brethren can receive audio or video copies of sermons or worship services, or can connect by phone or Internet. But it is vital that we remember the biblical pattern—it is God’s ministry, not the individual believer, who has been given authority to determine the place of worship. For more on this topic, please request our free booklets, *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* and *The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan*.



# PRAYER: OUR LIFELINE TO GOD

By Richard F. Ames

**W**e live in stressful and dangerous times. Our busy surroundings can make us frustrated, anxious and even sometimes angry. If you live in a big city, you probably spend hours commuting in congested traffic. Construction noise and loud neighbors produce tension and nervousness. Even friends and family may argue and bring stress to shatter your peace in life.

Is there a way to cope with our stress-filled world? Yes, there is! The Bible shows us the way to peace of mind through prayer. Prayer is our lifeline to God. If you learn how to pray more effectively, you can enjoy great benefits through His intervention in your life!

Do you pray regularly? Have you found peace of mind through prayer? In September 2006, Baylor University and the Gallup Organization released a survey of Americans' religious habits. The survey showed that "three-fourths of Americans pray at least once a week. More than one-fourth prayed several times a day" (*Lexington Herald-Leader*, Jan. 13, 2007).

Are you one of the three-fourths of Americans who pray? Why *should* we pray? One major reason is that we all need faith to face our dangerous and stress-filled world. How can we have faith? "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

In other words, as we read the Bible, the word of God, we see how God intervenes in the lives of His people. We see that He has given us *great promises* that can change our lives and strengthen our faith. Notice this encouraging statement: "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:2-4).

When we feel discouraged—or even overwhelmed—by the corruption of the world around us, we can share our hearts with God in prayer. He asks us to make our requests known to Him. What kind of help do you need? *Ask God for help*. He promises to provide our every need. "And my God shall supply all your need

according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Share your needs, anxieties, fears, problems, and concerns with your Father in heaven. Talk to Him about your problems and worries. Yes, you have needs, but God promises to provide for them (Matthew 6:33–34). You can be thankful for that. When you pray, do not leave out the element of thanksgiving. Remember: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, *with thanksgiving*, let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). As you share your concerns and needs with God in prayer, be sure to thank Him for His promises, for His love, and for His willingness to help you!

What happens when we follow this instruction? God assures us that “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (v. 7).

Yes, *through Christ Jesus!* This is an extremely important key to answered prayer. We pray by the authority of our Savior. We do not go through some human priest as an intercessor; in Jesus, we already have the greatest High Priest interceding with the Father on our behalf (Hebrews 4:14).

### Approaching the Throne

When we pray, we approach the throne of God in heaven. Our Father in heaven loves us. He wants us to pray directly to Him. Scripture tells us to come boldly to His throne of grace. We can do that because Jesus Christ is our great High Priest at the Father’s right hand. “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all

points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:14–16).

Our needs may be big or small. Many years ago, I wanted very much to find a particular natural food item that my local supermarkets did not stock. It seemed that my desire went unfulfilled for months. Then, one day, as I was reading the Sermon on the Mount, I spotted the passage where Jesus encourages us: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will



find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Matthew 7:7–8).

How could I have overlooked this very simple and straightforward instruction? I finally asked God for this natural food item I had desired. Suddenly, when I researched my area again for its availability—knocking on doors both literally and figuratively—I found what I had been seeking. God answered my prayer, and He will answer yours, too!

God has given us the awesome privilege to come before Him in prayer—but our prayer must be based on the word of God, the Bible. Scripture gives us powerful strategies

for coping with stress and anxiety. Prayer is our lifeline to God, and He promises to give us peace of mind, if we share our concerns with Him in prayer. But how much time do you spend with God in prayer? The Barna Group reported that of those who pray, “most people who pray do so at least once a day; the total amount of time spent in prayer per day is less than five minutes”—often a quick prayer before a meal, and a list of things we want for ourselves (*The State of the Church: 2005*).

What if you are one of those who rarely or never pray? Maybe you have never learned to pray, or have only learned childhood rituals of prayer. As a child, I was taught a simple bedtime prayer: “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.” After that prayer, I would ask God to bless my mother, father and sister—and our cat, Deet-Deet.

As a teenager, when my aunt became ill with cancer, I became more serious about prayer, and made a point of praying fervently for her on a regular basis. But it was not until I was a young adult that I truly began to comprehend the reality of God’s existence, and my need for a relationship with Him. I remember kneeling down at the side of my bed after reading an article that gave some basic principles of prayer. Looking up at the ceiling, I for the first time began to realize the awesomeness of the Creator God, who was way beyond the ceiling, in heaven.

If we have not grasped the reality of the Creator God—the God of the Bible—we cannot expect much from our prayers. How many people around us even believe in God? An amazing 96 percent of Americans say they believe in God! In Canada, a

poll by Carleton University found that 80 percent of Canadians believe in God, though fewer than 25 percent actually attend worship services. In Australia, a survey conducted by the National Church Life Survey and Edith Cowan University found that 74 percent of Australians believe in God. In Britain, 69 percent say they believe in God. Those statistics may sound impressive. But how strong is their faith? Notice this definition of faith: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (Hebrews 11:1–3).

True science is not contrary to faith. Many scientists, like Nobel Prize winner Albert Einstein, have seen design and awesome intelligence in the creation. Einstein wrote that the scientist’s “religious feeling takes the form of a rapturous amazement at the harmony of natural law, which reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection” (*Einstein: A Centenary Volume*, edited by A. P. French, Harvard University Press, 1979, p. 305).

Science has not been able to discover where these laws come from. Did they come from nothing? We know they were in effect at the first moment of creation. Scientists admit they had to be! As theoretical physicists Stephen Hawking and Roger Penrose stated, “The only way to have scientific theory is if the laws of physics hold everywhere, including at the beginning of the universe.”

The Apostle Paul wrote: “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but

by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Through Bible prophecy, God gives us hope for the future. He gives us “exceedingly great and precious promises” (2 Peter 1:4). And He shows us the way to eternal life through the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. As you read the Bible, you will learn how

God has intervened for His people throughout history. And, as you read how He delivered them from seemingly insurmountable dangers and trials, you will begin to have more faith. Read the stories of Daniel in the lion’s den; the deliverance of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego from the fiery furnace of Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon and the escape of the ancient Israelites through the Red Sea. Read about the miracles performed by the Son of

God, Jesus of Nazareth, in healing the diseased, the blind, the lame and the deaf. Jesus even raised the dead to life!

How often should you pray each day? Ancient King David made it a practice to pray to God three times a day. He wrote, “As for me, I will call upon God, and the LORD shall save me. Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice” (Psalm 55:16–17). We all need to seek God through prayer. If you are just starting to learn to pray, be sure to read the Bible daily. In particular, read the book of Psalms, which contains many of the prayers of ancient King David.

The prophet Daniel prayed three times a day, even when the king commanded him not to! “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in

**“Las’ year I fell in Hodgkin’s well  
Head first,” said Cyrus Brown.  
“With both my heels a-stickin’ up,  
My head a-pointin’ down.**

**An’ I made a prayer, right then an’ there.  
Best prayer I ever said.  
The prayin’ prayer I ever prayed,  
A-standin’ on my head.”**

**—from *Cyrus Brown’s Prayer*,  
by Sam Walter Foss**

Throughout the Bible, people often come before the Lord on their knees (Luke 5:8; Ephesians 3:14). We read of falling on one’s face to worship God (1 Corinthians 14:25). Foss’ humorous poem reminds us that we should *always* be ready to put our hearts into prayer, no matter what position we are in.

became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened” (Romans 1:20–21).

### **Creation Testifies**

Creation itself testifies, as does your Bible, that there is a great intelligence—a Creator and Lawgiver—who set the universe in motion. Yet the One with that great intelligence wants to communicate with *you* about the matters closest to your heart. How can we come closer to Him? Notice: “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

One way to “diligently seek” God is to read the Bible—God’s word—every day! Yes, “faith comes

his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days” (Daniel 6:10). Daniel was thrown into the lion’s den for his faith, but God rescued him and preserved his life!

### Seek the Lord

Yes, God will intervene in your life if you are close to Him and call out to Him. The prophet Isaiah gives us this exhortation: “Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:6–7).

God promises to forgive us of our sins if we repent and seek Him. Jesus’ disciples wanted Him to teach them how to pray. They said to Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples” (Luke 11:1). Jesus then gave them the model prayer, commonly called the “Lord’s Prayer” (Matthew 6:9–13; Luke 11:2–4).

Notice what Jesus warned the disciples before giving them the model prayer: “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words” (Matthew 6:7). Some people think they are being very pious and religious by muttering the same words over and over again. That is not what Jesus wants! He wants us to pray fervently from the heart, not just to repeat mindlessly the words of the “Lord’s Prayer”—or any other prayer—over and over again!

