

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

November–December 2008

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A large crowd of people is gathered in St. Peter's Square in front of St. Peter's Basilica. The crowd is dense and diverse, with many people holding flags, including the Italian flag and a yellow and white flag. The Basilica's dome and facade are prominent in the background under a clear blue sky.

## *A Return to Rome?*



# What Is Going On?

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

Millions of Americans and Britons are beginning to realize that something truly *awful* is happening to our society. They sense that it is *very* serious. But they do not know the cause. And they certainly do not know the solution.

The U.S. dollar and British pound have lost a great deal of their purchasing power. We are in the midst of an absolutely *enormous* financial crisis, with many major banks and other respected financial institutions collapsed or in danger of collapsing. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have drained America's military.

Meanwhile, powerful hurricanes and other weather-related disasters keep wreaking havoc on our nations. Drought persists in some areas, and massive flooding in others—as God predicted thousands of years ago (Amos 4:7–8). Serious food shortages are affecting *millions* of people around the world, and many are starving to death *right now!* Increasingly, world-renowned scientists warn us about the specter of *massive disease epidemics* striking us with a vengeance never experienced in modern times.

So, *what is going on?*

Is it *alarmist* to realize that *we really are* near the end of human civilization as we have known it? Many Bible scholars agree that we are *very close* to the end of 6,000 years of recorded human history. The God of the Bible clearly indicates that He has in mind a 7,000-year plan. This first 6,000 years—the “days of man”—are given over to human beings living under the influence of Satan the Devil, during which they are *writing* the lessons of life, but not yet *learning* them, as they will later on. At the *end* of this 6,000-year period, Jesus Christ will return as King of kings and set up the Millennial Sabbath—the *seventh* “day” or thousand-year period of human history. Those thousand years will be under the direct rule and direction of the *living* Jesus Christ, who will bring genuine *peace* and *joy* to all humanity (Isaiah 11:9–10).

Describing the beliefs of the earliest Christians, highly respected historian Edward Gibbon states in his monumental work, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*: “The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of the creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition which was attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed to six

thousand years. By the same analogy it was inferred that this long period of labour and contention, which was now almost elapsed, would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand years; and that Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection.... The assurance of such a Millennium was carefully inculcated by a succession of fathers from Justin Martyr and Irenaeus, Lactantius, who was preceptor to the son of Constantine” (Vol 1. pp. 403–404).

Gibbon goes on to explain, however, that in the centuries following the Apostolic Era—sometimes called the “Dark Ages”—this understanding of God's Plan was ruthlessly discarded: “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” (p. 404).

My dear friends, our entire society—including “mainstream” Christianity—has *turned away* from the God of the Bible. Even most professing Christians have basically rejected the one-fourth of the entire Bible that is *inspired prophecy*. Yet the cataclysmic events the Bible prophesied for the “last days” are *all* beginning to occur!

We are certainly *in the latter days!* As we see nearly *all* the “sea gates” removed from British and American control, as we see America and Britain being *brought down* in the sight of other nations, as the American dollar and British pound and our *standard of living* start to go *down* and *down*, perhaps many of our friends and neighbors will *begin to wake up* and realize that God Almighty is involved! You who have read our magazine regularly—or watched the *Tomorrow's World* telecast—should begin to understand that God has directly promised to *chasten* any peoples who turn away, as we are now doing with our increasing sexual immorality and perversion, our rising crime and violence, the increasing abuse of alcohol and drugs and the complete approach of *godlessness* among our nations as a whole!

In a *dual* prophecy which had meaning for our forefathers but *even more meaning* for us today, the Eternal God

(Continued on page 30)

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## Cover

### 10 A Return to Rome?

While Rome is struggling with issues of traditionalism and ecumenism, its Protestant “daughter” churches are increasingly warming to their separated mother. What does this mean for the future of religion?

## Features



### 4 Who Are You, Really?

When you look in the mirror, do you see a future son or daughter of God? Most people do not even begin to realize how God is using their history to prepare them for a future more amazing than they could possibly imagine.



### 16 Thanksgiving and Our National Purpose

Do you live in a nation whose people appreciate what God has done for them? Do your neighbors even recognize God’s hand in their destiny? God’s word shows us that thankfulness is a vital ingredient for national—and individual—success.



### 22 Who Will Rule the Waves?

After centuries of British and American dominance on the seas, new powers are emerging. As the People’s Republic of China flexes its growing military muscle, what does this portend for the future of America?

More...

### 28 Sudden Destruction!

What does it take to bring a once-proud military and economic power to its knees? The United States of America—for years the world’s “only superpower”—is on the verge of finding out the hard way!

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

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A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a person's eye, looking directly at the camera. The eye is light-colored and has a sharp, focused appearance. The surrounding skin and eyelashes are visible, creating a dramatic and intimate feel.

# Who Are You, Really?

By Roderick C. Meredith

**D**o you, personally, really know *who you are*? Do you know your actual ancestry? Your family background and other information may have an *enormous* impact on the way you function, the types of talents and strengths you are likely to possess—and on your real future!

Most of us take out our old family photographs once in a while, to see what our grandparents or great-grandparents looked like. We may look at information in an old family Bible that lists some of our ancestors. We probably know that we are descended from English or Welsh ancestors, or from Italians, or Yoruba or wherever. We may think to ourselves, “This is all sort of interesting, but does it really matter? Does it have *anything* to do with my daily life, my career or my future?”

Emphatically, yes! *It certainly does!*

The *current* approach of sociologists and historians (which usually *changes* every generation) emphasizes that our ancestry makes

virtually *no difference* in who we are, and the current emphasis on “political correctness” can make it difficult to discuss openly some matters that were often *taken for granted* a generation ago and are often as obvious as the nose on your face! But most of us who have experienced life for a number of decades *certainly know better!* If we are willing to acknowledge that the Holy Bible *really* is the inspired word of God, then we can begin to *understand* all kinds of information that this confused world is uncertain about—or simply “dead wrong” about.

One obvious example would be to consider *objectively* the tendencies and strengths of the Jewish people. Instead of trying to *blame* them for Christ’s death, or come up with some “Jewish conspiracy” theory to try to identify them with some great evil movement, what does the *Bible* clearly indicate that the descendants of Judah would be like? And *are* they, in fact, clearly reflecting the strengths and examples shown by Judah and his descendants, as revealed in God’s inspired word?

*Of course they are!*

Most genuine Bible students know that names are important to God. He names people and things *what they are*. For instance, in the beginning, Satan was named “Lucifer” or “Light Bringer”—then he rebelled and his name was changed to “Adversary.” So, what does *Judah’s* name mean?

## **Judah’s Name Means “Praise”**

In the Hebrew language, Judah literally means “praise.” For Judah’s mother, Leah, was so happy to have a fourth son that she said, “Now I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah” (Genesis 29:35). Later, God inspired Jacob to laud Judah in these words, “Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion’s

whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people" (Genesis 49:8–10).

Indeed, as a whole, the Jews are an absolutely **brilliant** race or ethnic group. Although comprising only about two tenths of one percent of the world's population, the **enormous** accomplishments of the Jewish people stagger the imagination of those who honestly look into the matter! Some years ago, I was talking with a number of professional musicians about the truly outstanding pianists and violinists on the world scene. Out of the top half-dozen pianists in the entire world—men like Artur Schnabel and Vladimir Horowitz—*most* were Jewish. Out of the top few violinists, again most were Jewish—including Jascha Heifetz, Isaac Stern and David Oistrakh, who were *Russian Jews*.

Some time ago, an authoritative list was put out naming the world's most important scientists involved in the development of nuclear weapons. Again, the number of top scientists in this very demanding field of science who were Jewish was almost beyond belief! Of course, Albert Einstein is nearly always recognized as the "father" of nuclear physics—the entire field. Then, the man most felt was responsible for the development of the atomic bomb was J. Robert Oppenheimer—an American Jew. An English Jew, Edward Teller, has been recognized as the father of the hydrogen bomb. Many, *many* other Jewish scientists were on this list—out of all proportion to the number of scientists *from any other* ethnic group!

In almost every field of human endeavor involving the highest lev-

els of human intelligence, guess which ethnic group is normally most heavily represented—**far beyond** their numerical representation in the human race? *The Jews!*

Judah was named "praise." And you and I had better come to understand that our Creator *did* put special talents or strengths in certain ethnic groups—and we are, in fact, **willfully ignorant** if we are not willing to admit *that obvious reality!*

Of course, as we in this Work have always taught, we are definitely *all equal* before God in *spiritual* matters. We are *all* given awesome potential by God to become His full sons, and to partake of *His very nature* through His Holy Spirit. But, in this human flesh, we are *different* in many respects that should be understood and appreciated. Men *are* definitely *different* from women in key respects. There *are* different strengths in general in peoples of different ancestries—German, Chinese, Italian and whoever. And there are certain strengths and abilities among the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples of the nations of Britain, America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. These are *important* differences—and we and our neighbors are *missing out* on **vital** information if we do not come to understand and to appreciate these different strengths and weaknesses.

For, by understanding all this, we can more fully know *who* we are—and *what* we should be doing!

### **Who Are the "Sons of Joseph?"**

One absolutely *vital* bit of ethnic information is to understand **who today** are the "sons of Joseph"—descendants of the biblical patriarch described in Genesis. For *if* we can discern that identity, we can know **who** was prophesied to control much of the wealth and

power of the *entire world* in modern times! We can know **who** would control the vital "gates" of international commerce and the passage of military vessels and supplies. We can know **who** was to become the greatest empire in history and who would be the greatest single nation in modern times.

And—*get this!*—we would know **why** those great nations would be *brought down, humbled*, and finally taken into the *greatest national captivity* in history—finally freed when Jesus Christ returns as King of kings. So, you see, the identity of these peoples is a **vital "key"** to *understanding biblical prophecy!* In fact, about 90 percent of **end-time prophecy cannot be understood** unless one understands the true identity of the "Ten Lost Tribes" of Israel—and, especially, the identity of the sons of Joseph.

So *who are* the sons of Joseph today? Just as the Bible describes the nature and abilities of the Jewish people, has it also described the nature and abilities of the sons of Joseph—thousands of years in advance?

Yes! It certainly has!

If you will read carefully the entire story of Joseph and his sons, you will find some fascinating information. For Joseph was not only an extremely capable manager who was appointed by the Egyptian Pharaoh to be in charge of the *entire nation of Egypt*, but his father, Jacob, was inspired to prophesy that Joseph's sons would be two of the greatest powers of the entire world in the "last days"!

Wow! *Who are* those powers today?

Remember, the patriarch Joseph's strengths and abilities led *two different leaders* to appoint him as a leading manager. First, after he was sold into slavery and brought down into Egypt, "Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the

guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand” (Genesis 39:1–3). So Joseph was very capable of leading and managing people and property. That is an important key element to remember!

Later, we find that Pharaoh—the king of all Egypt—saw these *same qualities* in Joseph and made him, in effect, second-in-command over the entire Egyptian empire! Notice: “You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.’ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.’ Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, ‘Bow the knee!’ *So he set him over all the land of Egypt*” (Genesis 41:40–43).

Guided by God, Joseph wisely organized a system throughout the entire nation so that they set aside massive quantities of grain to prepare for the prophesied famine, which was to last for seven years (v. 54). Then, in a businesslike but very generous way, Joseph began to **share** this grain with the surrounding countries (v. 57).

Therefore, it is obvious that Joseph had a tremendous ability to manage people and property—and was by nature *very beneficent* in being willing to share the extra wealth and foodstuffs that God had given the Egyptians under his direction. He was a *blessing* to all the nations around!

## Joseph’s Two Sons

Meanwhile, God blessed Joseph with two sons—**Manasseh** the elder, and **Ephraim** the younger. When the patriarch Jacob (whose name had been changed to Israel) was preparing to die, God inspired him to foretell these two boys’ future. Stretching out his hand to bless them, Jacob deliberately put his *right* hand on *Ephraim’s* head (though Ephraim was younger) and his left hand on Manasseh’s, and he said prophetically, “Let my **name** [Israel] be named upon them and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth” (Genesis 48:16).

Remember, the Bible makes it clear that the *Jews* came from *Judah*—just *one* of the twelve tribes of Israel. The other eleven tribes—including Benjamin, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Naphtali, etc.—were all different peoples, and grew into different nations through the centuries. Chapter after chapter of 1 Kings and 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles, describe wars between Israel and Judah. Yes, the Israelites were fighting against “the Jews” (2 Kings 16:5–6, *KJV*). They were different peoples.

Of course, your Bible makes it clear that Judah—the *Jewish* people—were to bring forth the Messiah and to preserve the kingly line leading right up to the Second Coming of Christ (Genesis 49:10). However, a *totally different* future

was predicted for the sons of Joseph, who were **not** “Jewish” yet *were* part of Israel! Notice what

Israel said in his deathbed blessing to Manasseh: “He also shall become a people, and he also shall be **great**; but truly his younger brother shall be **greater than he**, and his descendants shall become a **multitude of nations**.’ So he blessed them that day, saying, ‘By you Israel will bless, saying, ‘May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!’” And

thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh” (Genesis 48:19–20).

If you believe the Bible, it is clear that the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh would become “great” peoples, and the younger brother, Ephraim, would become a **multitude of nations**—or, as some translations have it, a “company” or **commonwealth** of nations.

Later, God describes the future of Joseph’s descendants. He reveals that the descendants of Joseph would be given blessings above **all other nations**, “with the blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lie beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers” (Genesis 49:25–26).

When Americans read that passage, “blessings of heaven above... up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills,” we might be forgiven for



being reminded of the very words we use in singing, “God bless America... from the mountains to the valleys to the oceans white with foam!”

Nowhere else in Scripture is there any other prophecy, about any other peoples, that foretells such a profound blessing to come upon any nations in the end-times, as is promised in Genesis 49. For they were to have the blessings of a “fruitful bough” (v. 22), “blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath” (v. 25). Obviously, they were to have rich and bountiful harvests. They were to have rich mineral and petroleum deposits from the “deep that lies beneath.” They were to be blessed above **all nations**.

So, again, who are these wonderfully blessed people?

