

November-December 2002

Tomorrow's World

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



death penalty

The Wages Of SIN?

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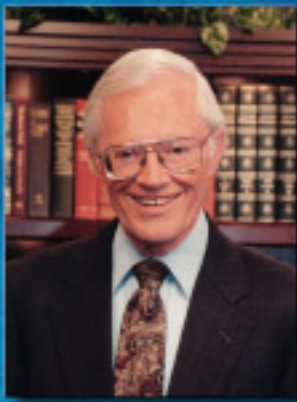
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Personal

By Roderick C. Meredith, Editor in Chief

The Church of Your Choice?

All across the Bible Belt, you see signs or bumper stickers proclaiming “Jesus Saves,” or “Go to the Church of Your Choice.” The people displaying these signs are, no doubt, well meaning.

But perhaps we should pause to ask, “Which Jesus?” and also, “What about attending the church of *God’s* choice—the church where the full *Truth* of the Bible is taught and practiced?”

Although it is not “politically correct” today to say that there is definitive truth—and that one religion might be better than another—that is exactly what the Bible *does* say! So it comes down to this: are we going to be like little children “playing church,” or are we going to act like mature adults who are willing to *seek* the true God and find out where *He is now working*?

Insight magazine (May 27, 2002) reported: “Churches are getting a bad rap these days. Some pollsters say at best religion is losing its grip on American society; at worst, growing numbers of Americans are finding the institution irrelevant. Nearly 100 million Americans live without a connection to a church, synagogue or temple, says pollster George Barna, president of the Barna Research Group in Ventura, CA. Most of them are unconcerned about this state of affairs. ‘More than average, these are people who are aggressive, high-energy and driven,’ he says. ‘They have made something of themselves, by the world’s standards, and they do not necessarily believe that God, Jesus, religion, the Bible, faith or Christianity will help them overcome the struggles they face.’”

Frankly, one of the major struggles we will all be facing in the next decade or so is *staying alive*! Yes! For as the awesome events directly predicted in your Bible begin to unfold, you and I had better be sure that we are in the church that truly *understands* Bible prophecy, and that knows the “way of escape” Jesus tells us about in God’s Word. Remember, Jesus Himself told His follow-

ers in an end-time prophecy: “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), ‘then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains’.... And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:15–21).

Does *your* church understand and teach about this vital prophecy and the *way to escape* the coming Great Tribulation? Does *your* minister even preach about end-time prophecy?

Why not?

Approximately one-fourth of the entire Bible is devoted to prophecy. The Bible explains: “But Jesus answered him, saying, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God”’” (Luke 4:4). The only *written* “word of God” at that time was what we now call the Old Testament. And Jesus Christ constantly referred to the writings of the Old Testament as “scripture.” So the inspired prophecies in *both* the Old and New Testaments are *vital* for us to study and understand. How do so many churches think their members can *understand* and *act* on God’s prophetic warnings if they *never* even preach or explain these prophecies to their people?

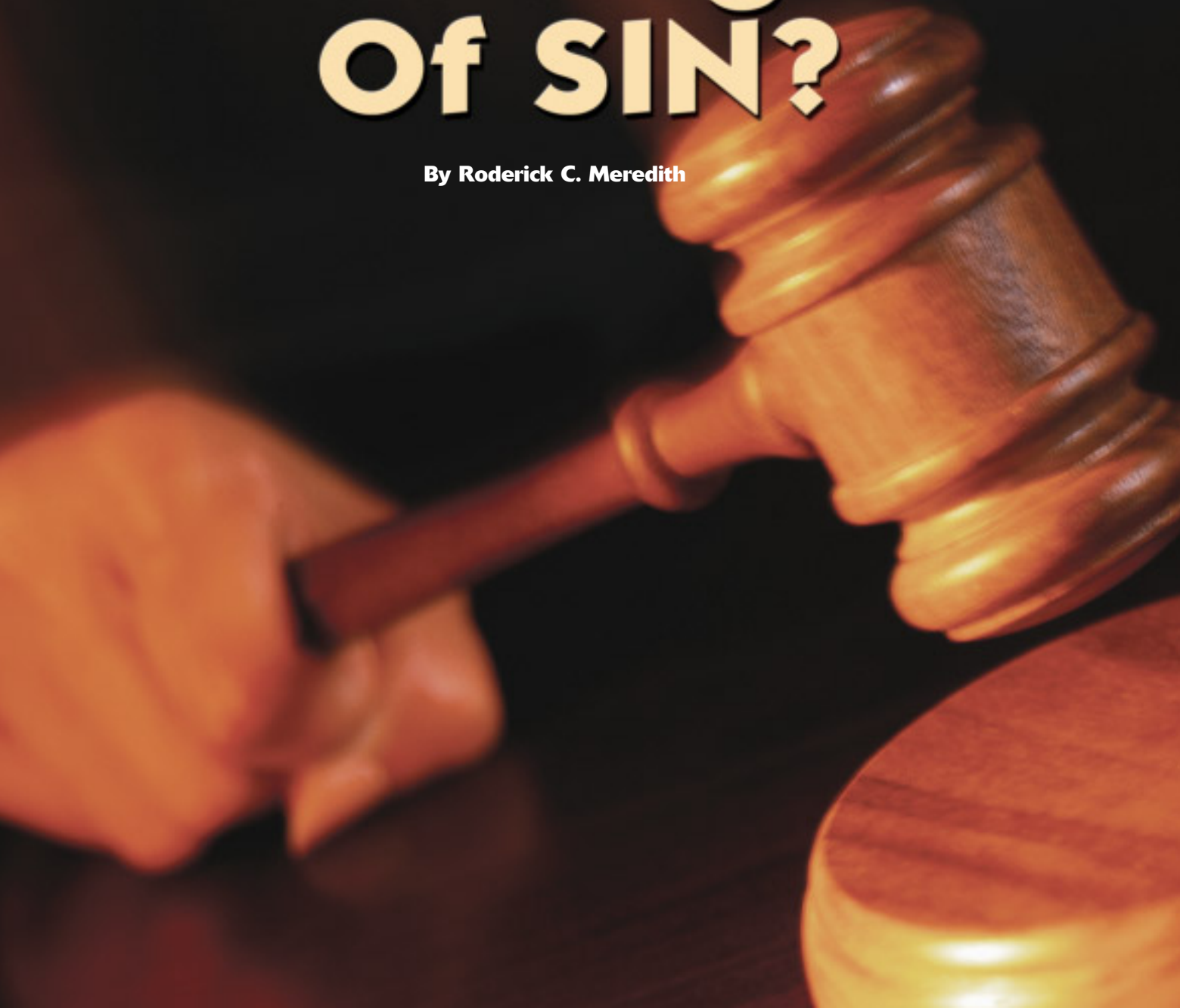
Think!

The Word of God tells us: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever” (Psalm 111:10). Yet most Protestant churches tell their members that the Ten Commandments do **not** have to be literally obeyed today. Therefore, these same churches do not have a “good understand-

Continued on page 30

The Wages Of SIN?

By Roderick C. Meredith



America is enduring enormous suffering because of false religion!

Last summer, when the United States Ninth Circuit Court issued its decision against using “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance, this was just one small symbol of America’s rejection of the true God of creation. For even many who profess to be religious are constantly *defying* the God of the Bible!

America is increasingly becoming an armed camp because of the fear of *terrorist attacks*. Our crime rate is going back up. *Drug use*—especially among young people—is taking a terrible toll. Cocaine use is rising rapidly. The AIDS epidemic is once again rising among homosexuals. Enormous *wildfires* are destroying vast areas of our nation. Priests, professing to be servants of God, are increasingly found to have been engaging in horrifying and perverted acts with young people. Meanwhile—in the “land of the free”—*millions* of unborn babies are being vacuumed out of their mothers’ wombs in what has been called “the silent holocaust.” Drought, followed by water rationing, is becoming more and more widespread, yet massive *flooding* is occurring in other parts of the nation. And now, some *one billion* Muslims, and hundreds of millions of Europeans, are becoming disillusioned and resentful of America’s dominance and power over world affairs.

Why is all this happening?

It is happening because—as a nation—we have *absolutely rejected* the God of the Bible. The *real* God of the Bible, with whom most people are not familiar, does indeed intervene in world affairs

to fulfill His purpose. *He* is the One who has given us the awesome blessings and power that America and her allies have shared for well over a century. *He* is the One who helped us win World Wars I and II—and indeed *all* our major wars for *nearly 200 years!*

The God of the Bible told our forefathers: “If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you” (Leviticus 26:3–7). For several generations, God has certainly *fulfilled* His promise to bestow blessings upon the American and British-descended peoples. But, today, the “handwriting is on the wall.” The tide of world events is beginning to change—and *change dramatically!*

A few verses later in the above prophecy, the Creator said: “But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror

over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you” (vv. 14–17). This is certainly a *dual* prophecy that had an original fulfillment on ancient Israel. But it *will* have a modern fulfillment on our people in *this present generation*. Many of you will live to see this happen! And nearly all of us will see, over the next several years, the beginnings of this unfolding tragedy.

We will witness the beginning of God’s intervention to **chasten** the American and British-descended peoples for our *own good*. For God said: “I will **break** the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze” (Leviticus 26:19). If you do not yet know about our national identity in biblical prophecy, be sure to contact us at one of the addresses listed on page 2 of this magazine, and request a free copy of our eye-opening booklet entitled *What’s Ahead For America and Britain?*

God Is Consistent

In His inspired Word, the Eternal tells us: “For I am the LORD, I do **not change**; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob” (Malachi 3:6). In His overall approach, God is *consistent* in His dealings with men and with nations. We are told in the New Testament book of Hebrews:

“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him: *for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives*” (Hebrews 12:5–6).

If God loves us, **why** would He powerfully “chastise” the American and British-descended peoples?

Why?

The real *answer* is that we are a nation of **hypocrites!** While we in America put “In God We Trust” on our coins, we are a people in constant rebellion against the laws and ways of that same God. Do millions of Americans attend church every Sunday? Yes! But, shocking as it may seem, *that is part of the problem!*

“How so?” you may ask.

It is part of the problem because the vast majority of churchgoers are **never** taught about the very *way of life* that would spare us from the severe chastisement soon to befall our peoples. As we saw above, God said that He would punish His people: “If you do not *obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments...*” (Leviticus 26:14).

And “here’s the rub”—the vast majority of professing Christians are told that they do not have to “literally” keep the Ten Commandments! Yes, as little children they may be taught in Sunday School to memorize the “short form” of the Ten Commandments, but their ministers consistently refuse to teach the Ten Commandments as a *way of life*—as Jesus Christ Himself did. Those of you who can work up the courage to ask *your minister*: “Do Christians really need to

keep the Ten Commandments as a way of life?”—may be *surprised* at the answer. For the vast majority of ministers will answer—as they were taught in their seminaries—that the Ten Commandments “may” be good guidelines, but you **do not** really need to keep them!

Rather, these professing Christian ministers mostly avoid talking about the Ten Commandments at all. Some will teach that the Ten Commandments are the “Law of Moses”—not for us today—or that the Ten Commandments were somehow “nailed to the cross of Christ,” or “done away” by the Apostle Paul. These ministers have all kinds of miserable excuses as to why the Ten Commandments need not be *literally kept* today—though Jesus Christ taught His followers to keep them (see Matthew 5:17–19; Matthew 19:16–19; Luke 16:16–18). Jesus’ own brother, the inspired Apostle James, wrote: “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty” (James 2:10–12). Certainly, the “law” that describes adultery and murder as **sin** is the Ten Commandments. James said that you and I will be “judged” by *that law!* What could be more clear than that?

Jesus’ beloved Apostle John wrote: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation

14:12). Yet a diabolically clever Satan the Devil has managed to twist the meaning of certain passages in the Bible in a way to *contradict* the dozens of plain, clear scriptures telling God’s people to *obey* the Ten Commandments as a *way of life!*

In his final letter at the very end of his ministry, the Apostle Peter warned us about unstable men who “*twist to their own destruction*” the writings of the Apostle Paul. He instructed those who knew the Truth that had been taught by Jesus Christ: “Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of **lawless men** and fall from your secure position” (2 Peter 3:17, *NIV*). Obviously, these “lawless men” were not merely teaching against the *traffic laws*. Peter was *inspired by God* to warn us against those false teachers—often *themselves deceived* by Satan—who would “twist” Paul’s writings so as to supposedly “do away” with the Ten Commandments!

In Jesus’ name—as His servant—I admonish all of you ministers and priests who are reading this to **wake up!** You, too, can certainly be forgiven for your past ignorance. You, too, were probably “blinded” by the massive deception of Satan the Devil “who deceives the **whole world**” (Revelation 12:9).