Remember: “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16). When the prophet Hosea lamented the sad

state of ancient Israel, what was his complaint? “They never put their heart into their prayers” (Hosea 7:14, *Moffatt*).

Jesus began His model prayer with these instructions: “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name” (Matthew 6:9). Not that we repeat those exact words, but that in the same *manner* we hallow—honor—the name of our Father in heaven. When we pray, we should first acknowledge God as our Father. We can also acknowledge that He is the Creator of heaven and earth (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:11; Isaiah 40:25–28). He is also the Lawgiver and the Lifegiver. He fulfills Bible prophecy. Pray about the meaning of God’s name, authority and character.

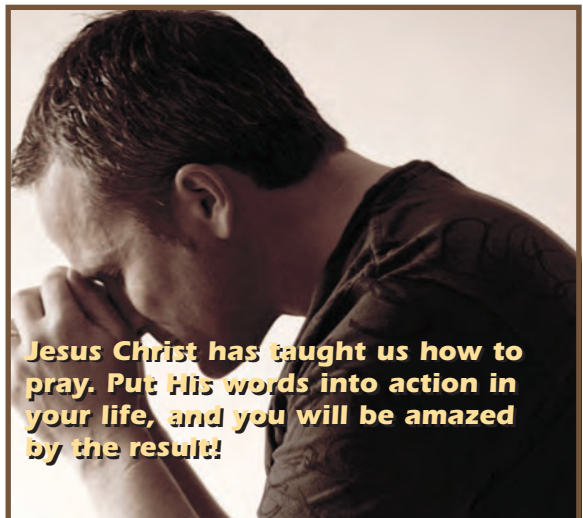
Christ then taught us to pray for the coming of God’s Kingdom, for our submission to His will, and for our needs—physical and spiritual. He taught us to pray for forgiveness, and to extend to others the forgiveness we want for ourself. He taught us to ask for His protection against severe trials and temptations, even from the devil. Finally, He concluded the model prayer with a focus on God’s power and majesty: “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen” (Matthew 6:13).

Yes, God is the Creator of the universe. He has all power. And He wants you to inherit the earth, the Kingdom—and the entire universe. God is love. He wants to share everything good with you.

Scripture tells us to seek God with all our heart. Notice this encouraging promise: “For thus says the LORD... For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD” (Jeremiah 29:10–14).

We have a great Savior and High Priest at the right hand of God. Come boldly to that throne of grace, as He urges us to do (Hebrews 4:16)! God will then give you His grace and mercy, as you seek Him and submit to His will. Prayer is our lifeline to God. Pray fervently. Pray every day, and God will give you peace of mind in these stressful times. ■

## Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer



**Jesus Christ has taught us how to pray. Put His words into action in your life, and you will be amazed by the result!**

**Write for our FREE booklet, *Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer***

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

# LONDON CALL

## WHO ARE THE SCOTS?

From time to time you have one of those moments. I was traveling to Hastings in Kent, listening to BBC Radio 4. My ears could not believe what they were hearing. "From Our Own Correspondent," is a weekly compilation of vignettes by BBC reporters from all over the world. This particular report, "Ossetia's Connection to Scotland," was from Tim Whewell, who covered the August 2008 skirmish between the Georgians and South Ossetians in Asia's Caucasus region.

The report began, "When the nights draw in, in the high Caucasus... there is nothing the people like better than to settle down on the settee to watch an old DVD of *Braveheart*." Why? The Ossetians told Whewell their stories of migrations from their home. He continued, "Centuries ago, possibly during the great migration of the Dark Ages, some of their ancestors went down from the Caucasus and set sail through the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and arrived eventually in a landscape they recognised: Caledonia."

He continued, "But the Ossetians are not just like the medieval Scots. As far as they are concerned, they are the Scots. And the Scots are them."

Whewell's information from his hardy Caucasian friends is not as far-fetched as some might like us to think. Much of what we learn about the origins of the people of Europe is skewed toward a Greco-Roman bias. What does that mean?

Students of European history—especially those who try to understand where the Friesians or Germans or Lombards came from—are often directed exclusively to Greek and Roman historians. Caesar's *Bella Gallica*, with its observations of

the Celts, is informative—but it is biased toward a Roman perspective. And we note that Strabo, the Greek geographer, held a rather jaundiced view of Britons. He wrote that they were "tall and bandy-legged."

Who, then, can tell us who the Scots were? Well, how about *the Scots themselves*?

Soon after England's King Edward II subjugated the Scots, 38 of the Scottish lairds wrote the "Declaration of Arbroath"—an impassioned plea to the Pope, asking him to call the English off. This document, dating to 1320AD, is preserved in a hermetically sealed case at the Scottish Archives in Edinburgh. In the Declaration's preamble, we find the noble Scots in possession of their historic roots,

which they proclaim boldly and confidently. Note their clear wording as to their origins:

"We know and from the chronicles and books of the ancients, we find that among other famous nations our own, the Scots has been graced with widespread renown. They journeyed from Greater Scythia by way of the Tyrrhenian [Mediterranean] Sea and the Pillars of Hercules [Straits of Gibraltar], and dwelt for a long course of time in Spain among the most savage tribes... Thence they came, twelve hundred years after the people of Israel crossed the Red Sea, to their home in the west where they still live today."

It is widely understood that the ancient Israelites crossed the Red Sea in the fifteenth century BC—which would date the Scots' migration from Greater Scythia to the third century BC! This equates well with other information that we can find, showing that there were successive migrations of people from the region of Scythia, which today comprises southern Ukraine.



# LLING

## Scythian Migration

Who were the Scythians? According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Most writers think the Scythians who troubled Asia were Sacae from the east of the Caspian" (11th edition, article: "Scythia"). This is the region where, in the eighth century BC, the Assyrians had settled the ten tribes of Israel whom they had taken captive (see 2 Kings 17:23). The Israelites were named after their father Jacob, whose name God had changed to Israel. Israel's father was Isaac—from which the name Sacae is derived. That name in turn became "Saxon" (son of Isaac). These "Saxon" people have left their name in northern Germany (Saxony) and amongst the people of southeast England: Sussex, Essex and Middlesex.

The name Scot is also derived from "Scyth." The Scyth traveled to Scotland via Spain and Ireland. Prior to the Dalriadic migration of the Scots from Ireland to Scotland, the northern area of Ireland was known as "Scotia" (note the similarity to "Scythia"). These people simply carried their name with them into the highlands of Scotland.

What else has been carried through these nations? If you are familiar with the bagpipe, a characteristically Scottish musical instrument, you may be surprised to learn that bagpipes are found in every country mentioned in the Declaration of Arbroath and in BBC correspondent Whewell's report. Bagpipes are played in a total of 25 nations in the Middle East, Europe and North Africa. Notice this definition, from *The New Bible Dictionary*, of the word *dulcimer* used in Daniel 3:5, "It is now generally supposed to have been a form of bagpipe." This most famous of Scottish instruments has left a musical footprint wherever the Scots have traveled on their journey, from Israel to Assyria and on through the Caucasus Mountains and the Black Sea, to Spain, and finally to their present home by way of Ireland.

## Other Links

It is true that many Scots, particularly those on the east coast around Aberdeen and Inverness, have a link with the Vikings. The Normans also came into Scotland at about the time of William the Conqueror's invasion of England in 1066AD. Robert the Bruce's family name was "de Bruys" from Brittany, while the name Sinclair is a corruption of "St. Clair."

The Normans (Norse men) and the Vikings both have their roots in Scandinavia. Vikings also settled in Iceland after marrying Irish women whom they had captured. On a recent trip to Iceland, I asked my taxi driver where the Icelanders came from. He answered, "We believe we are from the tribe of Benjamin [the youngest of the Israelite tribes]" This may be just anecdotal, but it bears out the fact that many northwestern Europeans have long held to the idea that they are descended from the so-called "lost ten tribes of Israel."

God speaks to us through the prophet Jeremiah: "Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night... If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me for ever" (Jeremiah 31:35, 36).

Yes, the descendants of Israel (not just the Jews who descend from Judah and part of Benjamin) *can* be identified!

If you would like to know more about the descendants of ancient Israel, please request a copy of our free booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. You will discover that the United States and the British Anglo-Celtic people—and their descendants in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa—are in fact the ancient people of Joseph. They have not been lost as many people claim, but can be discovered, and this discovery will open your eyes to Bible prophecy as never before!

