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# Tomorrow's World

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



The "Hidden" Message  
of Jesus Christ

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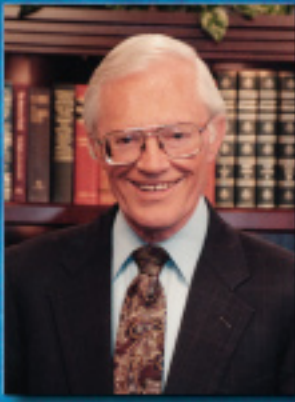
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## Personal

By Roderick C. Meredith, Editor in Chief

# What Happened to the Truth?

Shockingly, most professing Christian churches are in ignorance of the real answers to life's most important questions: *Where* did human life come from? *Why* were you born? *Where* are you going after death?

This magazine can give you the genuine answers to these questions because we in this Work of the living God are earnestly trying to *restore Apostolic Christianity*—the *original Christianity* of those who lived in the time of Jesus and the Twelve Apostles. We feel that although most modern churchgoers are sincere and well-meaning, they are *absolutely deceived* regarding the major issues of life, death and the hereafter. They are certainly deceived if they think for one minute that they are practicing true “biblical Christianity!”

How *dare* I say that?

I say it *because it is true!* And I say it because scores of highly respected religious authors and historians also say it. They *know* that many of the ideas and practices of “mainstream” Christianity came *not* from the Bible, but from pagan philosophy and human reasoning.

But the average churchgoer “doesn't have a clue!”

Professing Christianity got “off the track” soon after the death of the original Apostles. As “mainstream” author Jesse Lyman Hurlbut frankly acknowledges: “For fifty years after St. Paul's life a curtain hangs over the church, through which we strive vainly to look; and when at last it rises, about 120 A.D. with the writings of the earliest church-fathers, we find a church in many aspects very different from that in the days of St. Peter and St. Paul” (*The Story of the Christian Church*, p. 41).

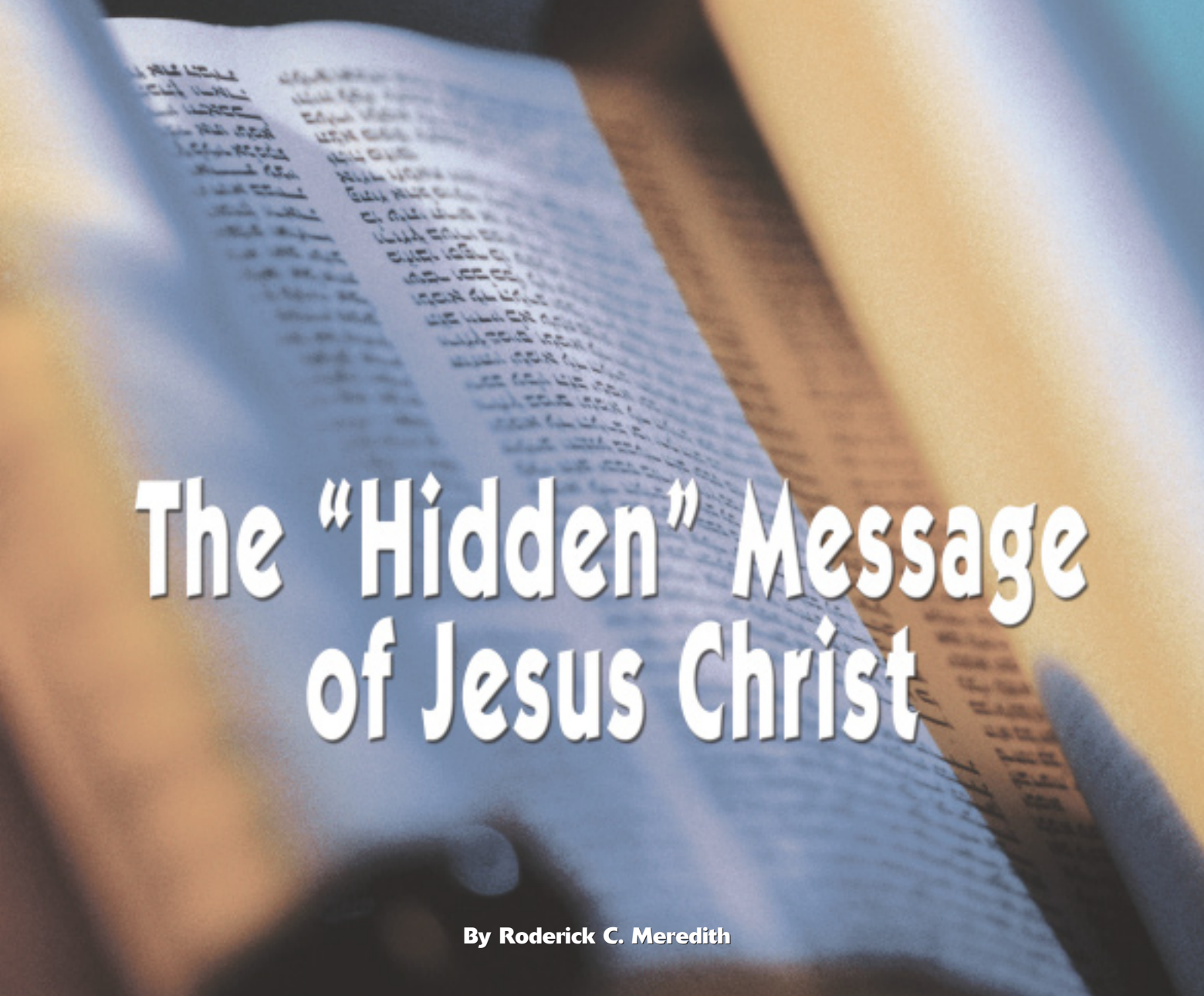
Yes indeed. The professing Christian church became not only “very” different but—we might objectively say—“extremely” different! As Hurlbut elaborates a few pages later: “Ambitious, worldly, unscrupulous men sought office in the church for social and political influence. The moral tone of Christianity in power was far below that which had

marked the same people under persecution. The services of worship increased in splendor, but were less spiritual and hearty than those of former times. The forms and ceremonies of paganism gradually crept into the worship. Some of the old heathen feasts became church festivals with change of name and of worship. About 405AD images of saints and martyrs began to appear in the churches, at first as memorials, then in succession revered, adored, and worshiped. The adoration of the Virgin Mary was substituted for the worship of Venus and Diana; the Lord's Supper became a sacrifice in place of a memorial; and the elder evolved from a preacher into a priest. As a result of the church sitting in power, we do not see Christianity transforming the world to its own ideal, but the world dominating the church” (p. 79).

Was this the true Church of God? Can the Protestants honestly claim that they came out of the true Church? For this evolving Catholic church brought in the forms and trappings of the old pagan Saturnalia—held in celebration of the winter solstice with great merriment and often unrestrained, orgiastic revelry. In order to make their new brand of Christianity more acceptable to the pagans, they called this celebration the “mass of Christ” or, as we know it today, *Christmas!*

Then, completely doing away with the biblically commanded feast of the Passover, they turned the springtime fertility worship of Isis into “Easter.” Further polluting the atmosphere of this pagan festival, they began to claim that Christ was crucified on a *Friday* afternoon and rose from the dead on *Easter Sunday* morning—which He did *not*. They conveniently overlooked the fact that the primary “sign” Jesus Christ gave to the Jews was that He would be three days *and* three nights in the grave before His resurrection! Always remember Jesus' words in Matthew 12:39–40: “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the

**Continued on page 30**



# The “Hidden” Message of Jesus Christ

By Roderick C. Meredith

I grew up in a “mainstream” Protestant church. At one time, I was president of my Sunday school class. My good friends—some two dozen fellows in my neighborhood all born around the same time—also attended various mainstream churches and certainly *knew what was taught*. Yet, as I look back at those years I now realize that none of us were *ever* taught about the real *goal* of a true Christian. We did have lots of songs and responsive readings in our church. We were taught about “little Lord Jesus in a manger.” We were taught that “Christ died and went to

heaven” and that “He paid for our sins.” But we were never *really* taught what sin was. We were never *really* exhorted to fervently *repent* of breaking God’s laws and utterly surrender our lives to the God of creation through Jesus Christ.

Most of us went to church because it was “the thing to do.” We heard about “going off to heaven” when we died. And we heard *a lot* about church socials and activities and the need to be “good people” in a general way—though for no particular reason except the hope of going to heaven with nothing specific to do when we arrived there. There was

never, *ever*, any mention about any exciting challenge or responsibility that true Christians might have in the hereafter. There were *never* any specific sermons about the living Jesus Christ returning to earth as King of kings, and what this would entail.

Does this sound familiar?

By contrast, if you will study the New Testament carefully, you will find in its pages the powerful, motivating **message** that Jesus Christ and the Apostles constantly preached. That message involves an exciting “job” that awaits *all* true Christians at the Second Coming of Christ. Is that message being preached clearly and powerfully *in your church*?

The message Jesus Christ brought from heaven involved His death on the cross and His Messiahship. But it involved *so much more!* For Jesus was sent from God the Father to bring a message about God’s plan to set up *His government* on this earth—under Jesus Christ as King of kings—which will bring absolute *peace, prosperity* and radiant *joy* to **all** mankind. In His Kingdom, no longer will **billions** of people live in filth, virtual starvation, disease and often in *fear* of the human despots who cruelly rule over them.

Would *you* like to see joy on the faces of these *billions* of oppressed peoples all over the earth?

*God would!*

That is *why* the true God plans to send His Son to this earth—as a conquering King—to straighten out the mess mankind has made of society and government here on earth. He will heal the sick, comfort the downcast and give *all* human beings a sense of *purpose* and *joy* beyond anything they have ever experienced!

The Good News—the “Gospel” of Jesus Christ—was primarily about this great **purpose** that our Creator has in mind, and which He *definitely intends to bring about*. Jesus spoke of it. The Apostles preached and wrote about it. The prophets constantly proclaimed *this great purpose* as the ultimate Plan of the great God who gives us life and breath! As God’s inspired word tells us: “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15).

And yet, in mainstream “churchianity,” this Good News is seldom discussed or preached about. It is almost like a “hidden” message of which many major denominations are ashamed.

## The Message God Sent

When you read the Bible, it is clear that the *main thrust* of God’s message to mankind is **not** just the “precious blood of Jesus.” It is **not** just Christ hanging on a cross. **Both** of these are a vital *part* of God’s message. But God’s *primary message*—from one end of the Bible to the other—is about man’s need to **obey** his Creator and prepare to serve, under Christ, in the coming Kingdom of God soon to be set up *on this earth*. Obedient, converted Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit, will then serve with God and with Christ through all eternity as *full members* of the family of God.

Notice! The real Jesus of your Bible came preaching the message of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14). It was *not* a “fluff fluff” gospel about a warm feeling in

your heart or about just “accepting” the *Person* of Christ. Rather, it was about the soon-coming *Government of God* which will bring genuine peace, prosperity, health and happiness to this sick and confused world. Jesus told His disciples: “And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My **kingdom**, and *sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel*” (Luke 22:29–30). Most modern ministers either totally *neglect* this and other similar passages throughout the Bible, or else they try to “spiritualize away” these vital scriptures. But Jesus was obviously talking about a *literal* kingdom or **government** to be set up *here on earth* at His Second Coming. Notice what the Apostle John wrote when he was inspired to describe Jesus’ return to earth: “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:15–16). Note that the returning Jesus Christ will rule over the nations of **this world**—**not** people up in heaven!

Also, read the inspired “Song of the Saints” recorded in Revelation 5:9–10: “And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and *we shall reign on the earth.*’” So the true

saints of God will definitely reign with Christ **on the earth**. There is not *one single verse* in your Bible, **anywhere**, which promises “going to heaven” as the reward of the saints!

Why do the mainstream churches fail to preach this powerful message about the soon-coming Kingdom of God on this earth? Why do they insist on talking about the *Person* of Jesus, yet almost totally *neglect* the powerful message that He brought from the Father about a coming world government?

Why?