The Wages of SIN Is Death

God tells us in Romans 6:23: “*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

Sin automatically brings sorrow, suffering and, eventually, the

second death in the Lake of Fire, unless it is bitterly repented of (Revelation 21:8). As we read in 1 John 3:4: “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (KJV). For God’s law—the Ten Commandments—is like the law of gravity. God’s spiritual law “works” whether you believe in it or not! The *profound sorrow* in the voices and faces of those abused in their youth by Roman Catholic priests should tell us something. Such perverted, sinful acts bring about years or even decades of agony and suffering.

How can those bishops and cardinals who “covered up” the foul deeds of the child-molesting perverted priests go to sleep at night? They should consider the inspired warning of the Apostle Paul: “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and *doctrines of demons... forbidding to marry*, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth” (1 Timothy 4:1, 3).

The hundreds—perhaps even thousands—of top business executives, lawyers and accountants who as callous sinners thought they could “get away” with *billions* of dollars through the alleged deceptions practiced by Enron, Arthur Andersen and dozens of other major corporations, will be called to account before long! They will not only answer to the courts of this nation, they will eventually be brought before the judgment of Almighty God!

For many of them have deliberately *stolen* the money and even the livelihood of their employees

and investors in their companies. The Eternal God strongly condemns those who enrich themselves by taking advantage of others: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation” (Matthew 23:14).

Sin *automatically* brings suffering. Some may even lose their homes, and be unable to feed their families. Many will be



Enron finance executive Michael Kopper pled guilty in August to charges of money laundering and fraud. How many others will follow?

unable to provide for their families’ future. Even those who are “better off” may find their families having to “do without” for years to come. Their sons and daughters may not be able to go to the schools that they had planned to attend because “Daddy lost his job.” Their little children may not be able to go to the summer camp that was planned, or get the new backyard swing set that had been promised. Families may have to do without their annual vacation trip because money is tight.

Employees who lose their jobs because of the actions of corrupt executives may never trust their leaders again. For many families, their *entire lives* will be changed because of the *corruption*

at the very top of American business. The hurt and disillusionment will last a lifetime. How can corrupt executives sleep at night, knowing the profound *suffering* their deceit and their actions have caused? God’s Word tells us: “Good understanding giveth favour: but the *way of transgressors is hard*” (Proverbs 13:15, KJV).

Disobedience Is the CAUSE of Human Suffering

In this article, we cannot even begin to recount the innumerable areas of sin and suffering in our professing “Christian” world. For we read almost daily of the unremitting sorrow caused by those who sell and those who use illegal drugs. And we read of those whose minds and bodies are weakened and debilitated because they drink too much alcohol, smoke cigarettes or allow their mind and spirit to be perverted by the rotten purveyors of pornography. Pornographers no doubt contribute greatly to heinous sexual crimes, and to causing a whole generation of young men to grow up with a cheap and disgusting view of womanhood!

Many executives of the major tobacco companies are considered “pillars” in their local communities; they sit on the boards of their local churches and surround themselves with the symbols of success and respectability. Yet many of these same men have *known for decades* that their product often contributes *directly* to the excruciating suffering and the premature *deaths* of uncounted millions of human beings!

Do we still wonder *why* the great God of creation is beginning

to “chasten” the American and British-descended peoples?

Although we have printed and produced more Bibles than any people in history, we continually *break* and *smash* the laws of God! Our religious, political and business leaders—along with our national sports and entertainment “idols”—have all con-

tribute to a culture of *deception* and *hypocrisy*. We have claimed to be a “Christian” nation. But we have soundly *rejected* the clear teachings Jesus Christ gave in the “Sermon on the Mount.”

There is a cause for every effect. The breaking of God’s great spiritual law is the basic cause of all human suffering. Once we have that one fact straight, and live by it, the amount of human suffering will become minuscule!

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Jesus said: “Why do you call me Lord, Lord and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Near the end of His famous “Sermon on the Mount,” (Matthew 5–7) wherein He explains clearly that Christians must obey the *letter* and the *spirit* of the Ten Commandments, Jesus stated: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:21–23).

There is a **cause** for every effect. The breaking of God’s great spiritual **law** is the basic

cause of all human suffering. Once we have that one fact straight, and live by it, the amount of human suffering will become minuscule!

For after the Great Tribulation, which Jesus Christ predicted—after mankind has been truly **humbled** and made “willing to listen”—the whole


world will be taught to obey the Ten Commandments as a *way of life*. Notice Isaiah’s inspired prophecy: “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:2–4).

The prophet Jeremiah was inspired by God to tell us: “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will

be their God, and they shall be My people” (Jeremiah 31:33).

Through *real* conversion, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, God will actually put His spiritual law—the Ten Commandments—into the hearts and minds of all His people. Then, in the coming millennial rule of Jesus Christ, there will be a depth of *peace* and *joy* that this world has never experienced.

As He said, God will “*forgive their iniquity*” (v. 34). The “*wages of sin*” will be removed. God tells His people what they will experience after they return from the Great Tribulation and learn to obey His law and to truly follow His way: “Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; *everlasting joy shall be theirs*” (Isaiah 61:7).

May the God of the Bible—the Creator who gives life and breath to us all—help you to seek and to find the *true* religion. And may He give you the faith and the courage to act on that Truth. 

To Learn More...



True Christianity is a whole way of life, which can bring peace and happiness to

Christians now and forever.

Please request our **FREE** booklet *Restoring Apostolic Christianity* or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

Questions & Answers

Q In Matthew 12:31–32, Jesus spoke of an unpardonable sin. What is this sin, and why can it not be forgiven?

A The thought of being cut off from God forever is an awful horror. Yet many sincere Christians have misunderstood this matter and are needlessly worried.

In Matthew 12, a demon-possessed man was brought to Jesus for healing. After the demon was cast out, this man regained his eyesight and ability to speak. A crowd witnessed this amazing miracle and exclaimed: “Could this be the Son of David?” (Matthew 12:22–23). They thought Jesus might be the prophesied Messiah, for such power “was never seen like this in Israel!” (9:32–33).

The Pharisees, seething with envy, tried to discredit Christ by saying that He performed this miracle “by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons” (12:24). Jesus responded with a somber warning: “Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will *not* be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come” (vv. 31–32). Jesus held these unconverted Pharisees responsible for their attitudes.

The word “blaspheme” comes from the Greek *blasphemeo*—“to rail against, to speak contemptuously of God or of sacred things” (*Vine’s Expository Dictionary*, p. 69). Jesus called it blasphemy to “speak against” the Son of Man and the Holy Spirit. Why was blasphemy forgivable against Jesus Christ, but *unforgivable* against the Holy Spirit?

Jesus came in the flesh as a common Jew of his day—a humble carpenter’s son. The average person could easily misunderstand who He was. Physically, He did not appear special or unique (Isaiah 53:2). Yet no one—not even the resentful Pharisees—could mistake the power of the Holy

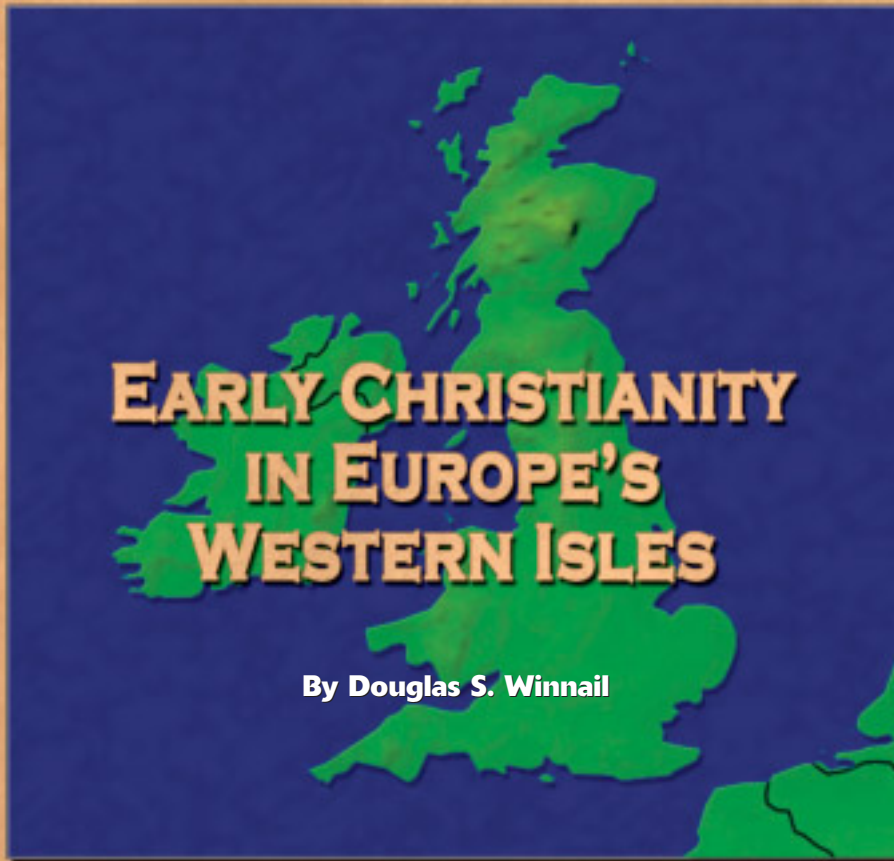
Spirit. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, knew that Jesus was a teacher from God. He knew God’s power was with Christ (John 3:1–2)! The multitudes, too, loudly acknowledged this truth that the Pharisees tried to deny.

In spite of *knowing better*, the Pharisees attributed Christ’s miracles to the evil work of Beelzebub, another name for Satan the Devil (Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). The Pharisees’ actions insulted the very power of God, calling it “an unclean spirit” (Mark 3:28–30).

The Apostle Paul also warns Christians about dangers leading to the unpardonable sin: “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the *heavenly gift*, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have *tasted the good word of God* and the *powers of the age to come*, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:4–6).

The unpardonable sin involves “falling away from the truth” after experiencing the “good word of God” and God’s power! Jesus explained that it took a greater power to “enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods” (Matthew 12:29). That power was none other than God’s Holy Spirit! The Pharisees had observed firsthand many wonderful miracles performed by the power of God’s Spirit, so they were in danger of willfully rejecting not only Jesus Christ, but also the very power of God that transforms people into the Sons of God (Romans 8:15). They were about to “sin willfully” (Hebrews 10:26), irreparably searing their consciences. The Pharisees needed to change the way they were thinking before it was too late!

True Christians must carefully watch what they allow into their minds. They desire to be led by God’s Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14) in order to bring “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).



records—together with key facts and perspectives revealed in the Bible—hold *vital lessons* for us today. The true history of Europe’s western isles also sheds light on a deadly serious contest that is moving toward a climax, involving not only human beings but powerful spiritual forces. When you discover what happened, you can begin to understand where current events are leading—events that are destined to affect the entire world in the not-too-distant future. If we ignore the records and lessons of the past, which are readily available to us, our modern generations will reap *serious* consequences!

How did Christianity first come to Europe’s western isles? What happened to the true Gospel? Why does this history matter today?

Assertions and Assumptions

Why should anyone care how Christianity came to England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales—especially if they do not even live there?

One of the first discoveries we make, when beginning to explore the history of early Christianity in Europe’s western isles, is the *dramatic difference* between the assertions and assumptions of modern scholars and the clear record of history, as preserved both in the Bible and in secular sources. Richard Fletcher, a

Church history is probably the *last* subject many people would choose to look into. Many think of history as a dull recounting of dates, dead people and past events irrelevant to our times. They wonder: “What relevance could it possibly have to our lives today?” This is a dangerous attitude.

It is not surprising that few understand the significance of the incredible religious drama that has played out over centuries in Europe’s western isles, because critical parts of the story have been *lost, forgotten or deliberately obscured!* Most people today have only heard a deliberately slanted version of this epic struggle, because modern scholars discount or ignore surprising pieces of evidence that paint a *very different* picture of the first arrival of Christianity in the West.

Yet the coming of *true* Christianity to Europe’s western isles—and what happened to the *true* gospel of Jesus Christ—is a *remarkable* story. It can be verified in recorded histories accessible in many libraries and on the Internet. Those

historian at the University of York, states that “the impression given by Luke [in the book of Acts] of an orderly and controlled diffusion... is misleading... it is reasonably clear that Christianity spread east and west both quickly and *anarchically, without overt strategy or leadership*” (*The Conversion of Europe*, p. 14). Catholic theologians John Walsh and Thomas Bradley write: “Christianity entered Ireland, *presumably* in the fourth and fifth centuries, by a slow and *unplanned* infiltration” (*The Story of the Irish Church*, p. 1). Such statements are misleading, and ignore obvious facts of Scripture and history.