—Rod King



# WHY DOES GOD HEAL?

By Rod McNair

**If you need healing, you need to know the answer to this question!**

**I**n the midst of a crisis, we often ask, “Where is God?” We wonder, “Why is He allowing me to suffer?” or, even “Why did He allow my loved one to die?” Such questions may run through our minds in stressful and despairing moments, when we face sickness, pain—and even the stark reality of death.

But maybe we are asking the wrong questions. Instead of judging God for not intervening quickly, we should be asking a different question. If we need God’s healing right now, we should ask the fundamental question: *Why does God heal?*

To understand healing, we must get a bigger perspective on sickness and death. What is God’s

perspective on human life? First of all, human life is very short! Contrast that with God’s life, and the difference is enormous! The prophet Isaiah explained, “For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy” (Isaiah 57:15). God has been alive from eternity past, and He will live on forever into the future. This is difficult for our minds to grasp! Furthermore, He is preparing us to share in that never-ending life with Him, through the resurrection of the dead (John 5:24). We have an amazing future that, from our current perspective, we can only begin to comprehend!

Reflecting on the brevity of human life, King David observed, “My days are like a shadow that



lengthens, and I wither away like grass” (Psalm 102:11). And yet, our brief life is leading to a great and marvelous future: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Sometimes God mercifully lets a person die—even a righteous person—to be spared a coming time of trouble. This is also an important perspective to grasp. “The righteous perishes, and no man takes it to heart; merciful men are taken away, while no one considers that the righteous is taken away from evil” (Isaiah 57:1). Nevertheless, God often *does* heal. *Why?*

### To Show Mercy

Even so, our God is a merciful and compassionate Father who knows our frame, our physical weakness and our frailty (Psalm 103:14). Jesus Christ Himself came so that we might have life, and “have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). When He gave His life for our sins, He also offered His body to be broken for our sicknesses—for our healing (1 Peter 2:24). We read that when Jesus saw the multitudes following Him, He “was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick” (Matthew 14:14).

Some believe that looking to God for healing is for less-educated Christians, and that miraculous healing was just “for a more primitive age” less sophisticated than our own (*Healing*, Francis McNutt, pp. 17, 20). However, nothing could be further from the truth! Divine healing is for God’s faithful people in all ages. Many of us living today can attest in our own lives to what ancient King David wrote thousands of years ago: “Blessed is he who considers the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive.... The

LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed” (Psalm 41:1–3).

God heals because He loves us and looks on us with mercy, as we look to Him in faith and obey Him. Like any loving Father, He derives great joy from granting His children gifts that are good for them. But God also has other reasons for healing. *What are they?*

### To Reward Faith

When we need healing, do we do the obvious? Do we go to God and *ask* Him for it? Jesus Christ told His disciples to “ask, seek, and knock” for the things they needed from their Father. He explained, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (Matthew 7:11).

The principle is: *we need to ask!* God wants us to come to Him, to lay out our requests before Him and ask for relief. Yet, as authors James and Carol Garlow point out, “Ironically, it is when we most need God’s healing power that we may have the hardest time asking for it” (*God Still Heals*, p. 20).

Why are we sometimes afraid to ask? Do we feel distant from God, ashamed for our sins? Do we feel unworthy to receive God’s awesome blessings? We must not let *anything* hold us back from humbly going to God to ask for healing. If you are in need of healing, go to God and cry out to Him! Repent of your sins and ask Him to forgive you. Ask Him to help you obey Him more fully. Let Him know that you are serious about your request. And do not give up! Learn from the example Christ gave of the persistent widow (Luke 18:7).

The prophet Hosea chastised the disobedient nation of Ephraim

for making an outward show of religiosity but *not really praying from the heart!* “They do not cry out to me from their hearts but wail upon their beds” (Hosea 7:14, NIV). If we desperately need answers to our prayers, we really need to be making a heartfelt effort to draw closer to God.

Asking God *in faith* also means accepting His answer—*whatever it may be!* Some people assume that if God does not grant their requests, He has not answered their prayers. Reporter William Lobdell is the author of *Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Reporting on Religion in America—And Found Unexpected Peace*. The book details his journey from unbelief to mainstream Christianity, then back to atheism. When interviewed about his book, Mr. Lobdell said “a big turning point in my de-conversion was that there are no legitimate studies showing that prayer worked” (“Losing his religion, finding peace,” *Charlotte Observer*, March 7, 2009).

Prayer does not work? From whose perspective? Is prayer just about getting what we want—or is it about seeking *God’s will rather than our own?* Although the Apostle Paul begged God three times to heal him of a “thorn in the flesh,” God appears to have answered, “No!” Did Paul respond by “losing his religion”? Not at all! He accepted, in faith, that God’s will was paramount. “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10).

David was a man of God who prayed fervently and repeatedly asked for God’s deliverance. He cried out to God, “Oh, save me for Your mercies’ sake! For in death

there is no remembrance of You; in the grave who will give You thanks?” (Psalm 6:4–5). What was David really saying? He was conveying to God, “I want more time to live Your way of life, God. I want more time to do Your work. I want more time to submit to Your will in my life!” When we ask God for healing and deliverance, are we truly seeking to draw closer to Him? Or are we just asking Him to make our pain go away?

The Apostle James explained the role of God’s ministers in our healing. When we need divine healing, Scripture commands us to call for His ministry and ask to be anointed. “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” (James 5:14–15). There is nothing “magic” about the minister himself, nor the oil he uses in the anointing. It is God who performs the healing, whether the minister physically lays hands on the sick individual or whether he sends an anointed cloth. If you need God’s healing, do not fail to get in touch with His true ministers for counseling and anointing.

### To Reveal Himself

In recent decades, many people in our Western nations have lost interest in God, and some have simply lost track of Him. A recent

Associated Press article described this disturbing trend: “A wide-ranging study on American religious life... found that the percentage of Christians in the nation has declined and more people say they have no



religion at all” (“More Americans Say They Have No Religion,” March 9, 2009). The researchers found that the percentage of people saying they had “no religion” almost doubled in the years from 1990 to 2009. In other words, increasing numbers of people in our modern world

acknowledge that they simply do not know God!

And yet, in ancient times, God performed miracles such as divine healing to reveal who He was! When God released Israel from slavery in Egypt, He had to re-introduce Himself—and His power—to an unbelieving and skeptical nation. In addition to revealing His Sabbath, His Holy Days and His commandments, God revealed Himself through *miraculous acts of healing*.

When Moses and the Israelites arrived at Marah, they found the waters bitter and undrinkable. But God healed those waters, and told the people, “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you” (Exodus 15:26).

Perhaps you have experienced a time in your life—a crucial turning point—when God dramatically healed you or protected you from a terrible accident. For many people, an event like this is one of the first and most powerful signs God is calling them to repentance and baptism. There is nothing like a supernatural healing to let us know God is involved in our life. It gets our attention!

If God has healed you in the past, be grateful. Give thanks to God, and think about why God healed you. He may be calling you out of an unbelieving generation into a closer and more obedient relationship with Him (John 6:44).

### To Highlight His Work

When Jesus Christ was on this earth, He performed astounding miracles. One reason He performed His dramatic healings was to call attention to His Work of preaching the Gospel. When John’s disciples came to Christ and asked if He was the Messiah, notice how He responded: “And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them” (Luke 7:21–22).

Bible prophecy shows that false ministers in the time of the end will perform deceptive miracles (Matthew 24:24). Scripture prophesies the appearance of a “lawless one” who will perform satanic “lying wonders” (2 Thessalonians 2:9) and deceive those who have not really come to a love of the truth. This evil figure will be able to

(Continued on page 29)



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you very much for the informative booklets that I recently received from you.

They are a definite help in my understanding of Bible scriptures, and would be an absolute blessing to anyone who would take the time to request them. *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy* is a real eye-opener. I am sharing mine with any of my family members I can persuade to read it!

G. J., Gbongan City, Nigeria

Your articles "Papal Primacy?" coming side-by-side with "The Sign of Jonah" (March-April 2009) were able in a few pages to bring into focus the deception people have fallen under by entrusting their salvation to the doctrines of men. Thank you for your dedication to the truth and service of God Almighty, His Son and all who seek His face.

S. R., Lovelady, TX

Wow! I have just read your booklet, *The Bible: Fact or Fiction?* I can't believe what I just read about the Bible. I have learned so much in just 42 short pages. The booklet clearly teaches and gives such easy to understand proof, and it is backed by scripture. This book is not to be sold, but it should be on the *New York Times* bestseller list!

D. K., La Mesa, TX

In your article titled "The Sign of Jonah" (March-April 2009), it came as a total surprise to read on page 25, "He [Christ] rose sometime Saturday night." Yet Jesus died in the ninth hour, with three hours left in the day. I strongly suggest a "correction note" be given.