God had earlier prophesied other blessings for Israel’s descendants, saying to him: “I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a **nation** and a **company of nations** shall proceed from you, and **kings** shall come from your body. The **land** which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land” (Genesis 35:11–12).

So **one** “great” nation and a separate “company of nations” were to proceed from the loins of Israel. Other prophecies show that these descendants would control the great “gates” of international commerce and military power. Notice God’s promise to Abraham: “Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the **gate** of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (Genesis 22:17–18). Then we find that Rebekah was prophetically “blessed” with these words, “Our sister, may you become the mother

of thousands of ten thousands; and *may your descendants possess the gates of those who hate them*” (Genesis 24:60).

These prophecies have **far more meaning** than many today realize. For, in modern times, the high mountain passes in various remote parts of the world have virtually had *no effect* on international trade or commerce. It is the vital “sea gates”—such as the Suez Canal, the Strait of Malacca, the Strait of Hormuz and other such gates—that have had *enormous* implications determining who can control world affairs!

If you read the world news carefully, you will see that the Iranians are constantly threatening to *close* the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 70 percent of all the Middle East oil passes! You will read that the ships going through the Strait of Malacca are sometimes harassed nowadays because Britain’s control of the seas is not as it used to be. You will recall that another great “sea gate”—the **Panama Canal**—has passed into foreign hands, with ominous implications for America’s future.

At the peak of their power, *who* controlled all these “gates” and the other great sea gates of the entire world in modern times? They were, until a few years ago, *almost totally* under the control of Britain, with America controlling the Panama Canal! Now, most of that control is **gone!** For God has been *taking these sea gates away* from the Anglo-Saxon peoples of the British Empire and the United States.

### **The British and American Peoples Identified**

You have no doubt guessed it by now: the modern descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh—the “sons of Joseph”—are the British-descended peoples of the United States and the British

Commonwealth. The Anglo-Saxon peoples of these modern nations **do** have the same strengths and abilities as their forefather, the biblical patriarch Joseph. Much more than *all other nations combined*, these nations *do* tend to “store the grain”—so to speak—and feed the starving peoples of Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and sometimes other nations as well.

Although most in the U.S. and Great Britain do not even know their national identity and ancient connection, they have tended to “stick together”—as in the two World Wars, the Korean War, the “Cold War,” the Vietnam War and the two recent “Gulf Wars” in the Middle East. For the British and Americans are not merely “cousins”—as we sometimes say—they are truly “brothers”—descendants of the two sons of Joseph. *Yes*, brothers **do** fight and squabble sometimes, as we have done. But, on the major issues, since the American War of Independence—we tend to *stick together* when the going gets tough. *Never forget that!* For more than two centuries—in the midst of more war-like nations—we have maintained the “balance of peace.” **We** have sent out more doctors, teachers and missionaries to *help other nations* than all other nations combined. Several years ago, when millions in India were facing starvation, it was America, following the example of its ancestor Joseph, that sent a massive flotilla of 600 ships—mainly American—to bring grains and other foodstuffs from the farms and fields of the U.S. and Canada to aid the starving.

Truly, the American and British-descended peoples *have been blessed*, “with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath” (Genesis 49:25). However, *in spite* of being showered with all these blessings, we have *turned*

away from God. We have certainly **not** honored the Creator who gave us all these blessings. As President Abraham Lincoln even stated in his day: “We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!”

### What Is Our FUTURE?

So what does the *future* hold? Are the Americans and British-descended nations God’s “pet” people? Will He *continue to bless* them?

*No way!*

For the Eternal God is **not** a respecter of persons, as the Bible says again and again. “For there is no partiality with God” (Romans 2:11).

Millennia ago, God warned our forefathers, “When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in

number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. And there you will serve gods, the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. *When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days*, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice” (Deuteronomy 4:25–30).

*Remember!* God Almighty said, “All these things come upon you in the **latter days**” (v. 30). So the modern descendants of ancient Israel are **not** God’s “pampered” people. For God—in His mercy—will *humble us* through the coming tribulations and *teach us* lessons that we would not learn *any other way*. But we need to know **who** we are, so we can understand **why** the coming catastrophes will descend on our peoples more than ever before! And you readers who are **not** descended from an Anglo-Saxon-Celtic background can understand that we are **not** trying to exalt ourselves because we understand God’s purpose. For the future is indeed bleak for our peoples, *unless* we repent.

All of us—of every race and ethnic background—become “grafted” into “spiritual Israel” when we repent and are baptized into God’s Church today (Romans 11:19–23). We must all, whatever

our backgrounds, be willing to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and cry out to Him for help in learning every lesson which He wants us to learn so we can be in His Kingdom for all eternity. So let us all watch world events with increasing zeal and understanding. Jesus Christ exhorted us, “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). If you have not already done so, please write today and request your free copy of our informative booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It will help you watch and be ready for the times just ahead! ■

## The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy



**Can Americans and Britons find themselves in the pages of the Bible? The answer may surprise you—yet it is an answer that makes dozens of Bible prophecies clear and meaningful in ways they never were before!**

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



# Questions & Answers

**QUESTION:** I was baptized years ago, so at first when your magazine and your telecast talked about baptism, I assumed it did not apply to me. Now, after reading your literature, I am beginning to wonder whether I was properly baptized. How can I know?

**ANSWER:** Christ commanded His disciples to baptize those whom God called to repentance and baptism. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20).

What does God require for a baptism to be valid in His eyes? Surely Jesus Christ knows the requirements, as it was He who established the requirement of baptism for salvation. "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned'" (Mark 16:15–16).

What must one believe? One must believe the gospel Jesus preached. What was that gospel? "Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom [government] of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:14–15).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, brought the good news that God's Kingdom will ultimately take control of all the world's governments, and will administer a time of peace between formerly warring nations.

Of what must one repent? Of sin. What is sin? "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4, *KJV*). At your previous baptism, did you obey Jesus' instruction to repent of transgressing the Ten Commandments (Matthew 19:17–19)?

Keeping these points in mind, you can ask yourself: When you were baptized, did you repent of your sins? If you knew what sin is, but you did not resolve to turn away from it with the help of your Savior, you did not repent. And if you did not even know what sin is—perhaps you believed that as a Christian you could do whatever you wanted and not have it counted as sin—you certainly did not repent of your sins.

One sign of an invalid baptism is that it did not follow the scriptural form. Notice that Scripture clearly instructs that baptism be performed in water, by full immersion (Matthew 3:1–16; John 3:23; Acts 8:38–39). A mere sprinkling does not conform to the biblical symbolism of washing away past sins (Acts 22:16).

Additionally, if you were baptized at a very young age—perhaps even as an infant—you could not have understood what it means to repent. If you were not even the one who requested your own baptism as an infant or child, this is a sure sign that your baptism did not signal your true repentance.

Perhaps you feel that you did repent when you were previously baptized. If so, ask yourself another question: Did you believe the gospel? Today, most people who call themselves "Christians" have only a hazy and incorrect idea of the gospel. Some think of it as a message about Jesus; others think of it as a message about prosperity or self-affirmation. Few understand the truth—that the gospel Jesus preached was the gospel of the Kingdom of God, the message of a soon-coming Kingdom, ruled by Jesus Christ Himself, under which all of humanity would experience the joys and blessings of living God's way.

Some people rush into baptism because they think it is the socially acceptable thing to do. Their friends have all been baptized, and they feel left out if they have not. As a result, they may seek baptism long before they have truly "counted the cost" of this eternal commitment (Luke 14:28). Because baptism is such a weighty decision, you should be wary of those who want to hurry you into baptism without allowing you time to pray, study and fast as you seek God's will for your life. To learn more about baptism, and to help you consider your need for it, please write or call the Regional Office nearest you for a free copy of our informative booklet, *Christian Baptism: Its Real Meaning*.



## Where is “Christianity” heading?

**W**hile the world’s attention has been focused on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, international terrorism, weather-related disasters, earthquakes, global warming and the jittery global economy, *another significant trend* is quietly developing just under the radar of the secular press. This *unanticipated* development—the resurgence of religion in world affairs, the growing prominence of the Roman Catholic Church and the influence of its popes, and the movement of other professing Christian churches back towards Rome—will have a profound impact on the Western world and the rest of the planet in the years just ahead. Although various superficial aspects of this increasingly evident trend are regularly reported in the news, the *prophetic significance* of these related events is largely overlooked. You need to understand *how* current religious developments are *fulfilling* ancient Bible prophecies, *where* they are heading, and how they will affect you!

### **Resurgence of Religion and Rome**

As scholars such as Samuel Huntington and Karen Armstrong have noted, the resurgence of religion as a

major factor in world affairs is one of the great surprises of the 21st century. For decades, academics and politicians have accepted the “secularization theory”—the idea that modernization and secularization of society would cause religion to fade into oblivion. However, just the opposite has happened! As sociologist Peter Berger has observed, the dramatic upsurge in religion over the last 25 years has provided a “massive falsification of this idea” (*The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics*, p. 6). In fact, the fastest growing religious organizations are “fundamentalist” sects and churches that hold clear beliefs and strong moral codes. By contrast, liberal mainstream denominations that try to accommodate societal trends—easy divorce, abortion, same-sex marriage, ordination of women and homosexuals—are hemorrhaging members!

The Roman Catholic Church has been at the forefront of the “Culture Wars” that have pitted conservative religionists against their liberal opponents. Pope Benedict XVI, like Pope John Paul II before him, has taken strong doctrinal stands on issues dear to “traditional” Christianity—rejecting legal abortion, same-sex marriage and secularism, while upholding the sanctity of heterosexual marriage, the importance of Sunday

worship and the need to shun society's rampant materialism.

It is often today's youth who are most drawn to traditional stands in the "Culture Wars." It is significant that World Youth Days promoted first by John Paul II and now by Benedict XVI have attracted hundreds of thousands of young people who are urged to live moral lives, reject materialistic values and embrace the Catholic faith (*Charlotte Observer*, July 21, 2008).

Historian Paul Johnson notes that, during his 25-year pontificate, John Paul II became a "superstar"—a global figure who played a pivotal role in bringing down communism (see *Heroes*, pp. 253–273), and who repeatedly urged Europeans to "discover" their Roman Catholic religious roots.

Many Protestants have welcomed "conservative" moves by the Roman church, and many Catholics see the papal embrace of tradition as a vindication of Rome's status as the "one true church," but these views overlook what Bible prophecy reveals about current events. The book of Revelation, in its depiction of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, clearly indicates that increased religious activity will be a sign that the end of the age is approaching. The prophesied First Horseman rides a white horse, wears a crown and carries a bow to conquer people (Revelation 6:1–2). Some mistakenly believe this figure represents Jesus Christ, but the Bible pictures Christ with a sword (Revelation 19:11–15). The individual in Scripture who carries a bow and shoots arrows is Satan (Ephesians 6:16). The First Horseman of Revelation 6 pictures the same end-time event described in Matthew 24:4–5—clearly revealing that the main thrust of end-time religious activity will be to deceive and dominate large numbers of people!

When Jesus was asked what would be *the sign* of His coming and the end of the age, He warned, "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name [the Knox translation renders it, "making use of My name"] saying, 'I am the Christ', and will deceive many" (Matthew 24:3–5). Jesus' answer reveals that religion—including false "Christian" teachers—will be far from dead in the last days!

The Apostle Paul warned that "in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money... blasphemers... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power... evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:1–5, 13). According to Scripture, the widespread resurgence of religious activity at the end of the age will be inspired by Satan and will mislead many people. This is the prophetic significance of what is happening today—but there is more!

### **End-Time Ecumenical Efforts**

Two of the most significant events in the last 2,000 years of religious history were the Great Schism and the Reformation. In 1054AD, church leaders in Rome and Constantinople mutually excommunicated each other over doctrinal differences, creating the Great Schism that has separated the western Roman Catholic Church from the Eastern Orthodox Church for almost a thousand years. The 15th century saw the birth of the Protestant Reformation, as the development of the printing press and the availability of Bibles in common languages coincided with charges of widespread corruption and unbiblical doctrines in the

Roman Catholic Church. The Reformation split Europe between Protestants generally in the North and Catholics generally in the South, and spawned violent religious conflicts that still smolder today.

However, *in the closing decades of the 20th century, religious history seems to have gone into reverse!* In recent years, we have witnessed the emergence of serious ecumenical efforts to re-unite the fractured pieces of what was once a single unified church. Roman Catholic popes have been at the forefront of this movement. John Paul II openly talked of healing the Great Schism and bringing the Eastern and Western Churches together. He apologized for the sack of Constantinople by Crusaders in the 12th century, and returned to the Orthodox church various relics that were taken during the Crusades. The Roman Catholic pontiff and the Orthodox patriarch met and prayed together on several occasions, and commented that they saw "no major obstacles to unity." Benedict XVI has continued this mission with a sense of urgency, and is "winning recognition as a champion of Christian unity" (*National Catholic Register*, July 23–August 5, 2006).

While popes and patriarchs have focused on bringing the Catholic and Orthodox churches closer together, efforts toward Protestant unity also continue. Two major bodies of the Reformed Churches have seriously discussed merging, and two major Lutheran bodies have already merged. Other private efforts like "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" are actively promoting closer ties between Rome and the Protestant churches. Conservative leaders within the Anglican Communion, angered and alienated by that fractured denomination's move to ordain women and homosexuals, are looking toward a

possible move of millions of Anglicans toward Rome (*The Times*, February 19, 2007).

The last decade of the 20th century also witnessed the emergence of an “Ancient-Future Faith” movement, as championed by the late evangelical scholar Robert Webber. This movement emphasizes the *common roots of tradition* that developed in the post-Apostolic period of the early church (100–600AD), yet *ignores Bible-based doctrines* laid down by Jesus and the apostles in the first century AD. Advocates of this movement, primarily within Protestant denominations, proclaim that the future of the church can be found through its past, by reclaiming the *rich traditions* of the early church—which Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches have preserved, but Protestants had “tragically”

rejected upon professing to follow only the Bible. As a result, many Protestant churches have placed renewed emphasis on *traditions, sacraments and symbols*—replacing casually dressed ministers and rock-music “praise bands” with ancient chants, candles, pageantry and liturgical practices drawn from ancient Catholicism. Some Protestant churches are even rediscovering the Catholic practice of adoration of the Virgin Mary (*Time*, March 21, 2005; *Washington Post*, March 8, 2008).

