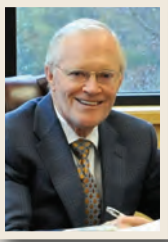


TOMORROW'S WORLD

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THE TRUTH ABOUT 2012:
Hollywood vs. Humanity



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

ARE ATHEISTS REALLY “FOOLS”?

I have before me two newspaper articles with which I strongly disagree. Although I generally *love* the *Wall Street Journal* and find its articles and editorials very helpful and stimulating, the articles I am referring to are written—in my opinion—by a couple of “educated fools”—well-known scientist Richard Dawkins and religion writer Karen Armstrong. In an article titled “Man vs. God” (*WSJ*, September 12, 2009), they “debated” evolution, science and the role of religion. Dawkins came down hard against the idea of a real God and against religion in general. He asserted, “Evolution is the universe’s greatest work. Evolution is the creator of life, and life is arguably the most surprising and most beautiful production that the laws of physics have ever generated.”

Dawkins went on making fun of God and describing the glories of evolution. But is his kind of reasoning based on *fact*? Is his supposed “scientific approach” all neat and tidy?

No!

For in his remarks praising “Darwinian life” and denigrating God, Dawkins cheerfully said, “What is so special about life? It never violates the laws of physics. Nothing does (if anything did, physicists would just have to formulate new laws—it’s happened often enough in the history of science). But although life never violates the laws of physics, it pushes them into unexpected avenues that stagger the imagination.”

Do you see Dawkins’ problem? He *starts out* with an already existing universe. This universe has basic “laws” which he admits are *never broken*! Later, he goes on to admit, once again, “Never once are the laws of physics violated, yet life emerges into uncharted territory.”

Think about this preposterous reasoning!

This supposed “great” scientist admits that “never once are the laws of physics violated.” Yet he somehow fails to grasp that something or *someone* had to **create** these laws of physics and the entire universe that is filled with inviolate laws. It is obvious to most truly sincere and thinking persons that the interrelated and overlapping laws of physics, chemistry, and other areas of science *must* have been created by a Higher Power—an **awesome** Being—with a mind far above the human mind. He set in motion these laws and created the beau-

ty, the delicacy and the constancy of this universe to *sustain* the laws that govern our lives.

As letter-writer Joseph Furman replied a week later in response to the article: “I only had two semesters of college physics, so I must have missed the part where Mr. Dawkins’ much vaunted laws of physics began permitting man to love, laugh and cry” (*WSJ*, September 19, 2009).

Who indeed brought about the *creative mind* which man alone possesses—and the ability to back off and laugh at himself, to love, and to sometimes give with no thought of a return, and to have a deep spiritual longing with recognition that there *must be* a higher power?

The so-called “scientists” who try to *bypass* the basic fact of an entire universe filled with *consistent laws* and a host of creatures and creations that interact with each other in a way that beautifully “works”—these people are indeed lacking in understanding and wisdom. As the Psalmist wrote, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 14:1).

For her part, religion writer Karen Armstrong wandered around with “touchy feely” ideas that frankly **prove nothing**. She stated, “The best theology is a spiritual exercise, akin to poetry. Religion is not an exact science but a kind of art form that, like music or painting, introduces us to a mode of knowledge that is different from the purely rational and which cannot easily be put into words.”

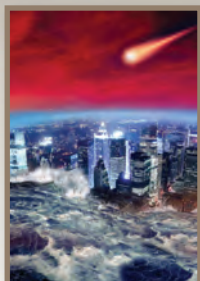
Indeed, *she* had a hard time rationally putting her ideas into words! It is sad that, in the name of “religion,” *this kind* of response was chosen to supposedly rebut the atheist Richard Dawkins. For, her response showed *no understanding* of true religion—nor of a genuine approach to the God of the Bible.

Part of the problem facing these confused individuals is revealed in Aldous Huxley’s statement in his well-known book, *Ends and Means*. This famous thinker and philosopher admits, “Most ignorance is vincible ignorance. We don’t know because we don’t want to know. It is our will that decides how and upon what subjects we shall use our intelligence. Those who detect no meaning in the world generally do so because, for one reason or

(Continued on page 30)

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Cover

10 The Truth About 2012: Hollywood vs. Humanity

If you have not already been exposed to the widely publicized “prophecies” regarding 2012, you soon will be. But can you find the truth in the midst of the media circus?

Features



4 China’s Century?

With one-fifth of our planet’s population, China seems to be poised to dominate the 21st century. Bible prophecy sheds a vital—and perhaps surprising—light on the truth of the matter.



16 The Reason for the Season?

Billions of people are caught up in Christmas celebrations each year, but do they really understand the truth about Christ’s birth? The answer is right in the pages of your Bible!



22 Coming Soon: A Revolution in Education!

Are you tired of this world’s false value systems? Do you long for a time when true knowledge and God’s way will shape all learning? Take heart; that time will soon be here!

More...

28 Nuggets

Can you find an investment of lasting value?

14 London Calling A Gentle Bull?

20 Tomorrow’s Youth The Way to Wisdom

26 Prophecy Comes Alive End-Time Religious Deception!

9 Questions & Answers

19 Letters to the Editor

31 Television Log

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CHINA'S CENTURY?

By Roderick C. Meredith

With about one-fifth of the world's entire population, the nation of China remains an enigma to many in the West. Thousands of years ago, China was an imperial nation with grand ambitions of regional and even world domination. Though it was racked by war and economic catastrophe throughout the 20th century, the dawn of the 21st century is seeing new attention paid to China as an economic and political superpower in the making. What does your Bible reveal about China's future and its place in end-time prophecy? The answer may surprise you!

Sixteen years ago, when financier Philip Schaefer organized an investors' conference titled, "The Chinese Century: From Wall Street to the Great Wall," few had heard the term "the Chinese Century" as a description of that mysterious nation's ascent to a new level of world power.

Today, with the United States in rapid decline, and investors such as Warren Buffett openly proclaiming the 21st century as "China's Century," many more are taking notice. With the nation of China working hard to overtake the West in both economic and military power, is it soon destined to dominate the world in the way that America and Britain were able to dominate the last century? Will this 21st century, in fact, be "China's Century"?

With an estimated 1.3 billion citizens, China is the most populous nation on earth. It has by far the largest financial reserves of any nation—now estimated at more than US\$2.1 trillion! Its military and naval forces are increasingly being developed. China-watchers have noted that the nation has plotted a deliberate course in which it joins economic growth to military power. China's average growth of roughly 9 percent over the last 20 years has led to a ten-fold increase in per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and a 21-fold increase in purchasing power for military expen-

diture. So, China is slowly but surely working to transform its armed forces into a full-spectrum military, able to project Chinese power around the world.

Journalist Willy Lam, in a *Wall Street Journal* article earlier this year, reported: “China recently announced its GDP grew by more than 7.1 percent in the first half of this year, putting the country on course to displace Japan as the world’s second-largest economy by year’s end. But it’s not time to celebrate just yet. Peasants and migrant workers, who compose more than 65 percent of China’s 1.3 billion people, aren’t benefiting much from this growth. Much of it is hoarded by the central government. Last year, Beijing collected taxation and other levies of more than six trillion yuan (\$878 billion), an eye-popping four trillion yuan more than five years ago. Since the turn of this century, funds flowing into the Beijing treasury have increased by around 22 percent a year, more than double the average 10 percent GDP growth for the past two decades” (“Rich China, Poor Peasants,” July 24, 2009).

So, China will soon be the *second-largest* economy in the world—trailing only the United States of America. As another *Wall Street Journal* article reported, “The Pentagon views China as the country most likely, at some point down the road, to acquire the capacity to challenge the U.S. military on a global scale.... Adm. Wu Shengli, the top officer in China’s navy—officially known as the People’s Liberation Army Navy—said the service would move faster to modernize its arsenal and build larger and more capable warships ‘to boost the ability to fight in regional sea wars’ using high-tech weaponry. In an interview with China’s official Xinhua news agency ahead of the navy’s 60th anniversary next week,

he also said the navy would improve its ability to operate on the high seas. Other officials in recent months have talked about China building its first aircraft carrier, adding to U.S. concerns that China wants to project its power” (“China, Friend or Foe?,” April 18, 2009).

Yet, it is important to realize that for *many decades* the Chinese viewed themselves as also-rans on the world scene—a terrible embarrassment for a nation that valued its historical past as a great world power. Despite China’s past glories, the nation had for many centuries been held back by a series of weak governments and misguided efforts. China was constantly finding itself dominated by the Americans or the British. Then, the communist revo-

lution began—and suddenly, millions of Chinese began to have a sense of pride in their own government, which they had lacked before. Certainly, communism is **not** the answer to mankind’s problems. Nevertheless, it gave millions of Chinese a sense of meaning, and gradually the nation began to gain a degree of confidence and, slowly, even material prosperity and military power it had not enjoyed for many, many decades. So it is not unusual to think that such a nation would want to regain some of its dominance in Southeast Asia.

Today, with the United States in rapid decline, and investors such as Warren Buffett openly proclaiming the 21st century as “China’s Century,” many more are taking notice. With the nation of China working hard to overtake the West in both economic and military power, is it soon destined to dominate the world in the way that America and Britain were able to dominate the last century?

Many are starting to take notice. Respected investment advisor Jim Rogers not long ago moved his family from the United States to Singapore, stating his desire to be

going to be shifting towards Asia, because that’s where all the money is. Have you ever heard of anybody saying, “Let’s go to where all of the debtors are”? It just doesn’t happen that way” (“Q&A: Investment Guru Jim Rogers,” April 28, 2009).

Is Rogers right? Or is something about to change very, very dramatically? The real question is: *Where will all this lead?* What is truly going to happen? What does the *inspired* word of God indicate?

God’s Revelation

In several places in your Bible, God clearly indicates that He is in charge of all major world events. In the book of Daniel, we read that ancient King Nebuchadnezzar was

driven out of power for seven years and made to eat grass like oxen in order to *teach him a lesson*. What was that lesson? God answers, “Seven times shall pass over you until you *know* that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses” (Daniel 4:32). Even most professing Christians *do not understand* the reality of God’s ultimate authority and how real God is. But, *in this generation*, they will begin to under-

stand—since God is beginning to intervene powerfully in human affairs as never before. Again, the inspired word of God tells us, “The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations” (Psalm 33:10–11).