L. W., Fairview, MO

**Editor's Note:** The key point of the article was, simply, that Jesus Christ died on Wednesday afternoon, was buried shortly before sunset that day, and rose 72 hours later—near the end of the Sabbath on what we today would call "Saturday." Certainly, misunderstandings and confusions can easily enter

when people try to use the midnight-to-midnight days of the Roman calendar to discuss the biblical sunset-to-sunset days, and we know that in casual use people sometimes use the phrase "night" to mean a time late in the day, without regard to sunset—especially during times of the year when sunset occurs after 6:00 p.m. Considering the potential for misunderstanding, it would have been better for the article to stick to "before sunset" rather than introduce the potential confusion of "Saturday night." Nevertheless, the biblical account is straightforward: Jesus Christ was raised from the grave after 72 hours, shortly before sunset on Saturday, whether you call that time "Saturday afternoon" or "Saturday evening" or "Saturday night." In any case, we appreciate your careful attention to the article, which shows that you, like so many *Tomorrow's World* readers, take seriously what we often say: "Don't believe us, believe your Bible!"

I wish to thank you and all at *Tomorrow's World* for the change you have brought and are constantly bringing to me in my thinking, reasoning and understanding of Scripture. I was in church all my life, and never, never heard the truth. I am a senior now, and the blessing of your teaching is great! I look forward to your booklets and magazines which are absolutely marvelous, and can hardly wait for the next one to arrive each time! Even as a child, I had a problem connecting the birth of Jesus our Lord and Savior with Santa Claus, and the profound meaning of our Savior's death with the Easter bunny. Thank you so much, and may our Lord bless you in your continued work for Him. It is amazing that you provide your literature free of charge. I am so very appreciative.

P. J., Norfolk, VA

Having just finished Lessons 13–16 of the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*, I had to write to express my gratitude and share my blessings. It is wonderful to have our Lord's mysteries revealed! What you are providing for me is a transformation that is genuine!

M. A., San Luis, AZ

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

# WATCH AND W

## America and Britain: “Too Big to Fail”?

The global economic news has been brutal, but it is actually *worse* than many people realize.

Not only are people losing everything, and not only are companies going bankrupt, but even entire nations are failing. From poor nations such as Zimbabwe, to wealthy nations such as Dubai, governments have either already collapsed, *or risk collapsing* under severe economic strain.

Consider Iceland. Seemingly prosperous, Iceland rapidly went bankrupt in December 2008! Unable to pay its external debts, Iceland quickly could not import even basic goods and services! Its currency—the *krona*—became effectively worthless. Individual wealth vanished and day-to-day economic activity ground to a halt. Subsequently, the Icelandic government collapsed on January 26, 2009, making it the first national *casualty* of the global economic crisis.

Consider that at the Davos World Economic Forum (where the United States was *berated for failing to contain the crisis*), U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown asserted that “*history offered ‘no clear map’ of how to deal with [the crisis]*” (*BBC News, January 31, 2009*). However, in contrast to supposed Anglo ineptitude, the *Germans* feel strongly that a new “global economic order” and a “post-crisis global economic charter” should be created, in which, of course, they would be a leading power (“Merkel proposes UN economic body,” *BBC News, January 30, 2009*).

Further, “The head of the European Union slammed President Barack Obama’s plan to spend nearly \$2 trillion to push the U.S. economy out of recession as ‘the road to hell’ that EU governments must avoid,” highlighting “simmering differences” with the United States over how to confront this crisis (*Associated Press, March 25, 2009*).

### Can America and Britain Fail?

If multinational companies and modern nations can fail, and if international support

continues to wane, then *could the U.S. and the U.K. fail?*

Last July, *The New York Times* asked a bold question. Arguing for worldwide economic cooperation to assist America, the author argued that, “In the global economy of *the moment*, the United States itself is too big to fail” (“Too Big to Fail?”, July 20, 2008). Regardless of the world’s love or hatred toward America and Britain, these nations have for so long been so powerful—they have been described in Scripture as “lions” among the nations—that many assume they cannot fail.

When this *New York Times* article ran, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was still near 12,000 and many argued that this would be just another cyclical financial adjustment. But, as our Editor in Chief wrote *months before* the economic meltdown, “...the U.S. is headed for a financial catastrophe unless major changes occur!” And, “...our leaders are being overwhelmed with catastrophes they will be increasingly unable to manage, which will greatly weaken the prestige and power of the U.S. and the British-descended nations.” As this Work has long warned, the root causes of this coming catastrophe are *our national sins*, and our ignoring of God’s laws (“What Is Ahead for America?”, *Tomorrow’s World, May-June 2008*).

The increasing reality is that America and Britain are being kept afloat *by foreign money* and by a faltering hope among China, Europe and other nations that they remain worthwhile investments. The necessary question then becomes: *when* will we be allowed to fail?

### America and Britain Are Failing Now

Since the above articles, the American and British financial systems have hemorrhaged trillions of dollars. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is struggling to recover, after having plunged to *less than half* of its 2008 levels, and both small and mighty U.S. and



# WARN

British companies have declared bankruptcy, or have simply ceased to exist.

The UK's Insolvency Service agency reports that last year 15,535 British companies failed, and 67,428 people went bankrupt in England and Wales; an increase of more than 51 percent over the same period a year ago (see [www.insolvency.gov.uk](http://www.insolvency.gov.uk)). In the U.S., recent announcements include the termination of: 73,000 from Citigroup, 35,000 from Bank of America, 34,000 from General Motors, 25,000 from Hewlett-Packard and EDS and 22,000 from Caterpillar. The list goes on. New unemployment benefits in March "unexpectedly rose to the highest level in over 26 years"—a staggering 669,000 *per week*—pushing the numbers of Americans receiving jobless benefits to 5.73 million and climbing (*Reuters*, April 2, 2009).

## No Longer a "Lion" Among the Nations

Within this context, Micah 5:8–15 is a rarely understood but very revealing prophecy. Written *thousands of years ago*, this prophecy describes exactly what *has happened*, and what *is happening* to our nations.

Here, America and Britain (descendants of ancient Jacob) are referred to as a "lion" among the nations (v. 8, *KJV*). From the time of ancient Israel's and Judah's captivity to the present, the Jews alone have never fulfilled this prophecy. However, starting around 1800, America and Britain—Jacob's descendants through Joseph—did indeed become "a lion" among the nations. The Americans and British won war after war, conquered vast areas of the world, and enforced their will.

Now, notice verse 10. "In that day" (when the descendants of ancient Jacob had become nationally great), God would "cut off" and "destroy" their "war-horses" (*Moffatt*) and their "chariots." Because of national sins, this prophecy and many others show that our economic, agricultural, manufacturing and even our military strength (our "war-horses") will be cut off! Verses 11 through 15 then foretell our eventual military defeat.

Modern Jacob's power is being broken. Various "stimulus" strategies may yield temporary relief, but as Deuteronomy 28:20 warns, we will continue to face "confusion." And as many scriptures reveal, ultimately, our nations will fall economically *and militarily*.

Within this context, while the U.S. and the U.K. print money, talk about building parks and bridges, and try one stimulus after another, reports such as "Germany to spend stimulus funds on defense"—including the purchase of advanced tanks, combat drones and armored reconnaissance vehicles—should be *very sobering* (*Financial Times*, March 1, 2009).

## The World Is Passing Away

Capitalism, democracy and free-markets did not make America and Britain great. *God* made America and Britain great. However, our nations rejected our Creator and His laws. Instead, we worship wealth. We crave and export violence and sex. We profane God's Sabbaths. We divorce, murder, covet, lie, and steal God's tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:8).