The Bible reveals that God does not operate in a capricious and haphazard manner. The Apostle Paul states: “God is *not* the author of confusion [disorder] but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints” (1 Corinthians 14:33). To spread the Gospel, Jesus called and trained 12 disciples (Luke 6:12–16). They were to go *first* to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” and *later* to the Gentiles (Matthew 10:5–6, 18). Paul was sent to the Gentiles and the children of Israel, while Peter was sent primarily to the Jews—of Judea and also of the Dispersion (Acts 9:15; Galatians 2:7–8). When Philip preached in Samaria, he *coordinated* his activities with the headquarters church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:5–14). The Apostle Paul followed this same pattern (Galatians 1:18–19; 2:1–2). The book of Acts shows that *God* guided the spread of the gospel by supernatural means (Acts 10; 13:1–2; 16:6–10), and that *He* provided the strategy and leadership that directed the spread of early Christianity.

Later the Apostle Paul sent preachers and teachers to specific areas: Tychicus to Ephesus, Crescens to Galatia [the Gauls of central Asia Minor] and Titus to Dalmatia and Crete (Ephesians 6:21–22; 2 Timothy 4:10; Titus 1:5). This harmonizes with what later histories record about the organized movements of the Apostles. Eusebius, whose writings represent the only surviving account of the crucial first three centuries of the early Church, states: “Thomas... was *chosen* for Parthia, Andrew for Scythia, John for Asia” (*Ecclesiastical History*, Bk. 3, chap. 1). Cressy, an Oxford graduate and Benedictine monk in the 17th century, wrote that the Apostles divided *by lot* regions of the world for preaching the gospel (*Church History of Brittany*, vol. 4, Bk. 1, chap. 6). While it is possible to conclude from preserved fragments of history that Christianity spread in a chaotic fashion, such a conclusion conflicts with what the Bible and history actually record.

Evidence Ignored

Modern scholars’ statements about the spread of early Christianity typically reflect a similar mindset based on similar assumptions. Historian Richard Fletcher writes: “The spread of Christianity to Alexandria and beyond along the coast of North Africa to Carthage has left no narrative trace of any kind” (Fletcher, p. 14). Anglican historian Powel Dawley comments: “Precisely how or when the first Christian community in Britain received its start is impossible to tell... the spread of the Gospel to this northwestern limit of the Roman Empire has been lost beyond recovery” (*Chapters in Church History*, p. 93). Irish writer Liam de Paor states: “There is no way of knowing how long there had been Christians... in Ireland before the [Roman] church began its great organizational drive in the fifth century” (*Milestones in Irish History*, pp. 23, 30).

Regrettably, these statements convey an erroneous impression of what can be known about the movements of the Apostles, and about the arrival of *true* Christianity in Europe’s western isles. Clement, the fourth bishop of the church in Rome, wrote in the late first century that the Apostle Paul, “after preaching in the east and west... taught righteousness to the whole world, and came to the *extreme limit of the west*” (*Epistle to the Corinthians*, chap. 5, in *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 9, p. 231). Some think the phrase “the extreme limit of the west” refers to Rome, others believe it refers to Spain or Britain. Yet any map of the Roman Empire in the first century shows that the Britannic Isles—not Rome or Spain—represent the extremity of the west. Gildas, a British monk in the 6th century, stated that “the island of Britain lies virtually at the *end of the world*, towards the west and north-west” (*The Ruin of Britain*, Bk. 3, chap. 1, Winterbottom, ed., p. 16).

Tertullian, bishop of Carthage in the second century, states: “The *regions of Britain which have never been penetrated by the Romans* [southwest England, Wales and Scotland] have received the religion of Christ” (*Def. Fidei*, p. 179). Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea in the early 300s, records that “the apostles passed beyond the ocean to the Isles called the British Isles” (*Demonstratio Evangelica*, Bk. 3, chap. 5). Eusebius had access to a substantial library at Caesarea, which contained sources that have since been lost. Theodoret, bishop of Cyprus in Syria (circa 430AD) states that “Paul, liberated from his first captivity at Rome, preached the Gospel to the

Britons and others in the West... and the Cymry [the Welsh]” (*D. Civ. Gracae Off.*, Bk. 9). Dorotheous, bishop of Tyre, stated (in about 300AD) that “Aristobulus, whom Paul saluted [Romans 16:10] was bishop of Britain” and that Simon Zelotes also came to Britain (*Synopsis de Apostol.*, Synops. 9, 23). Gildas says that the coming of Christianity to Britain “happened first, as we know, in the last years of the emperor Tiberius [14–37AD]” (*The Ruin of Britain*, p. 18). This means that Christianity arrived in Britain no later than 37AD—within five years after Christ’s crucifixion. Gildas also refers to the Britons as God’s “latter-day Israel” (*ibid.*, p. 28).

Some of the most respected authorities in previous centuries have accepted these early reports as trustworthy accounts of history. James Ussher, Archbishop of Ireland and one of the greatest scholars of the 17th century, presents considerable evidence that James, Simon Zelotes, Simon Peter, the Apostle Paul and others brought Apostolic Christianity to Europe’s western isles in the first century (*The Whole Works of James Ussher*, vol. 5, chap. 1, Erlington). Robert Parsons, an English Jesuit and Oxford scholar, asserted in his 17th century work *The Three Conversions of England* that the Apostles first brought Christianity to the island, and that “the Christian religion began in Britain within fifty years of Christ’s Ascension” (p. 14). Modern scholars’ claims that the spread of Christianity to Europe’s western isles “left no narrative trace” and that it has been “lost beyond recovery” are *simply not true!* Such statements ignore recorded evidence that is readily available to anyone who cares to check the sources.

Facts vs. Fables

But what happened to the *true* Gospel that the Apostles brought to Europe’s western isles in the first century? How accurate are the widely accepted traditions that Patrick converted the Irish in the 400s and that Augustine brought Christianity to England in the 600s? When you dig beneath the surface of modern assumptions, you find scholars making very interesting admissions. Irish Catholic historians relate that “traditionally... Saint Patrick has been

credited with converting the entire Irish race from paganism in the very short period between 432 and 461... however, we have to admit that there were certainly Christians in Ireland before Patrick arrived... and that the saint worked as an evangelist *only in part* of the island [the north]” (Walsh and Bradley, p. 1). Irish writer Liam de Paor states that “Ireland was *not* converted by one man [Patrick]... it may be that Christianity reached the west country [of Britain] and the southern Irish sea virtually inde-



Whitby, an ancient fishing port at the mouth of the River Esk, hosted the English synod that in 664AD renounced Apostolic Christianity in favor of Roman doctrine.

pendent of the Roman system, at a very early date... centuries before Patrick” (Paor, pp. 21, 23). There are traditions that the Apostle James preached the gospel in Ireland before returning to Jerusalem, where he was martyred (see MacManus, *The Story of the Irish Race*, p. 103). The widely accepted notion that Patrick first brought Christianity to Ireland is a *fable*—not a fact. Numerous historical sources

state that the Apostles brought true Christianity to Ireland four centuries before Patrick!

The tradition that Augustine converted England to the true faith in the 600s looks quite different when the facts of history are known. Bede, an Anglo-Saxon monk living in northeast England in the 700s, wrote what has been called the primary sourcebook for this period: *The Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation*. Bede was a highly respected scholar, but he has also been called a “medieval spin doctor” because he tended to gloss over subjects that did not fit the story he was telling. As a Saxon, he glorifies the Saxons and puts down the Britons. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of Roman Catholicism. He says nothing of the Apostles coming to Britain and Ireland, only briefly mentions other Christians preceding Augustine in early Britain, and instead focuses on Augustine as if he were the “bringer of the true faith” to the English nation.

However, when you read Bede’s account carefully, it becomes obvious that British bishops *already functioning* on the island would have nothing to do with Augustine or the religion that he represented. They would not accept the Roman Catholic observance of Easter, or method of baptism (infant baptism had become universal by that time), or the authority that

Rome gave Augustine to be its Archbishop of England. Augustine told the British bishops: “You act in many particulars contrary to our custom, or rather the custom of the universal church” (Bede, Bk. 2, chap. 2). Bede comments about the “errors of the Britons” and says that the “Scots in no way differ from the Britons in their behavior” (*ibid.*, chap. 4). Describing why the Scottish bishops, at a confrontation at Witby in 664AD, refused to adopt the Roman Easter, Bede reports that they followed an ancient practice—“the same which St. John the Evangelist, the disciple of our Lord, with all the churches over which he presided, is recorded to have observed” (*ibid.*, chap. 25).

Bede’s account reveals that the Scottish bishops were actually observing the biblical Passover (at the beginning of Nisan 14, shortly after the sunset ending Nisan 13) and Days of Unleavened Bread (see Leviticus 23:4–8). The Scots’ appeal to scriptural practice and Apostolic tradition was countered with a reference to then-current customs of the Roman Church, and ridicule that “the Picts and the Britons, who foolishly, in these two remote islands of the world... oppose all the rest of the universe” (*ibid.*, Bk. 2, chap. 25). Yet this same battle had raged several centuries earlier in Asia Minor where the followers of John (called Quartodecimians) were excommunicated by a bishop in Rome for observing the Passover on Nisan 14 instead of the Roman Easter. Following the confrontation at Whitby, the remnants of Apostolic Christianity retreated to Scotland, Wales and south-west England as the Saxons and eventually more Britons embraced Roman Catholicism. In Europe’s western isles, the teachings of Apostolic Christianity were pushed aside by a *different gospel* emanating from Rome.

How Truth Was Lost

But why has the truth about the *first* arrival of Christianity in Europe’s western isles—and the fate of the *true* Gospel there—been obscured and forgotten? Why are so many clear historical records brushed aside? There are a number of reasons. The Bible reveals that true Christianity is in a struggle with evil spiritual forces: Satan, his demons and whomever they can influence (Ephesians 6:10–12). Secular historians and liberal theologians do not take this spiritual dimension seriously, yet it explains much of what has happened to the true Gospel. Satan, as the adversary of God (Isaiah 14:12–15), has

sought to disrupt and derail the plan of God from the very beginning. Satan was behind the efforts to kill Jesus and end His ministry (Matthew 2:1–18; Matthew 26:1–5; John 8:37–44; John 13:2). Satan also attempts to subvert true Christianity by motivating professing Christians to promote heretical and subtly misleading ideas (see Acts 20:29–30; 2 Peter 2:1–3).

Faulty human reasoning also played a role in obscuring the true Gospel. The Bible explains that “there is a way that *seems* right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12). Over the centuries, some thought it reasonable to allow former pagans to continue their favorite religious practices, as long as they did so in a *different spirit*, because this might facilitate their acceptance of “Christianity.” This is why the pagan celebrations of Easter, Christmas, saints’ days, image worship, and prayers for the dead were sanctioned by the Church at Rome. Yet the Bible actually condemns these practices (see Exodus 20:1–7; Deuteronomy 12:29–32; Jeremiah 10:1–5). As these customs were grafted into the church, true Apostolic Christianity was eventually displaced by pagan practices.

Human prejudice also played a part in obscuring the truth. In the aftermath of the first-century Jewish revolt against Roman authority, religious practices that appeared Jewish—Sabbath observance, keeping the biblical Holy Days and following biblical dietary laws—became objects of scorn and revulsion, even though Jesus, His disciples and the early Church observed these teachings (see Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2; 18:21). It took centuries of determined effort to stamp out Apostolic teachings, as the Quartodeciman controversies in Asia Minor and England, regarding the time and manner of observing the Passover, illustrate. In more recent times, Archbishop Ussher’s calculation that the earth was created in 4004BC (which holds no credence today) provides modern scholars a reason to discount evidence he collected demonstrating that the Apostles brought the Gospel to Europe’s western isles in the first century.

There is an additional reason why the truths about the *first* arrival of Christianity in the West, and about *true* Apostolic Christianity, have been obscured and forgotten. As historian Fletcher deftly observes, “history is written by the winners” (Fletcher, p. 75). He explains that in the theological disputes that raged over the centuries, those individuals or groups who wound up on the losing side—whether right or wrong—were

“systematically vilified, their writings hunted down and destroyed” (*ibid.*)—which is what happened in Britain and Ireland. The British bishops who opposed Augustine and the teachings of Roman Christianity were labeled “perfidious [treacherous] men” and hundreds were murdered (Bede, Bk. 2, chap. 2). Today Bede’s biased history is widely available in English, yet Ussher’s text—called “the most exact account” of the planting of the British church—is available almost exclusively in Latin, if it can be found at all. It is no wonder fundamental truths have been forgotten.