One minister commented that since the inception of this movement, “a race has been on to return Protestants to the Mother Church”—it is a race promoted by individuals who want to *reverse* the Protestant Reformation that they view as “an unnecessary schism perpetrated by

Protestants” (*tottministries.org*, June 2008). It is surprising that Protestant churches are so anxious to merge with a Church that has declared, “If it isn’t Roman Catholic then it’s not a proper Church” (*The Times*, July 11, 2007).

Many ecumenically minded church leaders believe that the Holy Spirit is leading them toward greater unity (*National Catholic Register*, July 23–August 5, 2006). Benedict XVI, like John Paul II before him, has encouraged this mindset by reminding audiences that “Christ wants a Universal Church” (*zenit.org*, May 4, 2007), and by seeking *common ground* among religious groups against the social evils of our time—materialism, secularism, abortion, same-sex marriage and other assaults on “traditional” religious values. Interestingly, Benedict dedi-



cated the year between June 28, 2008 and June 28, 2009 to the Apostle Paul. This “Pauline Year” will feature *special ecumenical events* designed to aid the search “for the *complete unity* of all the parts of the mystical body of Christ... [and] full communion between the Christian West and East” (*UPI*, June 29, 2007).

This may all sound wonderfully spiritual, and its dangers may not at first be apparent. However, the modern ecumenical movement, championed by Roman pontiffs and many willing Protestants and Eastern Orthodox—*was foretold thousands of years ago in your Bible!* The prophet Isaiah was inspired to write about the rise and fall of a “virgin daughter of Babylon” also described as “The Lady of Kingdoms” (see Isaiah 47). In prophecy, a reference to a woman

or lady can be a reference to a church (see Revelation 12:6). The woman of Isaiah 47 dwells in sensual luxury (as did popes in the Middle Ages), and boasts, “I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children”—meaning that her “children,” the separated churches that came out from her, will return to her, in keeping with the Roman church’s stated ecumenical goal. These prophetic references fit with amazing clarity what is happening today, as Roman popes work to gather a scattered flock back to the “mother” church in Rome. However, the prophecies of Isaiah 47 also reveal that because of the “multitude of your sorceries” and “abundance of your enchantments” (pagan teachings associated with this church—Easter, Christmas, Lent, prayers to the saints, the worship of a mother and child, the rosary, etc), this “lady” will face a sudden, catastrophic demise (see Isaiah 47:8–11; Revelation 18:1–8). This is the *prophesied* outcome of Rome’s attempt to re-gather and unify the professing Christian churches—and even the other world religions.

## Religion and European Unity

During the last 50 years, forward-looking leaders in Europe have schemed to unify the nations of Europe, to prevent future wars on the continent and enable Europe to once again play a significant role on the world stage. Europe’s modern leaders are consciously emulating earlier European leaders (Charlemagne, Napoleon, etc.) who, following the model of the Roman Empire, sought to unify Europe. Though the current crop of European leaders has struggled with a myriad of legal and economic agreements designed to unify the continent, perceptive analysts like historian Boris Johnson have

noted that *religion*—worship of the emperor—was a *key factor* in maintaining unity in the Roman Empire (*The Dream of Rome*, pp. 95–100, 193). It was a Roman pope who crowned Charlemagne and gave legitimacy to his attempts to conquer and unify the continent, and the Roman church provided the “holy” dimension of the so-called “Holy Roman Empire” that dominated much of Europe for more than a thousand years (800–1806AD). Many non-Europeans fail to realize that the idea of a united Europe is “essentially a Catholic concept,” that the Founding Fathers of the modern European Union, Alcide de Gasperi, Robert Schuman and Konrad Adenauer were devout Roman Catholics, and that these founders were launched on the road to sainthood by the Vatican for founding the European Community “on Roman Catholic principles” (see *The Principality and Power of Europe*, Hilton, pp. 38–39).

The Roman Catholic Church understands that *religion* is one of the driving forces in history. For several decades, John Paul II and now Benedict XVI have emphasized the vital role that religion must play in uniting the nations of Europe. Benedict has written, “Anyone who wants to build Europe today... cannot rely on an abstract reason that knows nothing about God... the great values and truths of the Christian faith—values that transcend the individual Christian denominations because they are common to all—are *indispensable* forces in the construction of a unified Europe” (*Europe Today and Tomorrow*, Ratzinger, p. 117). John Paul II stated, “The identity of Europe is *incomprehensible* without Christianity... You don’t cut off the roots from which you were born... May Europe be itself and come to terms with its Christian roots” (*Without Roots*, Ratzinger & Pera, p.

35). Benedict has emphasized that both Eastern and Western Europe shared a common ecclesiastical heritage, that “both East and West were heirs to the Bible and to the ancient Church... both shared the idea of Empire [which was shattered by the rise of nation-states]... [they also shared] monasticism... a *pre-political* and *supra-political* force... [that aided the] rebirth of culture and civilization” in Europe (*Without Roots*, pp. 55–56).

On the surface, Europe may appear to be “dechristianizing” and abandoning the faith to pursue a secular dream of economic and political unity. However, the *external threat* posed by Islam, and the need for a *supra-national factor* to provide a basis for unity are stirring the flames of religion on the continent where Christianity seems poised for a “comeback” (*God’s Continent*, Jenkins, pp. 1, 14, 25).

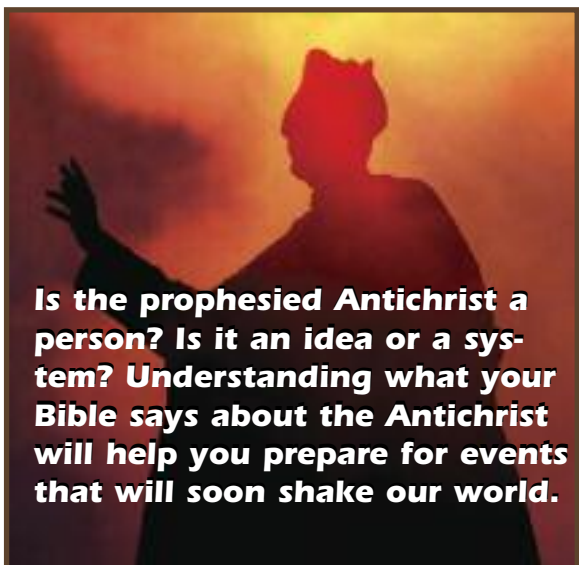
As many observers have noted of Benedict XVI, “This pope is looking to reconquer Europe, if not in numbers, then at the political table” (Pope Seeks Greater Role for Catholics in Europe on Policy Issues,” *New York Times*, September 20, 2008).

Benedict XVI has promoted historian Arnold Toynbee’s idea that the cure for Europe’s secular-materialistic crisis is for “creative minorities” to “reintroduce the religious dimension... especially the heritage of Western Christianity” (*Without Roots*, p.

68). Pursuing this same theme, Protestant and Catholic Church leaders in 2001 signed an ecumenical document, *Charta Oecumenica*, in which they pledged to pray together, preach together, act together “and build Europe together.” To counter Islamic threats against the values of Western civilization, some politicians have urged Europeans to reject pacifism and defend their own identity and culture—“through force” if necessary—which certainly calls to mind the militant religion of the First Horseman of the Apocalypse (*Without Roots*, p. 93). So, what does the future hold for Europe, and what role will religious leaders play?

(Continued on page 29)

## Who or What Is the Antichrist?



**Is the prophesied Antichrist a person? Is it an idea or a system? Understanding what your Bible says about the Antichrist will help you prepare for events that will soon shake our world.**

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

## Finding the “Lost” Tribes of Israel

The mystery of the “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel has intrigued people for centuries. Who are they? Where are they? Even U.S. President Thomas Jefferson, in his instructions to the Lewis and Clark expedition, asked the explorers to look for affinities between the lost tribes and the American Indians of the Great Plains. Syndicated writer Charles Krauthammer, recounting this story in a column marking the 60th anniversary of the state of Israel, noted that Lewis and Clark did not find the lost tribes among the Indians—and then adds his own aside, expressing a common view on the subject: “*They aren’t anywhere*” (*Washington Post*, May 16, 2008). Krauthammer, like many others, assumes that the “Lost Ten Tribes” simply disappeared into the mists of history.

A few months later, news reports described the Bnei Menashe—a group of people living in India who want to immigrate en masse to Israel, claiming “to descend from the lost tribe of Menashe (Manasseh), one of the ten tribes that were exiled from the land of Israel by the Assyrian empire more than 27 centuries ago.” The Bnei Menashe keep the Sabbath, the kosher dietary laws and worship in synagogues (*New Jersey Jewish Standard*, August 13, 2008).

Over the years, other alleged remnants of the “Lost Ten Tribes” have been reported in remote parts of the world. Most scholars today dismiss these reports as myths, and condescendingly point to what they consider the lack of solid evidence that these tribes exist today. What of the idea that the peoples of Western Europe and the British Isles are part of the Lost Ten Tribes? Professor Tudor Parfitt of the University of London says the notion is “unblessed with even a scintilla of evidence” and reflects the “ignorance” of “poorly educated disciples of the movement” (*The Lost Tribes of Israel: The History of a Myth*, pp. 53, 62).

However, the views of Professor Parfitt and his colleagues overlook key biblical clues, and ignore considerable historical evidence that make it possible to discover the identity and modern locations of the tribes of Israel. Few seem to understand that dozens of prophecies related to this important subject are *coming alive today!*

### Not Really Lost!

Though many modern scholars have lost track of the Israelite tribes, the identity and location of the tribes of Israel have not *really* been lost! Jesus told His disciples to go “to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 10:6). The “house of Israel” refers to all twelve tribes of Israel, which descended from the twelve sons of Jacob (Genesis 35:23–26). Both the Bible and history indicate that Christ’s disciples *carried out* their mission. James addressed his epistle to “the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad” (James 1:1).

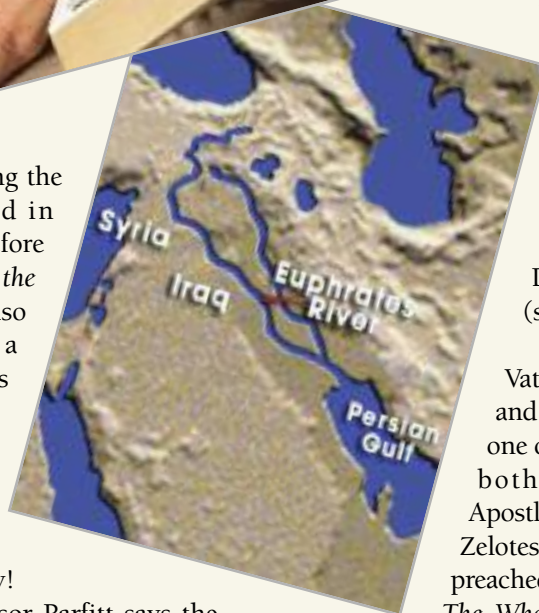


Josephus, a Jew writing in the first century AD, recorded that “the ten tribes are beyond the Euphrates till now, and are an immense multitude” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, 11:5:2). The phrase “beyond the Euphrates” reveals that the ten tribes were in Parthia—an area south of the Caspian Sea—where the Israelites had gone into captivity centuries earlier. Oxford Professor George Rawlinson noted that the Parthians were part of the Scythians, that their name “Parthi” meant “exiles” and that they had been under the dominion of the Assyrians and the Medes (*The Sixth Great Oriental Monarchy*, pp. 19, 26)—a description that fits the Israelites! Parthians heard Peter speak in Jerusalem on Pentecost (Acts 2:9). The early church historian Eusebius (263–339AD) relates that Christ’s disciple Andrew went to Scythia, and that Thomas went to Parthia (*The History of the Church*, 3:1:1). Early traditions also link Bartholomew and Philip with these same areas—which shows that the Apostles *knew* the location of the Israelite tribes in their day.

Historians connect the Scythians with a people called the Sacae. In his translation of Herodotus’ *The Histories*, Rawlinson connected the Sacae—mentioned in inscriptions that Darius commissioned ca. 500BC on the Behistun Rock in northwestern Iran—“with the Beth-Khumree of Samaria, or the Ten Tribes of the House of Israel” (p. 378). In the Apocrypha, the book of 2 Esdras states that (after the fall of the Assyrian empire) “the ten tribes... took this counsel among themselves... [to] go forth into a further country... and they entered into the

Euphrates by the narrow passages of the river” (2 Esdras 13:40–45)—they headed north through the gorges to the Crimea. Nineteenth century London historian Sharon Turner wrote, “The emigrating Scythians crossed the Araxes [a river between the Black and Caspian Sea], passed out of Asia, and invading the Kimmerians, suddenly appeared in Europe, in the seventh century before the Christian era” (*The History of the Anglo-Saxons*, vol. 1, p. 98). Turner also described how the Scythians and a related people, the Kimmerians (Kimbri or Kumri or Cymry), eventually reached Britain, and that “The Welsh, who are their descendants, have always called themselves Cymry” (*ibid.*, p. 34)—indeed, that name is on their postcards today!

Critics are unconvinced; Professor Parfitt says the idea of finding the Lost Ten Tribes among America, Britain and the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples that stem from northwestern Europe is “bizarre” and does not make the “slightest sense” in terms of history (Parfitt, pp. 53, 64). He further asserts that some of the earliest “expressions of an *invented* Israelite genealogy for the British” come from individuals of questionable reputation and scholarship in the 1600s and 1700s (*The Lost Tribes of Israel*, pp. 41–61). But this perspective simply ignores important facts of history. For example, the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320AD—the Scottish “Declaration of Independence”—stated that the ancestors of the Scots came from Scythia by way of Spain about 500AD—some 1,200 years after the Assyrian conquest of Samaria in 721BC (see *The Story of Celto-Saxon Israel*, Bennett, pp. 96–99). Gildas, a Briton writing in the early 500s AD, describes the Anglo-Saxon invasion as God’s punishment on “these His Israelites”—the Britons (*De Excidio Britanniae*). The early annals of Ireland call some of the Emerald Isle’s first inhabitants the “Tuatha de Danann” (*The Story of the Irish Race*, MacManus, pp. 2–6; *The Flowering of Ireland*, Scherman, pp. 51–55),



which easily translates as “tribe of Dan”—one of the tribes of Israel. The Tuatha de Danann of Ireland appear to be the same peoples as the Danoi of Greece, who according to local legends came from Egypt around 1500BC—about the time of the Exodus of the Israelites. One of the traits of the tribe of Dan was to rename places where they settled or traveled (Joshua 19:40–48; Judges 18:11–12, 26–29).