Although China is becoming—and will increasingly continue to become—one of the most powerful

and influential nations in the world, your Bible clearly reveals that it will not become *the* major threat to America. And our 21st century will not be “China’s century.”

Rather, God’s inspired word tells us that a powerful empire will arise in Europe—one that will, in fact, *dominate the entire earth* in economic and trading matters. And—if we let the *Bible interpret the Bible*—we do not need to “guess” who this power is, or where it might arise.

Heaven on Earth?

One of China’s ancient names was *Tian Chao*—literally “the Empire of Heaven.” The reality of life for many Chinese, however, has often been far from heavenly. Throughout Chinese history, several movements have sprung up hoping to create a long-desired heaven on Earth. What lessons can we learn from them?

In August 1851, upon declaring himself the absolute ruler of what he called *Taiping Tien-Quo*—the Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace—a failed Chinese civil servant named Hong Xiuquan began a military campaign that would eventually give him control of vast regions of central and south China. By March 1853, Hong’s forces had captured the major city of Nanking and made it their capital, from which his “Taiping Rebellion” fended off Qing Dynasty attacks until the kingdom finally fell to Qing forces in 1864, shortly after Hong’s death.

Hong replaced the old Confucian exam system with one based nominally on the Bible. He prohibited slavery, prostitution and gambling. He forbade the use of opium, alcohol and tobacco. He abolished private property and made the state the sole owner of land. And he preached a hodgepodge of biblical and heterodox ideas, intermingled with the idea that he was divine—the younger brother of Jesus Christ.

What was the result of Hong’s utopian vision? In fewer than 20 years, his army of more than a million soldiers had engaged itself in violent battles leading to the deaths of at least 20 million Chinese soldiers and civilians.

When People’s Army rebels took control of China in 1949, state atheism put an end to the idea of the emperor as a divine ruler. But the old desire for “Heaven on Earth” remained. Beginning with the Great Leap Forward (1958–61) and continuing through the Cultural Revolution (1966–76), Communist leader Mao Zedong promoted policies that he hoped would bring about a revitalization of China’s economy, but that instead led to famine and starvation, and later to widespread political murder—ultimately responsible for the deaths of as many as 30 million Chinese!

Indeed, China’s attempts at creating “Heaven on Earth” have fared no better than attempts made by utopians and dictators in Europe and America, nor anywhere else in the world. The aspiration for a heavenly kingdom is universal, but has never been achieved.

A time *is* coming, however, when human beings *will* truly experience “Heaven on Earth.” At the return of Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of Heaven will be established on Earth for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4–6), with an actual physical “Headquarters” in Jerusalem where Jesus Christ will have His throne. Note that this will be the Kingdom *of* Heaven, not a Kingdom “in” Heaven. After this time (also called the “Millennium”) has passed, God will convene the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11–15) when all those who lived and died without having their minds opened to the true Gospel will have their first (and only) opportunity for salvation, after which every human being will either have been resurrected to eternal life, or condemned to eternal death for rebellion against God.

Finally, after the Millennium and Great White Throne Judgment have passed, the “New Jerusalem” will descend to a renewed Earth (Revelation 21:2), which will become the “Headquarters” of God’s heavenly rule over the entire universe. God speed that day!

—William Bowmer

For, as nearly all Bible students know, Almighty God revealed through Daniel a series of *four kingdoms* which would arise on the world scene—the fourth finally being uprooted by the “fifth kingdom” which will be the *literal* government of God under Jesus Christ (Daniel 2:36–45). Describing the “fourth kingdom,” God’s word tells us, “In the days of



these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever” (v. 44). Combining the descriptions of these four dominant empires given in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7, it is clear that the “fourth beast” is the *Roman Empire*. God picks up the story in Revelation 13. Here we have a description of the “revived” Roman Empire extending into the Middle Ages. For although the original Roman Empire fell in 476AD with a “deadly wound,” that wound was “healed” by Justinian reviving the Holy Roman Empire in 554AD—with six more revivals to follow (Revelation 13:3).

John further describes this empire: “So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven, and it was

granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation” (Revelation 13:4–7). This empire was a very powerful empire, which — under the influence of the papacy—horribly *persecuted* the true saints of God and *virtually* stamped out the Church of God dur-

ing the Dark Ages.

But then, in his inspired vision, John sees “another beast coming up out of the earth” (v. 11). This beast looked like a “lamb”—as Jesus Christ is described as a Lamb throughout the Bible. And yet this beast “spoke like a dragon.” And the term “dragon” is used throughout this very book—the book of Revelation—to denote Satan the Devil “who deceives *the whole world*” (Revelation 12:9).

The “second beast,” described in Revelation 13:11–18, is clearly a great *religious power* that *deceives all mankind*. This power will also perform *awesome miracles* at the end of this age. “He performs *great signs*, so that *he even makes fire come down from heaven* on the earth in the sight of men. And he

deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived” (vv. 13–14).

The beginnings of this religio-political power are now occurring on the European continent. This power will appear to “do good” at first, but will ultimately *take over* the religious, financial and political reins of power in the Western world. And its dominance in trade and finances will even extend *all over the earth*.

Revelation 18 describes this power—as a modern “Babylon.” For God’s word states, “For all the nations have drunk of the wine of

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the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury” (Revelation 18:3).

But finally, God describes the downfall of this system, when the “merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore” (v. 11). As God’s word states, “For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’” (vv. 17–18). So this mightiest political, military and trading power on earth will be found at the time of the end—a power dominated and heavily influenced by a *false* religious system: “And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth” (v. 24).

Whose Century Will It Be?

No, our 21st century will ultimately **not** be the “Century of China” that many political and economic forecasters are expecting. And, despite Europe’s brief ascendancy in the years just ahead, neither will it be the “Century of Europe.” For the word of God makes it clear: Jesus Christ will soon return, making it the *Century of Jesus Christ!*

Right after describing the total *destruction* of the final “beast” empire, God’s word tells us, “After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ‘Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God!’” (Revelation 19:1). And in verse 11 God tells us through John, “Now I saw heaven

opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and *His name is called The Word of God*. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (vv. 11–16).

So *where* will it all end? It will end with the soon-coming return of the “King of *kings*”—the supreme Monarch, Jesus Christ, who will descend from heaven in magnificent glory! Then, the “last trumpet” will sound and angelic voices proclaim, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and *He shall reign forever and ever*” (Revelation 11:15).

Throughout the Bible, God gives us clear indications that we should “watch” for the fulfillment of *His inspired prophecies*. For He—and *He alone*—knows the end from the beginning. No Chinese naval force figures in Scripture’s end-time prophetic panorama—but could a 200 million-man land force from

the east (Revelation 9:16) be amassed without China? Knowing Bible prophecy allows us to watch China’s build-up with information the world’s political pundits do not have!

While the world keeps its eyes on China, students of God’s word will know that the “real action” takes place in Europe and the Middle East. Ten nations or groups



of nations will coalesce under a supreme dictator your Bible calls the “Beast.” A “King of the South” from south of Jerusalem—

an area where we find the Arab Muslim nations—will lead its forces into a dramatic conflict with this European “Beast” power and usher in the final end-time sequence of wars that will culminate in the return of Jesus Christ!

Yes, this will take a number of years to come to pass fully. But while we wait and watch, we need to remain *alert* to the great **purpose** Almighty God is working out here below—teaching human beings that *our ways* do **not** bring peace. That the human race is *not capable* of governing itself. That a Spirit-led **World Government** under Jesus Christ is the **only** solution to the horrifying anguish and suffering that is increasingly affecting every nation on earth.

Truly, each of us must heartily and urgently **obey** Jesus Christ’s command: “**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). ■

Questions & Answers

QUESTION: When I read your magazine, I realize how deeply Jesus Christ wanted His followers to obey Him. But after years of prayer and Bible study, I find that I am not able to obey Him and grow spiritually as much as I would like to. There are some who say all I need to do is “believe”—and I *do* believe—so why do I find it so hard to obey Jesus’ commands?

ANSWER: Certainly, belief is your essential first step in becoming a Christian. But *what* must you believe—and then *do*? Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Notice that simply believing is not sufficient. We read: “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!” (James 2:19). *Acting* on your belief, by receiving baptism, is essential. But what must come before baptism? Notice that on the Day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter told the crowd, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

Before his baptism, the Apostle Paul thought he had been “blameless” in his fervent obedience to God’s law (Philippians 3:5–6). Only after God struck him down on the road to Damascus did Paul begin to realize that he had been engaged in a futile effort to obtain salvation by his own works. But did Paul always find it easy to overcome the pulls of the flesh and to obey God? Notice what he wrote: “I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin” (Romans 7:21–25).

Yes, even after baptism Paul knew he had to use his human will, united with the Holy Spirit, to overcome the sinful tendencies he found in

himself. Baptism is not some kind of “magic bullet” that makes us perfect, nor does it absolve us of the need to obey God. What it **does** do is give us God’s help in obeying Him. It does this through His gift of the Holy Spirit, and through the **forgiveness** He gives when we repent sincerely of our disobedience. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Jesus Christ, the Word of God (John 1:1–5), came to this earth to live in the flesh among mankind, demonstrating that we as human beings can obey our Creator’s laws—not by our own power, but by the might of God living in us, as it did in Him. “Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered” (Hebrews 5:7–8). Yes, Christ suffered, learned obedience—and displayed faith!

What about works? We read that “faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works” (James 2:17–18).

Works—our demonstrated obedience to the demands of our faith—are not the **means** of our salvation. They are the **results** of our faith being lived, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

If God is calling you to true repentance and proper baptism, we encourage you to contact our regional office nearest you, listed on page 30 of this magazine. With God’s help, you can obey Him and experience the joy and many blessings that come from living God’s way!