Does It Matter Today?

We can learn important lessons from the epic struggle that has occurred in Europe’s western isles. True Christianity spread to the West for a reason. The Apostles traveled to the isles in the sea because Jesus commissioned them to go to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 10:6). The Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples are Israelites who, over many centuries, migrated from their ancient homeland in the Middle East to these islands, where they inherited specific blessings promised to their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (for more on this vital key to prophecy, please request our free booklet *What’s Ahead for America and Britain?*).

However, with those blessings came God-given *responsibilities* and *warnings!* God intended His chosen people to be examples of a way of life that other nations would notice and want to follow (Deuteronomy 4:1–10). The Israelites were to teach their children God’s way of life, and were not to compromise any of His instructions. They were warned not to forget God or His laws and instructions, lest they reap serious consequences (Deuteronomy 4:15–28). Yet God’s “latter day Israelites” have forgotten the truth, and have chosen to believe in fables (2 Timothy 4:4). In recent decades, the world’s scholars have tended to dismiss what history records—and what the Bible reveals. They obscure the truth of history, and promote misleading ideas about the coming of Christianity to Europe’s western isles (2 Peter 2:1–3; 3:1–9). As a result, the peoples of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales simply *do not know* the truth about their own identity and their own history!

Corrupted by pagan ideas, and cut off from a sound biblical base, organized religion in Britain and Ireland—as in many other Israelite countries—is floundering and in decline. Many today have forgot-

ten—or do not even know—the true God, and are turning to substitutes in the occult or the “cult of self.” The British especially have lost their God-given sense of mission, and are pursuing personal pleasures. America and Britain, instead of protecting and proclaiming the truth of God to the world, are consuming and exporting the corrupting values of violence, greed and licentious sex through the media and personal example. We are *fulfilling* the ancient prophecies uttered by Moses that “after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and *evil will befall you in the latter days*, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands” (Deuteronomy 31:29).

Unless we drastically change our present course, we will reap the results of our hedonistic behavior. Long ago, God warned the people of Israel: “If you do not obey Me... I will set my face against you... I will even appoint terror over you... I will break the pride of your power... I will bring a sword against you... I will lay your cities waste... the LORD will scatter you among the peoples... where the LORD will drive you... *in the latter days*” (Leviticus 26:14–33; Deuteronomy 4:23–30).

What is sobering about these prophecies is that they are *dual*. They not only applied to ancient Israel; they are applicable to God’s latter-day Israelites. The “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel are now residing, in part, among the British-descended nations of the world. The lessons of history and the prophecies of the Bible are not just details about the past; they are extremely relevant to our times today. We need to rediscover what has been lost, obscured and forgotten. We need to wake up before it is too late. This is why Jesus said: “repent and believe in the [true] gospel” (Mark 1:14–15). ☞

To Learn More...



The nations of northwest Europe, along with the United States, play a pivotal role in end-time prophecy—a role revealed in your Bible.

Please request our **FREE** booklet, *What’s Ahead for America and Britain?*, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

Letters to the Editor

TOMORROW'S WORLD MAGAZINE

I received my first issue of *Tomorrow's World*. It was an eye opener for me. I really enjoyed it. I would like to request the free booklets: *The Beast of Revelation, Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* and *What's Ahead for America and Britain?* Also, if it's not too much trouble, I would like to enroll in the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. Thank you so much for your great works in Christ. I'm looking forward to my next issue of *Tomorrow's World*.

B. S., Springfield, MO

I love so much receiving your publications. They are truly a blessing to me because of all the information they contain. It is *so much better* than reading a newspaper! I also watch you on television. Between my Bible and your publications, I'm in pretty good shape! Thank you so much for all that you do.

L. S., Atlanta, GA

Your articles are interesting and meaningful to me. Thank you for sending me your good magazine. What is happening in Europe is not on the news. Keep reporting on things.

K. R., Missoula, MT

I want to take this time to thank you all for a wonderful job you are doing in getting our Father's message to the world. I am writing to thank you for sending the material I have requested over the past few months. What a joyful time I have in reading and studying your materials. You make it so understandable. You'll never know what a blessing this information has been to me. It was your material that first brought me to the true Jesus Christ and has continued to be a major

factor in the foundation of my faith. No matter how much we grow in the Word of God, it is still crucial that we have that firm foundation to stand on. I will continue to mention you and all your staff in my prayers. Please do the same for me.

L. C., Hazard, KY

I find the magazine very useful to read though I am a Muslim. The article "Is Adultery OK?" is very good.

S. H., Toronto, ON, Canada

I'm so happy to inform you that it's because of your magazine I am writing you this note. The magazine is so inspiring. I would like to thank the Almighty God for the revelation that He gave to me through your magazine. I'm a young Christian who has the zeal to know much about Christ through the events that are taking place in this world.

I. M., Tshovani, Zimbabwe

BOOKLET

I am a very keen listener of your program each Sunday morning in my country, Jamaica. I was so impressed on this particular Sunday morning that I decided to write for your booklet *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return*. I read this booklet and it has changed my entire life.

L. B., Kingston, Jamaica

Thank you so very much for sending me copies of *Tomorrow's World* magazine and the booklet, *God's People Tithe*. I need them very badly for my spiritual upliftment and progress.

S. H., Sayama-shi, Japan

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



The Embattled Jews

By Mark Mendiola

For thousands of years, the Jewish people have endured persecution, hatred and betrayal like few other nationalities. Now with their own homeland in modern Israel, they are facing one of their most crucial battles for existence.

Not since the darkest days of the Holocaust, during World War II, have so many Jewish people faced such violence, global antagonism and threats to their existence as they now encounter. Ruthless, relentless terrorist attacks on Israeli citizens, repeated United Nations resolutions aimed against Israel and the ugly specter of anti-Semitism returning to Europe are forcing Jews into a defensive mode.

Anti-Semitism—hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious or racial group—is gaining momentum throughout the world, as Jews are blamed for Middle East instability.

“Firebombs hurled at Jewish schools and synagogues in France. Orthodox Jews assaulted on the streets of north London. Protesters at a Rome demonstration dressed as suicide bombers. European Jews are increasingly uneasy about a wave of anti-Semitic violence that has coincided with rising tensions in the Middle East,” Associated Press writer Beth Gardiner reported last May 1.

Nearly 360 crimes were committed against Jews and Jewish institutions during the first two weeks of April in France alone. Anti-Semitic attacks also have been

reported in Germany, Belgium, Russia, Ukraine and Greece.

European leaders like Jeorg Haider of Austria, who share strong fascistic views, are also gaining popularity as Europe veers to the right politically. In 1991, Haider praised the Third Reich for its “orderly employment policy.” Four years later, he described former Austrian members of the Nazi Waffen SS Corps as “decent people of good character who also stick to their convictions.”

Following Dutch elections, the Associated Press reported on May 16: “The swing in the Netherlands was the latest in a tilt to the right by voters across Europe. Conservative parties have made gains in Denmark, Italy, Portugal, and most dramatically in France, where right-wing

extremist Jean-Marie Le Pen fought his way into the second round of the presidential race.”

Le Pen once called Nazi gas chambers a “detail in the history of World War II.”

The rise of European anti-Semitism is frightening some observers who see conditions hauntingly similar to what transpired in the 1930s. Recent acts of violence and vandalism against Jews throughout Europe have been compared to “Kristallnacht”—Nov. 9, 1938—when synagogues in Germany and Austria were burned and Jewish stores were looted. So much glass was smashed that the Germans dubbed it “Crystal Night.” It marked the beginning of the deportation of European Jews to concentration camps, leading ultimately to the extermination of six million Jews in the Holocaust.

In a syndicated column published at the end of April, George Will observed: “anti-Semitism is a stronger force in world affairs than it has been since it went into a remarkably brief eclipse after the liberation of the Nazi extermination camps in 1945. The United Nations, supposedly an embodiment of lessons learned from the war that ended in 1945, is now the instrument for lending spurious legitimacy to the anti-Semites’ war against the Jewish state founded by survivors of that war.”

Will noted that anti-Semitism has proven to be “the most durable and successful ideology” of the 20th century. “Anti-Semitism is not directed against the behavior of the Jews but against the existence of the Jews,” Will wrote, noting that Adolph Hitler’s primary objective during Nazi Germany’s “Third Reich” was the destruction of European Jewry.

“If the percentage of the world’s population that was Jewish in the era of the Roman Empire were Jewish today, there would be 200 million Jews. There are 13 million. Five million are clustered in an embattled salient [fortification] on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, facing hundreds of millions of enemies.”

In an April 12 column posted on *WorldNetDaily.com* during Holocaust Remembrance Week, Ellen Ratner noted how current conditions in Europe resemble conditions when Hitler’s regime brutally began to persecute European Jews.

“Today, Jews are under attack once again. And remarkably, the villains look much the same as in 1938. The European Community has not spoken out against the new wave of anti-Semitism sweeping Europe,” Ratner wrote.

“We cannot allow Europeans to forget that they have been party to the world’s worst genocides. Their refusal to condemn anti-Semitism in their own nations demonstrates not only this short-term memory but also the deep roots of anti-Jewish sentiment in Europe. As European leaders unilaterally condemn Israeli actions and stand idly by as anti-Semitic feeling swells in European nations, it makes European Jews understandably nervous, and Israelis even more so.”

In May, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Jewish organization dedicated to Holocaust remembrance and education, sharply criticized the United Nations for condemning Israeli military actions but remaining silent about “homicide bombings” that have killed hundreds of Israeli citizens.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the center’s associate dean, wrote: “The U.N. General Assembly has

become an international rubber stamp for Israel bashing, terrorism and the mass murder of Jews. The Wiesenthal Center also condemns the abstention of the members of the European Union, an organization that has yet to find its moral compass when it comes to Israel and the Middle East.”

Abraham H. Foxman, Anti-Defamation League director, writing in the March 1 *Jerusalem Post*, said that he is convinced Jews “are facing a threat as great, if not greater, to the safety and security of the Jewish people than we faced in the 1930s.” He noted that 40 percent of the world’s Jewish population is centered in the tiny geographic location of modern Israel.

As Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., declared at a massive pro-Israel rally in Washington, DC, on April 15, more than 450 Israelis were killed and more than 4,000 wounded in attacks the previous 18 months. “For a country the size of Israel, these numbers are staggering. Proportionally, this equates to more than 21,000 American deaths and over 200,000 American injuries,” Gephardt said.

At that same rally, former U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett noted that the U.S. and Israel are engaged in the same war against terrorism.

“Israel rallied for us on September 11. Their flags were at half-mast. By contrast, the Palestinian terrorists had their rallies that day, too. They honked their horns at American destruction,” Bennett said, emphasizing the substantial difference between the only democracy in the Middle East fighting for survival and its opponents striving to push it into the sea.

The specter of anti-Semitism has grown steadily louder in

recent decades because it has not been challenged, Bennett said. "What we are seeing today, what Israel is feeling today, was not supposed to happen again. When you look at Palestinian and other Arab maps of the region, there is no Israel. When you read the statements of martyrdom from terrorists, you have to realize that it is no longer just the nation Israel that is targeted; it is now also the people Israel. And it must stop."

In February, a Gallup poll of nearly 10,000 people in nine Islamic countries showed 53 percent had an unfavorable view of the U.S., and 61 percent did not believe Arabs perpetrated the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Israeli-American Ties

Appropriating about \$3 billion a year in aid to Israel, the U.S. has been the greatest guarantor of the tiny Middle East nation's security and existence. As a result, many Muslims who hate Israel also despise the U.S. with the same vehemence.

The terrorists behind the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington were retaliating in large part against U.S. support for Israel. Well aware of its symbolism, they targeted New York not only because of its status as the world's financial and media capital, but also because it is home to the largest concentration of Jews outside Israel.

On May 2, Congress passed resolutions of support for the Jewish state, and endorsed its

recent military campaign into Palestinian territory. Both House and Senate measures said the U.S. and Israel are "now engaged in a common struggle against terrorism." The House passed a pro-Israel resolution by 352-21; the Senate by 94-2.



Benjamin Netanyahu, the former prime minister of Israel, has wondered: "Will America apply its principles consistently?"

American Jewish community achieved maturity and emerged as the healthiest and wealthiest of all Jewish communities," Lapin wrote (*America's Real War*, p. 113).

"Nowhere else in the world, and at no other time in Jewish history, have Jews lived in such comfort and safety for such an extended period of time. The hospitality that Jews have enjoyed in America is unparalleled... No country has been a more stalwart friend of Israel than America; no other society has ever been more hospitable to its Jewish population. It is hard to think of another nation in which a Jewish community has enjoyed a longer period of tranquility and affluence."