The Danites were seafaring people (Judges 5:17) who were prophesied to leave their mark in place names: Cyprus was called the Ia-Dnan (Island of Dan), the Danube, the Dardanelles, Danzig and Denmark (see Bennett, pp. 76–79).

Additionally, in the 17th century, Vatican librarian Cardinal Baroneus and Archbishop Ussher of Ireland—one of the greatest scholars of his day—both presented evidence that the Apostles James, Paul, Simon Peter, Simon Zelotes, along with Joseph of Arimathea, preached the gospel in the British Isles (see *The Whole Works of James Ussher*, vol. 5, chap. 1). This gives further credence to the understanding that the Apostles *did* heed Jesus’ instruction to “go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

### Prophetic Significance

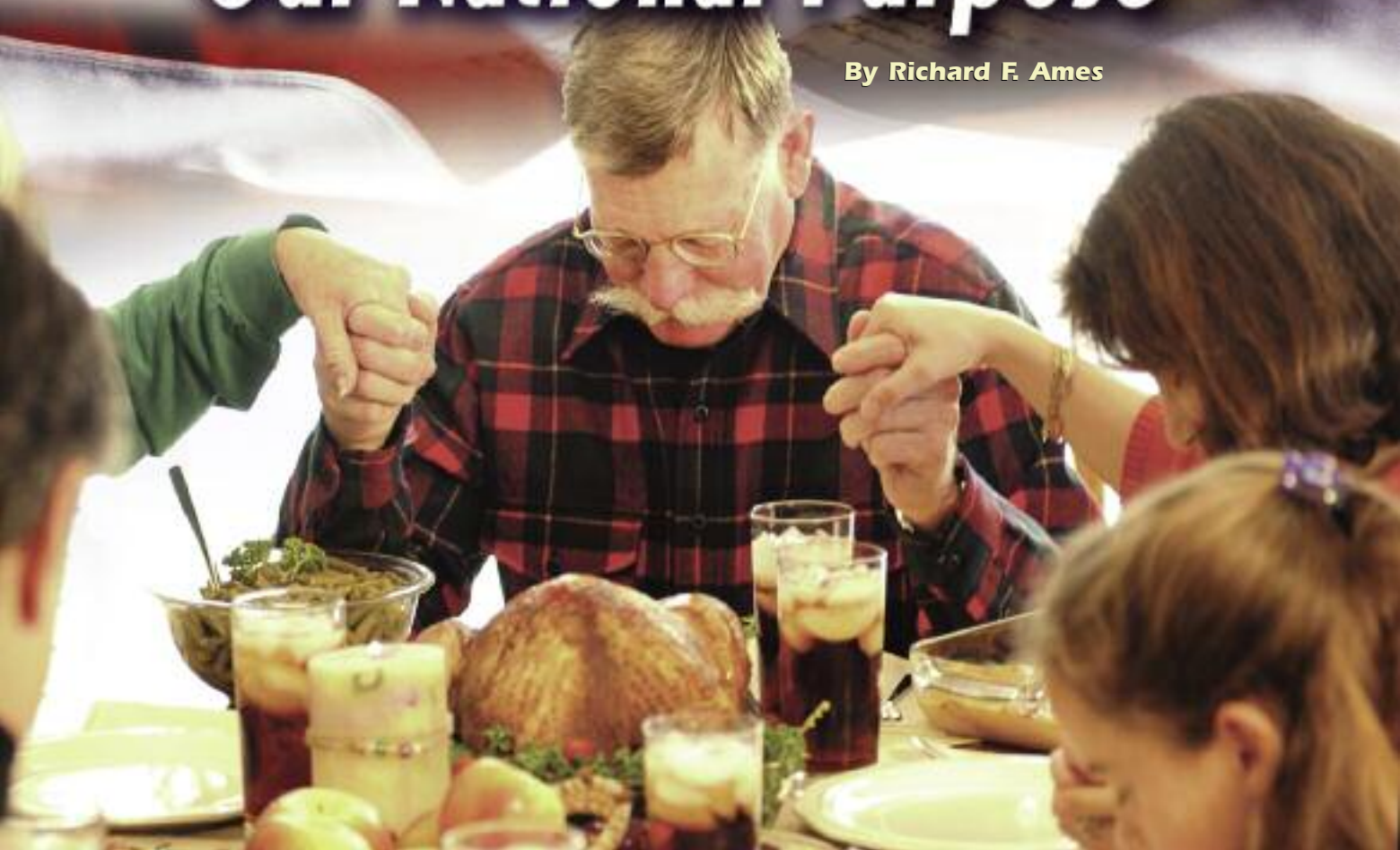
But *why* is it important, *today*, to know the identity and location of the tribes of Israel? Bible prophecies record traits of the tribes of Israel that will become obvious and recognizable “in the last days” (Genesis 49:1). Moses prophesied that the descendants of the Israelites would become utterly corrupt and face difficult times “in the latter days” (Deuteronomy 4:27–30; 28:26–29). Jeremiah warns of a coming period of tribulation and chastisement for sinful Israelite nations that he calls a time of “Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:1–15). God’s servants have the duty to warn His people of dangers that lie ahead (Isaiah 58:1; Amos 3:7). Understanding the location and identity of modern Israelite nations is a *key* to understanding Bible prophecies about their future, and it helps to target our message as these prophecies *come alive* today!

—Douglas S. Winnail



# Thanksgiving and Our National Purpose

By Richard F. Ames





**O**n Thanksgiving Day, millions gather with their families and friends to enjoy good food and fellowship, and the blessings of living in a prosperous nation. They enjoy the blessings of freedom and opportunity. But do they thank God for their blessings? Do they understand why their nation has been blessed? In particular, do we who live in the United States and British-descended nations understand why we have received blessings unparalleled in the history of mankind?

Whether it is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November as in the U.S., or the second Monday of October as in Canada, Thanksgiving Day is a time when people are supposed to count their blessings. We who live in these nations have received blessings unprecedented in the history of mankind. In the 20th century, the U.S. and British Commonwealth became the richest and most powerful nation and group of nations in the world. But that national power and prestige has greatly declined. The U.S. was once an economic powerhouse, and nations around the world eagerly bought its exports. Today, however, the U.S. is the world's largest debtor, with a national deficit of more than \$8.5 trillion—more than \$28,000 for each American man, woman and child.

How did the U.S. and other English-speaking nations gain so many blessings? Recall the development of the North American continent. There were the pioneering settlements by the British in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607; the Dutch established what is now Albany, N.Y. around 1614; the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. After a severe and disastrous winter, they gave thanks to God for their harvest in 1621, in what historians label as the first Thanksgiving!

In exactly 70 years, from 1783 to 1853, after the thirteen colonies became the United States, the young nation acquired land to extend its continental reach “from sea to shining sea.” The greatest land expansion took place in 1803, under President Thomas Jefferson, when France sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States for only \$15 million dollars—just five cents per acre! French emperor Napoleon is said to have remarked, “This accession of territory affirms forever the power of the United States.”

The U.S. continued to develop economically and militarily over the years. After the conclusion of World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, speaking before the House of Commons, commented on the status of the U.S., “I must turn to the United States, with whom our fortunes and interests are intertwined... The Americans... have become today the greatest state and power in the world, speaking our own language, cherishing our common law, and pursuing... the same ideals” (October 28, 1947).

### **Why Such Blessings?**

Is there a biblical and historical reason for this power? What really is the source of these national blessings? The answer reveals our national purpose—and you may be surprised to learn that the answer begins with the history of the patriarch Abraham. God made a covenant with Abraham, and it is because of Abraham's faith that we have been blessed.

God tested Abraham, telling him to sacrifice Isaac, his son. Abraham in faith obeyed, and God preserved Isaac's life! What did God say to Abraham as a result? “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son; blessing I will bless you, and multi-

plying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (Genesis 22:16–18).

Notice that Abraham's descendants were to control the “gate of their enemies.” Throughout much of the 20th century, America and Britain actually controlled most of the world's sea gates. However, because of our national sins, God has begun to take that control away.

What does that ancient covenant have to do with us today? God renewed His covenant with Abraham's son, Isaac, and later with Isaac's son Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel). Israel had twelve sons, including Judah and Joseph. Joseph had two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

Scripture records Jacob passing this blessing to his grandsons Ephraim and Manasseh: “The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; let my name [Israel] be named upon them [Ephraim and Manasseh], and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth” (Genesis 48:16).

These blessings are called the birthright promises. These prophetic promises, which included wealth, abundance, military power, and international dominance, were to be fulfilled in the descendants of Joseph. It may be surprising to many of you, but those divine blessings given to Manasseh and Ephraim have been fulfilled in the U.S. and British-descended nations. Long-time readers of this magazine are already familiar with this amazing biblical truth. If you have not already proved this truth to yourself, please write for your free copy of our informative booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in*

Prophecy, or read it online at [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).

## A Good Land

Consider your nation's blessings in relation to this divine promise: "For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper" (Deuteronomy 8:7-9).

America's national heritage includes great natural beauty, fertile agricultural soil and rich mineral deposits for industrial development. But have we recognized—and honored—the source of those blessings? Will our Western nations last much longer? Consider God's warning: "When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today" (Deuteronomy 8:10-11).

Have we heeded that warning, individually and nationally? National sins produce national penalties, as President Abraham Lincoln recognized. Proclaiming a National Fast Day for April 30, 1863, Lincoln stated: "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God... and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

Lincoln acknowledged that God is the true source of blessings, nationally and individually. *Our national*

*purpose must include acknowledgment of our Creator!* Does your nation acknowledge the sovereignty of God? Or is it so secular and unthankful that it has turned its back on God? Do you personally thank Almighty God for all the benefits we so often take for granted? Notice what the Apostle James wrote: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of



turning" (James 1:17). Whatever you enjoy in life that is genuinely good comes from God, the giver of every good and perfect gift. Abraham Lincoln reminded the American people to recognize that fact as a nation!

## Political Rhetoric or Vital Truth?

What happens when a country lacks a national purpose? In the U.S., politicians often speak of the importance of national purpose. During his first Presidential campaign in 2000, Senator John McCain often talked about national purpose. Speaking at the Republican National Convention that year, he warned, "Unless we restore the people's sovereignty over government, renew their pride in public service, reform our public institutions to meet the challenges of a new day and reinvigorate our

*national purpose*, then America's best days will be behind us." This is not just a Republican theme; supporters of Democratic candidate Barack Obama have echoed it, as did New Mexico governor Bill Richardson last March 21, when he told Oregon Democrats, "Barack knows that the safety and future of every American child requires that we restore our shared sense of *national purpose*, so that we can then set about the hard work of rebuilding our alliances and rehabilitating our image in a dangerous world."

Forty-seven years ago, Senator James Fulbright observed that America was losing its direction. He warned, "Bigger cars, bigger parking lots, bigger corporate structures, bigger farms, bigger drug stores, bigger supermarkets, bigger motion-picture screens. The tangible and the functional expand, while the intangible and the beautiful shrink. Left to wither is the *national purpose*... The national dialogue is gradually being lost in a froth of misleading self-congratulation and cliché. National needs and interests are slowly being submerged by the national preoccupation with the irrelevant."

Nearly a half-century after Fulbright, with this year's Presidential candidates' rhetoric fresh in our ears, we should ask ourselves: Have we reinvigorated or restored our national purpose, or have we allowed it to wither? Do we even understand what that purpose is? Is it our national purpose to be the world's most powerful and prosperous nation? We have already seen that the U.S. is the world's *greatest debtor nation*. Is it our national purpose to extend freedom and democracy to every nation on earth? We need to understand that all nations can experience *genuine freedom* when they obey the Truth of the Bible. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the *truth* shall make you *free*" (John 8:32).

Referring to the Creator of all nations, Jesus prayed, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17). Have we let our light shine by living that Truth? Are we doing our part in making that Truth available to the world?

Is your nation preoccupied with the irrelevant, or does it acknowledge the Source of our purpose—and of our many blessings? As we observe Thanksgiving, we need to ask the question, “To whom do we give thanks?” To Almighty God and Jesus Christ? Or do we worship the dollar, the pound, the euro, the peso or the yen? U.S. coins and currency declare, “In God We Trust.” If our nation fails to live up to that motto, it will not prevail. But you and I must exemplify that motto and that biblical precept, *in our own lives!*

The Western nations have a reputation for materialism. Consumer spending drives our economies. In the U.S., the day after Thanksgiving is one of the busiest shopping days of the year, given the nickname “Black Friday,” when millions flock to shopping malls in search of bargains on consumer goods. The National Retail Federation has even coined a term, “Cyber Monday,” for the Monday after Thanksgiving, said to be the time when online purchases reach a peak.

Yes, our nations are known for their materialism and focus on money. The Apostle Paul foretold that these characteristics—and others we will recognize—would be prominent at the end of this present age: “For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:2–5).

Vanity, pride, and ingratitude are sins that will destroy any cul-

ture or civilization. Decades ago, when reporters asked Indian nationalist Mohandas Gandhi his opinion of Western civilization, he replied, “I think it would be a good idea.” He saw the vanity of much of our Western world. Any godly civilization should promote the true values of life, not the false values of materialism, vanity and pride.

God warns us against trusting in our prosperity and possessions. Rather than think that we have gained our wealth by our own efforts, we should understand that it is God who gives the power to gain wealth (Deuteronomy 8:17–18). He warns us: “Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God” (vv. 19–20).

That is a very sobering warning about the future of any country that has been blessed by God. At Thanksgiving, we give thanks to God for the beauty and abundance with which He has blessed our countries. But at the same time we should be deeply concerned as our national character becomes more and more blemished with immorality. Will our Western nations continue to disobey the Ten Commandments and increasingly *reject* the biblical truths that once led to their prosperity—and that lead to *true* life, liberty and happiness?