THE TRUTH ABOUT 2012: Hollywood vs. Humanity

By Wallace G. Smith

Just what does Hollywood have against planet Earth?

Whether it is global warming gone amok in movies like *The Day After Tomorrow*, or giant meteors crashing into Earth in films such as *Armageddon* and *Deep Impact*, moviemakers seem to have it in for planet Earth and its people! Apparently, digitally crafted scenes of mass destruction make a lot of money.

November 2009 brings a new entry into this cinematic category: Roland Emmerich's epic *2012*. This "end of the world"-themed film assaults viewers' senses with scenes of unimaginable destruction, as moviegoers watch helpless human beings struggling to survive. Using state-of-the-art digital effects, the movie offers terrifying scenes of cataclysmic volcanic eruptions, unprecedented seismic activity (even throwing entire coastal cities into a hungry ocean!) and startlingly realistic tsunamis of unimaginable height, topping even the world's greatest mountain ranges.

Yet, behind all the computer graphics, the film *2012* is rooted in a very real-world phenomenon: the mounting hysteria surrounding the year 2012—specifically, the date December 21, 2012. Growing numbers

of prognosticators are predicting Earth's cataclysmic destruction on that date—while, at the other end of the spectrum, some are expecting the dawn of a golden "New Age" for Earth and its inhabitants.

Amazingly enough, millions of people seem to be taking these predictions seriously. People and groups from nations *all over the world* are stockpiling food and supplies—even cashing in their life savings in order to buy land on remote mountaintops—all in "preparation" for the earth-shattering events they believe will occur in December 2012.

What is behind this "2012 frenzy"? Why do so many believe that December 21, 2012 will be the end of the world? And how should Christians react to these predictions? Is there any way to *truly know* what lies ahead?

Why December 21, 2012?

To understand why so many consider the date December 21, 2012 so important, we need to take a look at the ancient Mayan civilization—a culture that flourished for a time in the Mesoamerican region between North and South America.

The Mayans kept many different calendars to track various time cycles. One is what scholars call the "Long Count Calendar"—marking the days that have passed since the Mayans' mythical creation date in August of 3114bc. According to the Long Count Calendar, December 21, 2012 marks the end of a 5,100-year-long era.

In popular culture, many have interpreted this date as the "end" of the Mayan calendar. But that is where the history lesson stops—and modern "New Age" fantasies begin! Indeed, 2012 has become the adopted focal point of an *astounding* menagerie of New Age, astrological or occult messages concerning what is to come in the days ahead.

For many, 2012 is their expected "end of the world"—but just *how* it ends, or what that end means, depends on whom you ask. Some are predicting that a devastating worldwide flood will occur that year (in contradiction to Genesis 9:11–17)! Others anticipate a cataclysmic

disruption of the earth's magnetic field. Some even predict that the earth itself will flip in space, suddenly switching poles or rotating in the opposite direction. Still others foresee solar flares scarring the earth's surface, or forces from a rare "galactic alignment" wreaking unpredictable havoc on our planet.

Another group of 2012 devotees fervently believes that the governments and scientists of the world are hiding information about a coming planet or small star that will collide or nearly collide with the earth in 2012—truly a conspiracy of unfathomable proportions!

At Cornell University, astronomy graduate student Ann Martin says many people are scared. "It's too bad that we're getting e-mails from fourth-graders who are saying that they're too young to die," Martin said. "We had a mother of two young children who was afraid she wouldn't live to see them grow up" (*Associated Press*, October 11, 2009).

Yet, on the other side of the 2012 frenzy, there are some who expect December 21, 2012 to usher in an "evolution" of mankind—a new era of peace, love and happiness that will be nothing short of the "Age of Aquarius" sung about in the hippie counter-cultural musical *Hair!* This new age of enlightenment, depending on your source, may involve contact with extraterrestrial beings, extra-dimensional intelligences, or the widespread acceptance of mind-altering drugs and hallucinogens as part of the expected "galactic alignment."

Apparently, whatever idea you have for the future of mankind—death, destruction, drugs or deliverance—the place for it on your calendar is December 21, 2012!

Consider the Source

Faced with such a bewildering array of predictions, we might

understandably stop and ask: "Where in the world did all of these ideas come from?"

Interestingly, although these ideas are often tied to the Mayans, their ancient culture actually prophesied nothing of the sort! As Dr. Stephen Houston, anthropologist at Brown University and Maya hieroglyphic specialist, observed, "These prophecies of doom really don't have any basis in what we know about the Maya... The Maya descriptions barely talk about this event" (*ABC News*, "Will the World End in 2012?", July 3, 2008).

A much more cynical assessment was offered by Dr. Sandra Noble, the executive director of the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies in Florida. As *USA Today* reported on March 27, 2007: "To render Dec. 21, 2012, as a doomsday or moment of cosmic shifting, she says, is 'a complete fabrication and a chance for a lot of people to cash in.'" ("Does Maya calendar predict 2012 apocalypse?").

Indeed, the hysteria concerning the year 2012 is a modern phenomenon with modern, New Age origins!

Many of the most influential popularizers of "2012-ology" have openly admitted that their ideas came to them through the use of hallucinogenic and psychedelic drugs, such as dimethyltryptamine, or DMT. These individuals claim that their drug use enables them to achieve states of "enlightened consciousness" and "shamanic vision"—allowing them to talk with and gain knowledge from strange, extra-dimensional beings. Many who are fascinated with the thought of world-changing events in the year 2012 are unaware of the "chemically assisted" sources of the information they have been given.

Even the scientific-sounding "galactic alignment" theory is full of holes. Robert Bonadurer, director of

the Daniel M. Soref Planetarium at the Milwaukee Public Museum, has stated clearly that there is *no* such alignment on that date ("Did the ancient Mayans predict the end of the world?" *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 18, 2009).

Properly understood, the so-called "galactic alignment" is not a scientific concept coming from the realm of physics or astronomy. Rather, it is superstition belonging to the realm of *astrology*—the aspect of the occult that believes the arrangement of various heavenly bodies can powerfully and invisibly influence the destiny of people on the earth.

As we can see, when placed "under the microscope," the true origins of the 2012 phenomenon come sharply and disturbingly into focus: astrology and occultism, psychedelic drug use and shamanism, spiritualism and "channeling"—and, of course, the simple desire for monetary gain by those banking on the gullibility of the masses.

A Christian Evaluation

When facing such wild assertions, a true Christian must obey the biblical command, "**Prove all things**; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21, *KJV*). How do the sources and claims concerning December 21, 2012 hold up to the test of Scripture? Will you believe and obey your Bible?

Concerning the use of astrology and celestial alignments to divine the future, the Bible is clear: "Thus says the LORD: 'Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; **do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven**, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them'" (Jeremiah 10:2). Christians are clearly commanded to *avoid* the practice and predictions of astrology!

Is the use of psychedelic and hallucinogenic drugs condemned in Scripture? Yes! Many do not realize

it, but the drug-related practices of modern-day “shamans”—as well as attempts to “channel” or contact “extra-dimensional beings”—are *thousands of years old*. Biblically, these practices are described as divination, sorcery, spiritism and the use of mediums and “familiar spirits,” and God absolutely *condemns* them as an abomination in His eyes (Deuteronomy 18:10–12; Leviticus 19:31; Leviticus 20:27, et al.)!

There really is *no reason at all* for someone who believes in the God of the Bible to be caught up in the hysteria surrounding the year 2012!

But What Does the Future Hold?

And yet, to even the most casual observer, it is clear that we *are* living in unique times. In fact, for those expecting Jesus Christ’s imminent return, these days are more than unique—they are *prophetic*!

In the last few years we have seen the global economy teeter on the edge of collapse, terrorism grow to horrifying proportions, and disconcerting chaos and confusion in the political arena. Weather systems seem to grow ever more violent and natural disasters ever more brutal. The world’s greatest nation—the once “invulnerable” United States—has been humbled as never before. Rogue nations and unstable regimes seem intent on obtaining nuclear weapons, and the world seems on the brink of unprecedented change!

Is there any way to actually *know* what is ahead? Is there a time-tested and reliable guide to what the future holds—and what actions we can take for our sake and the sake of our families and loved ones?

Yes, there is!

God tells us plainly that “when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people seek their God?” (Isaiah 8:19). Yes, we

should seek our Creator’s wisdom, not that of New Age “prophets.”

The Almighty God is the one who can explain what lies ahead! “Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’” (Isaiah 46:9–10).

Yes, God does reveal the future to those who are willing to listen. What He reveals is laid out in the pages of your Bible.

God’s word reveals that incredible calamities will befall our planet in the years just ahead! In particular, the Bible warns of horrible devastation coming upon the United States and the British-descended peoples, leading to the complete *collapse* of these nations as world powers! It tells, as well, of war ultimately breaking out between a German-led European super-state against nations to the south and east of it. However, Bible prophecy *guarantees us* that this world will not end in 2012, nor will a new global age of peace, prosperity and joy be ushered in at that time. Scripture details powerful events of devastating impact that must take place during the three-and-a-half years prior to Christ’s return. Those events have not begun as of November 2009, so we can be sure that Christ’s return will not take place in (or before) December 2012.

Of course, any of us may die at any time, so our personal “end of the world” may come long before Christ’s return—meaning that we must live

our lives today as if Jesus Christ were going to judge us tonight!

What, then, does Bible prophecy tell us will happen in the years just ahead? It reveals that the world will indeed be shattered by events that will soon occur—perhaps even *before 2012!*

Scripture tells of coming natural disasters—and *supernatural* disasters—of terrible scale and scope! Describing the end-times to His disciples, Jesus said: “Nation will rise

against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven” (Luke 21:10–11). Ultimately, these events will affect *all nations*, on a scale

never before seen on earth! Later in the same chapter, Christ warned that “there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (vv.25–26). These will *not* be astrological “signs” or “alignments”—they will be real, earth-shattering *events* in the heavens and on the earth (cf. Revelation 6, 8)! People will *literally* be *scared to death* by the events to come, described in the book of Revelation and in many Old Testament prophecies as well!