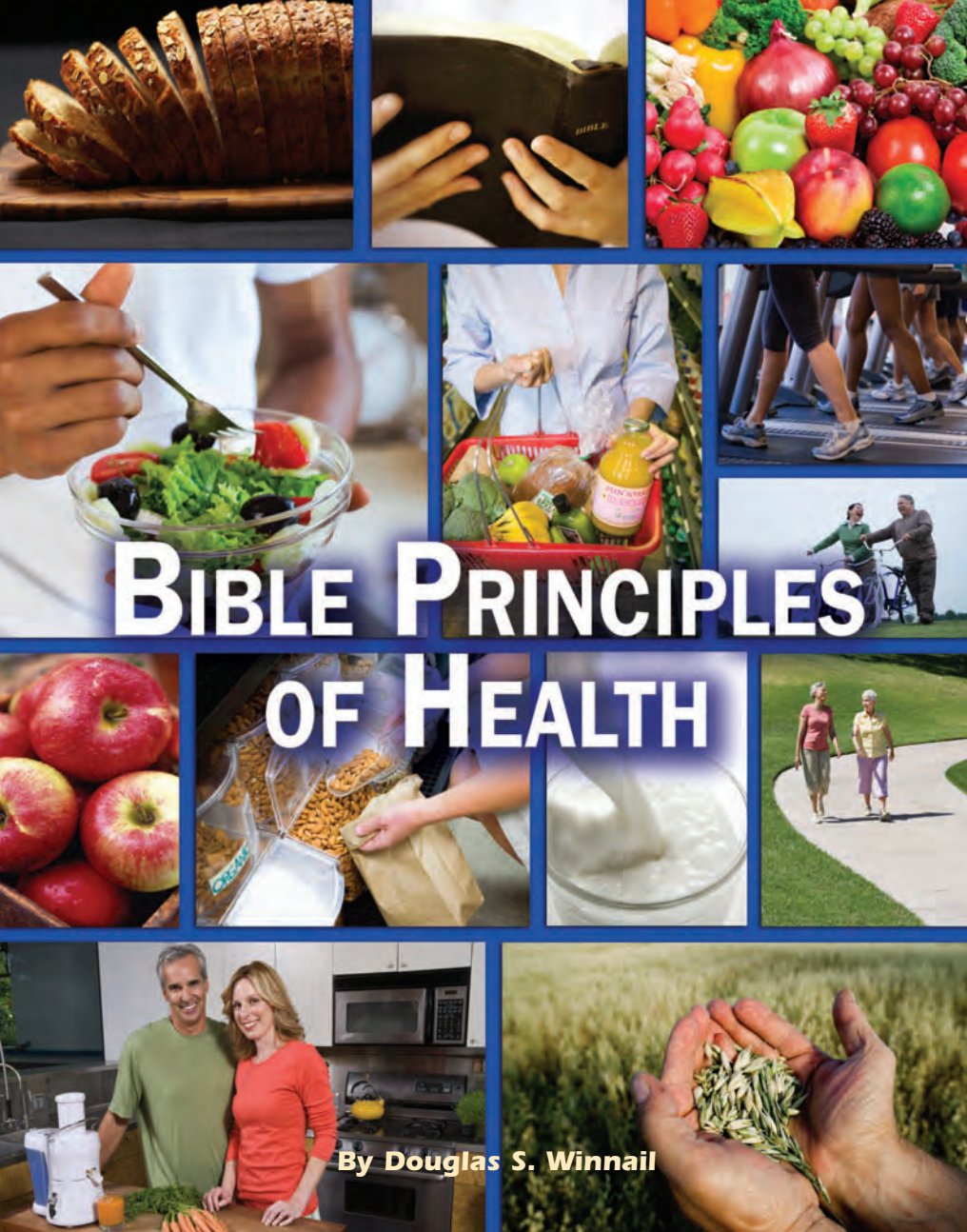
Knowing our nations would reject Him, God warned that He would withdraw His blessings and we would become oppressed and eventually *conquered* (Micah 5:10–15; Deuteronomy 28:15–68). This economic and eventual military decline will lead to the Great Tribulation spoken of by Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:21.

God's faithful Church has long proclaimed the "Ezekiel warning" (Ezekiel 3:17–19) of repentance, and also the *good news* of Christ's return as King of kings (Matthew 24:14). We have long advised paying off debt, reducing expenses, and—more importantly—*humbly and zealously returning to God* to prepare for Christ's return, because "the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:17).

Will our nations humbly heed God's clear and powerful prophetic warnings while there is still time? *Will you?*

—Wyatt Ciesielka





By Douglas S. Winnail

## Is health the means to an end, or is it an end in itself? How can we find and maintain health in our modern world?

**F**or centuries, staying healthy was a means to an end—to survive, earn a living, raise a family or accomplish a noble goal. Today the quest for health has become an end in itself—find the ideal diet or the ultimate exercise and create the perfect body! For many today, health and body have become our modern gods!

In pursuit of bodily perfection, millions search endlessly for the latest health secrets. People spend enormous amounts of money on adjustments, injections, prescriptions and procedures—even on personal trainers! Some listen to gurus. Others look for the special nutrient or the magical cure! In the course of a year, Americans will spend more than a trillion dollars on health care and billions on supplements and alternative medical treatments—yet they are far from the healthiest people in the world!

More than 60 percent in the U.S. are overweight. More than 30 percent are obese. Millions suffer from heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes and other mal-

adies. Millions take drugs for mental disorders. The story is similar in other developed nations. For many, the modern, all-consuming quest for health is an expensive and never-ending search for a “holy grail” that often fails to produce the health and peace of mind most people desire.

But we need to ask “why?” Is there a missing dimension in our lives today regarding our quest for health? The Western world has developed a distorted perspective about health, because we have lost the compass designed to give us balance in this vital area. We are swept from one extreme to another—from drugs to herbs, from surgery to “massaging energy flows”—because we have lost track of basic guidelines provided by our Creator in the operating manual for human beings—the Bible. With the false god of health replacing the God of the Bible, most people today do not realize that the real God—the Creator of the universe and Designer of the human body—is very concerned about human health. Dozens of verses in the Bible are devoted to the subject. Although some become fanatics in a misguided attempt to make a religion out of health, the truth is that the biblical principles of health are important, reasonable—and remarkably practical!

The Bible is not a textbook about health or nutrition. Yet, in Scripture, God provides fundamental principles to guide our personal choices in ways that promote health and prevent disease. In ancient Israel it was the job of the priests and Levites—not physicians, health gurus or legislators—to provide basic health instruction and set the direction for national health policy. As we examine a number of biblical health principles, we will discover how simple, yet up-to-date, this information is—even though it was recorded thousands of years ago!

God revealed fundamental truths in the Bible that medical science has taken thousands of years to confirm. Regrettably, many theologians do not understand the value of the health principles recorded in Scripture—and as a result they have failed to perform an important God-given function!

## Clean and Unclean Meats

Probably the best known and least understood biblical health laws deal with clean and unclean meats (Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14). People often refer to these as “Jewish” food laws, because they are still followed by Orthodox Jews—yet Muslims and others also observe similar food restrictions. Many theologians assert that these biblical guidelines were not given for health reasons, but were merely cultic practices designed to separate ancient Israelites from other peoples. Others teach that these instructions were for people living under the Old Covenant, and that Christians, under a New Covenant, are free to eat whatever they want. Some argue that biblical dietary restrictions are silly and old fashioned, and merely limit human freedoms and pleasures!

These widely accepted ideas are based on ignorance. Most theologians have little or no training in biology, ecology, microbiology, parasitology, epidemiology or public health, yet knowledge of these fields reveals the wisdom behind the laws about clean and unclean foods. Many unclean animals are scavengers (e.g. snails, crabs, lobsters and gulls); their ecological role is to devour dead plants or animals. Other unclean animals are filter feeders (e.g. clams and oysters); their ecological role is to purify water in lakes, streams and estuaries. Other unclean animals are predators (e.g. lions, snakes and alligators); their ecological role is to manage the

size and health of other animal populations. There are very important ecological reasons why the unclean animals God created are not to serve as food for human beings. God designed them for another purpose!

Moreover, there are also important health reasons behind these dietary restrictions. Many unclean animals carry parasites that cause serious diseases in humans. Pigs, bears, squirrels and raccoons carry trichinosis and other diseases. Scavengers such as crabs and crayfish can transmit lung and liver flukes. Human populations that frequently consume these creatures often have high rates of parasitic infections. Filter-feeding organisms, such as clams and oysters, may contain high concentrations of toxic heavy metals, pathogenic bacteria and viruses, making them dangerous for human consumption. When you eat these creatures you are actually eating organisms God created to be nature’s “clean-up crew.” Would you eat the contents of your vacuum cleaner bag or your garbage disposal? Hardly! Yet many “gourmet” dishes are made with these creatures, in blissful ignorance of the risks involved.

Far from being outdated Old Covenant regulations, the biblical laws concerning clean and unclean meats were inspired by a God who created all things for a purpose—a God concerned about promoting health and preventing disease! Avoiding unclean meats is a fundamental step in preventing major parasitic diseases that afflict hundreds of millions of people around the world. When we eat what God has told us not to eat, we do so to our own detriment! Regrettably, modern theologians do not understand the value of these powerful public health principles—nor do many professing Christians. For more information on this subject, ask for our free reprint article: *Do You Really Want to Eat That?*

## Biblical Dietary Laws

The Bible contains other important instructions that medical science has only recently come to understand. Moses was inspired to record that blood and fat—even of clean animals—were not to be consumed as human food (Leviticus 3:17; 7:23–26; Genesis 9:4), yet in some cultures eating blood sausage, eating “fatback” and mixing blood and milk are common practices. The blood of animals can contain bacteria and viruses that transmit disease. This important biblical prohibition was designed to prevent the spread of illness.