### **Are We Thankful?**

Most of us who will be observing a Thanksgiving Day this year are among the most materially blessed people on planet Earth. Even the poorest Americans and Canadians enjoy comfort and convenience most of the world’s population can

barely imagine. Yet we still find much to complain about.

What is the antidote for such complaining? The antidote for complaining is thanksgiving! Are you thankful that you live in a relatively prosperous nation? That you have the freedom to worship according to your conscience? That you have many opportunities to grow in education and human potential? That you have family, friends and perhaps a good job? We should even be thankful for the sunshine and fresh air around us, and for the food and beverages we are able to enjoy.

For Christians, however, the greatest benefits are spiritual! We thank God for the sacrifice of His Son to pay for our sins. We are thankful for God’s forgiveness and grace. Remember, Jesus taught us to pray, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Matthew 6:12). We are thankful for the gift of the Holy Spirit after repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38). We are thankful not only for the sacrifice of Christ, but that He is alive as our High Priest, Savior and Intercessor! “He always lives to make intercession for [us]” (Hebrews 7:25). We are thankful that Jesus Christ is alive! Notice this amazing truth: “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (Romans 5:10). He is our living Savior, and our great High Priest, as the book of Hebrews emphasizes! And He is coming as King of kings and Lord of lords!

Today’s Christians are also thankful for the promised future. We are thankful for the true Gospel—the message Jesus preached about the coming Kingdom of God on earth, when all nations will learn the way to peace. We know that the world will not end in a nuclear holocaust or be snuffed out by a biological pandemic—because Jesus Christ

promised that for the elect's sake He would return, just in time to prevent us from destroying ourselves (Matthew 24:22)!

The world *needs* the Kingdom of God on earth. Do you realize how much you are blessed compared to many countries around the world? As of October 2008, the United Nations labeled as “Least Developed Countries” the 49 nations with annual per capita gross national incomes below \$750. Many of those countries have annual per person incomes below \$400! Can you imagine living in such poverty? How thankful are you? As Jesus said, “To whom much is given, from him much will be required!” (Luke 12:48). We must be faithful stewards of our blessings, and we must be willing, nationally and individually, to give to others. We especially need to be *giving the good news of the Gospel* to the rest of the world! Our *national purpose* should be to live God's way of life—and to share that way of life with the rest of the world! God's ways should be our nation's ways. Notice these words of Moses: “Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people’” (Deuteronomy 4:5–6).

Yes, God will bless those nations who recognize that their national purpose is to grow in godly character—to exemplify biblical values as shining lights in a dark world, to live by God's own Ten Commandments, and by His statutes and judgments, and to proclaim the good news of God's soon-coming Kingdom, ruled by the King of kings, Jesus Christ!

Will we fulfill our national purpose as a thankful people? As we observe Thanksgiving, we need to remember: Any unthankful nation that refuses to submit to its Creator is sowing the seeds of its own destruction. But God is patient! He is giving us a little more time to change our lives individually and nationally. God is “not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Yes, there is good news for the future. Most people who celebrate Thanksgiving Day do not know that the Bible tells of a future time when the whole world will celebrate a biblical Thanksgiving—called the Feast of Tabernacles. All nations will go up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles under the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ! Scripture describes a future world at peace under the rulership of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, when He returns to Jerusalem, the future world capital. “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). And who will rule the earth after Jesus' return? “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).

Yes, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, will unify all the nations under His rulership. He will

bring representatives from nations to Jerusalem to worship during the annual festival called the Feast of Tabernacles. There is coming a time when all nations will worship the King of kings with thanksgiving (v. 16). Until then, God has given His Church the commission of sharing with all nations a vision of that future, and calling all nations and peoples to repent (Acts 17:30).

May we all be filled with thanksgiving for God's will, and for the love of God and Jesus Christ. May we seek to love, obey and serve the source of all our personal and national blessings. As the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:57, “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” ■

## The Holy Days: God's Master Plan



**God has established a series of Holy Days that reveal His plan for us, and which allow us to worship and thank Him in the way He desires. You can experience the joy of worshiping God in the way He intends!**

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*The Holy Days:  
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I happened to come across your magazine at my mother's house. I was deeply enlightened, renewed and encouraged reading the articles. I told my brother about it, and mailed the article "The Truth Almost No One Knows" (July-August 2008) to him. We had an exciting conversation about the piece. Thank you for caring enough to spread the word in such a thoughtful, eloquent and loving way.

T. N., New York, NY

I have been receiving *Tomorrow's World* since 2004, and am only now writing to thank you for producing such a wonderful magazine. It is beyond the scope of ordinary words to say how great it is to be able to read the "plain truth" again. Readers are told not just to believe what they are reading in your magazine, but to prove it through checking it in the Bible. This I have done, and I have found the evidence in Scripture. May God continue to inspire and sustain you!

M. O., Kilcar, Donegal, Ireland

We found a copy of your magazine on a local library table, loose, with no label left on it. We read a couple of articles, and left the magazine there for someone else to discover. We want to commend you for having the courage to present the contents to the general public!

B. L., Palmyra, AL

After receiving my copy of *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?*, I have had a hard time putting it down. It is so uplifting and encouraging. All the publications I have received from *Tomorrow's World* are excellent, but this one is especially well done. May God richly bless this effort to bring truth and light to a dark world.

S. B., Dayton, TN

Today, I received the booklet, *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?* By Roderick C. Meredith. I was able to read all of it in one sitting, and it is truly an inspiring message for a very needy world. This colorful and concise booklet will bring much hope to the thousands of individuals who will read it and realize that a much better world is indeed in store for humanity.

A. M., Toronto, ON, Canada

I would like to thank you for airing the *Tomorrow's World* telecast in my area. I have learned so much more in the last few months than I have going to church my whole life (I'm 57). You have answered a lot of questions that I had. I hope you are on for a long time. This program has let me see so much and answered things that were bothering me—like Christmas, and much more. Thank you very much!

C. C., Des Moines, IA

I have just finished my twentieth lesson of your *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. There is so much truth revealed in your magazine and your *Bible Study Course* that I did not know before—things I have never heard from the pulpit in 45 years. All of your magazines and booklets are full of enlightening truth to anyone who is open to receive it and willing to change accordingly.

R. B., Kansas City, KS

I must admit I didn't actually read the article entitled, "Motherhood In Crisis?" (May-June 2008). To start with, I think we are taking the whole issue of family from the wrong angle. It's not just about motherhood. It's about the family unit, and whether or not it can survive at this end of human history. While others have a place in the scheme of things, perhaps one might be better asking, "Is Parenting in Crisis?"

G. P., Melbourne, VIC, Australia

**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.**



# Who Will Rule the Waves?

By Rod McNair

In 1405, Ming Dynasty admiral Zheng He set sail with 27,800 sailors under his command, manning 62 large Chinese ships for a voyage that took him throughout most of South Asia. “Over the next 28 years, Zheng He’s flotilla embarked on six other grand voyages. It was an unprecedented massing of naval power. The ships, described collectively as ‘swimming dragons,’ boasted as many as nine masts apiece; and the largest could hold 1,000 people. Dotted with dragons’ eyes to help them ‘see,’ they carried soldiers, doctors, cooks, interpreters, astrologers, traders and holy men. The senior captains were eunuchs. The expeditions covered a total of nearly 300,000 km, roughly equivalent to 7 1/2 circumnavigations of the world” (“In the Wake of the Admiral,” *TIME Magazine*, August

20–27, 2001). Zheng He’s voyages opened trade and diplomatic ties for China with 35 countries, and led the way for Chinese emigration throughout Southeast Asia. But after he died (sometime between 1433 and 1436), China abruptly reverted back to its isolationist past and lost its naval preeminence.

Six hundred years later, China is now poised to become a leading naval power in the Pacific. A reinvigorated People’s Liberation Navy has its eyes on becoming a true “deep-water” navy—an oceangoing force capable of projecting its power far beyond its shores. What does this portend for the future of U.S.-China relations? Should the United States see China as a welcome partner in the global economic community, or as a potentially deadly rival? Will the U.S. continue to enjoy unmatched military supremacy in the Pacific into

the next few decades? And can your Bible shed light on all this?

## Vying for Control of the Waves

As China’s current military ambitions change the status quo of the East Asian military balance, how will other South Asian nations respond? Many of China’s neighbors do not view its growing influence favorably. Authors Andrew Nathan and Robert Ross observe, “Located in the center of its region, China is a giant country surrounded by independent and assertive smaller countries, most of them different from it both ethnically and ideologically. Its regional relationships have been marked by mutual suspicion. China has historically exerted influence in many nearby countries, making them wary of its

rising power today” (*Great Wall and Empty Fortress: China’s Search for Security*, p. 8). Will regional Asian rivalries turn into all-out competition for control of sea lanes? Could jealousy and suspicion spark war between rival Pacific nations seeking to defend their own interests?

*It is already happening!* Parts of the potentially oil-rich Spratly and Paracel Islands are claimed by six different South Asian countries—including China—and conflicts there are not infrequent. Twenty years ago, more than 70 Vietnamese sailors died in the Spratly Islands, in a gun battle with Chinese ships. In 1999, China warned the Philippine Navy it would use force if the Filipinos did not recover a vessel that had run aground in territory claimed by China (“RP Navy blinks, sends tugboats to tow ‘Benguet,’” *Today*, November 16, 1999). Filipino Representative Roilo Golez lambasted the Chinese threat of force: “[China] is now using its military muscle to elbow out tiny, helpless nations to make the entire South China Sea its own lake. The tiger is always on the lookout for little Tibets to devour” (*ibid.*).

China’s relationship with Japan is also filled with tension. In *China: Fragile Superpower*, Susan Shirk writes: “Relations between China and America’s close ally, Japan, have grown dangerously acrimonious over the past several years. Chinese People’s Liberation Navy vessels have begun patrolling in waters in the East China Sea near the Diaoyu Islands, which are claimed by both China and Japan” (p. 4). Dozens of Korean sailors also died in gun battles over another disputed sea border in 1999 and 2002.

### **From Rivalry to Arms Race?**

But it is not only the occasional disputes that worry some American policy-makers. More troubling is the escalating arms buildup—and not only by China—in an already volatile

region. While China continues to pursue military expansion at an alarming rate, *Jane’s Fighting Ships* has noted that other “navies of Southeast Asia were all ‘on the move’” as well. “Indonesia intended to expand its navy by 20,000 sailors and 10,000 marines within five years, while Singapore’s first submarine had just been transported to its home base in April and a second would follow in 2001... Taiwan and Korea were spending more on ships and technology equipment, while Japan had changed its defense posture to allow pre-emptive action against enemy missile bases after two North Korean spy ships penetrated its waters last year” (“‘Sudden’ East Asia violence feared,” *Today*, May 10, 2000). By 1997, Thailand had even acquired an aircraft carrier, called the *Chakri Narvebet*. (“Force Modernisation Trends In Southeast Asia,” Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies working paper, January 2004).

India, China’s neighbor to the south, is also expanding its naval capabilities. “The Indians are afraid that China’s reason for building ports in Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and conducting naval exercises with Pakistan, is to extend its dominance into the Indian Ocean... India, in turn, is pushing into the South China Sea, and seeking port facilities in Vietnam” (“Into the wide blue yonder,” *The Economist*, June 5, 2008).

### **Vital, Vulnerable Sea Lanes**

What is causing this naval buildup across South Asia? Why the growing interest in better naval military assets and capabilities? One reason is simply the economic growth of the countries involved. Economic booms have provided the finances countries need to upgrade and develop their militaries. As nations see China and other neighbors acquire better military capabilities, they are motivated to keep pace as well.

Another reason for naval buildup is the withdrawal of U.S. forces from bases in the region. In 1992, the U.S. pulled out of Clarke Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines. In 2004, a plan was put in motion for the U.S. to pull a third of its forces out of South Korea. “The scaling down of U.S. forces should accelerate a trend that has been underway for a number of years, with the South Koreans taking more responsibility for their own defenses” (“Analysis: US troops on the move,” *BBC News*, June 7, 2004). As the U.S. encourages regional powers to take more responsibility for their defense, those nations have been forced to develop a stronger naval presence.

Another reason for the naval buildup is the growing appreciation for vital sea lanes, especially crucial “choke points” such as the Malacca Straits. Southeast Asian countries have long had to deal with piracy, but the specter of global terrorism adds urgency to protect vulnerable commercial sea traffic. As its economy has grown—along with the thirst for oil to fuel it—China has developed keener interest in protecting commercial interests through a true ocean-going navy. Around 30 percent of all international trade passes through the narrow, 550-mile Malacca Straits. Tankers coming through the Straits bring 80 percent of the oil needed by both Japan and China. While China’s navy “currently lacks the ability to defend sea lanes that carry oil to China from the Middle East... it is discussing ways of doing so in the future” (“China speeds pace of military buildup,” *Washington Times*, March 3, 2008).

The U.S. also has an interest in ensuring that the Straits remain free from pirates or terrorists. In fact, in September 2007, the U.S. Navy announced a shift in its maritime strategy, putting hot-spots such as the Malacca Straits *at the core of the new strategy*. Author Richard Halloran points out that the new

naval doctrine depends on the ability to move ships rapidly, according to need, between the western Pacific and Indian Oceans (“Pacific Choke Point,” *Air Force Magazine*, July 2008). The Malacca Straits are the natural “choke-point” between the two and must remain unhindered for strategic reasons.

## A Hundred Years in the Pacific

But what does this all mean, and where is it going? Will China and other South Asian nations work together with the U.S. to forge lasting peace and regional security? Or will conflicting national interests and tangled alliances lead inevitably to war in the Pacific—again? And what role will the U.S. play?

The U.S. has had a naval presence in the Pacific for more than 100 years. At the turn of the 20th century, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt set out to achieve global superiority for the U.S. through a strong and aggressive naval fighting force. In his first annual address to Congress, he forcefully asserted that no part of his policy was more important than naval expansion.