Unlike the many vague so-called “prophecies” related to the overhyped 2012 phenomenon, your Bible specifically describes coming events for which we should be *watchful*. For



example, God's word warns of global religious deception—part of which is already at work—and the rise of a miracle-working false prophet (2 Thessalonians 2:7–12, Revelation 13:11–15). It tells of a world-dominating military and economic power rising in Europe, led by a powerful Germany, that will be unlike any empire the world has ever seen (Revelation 13:1–4). We are also told to watch for a group of Arab nations achieving a unity that has previously escaped them (Psalm 83:4–7).

Meanwhile, in contrast to the vague “something's going to happen” sentiment attached to the 2012 hysteria, there are many *powerful and specific details* laid out for us in Scripture—events to look for before Jesus Christ returns to establish His Kingdom of *peace* and *power* over the nations! But will the world wake up and pay attention? *Will you?*

What You Must Do!

One of the greatest deceptions brought about by the vast collection of 2012 predictions is the sense that humanity's “date with destiny” is simply that—an essentially arbitrary date.

However, your Bible explains that the coming cataclysmic events will occur **not** because of some seemingly random date on a calendar, but rather because of the sinfulness of stubborn human beings and their unwillingness to submit to Almighty God!

These events will occur because of unrepentant nations—nations that have been blessed *extraordinarily* by a loving and merciful God who is faithful to His promises—nations that will not respond to Him with thanks and obedience and which continue to thumb their noses at their Creator. This is *not* “random happenstance” or “cosmic coincidence”! God reminds us: “If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is

calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?” (Amos 3:6).

Unlike a celestial arrangement of the planets or stars, which we cannot avoid, God gives each of us a choice. We **can** repent: that is, we can read God's word, learn His ways—which were commanded for *our good*—and we can change our lives. Forget the “2012ers” who are looking to purchase space on mountaintops, or who are hoarding gold and guns. The Bible says in many passages that those approaches simply *will not work* (cf. Ezekiel 7:14–19)!

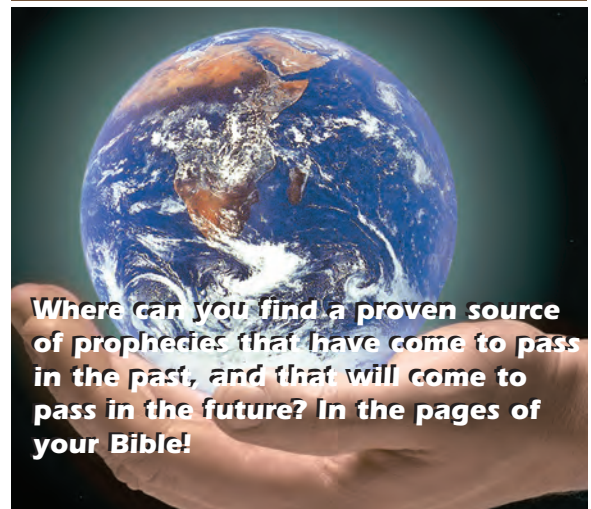
Rather, consider the words of Jesus Christ: “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted *worthy to escape* all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:34–36).

For those who repent—who are willing to look into God's word, read what it says, and actually put it into *practice* in their lives—God offers protection from the terrible times ahead. If you will make that life-changing choice, the many coming calamities the Bible prophesies actually become signs of great *hope*. As Christ tells us in Luke 21:28, “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

Yes, these prophesied events have an *end*—a *purpose*. Jesus Christ will soon return! After breaking the resistance of rebellious and stubborn humanity, He will usher in the Kingdom of God—a time of joy, abundance and peace unlike anything humanity has ever known! People will learn to live life the way God actually *designed* it to be lived, in an intimate relationship with their very Creator. And what will happen to those who, in this life and in *these days*, learned to obey their Creator and to keep His commandments in a world that hated those commandments? They will rule alongside Jesus Christ, working under Him to teach the world, in glory and power such as could never be imagined in a thousand lifetimes!

That is the *truth*—and it offers so much more hope than some date on a dusty, ancient calendar! ■

Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in World Affairs



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LONDON CALL

A GENTLE BULL?

After rejecting the Lisbon Treaty in a June 2008 plebiscite, Irish voters on October 2 this year ratified the controversial measure, which effectively binds their nation into a tighter political and economic union with the Eurozone. But while many are pondering the election results, the fact of the matter is that throughout the European Union, voters have surprisingly little say, as an unelected European Commission initiates most legislation. The elected European Parliament may be able to debate proposed legislation, but it does not truly have the final say. Did Irish public opinion actually change so dramatically between the June 2008 “No” vote and the October 2009 “Yes”? Or was this merely another case of EU “power politics” forcing its will on a nation that ultimately had no real choice in the matter?

From Small Beginnings

The impetus to create a European Union sprang from the devastating results of two World Wars fought largely on the fields of Europe, as nations still reeling from World War II sought to stabilize their nations’ economies and prevent future wars among European neighbors.

What started as the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951 expanded to a European Economic Community in 1958, then after 1993 saw the birth of the European Union as we know it today. “Eurosceptics” suggest that the EU, with its several bureaucratic structures atop and beside one another, has employed a deliberate lack of transparency to hide its actual eventual goal—formation of a true federal union of Europe—from Europe’s politicians. Eurosceptics charge that the EU’s master strategists used duplicity to trick nations and their leaders into joining an economic union that they had falsely promised would not develop into a political and military entity.

Maybe Europe’s national leaders should have read what German politician Franz Josef Strauss (1915–88), the Bavarian leader of his nation’s Christian Social Union, wrote in his landmark 1966 book, *The Grand Design*: “We must now consider the problem of how this Europe is to be achieved... There are two possible conceptions here. The first is that of a European commonwealth, a welfare community of nations with growing economic, trade and living standards, but without a central political goal or the determination to achieve it. The more desirable alternative is a Europe growing in stages, determined to assert its role in the world, exercising increasing influence and attraction... growing in confidence and world importance” (pp. 21–22, emphasis mine).

Strauss continued, “The balance of power can only be re-established on the European continent if the classic nineteenth-century pentarchy of Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia is succeeded by a confederation which will in due course develop into a federation” (p. 23).

Franz Josef Strauss’s second option has clearly become the preferred choice for the new Europe.

Zeitgeist

What Europe is now experiencing is a renaissance. It is not just a rebirth of art and culture but of identity. The Germans have a word—*zeitgeist*—to describe the recrudescence of an old time. *Zeitgeist* has no adequate English translation, but the concept is somewhat like “the spirit of the time.” German philosophers and writers of the late nineteenth century took the word, coined by Johann Herder in 1769, and developed it to mean a “guiding spirit” for Germany and its destiny in Europe. It evoked the times of the Teutonic knights and the domination of Europe by the Holy Roman Empire. We



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could very well be at a time when old spirits will rise again and kindle Europe's dream of influencing a far wider world than just its own continent.

Ever so gradually, the EU has been replacing the infrastructure and symbols of its member countries. National laws and institutions are giving way to supranational entities controlled from Brussels. As this process continues, one striking image is appearing more and more frequently on European Union official documents—a bull moving forward amidst five stars—an image harkening back to an ancient Greek myth. But what exactly does it mean?

A Woman Sits Astride a Bull

The bull we find on EU documents harkens back to the ancient Greek myth of Europa, in which the god Zeus, manifested as a bull, seduces the lovely young Phoenician princess Europa. "Uncommonly gentle, the bull inspired no fear. Decking its horns with flowers, Europa climbed upon its back, whereupon the bull—Zeus—took off at a trot and dived into the sea" (*European Union Law*, Chalmers et al., Cambridge University Press, p. vii).

Your Bible often uses a "woman" as the symbol of a church. In today's EU documents we do not yet see a woman seated upon the bull's back. But the symbolism is apt. A powerful yet innocent-seeming force is beginning to shape the destiny of Europe. Bible students recognize that in the not-too-distant future, when we see a concordat between Europe's political and religious institutions, a key prophecy revealed by Jesus Christ to the Apostle John will have come to pass. What does the Bible say will become of the bull and its rider?

Many biblical scholars have drawn a parallel between the Europa myth and the book of Revelation's account of a future Babylonian system that will control Europe in the end days. In this scenario, a great religious system symbolized by the Babylonian woman sits astride a powerful political and military beast.

"...And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet [colors often associated with religious

attire], and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls..." (Revelation 17:3-4).

The prophet Daniel was also given visions of this beast. It was to be the fourth of four beasts spanning the time from ancient Babylon till the days just ahead. We read, "The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces" (Daniel 7:23).

The next verse introduces us to another king who will "speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand, for a time and times and half a time" (vv. 24-25).

For nearly three and a half years, this prophesied political and religious union will dominate the world through trade and regulation. Already we are seeing how the European Union is setting standards for trade around the world. International traders have little choice but to comply with EU standards and measurements. Soon it will not be possible to export products unless they meet strict EU standards. Watch then for rules in the area of employment. Finally, universal monetary regulation could follow, building on the established monetary union brought by the euro.

The garlanded bull of the Europa myth may sound like a great story, but we should realize that in the biblical account it does not end "happily ever after." The "gentle bull" becomes a raging monster! This beast with ten horns (kings or rulers in biblical symbolism) will turn against the woman. "And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire" (Revelation 17:16). A day will come when the millions who had sought a strong Europe, reunited under the banner of its shared religious and political heritage, will realize they have been deceived!

Would you like to know more about this coming political-religious system that will change the world? Please request your *free* copy of *The Beast of Revelation*, which will explain the biblical references behind these clear prophecies. You will be glad that you did.

—Rod King



THE REASON FOR THE SEASON?

By Douglas S. Winnail

At year's end, busy shoppers and party-goers turn their attention to annual Christmas celebrations. But how often do they stop to ask: *Why?*

What do trimming a tree, decorating the house with lights, stockings, pine boughs and flying reindeer, hanging mistletoe and taking the children to see Santa Claus have to do with the birth of Jesus Christ—the supposed “reason” for the season? Why do sleigh bells and carols about “peace on earth, good will toward men” ring hollow as headlines report increasingly violent crimes, international terrorism, spreading droughts and famines, continuing wars and declining morals? Why do so-called Christian nations perpetuate anti-Christian customs that make life an endless round of momentarily pleasurable, but largely meaningless, social activities?