The Apostle Paul tells us very clearly that the **goal** of the true Christian is to be part of that liter-

al government that will be set up on this earth. “Do you not know that *the saints will judge the world*? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” (1 Corinthians 6:2–3). In this passage of scripture, Paul clearly tells true Christians that we are to prepare to “judge” or to **rule** this entire earth. As the Apostle John tells us: “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall **reign** with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

*What an exciting future!* What an awesome **goal** to aim for! What a wonderful **reason** to serve God, to overcome our sins and to *fully surrender* our lives, to let Christ live within us and build within us the very *character of God* (cf. Galatians 2:20). Then, and *only then*, will we be fit to rule with Christ in His coming Kingdom.

## How “Christianity” Went Off-Track

In plain language, the hope of the early Christians was **not** about “floating off to heaven.” It was the hope of *fully surrendering* their lives to God—of being true

## Millions Are Deceived

Although there are millions of good and sincere people in many of this world’s religions—including Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Roman Catholicism and Protestantism—the *vast majority* of all human beings on this earth do **not** know and do **not** understand the true Jesus Christ of the Bible! The Apostle Paul urgently warned the Corinthians: “For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a **different gospel** which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it” (2 Corinthians 11:4). Yes, indeed! Most people “put up” with a “different gospel”—a totally **different** gospel than the one preached by Jesus Christ and the early New Testament Church!

The inspired word of God is very clear on this point. The Apostle John tells us this basic truth about Satan: “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, *who deceives the whole world*; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9). Did John know what he was talking about? Is this inspired scripture to be believed?

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write: “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds *the god of this age* has **blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” (2 Corinthians 4:3–4). Satan has, indeed, absolutely “blinded” most people to the real Truth of God. In the professing Christian world, they are taught to be sentimental about “little Lord Jesus” at Christmas time—or a dead Christ on a cross at Easter time—but they are **not** taught the entire *way of life* which Jesus taught and practiced. They are **not** focused on the fact that Christ is **alive**—that He and the Father are *right now* preparing places or positions of *authority* and *rulership* here on earth for the true saints of God. They are **not** being taught to genuinely *prepare themselves* for positions of rulership in the soon-coming government of Christ.

God’s Word tells us: “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Daniel 7:27). We must learn to **believe** Paul’s inspired words: “Do you not know that *the saints will judge the world*? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” (1 Corinthians 6:2).

*overcomers*—so that in the resurrection they would join Christ in *ruling this earth* and in bringing *peace and joy* at last to our planet! As Jesus' beloved friend, the Apostle John, was inspired to write: "And he who *overcomes*, and *keeps My works* until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—'He shall *rule* them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'—as I also have received from My Father" (Revelation 2:26–27). So true Christians are not merely to "believe" in the Person of Christ. They are to *fully surrender*—to let Christ live His obedient life in them through the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul

explains *real* Christianity to us this way: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, KJV).

Yet Satan the Devil was able to *deceive* the early Roman Catholic "church fathers." Satan got their minds *off* the Gospel of the Kingdom and onto church *politics and power*. The early Catholic leaders began to compromise with the surrounding pagan customs and ideas, in order to gain more pagan adherents to their Catholic faith. And

they began to teach that the Catholic Church *itself* was the promised Kingdom of God. So it was that millions of sincere but deceived people felt that their primary Christian **purpose** was to seek power and influence within the church itself. This is explained in *The Story of The Christian Church* by Jesse Lyman Hurlbut, who writes: "But the church and the state became one when Christianity was adopted as the religion of the empire, and out of the unnatural union arose two evils, one in the eastern, the other in the western provinces. In the east the state dominated the church until it lost all energy and uplifting life. In the west, as we

Yet most professing Christians do **not** believe that. Because they have never been *taught* that. And they do not remotely understand the supreme **purpose** for which we have been put on this earth—which, as some of you know, goes even beyond what I have described here!

The secular historian Edward Gibbon was able to be very objective about what was really preached in the early Christian church. For he *did not* have to defend the doctrinal biases of any particular denomination. In his famous and highly respected work, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Gibbon clearly states: "The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of the creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition which was attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed to six thousand years. By the same analogy it was inferred that this long period of labour and contention, which was now almost elapsed, would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand years; and that Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection.... The assurance of such a Millennium was carefully inculcated by a succession of fathers from Justin Martyr and Irenaeus, who conversed with the immediate disciples of the apostles, down to Lactantius, who was preceptor to the son of Constantine. Though it might not be universally received, it appears to have been the reigning sentiment of the orthodox believers; and it seems so well adapted to the desires and apprehensions of mankind, that it must have contributed in a very considerable degree to the progress of the Christian faith. But when the edifice of the church was almost completed, the temporary support was laid aside. The doctrine of Christ's reign upon earth was at first treated as a profound allegory, was considered by degrees as a doubtful and useless opinion, and was at length rejected as the absurd invention of heresy and fanaticism" (Volume I, pp. 403–404).

Wow!

Sometimes it takes a secular historian to be willing to admit *what really happened* to Christianity! It is clear from Gibbon and many other sources that the original Apostolic Church firmly believed that Jesus Christ *would come again* to this earth—this time as King of kings. They believed that Christ would then set up a *world-ruling government* on this earth—the Kingdom of God. They believed that the true saints, as Gibbon says, "would reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection."

—Roderick C. Meredith

shall see, the church gradually usurped power over the state, and the result was not *Christianity* but a more or less corrupt *hierarchy* controlling the nations of Europe, making the church mainly a political machine” (p. 80).

The church a “political machine?” Hurlbut, Edward Gibbon and many other respected historians agree that during the time of Constantine, and for

which I say?” (Luke 6:46). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed: “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

with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation” (Psalm 119:97–99).

## The Reality of Christ’s Coming World Government

Within a comparatively few years, David will once again be king, under Christ, over *all Israel* during the coming Millennium. Your Bible reveals

# Isaiah describes the blessings and beauty of the coming Millennial rule be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose

hundreds of years afterward, this is what most of the professing Christian church had become. Then, when the Protestant “reformers” came along, they—for the most part—substituted worship of the Person of Jesus Christ for the Catholic ritual system. But having been reared *all their lives* in Catholicism, they were unable to see that the genuine Christianity of Jesus and the Apostles involves *so much more* than the veneration of Jesus. It involves living an entire *way of life* that will prepare true Christians to be “kings and priests” (Revelation 5:10) ruling *on this earth* under Jesus Christ. It involves wholehearted *obedience*, through Christ living in us, to *all ten* of the Ten Commandments—the *very laws that true saints of God will be expected to teach and to administer in the soon-coming Kingdom of God!*

Certainly it is better to worship the Person of Christ rather than some idol. *But that is not enough!* Jesus Himself cried out: “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things

you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (Matthew 7:21–23).

“But isn’t that ‘legalism?’”

If it is “legalism” to *obey* the Ten Commandments as Jesus and the Apostles continually taught, so be it! But what the deceived ministers who cry “legalism” fail utterly to understand is that this *obedient way of life*—through Christ living in us—is the very **foundation** of the character that God wants to build within us, to prepare us to be the kind of kings and priests He desires in His coming Kingdom. That is why, for instance, King David of ancient Israel will be resurrected and put in charge over the Twelve Apostles. King David was *never* involved in the sentimental worship of Jesus. But—“except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite” (1 Kings 15:5)—David obeyed God and kept His laws not just faithfully, but *enthusiastically*. As David exclaimed: “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever

that a *literal government* will be set up *on this earth*, with Jesus Christ ruling from Jerusalem as King over many other lesser kings. The Bible reveals that the people of Judah and of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” will be *reunited* under King David’s rulership: “Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. ‘David My servant *shall be king*



over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David *shall be* their prince forever” (Ezekiel 37:21–25).

be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited’” (vv. 34–35).

Isaiah writes that, in this soon-coming time, “out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the

resting place shall be glorious” (Isaiah 11:4, 9–10).

Isaiah describes the blessings and beauty of the coming Millennial rule of Jesus Christ and His saints: “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excel-

## of Jesus Christ and His saints: “The wilderness and the wasteland shall rejoice; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing.

Serving under King David—each in charge of one of the individual nations of Israel—will be the Twelve Apostles. As Jesus told them: “But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed *one* upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:28–30).

Along with King David, they will be teaching their subjects and leading them in the way of God’s law. “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them” (Ezekiel 36:26–27). God will bless their efforts and send the whole world “rain in due season.” Then, with Christ in charge, even the desolate land of Israel will be lush and beautiful once again. “The desolate land shall

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 2:3–4). It will be a time of total *peace* and *prosperity*! Isaiah writes of Christ’s coming reign: “But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.... They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ‘And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His

lence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD.... Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert” (Isaiah 35:1–2, 5–6).

This is **not** just for the “Jews,” as some wrongly teach. It is for **all** nations of the earth! Notice

### To Learn More...



Are you willing to grow in grace and in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18)? Do you seek to grasp Jesus Christ’s real message, and understand your purpose in life as you never have before?

Please request our **FREE** booklet, **Do You Believe the True Gospel?**, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).

Micah'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 peoples shall flow to it. **Many nations** 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 the law shall go*

their heart to Him" in some vague manner, they will "float off to heaven" with essentially **nothing** to do! Is that one reason **why** church attendance in most "mainstream" denominations has fallen off dramatically in recent years?

Jesus gave the parable of the pounds (or "minas," as the Greek word is more literally translated) because "they thought that the Kingdom of

en." It was the opportunity to **rule over ten cities here on earth!** In the soon-coming resurrection from the dead, those who are truly surrendered to live "*by every word of God*" (Luke 4:4) shall be greatly rewarded. Notice again God's promise: "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

## The news of this exciting challenge to assist Christ in *ruling over this earth* has been withheld from most professing Christians. They are simply left in the dark.

*forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.* He shall judge between **many peoples**, and rebuke strong nations afar off; 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. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken" (Micah 4:1-4).

### The "Hidden Message" Now Revealed


Mainstream "churchianity" has obscured this powerful message about Jesus Christ returning in power and glory to **rule** the nations. The news of this exciting challenge to **assist Christ** in *ruling over this earth* has been withheld from most professing Christians. They are simply left in the dark. They are told a little bit about Jesus' death on the cross. They are told that after "accepting" Christ, or "giving

God would appear immediately" (Luke 19:11-26). His listeners plainly expected a **literal government** to be set up on earth! Did Jesus tell them that this idea was **wrong**? *No!* Rather, Jesus explained that He ("the nobleman") would go to heaven and then *return to earth* to see how much His followers had overcome, and what they had done with their talents and abilities.

To the first servant, who had multiplied his mina tenfold, *what did Jesus say?* Did He say: "Now you can go to heaven and rest?"

*No!* Jesus actually said: "Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, *have authority over ten cities*" (v. 17). His reward was not "going to heav-

Him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6).

Will you, personally, **believe** Christ's message about the coming Kingdom of God? Will you surrender to the true Christ of the Bible to let Him *live His obedient life in you* (cf. Galatians 2:20)? Remember Jesus' direct challenge: "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. *Repent and believe in the gospel*" (Mark 1:15). 

## To Learn More...



Today, much that goes by the name "Christianity" not only differs from, but often contradicts, the message Jesus Christ came proclaiming. Why is this? And what can *you* do about it?

Please request our **FREE** booklet, *Restoring Apostolic Christianity*, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).

# Questions & Answers

**Q** Various churches use water to perform a rite they call baptism. What is the purpose of water baptism? What method of baptism is correct according to the Bible?

**A** Few in modern Christianity understand the real meaning of water baptism. There is also much confusion about *how* baptism should be done. Some churches sprinkle and some pour, while others practice complete immersion in water.

Most professing Christians today practice “sprinkling.” Yet the word “sprinkling” occurs only a few times in the New Testament—but *never* in connection with baptism. “Pouring” is also mentioned several times, but *never* in connection with baptism.

The word “baptize” comes from the Greek *baptizo*, meaning “to immerse” or “plunge into” or “put into.” This Greek word cannot mean “sprinkle” or “pour.” The Greek word for “sprinkle” is *rantizo*, and “pour” is *cheo*.