It was under President Roosevelt’s direction that on December 16, 1907, 16 American battleships—dubbed “The Great White Fleet” for the color of their hulls—embarked on a round-the-world tour. Roosevelt’s purpose was to show friend and foe alike that the U.S. had the ability to project its military power far beyond its borders.

Four decades later, America’s naval capabilities and perseverance were tested to the limit. The Imperial Japanese Navy, striving to become masters of the Asia-Pacific region, attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, plunging the U.S. into World War II. After three-and-a-half years of bloody air, land and sea battles, Japan surrendered

after U.S. atomic bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The U.S. emerged from the war as the dominant naval power in the Pacific.

To this day, America remains the preeminent naval power in the Pacific. The United States Pacific Fleet—the world’s largest naval command—is headquartered at Makalapa Crater, near Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. With approximately 190 ships, 1,400 aircraft, and more than 213,000 civilian and military personnel serving on the ships and more than 35 shore installations, the fleet patrols an ocean ringed by 39 inde-



pendent nations home to the world’s six largest armies (People’s Republic of China, U.S., Russia, India, North Korea and Republic of Korea). Its area of responsibility covers approximately 50 percent of the earth’s surface: 105 million square miles and 16 time zones.

But where did the U.S. obtain this impressive naval prowess? What caused America’s stunning rise to naval power in the Pacific? The answer to that question contains the vital answer to what the future holds for America as well!

*Tomorrow’s World* subscribers understand that when the northern ten tribes of ancient Israel were captured and deported by the ancient kingdom of Assyria, they did not really “disappear.” Jesus Christ and the Apostles knew where the displaced Israelites were; Christ called them the “lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 10:6). They migrated beyond the Euphrates River (see “Finding the ‘Lost’ Tribes of Israel” on page 14 of this issue). Two of those tribes—Ephraim and Manasseh—received special bless-

ings (see “Who Are You, Really?” on page 4 of this issue).

Where did America’s military strength in the Pacific come from? From President Theodore Roosevelt’s aggressive policies? From winning World War II in the Pacific? Or because the U.S. is part of modern-day Joseph, prophesied to be blessed and strengthened by the hand of God?

Americans must not be deceived into pridefully thinking that their

military and economic success comes from themselves—when God specifically said these blessings came from Him. As the ancient Israelites prepared to enter

the Promised Land, Moses warned them to remember the Source of their blessings: “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers” (Deuteronomy 7:6–8).

If God—through His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—is the Source of America’s national blessings, what will happen to America’s strength as the nation turns its back on God? What happens to a people who have rejected His commandments, openly committed immorality, profaned His Sabbaths and even denied His existence? Will He protect the nation through future wars if it has shunned Him and cursed His name? Notice what Moses told America’s forefathers: “The LORD has



brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them” (Deuteronomy 7:8–11).

So, what is the future of America’s dominance in the Pacific? Will the U.S. be blessed in its attempt to keep its alliances intact and its commercial sea lanes open, *if Americans insist on blaspheming God in their personal and national lives?*

### **Will America Control the Gates?**

Author Richard Halloran notes that the Malacca Straits “form a choke point extraordinaire that exists in the shadow of armed pirates, stateless terrorists, and national armed forces. If the world were to lose access for an extended period, the consequences for the industrialized world, *including the United States, would be grave [emphasis ours]*” (“Pacific Choke Point,” *Air Force Magazine*, July 2008). As navies in the Pacific region vie for control of precious, vulnerable sea lanes—the lifeblood of the world’s economy—what will happen if the U.S. loses control of this vital choke point?

Your Bible contains a very intriguing prophecy concerning Rebekah, who was preparing to marry Abraham’s son, the patriarch Isaac. God promised to make of Abraham a great nation, with descendants “as the sand of the sea” (Genesis 32:12). To Rebekah was

given this blessing: “**And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: ‘Our sister, may you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands; and may your descendants possess the gates of those who hate them’**” (Genesis 24:60).


“Gates” represent “choke points” which control the flow of traffic—economic and military—through land or sea. Without controlling the “gates” of commercial and military traffic, a nation has little control over its own destiny. Bible prophecy shows that God gave modern-day Israel control of the “gates” of their enemies—including the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal, the Strait of Hormuz, the Straits of Gibraltar and the Malacca Straits. Will America continue to take a commanding role in defending the Malacca Straits in future years? It all depends on the nation’s faithfulness and obedience to the God who gave the nation the gates to begin with. Will God continue to bless America with the strategic “choke points” of the world’s sea lanes, if its peoples commit adultery, murder, steal and cheat with impunity?

Richmond Pearson Hobson, a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy who went on to serve five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, was a strong ally of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt in the push to make America’s navy not only the best in the world, but one *far superior* to any other on earth. In 1902, he wrote: “The finger of fate is pointing forward. America will be the controlling World power,

holding the sceptre of the sea, reigning in mighty beneficence with the guiding principle of a maximum of world service. She will help all the nations of the earth” (*Teddy Roosevelt’s Great White Fleet*, James Reckner, p. 4).

Congressman Hobson’s vision of a mighty American navy has been realized for the better part of a century. But not because of fate, destiny, hard work or altruistic principles of well-meaning human beings—America’s power came about because of the spiritual obedience of the patriarch Abraham, and God’s faithful promise to bless his descendants. His blessing will soon be lost—and America will lose much more than just control of the Pacific—if its people fail to take control of their spiritual condition individually and nationally, at home. ■

## **Armageddon and Beyond**



**What will happen when the United States is no longer a world power? As the end of this age approaches, what does Bible prophecy tell us we should be doing?**

**Write for our FREE booklet, *Armageddon and Beyond*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).**

# Tomorrow's Youth

## Thou Shalt Not... Download?

When I was a teenager back in the olden days—the 1970s—the 8-track tape cartridge was a popular medium for portable music. From the mid-1960s through the early 1980s, those chunky plastic cartridges were everywhere—in our living rooms, our bedrooms, and even our cars. By today's standards they had serious limitations; songs were interrupted when changing tracks, the player sometimes “ate” the tape, and we sometimes had to insert a ruler or similar object to keep the player from distorting the music in some way. Still, they were wildly popular, and everyone I knew used them.

One reason why 8-track tapes were popular is that people could do what my friends and I did; we would buy blank cartridges and fill them with our own music. My father owned a state-of-the-art 8-track tape recorder that I would use to transfer music from my long-play vinyl record albums onto the more portable cartridges. By doing this, I could create musical configurations of my own choosing—so every song would be good!

Was I “stealing music” back then? Although some record industry officials today would say “yes,” courts have generally made it clear that when you purchase a piece of music, you acquire limited rights to use it as you see fit. No, I could not make copies for my friends, but if I had purchased an LP, I could make an 8-track copy for my own use, and could arrange the songs as I liked.

Back then, my friends and I did not even think of the legal concerns that apply to us today. We bought physical media, it was ours, and that was that. Today, however, the world of available music has virtually exploded, and new ways of acquiring music have emerged. Music fans today can download literally millions of different music files—*without buying them*—right on their computers.

There are peer-to-peer sites where copyrighted music is “shared” among millions of users. For those who love music, it sounds like the perfect solution: “If I

want to have any music there is, I can have it right now—*for free!*”

There is, however, one problem with this method of music-sharing: *It is stealing!*



### Breaking the Law?

Most people understand that tucking a CD under their shirt and walking out of a store is breaking the law. Many of those same people—who would never shoplift—feel no guilt about having thousands of unpurchased music files on their computers. But both are examples of theft—obtaining someone else's property through illegal means.

Most people who “share” music have a vague idea that it is “against the law,” but they rationalize that “music wants to be free,” or “music stars are rich enough,” or “record companies are greedy dinosaurs who are out of touch with today's reality.” Nevertheless, copyright law is clear. When you make unauthorized copies of someone's creative work, you are stealing—and you are breaking the law.

“I wouldn't ever buy it, so I'm not really stealing someone's profits,” some may say. But would you buy a Ferrari Testarossa? No? Then do you have the right to take one? Of course not!

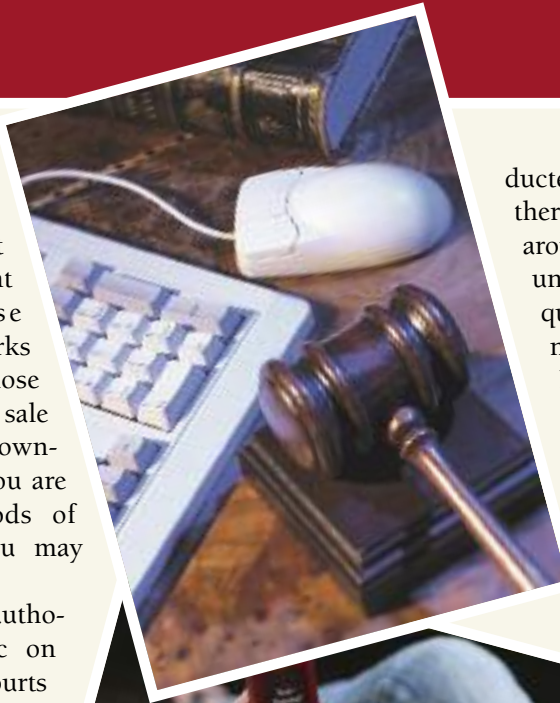
“But that's not the same! When you steal a Ferrari, they can't just make another copy for free,” some will respond. Many music thieves forget that the process of creating the music, just like creating the Ferrari, was far from “free.” Behind each piece of downloaded music, there are many more people than just the singers and musicians who have likely spent years in training to become able to perform their music for a living. For each song, many hours have been invested in writing and recording to make it just right. Multiply those hours by the number of songs on an album. Then consider all the time spent by all members of the group, and the studio musicians who have been employed to record the album. Then there are producers, engineers and other technicians who arrange, record and mix the

recording. Then, consider that when music is released on compact disc, there are CD-plant workers, warehouse staff, record shop clerks and many others whose income depends on the sale of music. When you download a song illegally, you are hurting the livelihoods of more people than you may realize.

Do you have unauthorized copies of music on your computer? The courts continue to debate the exact definition of “authorized” copying. Some music industry groups, like the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), have pushed for legislation that would make it illegal to record copies of music from your favorite radio station, and have tried to limit the degree to which individuals can make copies of purchased music for personal use. Other industry groups have taken the approach, generally supported by the courts, that as long as you purchased the music, and you make a limited number of personal copies for your own non-commercial use, you are not violating copyright. This is a contentious matter, and the RIAA has filed lawsuits against individuals who it believes have violated copyright laws by downloading music illegally. Ask yourself: is the “benefit” of “free” music worth the risk of a multi-thousand-dollar lawsuit?

### **Not Just Music**

The same principle holds true for computer software. Pirated software is a huge global problem. According to a May 2008 global personal computer software study by the Business Software Alliance (BSA), the worldwide software piracy rate is 38 percent of all software used, at a cost of nearly \$48 billion. John Gantz, chief research officer at IDC, the research firm that con-



ducted the study, stated, “By the end of 2007, there were more than 1 billion PCs installed around the world, and close to half had pirated, unlicensed software on them.” The important question becomes: does *your* computer right now have pirated, unlicensed software on it? If so, you have contributed to these statistics, and are part of the problem.

Again, some may say, “I would never have bought that software, so I’m not hurting anyone by taking a copy.” But if you are using the software, you are gaining the benefit of dozens—maybe hundreds—of other people’s hard labor. If you think they are charging an unfair price, you have the right not to buy the software, but you do not have the right to steal it.

Most piracy goes unnoticed, and very few pirates come to the attention of the courts, or the RIAA or BSA. Stealing music and software may be so easy that you do not give it much thought. But if you consider yourself a follower of God, all the technicalities of copyright law are swept away by the plain command of a higher authority. For a follower of Jesus Christ, there is no getting around the Eighth Commandment thundered down by God from Mt. Sinai: “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15).

### **Just Say No**

Even though stealing music and software is easy, and it may seem like everyone does it, it is still wrong. Decide now to get rid of all the pirated files on your computer, and do not allow others to share files illegally with you. Yes, the problem will continue, but you do not need to be a part of it.

Support those who have worked hard to produce the music and software that you use and enjoy by obtaining them legally. By obeying your Creator, you will feel better about yourself, and you will be helping to ensure that in the future the artists and programmers will be able to create more things you like.

—Phil Sena

# Sudden Destruction!

For decades, the United States and Great Britain have been accustomed to global dominance through their positions of economic and military power. But as the world economy turns sour, is it possible that these nations could become so economically weak that they would no longer be able to afford the military equipment needed for their very defense? Could a time come when factories across America and Britain are controlled by hostile nations—and are even used to produce weaponry for our enemies?

Would you believe that these dire circumstances are already starting to come true?

Few knew better than U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt that America's tremendous industrial power would be a vital key to winning World War II. By December 1940, when Poland, Denmark, France and much of the European continent lay in bloody ruins under Nazi aggression—and London was being burned to the ground by continuous Luftwaffe fire-bomb raids—the free world seemed doomed. On December 29, 1940, Roosevelt addressed a frightened nation. The warning he gave then remains a warning to us today.

Roosevelt said, "I appeal to the owners of plants, to the managers, to the workers, to our own Government employees, to put every ounce of effort into producing these munitions swiftly and without stint... I want to make it clear that it is the purpose of the nation to build now with all possible speed every machine and arsenal and factory that we need to manufacture our defense material. We have the men, the skill, the wealth, and above all, the will."

America answered the call. Factories worked around the clock. Thousands of tanks, trucks, ships, fighter aircraft and bombers rolled out of Boeing, Chrysler and other factories by the minute. In fact, by the end of World War II, a single Ford factory was producing an entire new four-engine, long-range B-24 bomber roughly every hour! America became the "Arsenal of Democracy."

You may be shocked to learn that your Bible prophesies a time when the U.S., Canada, Britain and other long-time Western allies will no longer be able to

answer such a call. That time may come sooner than you realize.