The prohibition against consuming visible fat is equally important—especially as it relates to our modern diet. One of the most significant discoveries from epidemiological studies conducted in the last 50 years has been the link between high-fat diets and heart disease, stroke and various types of cancer. These are the leading causes of death in countries where large amounts of fatty foods—such as hamburgers, French fries, triple-thick milkshakes, ice cream and heavy salad dressings—are consumed. Many common foods—bacon, hot dogs, cheese and spreads—can be more than 50 percent fat. High-fat diets are also high calorie diets that contribute to weight problems in our society today. Medical science has learned that excessive fat consumption is dangerous, yet God revealed this to Moses thousands of years ago! It is a tragedy that this biblical information has been ignored for so long.

In Genesis, we read that God gave mankind fruits, vegetables and grains for food, in addition to clean meats (Genesis 1:29; 2:16; 9:3). Fruits, vegetables and whole grains contain fiber and other complex carbohydrates. Nutritionists have come to recognize the value of these substances only in recent decades.

Fiber, once thought to be useless, adds bulk to intestinal contents and plays a vital role in protecting the body from colon cancer and other chronic diseases. Complex carbohydrates are also an important part of a healthy diet because they reduce cholesterol levels, which helps to prevent heart disease and strokes.

Another serious problem with Western diets is the high consumption of refined carbohydrates. Refined flour and sugar have been stripped of vital nutrients. Populations that consume large amounts of refined carbohydrates experience higher rates of diabetes and other related problems. Yet the Bible cautions against this type of eating. Solomon was even inspired to record: “It is not good to eat much honey” (Proverbs 25:16, 27). Though honey is a “natural” substance, it is “refined” in a sense by the bees that make it. Pollen gathered from many flowers begins the process of making honey. The biblical principle is to use refined carbohydrates sparingly. However, because of the soaring consumption of soft drinks (more than 50 gallons per person each year in the United States), pastries, candies, and pre-sweetened foods, many people ingest more than 100 pounds of refined sugars a year—again, to their detriment!

When these biblical instructions are viewed objectively, they agree with nutritional advice based on the latest research: reduce intake of fats, increase use of complex carbohydrates (fruits, vegetables and whole grains), limit consumption of meat and refined carbohydrates (see the Food Guide Pyramid published by United States governmental agencies). This is not surprising, because truth does not change! God revealed fundamental truths about human nutrition thousands of years ago for the benefit of human beings—and He entrusted that information to religious leaders who were to teach others. It is sobering to realize that most human suffering

could be prevented if we would simply follow God’s instructions!

The Bible also deals with controversial health issues. Some believe it is wrong for human beings to eat meat. Pagan Greek philosophers and many in the East promoted vegetarian ideas in the ancient world. Some argue that because Scripture does not specifically mention that God gave Adam and Eve meat to eat, it should not be eaten. But this overlooks the fact that God—the author of laws about clean and unclean meats—said, “these are the animals which you may eat” (Deuteronomy 14:4). Also overlooked is the meal Abraham served to two angelic beings and the one who became the Jesus Christ of the New Testament (Genesis 18:3). That meal included bread, meat, butter and milk (Genesis 18:3–8). Jesus Christ served fish to His disciples (John 21:9–13). Paul cautions New Testament Christians not to be caught up in vegetarian ideas (Romans 14:2; 1 Timothy 4:3). The Bible was written to help us stay balanced in the midst of ideas that lead to dietary extremes.

### **Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

For many religious people, alcohol is a “red flag”—the devil’s brew! While the Bible clearly condemns drunkenness and the abuse of alcohol (Proverbs 20:1; 1 Corinthians 5:11), Scripture recommends its use for a variety of purposes (Deuteronomy 14:26). Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding (John 2:1–11). Paul recommended the use of alcohol for promoting health. He told Timothy “use a little

wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities” (1 Timothy 5:23). The key is moderation (Philippians 4:5, KJV). Moderate amounts of alcohol produce relaxation, raise HDL levels, reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and increase stomach acids, aiding digestion in the elderly. The Bible provides important guidelines for the use of alcohol, requiring personal decisions that develop individual character.

While tobacco and recreational drugs are not mentioned in Scripture, principles governing the use of such substances are clearly stated. Paul writes, “your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19) and, “If anyone defiles the temple of God [the body], God will destroy him” (1 Corinthians 3:17). The Bible plainly states that we are not to damage our bodies—which drug abuse (whether the drug is legal or not) plainly does. These biblical principles are preventive in nature, and anyone with common sense can see this. To give in to cravings for alcohol, tobacco or drugs is a form of idolatry and lust—violating several of the Ten Commandments. Biblical health principles are not intended to limit human pleasure, but are designed to ensure that those pleasures will be positive and enjoyable experiences.

### **Exercise, Too!**

Throughout history, many have been led to believe that Christians should ideally lead a quiet, sedentary life of prayer, study and meditation. Yet Jesus Christ came to this earth not as a cloistered monk, but as a carpenter in an age without power tools! He chose fisherman like Peter, Andrew, James and John,





who did not have diesel-powered winches to haul in their nets! When Jesus called His first disciples to “follow” Him (Matthew 4:19; John 7:17; 11:54), this included walking hundreds of miles a year. These examples are important because this physically active lifestyle kept them healthy and provided stamina for completing their mission.

The Apostle Paul advised that, while our primary focus should be on spiritual matters, “bodily exercise profits a little” (1 Timothy 4:8). This is exactly what modern research has shown. Exercise must occur on a regular basis, because its benefits are only temporary! However, these benefits are vital—reducing cholesterol levels, blood pressure and stress, and preventing diabetes, heart disease and a host of other problems.

### **A Spiritual Dimension**

One of the most interesting developments in health education has been the recognition of what is called “spiritual health.” This area of study acknowledges the vital role beliefs and values play in influencing behavior and health. Individuals who believe in God, attend church regularly and hold strong moral convictions are less likely to smoke, abuse intoxicants or engage in promiscuous sexual activities. The Bible labels such actions sins—to be avoided! Just like the biblical dietary guidelines, the biblical prohibitions of gluttony, lethargy, drunkenness and sexual promiscuity are important for us today—and fall within public health guidelines for healthful living. Biblical principles of health offer a striking contrast to the misguided values of our permissive “if it feels good do it” society! When biblical values are taught by the family, and reinforced by churches and schools, individuals are more likely to develop positive behaviors that promote health and prevent disease.

However, there is more in the Bible than a list of “dos and don’ts” regarding health. While many today have lost sight of God’s instructions, and have made health an end in itself, the Bible provides more profound reasons for our life choices. From Scripture we learn that we are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), that we will be held accountable for our actions and that we should “glorify God in our bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:20). Yet our bodies were not made to last forever (Psalm 39:5; James 4:14; Hebrews 9:27). Our real challenge is to learn to think like God, develop character like His (Philippians 2:5) and show love for others (John 15:17). This life is merely a training ground for an amazing future (1 Corinthians 9:24–27). If we learn to follow God’s instructions, and properly care for what God has given us, we will receive a reward that includes reigning with Jesus Christ when He returns to establish the Kingdom of God on this earth (Revelation 5:10). That is the gospel (Mark 1:14–15)!

The saints who rule with Christ will function as teachers (Isaiah 30:20–21) who will explain the laws of God—including these important biblical health principles—to all of humanity (Isaiah 2:2–4). Because of their efforts, “the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9), and health conditions will improve dramatically around the world (see Isaiah 35:5–7; Jeremiah 30:17). There are pow-

erful reasons for learning to live by the biblical principles inspired by our Creator. He is preparing us to assist Him in changing the course of human history, eliminating the plague of disease and promoting a way of life that leads not only to physical, mental and spiritual health, but to eternal life!

Do not be deceived! Health principles are an important part of biblical religion. They are fundamental keys—revealed by our Creator—to promote health and prevent disease. When properly understood, explained and applied, these principles are an incredible blessing for all of mankind. “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (3 John 2). ■

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

**A time is soon coming when the whole world will live in health and peace. What are you doing now to prepare yourself for that wonderful time?**



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*The World Ahead:  
What Will It Be Like?*  
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# PROPHECY COM

## SIGNS OF DISASTER DOWN UNDER?

What is really happening in the land “down under”? In early February, southeastern Australia experienced one of the worst natural disasters ever recorded in the country’s history. Not long after the nation had experienced some of its worst floods in decades, it was ravaged by 400 wildfires, driven by 50-mile-per-hour winds on days when the temperatures soared above 115 degrees Fahrenheit. Fire burned more than 1,100 square miles of tinder-dry countryside, destroying several towns and more than 1,500 homes and killing more than 200 people and millions of animals. Residents fleeing the fast-moving fires described walls of flames more than one hundred feet high that produced a roaring sound like a huge freight train. People who witnessed the firestorm “said the inferno was like a nuclear bomb,” as eucalyptus and gum trees (which contain flammable oils) were literally “exploding” (*International Herald Tribune*, February 9, 2009). Satellite photos showed much of southeastern Australia covered with smoke. The magnitude of the disaster shocked the nation. Press reports of Australia’s “week in hell” and rescue workers described the scenes as “horrible... horrendous... heartbreaking.”