Therefore, by the Bible’s own words, “sprinkling” or “pouring” are not *baptizo*. Baptism means immersion—being put *completely* under water.

The Bible tells us that John the Baptist was baptizing “in” the river Aenon (John 3:23). John would have needed only a handful of water to sprinkle repentant believers, or a cupful to pour. But baptizing requires “*much water*” (v. 23).

Even though Jesus Christ was sinless, He was baptized by John, setting the example for His Church to follow (Matthew 3:13–15; 28:19–20). We know that Jesus was *immersed* because He “came up immediately from the water” (3:16). He could not have “come up” from a sprinkle or pour!

When Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, they both went “into the water” (Acts 8:38). Philip need not have gone “into” the water to

sprinkle or pour water on the eunuch, if that were the proper mode of baptism. But to *plunge* the eunuch into the water, Philip too had to go *into* the water.

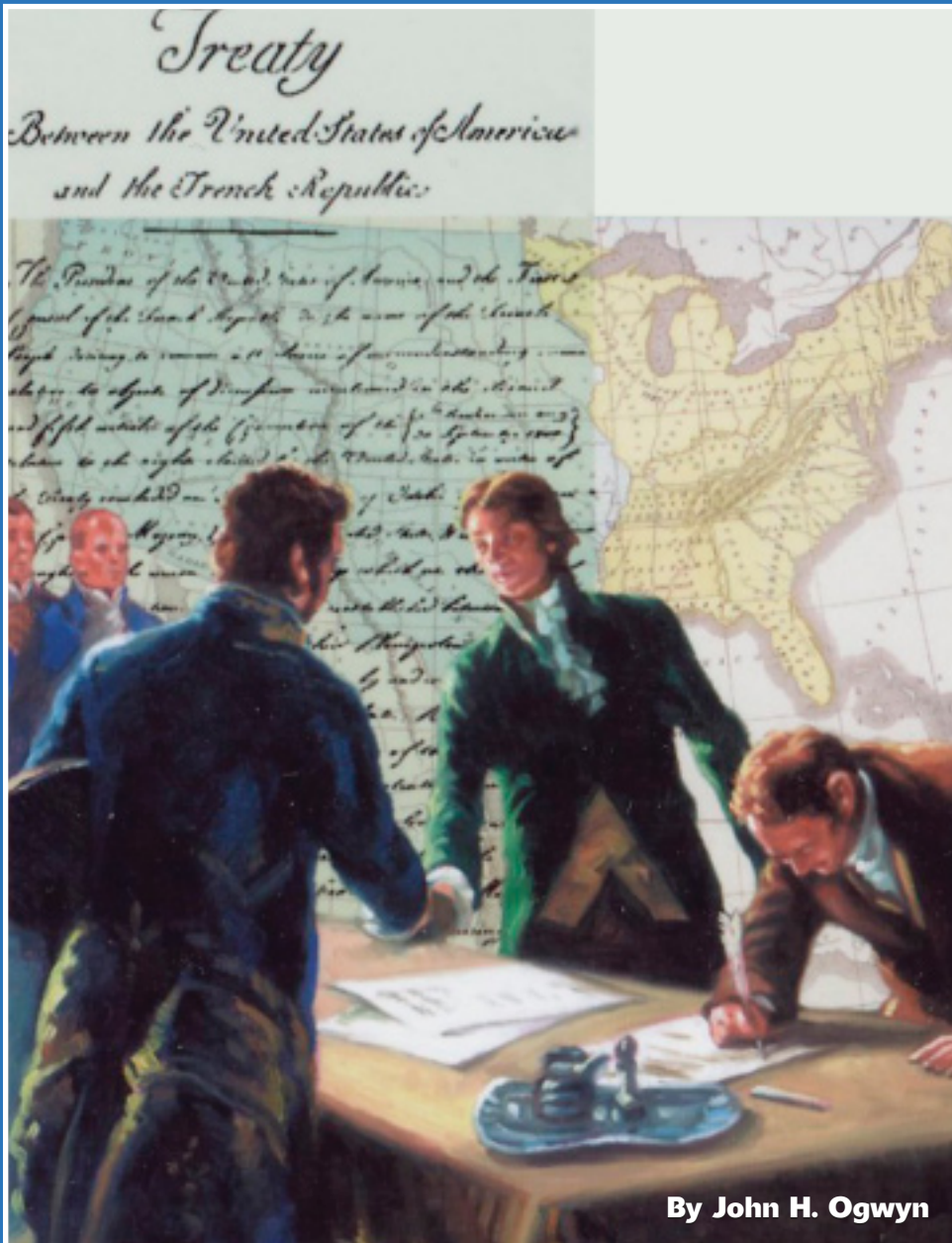
These examples clearly show that total immersion in water was the baptism practiced by the Church Jesus founded. And that is the baptism being practiced by His Church today!

But what exactly is the purpose of baptism? What is the meaning of being immersed in water? Water baptism has no mystical or “magical” effect. Its only physical consequence is that one becomes thoroughly wet from head to toe! Yet God commands baptism as an act of obedience, demonstrating our faith in our living Savior, Jesus Christ, and in His shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins. He gives the obedient and forgiven sinner the gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:17–19; Revelation 1:5; Acts 2:38).

Why does God insist on this symbolic act of immersion? Baptism symbolizes one’s death, burial and resurrection from a “grave” (Colossians 2:12–13; Romans 6:3–13). Just as Jesus died for our sins and was buried, the one being baptized undergoes the symbolic death and burial of his old, sinful life, then emerges from the watery “grave” in which he was immersed. Just as Jesus was resurrected “in newness of life,” our coming up out of the waters of baptism symbolizes our resurrection to live a new life of obedience to God, free from the guilt of past sins and the death penalty those sins have incurred (Romans 6:23).

Baptism is a symbolic expression of our sincere repentance from sin, and our desire to end and *bury* our past, sinful life. When we are baptized, we come up out of the water acknowledging that our selfish, vain and sinful old self has died, so that we may live a new life of *spiritual obedience* to God’s commandments, as made possible through the power of His Holy Spirit.

# The G



By John H. Ogwyn

## ***At its 200th anniversary, the Louisiana Purchase reminds us that God is faithful to His promises.***

**O**n a bright, balmy afternoon nearly 200 years ago, a remarkable event marked the partial fulfillment of a promise made more than 3,600 years before! On December 20, 1803, the flag of the United States of America was first raised in the Place d'Armes (now Jackson Square) in New Orleans, as the U.S. officially took possession of the Louisiana Purchase.

As the bicentennial of this event has approached, many have noted the importance of the Louisiana Purchase. But very few

realize that this vast acquisition of land was foreordained more than three-and-a-half millennia ago! Astounding as this may seem, the Louisiana Purchase was part of a divine plan revealed in the very first book of your Bible—the book of Genesis.

In just a few years at the start of the 19th century, the U.S. and British Commonwealth nations rose to unprecedented prominence on the world scene. This is remarkable enough, but even more remarkable is the fact that this sudden and dramatic expansion was foretold long ago, in the pages of your Bible!

Why did the English-speaking peoples rise to such unprecedented power and greatness? What does the future *really* hold for the U.S. and the British Commonwealth nations? The answers to these and other questions form part of history's most astounding story!

### **Jefferson at The Helm**

In 1776, there had been no United States of America. That summer, Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence, which

# reatest Land Deal Ever?

first declared the existence of a sovereign American nation. A bloody war and successive years of struggle were to follow, and a new nation was created. In March 1801, when Jefferson took the oath of office as the third President of the fledgling U.S., much had changed in just 25 years. Thirteen British colonies hugging the Atlantic seacoast had quickly become a westward-looking nation expanding toward the Mississippi River.

In 1801, the total population of the U.S. was still under six million, most of whom lived less than 100 miles from the Atlantic coast. But several new states—Vermont, Kentucky and Tennessee—had been added to the original 13, and increasing numbers of settlers were pouring into the future states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Many farmers were finding that it only made sense to ship their produce down the Ohio River to the Mississippi, then south to the port of New Orleans. A lack of roads made it impractical for farmers to haul their cash crops east to the Atlantic seaboard.

The French had founded New Orleans in 1718, then ceded it to the Spanish in 1763 as part of the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Seven Years War (also called the “French and Indian War” in America). Because of its position at the mouth of the Mississippi, New Orleans was of major economic importance to the western settlers in the young U.S. As more settlers moved westward, this port could only grow in importance.

So the Jefferson administration was understandably concerned when it learned that France’s new ruler, Napoleon, was pressuring Spain to return the Louisiana Territory to French control. It was one thing for a weak Spanish government to control the port of New Orleans, but it was quite another for it to be controlled by an ambitious and powerful ruler such as Napoleon. The Mississippi River was the economic lifeline for America’s western settlers, and whoever controlled New Orleans controlled commerce on the Mississippi.

Knowing that the very future of his country was at stake, President Jefferson dispatched to France two diplomats—Robert Livingston and later James Monroe—to negotiate the purchase of New Orleans. At first, Napoleon’s government

showed no interest. Napoleon had dreams of reestablishing a vast French colonial empire in the “New World.” But the Creator of the universe had other plans!

Napoleon’s dreams of an American empire were crushed when 50,000 French troops, under the command of his brother-in-law General Charles LeClerc, died while trying to subdue a rebellion against French colonial rule on the Caribbean island of Santo Domingo. This calamity, and the growing prospect of war against the British, prompted Napoleon to offer the American envoys not just the purchase of New Orleans, but rather **the entire Louisiana Territory**.

For \$15 million—less than a nickel an acre—the U.S. received what turned out to be a vast inland empire of 830,000 square miles, including some of the richest farmland on the face of the earth! Included were all or part of what would become 13 states: Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. “‘Today,’ said Livingston, after he had attached his signature, ‘the United States take their place among the powers of the first rank’” (William O. Scroggs, *The Story of Louisiana*, p. 161).

At the time of the purchase, the boundaries were so poorly defined that neither France nor the U.S. knew exactly what was being sold. President Jefferson was eager to learn all about the new territory—the Indian nations living there, its plant and animal life, its rivers and the prospect of a route across the northern part of the new territory that could take Americans all the way to the Pacific Ocean. An official expedition into the new territory was outfitted and dispatched, led by U.S. Army officers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Leaving from St. Louis, Missouri in the summer of 1804, they returned a couple of years later with maps and data that made clear that America had gained far more than had previously been realized.

This vast expanse of territory ensured the continuing expansion of widespread land ownership among the American people. Laying a foundation for a wide-based American prosperity, millions of future settlers were able to own their own land, rather than

live as tenants on the estate of some great landlord. Under President James Madison, Jefferson's successor, the U.S. government undertook the ambitious project of surveying this vast tract of land. The survey began in a swamp near the present-day town of Brinkley, Arkansas, where a stake was driven in the ground and teams began to chart an east-west line that became the baseline for all property descriptions within the territory of the Louisiana Purchase. This line continued west along what is now Baseline Road in Little Rock, and ultimately extended across the entire state of Oklahoma. "The National Historic Landmark, deep in the swamp of the Louisiana Purchase State Park in Brinkley, marks the initial survey point. From this point, surveyors began their work of chains and compasses. Every legal description of the land contained in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 depended on these measurements taken from this point" (*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, May 4, 2003).



**The U.S. flag flies over Ft. Charles, LA, in this 1803 John Boqueta painting that commemorates the Louisiana Purchase.**  
©AFP Photo/Chicago Historical Society.

## Fulfillment of an Ancient Promise

The Louisiana Purchase territory includes some of the most valuable agricultural land on the planet. It encompasses the very heartland of the North American continent. Control of this valuable territory set the stage for what Americans in the coming decades began to call "Manifest Destiny."

Was this rapid expansion just a matter of time and chance, or was it really the nation's pre-ordained destiny? If it was a matter of destiny, then *why*? Why were the English-speaking peoples destined to control the American heartland, rather than the nations that had tried and failed before?