Though credible scholars and historians universally recognize the fact, the average professing Christian has *no idea* that the customs surrounding Christmas originally had nothing to do with Jesus Christ!

Even the widely held idea that Jesus was born on December 25 is known to be a fabrication! Contrary to the common tradition, Jesus was probably born in the fall, because Scripture recounts that sheep were

in the fields (Luke 2:8)—a situation that would not exist in December. Jesus was also six months younger (Luke 1:24–27, 36) than John the Baptist, who was conceived in late June (after his father had served the eighth course of Abijah—see Luke 1:5; 1 Chronicles 24:1–19). Josephus, the Jewish historian, explains that 24 courses of priests served in the temple for week-long periods twice a year, beginning in the month of Nisan (in the spring, about April). John, conceived in June, would have been born in March, meaning that the six-months-younger Jesus would have been born in September—not on December 25!

So, why do people celebrate Christ's birth on December 25—even though Scripture nowhere gives that date, and does not even teach that Christians should celebrate Christ's birthday at all? Late December is the time of the winter solstice, one of the major festival periods in the ancient world. Historians note “the birth of many solar saviors and dying gods is celebrated at this time, usually on December 25th” and that “Christmas is a wonderful amalgamation of many religious traditions, ancient and modern, pagan, Zoroastrian, Jewish, Mithraic, and Christian” (*The Pagan Book of Days*, pp. 132–133). Modern Christmas

is a composite of several year-end festivals celebrated in pagan Rome. The Saturnalia, (December 17–21) was a time of “extravagant decadence” when slaves and masters traded places for a few days. It was a season of revelry where the common greeting was “bona Saturnalia.” Next came the Sigillaria—the feast of dolls—on the 22nd when toys were purchased and given to children. The Brumalia (December 25) was celebrated as the “Birthday of the Unconquered Sun, when the days began to lengthen after the solstice” (*Christmas and Christmas Lore*, Crippen, p. 7). These were times of feasting, drinking and debauchery. The Egyptians also celebrated the rebirth of the sun in the form of an infant several thousand years before the Romans (see *The Golden Bough*, St. Martin’s ed., pp. 471–472).

By contrast, the early Christian Church did not celebrate Jesus’ birthday as long as the teachings of the Apostles remained intact. In fact, as late as 245AD, the church scholar, Origen “repudiated as sinful the very idea of keeping the birthday of Christ” (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed.). However, in an effort to gain converts, “the church at Rome definitely fixed on the 25th of December as the birthday of the Lord” in the 4th century (Crippen, p. 6). The choice of the winter solstice festival and the birthday of the sun-god were deliberate. New “converts” could continue their popular pagan customs uninterrupted—but under a new “Christian” name! People follow the same fabricated practice today—largely ignorant of what is hiding behind the “Christian” façade.

But have you ever wondered if there is more to life than this? Have pagan customs adopted by mainstream Christianity replaced more meaningful biblical practices?

The Hidden Dimension

It may come as a surprise, but the Bible outlines a specific series of festivals or feast days that the people of God are commanded to observe. While many have been taught that these festivals were Old Testament practices and are no longer relevant to Christians, nothing could be further from the truth! The festivals outlined in Scripture (see Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16) are extremely significant and packed with meaning. They outline God’s plan of salvation for humanity, and reveal the major steps or events in that plan. The sequence of the festivals reveals the true purpose of human life! That purpose is exciting, inspiring—and humbling—yet it has been obscured by pagan holiday traditions professing Christian churches have absorbed! Church services—commanded assemblies—on each of the Holy Days review the meaning of the festivals. Notice what historian W. D. Davies wrote about early Christian practices:

“Everywhere, especially in the East of the Roman Empire, there would be Jewish Christians whose outward way of life would not be markedly different from that of the Jews. They took for granted that the gospel was continuous with [the religion of Moses]; for them the New Covenant, which Jesus had set up at the Last Supper with His disciples... did not mean that the covenant made between God and Israel was no longer in force. They still observed the feasts of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles; they also continued to be circumcised, to keep the weekly Sabbath and the Mosaic regulations concerning food.” [Judeo-Christianism, “Paul and Jewish Christianity,” 1972, p. 72, quoted by Samuele Bacchiocchi, *From Sabbath to Sunday*, p. 151].

Historian Edward Gibbon made a similar observation: “The first fifteen bishops of Jerusalem were all circumcised Jews; and the congregation over which they presided united the law of Moses with the doctrine of Christ. It was natural that the primitive tradition of a church which was founded only forty days after the death of Christ, and was governed almost as many years under the immediate inspection of his apostle, should be received as the standard of orthodoxy. The distant churches very frequently appealed to the authority of their venerable Parent” (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chapter 15, section 1, p. 389).

What is this sequence of biblically ordained festivals? The annual sequence begins in March-April, with the Passover, followed by the Days of Unleavened Bread. The Passover is an annual reminder of our need for a Savior and forgiveness of sin. The Passover lamb offered in the Old Testament (Exodus 12:3–6) foreshadowed the coming of Jesus Christ to die for the sins of mankind (John 3:16). Even after Jesus fulfilled the symbolism of the sacrificial lamb (Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29), the Apostles and the early Church observed the New Testament Passover (Luke 22:14–16; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26) as an annual memorial of Christ’s sacrifice. During the seven Days of Unleavened Bread, leaven is removed from dwellings, conveying the lesson that to obey God we must put sin (symbolized by leaven) out of our lives. This is what Christian growth—repenting, changing, growing and overcoming—is all about. The Apostles and the early Church kept the Days of Unleavened Bread to perpetuate the meaning of those days (Acts 2:38; 20:6; 1 Corinthians 5:7–8).

The next New Testament Church festival, Pentecost, comes

in late May or early June, commemorating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples (Acts 2). The Feast of Pentecost (“pentecost” comes from the Greek for “count 50”) is also called the Feast of Harvest or Firstfruits because it came at the beginning of the summer harvest. This harvest was small, picturing God’s plan to call just a small group of people to salvation in this present age (Matthew 13:10–17; John 6:44–66; 1 Corinthians 1:26–28), before He begins working with all mankind. The annual observance of Pentecost is a constant reminder that God has a special purpose for those called to be firstfruits (Revelation 14:1–5), and of the special understanding that comes by receiving and nourishing the Holy Spirit (John 14:15–16, 26; 16:13; 2 Timothy 1:6–7).

These first three annual festivals picture events in God’s plan of salvation that have already happened. Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection fulfilled the meaning of the Passover nearly 2,000 years ago, so we no longer sacrifice a lamb—but we continue to observe the Passover at His command as a memorial of that important event (Luke 22:19). The Days of Unleavened Bread picture Christians’ ongoing process of putting out sin from our lives. The events of the Day of Pentecost—the giving of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the New Testament Church—inaugurated the Christian era in 31AD.

The next four festivals in God’s sequence are still prophetic, picturing major events that have yet to occur! When we observe these festivals, we can better understand the future, and we can have hope. These festivals outline the remaining steps that will culminate in

God’s plan of salvation for humanity—a plan that has largely been hidden from the world by false man-made holidays such as Christmas!

Revealing the Future

The Feast of Trumpets pictures a soon-coming event that will change the course of human history forever—the return of Jesus Christ. Bible prophecies associate the Second Coming of Christ with the blowing of the seventh trumpet



(Revelation 11:15). Trumpets are used to make announcements, mark the feasts and sound alarm during times of war (Numbers 10:1–10). Cataclysmic events will precede the Second Coming of Christ (Matthew 24; Revelation 6; 8; 9). Jesus will return to a planet torn by war and tribulation to save mankind from utter self-destruction (Matthew 24:3–7, 21–22). He will conquer human armies that will resist His return (Revelation 19:11–19). At His return the saints (the “firstfruits”) will receive immortality (1 Corinthians 15:51–54) and reign with Christ on this earth (Daniel 7:26–27; Revelation 5:10). The annual observance of the Feast of Trumpets keeps us mindful of these incredible events. It supplies real hope in a world filled with bad news.

The Day of Atonement pictures the fact that Satan—the real instiga-

tor of the evils and troubles in this world—will be bound for a thousand years when Christ returns (Revelation 20:1–2). This future event was foreshadowed in the Old Testament observance of this festival when the priests sent a goat into the wilderness bearing the sins of Israel. Though modern translations of the Bible refer to this animal as the “scapegoat,” suggesting it was without guilt, Jewish traditions correctly identify this goat as symbolic of the prince of fallen angels—Satan (Leviticus 16:8–10). The other goat used in this ceremony, killed for the sins of the nation, foreshadowed Jesus Christ’s sacrifice. God’s command that we fast on the Day of Atonement teaches us the need for humility and reminds us of our need to become at-one with God (see Leviticus 23:27; Psalm 35:13; John 17:11).

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures the coming of the Kingdom of God to this earth.

This seven-day festival offers an annual foretaste of the thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ and the saints (Revelation 20:4–6). During this period, also called the “Millennium,” the government of God will bring peace and justice to this earth and restore all things (Isaiah 9:6–7; Acts 3:19–21). It will be a time of harmony (Isaiah 11:6–9), health and abundance (Isaiah 35; Amos 9:13). The government of God will proclaim the laws of God from Jerusalem to the whole world (Isaiah 2:2–4). Unlike our present age, when only a very few receive the knowledge of God’s Way, during the Millennium all will be taught to obey God and experience the wonderful blessings that come as a result!

The Last Great Day is the final festival on God’s annual calendar. It

(Continued on page 29)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It has only been a year since God made me see that His weekly Holy Day was not on Sunday.