Then, on Friday evening, March 6, just about three weeks after the disastrous fires, three earthquakes in one day struck the region around Melbourne, Australia’s second largest city. The earthquakes, which in some areas sounded like an explosion and shook buildings, were the biggest to hit the Melbourne region in 36 years (*Herald Sun*, March 8, 2009). Residents who lived near the fire areas and experienced the earthquakes pondered the question “what now?”

As Australians search for the causes of the sudden firestorm catastrophe and as they attempt to under-

stand why they are being shaken by earthquakes, it is instructive to see what is mentioned and what is ignored. The Bible offers a startling perspective about what is happening in Australia. Scripture indicates that the catastrophic conditions created by high winds, soaring temperatures and a severe drought that combined to produce a “perfect fire storm” in southeastern Australia—and the sudden series of earthquakes—may not be just a coincidence—especially when other trends in Australian society are considered. Regrettably, our modern secular society has forgotten what previous genera-

tions once knew and, as a result, the real significance of important trends goes unrecognized. A century ago, 96 percent of Australians identified themselves as Christian. Today, only about 62 percent claim to be Christian, more than 20 percent profess no religion, and only 7.5 percent bother to attend weekly church services. The decline in Christian religious influence in Australia is a fact of life.

The Bible reveals that God has a plan He is going to bring to pass (Isaiah 46:8–10). Long ago, Moses warned the Israelites that if they would obey God’s laws they would be blessed, but if they chose to despise and disobey His instructions He would bring curses upon them (Deuteronomy 28:15–68). Those curses would include making the heavens like bronze, the earth like iron and changing the rain to powder and dust “until you are destroyed” (Deuteronomy 28:22–24). Jesus prophesied that “famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places” would be among the signs that would announce the approaching end of the age and His imminent return (Matthew 24:7). Down through the centuries, God sent prophets to warn His people that their disobedience would bring serious consequences. God warned through the prophet



# MES ALIVE

Jeremiah, “O house of Israel... I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you.... Because My people have forgotten Me.... they have caused themselves to stumble.... from the ancient paths” (Jeremiah 18:6–15). Jeremiah states further, “Why does the land perish and burn up like a wilderness.... Because they have forsaken My law... and have not obeyed My voice... but they have walked according to the dictates of their own heart” (Jeremiah 9:12–15). God told the prophet Ezekiel to warn “a rebellious nation... the children of Israel” that “I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations” and that “disaster will come upon disaster... then they shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 2:3; 7:5–8, 25–27).

## Forgotten Laws

One of the fundamental laws of sexual morality that God gave to His chosen people to set them apart from other nations was the absolute prohibition of homosexual relationships, which God said were an abomination in His sight (see Leviticus 18:22; Deuteronomy 23:17). However, today, these divine instructions are considered antiquated and irrelevant by people who think their ideas are more rational and enlightened—especially in Australia. In the last 25 to 30 years, the land “down under” that once claimed to be 96 percent Christian, has legalized homosexuality, promoted same-sex marriage and become the stage for the largest gay pride festival in the world today, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade. The most recent event attracted 300,000 tourists to southeastern Australia and generated millions of dollars for the local economy. Ignoring the Scriptures last year, nearly 100 ministers and clergy apologized to homosexuals for how they have been treated in society (*news.bbc.co.uk*, March 1, 2008). These actions by religious leaders validate the warning of the prophet Isaiah, “O My people! Those who lead



you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths” (Isaiah 3:12).

Sadly, the secular media fails to make any connection between the fact that the cities of Melbourne and Sydney are located in southeastern Australia—the site of the fires and earthquakes. However, these two cities also hold the largest homosexual communities in Australia. The media fails to mention the earthquakes took place on the evening before the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade that invites thousands of homosexuals and transvestites to celebrate their lifestyle in public—and take guided walking tours labeled the “Sodomite” and “Homosexual” Walks. The media fails to mention the fact that the horrendous firestorms and the worst drought in the nation’s history have occurred at the same time that the Australian government has recognized same-sex marriages and attempted to make Australia the most “gay-friendly” country in the world. As one reveler at the Gay Mardi Gras exclaimed, “This is my first year at the parade, and I am absolutely loving it” (*Charlotte Observer*, March 8, 2009). Long ago, Jeremiah prophesied about our time today, “Are they ashamed of their conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush” (Jeremiah 8:12).

Critics may scoff and claim intolerance and abuse, yet these biblical instructions and prophecies are facts of history. Bible prophecies clearly warn there will be serious consequences—especially for Israelite nations that were called to be lights to the world—when the laws of God are ignored or broken. Australians need to understand that the real reasons for the worst drought in the nation’s history, the horrendous firestorms and earthquakes are immoral actions that God said will bring disastrous consequences to nations that condone such behaviors. In the days ahead, we will see more prophesied disasters come alive—if Israelite nations continue their plunge toward Sodom and Gomorrah.

—Douglas S. Winnail

# The Value of Recess

When I was in elementary school, recess was one of my favorite parts of the school day. In good weather, teachers would take us outdoors for sunshine, fresh air and exercise—once in the morning and once in the afternoon. One game I especially enjoyed was kickball—a cross between dodge ball and baseball. We could not wait for those fun breaks from reciting math tables, correcting spelling errors on essays and memorizing names and dates for history class.

We live in an age of increasing overweight and obesity in America, Canada and other western nations. We are finally “discovering” that this problem begins at a very young age, with children spending so much sedentary time in class, sitting before computers or watching television, texting or listening to iPods. But at last some are once again realizing the value of recess.

A recent article by *New York Times* writer Tara Parker-Pope reported, “The best way to improve children’s performance in the classroom may be to take them out of it” (“The 3 R’s? A Fourth Is Crucial, Too: Recess,” February 23, 2009).

The article continues, “New research suggests that play and down time may be as important to a child’s academic experience as reading, science and math, and that regular recess, fitness or nature time can influence behavior, concentration and even grades”

An earlier Parker-Pope article reported, “Researchers from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine reviewed data on about 11,000 third graders, collected in 2002 as part of a large study, financed by the Education Department, to determine how an array of family, school, community and individual factors affected performance in school. The study, published last week in the journal *Pediatrics*, found that about one in three of the children received fewer than 15 minutes of daily recess or none at all. Compared with children who received regular recess, the children cooped up during the day were more

likely to be black, to come from low-income and less educated families and to live in large cities”

This study revealed, “Children who had at least 15 minutes of recess scored better than the others on teachers’ behavioral ratings. Dr. Romina M. Barros, a pediatrician and assistant professor at Albert Einstein, said the data were important because many new schools were being built without adequate outdoor space for students. ‘We need to understand that kids need a break,’ Dr. Barros said. ‘Our brains can concentrate and pay attention for 45 to 60 minutes, and in kids it’s even less. For them to be able to acquire all the academic skills we want them to learn, they need a break to go out and release the energy and play and be social’” (“Children: Recess Found to Improve Behavior,” *New York Times*, February 2, 2009).

Our technical gadgets are both a boon and an imposition. To benefit from them we need to balance their use with all other important life commitments. If you have children, I hope you will encourage and ensure that they will have adequate play time in a safe environment outdoors. Especially now in this national obesity crisis, our children need to

run off the excess calories they are consuming. Additionally, more and more studies reveal the need to eat more nutritious diets.

But what about you—the parent? To set an example to your children, you too need to follow the scriptural principles of health (see “Bible Principles of Health” on page 22 of this issue). Yes, you too need recess. We not only have a daily circadian rhythm, but a weekly biological rhythm too. Did you know that our Creator mandated a weekly spiritual “recess” for us? It is called the Sabbath. To learn more about this wonderful blessing from God, ask for a free copy of our booklet, *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath? Why not be refreshed by this weekly recess and interact with the Designer of the vigorous life?*

—Ken Frank



## Why Does God Heal? (Continued from page 18)

“perform great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men” (Revelation 13:13).