To understand the answer to that question, we must look to the far distant past. The Creator of the universe told a man named Abram, living on the lower Euphrates River in a city called Ur of the Chaldees, to leave his family and homeland to go to a land that he would afterward be given. At age 75, Abram left Mesopotamia behind, and began his journey to the land of Canaan.

Initially, God simply told Abram that he would become "a great nation" and that all the families of

the earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:2–3). Twenty-four years later, when Abram was 99 years old, God appeared to him and entered into a solemn covenant. God changed Abram's name to Abraham, and expanded His promise to include Abraham's becoming the "father of many nations" (Genesis 17:4). Many years later, the Almighty appeared to Abraham's grandson Jacob, and further

expanded the promise by declaring that Jacob's descendants would spread abroad in every direction from the promised land in the Middle East (Genesis 28:13–14). Still later, after another encounter with God, Jacob's name was changed to Israel (Genesis 32:28), and his descendants were thenceforth known as Israelites.

Genesis 48 describes a ceremony that took place near the end of Israel's long life. Very few have ever understood

the real significance of what occurred that day in ancient Egypt. Israel's sons had sold their younger brother Joseph into slavery many years earlier. Joseph, however, had prospered, rising to become second-in-command to Pharaoh in Egypt. The family was reunited during a time of famine, when Israel and his family had come to Egypt to live in the Nile delta region (the "Land of Goshen"). Learning that his elderly father was ill, Joseph came to visit, bringing his sons Ephraim and Manasseh.

Sitting up in bed to receive his son and grandsons, elderly Israel called Ephraim and Manasseh near to bless them. Knowing that his father was nearly blind, Joseph had purposely placed the boys so that his father's right hand would be on the older son, Manasseh, and his left hand would be on the younger, Ephraim. When the time came, Israel crossed his arms, laying his right hand on Ephraim and his left hand on Manasseh. Initially, Joseph was disturbed, for he thought his father had become confused. Israel corrected him, explaining that he was doing this *on purpose*. In this ceremony, Israel placed his name on the young men, declaring that Ephraim's descendants were to grow into a great company of nations while Manasseh's were to become a single great nation.

One reason that so few have understood the significance of Israel's declaration is that most

people erroneously assume that all Israelites are Jews. Yet Judah—the Jews’ ancestor—was just *one* of the 12 sons of Jacob (Israel). After the death of King Solomon, more than seven centuries after Jacob’s declaration, Israel’s descendants split into two kingdoms—northern and southern. The citizens of the northern kingdom, with its capital at Samaria, were known as Israelites, and were taken into Assyrian captivity after Samaria fell in 721BC.

The southern kingdom of Judah, however—with its citizens known as Jews—continued on for a century after Israel’s fall, before falling to Babylonian invaders. From the time of Solomon onward, the histories of Israel and Judah have been quite distinct. While the promise of the kingly dynasty, and ultimately of the Messiah, came through the line of Judah, the *birthright* promises went to the descendants of Joseph (1 Chronicles 5:2).

With this bit of background in mind, we can understand the events that immediately preceded Jacob’s death. After blessing Ephraim and Manasseh, he called all of his sons together and told them what would befall their descendants in *the last days* (Genesis 49:1). Jacob described Joseph’s descendants as a colonizing people, and likened them to a fruitful vine whose branches would grow and spread out. They, as a result of God’s blessing, would be militarily strong and have great blessings of agricultural and mineral wealth (Genesis 49:22–26). This birthright blessing, which Israel conveyed to the descendants of Joseph, had been described as the “fatness of the earth” (Genesis 27:28) and included a future inheritance of lands that would produce an abundance of corn and wine.

Why was the timing of this future inheritance delayed for so long? A recurring theme of Scripture is that God has a time plan and does things right on schedule. Jesus told His disciples that the Father retains control of the times and seasons of human history (Acts 1:7). The Apostle Paul declared that God had determined in advance both the times and bounds of habitation for the nations (Acts 17:26). This prophetic time framework shows God’s sovereignty in history. Just as God declared that “seven times” would pass over Babylon, so that men would know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomsoever He will (Daniel 4:16–17), so also does history prove that seven prophetic “times” elapsed in the fulfillment of the end-time promises that Jacob made to his sons.

What is a prophetic “time”? Revelation 12 and 13 use the expressions “1,260 days” and “time, times, and half a time” and “42 months” interchangeably. Forty-two months of 30 days each are equal to 1,260 days—or three-and-a-half years. Clearly, then, 2,520 days—1,260 doubled—are the equivalent of “seven times.” Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6 establish the principle that a day is equal to a year in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. History shows us that Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took Jerusalem and brought Judah under his control in 604BC. This was in the third year of King Jehoiakim and the time at which Daniel and a number of other young men of prominent families were taken away captive to Babylon.

Interestingly, it was *exactly* 2,520 years later—seven prophetic “times”—that the stage was set for an end-time Jewish nation in its ancient homeland. It was in November 1917 that the British government issued the famous Balfour Declaration, announcing that it would “look with favour” upon a Jewish homeland in Palestine. A few weeks later, British forces under Viscount Allenby entered Jerusalem and freed it from the Turks.

When looking at the history of the northern kingdom (the House of Israel), we find a similar phenomenon. From the time of Israel’s being taken into Assyrian captivity in 721BC, the passing of 2,520 years brings us to the year 1800. This was the time when the British and American nations began their rapid rise to world dominance, which would endure for the entire 19th and 20th centuries.

## **A Warning About Forgetfulness**

Clearly, the U.S. and the British Commonwealth nations have received the fulfillment of the ancient promises that the Creator God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God has given them prosperity that no other peoples on earth have known. Just as Britain mushroomed into the greatest empire in the history of the world, beginning at the start of the 19th century, so the U.S. quickly rose to become the greatest single nation in history. A great nation and a great company of nations possessing the choicest places of the earth—this description is the fulfillment of what elderly Jacob promised to Joseph’s sons in the end time. This describes the English-speaking peoples as it does no others in the entire history of the world.

Acquiring the vast Louisiana Purchase territory was only the beginning of expansion for the U.S.

Spreading across the North American continent to the Pacific coast within a generation, the American nation was destined—along with Canada and Australia—to become the breadbasket of the world.

However, with great blessings come great responsibilities. Just before Israel first entered into the Promised Land, Moses gave a solemn warning. After describing the “bounty” of the land into which God was leading Israel (a description that is certainly appropriate today for the lands held by the English-speaking peoples), Moses warned the people not to forget the *source* of that bounty (Deuteronomy 8:7–14). He cautioned that the most dangerous time is not the time of hardship, but rather the time of abundance. In times of adversity and trial, it is easy to be conscious of our need for God’s help and blessing. It is in the time when we have “bread without scarceness” that people tend to have an illusion of self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

Though the U.S. and Canada both have holidays set aside as Thanksgiving Day, the real meaning underlying them has become lost. In the U.S., this day is increasingly called “turkey day” and has become little more than a day of football, overeating, and the start of the “Christmas shopping season.” How many are truly *thankful* to the Creator of the universe, recognizing that the wealth that they enjoy is the result of God’s faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham? Rather, as their wealth has multiplied, the U.S. and British Commonwealth nations have increasingly forgotten God and His laws.

When the English-speaking nations rose to prominence in the 19th century, the Bible was the most widely read book in the English-speaking world. The Ten Commandments were acknowledged as the underpinning of national laws. Today, that is no longer the case! As courts and legislatures seek to legalize the perversions for which God anciently expelled the nations of the Canaanites, we should not forget that God will not be mocked.

Moses made it plain that if the Israelites forgot God, and refused to obey Him, they would “surely

perish” from the land that God gave (Deuteronomy 8:19–20). As “modern-day Israel,” the U.S. and British Commonwealth peoples should heed this warning! While the Louisiana Purchase might rightly be described as the “greatest land deal ever,” we must never forget that it was not nearly so much the result of American ingenuity as it was the result of the Creator fulfilling His promises. As the U.S. and British Commonwealth nations increasingly turn their collective backs on the One who gave them His choicest bounty, we should realize that the same One who gives national wealth can also take it away.

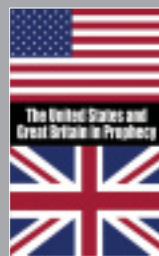
Those who refuse to remember their Creator in this time of abundance will ultimately be forced to seek Him in the midst of the greatest time of trial and adversity in mankind’s history. Scripture calls this “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7).

What about you? Do you truly acknowledge God as the source of your national blessings? Do you *really* recognize that His laws are the source of the righteous conduct that truly exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34)? Only those who recognize His role, and obey His laws, will have His protection in the trying times that will conclude this age and set the stage for the coming of the Messiah! ☞



**Workers remove the Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of an Alabama judicial building on August 27, 2003. ©EPA Photo.**

## To Learn More...



Understanding what the Bible reveals about modern-day Israel is a vital key to making sense of end-time Bible prophecy.

Please request our **FREE** booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).



# Letters to the Editor

## **TOMORROW'S WORLD MAGAZINE**

I was baptized some 34 years ago. During these ensuing 34 years, I have never read an article that so clearly points out why God will punish the Israelite people as "The Economics of Greed" [in the July-August 2003 issue]. I have read the prophecies and understood them as you have written in your article, and I have been baffled why nobody has been writing articles along these lines before. It is not just the corruption at corporate headquarters and political circles. It is all of us. Our entire nation (the USA) and peoples need to repent of our desire for the "American Way" or the "American Dream," and replace it with a desire for "Thy Kingdom Come." Thanks for the article.

R. B., Excelsior Springs, MO

I am very thankful for the *Tomorrow's World* magazine. I have been reading the article, "The Danger of False Conversion." It is an excellent article. I do pray for you and the Work. I look forward to more excellent articles in the magazine and other literature. Please keep up the good work.

J. K., Milwaukee, WI

I want to thank you for your magazine, which sounds as a warning trumpet to this sin-sick, morally destitute nation. Your article "From Closet to Mainstream: The Homosexual Agenda" [in the May-June 2003 issue] was especially enlightening and rang with truth. God surely cannot withhold His righteous judgment from us much longer for our collective disobedience of His holy commandments. Thank you again for telling God's Truth in your publications.

K. C., Brazil, IN

## **BIBLE STUDY COURSE**

I am a subscriber of the *Tomorrow's World* magazines and also a participant in the *Bible Study Course*. I must tell you these have really been a big help to me in knowing and understanding events happening around the world and also knowing how close we are to the end of the age. Most of all, the *Bible Study Course* is what I wanted to know all my life: the Truth. I have finished Lesson Twelve, and it is a joy answering the questions. I can hardly wait for the others.

A. B., Williamsville, Trinidad

## **GOD'S CHURCH THROUGH THE AGES**

I have done a good bit of reading about church history to present. I have read most of the references you mention in *God's Church Through the Ages*. This booklet compares favorably to other authoritative references. I especially appreciate that yours is completely free. Many thanks!

J. B., Columbia, SC

I wish to say thank you for the wonderfully informative booklets that you have been sending me. I truly appreciate the hard work that you and your staff do and the generosity of the people who make this possible.

J. S., London, England

I love to read, and I am so humbled by not only the quantity, but also the quality of information I am receiving. I am learning so much about God, it is awesome. Please continue to pray that God will protect and guide me so that my family and friends will understand the route I'm taking.

W. H., St. Elizabeth, Jamaica

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



# Signs of the Second Coming

By Richard F. Ames

*Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus' disciples asked Him what would be the sign of His coming and the end of the age. What signs and prophetic trends did Jesus mention in response? We need to know what the Bible says!*

**O**ver the centuries, many have made predictions and set dates, anticipating Jesus Christ's return. So far, all have failed. But does this mean Jesus will not return? Human beings have believed false prophecies since Adam and Eve. But Bible prophecy has proven to be valid time and time again! The Apostle Peter witnessed fulfilled prophecy when he saw the resurrected Christ, who had been in the tomb three days and three nights. Peter wrote: "And so we have the *prophetic word confirmed*, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the

morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:19–21).

Dozens of passages in both the Old and New Testaments prophesy Jesus Christ's Second Coming. Look at what Jesus Himself said: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will

come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:1–3).