In an April 10 speech to the U.S. Senate, former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that if America compromises its principles, the war on

terror will be undermined. "The question many in my country are now asking is this: will America apply its principles consistently and win this war, or will it selectively abandon those principles and thereby ultimately lose the war?" Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu noted that the 400-plus Israelis killed in 18 months in terrorist attacks equaled a per capita toll equivalent to half a dozen September 11s. This carnage is unprecedented, he said, warning that the U.S. also faces indiscriminate killing of citizens by terrorists on its own soil.

"It is only a matter of time before suicide bombers will terrorize your cities. If not destroyed, this madness will strike in your buses, in your supermarkets, in your pizza parlors, in your cafes. Eventually, these human bombs will supplement their murderous force with suitcases equipped with devices of mass death that could make the horrors of September 11 pale by comparison."

Netanyahu said it was predictable that Arab dictatorships would condemn Israel's right to defend itself. "That today a Europe which 60 years ago refused to lift a finger to save millions of Jews has turned its collective back on the Jewish state is downright shameful. But my friends, I must admit. I expected no better from them."

The Bible identifies Jewish, American and British-descended peoples as modern descendants of some of the 12 tribes of ancient Israel. (To learn more about this vital topic, please request our free booklet, *What's Ahead for America and Britain?*) Their intertwined alliance has had a profound impact on international develop-

ments in the 20th century and their destiny is inextricably bound. They together face the rise of a powerful, adversarial modern Roman Empire in Europe, which historically has opposed Jewish and Anglo-American interests.

Judah in the Last Days

The term “Jew” is derived from “Judah”—one of the 12 sons of Jacob or Israel. Genesis 49 includes a remarkable prophecy about what would befall Judah “in the last days.” It foresees the Jews possessing a powerful military force respected in the Western world.

Jacob told his son: “Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion’s whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him?” (Genesis 49:8–9).

Jacob also prophesied that the Messiah would be Jewish. “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people. Binding his donkey to the vine, and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, he washed his garments in wine and his clothes in the blood of grapes” (vv. 10–11)

Jesus Christ explicitly fulfilled this prophecy regarding His crucifixion, as well as numerous other Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. The Apostle Paul wrote: “*For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah*” (Hebrews 7:14). Christ’s genealogy confirms that He was Jewish (Matthew 1:1–17, Luke 3:23–38)

As the Bible predicted: “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.” (John 1:11) Even today, most Jewish people do not recognize Jesus as the Christ, and continue to await the Messiah.

The prophet Zechariah has much to say about the Jewish people’s future in the context of Christ’s return. Throughout his book, Zechariah alludes to Jesus Christ’s first coming as did Jacob (Zechariah 9:9; 11:12–13; 12:10, 13:6). When He returns, Christ will save the Jewish people from absolute annihilation!

An international controversy will become so intense that armies, spearheaded by a European superpower, will surround Jerusalem—which Jews consider their eternal capital—in a siege that will prove devastating for the grossly outnumbered Jewish population.

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, *when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem*. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, *though all nations of the earth are gathered against it*” (Zechariah 12:2–3).

Just as Christ forewarned, when we see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, we will know that its desolation is near. At that time, He will return powerfully to prevent another genocide of the Jewish people (Luke 21:20–27).

The Bible indicates that Jewish leaders will be a consternation to other nations when they refuse to be bullied, especially regarding Jerusalem. These “governors of Judah” will be like devouring flames to their neighbors (Zechariah 12:6).

The Bible shows that Europeans and Arabs, who have shared anti-Semitism for centuries, will for a short time combine their forces against the Jews and other Israelites before Jesus Christ intervenes to halt World War III (Psalm 83:1–8). Then, the European power will occupy Egypt and will dominate certain of the Arab nations (Daniel 11:40–43).

Although the Jews have rejected Him as their Messiah, Jesus Christ will rescue them from genocide worse than the Nazi-era Holocaust. “The *LORD will save the tents of Judah first*.... In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem.... It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem” (Zechariah 12:7–9).

The Jewish people will finally recognize Jesus Christ as their Messiah, who will halt military conflict in the Middle East, and anti-Semitism around the world, once and for all, establishing a kingdom ensuring peace, harmony and love among all nations! [TW]

To Learn More...



The Bible is full of information about the end-time events that will precede Jesus Christ’s return. Please request our **FREE** booklet, *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ’s Return*, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.



The Trap of Ecumenism

The world today faces serious problems—including terrorism, ethnic strife, crumbling moral foundations and environmental destruction—that threaten the future of human civilization. In the face of these global challenges, religious leaders of the world are seeking common ground. Their *immediate* goal is to work together to battle the demons of violence, war, poverty, hunger, social inequality, injustice, materialism and ecological devastation. The *ultimate* goal of this ecumenical endeavor is to establish one world communion that brings all churches—and eventually all religions—together in a “civilization of love” that embraces all God’s children. This is a noble goal. But will it succeed, or will this well-meaning attempt come to a sudden and unexpected end? Surprising as it may seem, the modern ecumenical movement—and its outcome—were *prophesied* long ago in the pages of your Bible. Those prophecies are *coming alive* today!

The last decade of the 20th century witnessed several remarkable developments on the religious front. In 1994, Catholic and Protestant leaders signed a groundbreaking agreement titled *Evangelicals and Catholics Together*, which called for closer cooperation on social and cultural issues of common concern. A year later, Pope John Paul II issued an important encyclical, *That They May Be One*, to promote the cause of “Christian unity.” In 1997, four major American church denominations—the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church of America, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Lutheran Church agreed to full communion—ending centuries of division.

Perhaps the most significant development—called by some the “ecumenical event of the century”—occurred in 1999, when Lutherans and Roman Catholics signed a historic accord on the doctrine of justification, the very issue that triggered the Protestant Reformation and shattered the “unity” of western “Christendom.” This landmark agreement was signed in Augsburg, Germany on August 31,

1999—Reformation Day in the Lutheran churches—exactly 482 years after Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses onto the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany. *Christian Century* magazine states that this agreement was “a dramatic step toward resolving a 16th century dispute that was at the heart of the Protestant break from the Roman Catholic Church” (October 27, 1999, p. 1,019). Fifteen months later, in January of 2001, the Lutheran and Episcopal churches ended centuries of division by signing an accord to share clergy, churches and mission work. These historic agreements are part of a broad-based ecumenical movement that has “inspired *extraordinary* dialogues and built bridges across ancient ecclesiastical and theological canyons” (*Denver Post*, Nov. 1, 1999). That movement seemed to gather steam as professing Christians anticipated what they considered the 2,000-year anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Pope John Paul II has been a prime mover in the push to unite the “Christian world.” Under his auspices, the Roman Catholic Church is engaged in dialogues with Jews and numerous Protestant groups. High on the Roman Catholic priority list is an accord with the Eastern Orthodox Church that holds sway over much of Eastern Europe—once a major part of Western “Christendom”. In 1982, John Paul II became the first pontiff to visit Britain since the Reformation. In October 2000, he received Queen Elizabeth II in a private audience in Rome. In her remarks the Queen stated: “I trust we shall continue to advance along the path which leads to Christian unity” (*San Bernardino Sun*, Oct. 18, 2000). The Pope commented that “there can be no turning back *from the ecumenical goal we have set for ourselves* in obedience to the Lord’s command” (*BBC News*, Oct. 17, 2000).

In January 2002, John Paul II hosted a historic gathering of leaders representing the major religions of the world in the Italian town of Assisi, birthplace of the medieval monk known as Saint Francis. As they prayed together, the pontiff urged religious leaders to con-



demn violence and war and *work in unity* to promote peace. Ironically, at the close of a remarkable ecumenical decade, the Vatican office in charge of doctrine issued an official document declaring that the Catholic faith is the *sole path* to salvation, that non-Christian faiths are “gravely deficient” in their beliefs, that Protestant churches are *not* “sister churches” and that “the one holy catholic and apostolic Church [Rome] is not sister but *mother* of all the particular [Christian] churches” (*Los Angeles Times*, Sept. 6, 2000).

Just what is going on? What is the *real significance* of the dramatic push toward so-called “Christian unity” and the harmonization of the world’s religions? Why is it occurring *now*, and where will it lead?

In a remarkable prophecy given more than 2,700 years ago, the prophet Isaiah describes the judgment of a mysterious woman called a “daughter of Babylon... the Lady of Kingdoms” who says in her heart “I am, and *there is no one else besides me*; I shall not sit a widow, *nor shall I know the loss of children*” (Isaiah 47:1–11). In Bible prophecy, a woman often symbolizes a church. In this case, the *spiritual roots* of the woman are linked to the ancient practices of pagan Babylon. She asserts that *she is like no one else* (i.e., that she is the one true church) and that she will make an effort to *regain* her lost or separated children (daughters). It is no coincidence that the recent document issued by the Vatican echoes these very same sentiments.

In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John refers to this same mysterious woman who “glorifies herself... lived luxuriously” and says “I sit as a *queen*, and am no widow” (Revelation 18:7). However, John reveals this woman is called “the great harlot... the *mother* of harlots... with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her for-

nication” (Revelation 17:1–6). This strong language describes a great false church that has spawned daughter churches, all of which are deeply involved with the politics of this world and have spread false religious teachings around the globe. There is only one church on Earth, which also sits on *seven hills*, fitting the description of this mysterious woman (see Revelation 17:9). Bible prophecy indicates that this “mother church” will be actively involved in an attempt to bring her “daughters” back into her family just before the return of Jesus Christ (see Revelation 17:5; 19:2).

But what will ultimately convince the skeptical Protestants, the wary Eastern Orthodox and members of the world’s other religions that the leader in Rome is the one true servant of God? The Apostle John records that a “lamb-like” individual (a leader falsely professing Christianity) will come, who “*performs great signs*, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven... and he *deceives* those who dwell on the earth *by those signs*” (Revelation 13:13–14).

The Apostle Paul calls this person “the man of sin” who receives miracle-working power, from Satan, that convinces unsuspecting people to believe lies, leading to a falling away from biblical truth (2 Thessalonians 2:1–12). Paul pinpoints these events as occurring just before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Many prophecies reveal that this great religious leader, and the system over which he presides, will *suddenly collapse* and be destroyed when Christ returns (Revelation 17:16; 18:8, 16–17; 19:20). The Bible reveals that *human efforts* to unite professing Christians, and to harmonize the religions of the world, are leading mankind into a *trap* that will ultimately fail. We need to *watch* world events, and *seek the truth* in God’s word (2 Thessalonians 2:13–15), because ancient prophecies are *coming alive* today!

—Douglas S. Winnail





Understanding The Resurrections

By John H. Ogwyn

Do you know what happens after death? Throughout time, different cultures and religions have come up with their own answers. Even the traditional burial customs in different cultures have reflected the differing ideas about what happens after death.

Buddhists have traditionally cremated their dead. They expect not an afterlife but a series of rebirths until *nirvana*—a cessation of individual consciousness and absorption back into the “world soul”—is achieved. Cremation

illustrates their belief that the soul transfers through countless bodies, each unimportant to the soul.

Ancient Egyptians, on the other hand, saw the afterlife as a continuation of their earthly existence. They took great care to preserve bodies and bury them with items deemed useful in the next world. Their funeral customs—including their pyramids, perhaps the greatest monuments to the dead ever built—showed their belief that personal existence continued after death.

Hebrew customs demonstrated a far different outlook on life

after death. Taking literally God’s statement to Adam that: “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19), the Hebrews traditionally buried their dead simply and quickly, letting the dead body decompose. According to the Bible, the hope of the dead does not lie in freeing an entrapped soul or preserving a dead body. Job asked a rhetorical question: “If a man die shall he live again?” (Job 14:14). Job knew that God would eventually call him forth from the grave (v. 15). Clearly, the Bible shows that the resurrection is the *only* hope of all who die.

The Immortality of the Soul Is Unscriptural

Most professing Christians believe that Heaven is the reward of the righteous, and that there is a corresponding Hell for the unrighteous. Yet many have been repulsed at the common Protestant concept of Hell, as it assumes billions will writhe in agony forever simply because they never heard of Jesus Christ. If Christ is “the only way to Heaven” as Evangelicals teach, then most people who have ever lived and died *cannot be there*. Roman Catholics have taken a different approach, by adding additional destinations for souls after death; their tradition includes a remedial Purgatory and a torment-free Limbo for unbaptized infants and “good” pagans.