It was quite a shock to me that I had been wrongly guided and been serving Satan instead of God. Last night I read Jeremiah chapter 10, and read until I couldn't read anymore. I read how important the Sabbath was and how important to sanctify it. I'm so mad that I was misled, but then maybe my heart wasn't ready for God to open my mind to see the truth and it took 64 years! It can be difficult at such an old age to re-start anew. I get overwhelmed sometimes at all that I have to do but I do it one step at a time and God opens my mind to do another when I am ready. It's not easy to be a true Christian when you have been a false one so long. Thank you for sending the magazines. I have a lot to learn and a lot to change.

M. C., Sainte-Agathe-Des-Monts, QC, Canada

I am deeply saddened how homosexuality has moved in 30 to 40 years from criminal offence in the US/UK to a strong political force behind much of what is wrong in our societies—especially the break-up of the family. I suggest all people, the majority, who do not profess to be homosexual, should be labeled Happies! I want “gay” back!

G. S., Glamorgan, UK

We would like our name taken off the mailing list, please. We were very surprised to read in one of your articles about drinking alcohol—how it was not fully condemned. We don't want your organization to send any further copies of your magazine, especially with the economy being as it is. We appreciate what has been done for us, and we pray the Lord's leading for you.

S. E., Cranberry Township, PA

Editor's Note: *Scripture unequivocally condemns drunkenness (Proverbs 23:20–21; Luke 21:34; 1 Corinthians 5:11–13; Galatians 5:21). But even those who oppose moderate alcohol use must acknowledge the Apostle Paul's advice that Timothy should take “a little” wine for his ailments (1 Timothy 5:23).*

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

In writing to Timothy, Paul used the Greek word oinos for “wine.” Paul used that same word oinos when he admonished the Ephesians, “Do not be drunk with wine” (Ephesians 5:18). Wine was an accepted part of the culture of Jesus' day; even His parable of the old and new wineskins presumes the use of alcohol, which during fermentation stretches the skins (Matthew 9:17). Those who prefer not to drink should not be pressured into doing so, but Scripture does approve of the moderate and responsible use of alcohol as one of God's gifts to mankind (Genesis 27:28; Deuteronomy 14:26; Psalm 104:15).

Thanks for your recent article, “Prayer: Our Lifeline to God” (*Tomorrow's World*, May-June 2009). It strengthened me a lot. I have already finished the 24 lessons of the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*, but your booklets and articles continue to bring me more understanding of God and the Bible. My prayers are with you. May God bless you all.

A. V., Lome, Togo

I just finished reading your booklet, *Who or What Is the Antichrist?*, by Roderick C. Meredith. I must say, it was excellent! I often think about the downward spiral churches around here seem to go, or the “preach for profit” churches popping up here and there, and it really bothers me. I am a simple guy, with simple words, and could never explain things so elegantly and precisely as this booklet did. Please continue to keep up the good work.

J. P., Kenton, DE

Let me express how deeply grateful I am for being able to complete the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course* and receive your booklets for further instruction. They were useful in more ways than one, but the outstanding help and spiritual enlightenment came when my sister died and I wanted to know if I would see her again. Your article “Will the Dead Live Again?” (*Tomorrow's World*, March-April 2009) fulfilled the answer to my grief and gave me supreme comfort. Thank you.

L. A., Erin, Trinidad and Tobago

TOMORROW'S

The Way to Wisdom

If I had thought more about it at the time, I would have realized it was a bad idea. It was a moonlit winter night, and I was lost in my music as I drove down the two-lane highway on my way to pick up my brother in a nearby town in rural Colorado.

With the stereo blasting some favorite tunes, my thoughts were reliving the exciting basketball game I had just left, in which I had just seen my high school team defeat a local arch-rival. Suddenly, as I absent-mindedly sped the car around a corner, I hit an ice-covered section of road, and my car began to fish-tail wildly from side to side as I struggled to keep it under control.

But it was no use. Before I knew it, I was spinning into a ditch on the opposite side of the road, then was mercifully stopped by a soft bank of recently fallen snow. Thankfully, the car was not damaged and no one was injured. But when I saw a commercial passenger coach speed by in the opposite direction soon afterward, I realized how close I had come to what could have been a terrible fatal tragedy—not just for me, but for others—if my accident had occurred just a few seconds later.

As a young person, I had been foolishly caught up in the moment, not thinking about the possible result of my carelessness. I was having fun—at least until I found myself backwards in a snowbank! Thankfully, I was able to learn from the experience without doing damage to any other people or property. But this is not always the case. Too often, all it takes is the briefest in-the-moment carelessness to bring long-lasting—even life-threatening—consequences.

Today, had I been the careless driver I was so many years ago, it might have been text messaging instead of

the stereo that took my attention away from the road. More and more, we see news reports about fatal traffic accidents caused when distracted drivers are texting while driving. Young people who want to stay in touch with their friends—and who feel the typical invulnerability of youth—sometimes do not stop to think about what they are doing. Why does this happen? Why do some young people suffer life-long consequences from brief moments of thoughtlessness?

Foolish Fads?

Though it may be hard for a young person to accept, Proverbs 22:15 makes a simple

statement that can illuminate some young people's behavior: "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child." Any parent knows how true this is! From the time children learn to crawl, it seems that much of a parent's time is spent making statements such as, "Don't touch that," "Don't eat that worm," "Don't pull your dog's ears," "Don't sit on that cactus!"

The Message—a Bible translation that paraphrases the text and puts it into plain and simple English—puts Proverbs 22:15 this way: "Young people are prone to foolishness and fads." Is this just picking on the young? I will not deny that older people are also, in their own way, prone to these problems, but can any young people honestly deny that this is also true of them and their friends? Sometimes a fad may be innocent or just silly, but when a fad involves risky behavior, too many young people can find themselves influenced into making potentially dangerous choices.

For example, most adults would be surprised to learn about the "sport" of car-surfing, in which a young person "rides" or stands on the outside of a moving





vehicle. It just seems like a very bad idea. Yet this odd sport seems to be gaining popularity with some teens, as we read that there has been “a steady rise in car-surfing fatalities since 2000, especially in California, Florida and Texas” (“Neurological injuries from car surfing,” *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*, July 17, 2009). What would cause anyone to do something so foolish? Imitation of popular media, the researchers concluded. Car surfing has been portrayed in teen-targeted movies and video games. But those movies were made with big budgets—with trained stunt-men carefully choreographing the extreme activity. In the video games, nobody is hurt when a game controller is pressed the wrong way. By contrast, when eager young people try to imitate what they have seen—there are even videos on YouTube showing people doing this—serious injury can easily result.

Reporting on this odd and extreme “sport,” one online article asked the question: “Is a teenager’s propensity for doing really stupid things inevitable, or must that stupidity be coaxed out of him?” (“How Media Brings Out the Idiot in Teens,” *LiveScience.com*, July 21, 2009).

The Way to Wisdom

Happily, this stereotype does not have to apply to you. Youthful foolishness is **not** inevitable! There is a better way—a way that is the opposite of foolishness! For those who will heed Him, God has given instructions that can help anyone, young or old, gain success in their lives through wisdom!

What is wisdom? One dictionary defines wisdom as “accumulated philosophic or scientific learning.” However, a very intellectual person can make very unwise choices, so there must be something more to it. A more complete definition of wisdom would be, “the ability to apply knowledge to everyday life.” For those who want to follow God, we could say that wisdom is the ability to apply God’s knowledge in our lives.

King Solomon explained what he hoped readers would gain from the book of Proverbs: “To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion” (Proverbs 1:2–4). The book of Proverbs is a 31-chapter instruction manual touching almost every aspect of life that a young person has yet to experience. This is different from learning by experience alone, or “going to the school of hard knocks.” King Solomon’s wise words allow us to gain understanding about different aspects of life *before* we live it. This can help us avoid many disappointments and heartaches.

For example, Proverbs includes relevant instruction about: what friends to avoid (Proverbs 1:10–19; 12:26; 16:29), being diligent (13:4), being honest (16:13), not bragging (27:2), seeking knowledge (14:18), avoiding gossip (17:9) and honoring our parents (23:22). These are just a few of the nuggets of truth within the pages of this book of instruction.

An older person can read Proverbs and look back on “what might have been” if its instructions had been followed. The advantage of being young is that you have your life ahead of you! The choices you make now will set the path for the rest of your life. You do not need to make foolish mistakes that could tragically change your future.

But we should not stop at just *avoiding mistakes*; we ought to endeavor to learn what true wisdom is. As King Solomon wrote: “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God” (Proverbs 2:1–5). This is the way to wisdom!

—Phil Sena



COMING SOON: A REVOLUTION IN EDUCATION!

By Richard F. Ames

Much of modern education is based on atheistic or even anti-God concepts. In the coming Millennium, God's way will bring about a complete revolution in education. But you can experience God's true values of education now!

With the Ten Commandments and prayer barred from many American classrooms, what is taking their place? Even though most of the nation's first and most prominent universities were founded in the name of Christianity, most of today's educators are ignoring the foundation of truth—God's word. Students are being taught that there are no absolutes and that there is no ultimate authority except the self. Instead of learning God's eternal law, they are learning humanism and materialism.

How did our educational systems shift their emphasis? Many universities that were founded to teach the Bible and uphold God's moral law had, by the 1960s, become havens of nihilism and anti-God sentiment. Beginning in the 19th century, they adopted the structure, and later the ideals, of the German universities and philosophers.

Key among these philosophers was Friedrich Nietzsche, whose philosophy was not merely atheistic but was strongly anti-God. He wrote: "God is dead; but given the way of men, there may still be caves for thousands of years in which his shadow will be shown. And we—we still have to vanquish his shadow, too" (*The Gay Science*, Nietzsche, 1882, section 108). Nietzsche is now dead, but his philosophy lives on to this day in anti-God minds. During the tumult of the 1960s, it even leapt out of philosophy books and into the news headlines, when the respected *TIME* magazine asked on its April 8, 1966 cover: "Is God Dead?"

Many intellectuals of the 18th and 19th centuries saw correctly that Christianity had strayed from its apostolic origins and had taken on the pagan customs of the surrounding society. But instead of rebuilding modern education on Christianity's true foundation, many intellectuals sought to destroy that foundation altogether! They rejected one kind of false religion and its false education, but sought to replace it with godless education rather than godly education.