And yet, Christ told His disciples that they would be empowered to perform true miracles of God—including that of healing the sick (Mark 16:18). These miracles are in the context of preaching the Gospel and preparing the way for the return of Jesus Christ to earth. “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.... And these signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover’ (Mark 16:15–18).

How will you be able to tell the difference between “lying wonders” and the miracles of God’s faithful servants? God’s authentic miracles highlight the Work proclaiming the true Gospel. They validate the truth of the Bible. God’s miracles point our attention to His message, proclaimed by His true servants. Satan’s “miracles” try to divert our attention from God’s truth. Do not let yourself be fooled by “miracles” that seek to deny the plain truth Jesus Christ taught, as recorded in your Bible!

### To Test His Children

Can healing be a test? If you think about it, great blessings can sometimes become unexpected tests. In the case of divine healing, our trial and test may not end when we are healed. After God makes us well, we should ask ourselves: has our life changed? If we made promises to God when we

were suffering, have we kept those promises and brought lasting change to our life? Or, once God has delivered us from our pain, have we gone right back to our old actions and attitudes?

Perhaps you have seen it yourself—someone is dramatically healed of serious illness, then after a few months or years of health drifts away from God’s way of life, or even from believing in God at all. What is the lesson? Physical healing does not guarantee spiritual growth. And yet, spiritual growth and depth is ultimately God’s purpose in the trials and tests we experience.

When Jesus passed through Samaria and Galilee, He entered a village where ten lepers lived. As He came near, they cried out for mercy. They asked for deliverance from their dread disease. In response, Jesus answered, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.’ And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God” (Luke 17:14–15).

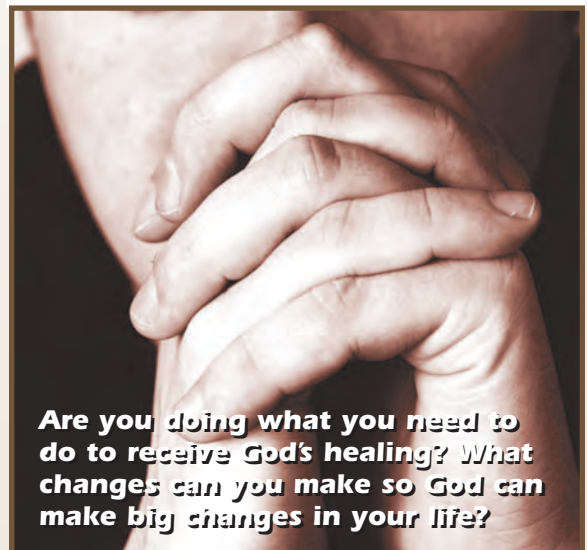
Imagine! After being afflicted with this terrible and incurable disease, all ten were suddenly and miraculously set free. Their life suddenly and dramatically changed for the better! But only *one* of the ten lepers even bothered to turn around and *thank God* for his healing. What about us? How quickly do we forget our anguish and tur-

moil—and the promises we have made to God—once we are delivered from a trial? And yet how important it is to show gratitude and honor to God, and renewed commitment and obedience, when He grants us blessings—including divine healing.

So, why does God heal? To reveal Himself, to highlight His Work, and to test His people. He heals because His sons and daughters ask Him in faith and obedience, and He heals out of His mercy and unlimited lovingkindness.

Are you suffering? Do you need divine healing? If you do, be sure not to blame God. Instead, look to Him with gratitude for His wisdom and His plan, knowing that He can and does bring about His will in your life, as you look to Him with faith and obedience. ■

## Does God Heal Today?



**Are you doing what you need to do to receive God's healing? What changes can you make so God can make big changes in your life?**

**Write for our FREE booklet, *Does God Heal Today?* or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).**

## Why Do People “Drop Out” of Church? (Continued from page 2)

That is why genuine Christians who *study* and *believe* the Bible are willing to heed such scriptures as Revelation 14:12, “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who **keep the commandments of God** and the faith of Jesus.” And: “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but **keeping the commandments of God is what matters**” (1 Corinthians 7:19).

No matter what the “mainstream” churches are teaching, there are literally *scores* of very *plain, clear* scriptures telling us to keep God’s Ten Commandments as a *way of life*. Most ministers know that when the young man came to Jesus Christ asking the way to eternal life, Jesus answered, “But if you want to enter into life, **keep the commandments**” and then Jesus began to name some of the Ten Commandments (Matthew 19:16–19).

“How,” you may ask, “can people possibly get around this clear instruction from Christ regarding true Christianity?” The confused ministers of “mainstream” Christianity usually evade the issue by saying that Jesus’ teaching was “under the old covenant.” Yet at the very **end** of the Apostolic Age we find that the Apostle John was still instructing true Christians, “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, **because we keep His commandments** and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:22).

Often, the churches of this world simply talk about various forms of “love.” Sometimes love for fellow human beings in general, sometimes love for our neighbors and friends, and sometimes love for sinners—repentant or otherwise. But what is the *biblical definition* of Christian “love?” God inspired the Apostle John to give the answer: “For this is the love of God, **that we keep His commandments**. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3).

Could **anything** be more clear? Yet we behold the spectacle of supposedly “Christian” ministers teaching repeatedly that you need not **literally** keep the commandments, that Christ’s Kingdom will **not** be set up as a literal Kingdom here on this earth and that the *scores* of specific prophecies about *our time*—the “time of the end”—are simply not important enough for them to preach about!

Therefore, we find that “mainstream” churches go along with their “love” and “sweet Jesus” messages—while

denying the true Jesus Christ of the Bible who will soon appear as King of kings and Lord of lords to **rule** this earth and teach all mankind a *way of life based on God’s Ten Commandments!* Since these confused ministers cut off their members from understanding prophecy and the real **meaning** of world events—these ministers are actually cutting *millions* of people off from understanding the **great purpose** being worked out here below by the God of heaven who is guiding the rise and fall of nations and preparing to send Jesus Christ back to this earth as King of kings! And right now Almighty God is preparing His “little flock” (Luke 12:32) to **rule** with Christ and help straighten out the terrible confusion, suffering, starvation, war, anguish and *spiritual emptiness* of the people here on planet earth.

Somewhere on this earth, there is a genuine “Church of God”—so named *twelve times* in your New Testament (see Galatians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 10:32; 11:16; 15:9; 1 Timothy 3:15). This small but *very dedicated* group of people will be those who “**keep the commandments of God** and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17). They will *also* be those involved in zealously “doing the Work” of preparing for Christ’s Kingdom, going through the “doors” of radio, television and the Internet—plus publishing—to reach all the world with the message of the coming Kingdom of God. They will be those who are genuinely fulfilling Matthew 24:14: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Perhaps your mind is being opened to realize that you are, somehow, being brought into contact with *that Church* right now as you read this. *May God help you to understand!* May God help you to **act**. If you would like further information specifically along these lines, please call us or write us today, or go to our [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org) Web site, and request your free copy of our vital booklet, *Restoring Apostolic Christianity*. May God help you to *study* this booklet, **prove** its statements from the Bible and from history, and *take action* so that you may have a **genuine** relationship with the Creator of heaven and earth, and begin to fulfill the **purpose** for which you were created.



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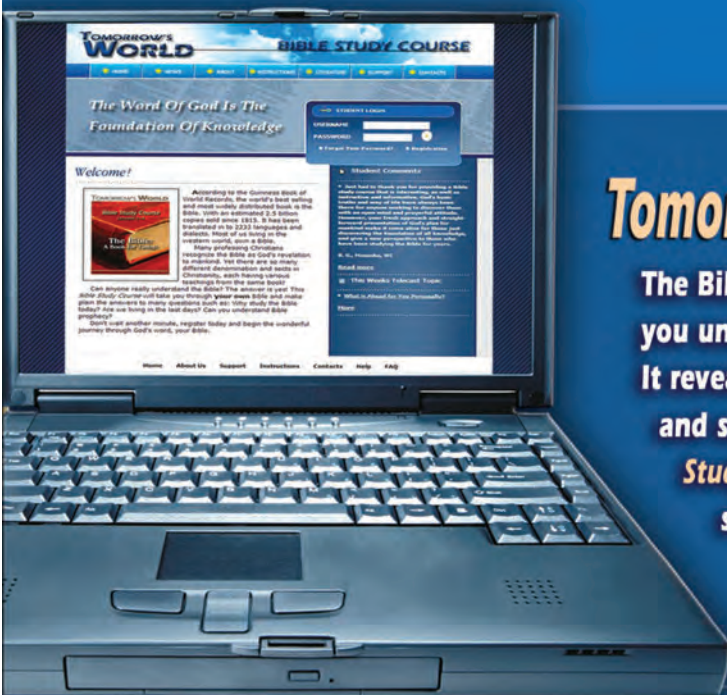
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