Why do so many fail to believe Jesus’ own words? He said: “I will come again.” The prophet Zechariah even tells us *where* He will return: “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south” (Zechariah 14:4).

The Mount of Olives is just east of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. On the southeast slope is an old road that leads to the village of Bethany. Jesus spent time there with Mary, Martha, Lazarus and His disciples. My wife and I have walked that same road from Bethany to the Mount of Olives. It took us just about a half-hour.

When Jesus returns to the Mount of Olives, there will be a massive earthquake, and the mountain will split in two. Notice the time setting. “Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem” (Zechariah 14:1–2). The world’s armies will gather at Megiddo and come down to Jerusalem to fight Christ at His coming. Revelation 16:14 calls it “the battle of that great day of God Almighty”—more popularly called “Armageddon.”

The book of Acts also confirms the Second Coming. In Acts 1, the disciples witnessed Jesus’ ascension. “And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?

This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’ Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey” (Acts 1:10–12).

Here we have seen three plain scriptural references to the Second Coming of Christ—and there are many more. Remember the announcement of the seventh trumpet: “Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15).

Note also this passage from Revelation 19: “He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of kings and Lord of Lords” (Revelation 19:13–16).

Jesus said that, preceding His return, there would be false religions, and false signs and wonders that will deceive many. He stated: “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:24). There will be powerful religious deceptions. Not just the few, but the *many* will be deceived by false religions—even false Christianity.

## Are You Deceived?

How can you know what is true and what is false? You need to check up on us—and all preachers—by reading your Bible! In praying to the Father, Jesus said: “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” (John 17:17). God’s Word, the Bible, is truth! Many carelessly assume that their minister or priest is preaching from the Bible. But many doctrines commonly “taken for granted” are not in your Bible! You need to *prove for yourself* what the Bible says. Remember: “Test [the KJV says “prove”] all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

You need not be deceived. Jesus Himself gave the prophetic trends and signs that would precede His Second Coming. You need to know what they are. One of the signs preceding Christ’s return will be establishment of a great false religion with great power. You can read about that system called in Revelation 17 “the great harlot.” The false prophet the Apostle Paul spoke about will lead that system. You can read about the “man of sin” in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. For more detail, write for your *free* copy of our booklet, *Who or What Is the Antichrist?*

Another specific sign Jesus told us to watch for is a future profaning of the holy place in Jerusalem. Turn in your Bible to Matthew 24:15. This is important! Jesus said: “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’” (Matthew 24:15–16). Notice that the great false

prophet, the man of sin, will profane the temple of God. This “abomination of desolation” is one of the signs Jesus said would precede His Second Coming.

What other signs will precede the Second Coming? Jesus warned us in Matthew 24:7 that there would be “earthquakes in various places.” Perhaps you feel secure because your city or region has no history of earthquakes. In a *Time* magazine cover story, author George J. Church reminded us: “Earthquakes are unpredictable. They almost invariably strike not only at times but at places nobody expects, and no one quake is exactly like any other” (January 30, 1995).

How powerful can earthquakes be? The historic Mississippi Valley earthquake on December 16, 1811, near New Madrid, Missouri, actually reversed the course of the Mississippi River! The series of quakes had estimated magnitudes of 8.6, 8.4, and 8.8. As the *Time Almanac 2001* states: “It is the largest series of earthquakes known to have occurred in North America” (p. 614).

Will there be even more severe earthquakes in the future? The book of Revelation mentions several earthquakes. After two-and-a-half years of the Great Tribulation spoken of by Jesus in the Olivet prophecy, the sixth seal of Revelation introduces the Day of the Lord. I hope you have been able to study with our audiotapes and

articles on the subject. Turn in your Bible to Revelation 6:12. Here is described the sixth seal, or the heavenly signs. Notice what happens. Revelation 6:12: “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood” (Revelation 6:12).

This earthquake, along with the astronomical phenomena, introduces the Day of the Lord—the year that precedes Christ’s Second Coming. “And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’” (Revelation 6:13–17). Yes, the earth will be in turmoil during the Day of the Lord, described here as “the great day of His wrath.” This will be a time of God’s judgment on the nations.

Another major trend on our changing planet is the prospect of increasing volcanic eruptions. One

magazine featured an article titled, “Volcanoes with an Attitude” (*Time*, Feb. 24, 1997). The article emphasizes several danger spots, such as Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines, “El Popo” (Mt. Popocatepetl) near Mexico City, Mt. Rainier in Washington state, the Indonesian chain of at least 127 active volcanoes, and Italy’s Vesuvius that spread devastation in 1631. Hundreds of volcanoes are clustered around the well-known “Ring of Fire,” a tectonically active region surrounding the Pacific Ocean. Will these volcanoes just die? Or will they become active to the point of disrupting our whole environment? The *Time* article quotes the chief scientist of the USGS Volcano Hazards Program, Robert Tilling. He warns: “Someday, one of these mountains will erupt on a scale many orders of magnitude greater than mankind has ever seen.” That certainly sounds apocalyptic.

## God’s Warning

Notice what God says will happen to the earth and the heavens. The writer of Hebrews instructs us: “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God



**Earthquakes will cause increasing destruction as Christ’s Second Coming draws nearer.** ©Reuters.

acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:25–29).

Our Father in Heaven wants the best for each of us. He is giving carnal humanity 6,000 years—and giving each of us individually a lifetime—to learn. If we heed God’s warnings, we can escape the most horrendous judgments yet to be executed on our western nations, and eventually the whole world.

Another trend the Bible warns us about is drought. World temperatures are shifting in dramatic ways. Last summer, more than 10,000 in France died as a result of an unprecedented heat wave. Will we see extended droughts in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand? Unless we wholeheartedly turn to God, we *will* experience severe punishment. The Creator God gave this warning through the prophet Amos: “I also withheld rain from you, when there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered. So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me,” says the LORD” (Amos 4:7–8).

Incredible as it may seem, some denominations now teach that the “last days” mentioned in scripture might continue on for “two years or two thousand years or two million years.” Often the implication is: “Don’t study Bible prophecy, it’s just a distraction.”



**Hospitals across France were overrun with patients seeking treatment of heat-related complaints during last summer’s heat wave. ©AFP.**

Such statements ignore the very instructions of our Savior. Just after Jesus speaks of His Second Coming, He states: “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see


all these things, *know that it is near*; at the doors!” Jesus instructs all His true followers to be knowledgeable about these signs. He said: “When you see all these things, know that it is near; at the

doors!” (Matthew 24:32–33).

Yes, there have always been scoffers, but *now* is the time to wake up and heed what is happening around the world. God spoke to the prophet Ezekiel about the skeptics and scoffers. “Son of man, what is this proverb that you people have about the land of Israel, which says, ‘The days are prolonged, and every vision fails?’” (Ezekiel 12:22). What does God say about man’s skepticism? “Tell them therefore, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “I will lay this proverb to rest, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel.” But say to them, “The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every vision”’” (Ezekiel 12:23).

The time is coming when God will intervene even more dramatically than ever before. Scientists, statesmen and world leaders have

warned us about the many dangers that can end life on the earth. Those warnings have not come from religious people, but from experts familiar with the realities of our modern weapons of mass destruction and the history of human nature. But the most important warning comes from the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. He stated: “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:21–22).

Thank God that those days will be shortened. Jesus Christ will return to save humanity from self-destruction. He will usher in the Kingdom of God on earth. All nations will ultimately learn the true way to lasting peace, prosperity, and reconciliation. Jesus tells us to “Watch... and pray always” (Luke 21:36). May we all be spiritually alert for the signs of the Second Coming. Then we can look forward to the return of Christ with confidence, hope and faith. Thank God that His Kingdom is coming. Thank God that Jesus Christ will soon return to save us! 

## To Learn More...



How can you understand the signs that will signal Jesus Christ’s Second Coming? How can you prepare yourself for this glorious event?

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



## Peace on Earth?

Is world peace *really* possible? The quest for peace seems endless. It is in the news almost every day, yet our world grows more brutal by the minute! The two world wars fought in the 20th century did not bring peace, nor did the end of the Cold War; they brought only a more divided and troubled planet. Every year at Christmas, religious leaders speak of the Christ-child and peace on earth, yet violence and war continue to escalate!

Religious people light candles and say prayers for peace. Idealists sign petitions, stage marches and organize conferences to seek peace. Pragmatists build bigger weapons to enforce peace. Yet all these efforts have *failed* to bring peace. Is peace a mirage, an unrealistic, unattainable goal, an *impossible dream*? Why is the peace process so frustrating and difficult?

Many in our modern world do not realize that Bible prophecies are *coming alive* in today's news headlines. The Bible not only predicts the major challenges of our age, it also reveals *why* human efforts have not produced peace. Scripture also explains *the way* to peace, and *how* peace on earth will ultimately come. Few today understand what the Bible says about peace.

### What Jesus Really Said

Preachers often say that the message of Christmas is: "Peace on earth and good will toward men." But this is a *mistranslation* of what the angel actually said. Properly translated, the angel's announcement at Christ's birth was: "Glory to God, and on earth peace, *toward men of good will*" (Luke 2:14). It could also be worded: "Glory to God, and on earth, peace among men who *please God*" or "among men *with whom God is*

*pleased*"—which gives a very different meaning to the statement (see *The New Testament in 26 Translations*). The Bible does not indicate that peace will come from good intentions or by everyone working together for peace. In fact, it says just the opposite!

We often hear that the gospel is about Jesus, love, peace and harmony. Yet Jesus plainly said: "*Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword*" (Matthew 10:34). He indicated that political, religious and philosophical differences would *divide* human beings and generate strife, until the end of the age. Jesus also said that one of the signs His Second Coming is near would be the constant news "of wars and rumors of wars... for nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom... all these are the *beginning* of sorrows" (Matthew 24:6–8). Jesus did not say that prayers, candle-lightings, negotiations or atom bombs would bring peace. He predicted that world conditions would grow worse and worse, culminating in a period of *great tribulation* that would mark the end of the age (see Matthew 24:9–23).

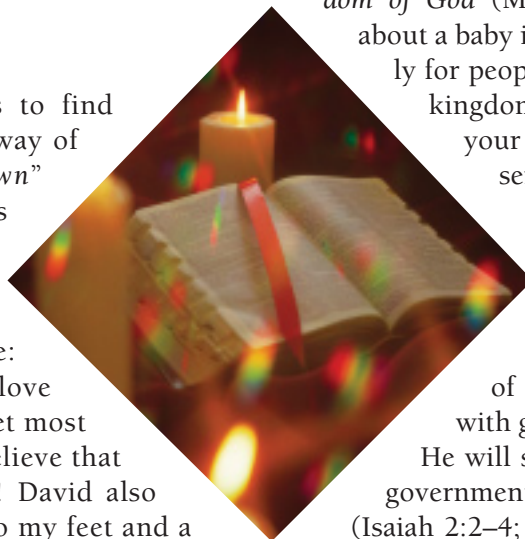
Many religious leaders gloss over—or *ignore*—this sobering aspect of Christ's message. Yet it *permeates* Scripture! The Apostle Paul wrote: "In the last days, *perilous* times will come." These times would be characterized by selfish materialism, skepticism, blasphemy, disobedience, brutality and the mad pursuit of pleasure, with many having a *form of godliness* but denying that religion has any real authority in their lives (2 Timothy 3:1–5). What an accurate description of our age! The Hebrew prophets predicted a coming time when well-intentioned but misguided civil and religious leaders would cry out "Peace, Peace!" when there is no peace" (Jeremiah



6:14). They will say that “we looked for peace, but none came” (Jeremiah 8:15). Isaiah warned, in the context of the end-time, that “the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly” as they see their plans and efforts come to nothing (Isaiah 33:7). Ezekiel prophesied that “they will seek peace, but there shall be none. Disaster will come upon disaster” (Ezekiel 7:25–26). Jesus predicted that as we approach the end of this age, human civilization will face the threat of annihilation, and that “unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22). Bible prophecies, *coming alive today*, reveal that human efforts to find peace will ultimately fail. Scripture also reveals *why!*

### One Way to Peace

Describing human efforts to find peace, the Bible states: “The way of peace they have *not known*” (Isaiah 59:8). Human efforts fail because the world has largely ignored or rejected what the Bible says about peace. King David wrote: “Great peace have those who love Your law” (Psalm 119:165), yet most professing Christians today believe that the law has been done away! David also wrote: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). The laws of God point the way to peace. Jesus told His disciples: “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15), yet many believe that this is no longer necessary! If we keep the commandments of God, we will not kill, steal, lust, lie, commit adultery, practice fornication or disrespect parents or those in positions of authority. *This* is how *really* to love your neighbor and avoid conflict! If we love God, we will avoid the idolatrous worship



of other gods or physical things. We will not follow religious practices the Bible condemns. We will keep the Sabbaths God has designated, rather than days that we decide to observe. **The way to peace involves learning to obey and live by the laws of God.** Reasoning around the commandments, lighting candles, praying to saints, joining marches or seeking United Nations negotiations will not bring lasting peace. Jesus Christ is called the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). He said: “I am the way” (John 14:6). There is no other way to peace!