The True Foundation of Education

The Christianity taught and practiced by Jesus Christ and the Apostles set an example for all times. That example included following the spiritual laws of God—the Ten Commandments—and the way of love taught by Jesus Christ, who said to His followers: "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31–32).

Does this mean that earth's two billion professing Christians all have the truth? Has it made them free? Sadly, much of the world remains in darkness and ignorance; whole cultures, peoples and nations are blinded by false education. So, how rare is true education—and true knowledge?

We read a shocking statement in the book of Revelation: “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who *deceives the whole world*; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9).

This great fallen angel, called the Devil and Satan, deceives not just a few of human beings, but the vast majority. Simply being part of the one-third of humanity that calls itself “Christian” is no guarantee that one is not deceived!

But just what is this truth about which Satan deceives the whole world? Of course, there is scientific truth that can be tested and verified. Science can, to some extent, describe the “what” and “how” of natural laws, yet it cannot explain the *why* of our existence! Such truths are beyond natural law, and can only be explained by the One who created those laws. So, what does the Creator say about truth? When Jesus was praying to His Father on the night before His crucifixion, He prayed for his disciples: “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

Yes, the word of God is truth! You need to prove to yourself that the Bible is the revelation of the Creator God. The Apostle Paul wrote: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Greek word translated as “inspiration” is *theopneustos*, which means “divinely breathed.” The *New International Version* translates this as: “All Scripture is God-breathed.” When Paul wrote this, the books that we call the “Old Testament” were the only canonized “Scripture,” yet today many Christians wish to ignore the plain teachings of the Old Testament in favor of the New Testament writings. But the New Testament itself tells us otherwise. All Scripture is God-breathed!

How Does a Human Being Learn?

True education must be based on the truth God has revealed in His word. Yet how many university administrators, professors or students know the true purpose and meaning of life? Most accept the evolutionary concept that man is only an animal.

But is that true? Or is there something that differentiates animal brain from human mind? Scientists know that the human brain delivers far more “performance” for its weight than any other species’ brain. A few scientists have concluded that this capacity can only be explained by the presence of a spiritual component. This scientific conclusion, though not commonly accepted, agrees with revealed Scripture. The Apostle Paul wrote: “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?” (1 Corinthians 2:11).

This spirit Paul describes is not the Holy Spirit, nor is it an “immortal soul.” It is a spirit essence combined with the physical brain, which empowers human beings far beyond animals (Job 32:8). This understanding harmonizes science and Scripture, and explains an aspect of the human mind that remains a mystery to most educators and “experts.” Sir John Maddox, editor emeritus of *Nature*, wrote in a classic *TIME* magazine essay, “How the brain manages to think is a conundrum with a millennial time scale. All animals have brains so as to be able to move about. Signals from the senses—eyes, ears, nostrils or skin, as the case may be—send messages to the spinal cord, which moves the limbs appropriately. But thinking involves the consideration of alternative responses, many of which have not been experienced but

have been merely imagined. The faculty of being conscious of what is going on in the head is an extra puzzle. A century from now, electronics shops (or web sites) will be advertising all kinds of gadgets that simulate some of the workings of the human brain, but neuroscientists will still be struggling to understand the thinking machine in all our heads” (“Thinking,” March 29, 1999, p. 206).

Maddox, a world-renowned physicist, predicted that even a century from now the puzzle of human thinking will not be solved. With an understanding of Scripture, we can see that education based solely on material and physical knowledge is woefully limited. When an educational system rejects the existence of God and of spirit, it rejects ultimate reality and ultimate truth!

Mankind’s Failed Educational System

If our modern educational system is not producing all the answers we seek, should we at least be impressed with the system itself? Certainly, universities can successfully teach some areas of material knowledge. But what happens when these institutions are cut off from the values that should guide them?

What goes on in the modern university? Here is what one unhappy academic wrote: “The average American persists in thinking that the classroom is the center of activity of a university. Because it makes for good relations with the public (as well as with the legislature), university administrators encourage such fanciful notions. But among themselves, they know how anachronistic and downright inaccurate they are. Asked to describe the mission of his school, a vice chancellor of a Big Ten uni-

versity listed five separate areas of responsibility: economic development, service to the state, the creation of new knowledge, and training graduate students. *And, finally, dead last, teaching*” (*Profscam*, Sykes, p. 29).

The modern university has strayed from its roots. Not only does it minimize the teaching of values, it minimizes the value of teaching. Certainly there is value in research, and in economic development and public service. But true education, as Scripture presents it, goes far beyond knowledge production; it must teach the spiritual values without which all the other pursuits will lead to ruin!

Can one be truly educated without knowing the difference between right and wrong? The Apostle Paul powerfully condemns those intellectuals who reject the truth and the reality of God: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who *suppress the truth* in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools” (Romans 1:18–22).

Throughout the Bible, indictments of anti-God education are

very strong: “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call on the LORD?” (P s a l m 14:1–4).



G o d wants to develop holy and righteous character in His people. God wants His people to grow in the kind of g o d l y knowledge that will lead them to

“call on the LORD,” to yield to His Holy Spirit and to do good (see also Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4). By studying God’s word, and applying biblical knowledge in everything we think, say and do, we can begin to understand the impact of Jesus’ statement that “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

But how does one recognize abundant life? The Greeks searched for wisdom and the Jews for miraculous signs of God’s power. The Apostle Paul explained that the Son of God embodied both of those elements far beyond the limits of mortal mankind: “For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to

the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:22–25).

Indeed, very few of those whom the world calls “wise” or “noble”—the rich and powerful and intellectual—are called by God. “Not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise... that no flesh should glory in His presence” (1 Corinthians 1:26–27, 29).

That is how much God hates vanity! Those who think themselves so wise that they would “glory in His presence” are not the ones God will call! Rather, God will reveal His truth to “foolish” Christians if they have a repentant, humble and teachable spirit! As the Apostle Paul wrote: “If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their own craftiness’” (1 Corinthians 3:18–19).

God: The Greatest Teacher

True education must be based on the truth of God. All other foundations are but vanity. Only a Christian with a willingness to learn from the Great Teacher, and follow His example, will build a proper foundation to receive true knowledge. Jesus Christ taught His students: “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). He then listed several of the Ten Commandments.

W h y a r e t h e T e n Commandments the foundation of

true education? Because they plainly tell us what is right and what is wrong! They reveal the way of peace and prosperity that God intends for all humanity. What happens to those who ignore God's plain laws? As the Apostle Paul wrote: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life" (Galatians 6:7-8).

Ancient King David wrote of the education that comes from a sound foundation: "Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word. I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me" (Psalm 119:97-102).

God taught King David, and He wants to teach all His people. Once you begin to apply the spiritual laws of God as taught in the Bible, as magnified by Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount, you can have greater understanding and true knowledge. As we read in Psalm 111:10: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments."

As you seek to obey Him, God will reveal spiritual knowledge to you through the Holy Spirit. Paul goes on to explain the difference between the knowledge of a converted Christian and of an unconverted person: "For who among men knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the things of God

none knoweth, save the Spirit of God. But we received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11-12, ASV).

Just as an animal brain cannot understand the "things of man," neither can the carnal, natural mind of man understand the "things of God." Paul goes on to explain: "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). Spiritual truth is spiritually discerned; it cannot be acquired by natural human intellect apart from the gift of God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

Because it has rejected true education, our modern world does not know the way to true peace. But Christians can know the truth, and can look forward to the soon-coming time when all nations will finally become students of the Great Educator. What will tomorrow's education be like? Scripture gives the following encouraging description: "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His

paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:2-4).

Such peace will only come to the world through true education, in the coming Kingdom of God. But you can have that peace now, in your own life. A revolution in education is soon coming for the whole world, but you can have the same in your own life, by studying the Bible—the starting point of truth. As Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). That truth will revolutionize your life forever! ■

Your Ultimate Destiny

Is your education preparing you for your future? Is it preparing you for eternity? God's plan for you is more amazing than you may realize!



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PROPHECY COM

END-TIME RELIGIOUS DECEPTION!

When Jesus' disciples asked Him, "What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" He replied, "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name... and will deceive many" (Matthew 24:3-5). Jesus and His disciples repeatedly warned that religious deception would be a major issue as the world approached the second coming of Jesus Christ. Evidence is building in our modern society that indicates these ancient prophecies are coming alive today, and the stage is being set for their ultimate fulfillment in the years just ahead!



Deception Prophesied!

Three different gospel writers record Jesus' warnings that many false teachers will deceive many people as the end of the age approaches (see Matthew 24:3-5, 11, 24; Mark 13:5-6; Luke 21:7-8). Jesus even warned that "false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders, to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:24). Jesus issued these warnings to help believers avoid being deceived (Matthew 24:25; John 16:1-4). The Apostle Paul echoed similar warnings on numerous occasions. He warned that false teachers led by a different spirit would preach a different gospel than Jesus preached, and would mislead people to accept a false Jesus that does not match up with the Jesus of Scripture (2 Corinthians 11:3-4). The biblical Jesus was not born on Christmas Day, and did not preach that Christians would have their eternal reward in heaven (John 3:13; Acts 2:34; 13:36). The real Jesus did not do away with the Sabbath or the Holy Days; He kept those days, as did the early Church (Matthew 5:17; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2). Paul wrote that false teachers who preach different doctrines would present themselves as ministers

of Jesus Christ, though Satan would in fact be using them to deceive many (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). The Apostle Peter also foresaw the appearance of false teachers who would "secretly bring in destructive heresies... And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed" (2 Peter 2:1-3).

The Apostle Paul cautioned that Christians "in the last days" must avoid people "having a form of godliness but denying its power" because such people will lead Christians astray (2 Timothy 3:1-9). These false teachers

will deceive sincere people by using crafty arguments about doctrine, specious philosophical reasoning and emotional appeals to vain human traditions (see Ephesians 4:14; 5:6-7; Colossians 2:8).