The problem with all of these ideas is that they come from human imaginations and **not from Scripture**. They all start with the premise that mankind inherently has immortality, and that an immortal soul must, therefore, *go somewhere* at death. But the Bible *nowhere* teaches the immortality of the soul! In fact,

the phrase *immortal soul* is not even in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *nephesh* is commonly translated “soul.” It is used in Genesis 2:7, where we learn that God breathed into Adam the breath of life and he became a living being (“soul,” *KJV*). But *nephesh* is also used, in Genesis 1, to describe the life possessed by fish (v. 20) and other animals (v. 24). In Scripture, there is nothing immortal about a *nephesh*—a soul. Rather, we are told in Ezekiel 18:4 that **the soul that sins shall die**.

In the New Testament, the Greek word *psuche* is commonly translated “soul.” Again, there is nothing immortal about a *psuche*. Revelation 8:9 uses this word when explaining that one-third of the creatures that “were in the sea, and had life [Gr., *psuche*] died.” Similarly, Revelation 16:3 states that every living *creature* died in the sea.” This word “creature” is translated “soul” in the King James Version; *soul* means *life*, and can refer to any living creature, either human or animal.

This Greek word *psuche* is the origin of our English word *psyche*, which refers to the mind. It is sometimes used to describe those mental qualities that distinguish one individual from another. In Matthew 10:28, Jesus said: “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul [*psuche*]. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Notice that the hell Jesus described would **destroy both** body and soul! The soul is not immortal; it can be destroyed. In this context, *psuche* refers to a person’s mind or individuality. While another person might end your physical life, God can still resurrect you. He retains a record

of your individuality, including your memory and your character. While man cannot take away your chance to be restored and live again in the future, God clearly can—and, in certain cases, *will*.

Three different Greek words are translated as “hell” in the English-language New Testament, and each describes something different. *Tartaroo* is only used once, in 2 Peter 2:4, and refers to a place of restraint for demon spirits. *Hades*, which means “the grave,” is frequently used to describe the abode of the dead until the resurrection. *Hades* is *never* used to describe a place of future punishment. Another Greek word, however, commonly rendered “hell,” *does* refer to a place where the wicked are punished by death. This is *Gehenna*, and takes its name from the Valley of Hinnom outside Jerusalem, where the bodies of criminals were commonly burned along with refuse and dead animals. Christ used this location, familiar to all of His listeners, to describe the burning up of the incorrigibly wicked.

The Bible nowhere indicates that immortality is mankind’s natural state; it teaches that we are inherently mortal and doomed to death. In 1 Timothy 6:16, the Apostle Paul emphasized that *only God* has immortality. He told the Church at Corinth that the righteous will *put on* immortality **at the resurrection** (1 Corinthians 15:53–54).

If man is not an immortal soul, what happens at death? The Bible compares death to sleep. The dead are unconscious, and know nothing until the moment of their resurrection (Ecclesiastes 9:5). The Apostle Paul described dead Christians as being *asleep in Jesus Christ* (1 Thessalonians

4:14–15). To His disciples, Jesus described their dead friend Lazarus as being *asleep* (John 11:11–14). The prophet Daniel foretold a future day when “those who *sleep* in the dust of the earth **shall awake**, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2).

While man is mortal and has no eternal life naturally inherent, the ancient patriarch Job declared that God would have a desire to the work of His hands. Ultimately, He would call—and Job knew that he would answer (Job 14:15). When will this occur? If the traditional Heaven and Hell teaching of mainstream Christianity is incorrect, then how and when will the Creator deal with mankind?

The Better Resurrection

The Bible teaches that there will be more than one resurrection from the dead. These resurrections occur at different points in time, and encompass different groups of people. The book of Revelation makes clear the time frame of each resurrection.

Notice what John records in Revelation 20:6: “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.” The first resurrection is *a resurrection to immortality*, and occurs before the Millennium—the 1,000-year reign of Christ and the saints on Earth. The Apostle Paul described this event to the Corinthian church, telling them that it would occur “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the *last trumpet*. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead

will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:52–53).

What is the last trumpet? The book of Revelation describes a series of seven supernatural trumpets to be sounded at the end time. These trumpet blasts signal the intervention of Almighty God and herald His judgments on a

What is the last trumpet? The book of Revelation describes a series of seven supernatural trumpets to be sounded at the end time. These trumpet blasts signal the intervention of Almighty God and herald His judgments on a rebellious world.

rebellious world. Revelation 8 records the blowing of the first four of these angelic trumpets and the incredible natural disasters that follow each blast. Revelation 9 tells of the blowing of the fifth and sixth trumpets and of the warfare and destruction that follow those blasts. In Revelation 11:15 we read: “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” The seventh and final trumpet heralds the return of Jesus Christ, and the resurrection of the righteous dead. Paul emphasized this in 1 Thessalonians 4:16: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.” In the following verses, he explained that Christians still living at the time of this awesome event would also be changed to immortality, and

would rise up to meet Christ with the resurrected saints.

This first resurrection is one to glory and immortality, and consists *only* of those who are Christ’s at the time of His Second Coming (1 Corinthians 15:23). Hebrews 11:35 calls this the “better resurrection.” When Christ rose from the dead after three days and three nights in the tomb, He became the firstfruits of those that sleep (1 Corinthians

15:20). Those who genuinely accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior have an incredible promise—that because He lives, we might live also (John 14:19)!

The Second Resurrection

Only a tiny minority of human beings has ever come to truly **know** Christ and the Father, and trust in them. What happens to everyone else?

Revelation 20:5 makes plain that the rest of the dead—those who were not in the first resurrection—do not live again until the conclusion of the millennial reign of Christ and the saints. John went on to describe a vast array of people who would at that time be restored to life and stand before God (verse 12). We are told that the Book of Life is *reopened*. Why is this necessary, when Scripture explains that those whose names were *previously* recorded in the Book of Life (Revelation 3:5) were raised to immortality at Christ’s return *1,000 years earlier*? God

will not need to reopen the Book to see if He has inadvertently made an error and left someone out. Rather, this *reopening* represents a chance for others *at that time* to be recorded in the book.

Jesus spoke of a resurrection to judgment, at which the people of ancient gentile cities would stand alongside many of the Jews of His day (Matthew 12:41–42). He also said that many of those ancient peoples *would have repented* if they had seen His works and heard His message (Matthew 11:21–23). Are people lost forever because they never had that chance? Remember, God is no respecter of persons (2 Chronicles 19:7) and desires that no person should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Why could so many to whom the Apostles preached fail to see and understand? They were spiritually *blinded* (Romans 11:25). Remember, Christ clearly stated that *no man* could come to Him unless the Father *drew* him (John 6:44). Yet Paul anticipated the future time when **all** of Israel **would be saved** (Romans 11:26). The prophet Ezekiel described in a vision that future time of salvation for Israel. He saw a valley full of dry bones, and was told that it represented the whole house of Israel. He saw those bones miraculously come together and form skeletons, then saw flesh cover them. Finally, breath entered into this vast army of reconstituted bodies, and they were *alive* once more. God’s message was: “Behold, O My people, I will *open your graves* and cause you to come up from your graves and bring you into the land of Israel. *Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves*” (Ezekiel

37:12–13). At this future event, which will occur 1,000 years *after* Christ's return, human beings will be restored to physical life and be able to truly *know* God. This is not a second chance; rather, it is a *first opportunity* for billions who were previously never made aware of God's plan and purpose in this age.

This will be a future period of judgment for the vast majority of mankind. Isaiah 65:20 indicates that this restoration to physical life will continue for 100 years. During this time, spiritual blindness will be removed, the Book of Life will be opened, and the resurrected dead will be judged out of the books of the Bible, based on what they do with the opportunity that they *then* have.

A Third Resurrection

What happens at the end of this future period of judgment, when most of humanity will have been restored to physical life and given the opportunity to learn the truth for the first time? We have discussed those who trusted Christ and were raised to immortality in the first resurrection at His return, and we have seen what will happen to those who were spiritually blinded in this present age, then restored to mortal life 1,000 years later for their first opportunity to have their names inscribed in the Book of Life. But what happens to those who have knowingly *rejected* God's salvation?


Some in this age *have had* an opportunity for God's salvation, but have *willfully turned aside* and rejected it. Peter spoke of them in 2 Peter 2:21: "For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment

delivered to them." The Apostle Paul explained: "For if we sin *willfully* after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries" (Hebrews 10:26–27).


This judgment of God differs greatly from traditionally imagined hellfire, which many professing Christians expect will torture sinners for eternity. Notice the description given in Malachi 4:1: "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall *burn them up*," says the LORD of hosts, 'that will leave them neither root nor branch.'" The hellfire described in Scripture is designed to *destroy* the wicked, *not* to torture them forever. Revelation 20:15 describes the timing of this future destruction of the incorrigibly wicked. At the conclusion of the judgment period, when the previously blinded have been able to have their names written in the Book of Life, those whose names are not found in the Book will be cast into a lake of fire designed to *burn them up*. Then, those who in our current age had *rejected* their chance for salvation will be raised back to life to experience the *second death*. In the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, Jesus described one who will awaken in the grave (*hades*), not to glory or to an opportunity for salvation, but rather to face God's fiery wrath advancing toward him (Luke 16:23). Such a person will be confronted with the torment of his exclusion from the Kingdom of God, and his impending destruction, and will perish along with all those who ultimately reject their

opportunity for salvation. At that point, all human beings whose names have not been written in the Book of Life will perish.

Peter described that at this coming time of God's final judgment on sin, "the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). This will be followed by a "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (v. 13).

John also described this event in Revelation 21, picturing the creation of new heavens and a new Earth, and the descent from Heaven of the New Jerusalem. At this glorious time, Christ will deliver the Kingdom to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24). The Father and Christ will dwell in the New Jerusalem, with the immortalized saints, in a time of no more sorrow, pain or tears. This will be possible because—finally—sin and everything contaminated with it will either have been cleansed or destroyed (v. 26). The Bible concludes with this picture, which marks the *end of the beginning* and the threshold of eternity! 

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Who Is Jesus?

By Richard F. Ames

Who was Jesus of Nazareth? Was He just an itinerant preacher, or was He the Savior of the world? Can you really know?

Is Jesus Christ alive? If He is, where is He? What is He doing? And what are His future plans?

Fully one-third of Earth's inhabitants call themselves Christian. But even among them, relatively few really know what Jesus taught, and what the Bible reveals about the true Jesus Christ. He Himself said there would be many imitators—He called them “false christs” (Matthew 24:24). The Apostle Paul warned against “another Jesus whom we have not preached... a different spirit which you have not received... [or] a different gospel” (2 Corinthians 11:4). Do you know the true Messiah—the *real* Jesus Christ?

What does the Bible reveal? Was Jesus just a teacher and a miracle worker? Or was He that and *more*? In John 4, Jesus is speaking to a woman at Jacob's well near the city of Sychar in Samaria. This

woman became convinced that He was the promised Messiah—the Christ. She told the whole community about this man whom, she said, “told me all that I ever did” (v. 39). As a result, many other Samaritans came to hear Jesus speak, and they persuaded Him to stay for two days. What was their impression of Jesus? “And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world’” (John 4:41–42).

Was Jesus the Savior of the world? One should rather ask: “*Is* He the Savior of the world?” The proofs of fulfilled prophecy, historical accuracy, the preservation of the text, and the revelation of life's mysteries and meaning, all support the truth that He is. But you need to prove it to yourself. Where do we look for the evidence? If you are not that familiar with the Bible, just start reading the New Testament gospels beginning with the book of Matthew. If you are objective and open-minded, you will be amazed at the teachings of Jesus and the testimony of His disciples who were willing to die for Him and His Way of life.

There are more than 100 prophecies in the Old Testament foretelling the coming of the Messiah. Among them is the prophet Isaiah's prophecy that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David, the son of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1), that the Messiah would be born of a virgin (7:14), that He would live in Galilee (9:1–2), that His mission would include the Gentiles (42:1–4) and that He would die with the wicked (53:9). Other prophecies foretold that He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), that He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12–13), that He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey (9:9) and that He would be like a smitten shepherd (13:7). These are

just a sampling of the many prophecies about the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ.

As prophecy foretold, Jesus *was* born of a virgin in the town of Bethlehem (Matthew 1:23; 2:1). “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit” (1:18). An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him: “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit” (v. 20). God the Father begat Jesus—His Son—through the power of the Holy Spirit. “‘And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us’” (vv. 21–23).

The name Jesus signifies “Savior.” Jesus became the Savior of the world. But how did He become so? Remember, He was Immanuel, “God with us”—God in the flesh! Where did He come from? “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:1–3).