### How Peace Will Come

Jesus preached a gospel about the *coming kingdom of God* (Mark 1:14–15). The gospel is not about a baby in a manger who is waiting patiently for people to give their hearts to Him. The kingdom is not a warm fuzzy feeling in your heart. It is not the church, or a semi-peaceful ecumenical community that the church will establish on earth by compromise and consensus. Bible prophecies state that Jesus Christ will return and take over the kingdoms of this world, and that He will rule with great power (Revelation 11:15–18).

He will set up in Jerusalem a world-ruling government that will bring peace to this earth (Isaiah 2:2–4; 9:6–7). The saints will reign with Christ (Revelation 1:6; 5:10) and teach mankind to follow the laws of God (Isaiah 30:20–21). As human beings learn a new way to live, “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks... neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4). *This* is how peace on earth will be achieved! These prophecies *will come alive* in the years just ahead. This is the *real* biblical message of peace, and what the true gospel is all about!

—Douglas S. Winnail



# The Lady of Nations

By Douglas S. Winnail

*What is the true origin and significance of the “Madonna”? You may be surprised!*

Every day, hundreds of millions of people pray to Mary, the mother of Jesus, whom they honor as the “Mother of God” and “Queen of Heaven.” Every year, millions embark on pilgrimages to Marian shrines that dot the world—from Ireland to Portugal and Poland, from Bosnia and Gibraltar to Mexico and Sri Lanka. Pope John Paul II dedicated his pontificate to Mary, and “consecrated the world” to the “Blessed Virgin.” On Catholic World Youth Days, he has urged millions of young people: “Do not be afraid to open the doors of your life to Mary!”

In recent years, Mary’s devotees have reported apparitions with increasing frequency. With such titles as “Mother of the World,” “Lady of All Nations” and “Queen of Peace,” her appearance

has been alleged in the United States, Australia, Chile and Japan. Palestinian Arabs and African Muslims report having seen her. In Bombay, India, hundreds of thousands paid homage to a supposed Marian image. But it is *from Europe* that devotees report her most urgent messages, insisting that people must say the rosary and become more spiritual, that Russia will be converted and that the religions of the world must *unite* if there is to be peace.

While the focus on Mary is a global phenomenon that is gaining momentum, it is not really new. Roman Catholic rulers in Europe have consecrated nations to Mary for a thousand years. Yet what is seldom mentioned is that religious practices associated with the worship of Mary originated *long before* the days of Jesus and

His mother. Surprisingly, few ever question why so many adhere to beliefs and practices that Christ *never* taught—and the Bible does not mention. No prayers to Mary are found in the Bible, and no miracles are accorded to her in Scripture. And, amazingly, Mary is routinely given titles that—in the Bible and in history—clearly refer to *someone else!*

How did Mary, a humble Jewish girl, acquire such titles and such honor? What is behind the growing emphasis on the “Blessed Virgin,” and just *where* is this emphasis leading?

## Early Silence

Remarkable as it may seem, scholarly sources plainly acknowledge that this focus on Mary was *totally absent* in the early Church.



The *Catholic Encyclopedia* states: “This doctrine is *not contained*, at least explicitly, in the earlier forms of the Apostles’ Creed, there is perhaps no ground for surprise if we *do not meet* with any clear traces of the cultus of the Blessed Virgin in the first Christian centuries” (article: “Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary”). Mary was not given the titles “Mother of God” or “Queen of Heaven” until *centuries* after she had lived. There is *no* mention in the teachings of Christ or the Apostles of worship, adoration or prayers to Mary, and there is *no* biblical reference for saying the rosary. Jesus taught His disciples to pray to God the Father (Luke 11:1–2), and to petition in the name of Jesus Christ (John 14:13–14). The Bible lists *no* festivals devoted to Mary, and offers *no* examples of anyone praying before a statue of Mary. In the Bible—and the early Church—such practices were condemned as *idolatry* (see Exodus 20:4–5).

The Bible *never* refers to Mary’s “Immaculate Conception”—the doctrine that she was born without sin. Nor does it teach the “Assumption”—the doctrine that Mary was bodily transported to heaven. Rather, Scripture clearly states that “*no one* has ascended to heaven” except Jesus (John 3:13). In the last century, apparitions and their supporters have promoted Mary as the “Mediatrice of All Mercies” (thus diminishing Jesus Christ’s true role as revealed in the Bible), and as the “Queen of Peace,” though the Bible never refers to her this way. If these beliefs and practices are not found in the Bible, *where* did they come from, and *how* did they become associated with what many today call Christianity?

## The Pagan World

To understand how worship of the Madonna developed, we must look at the early centuries of the Church. Jesus came into a world dominated by Greek and Roman culture. Pagan religions flourished, and people worshiped a variety of gods and goddesses that were known by different names in different regions. These deities were housed in magnificent shrines and temples, and were worshiped with elaborate ceremonies that sometimes included secret rites and temple prostitution. Festivals of the gods were public holidays that dominated the social calendar. In cities with major shrines and temples—such as Ephesus, location of the temple of Diana (Acts 19:21–40)—craftsmen prospered by making and selling images of the deities. The worship of pagan deities was popular in the Roman Empire, and continued well into the fifth century AD.

The pagan world tolerated the worship of different gods and goddesses, but true Christians stood out because they would not participate in pagan rituals. The early Christians followed the biblical admonitions “do not learn the way of the Gentiles” (Jeremiah 10:2) and “do not be conformed to this world” (Romans 12:2) and “come out from among them and be separate” (2 Corinthians 6:17). Christians were pressured to conform, and persecuted when they did not participate in pagan customs. Yet between 300–400AD, dramatic changes occurred. The Roman Empire not only accepted what it called Christianity, but through its official endorsement made its form of Christianity the dominant religious force in the

Roman Empire. It was during this era that worship of Mary first flourished.

## Converting the Heathen

The so-called “conversion” of Constantine was a crucial period in the transformation of “popular Christianity.” The young emperor, a sun-worshiper, was attracted to the growing apostate Christian church. Although Constantine stopped persecutions and granted favor to professing Christians, he continued to approve of and follow pagan practices. He apparently “found it convenient to pay his respects to *both* Christ and Apollo” (*A Chronicle of the Last Pagans*, Chuvin, p. 26). Constantine’s embrace of “Christianity,” and promotion of his newly adopted faith, brought the church phenomenal growth—*which changed its character*. Imperial patronage colossally increased the wealth and status of the churches. Privileges and exemptions granted to the clergy precipitated a stampede into the priesthood (see *The Conversion of Europe*, Fletcher, p. 38). Yet many new “converts” were only *nominal* Christians who still retained and followed pagan ideas.

Some early church leaders, seeing the popularity of pagan customs, followed a “strategy of adoption” in their attempts to convert the heathen “into some semblance of Christian belief” (Fletcher, pp. 99, 354). Instead of requiring people to *repent* and give up their ancient customs, church leaders urged “the *replacement* of these pagan practices with Christian ones” (*ibid.*, p. 54). Churches were built on or near pagan shrines, and ancient festivals were given a “Christian”

name and content. Where the pagan “habit of popular attachment to a holy place was too great to break, it was sometimes possible for the church to disinfect the old site and to invest it with some Christian significance” (*The Early Church*, Chadwick, p. 168). A prime example was Ephesus, with its great temple of Diana—one of the wonders of the ancient world. In 431AD, the third ecumenical council met in Ephesus and proclaimed Mary the “Mother of God” and the object of prayers and devotions. But *why* was Mary given this title—and many others? Why was Ephesus chosen for this announcement?

## Ancient Goddesses

The Diana of Ephesus was a goddess “whom all Asia and the world worship” (Acts 19:27). Diana was the Roman name for the Greek deity Artemis, the “goddess of the moon and the chaste and sister of the sun-god, Apollo” (*Colliers Encyclopedia*). Artemis was also the “protectress of chastity and patroness of childbirth” and the goddess of seafarers, who brought good weather and profitable voyages (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition). She is often portrayed as a virgin and mother goddess and the “Mistress of Animals.” Her statues depict a multi-breasted figure wearing a turreted crown. Artemis incorporates many features of the great mother goddess who was wor-

shipped under a variety of names in the ancient world (see *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*).

We also learn that “Artemis is a deity of very ancient origins who survived and attracted great popularity in Asia Minor and Greece into Christian times when... much of her ethos [beliefs & practices] was transferred to the Virgin Mary. Both figures enjoyed major sanctuaries at Ephesus” (*Encyclopedia of Gods*, Jordan, p. 26). By building a church for Mary in Ephesus and declaring her



**Ancient images of mother goddess and child...**

“Mother of God” near the great temple of the mother goddess Diana, the Catholic church simply borrowed and adapted ancient traditions that allowed new converts to continue pagan practices in a “Christian” context!

But where did the titles “Mother of God” and “Queen of Heaven” come from?

In central Asia Minor, more than a thousand years before the Romans, the Hittites also worshiped a *great mother goddess*. On the side of a hill near Sardis is a giant rock carving of a mother goddess that the ancient poets Homer, Ovid and Sophocles describe as the “*Mother of the Gods*, the oldest goddess of all” (*The Hittite Empire*, Garstang, pp. 176–177). On statues and carvings, this Hittite deity “assumes the aspect of a goddess of the skies, or Queen of Heaven, a familiar aspect of Astarte” (*ibid.*, pp. 114, 204–205). Astarte was the Phoenician goddess of war,

the evening star, sexual love and fertility. Temple prostitution was part of her worship. She was often depicted naked, “wearing a crown of cow’s horns enclosing a solar disc”—similar to the Egyptian goddess Isis (*Encyclopedia of Gods*, p. 33). The Roman army spread the worship of this ancient Hittite goddess across Europe from Germany to Britain because her cult “found great favor among the soldiers” (Garstang, p. 302).

But what about the Madonna and child?

In Egypt, Isis was worshiped as one of the greatest deities. She was usually depicted seated on a throne “holding the child Horus... both official theology and popular belief proclaimed... Isis and Horus *the perfect mother and son*” (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 15th ed.). From Egypt, the worship of Isis spread to Greece and Rome, where she was called Stella Maris (star of the sea), the patroness of seafarers and the “*queen of heaven*” (*The Gods of the Egyptians*, Budge, p. 218). A shrine of Isis once “stood on Vatican Hill where now stands St. Peter’s” (*The Paganism in Our Christianity*, Weigall, pp. 128–129). Numerous scholars note that “the Isis cult influenced the portrayal of the Christian Virgin Mary” (Jordan, p. 137), and that “it is clear that the early Christians bestowed some of her [Isis’] attributes upon the Virgin Mary... pictures and sculptures wherein she is represented in the act of suckling her child Horus formed the foundation for the Christian figures and paintings of the Madonna and Child” (Budge, p. 220).