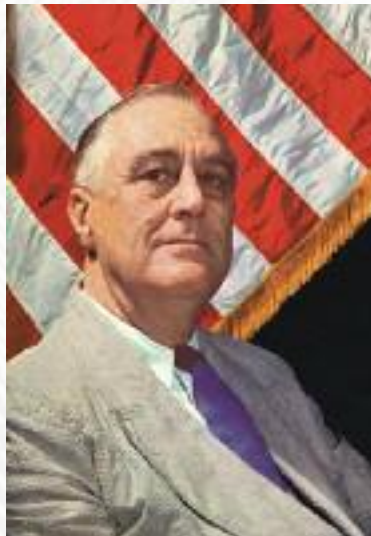
Great Britain is already investigating the prospect of selling off its military assets. Britain's *Financial Times* newspaper reported, "The UK has held talks with other countries, including Japan, about offloading large numbers of Eurofighter Typhoons that the Ministry of Defence has ordered but can no longer afford. The discussions, which are at an early stage, underline the size of the cash crisis facing the ministry, which has been grappling with an estimated budget deficit of £2bn (\$3.7bn)... Defence officials have confirmed that Japan, Saudi Arabia and India are among countries that have expressed interest in buying the aircraft" (August 20, 2008).

Economic weakness precedes military weakness. Could the very military hardware that Britain can no longer afford be used against it one day? It is shocking to see the once mighty United Kingdom unable to afford the advanced, new military hardware it has ordered. But, is the U.S. better off? Will a new President be able to mobilize the "Arsenal of Democracy" to rescue America's allies, as Roosevelt once did?

Manufacturers across the U.S. are facing their worst crisis in modern history. "The downturn in the American auto industry is rapidly becoming a full-blown fight for survival among Detroit's big automakers" (*New York Times*, August 2, 2008). Ford and General Motors recently reported stunning quarterly losses of \$8.7 billion and \$15.5 billion respectively. Ford has already mortgaged almost all of its assets, and GM is burning through its cash reserves at a rate of \$1 billion per month! Both manufacturers are closing plants and selling subsidiaries to foreign purchasers.

Unless the U.S., Britain, and other descendants of ancient Israel repent, Bible prophecy tells us that they will be faced with "sudden" destruction (Isaiah 30:12-13). At that time, their allies will forsake them (Jeremiah 30:14), leaving them too economically and militarily weak to withstand aggression. Our nation, our allies and our peoples face "sudden destruction" if we do not earnestly and fully turn to God, nationally and individually. Will you?

—Wyatt Ciesielka



## A Return to Rome? (Continued from page 13)

### Roman Popes and Prophecy

Benedict XVI has written that “we cannot see into the future” and “we do not know how things will go in Europe in the future” (*Without Roots*, pp. 68, 80). In fact, however, Bible prophecy *does reveal* what the future holds for Europe, and explains the role religious leadership will play in that future. The book of Daniel describes a great image whose feet and ten toes picture the *final phase* of a government—with its heritage from the Roman Empire—that will be smashed by the returning Jesus Christ (Daniel 2:40–45). Daniel also describes a great beast with ten horns (picturing ten revivals) and writes of a “little horn” which, dominating the last seven revivals, speaks pompous words, makes war with the saints and changes the calendar (times) and laws (see Daniel 7). History records numerous attempts to “revive” the Roman Empire, and in fact the popes in Rome backed and in some cases even crowned many of these European leaders, such as Charlemagne. History also records that the Roman church outlawed Sabbath observance in favor of Sunday, and replaced the biblical Holy Days with pagan holidays including Easter and Christmas.

End-time prophecies in the New Testament describe a beast with seven heads (the last seven horns of the beast of Daniel 7). One of the beast’s heads will be mortally wounded, but will be healed and revived, which will astonish the *whole world*, and as a result prompt countless millions to follow the beast (Revelation 13:1–4).

What is this war-making beast? It is a European political system empow-

ered by Satan, which will be “given breath” by a lamb-like beast that performs *great signs* and *deceives* those who dwell on the earth (Revelation 13:11–15). This lamb-like beast is a *prominent religious figure* who, by performing miracles, will influence people to follow and worship the revived political beast. Scripture further describes this religious figure as a stunningly arrayed “great harlot” who has influenced peoples of the world with her teachings, who commits fornication [has intimate relations] with the kings of the earth, and who gives advice and counsel to the political beast (Revelation 17:1–4).

Compare this description to the Roman Catholic Church, which has spread around the world its teachings laced with paganism. That church, “alone among faiths, is a diplomatic player” on the world stage (*The Economist*, July 21, 2007)—and it is significant that its popes have worked tirelessly to promote European unification. Indeed, “The Vatican has one of the world’s busiest but least-known diplomatic services” (*ibid.*)—with full ties to 174 nations, actually representing the Holy See, not the Vatican state. When the Holy See—already the biggest non-governmental organization in the world—becomes more closely linked with the European Union and its fledgling diplomatic corps, this will dramatically expand papal influence not only in Europe but also around the world, making the Roman church a political force to be reckoned with!

The “great harlot” of Revelation 17 is also stained with the blood of martyred saints. Indeed, the Roman Catholic Church presided over the Inquisition, which shed the blood of countless Christians who did not accept Roman Catholic teachings. That church is also called the “mother of harlots”—she has given birth to “daughter” churches that

she will seek to bring back into her fold, as prophesied in Isaiah 47. Yes, the “seven sisters”—a term often used by the mainstream Protestant denominations to describe themselves—will eventually return to their “mother.” This return will be hastened by apparent miracles performed by a prominent Roman leader whom Scripture calls the “man of sin” and “the lawless one” (2 Thessalonians 2:1–11). This *return to Rome* will occur *just before* the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and is referred to as the “falling away” (meaning an apostasy or rebellion).

We are living in sobering and prophetically significant times! The resurgence of religion on the world stage—and the growing prominence of the Roman Catholic Church within that resurgence—can clearly be seen today. As the Roman Catholic Church seeks greater prominence, we see increasing ecumenical efforts to *heal* the Great Schism and even to *reverse* the Protestant Reformation—developments that would “turn back the clock” on two major turning points in the history of Western civilization. Bible prophecy shows that current movements of professing Christian churches back towards Rome will increase as we approach the end of this age, *just before Jesus Christ’s return to this earth*. This return to Rome will be aided by a prominent religious figure who will use supernatural signs and wonders to promote the unification of Europe and the formation of a “Universal Church.” Although secular media and scholars largely ignore this world-changing trend, God can help *you* to understand the *prophetic significance* of these times in which we are living. You need not be deceived by the effort to bring all of professing Christianity under the banner of Rome! ■

## What Is Going On? (Continued from page 2)

stated: “But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, *and if you despise My statutes*, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: *I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it*” (Leviticus 26:14–16).

The American and British-descended peoples certainly **do**—by our actions and many of our laws—“despise” God’s statutes against abortion, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, drunkenness, cursing and almost every other form of despicable behavior. God said that under such circumstances He would appoint “**terror**” over us! Perhaps we can begin to realize that “9-11” was indeed a *warning signal* from our very Creator!

After describing the coming *disease epidemics* and *lack of food*, He finally said: “And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. *I will break the pride of your power*; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze” (vv. 18–19). For a more complete explanation of our national identity, call or write us immediately to request your **free** copy of our enlightening booklet on *this very topic*. It is entitled, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. And be sure to read carefully my article on page 4 of this issue, “Who Are You, Really?” It will give you even more information on the origins of the U.S. and other British-descended nations.

Once again, *what is going on?*

What is going on is that the Eternal God—at the end of 6,000 years of human history—is beginning to intervene and **shake** the nations of the world and help many who are finally willing to *wake up* and turn to Him! Before Christ returns, God will call still more people whom He intends to train to become kings and priests in Christ’s coming Kingdom (Revelation 5:9–10). We who accept His calling and endure to the end will assist Christ in *ruling this earth*—we will **not** go off to heaven with nothing to do.

Many thousands of you readers of *Tomorrow’s World* are beginning to understand. You are beginning to respond. You are beginning to realize that much of what you have been taught as “Christianity” is not biblical Christianity at all. And

you are willing to grasp the meaning of Jesus Christ’s challenge to people of His day, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Remember, the true God of the Bible demands that we *obey* Him. He requires that we be willing to “live by every word of God” (Luke 4:4). In the inspired book of Isaiah, God describes the kind of individual He will guide and bless during the terrible years just ahead, “But on *this one* will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who **trembles** at My word” (Isaiah 66:2). Most professing Christians do not “tremble” at God’s inspired word. For they have been fed a steady diet of ideas and concepts that God is “way off” and that the Bible has been written merely by the effort of fallible human beings, over thousands of years, making many mistakes as they wrote. So most of your friends and relatives probably do **not** genuinely “fear” the God of the Bible even though they may call themselves Christian.

If God is opening *your mind*, I urge you to genuinely **prove** to yourself the existence of the true Creator God, and the *absolute inspiration* of the Holy Bible. As most of you know, we make many booklets, reprint articles and an entire *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course* available absolutely **free** for the asking—all of which can help you genuinely **understand** and **prove** these matters. We **never** charge for anything, and we give you biblical proof and *specific scriptures*, in context, to help you prove to yourself these vital issues of life and death.

So may God Himself lead you and inspire you to exercise the *faith* and the **courage** not only to prove, but to act on the Truth of God! We in this Work are God’s servants, appointed by Him to preach His message and give *His final warnings* at the end of this age. We are **not** perfect. But we happen to have **proof**—*biblical proof*—of what we are sincerely writing and teaching. You will do yourself and your family tremendous good if you will exert the mental and spiritual energy to carefully **study**, **prove** and come to genuinely understand the Truth we are now promulgating to the entire world at the end of this age. May God guide you, encourage you and bless you as you act on His Truth and learn to walk closely with Him.



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# TOMORROW'S WORLD TELEVISION

## INTERNATIONAL:

### —AUSTRALIA

**NSW, Sydney:** TV5—Ch 31, SUN 6:00 am  
**QLD, Brisbane:** Briz 31—Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am  
**SA, Adelaide:** Access—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am  
**VIC, Melbourne:** MCTC—Ch 31, SUN 11:30 pm

### —BARBADOS

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

### —CANADA

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

### —JAMAICA

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

### —NEW ZEALAND

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

### —PHILIPPINES

**Naga City:** PBN—Ch 5, SUN 8:00 am

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

### —SOUTH AFRICA

**Randburg:** CSN—SUN 5:30 pm

### —TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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

### —UNITED KINGDOM AND NW EUROPE

**United Kingdom:** WORD Network-SKY-TV—Ch 591, FRI 6:30 am

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

## UNITED STATES:

**AK, Anchorage:** GO—Ch 18, SAT 10:00 pm  
**AL, Birmingham:** Bright House—Ch 4, THUR 10:30 pm  
**AL, Troy/Montgomery:** WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 6:30 am  
**AR, Fayetteville:** KNWA—Ch 51, SUN 6:30 am  
**AR, Fayetteville:** Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm  
**AR, Fort Smith:** KFTA—Ch 24, SUN 6:30 am  
**AR, Little Rock:** KASN—Ch 38, SUN 9:30 am  
**AZ, Lake Havasu City:** KLHU—Ch 45, SUN 10:30 am  
**AZ, Prescott:** Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 12:30 pm  
**AZ, Tucson:** Access—Ch 73/98, SAT 12:30 pm; SUN 7:00 pm  
**CA, Chatsworth:** Time Warner—Ch 34, SUN 9:00 pm  
**CA, Eureka:** Sudden Link Cable—Ch 12, SUN 8:00 pm  
**CA, Garden Grove:** Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 9:30 am & 6:30 pm  
**CA, Glendora:** Time Warner—Ch 3/99, TUE 7:00 pm  
**CA, Modesto:** Community Media—Ch 8, TUE 5:00 pm; FRI 1:30 pm  
**CA, North Orange County:** Time Warner—Ch 95/97/98, MON 5:00 pm  
**CA, Redding:** RCAC—Ch 11, SUN 8:30 am  
**CA, Sacramento:** RCTV—Ch 20/96, MON 5:30 pm  
**CA, San Diego:** Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm  
**CA, San Diego:** Time Warner—Ch 19, SUN 6:00 pm  
**CA, San Francisco:** Access—Multi, TUE 8:00 pm  
**CA, Sonoma:** TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm  
**CA, Turlock:** Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm  
**CT, Naugatuck:** Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm  
**FL, Davie:** Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 8:00 am  
**FL, Ft. Lauderdale:** Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 8:30 am  
**FL, Gainesville:** Cox—Ch 55, SUN 10:00 am  
**FL, Hialeah/Coral Gables:** Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 7:30 pm  
**FL, Jacksonville:** WTEV—Ch 47, SUN 7:00 am  
**FL, Key West:** Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 8:30 am  
**FL, Margate/Sunrise/Plantation:** Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 7:00 pm  
**FL, Miramar:** Comcast—Ch 19876 SUN 7:30 am  
**FL, North Dade:** Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 7:30 am  
**FL, Ocala:** Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am  
**FL, Panama City:** GBN—Multi, THUR 8:30 pm; FRI 1:30 pm; SAT 10:00 pm; SUN 1:30 am, MON 11:00 am, TUE 7:30 pm, WED 4:00 am  
**FL, Pensacola:** WJTC—Ch 44, THUR 6:30 am  
**FL, Pompano:** Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 7:30 pm  
**FL, South Broward:** Comcast—Ch 79, SUN 8:00 am  
**FL, Tallahassee:** WTWC—Ch 40, SUN 7:30 am  
**FL, Tampa:** WTTA—Ch 38, SUN 8:00 am  
**GA, Atlanta:** PTV—Ch 24, TUE 4:30 pm  
**GA, Atlanta:** WATC—Multi—SUN 9:30 am  
**GA, Macon:** Cox Cable—Ch 18, FRI 2:00 pm, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am  
**GA, Savannah:** Comcast—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am  
**IA, Davenport:** Mediacom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm; WED 8:30 am  
**IA, Des Moines:** Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am  
**IA, Dubuque:** MediaCom—Ch 16, THUR 8:00 pm; MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm  
**ID, Boise:** TVTV—Ch 11, SUN 9:30 pm; MON 11:30 am  
**IL, Chicago:** WGN—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am  
**IL, Moline:** MediaCom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm  
**IL, Peoria:** Insight, Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm  
**IL, Springfield:** Insight—Ch 4, TUE 10:00 pm  
**IN, Bloomington:** CATS—Ch 3, MON 5:30 pm  
**IN, Fort Wayne:** Comcast—Ch 57, SUN 3:00 pm  
**KS, Chanute:** Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm  
**KS, Parsons:** Parson's Cable TV—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm

**KS, Salina:** Community TV—Ch 21, check local listing  
**KY, Latonia:** PEG 17—Ch 17, WED 5:30 pm; THUR 12:00 am  
**KY, Lexington:** Ch 14, Check Local Listing  
**KY, Lexington:** WUPX—Ch 67, THUR 1:30 pm  
**KY, Louisville:** WBNA—Ch 21, SUN 5:30 pm  
**LA, Baton Rouge:** KZUP—Ch 44, SUN 8:00 am  
**LA, Lafayette:** KLAF—Ch 62, SUN 8:00 am  
**LA, Shreveport:** KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am  
**MA, Boston:** WBXP—Ch 68, WED 7:00 am  
**MA, Cambridge:** CCTV—Ch 22, FRI 11:00 am; SUN 3:00 pm, WED 9:00 am  
**MA, Everett:** Community TV—Ch 3, TUE 1:00 pm  
**MA, Malden:** Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am  
**MA, North Adams:** NBCU—Ch 15, WED 8:00 pm  
**MD, Baltimore:** Community Media—Ch 75, SUN 9:00 am  
**MD, Rockville:** Community TV—Ch 19, SAT 5:30 pm  
**MD, Westminster:** Adelphia—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am  
**ME, Auburn:** GFTV—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am; SUN 8:00 pm  
**ME, Brunswick:** Cable 7—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am; SUN 6:30 am  
**ME, Detroit:** Comcast—Multi, SUN 7:30 am  
**MI, Kalamazoo:** CACTV—Ch 9, 20-22, 95, SUN 11:30 am; MON, WED, FRI 5:00 pm  
**MI, Portage:** Access—Ch 19, 20, FRI 10:30 am, TUE 2:00 pm  
**MI, Saginaw:** Charter Media—Ch 16, THUR 2:00 pm  
**MI, Traverse City:** TCTV2—Ch 2, SUN 5:30 pm  
**MN, Bird Island:** BICC—Ch 7, MON 6:30 pm, WED 6:30 pm  
**MN, Cloquet:** Mediacom Cable—Ch 7, FRI 9:00 am; WED 5:00 pm  
**MN, Duluth:** Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** Metro Cable—Ch 6, SAT 8:30 am, SUN 8:30 am  
**MN, Minneapolis:** MTN—Ch 75, THUR 6:30 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm  
**MN, Roseville:** CTV—Ch 21, TUE 8:00 pm; WED 4:00 am & 12:00 pm  
**MO, St. Paul:** SPNN—Ch 14, SUN 8:30 pm  
**MO, Joplin:** KOAM—Ch 7, SUN 7:00 am  
**MO, Kansas City:** KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 8:00 am  
**MO, Kansas City:** Time Warner—Ch 4, SUN 10:00 pm  
**MO, Springfield:** KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am  
**MO, St. Louis:** Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm  
**MO, St. Louis:** WRBU—Ch 46, SUN 7:30 am  
**MS, Jackson:** Time Warner—Ch 18, SUN 10:00 am; WED 4:00 pm  
**MS, Jackson:** WAPT—Ch 16, SUN 8:30 am  
**NC, Burlington:** Time Warner—Ch 5/10, SUN 9:00 pm  
**NC, Charlotte:** WAXN—Ch 64, SUN 7:00 am  
**NC, Charlotte:** WHKY—Ch 14/19, MON 7:30 pm  
**NC, Greensboro:** GCTV—Ch 8, SAT 7:30 am; SUN 10:30 pm  
**NC, Wilmington:** Time Warner—Ch 4, MON 10:00 pm  
**NH, Hanover:** CATV—Ch 6, SUN 6:00 pm; MON 12:00 am & 6:00 am & 12:00 pm; THUR 7:00 pm; FRI 1:00 am & 7:00 am & 1:00 pm  
**NJ, Cape May:** Comcast—Ch 9, SUN 11:00 am  
**NJ, East Windsor:** Comcast—Ch 27, WED 5:30 pm  
**NJ, Oakland:** Cablevision—Ch 76, SAT 8:00 am  
**NJ, Trenton:** Comcast—Ch 24, MON 11:00 pm  
**NM, Albuquerque:** CCCC27—Ch 27, SUN 6:30 pm  
**NM, Rio Rancho:** Cable One—Ch 51, THUR 7:00 pm  
**NV, Carson City:** SNCAT—Ch 10, SUN 6:00 pm  
**NV, Gardnerville:** Community Access—Ch 16, SAT 4:30 am & 4:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am & 4:30 pm  
**NV, Reno/Sparks:** SNCAT—Ch 30/16, FRI 6:30 am  
**NY, Albany/Troy:** Time Warner—Ch 18, MON 3:00 pm  
**NY, Amsterdam:** Public Access—Ch 16, TUE 6:00 pm  
**NY, Batavia:** Time Warner—Ch 19, TUE 5:30 pm  
**NY, Binghamton:** Time Warner—Ch 4, FRI 5:00 pm  
**NY, Brookhaven:** Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 5:00 am  
**NY, Brooklyn:** BCAT—Ch 35/68, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Camandaigua:** FLTV—Ch 12, SUN 11:00 am  
**NY, Elmira & Corning:** Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 8:00 am  
**NY, Fairport:** FACT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Glens Falls:** Time Warner—Ch 18, FRI, MON-WED 8:00 pm  
**NY, Hauppauge:** Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 5:00 am  
**NY, Huddlestone:** ICAT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; WED 11:30 am & 7:30 pm  
**NY, Manhattan:** MNN—Ch 57/85, SAT 7:00 pm  
**NY, New York:** WRNN—Ch 62, SAT 11:30 pm  
**NY, Niagara Falls:** Community TV—Ch 20, MON 6:00 am  
**NY, Oneida:** Community Access—Ch 99, THUR 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
**NY, Oneonta:** Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm  
**NY, Queens:** QPTV—Ch 34/35, SAT 3:30 pm; TUE 9:30 pm  
**NY, Rochester:** Community TV—Ch 15, SAT 7:30 am; SUN 9:00 am  
**NY, Rockland County:** Cablevision—Ch 76, SAT 8:00 am  
**NY, Staten Island:** CTV—Ch 34, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 12:00 pm  
**NY, Syracuse:** Community Access—Ch 98, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Utica:** Time Warner—Ch 99, MON 9:00 pm  
**NY, Wappingers Falls:** Cablevision—Ch 21, SUN 10:00 am  
**NY, Watertown:** Time Warner—Ch 99, SUN 10:00 am & 6:00 pm; MON 7:00 pm; TUE 7:00 pm  
**NY, Webster:** WCA—Ch 12, SUN 9:00 am  
**NY, West Seneca:** Time Warner—Ch 20, TUE 11:35 pm

**NY, Woodbury:** Cablevision—Ch 115, SUN 10:30 am  
**OH, Cincinnati:** MVCC—Ch 23, FRI 2:30 pm  
**OH, Cincinnati:** Time Warner—Ch 8 & 24, TUE 1:00 pm; THUR 8:30 am; SUN 7:00 pm  
**OH, Dayton:** DSTV—Ch 12, FRI 9:00 AM; SUN 11:00 am  
**OH, Fairborn:** CAC—Ch 23, TUE 12:00 pm  
**OK, Tulsa:** KMYT—Ch 41, SUN 6:00 am  
**OR, Ashland:** RVTV—Ch 15/31/95, SUN 10:00 pm  
**OR, Oregon City:** WFTV—Ch 23, FRI 4:00 pm; SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am; WED 4:00 pm  
**OR, Portland:** MCTV—Ch 11, SUN 12:30 pm  
**PA, Allentown/Bethlehem:** TV2—Ch 50, FRI 4:30 pm  
**PA, Johnstown:** Atlantic Broadband—Ch 9, MON 10:00 pm  
**PA, Lehighton:** BRCTV—Ch 13, SUN 8:30 am  
**PA, Reading:** BCTV—Ch 13/19, THUR 11:00 pm  
**PA, Sayre:** Time Warner—Ch 18, MON 4:30 pm  
**PA, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre:** FOX5 & WOLF—Multi Channels, THUR 5:00 am; SAT 5:00 am  
**RI, Providence:** WPXQ—Ch 69, MON 11:30 am  
**TN, Chattanooga:** WDEF—Ch 12, SUN 8:30 am  
**TN, Knoxville:** WVLR—Ch 48, SUN 7:30 am  
**TN, La Follette:** WLAF—Ch 12, WED 6:00 pm  
**TN, Memphis:** WPTY—Ch 24, SAT 6:30 am  
**TN, Nashville:** WZTV—Ch 17, SUN 6:30 am  
**TN, Austin:** Community Access—Ch 11, WED 7:00 pm  
**TX, Bryan:** KYLE—Ch 44, SUN 7:00 am  
**TX, Dallas:** iMedia Network—Ch 99/74, SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am  
**TX, Lufkin:** KTRC—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am  
**TX, Midland:** KMID—Ch 2, SUN 9:00 am  
**TX, Temple:** KPLE—Ch 31/45, SUN 7:30 pm  
**TX, Tyler:** KLTV—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am  
**TX, Waco:** KWKT—Ch 44, SUN 7:00 am  
**VA, Charlottesville:** Adelphia—Ch 13, WED 5:00 pm  
**VA, Chesterfield:** Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm  
**VA, Fairfax:** FPA—Ch 10, MON 12:00 pm  
**VA, Norfolk:** WSKY—Ch 4, SUN 9:00 am  
**VA, Roanoke:** WRDL—Ch 24/54, SUN 7:00 am  
**VA, Virginia Beach:** Cox—Ch 99 & 51, SAT 8:30 am  
**VA, Bennington:** CAT—Ch 15, WED 9:30 am & 12:00 am; THUR 12:00 am & 9:30 pm; SAT 8:00 am & 4:30 pm  
**VT, Burlington:** Community Access—Ch 15, THUR 11:30 am & FRI 12:00 PM  
**VT, Montpelier:** Community Access—Ch 15, THUR 9:00 pm, FRI 2:00 am & 3:00 pm  
**VT, Richmond:** Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 6:00 am, 9:00 am, 12:30 pm, 7:00 pm; MON 7:00 am, 1:00 pm  
**VT, Springfield:** SAPA TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:00 pm  
**WA, Everett:** Comcast—Ch 77, WED 4:30 pm  
**WA, Kennewick:** Charter—Ch 13/99, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm  
**WA, Vancouver:** FVTV—Ch 11, SUN 8:30 am, TUE 10:30 am, WED 12:00 pm  
**WI, Wausau:** Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am  
**WV, Charleston:** WLPX—Ch 29, TUE 7:00 am  
**WY, Casper:** KITWO—Ch 2, SUN 10:00 am  
**WY, Cheyenne:** KLWY—Ch 27, SUN 10:00 am

### ■ Nationwide Cable

WGN—SUN 6:00 am ET  
WORD—FRI 1:30 am ET  
BET—THUR 6:00 am ET & PT

### ■ DirecTV

WGN—CH 307, SUN 6:00 am ET  
WORD—CH 373, FRI 1:30 am ET

### ■ Canada

VISION—SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON 1:30 am; MON—FRI 3:00 am ET  
ON, Toronto: *The Christian Channel*—Cable, SUN 4:00 pm ET, WED 12:00 ET

### ■ Dish Network

WGN—CH 181, SUN 6:00 am ET  
BET—CH 329, THUR 6:00 am ET & PT

# TOMORROW'S WORLD TELEVISION

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

**WORD:** FRI 1:30 am ET

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

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

## ■ NEW U.S.A. TELEVISION STATION:

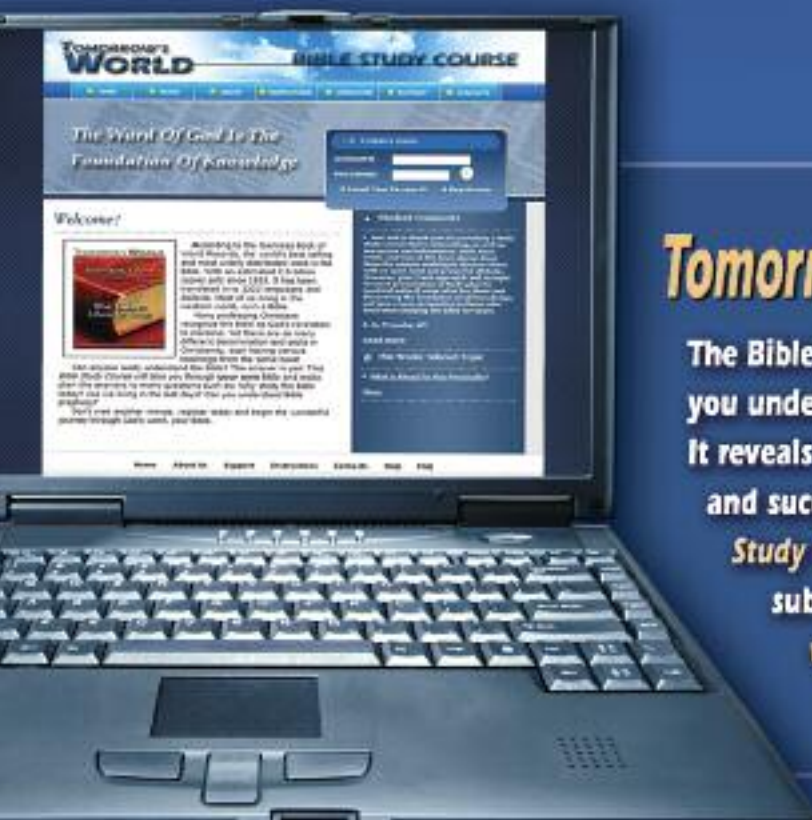
**NY, Riverhead:** Cablevision—CH 20, FRI 7:30 pm

## ■ NEW CANADA TELEVISION STATION:

**NS, Halifax:** CIHF—Multi, SUN 8:30 am

## ■ UNITED KINGDOM AND NW EUROPE:

**Faith TV Europe:** SKY TV—593, SUN 1:30 pm



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