This Word of whom the Apostle John spoke was the One who became Jesus Christ in the flesh. Notice: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

This Word is the One through whom God created all things. The Apostle Paul plainly states that God “created all things through Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 3:9). Also: “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16).

Here is an awesome truth of the Bible: the Word—who existed with God and *as* God—came in the flesh as the begotten Son of God, to become the Savior of the World! His life was worth more than all the human beings who have ever lived, or ever will live. He sacrificed His life to pay for the sins of the world, as only He could do. He was pictured as the sacrificial lamb. Notice how John the Baptist testified of Him: “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29).

Perhaps you feel the pain of guilt and sin. There is a way to turn your life around. Jesus, the Lamb of God, took upon Himself your sins. But in order to be reconciled to God, you must believe—and respond to—the true gospel. As Jesus proclaimed: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

It is amazing how many preachers will tell you to believe, but they will not tell you to repent. Jesus Himself told us all to repent! Our Savior commands every human being on earth to repent and believe. Does God really demand something more than belief? The Apostle Peter said that He does. What did Peter say on the day of Pentecost, addressing thousands in his inspired sermon on the day the New Testament Church began? He said: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [forgiveness] of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Thousands who heard him were convicted of their sins, and were baptized on that day, receiving the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

A Revolutionary Jesus?

When I was about 12 years old, I questioned the teachings I heard in church. I said to myself: “I wonder if Jesus even exists?” So, I thought: “Well, I will just read what these biographers Matthew, Mark, Luke and John said about Him.” Even as a 12-year-old, I was amazed by what I found, particularly when I started reading the “Sermon on the Mount.” For example, Jesus said: “But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also” (Matthew 5:39). I thought: “His teachings are revolutionary!” And in my own limited way, I changed my approach to life, though I would not be called to real repentance until many years later.

Many, when they finally read the Bible for themselves, have experiences like mine. Author Bruce Barton was “turned off” by the false Jesus presented in a Sunday School class. He wrote: “The little boy [Barton, writing about himself] looked up at the picture which hung on the Sunday-school wall. It showed a pale young man with flabby forearms and a sad expression. The young man had red whiskers. Then the little boy looked across to the other wall. There was Daniel, good old Daniel, standing off the lions. The little boy liked Daniel. He liked David, too, with the trusty sling that landed a stone square on the forehead of Goliath. And Moses, with his rod

and his big brass snake. They were winners—those three... But Jesus! Jesus was the ‘lamb of God.’ The little boy did not know what that meant, but it sounded like Mary’s little lamb. Something for girls—sissified. Jesus was also ‘meek and lowly,’ a ‘man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.’ He went around for three years telling people not to do things” (*The Man Nobody Knows*, pp. i–ii).

Like Barton, I once had a false concept of the real Jesus. Perhaps you have, too. But if you will read the Bible for yourself, you may be surprised to discover that many of the popular images, concepts, and teachings often presented as “Christianity” are quite different from the truths found in Scripture.

Barton came to see a contradiction between Jesus’ preaching and the world’s false image of Him.



When was Jesus born? Was Jesus born in December on Christmas Day? It may be surprising to some, but we can be *sure* that He was not.

Barton wrote of his re-discovery of the biblical Jesus Christ: “The more sermons he [Barton] heard and the more books he read the more mystified he became. One day he decided to wipe his mind clean of books and sermons. He said, ‘I will read what the men who knew Jesus personally said about him. I will read about him as though he were a new historical character, about whom I had never heard anything at all.’ The man was amazed. A physical weakling! Where did they get that idea? Jesus pushed a plane and swung an adze; he was a successful carpenter. He slept outdoors and spent his days walking around his favorite lake. His muscles were so strong that when he drove the money-changers out, nobody dared to oppose him! A kill-joy! He was the most popular dinner guest in Jerusalem! The criticism which proper people made was that he spent too much time with publicans and sinners... and enjoyed society too much. They called him a ‘wine bibber and a gluttonous man’.... When the man finished his reading he exclaimed, ‘This is a man nobody knows’” (*ibid.*, pp. iii–iv).

Do you know the true Jesus of the Bible? Are you sure? I challenge you to start reading through the New Testament with a fresh, objective view, just as Bruce Barton did. As many of us have found, the image of Jesus that many preachers present to the world is *not* the Jesus revealed in your Bible!

When, Where and Why?

Often, the attempt to celebrate Jesus’ birthday obscures the real purpose of His birth. Do you know *why* He was born? Do you even know *when* He was born? Do you know what He taught about keeping the commandments? Do you know which biblical festivals Jesus observed, and expected His disciples to observe?

Why was Jesus born? Notice what the angel told Mary before His birth: “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:31–33).

Jesus’ message was about the Kingdom of God on earth! He will return as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14; 19:16). He will sit upon the throne of David, and rule over all the nations. As Isaiah wrote: “Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end” (Isaiah 9:7). That is *great* news, and we all need to pray, as Jesus taught us: “Thy Kingdom come!”

When was Jesus born? Was Jesus born in December on Christmas Day? It may be surprising to some, but we can be *sure* that He was not. Luke recounts that Joseph and Mary had traveled back to Bethlehem for the census mandated by Caesar Augustus. The city was crowded, so Joseph and Mary had to find alternative accommodations. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and placed in a manger (Luke 2:7). Notice the setting and the time of year: “Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night” (v. 8).

Most Bible scholars plainly admit that shepherds were not in the field in December. The cold, rainy season began long before December 25. Jesus was probably born in late September or early October, as most reputable Bible commentaries acknowledge. Why do we so often accept traditions and teachings without checking up on them? Some of our concepts and ideas *disagree* with the Bible!

Jesus never observed His birthday, and neither did the Apostles! As the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* states: “According to a Roman almanac, the Christian festival of Christmas was celebrated in Rome by AD 336” (“Christmas,” p. 903). Notice also the following: “The Fathers of the 2nd and 3rd centuries, such as Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and Epiphanius, contended that Christmas was a copy of a pagan celebration” (“Christianity” p. 499).

When you read the book of Acts, you see that the Apostolic Church of the first century—the New Testament Church—never observed Christmas or the birth of Christ. The true Apostolic Church of the first century observed the biblical festivals: the New Testament Passover, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. Scripture records plainly that Jesus Christ observed the Last Great Day of the Feast. The Apostle John referred to this Feast day when he wrote: “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’” (John 7:37–38).

Jesus observed the biblical festivals, and genuine Christians strive to follow His example. As the Apostle Peter stated: “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Peter 2:21).

Is traditional Christianity following in Jesus’ steps? Is it observing the weekly Sabbath—the seventh day of the week—as Jesus did? Christ stated that He, “the Son of Man, is also Lord of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:28). As we know from Genesis 2:3, God sanctified the seventh day at creation. And for whom was the Sabbath made? Jesus stated: “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). The Sabbath was made for all humanity as a day of rest, and as a memorial of God’s great creation. Remember, God created all things, including the Sabbath day, through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:9).

The Historic Jesus

The Jewish historian Josephus referred to Jesus’ brother, the Apostle James, who wrote the New Testament book of James. In the first century AD, Josephus wrote the following: “Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose

name was James, and some others, [or, some of his companions]; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, Bk. 20, chap. 9, sec. 1).

Yes, there is historic evidence for the existence of Jesus Christ. Amazingly, some will accept the testimony of a historian like Josephus, yet ignore the eyewitness testimony of Jesus’ contemporaries. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all wrote and testified about the life, miracles, and teachings of our Savior. The Apostle John even wrote: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life; the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us.”

The Apostle John testifies in this passage that not only did he and the other Apostles *hear* and *see* the Word of Life—Jesus, the Messiah—but they also *touched* him. After His resurrection, Jesus told doubting Thomas to put his hand into the spear wound that killed Him. He commanded: “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing” (John 20:27). What was Thomas’ response? “And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” (v. 28).

Jesus Christ died and was resurrected. He is alive today. If He were not, we would still be in our sins. As Paul wrote: “For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!” (1 Corinthians 15:16–17). But the good news is stated next: “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead” (vv. 20–21).

So who is Jesus? He is our living Savior! He is our great High Priest, as the Apostle Paul explains (Hebrews 3:1; 4:14). He is at the right hand of God in heaven, where He “makes intercession for us” (Romans 8:34). He will soon come back to Earth as King of kings and Lord of lords, to establish the Kingdom of God on Earth, and to bring us world peace! Will you be ready for His return? Will you accept His sacrifice and shed blood for the payment of your sins? Thank God that the Bible reveals the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ—our *living* Savior! ☞

THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE? (continued from page 3)

ing” of the Bible or of biblical prophecy. They talk about sentimental platitudes, “sweet Jesus,” and precious little else. Yet they *deny* the *powerful message* that Jesus Himself brought from God the Father.

There is a Church today that does *understand*, and can help you with the “struggle” you will face! It is the “little flock” to which Jesus referred in Luke 12:32. It is the Church that had to “flee” into the wilderness during the Dark Ages (Revelation 12:6). It is the Church that is now preaching the “Gospel of the Kingdom of God”—the powerful message proclaiming Christ’s soon return to this earth as King of kings (Revelation 11:15).

If you are going to be able to escape the horrifying Great Tribulation, and if you are to be given the **power** of the Holy Spirit and the real understanding, faith and courage to guide you through the years just ahead, then the “church of your choice” had better become *the church of God’s choice*! In your Bible, you will find that God *names things* or people what *they are*! In 12 different places in the New Testament, you will find that God calls His Church exactly what it is: “the Church of God.”

In the introduction to 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul officially addresses this letter to “the **church of God** which is at Corinth” (1 Corinthians 1:2). Later, he tells the brethren: “Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the **church of God**” (1 Corinthians 10:32). In 1 Corinthians 11:16, Paul states: “But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the **churches of God**.”

In 1 Corinthians 15:9, Paul writes: “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the **church of God**.” In the formal opening of 2 Corinthians, he writes: “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the **church of God** which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia” (2 Corinthians 1:1). When Timothy was stationed in Ephesus—a center of the worship of “dead” idols—Paul wrote to him: “I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the **church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).

Twelve is a significant number in the Bible. It denotes foundation, stability and organizational

beginnings. As most of you readers know, there were 12 patriarchs in the Old Testament, 12 tribes of Israel, 12 apostles, 12 gates into the Holy City and 12 foundations of the wall of the Holy City. So it is very significant that God—in *His inspired Word*—gives the name “Church of God” to His true Church *12 times* in the New Testament.

Of course, quite a number of churches use the name “church of God.” So it is vital that we understand another basic characteristic of the *true* Church: it is an *obedient* Church! In describing the remnant of this Church at the time of the end, God’s Word tells us: “And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who **keep the commandments** of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17). *Many* churches claim that they have the “testimony” of Jesus Christ. But very few claim to obey the Ten Commandments, for they have been taught they are “under grace” and so need not keep the Commandments of God as a way of life. But as the Apostle John was inspired to tell us: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the **commandments of God** and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

Could anything be more clear?

Somewhere on this earth is the *true* “Church of God”—called by God’s name, keeping the Commandments of God and actually preaching the *same* gospel Jesus preached—the dynamic message of Christ’s rule over this earth as King of kings. This is **not** a church of *men*, named after some man or some form of church government or one or two key doctrines. Rather, it is named after **God**—for it is truly *His* Church, and the Church of which Jesus Christ is the living Head (Ephesians 1:22).

Should you really go to the church of *your* personal choice, or the church in which you just “happened” to grow up? Or should you zealously *seek* and *find* and become an active member of the *true* Church of God—which Jesus Himself built? If you would like more in-depth information about this vital question, please contact us at one of the addresses listed on page 2 of this magazine, and request a free copy of our eye-opening booklet, *Restoring Apostolic Christianity*.