This author continues: “Many of the *heresies* of the early Christian Church in Egypt were caused by the *survival* of ideas

and beliefs connected with the old native gods which the converts to Christianity wished to *adapt* to their new creed” (*ibid.*). In parts of Egypt, by 400AD, “Mary the Virgin and Christ had *taken the places* of Isis and Horus, and the God-mother, or mother of the god, was no longer Isis, but Mary” (*ibid.*, p. 221). This is how the worship of Mary became part of so-called Christianity. It entered the early church with the influx of nominal converts who brought their devotion to a mother goddess—and her titles—with them!

## The Bible Connection

In the Bible we read that the ancient Israelites—including Solomon—turned from God and worshipped Baal and Asherah or Astoreth (Judges 2:11–13; 10:6; 1 Kings 11:1–11) whose rituals involved temple prostitution (2 Kings 23:6–7). The Bible speaks of women *weaving garments* for a statue of this goddess that had been placed in the temple of God (2 Kings 21:1–7; 23:6–7). Historians comment that “Aserah is the *great mother goddess* of Canaan, known as *Lady Aserah of the Sea*” (Jordan, p. 30–31). Scholars also connect Astoreth with the Babylonian goddess Ishtar, the Phoenician Astarte and the Greek Aphrodite—fertility goddesses whose worship also involved temple prostitution (see *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*).

Ishtar was the most important goddess in the ancient Middle East—especially in Babylon and Nineveh. She was the goddess of war and sexual love. She was called the “Queen of the Universe” and the “lady of the

world,” the “protectress of prostitutes and patroness of alehouses” (*New Encyclopaedia Britannica*). Her cult, which included temple prostitution, was widespread and popular (*ibid.*). Ishtar was also worshipped as Inanna the goddess of love and war, and called the “**Q u e e n o f H e a v e n**” (*Dictionary of Gods & Goddesses, Devils & Demons, Lurker*). Another Canaanite and Phoenician goddess was Anat, a fertility goddess and sister of Baal and daughter of the sun god. She was called “the **L a d y o f t h e M o u n t a i n**...

mother of the gods... queen of heaven... the virgin Anat” (Jordan, pp. 18–19). The Bible and history plainly show that the Israelites and the early church adopted the worship of a mother goddess, complete with her titles, from their pagan neighbors. But what does all this have to do with us today, and why is it significant?

## Warnings Ignored

When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, He commanded them: “You shall not make for yourself any carved image... you shall not bow down to them nor serve them... you shall not make idols for yourselves” (Exodus 20:4–5; Leviticus 26:1). Yet they soon began to worship a golden calf, and were punished for doing so (Exodus 32). The Israelites were also warned *not to adopt* pagan religious practices that God viewed as

abominations. “You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way” (Deuteronomy 12:29–32; 17:9–13). However, these warnings were repeatedly ignored as the Israelites turned to the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth—the mother

goddess of the Canaanites, their “queen of heaven.” For these sins—including the practice of kissing their idols (see Hosea 13:2)—the Israelites incurred the anger of God and were carried off to captivity in Assyria!

The nation of Judah made the same mistakes. They provoked God to anger when

they “burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her... [and made] cakes for her, to worship her” (see Jeremiah 7, 44). The image they worshiped as the queen of heaven was the Babylonian goddess Ishtar. Other rituals included “weeping for Tammuz” (the dead husband of Ishtar) and “worshiping the sun toward the east” (Ezekiel 8:10–18)—practices that continue today in making hot cross buns and holding sunrise services at Easter.

Israelite idols were decorated with jewelry, dressed in garments and housed in shrines just like the pagan gods of Babylon (Ezekiel 16:16–25). The apocryphal book of Baruch (in Roman Catholic versions of the Bible) warns the Israelites not to follow pagan Babylonian practices of worshiping gods made of gold, silver or stone, that “have golden crowns on their



...have continued in the form of “Christian” depictions of Mary and the infant Jesus.

heads... [and] cannot speak” and are carried on the shoulders of men (Baruch 6:3–9)—yet this is all part of how Mary is honored today!

The Bible reveals these are not trivial matters in God’s sight, but are *abominations* that God *hates*. The nation of Judah spent 70 years in captivity in Babylon as punishment for its idolatry. Leaders in the early church who allowed people to continue their pagan traditions under new “Christian” names simply followed this same misguided reasoning that ignored clear biblical instructions. The Bible warns that nations following this example—adopting and adapting pagan practices—will suffer a similar fate (see Jeremiah 16:10–13).

## A Sobering Future

But what is behind the current emphasis on the Virgin Mary? Why is it *growing*, and where is it *leading*? Bible prophecies reveal that just before the return of Jesus Christ, a “beast power” composed of ten nations will emerge in Europe from the ashes of the old Roman (and “Holy Roman”) Empire (see Daniel 2, 7; Revelation 13, 17–18). This confederation will be *ridden by a woman*—a rich and powerful church—described as a *queen* whose roots go back to ancient Babylon, and as a *mother of harlots* (other misguided churches) who has made the world drunk with her false doctrines (see Revelation 18:7; 17:1–6). This woman—called “daughter of Babylon” and the “Lady of Kingdoms”—will claim to be the one true church, saying: “I am, and there is no one else besides me.” She will lead an end-time movement to bring her “separated children” back to the “mother” church (Isaiah 47:8–9; Revelation 18:7–8).

Worship of the “Queen of Heaven” would provide a “common ground” to unite nations and religions of the world, in an attempt to bring peace to mankind. Many nations in Old Europe have been consecrated to Mary: the Ukrainian and Hungarian peoples shortly after 1000AD, and England as Mary’s “Dowry” in 1381. In the 1600s, Austria, France, Poland, Spain and Portugal and their colonies were dedicated to Mary (see *A Woman Rides the Beast*, Hunt, p. 457). In 1996, Pope John Paul II designated the shrine of Our Lady of Europe (set up in Gibraltar in 1309 by King Ferdinand IV of Spain) as a “potent symbol” for the unification of Europe and “a place where, under the patronage of Mary, the human family will be drawn ever more closely into fraternal unity and peaceful coexistence.” This shrine is not far from a cave on Gibraltar where Phoenician seafarers set up a shrine to Astarte, the Queen of Heaven, seven centuries before Christ.

But the *New Europe* is also awash with Marian symbolism. The flag of the European Union—a ring of 12 gold stars on blue background—is drawn from pictures of the Madonna with 12 stars in halo around her head. In the cathedral at Strasbourg, France (site of the European Parliament), a stained glass window—designated the “window of Europe”—depicts the Madonna and child with a halo of 12 stars and crescent moons along the edges. May 5 has been designated “Europe Day”—it is also the feast day of Our Lady of Europe in Gibraltar.

Catholic leaders recognize the ecumenical potential of a mother goddess. Nearly 40 years ago, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen predicted

the conversion of Islam to Christianity “through summoning of the Moslems to a veneration of the Mother of God” (see Hunt, p. 458). Sheen pointed out that Mohammed had a daughter named Fatima, that the Blessed Virgin appeared in the Portuguese village of Fatima and that, when a statue of Our Lady of Fatima is displayed in Muslim countries, thousands turn out to venerate her image. A shrine to Our Lady of Fatima is also being constructed in Russia—a stronghold of the Orthodox Church and home of a large Muslim population—to facilitate the return of many Russians to the “true” faith.

The female Madonna also appeals to feminists who reject the patriarchal flavor of traditional Christianity, and to New Agers who worship an “Earth Mother.” The increasingly frequent reports of apparitions of one calling herself the “Lady of All Nations,” and the growing Catholic emphasis on Mary as the “Queen of Heaven” fit well with an effort to pull the religions of the world together.

The worship of the Madonna is a significant thread that connects the ancient worship of Semiramis in Babylon, and the mother goddesses of Egypt, Greece and Rome, to the modern veneration of the Virgin Mary. It is an unbiblical practice that is actually condemned in Scripture. Worship of the mother goddess dominated the ancient world and played a key role in attracting pagans to the early church. The Bible reveals that devotion to the “Blessed Virgin,” the “Lady of All Nations,” the “Queen of Heaven” and the “Queen of the Universe” will play a *significant* role in key events that will fulfill end-time prophecies. We are watching those events take shape today! [17]

# Do You Have What It Takes?

Do you have what it takes to be a Christian? Are you sure? According to Jesus Christ Himself, being a Christian is not as easy as some would have you believe.

A rich, young ruler asked Jesus: "What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life." Jesus' response was direct and to the point, telling him to "keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:16-17).

The young man then asked Him "which ones" he should

What would *you* have done if you were in the shoes of that young ruler? What would you have been willing to give up? More importantly, what are you *today* willing to give up in order to be Christ's disciple? Or, to look at it from another angle, what are you *unwilling* to give up? Are you putting anything in your life ahead of God?

Jesus said: "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate [love less, by comparison] his

Over the centuries, by one little change after another, people have replaced the Christianity of the Bible with a religion that contradicts much of what the Savior taught. Jesus said "Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets," (Matthew 9:17), but many today say that Jesus did away with His Father's burdensome commandments, replacing them with love. Yet the Bible says: "By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God and keep His commandments, for this is the love of God that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:2-3).

Kierkegaard was wrong, though. The Christianity of the New Testament *does* still exist. But, it will not be found among the world's large and popular denominations. There are still people who are actively living the Christianity of Christ and the Apostles. They do not walk in lockstep with this world's "Christianity." They look to the Bible—the inspired Word of God—to learn and to live by the doctrines and practices handed down by Christ and the Apostles.. Do you, as they did, have what it takes to put Jesus Christ first, even if this puts you at odds with the world? Do you have what it takes to be a true Christian?

—Gerald Weston

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**There are still people who are actively living the Christianity of Christ and the Apostles. They do not walk in lockstep with this world's "Christianity." They look to the Bible—the inspired Word of God.**

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keep. "Jesus said 'You shall not murder', 'You shall not commit adultery', 'You shall not steal', 'You shall not bear false witness', 'Honor your father and mother' and 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (vv. 18-19). Jesus was describing God's law of love: the Ten Commandments.

Jesus then showed the young man that he still had a false god in his life: "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (v. 21). By doing that one "good thing," the rich young ruler could have put to death his false god, and truly started to keep the commandments. But he was unwilling to do so, and he went away.

father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:26).

Yes, being Christ's disciple can put you at odds with your family and the world. You may not realize that what most people call "Christianity" is far removed from the Christianity of the Bible. As the noted philosopher Soren Kierkegaard once said: "The Christianity of the New Testament simply does not exist. Millions of people through the centuries have little by little cheated God out of Christianity and have succeeded in making Christianity exactly the opposite of what it is in the New Testament."

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TRUTH? (continued from page 3)

sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was *three days and three nights* in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

From Friday afternoon to Sunday morning is only *one* day and *two* nights! So the “Good Friday/Easter” morning tradition *directly contradicts* the special identifying “sign” that Jesus Himself gave to *prove* that He was, in fact, the true Messiah. So the observance of this pagan festival, Easter, involves *two great evils*. First, it was used to *replace* the true Christian Passover that the Bible commands, and which Jesus and the Apostles always observed—setting us an *example* (1 Corinthians 11:1). Secondly, it *directly contradicts* the special “sign” proving Jesus’ very Messiahship!

Further, the totally confused leaders of the professing Christian church brought in various heathen concepts of heaven and hell. As we have explained over and over in this magazine—and as is *fully explained* in this issue’s lead article—the real **goal** of the true Christian in the resurrection ought to be joining the returned Jesus Christ *on this earth* and serving as “kings and priests” under Christ’s leadership. The true saints are pictured crying out: “For you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and *we shall reign on the earth*” (Revelation 5:9–10).

Believe it or not, there is **nothing** in the entire Bible promising “going to heaven” as the ultimate reward of the saints. The Bible speaks of the “Kingdom of heaven”—but not **in** heaven. We know that the Bank of Morgan is not “in” Mr. Morgan’s stomach! The Bible speaks of our resurrected bodies coming “from” heaven though not remaining “in” heaven (2 Corinthians 5:1–2). There are several scriptures indicating that true saints will receive a “heavenly” reward, but they do **not** say that we go **to** heaven to receive it. For instance, Jesus said: “And behold, *I am coming* quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work” (Revelation 22:12). And Jesus explained in Matthew 16:27: “For the Son of Man will **come** in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

Rather, your Bible shows that Christians will be *on this earth* (Revelation 5:10) after the return of Christ, and will *remain* here, during the Millennium, helping Jesus *rule* and finally bring *peace* and *joy* to this troubled

planet. Notice: “Blessed are the meek, for *they shall inherit the earth*” (Matthew 5:5). In 1 Corinthians 6:2, Paul asks rhetorically: “Do you not know that the saints will *judge the world*? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” And in Zechariah 14:1–19, we find that Jesus Christ will return as King of kings to Jerusalem: “And *in that day* His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south” (v. 4). At the same time, we read: “And the LORD shall be King *over all the earth*. In that day it shall be—‘The LORD is one,’ and His name one” (v. 9). Again, please *study carefully*—checking each scripture *in your own Bible*—the lead article in this issue describing the *real* reward of the true saints of Christ!

*Enough!* For the professing Christian churches teach literally *dozens* of basic doctrines that are no more “Christian” than the Easter Bunny or Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer!

The *Tomorrow’s World* magazine is truly *different* in that we have the courage and intellectual honesty to point out this *massive departure* from genuine biblical Christianity. We show how you can clearly **prove** the Truth to your own satisfaction—**not** in some “pseudo-Bible” we have written, but in the pages of *your own Bible*. We make plain some very special “keys” to help you really understand biblical prophecy—keys that very few people today understand—to help you grasp not only that “Jesus is coming back” but also many *specific details* of His return! We show you *which* major nations will be affected in *what* ways as the time draws near, what particular “signs” to watch for and what *you* should do!

And, as servants of the living God, we charge *no money whatsoever* for **any** of our magazines, booklets, audiotapes or materials. Jesus said: “Freely you have received, **freely give**” (Matthew 10:8). Even though preaching the full Truth has never been a popular task, we *know* Whom we serve. So please—*for your own sake*—do not be afraid of the Truth. Be willing to exercise the spiritual and intellectual energy and courage to *study* the Truth, *prove* the Truth and *live* by the Truth. Although there will be trials, tests and persecutions along the way, the God of heaven will reward you well beyond what you can now imagine.



# Tomorrow's World

## Television and Radio Log

### INTERNATIONAL:

#### —AUSTRALIA

**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 am; SUN 5:30 pm

#### —JAMAICA

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

#### —NEW ZEALAND

**Nationwide:** PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:30 am

#### —PHILIPPINES

**Bansalan:** Bansalan Cable—Ch 10, SAT 10:00 am  
**Borongan:** Borongan Cable—Ch 4, SAT 3:00 pm  
**Kidapawan:** Metro Cable—Ch 19, SAT 8:30 am  
**Nabunturan:** Nabunturan Cable—Ch 21, SAT 10:00 am  
**Maasin City:** Maasin Cable—Ch 13, SAT 10:00 am  
**Ormoc City:** Ormoc Cable—Ch 3, SAT 12:00 am  
**Sogod:** Sogod Cable—Ch 13, SAT 12:00 pm

#### —TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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

### UNITED STATES:

**AL, Birmingham:** Cable—Ch 4, WED 1:30 pm  
**AL, Birmingham:** WOTM—Ch 19, TUE 5:00 pm; FRI 7:00 pm;  
**AL, Troy/Montgomery:** WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 6:30 am  
**AR, Fayetteville:** Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm  
**AR, Little Rock:** KASN—Ch 38, SAT 8:00 am  
**AZ, Lake Havasu City:** KLHU—Ch 45, SUN 10:30 am  
**AZ, Phoenix:** Access—Ch 22, WED 12:30 pm  
**AZ, Prescott:** Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 6:30 am  
**AZ, Tucson:** Access—Ch 73, SAT 12:30 pm; SUN 8:00 pm  
**CA, Anaheim:** Adelphia—Ch 97 & 98, MON 4:30 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 2, TUE 3:00 pm  
**CA, Oceanside:** KOCT—Ch 18, SUN 5:30 pm  
**CA, Sacramento:** RCCTV—Ch 19, MON 5:30 pm  
**CA, San Diego:** Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm  
**CA, San Francisco:** Access TV—Ch 29, SUN 10:30 am  
**CA, San Jose:** Community TV—Ch 15A, SAT 11:30 pm  
**CA, Sonoma:** TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm  
**CA, Turlock:** Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm  
**CT, Enfield:** Comcast—Ch 15, THUR 6:30 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  
**GA, Newnan:** PMIO—Ch 10, SAT 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

**HI, Hilo:** Na Leo—Ch 2, FRI 9:30 pm; SUN 12:30 pm  
**HI, Kailua-Kona:** Na Leo—Ch 14, SAT 10:30 pm; MON 1:30 pm  
**HI, Kahului:** Alakau—Ch 44, SUN 7:30 pm; MON 4:30 am  
**HI, Lihue:** Ho'ike—Ch 12, MON 1:30 pm  
**IA, Des Moines:** Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am  
**IA, Ames:** APATV—Ch 16, MON 12:00 pm & 3:00 pm; WED 7:00 pm  
**IA, Dubuque:** TCI of Iowa—Ch 16, THUR 8:00 pm; MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 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; SAT & SUN 2:00 pm  
**IL, Peoria:** Insight—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 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, Lexington:** Ch 14, Check Local Listing  
**KY, Paducah:** Public Cable—Ch 2, WED 3:30 pm  
**KY, Williamstown:** Insight—Ch 21, SAT 3:00 pm & 3:30 pm; SUN 3:00 pm & 3:30 pm  
**KY, Williamstown:** Access—Ch 16, TUE 12:00 pm & 12:30 pm; WED 12:00 pm & 12:30 pm  
**LA, Baton Rouge:** KZUP—Ch 44, SUN 11:00 am  
**LA, Monroe:** Time Warner—Ch 49, WED 10:00 pm  
**LA, Shreveport:** KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am  
**MA, Cambridge:** CCTV—Ch 22, TUE 4:00 pm  
**MA, Malden:** Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am  
**MD, Rockville:** Comcast—Ch 19, THUR 5:00 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 75, THUR 6:30 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm  
**MN, Roseville:** CTV—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; MON 3:30 am & 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, SUN 8:30 am  
**MO, St. Charles:** Charter—Ch 47, SUN 9:30 am & 9:00 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 7:30 am; SUN 9:00 pm  
**NC, Wilmington:** Time Warner—Ch 4, WED 10:00 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 7:00 pm  
**NM, Rio Rancho:** CABLE ONE—Ch 51, THUR 7:00 pm  
**NV, Carson City:** Access TV—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm  
**NV, Gardnerville:** Community Access—Ch 26, SAT 3:30 am & 3:30 pm; SUN 3:30 am & 3:30 pm  
**NV, Reno/Sparks:** SNCT—Ch 30/16, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Batavia:** Time Warner—Ch 19, TUE 5:30 pm  
**NY, Binghamton:** Time Warner—Ch 6, FRI 5:00 pm  
**NY, Brooklyn:** BCAT—Ch 56/69, SUN 3:00 pm  
**NY, Canandaigua:** FLTV—Ch 12, SUN 11:30 am  
**NY, Elmira & Corning:** Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 8:00 am  
**NY, Fairport:** FACT—Ch 15, SUN 11:00 am  
**NY, Hauppauge:** Cablevision—Ch 20, 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 am  
**NY, Oneonta:** Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm  
**NY, Brookhaven:** TCI—Ch 20, SUN 9:30 pm  
**NY, Queens:** QPTV—Ch 35, MON 11:30 pm; WED 9:30 am  
**NY, Riverhead:** Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 4:30 pm  
**NY, Rochester:** Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 12:00 pm  
**NY, Utica:** Adelphia—Ch 3, MON 9:00 pm  
**OH, Cambridge:** AVC—Ch 2, TUE 7:00 pm  
**OH, Cincinnati:** WKRC—Ch 12, SUN 5:30 am  
**OH, Cincinnati:** Time Warner—Ch 8 & 24, MON 9:00 am; TUE 1:30 pm; WED 6:00 pm  
**OH, Dayton:** Access TV—Ch 12, MON 7:00 am; THUR 3:00 pm  
**OH, Centerville:** MVCC—Ch 23, MON 7:00 am; FRI 5:30 pm

**OH, Greenville:** GPAT—Ch 3, THUR 9:00 pm  
**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, 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  
**TN, Chattanooga:** WDEF—Ch 12, SUN 8:30 am  
**TN, Nashville:** WZTV—Ch 17, SUN 7:00 am  
**TX, Austin:** Community Access—Ch 11, SUN 10:30 am  
**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:** KTRE—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am  
**TX, Temple:** KPLE—Ch 31/45, SUN 7:30 pm  
**TX, Tyler:** KLTU—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 10:00 pm; SUN 3:00 pm & 12:00 pm  
**VT, Bristol:** Neat—Ch 16, SUN 2:00 pm; MON 9:00 am; TUE 5:00 pm  
**VT, Middlebury:** Adelphia—Ch 15, SUN 10:30 am; MON 9:30 am; THUR 5:00 pm  
**VT, Montpelier:** Adelphia—Ch 15, TUE 9:00 pm; WED 3:00 am  
**VT, Richmond:** Community TV—Ch 15, 9:30 am, 4:30 pm; 7:30 pm; MON 1:30 pm  
**VT, Springfield:** SAPA TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:00 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 14, MON 8:00 pm  
**WA, Vancouver:** FVCT—Ch 11, SUN 9:30 am  
**WI, Wausau:** Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am  
**WY, Casper:** KTWO—Ch 2, SUN 3:30 am

### RADIO STATIONS:

**Argentina, Bahia Blanca:** Vida—101.3 FM, WED 10:00 am; THUR 8:00 pm; SAT 2:00 pm  
**Argentina, Centenario:** FADAY—95.1 FM, MON, WED & FRI 12:00 pm  
**Argentina, Centenario:** Sathueque—88.5 FM, SUN 8:00 am  
**Argentina, Centenario:** Vida—98.1 FM, SAT 1:00 pm  
**Argentina, Neuquen:** Libertad—105.1 FM, SUN 8:00 pm  
**Chile, San Carlos-Chillan:** ONDA—100.3 FM, See Local Listing  
**Chile, Santiago:** Radio Vida—102.9 FM, Daily 7:30 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  
**Mexico, Mexico City:** KEEST—1440 AM, SUN 9:30 am  
**Philippines, Cebu City:** DYLA—909 AM, SUN 6:00 am  
**Philippines, Davao City:** DXUM—See Local Listing  
**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, Parys:** Radio Parys—FRI 5:00 pm

### • Television Superstations

—USA & INTERNATIONAL:  
**WGN—SUN 6:00 am ET**

—CANADA:  
**VISION—SUN 5:30 pm ET; THUR 3:00 am ET**  
**CJIL—SUN 9:30 am MT**

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## TELEVISION SUPERSTATIONS:

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

**VISION:** Canada: SUN 5:30 pm ET; THUR 3:00 am ET

**CJIL:** Canada: SUN 9:30 am MT

## NEW TELEVISION STATIONS:

**GA, Atlanta:** PTV—Ch 24, SUN 1:00 pm

**KY, Latonia:** PEG 17—Ch 17, SUN 12:30 pm; WED 5:30 pm

## NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

**Philipsburg:** SXM-TV—Ch 6, SAT 9:00 am; SUN 9:00 am

## NEW RADIO STATION:

### NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

**Philipsburg:** SXM—87.7 FM, SAT 6:00 am; SUN 8:00 am

## Upcoming Tomorrow's World Telecasts



**December 4–10 • Prophetic Signs in the Middle East**  
Your Bible reveals what will soon happen in this troubled region.

**December 11–17 • The New World Order**  
Dramatic events will soon change the routine of life on earth.

**December 18–24 • Why Were You Born?**  
God has created you for an awesome purpose. Do you know what it is?

**December 25–31 • Is the Apocalypse Now?**  
Will the world soon come to an end? What does your Bible say?