Tomorrow's World

Television and Radio Log

INTERNATIONAL:

—AUSTRALIA

Adelaide: ACE—Ch 6/31, SUN 11:30 am, THUR 8:30 pm
Brisbane: BRIZ—Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am
Melbourne: MCTC—Ch 31, TUE 11:00 pm
Sydney: CTS-31—Ch 31, SUN 9:00 am
Perth: CETL—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

—BARBADOS

St. Michael: CBC—Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am

—CANADA

ON, Toronto: Vision—SUN 3:30 pm; SUN 5:30 pm

—GUYANA

Georgetown: CNS TV—Ch 6, SUN 2:30 pm

—JAMAICA

Kingston: CVM TV—Ch 4, 8 & 9, SAT 7:00 am; SUN 7:00 am

—NEW ZEALAND

Nationalwide: PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:30 am

—PHILIPPINES

Bansalan: Bansalan Cable—Ch 31, SAT 10:00 am
Borongan: Borongan Cable—Ch 17, SAT 3:00 pm
Kidapawan: Kidapawan Cable—Ch 19, SAT 8:30 am
Naval, Leyte: Naval Cable—Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am
Nabunturan: Nabunturan Cable—Ch 21, SAT 10:00 am
Maasin City: Maasin Cable—Ch 13, SUN 9:00 am
Naval Biliran: Bilinet Cable—Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am; SAT 9:00 am
Ormoc City: Ormoc Cable—Ch 3, SAT 8:30 am
Sogod: Sogod Cable—Ch 13, SAT 8:00 am

—TRINIDAD

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

UNITED STATES:

AL, Birmingham: Cable—Ch 4, WED 1:30 pm
AL, Birmingham: WOIM—Ch 19, TUE 5:00 pm; FRI 7:00 pm;
AL, Troy/Montgomery: WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 7:30 am
AR, Fayetteville: Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm
AR, Little Rock: KASN—Ch 38, SAT 8:00 am
AZ, Phoenix: Access—Ch 22, SUN 1:30 pm
AZ, Prescott: Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 6:30 am
AZ, Tucson: Access—Ch 73, SAT 4:30 pm; SUN 11:30 am
CA, Anaheim: Adelphia—Ch 3, WED 6:00 pm
CA, Buena Park: Adelphia—Ch 55, SUN 5:00 pm
CA, Eureka: Cox—Ch 10, MON 8:00 pm
CA, Garden Grove: Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 11:30 am & 8:30 pm
CA, Los Angeles: KDOC—Ch 56, SAT 7:00 am
CA, Modesto: AT&T—Ch 8, TUE 3:00 pm
CA, Oceanside: KOCT—Ch 18, SUN 5:30 pm
CA, Sacramento: RCCTV—Ch 75, MON 5:30 pm
CA, San Andreas: MediaOne—Ch 4, TUE 4:00 pm
CA, San Diego: Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm
CA, San Francisco: Access TV—Ch 29, THUR 6:30 pm
CA, San Jose: Community TV—Ch 15A, SAT 11:30 pm
CA, Sonora: TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm
CA, Turlock: Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm
CT, Enfield: Comcast—Ch 15, THUR 2:30 pm & 7:00 pm
CT, Naugatuck: Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm
FL, Gainesville: Cox—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm
FL, Ocala: Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am
GA, Atlanta: AIB—Cable, THUR 6:30 pm; SAT 1:30 am
GA, Macon: Cox Cable—Ch 18, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am; FRI 2:00 pm
HI, Hilo: Na Leo—Ch 14, SUN 12:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
HI, Honolulu: Olole—Ch 52, THUR 2:00 pm
HI, Kailua-Kona: Na Leo—Ch 14, SUN 12:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
HI, Kauai: Ho'ike—Ch 12, MON 1:30 pm
HI, Lanai: Akaku—Ch 3, 12 & 13, WED 9:30 pm; THUR 5:30 am
HI, Maui: Akaku—Ch 44, WED 9:30 pm; THUR 5:30 am
HI, Molokai: Akaku—Ch 3, 12 & 13, WED 9:30 pm; THUR 5:30 am

IA, Des Moines: Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am
IA, Dubuque: TCI of Iowa—Ch 16, THUR 7:30 pm; MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm
IA, Waterloo: Cable—Ch 2, WED 9:00 pm
ID, Pocatello: Vision—Ch 12, SUN 7:30 pm; FRI 1:00 pm
IL, Bloomington: Insight—Ch 20, SUN 1:00 pm; MON 10:00 pm; TUE 4:00 pm; SAT 6:00 pm
IL, Chicago: WGN—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am
IL, Moline: MediaCom—Ch 75, MON-WED 2:00 pm; THUR 6:00 pm; FRI 3:00 pm; SUN 2:00 pm
IL, Peoria: Insight—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm
IN, Anderson: Insight—Ch 13 & 16, MON 6:30 pm; TUE 8:30 pm
IN, Lafayette: Insight—Ch 13 & 16, MON 8:30 pm; WED 8:30 pm
KS, Chanute: Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm
KS, Parsons: Time Warner—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm
KY, Paducah: Public Cable—Ch 2, WED 3:30 pm
LA, Baton Rouge: WZUP—Ch 44, SUN 10:30 am
LA, Lafayette: KATC—Ch 3, SUN 9:00 am
LA, Monroe: Time Warner—Ch 49, WED 10:00 pm
LA, Shreveport: KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am
MA, Belchertown: BCTV—Ch 22, TUE 7:00 pm
MA, Cambridge: CCTV—Ch 22, TUE 4:00 pm
MA, Malden: Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am
MD, Baltimore: TCI—Ch 5, SUN 4:00 pm; WED 4:00 pm
MD, Westminster: Adelphia—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am
MN, Duluth: Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm
MN, Minneapolis: MTN—Ch 67, THUR 6:30 pm
MN, Minneapolis: NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm
MN, Roseville: CTV—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; MON 3:30 & 11:30 am
MN, St. Paul: SPNN—Ch 14, SUN 8:30 pm
MO, Joplin: KOAM—Ch 7, SUN 7:30 am
MO, Kansas City: KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 8:00 am
MO, Springfield: KSPR—Ch 33, SAT 8:30 am
MO, St. Charles: Charter—Ch 47, SUN 9:30 am & 9:00 pm
MO, St. Louis: Charter—Ch 3, THU 6:00 pm
MO, St. Louis: Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm
MS, Jackson: Time Warner—Ch 11, SUN 10:00 am; WED 4:00 pm
MS, Jackson: WAPT—Ch 16, SUN 8:30 am
MT, Billings: BSC—Cable, SUN 8:30 am
MT, Great Falls: BSC—Cable, SUN 8:30 am
MT, Great Falls: Public Access TV—Ch 7, TUE 6:00 pm; FRI 6:00 pm
MT, Helena: BSC—Cable, SUN 8:30 am
MT, Missoula: BSC—Cable, SUN 8:30 am
NC, Burlington: Time Warner—Ch 5/10, SUN 9:00 pm
NC, Greensboro: GCTV—Ch 8, SAT 8:30 am; MON 6:30 pm
NC, Wilmington: Time Warner—Ch 4, WED 10:00 pm
ND, Bismarck: CATV—Ch 12, SUN 3:00 pm
NE, Omaha: KPTM—Ch 42, SUN 8:00 am
NH, Hanover: CATV—Ch 6, SUN 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm; MON 5:00 am & 11:00 am
NJ, East Windsor: Comcast—Ch 27, WED 5:30 pm
NJ, Oakland: Cablevision—Ch 71, SUN 6:00 pm
NJ, Trenton: Comcast—Ch 26, MON 10:00 pm
NM, Albuquerque: CCC27—Ch 27, SUN 9:30 pm
NM, Rio Rancho: CABLE ONE—Ch 51, THUR, 7:00 pm
NV, Carson City: Access TV—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm
NV, Gardnerville: Community Access—Ch 26, SAT 3:00 am & 3:00 pm; SUN 3:00 am & 3:00 pm
NV, Reno/Sparks: SNCT—Ch 30/16, SUN 10:00 pm
NY, Batavia: Time Warner—Ch 19, TUE 5:30 pm
NY, Bethlehem: TV 18—Ch 18, WED 3:00 pm
NY, Binghamton: Time Warner—Ch 6, FRI 5:00 pm
NY, Brooklyn: BCAT—Ch 56/69, SUN 3:00 pm
NY, Canandaigua: FLT—Ch 12, SUN 11:30 am
NY, Elmira & Corning: Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 8:00 am
NY, Hauppauge: Cablevision—Ch 70, FRI 9:30 pm
NY, Irondequoit: ICAT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; WED 11:30 am & 7:30 pm
NY, Ithaca: Pegasys—Ch 13 & 78, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 7:00 pm, WED 4:30 pm
NY, Manhattan: MNN—Ch 67/110, SUN 8:30 pm
NY, Oneonta: Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm
NY, Port Jefferson: TCI—Ch 70, SUN 9:30 pm
NY, Queens: QPTV—Ch 35, TUE 1:30 pm; SAT 4:00 pm
NY, Riverhead: Cablevision—Ch 27, MON 4:30 pm

NY, Rochester: Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 7:00 pm
NY, Schenectady: Community TV—Ch 16, MON 8:30 am
NY, Wellsville: Adelphia—Ch 6, FRI 4:00 pm
NY, Utica: Adelphia—Ch 3, MON 9:00 pm
OH, Cambridge: AVC—Ch 2, MON 5:30 pm
OK, Oklahoma City: KOCO—Ch 5, SUN 7:00 am
OK, Tulsa: KTFO—Ch 41, SAT 12:30 am
OR, Portland: MCTV—Ch 11, SUN 12:30 pm
PA, Johnstown: Charter—Ch 9, MON 10:00 pm
PA, Philadelphia: Urban—Ch 5/81, THUR 9:00 pm; SUN 5:30 pm
PA, Sayre: Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI 5:00 pm
RI, Providence: WPXQ—Ch 69, SUN 9:30 am
TX, Austin: Community Access—Ch 11, MON 5:30 pm
TX, Corpus Christi: TCI—Ch 10, THUR 2:00 pm; FRI 10:30 am; SUN 11:00 am
TX, Dallas: Community Television—Ch 14b, FRI 2:00 pm; SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am
TX, Lufkin: KTRF—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am
TX, Temple: KPLE—Ch 31/46, SUN 7:30 pm
TX, Tyler: KLT—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am
VA, Chesterfield: Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm
VA, Roanoke: WDRL—Ch 24/54, SUN 7:00 am
VA, Virginia Beach: Cox—Ch 71 & 74, SAT 8:30 am
VT, Barre: Charter—Ch 7, SAT 9:00 pm; SUN 2:00 pm & 11:00 pm
VT, Montpelier: Adelphia—Ch 15, TUE 9:00 pm; WED 3:00 pm
VT, Richmond: Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 9:00 am & 9:00 pm; 7:00 am & 1:00 pm
WA, Kennewick: Charter—Ch 13/99, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm
WA, Seattle: TCI—Ch 29, FRI 5:30 pm
WA, Spokane: AT&T—Ch 25, MON 8:00 pm
WA, Vancouver: Clark/Vancouver—Ch 49, SUN 9:30 am
WI, Wausau: Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am

RADIO STATIONS:

Argentina, Ameghino: 94.9 FM, SAT 1:00 pm
Argentina, Bahia Blanca: 101.3 FM, THUR 8:00 pm; SAT 2:00 pm
Argentina, Bahia Blanca: 91.1 FM, TUE 1:30 pm; THUR 1:30 pm
Argentina, Neuquen: 97.3 FM, MON 8:00 am; WED 8:30 am; FRI 2:30 pm
Canada, St. Jerome: CIME—101.3 FM & 103.9 FM, SUN 6:45 am & 9:45 pm
Costa Rica, San Jose: 93.5 FM & 670 AM, SUN 5:00 pm
Martinique: Radio Banlieue-Relax—103.4 FM, SUN 6:15 am
Martinique: Radio Campêche—98.3 & 101.6 FM, TUE 8:00 am; SAT 8:00 am
Martinique: Radio St. Pierre—88.7 FM, SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am
Mexico, Mexico City: XEEST—1440 AM, SUN 9:30 am
Philippines, Cebu City: DYLA—909 AM, SUN 6:00 am
Philippines, Manila: DWBL—1242 AM, THUR 10:30 pm; SUN 3:30 pm
Philippines, Ozamiz City: DXOC—1494 AM, SUN 5:00 am
Republic of South Africa: Radio Kingfisher—103.8 FM, SUN 7:00 pm
Republic of South Africa, Western Cape: Radio Tygerburg—104 FM, THUR 7:30 pm

• Television Superstations

—CANADA (nationwide)
ON, Toronto: VISION—SUN 3:30 am & 5:30 pm (ET)
 —IL, Chicago: WGN—National Cable, SUN 6:00 am (ET)

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WGN: SUN 6:00 am ET

VISION: Canada: SUN 3:30 am & SUN 5:30 pm ET

NEW TELEVISION STATIONS:

MA, Belchertown: BCTV—Ch 22, THUR 7:00 pm

TN, Chattanooga: WDEF—Ch 12, SUN 8:30 pm

WA, Spokane: AT&T—Ch 25, MON 8:00 pm

NEW RADIO STATIONS:

Chile, San Carlos: Radio Emmanuel—107.3 FM, WED & SAT 10:00 pm

Chile, San Carlos: Radio Arturo Prat—1280 AM, SUN 9:00 am & 9:00 pm

Chile, Santiago: Radio Vida—102.9 FM, Daily 7:30 pm

Chile, Santiago: Radio Sinai—98.9 FM, MON-SAT 8:00 pm



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