Paul explained that, shortly before Jesus Christ's return, a "man of sin"—a lawless religious leader influenced by Satan—would deceive huge numbers of people who do not know God's word, by displaying to them "all power, signs and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:1-15). The Apostle John revealed that this evil individual "performs great signs" and "deceives those who dwell on the earth" by those signs (Revelation 13:11-18). Just before Christ's return, this great false religious leader will cause billions of people to worship a powerful political figure who is also influenced by Satan.

Satan has been working to deceive human beings for a long time. Scripture clearly reveals that he deceived Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:13; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:14). Since then, as the "god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4), Satan has deceived the whole world with misguided ideas about religion (Revelation

MES ALIVE

12:9). Hard as this may be for many to believe, Scripture reveals that before the return of Jesus Christ, Satan will influence two men—a powerful political figure called the “Beast” and a miracle-working religious leader of global stature—to deceive the people of this world into following Satan himself!

False Prophets and Teachers

Today, the marvels of modern technology—including radio, television and the Internet—have enabled hundreds and thousands of self-proclaimed preachers and teachers to spread a myriad of conflicting ideas about religion to the world. Some of these religious teachers claim to see visions, to speak with God and to receive special revelations about the future from spirit sources. The Internet, television, radio and print media are overflowing with strange ideas about religion. Although many preachers claim to preach from the Bible, they often do not agree with others who also claim to preach from the Bible. Other religious teachers claim to have found hidden truths in other “sacred” writings or “lost” gospels that responsible Bible scholars have long rejected as false. Thanks to the electronic media, our modern world is definitely awash with religious teachers. *Many* false teachers do abound, and *many* have come in the name of Jesus Christ—and are *deceiving many people*—just as Bible prophecies have long foretold!



How Deception Occurs

Why did Jesus and the apostles record so many warnings about religious deception that would occur at the end of this age? How did they know this would happen? The God of the Bible reveals that He alone is able to predict the future (Isaiah 46:8–10). He knows that Satan is a liar (John 8:44) who is out to thwart God’s plan of salvation by influencing unsuspecting human beings who are susceptible to his deceptive activities.

Over the last century in the so-called Western “Christian” world, we have seen secular academics, theologians, educators and atheists not just spreading doubts but even heaping ridicule on the Bible and the very idea of God’s existence! Today, it is against the law to pray or read Scripture in many public schools. Many of this world’s most prominent theologians do not believe in a personal God and do not consider the Bible

the inspired word of God; to them, it is supposedly just another book filled with myths and legends! This attitude of doubt and disbelief has permeated our societies today to the point where many people do not even read the Bible, so they do not know what is in it. Studies have revealed that large numbers of people in the Western world today are biblically illiterate! Most people today do not know what Scripture prophecies. They do not know that Satan is real, nor do they know how he operates or what his intentions are. All this provides the fertile ground for the seeds of deception to sprout and grow—which is what we are seeing today. This was

foretold long ago by the prophet Hosea who wrote, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” because they have forgotten God and rejected His instructions—and we will reap serious consequences as a result (Hosea 4:6).

As the end of this present age approaches, you can *avoid* being deceived if you take the time to *study* the Bible and *learn* what it actually says (2 Timothy 2:15). Scripture exhorts us: “Test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Jesus Christ stated, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31–32). Widespread religious deception is prophesied to occur as the end of the age approaches. If you know what is coming and how it will come, and if you remain alert and look to God’s word for guidance, you will not be deceived!

—Douglas S. Winnail

Nuggets

“Buy gold!” is the cry from countless financial newsletters, television commercials and Web sites. It seems that the economic uncertainty of our times has motivated people with assets to seek a safe haven—and few investments seem safer than gold, which has served for millennia as the standard of monetary value.

The demand for gold has driven its price above \$1,000 an ounce from time to time; the last time it breached that barrier was earlier this year, in September. Yet, when we consider inflation, the current price of gold remains far below the \$850 per ounce price it reached in January 1980.

Demand for silver, and for precious and semi-precious gems has also soared, and there is great interest in natural resources—including petroleum, natural gas, oil shale and coal. Even “workaday” metals like copper are bringing record prices—prompting thieves to steal copper from construction sites, industrial sites, foreclosed homes and in many communities even from the underground piping that supplies street lighting.

You may not be in the market for gold, but I will hazard a guess that no matter what your financial status, you have had feelings of uncertainty about the economy. Ours is a worrisome time.

The hunger for what folks think gold can bring is not new. It certainly played an important part in the settlement of the United States. Early explorers, having heard legends and fables about abundant gold in the New World, came to America’s shores seeking fabulous wealth.

In the early 1700s, prospectors flocked to the Carolinas to seek their fortune, after hearing news of a gold discovery there. And who can forget the discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill, which set off the 1849 Gold Rush, enticing tens of thousands of fortune hunters to trek west to California? In 1897, the Klondike Gold Rush brought thousands north to Alaska. Most of

those intrepid prospectors did not strike it rich, but as they settled in once-remote areas, the U.S. took shape from coast to coast and border to border.

So we can see that our history has been shaped by the desire for the wealth and power mankind believes gold can bring. But do we recognize that these treasure seekers were looking in all the wrong places? Could it be that their searching took them in the wrong direction, leading them away from ultimate happiness and true prosperity?

King Solomon wrote: “How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver” (Proverbs 16:16). Speaking as personified wisdom, Solomon wrote: “Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her” (Proverbs 8:10–11).

The Apostle Paul instructed young Timothy: “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:9–10).

Notice that it is the *love* of money—that is, the inordinate desire for riches, not the riches themselves—at the heart of the problem.

What is your priority? What are you seeking? If your quest is only for money and what it brings, you are headed in the wrong direction. There is a better way, and you can find it in the Bible. Start your hunt for real treasure today! If you have not already done so, please order your own free copy of our informative booklet, *The Bible: Fact or Fiction?* It will help you find the nuggets of God’s word that can enrich your life beyond measure!

—J. Davy Crockett, III



The Reason for the Season? (Continued from page 18)

pictures the Great White Throne Judgment period, described by the Apostle John (Revelation 20:11–12), when the Holy Spirit will be made available to those who had never before had their minds opened to God's way (John 7:37–39; Ezekiel 36:24–27). They will be resurrected and have their first opportunity to accept Jesus Christ and obey Him through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Yes, the message of the Last Great Day is that those who died without hearing the Gospel are not lost! They are not burning right now in hell. They are waiting in the grave for this great resurrection. Those who then choose to live according to God's way will receive immortality, but those who reject God's way will be consumed in a lake of fire (Revelation 20:14–15).

Warnings and Hope

“That sounds interesting,” you may be thinking, “but what does it matter if I observe Christmas instead of those Old Testament festivals?” You may feel that you “love the Lord” and that you are honoring Jesus by celebrating His birth. “I'm just ‘baptizing’ those old pagan customs by offering them to the Lord,” you may think. Well, what does the Bible say about this approach?

God told the nation of Israel to follow His commandments and not alter them (Deuteronomy 4:1–2). Through Moses, God repeatedly warned the Israelites not to forget His commandments (Deuteronomy 8:10–14) and to avoid being captivated by the false religious practices of pagan nations. God specifically warned, “do not inquire after their gods, saying ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’ You shall not worship the

LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods” (Deuteronomy 12:30–31). Again, in this context, God states: “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it” (Deuteronomy 12:32).

These clear warnings are repeated in the Old *and* New Testaments. The prophet Jeremiah pointedly told the Israelites, “Learn not the way of the heathen.... For the customs of the people are vain” (Jeremiah 10:2–3, *KJV*). Jesus even said, of religious people, that “in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:8–9, *KJV*). The Apostle Paul gave similar admonitions (1 Corinthians 10:6–7; 2 Corinthians 6:14–17). However, in spite of these clear warnings, the history of the Israelites—and of the modern professing Christian churches—has been to ignore and reason around God's very clear instructions. Rebellious human beings have substituted customs that God says are evil, for festivals God designed to keep them mindful of His great plan of salvation and the true purpose of life. People professing to be Christian have listened to false teachers “who call evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20). They have been deceived by religious leaders, “who suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18). **T h e y h a v e** “exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and

served the creature [pagan customs] rather than the Creator” (Romans 1:25).

But you, personally, can make a different choice. When you start observing the biblical festivals God has ordained, you will begin to understand what life is all about. The Bible and the world around you will begin to make sense as never before. The excitement and fulfillment you will experience will make the frivolities and falsehoods of pagan holiday practices seem empty by comparison. If you have not already done so, please write to the regional office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine) and request your free copy of our booklet, *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*. Then you will truly begin to understand the reason for the season! ■

The Holy Days: God's Master Plan



God's annual festivals are filled with joy and meaning unknown to those who keep this world's man-made holidays. Learn about these Holy Days that will help you understand God's plan for you as never before!

**Write for our FREE booklet,
*The Holy Days:
God's Master Plan*
or download it from the Booklets
section of our Web site
www.tomorrowworld.org.**

Are Atheists Really “Fools”? (Continued from page 2)

another, it suits their books that the world should be meaningless” (p. 312).

Indeed, it is not “fashionable” to believe in a **real God**. For people like to deny the truth of revealed prophecy in His inspired word, the Bible. But the truth remains! If you have not already done so, write for your free subscription to our *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*. There, you will learn for yourself the truth about fulfilled prophecy. You will see, for example, how God inspired Isaiah to write about the activities of King Cyrus of Persia 200 years in advance—events confirmed by secular history and your Bible! Yes, my friends, this is a **real God**! *Is He real to you?*

People soon will **have to** believe in God—for He is *right now* beginning to intervene powerfully in world affairs in very specific ways which we at *Tomorrow’s World* have been telling you about for years! *Fulfilled prophecy* is very difficult for the skeptic to refute. For it not only *has happened*—as I indicated—but you can *now* see it continuing to happen all around you, if you truly understand prophecy and read your daily newspaper or watch a television channel that actually gives world news.

This *very Work*—which produces the *Tomorrow’s World* television program and *Tomorrow’s World* magazine—is a continuation of the Work led by Herbert W. Armstrong—a well-known servant of Christ who died in 1986 at age 93. In August 1950, he wrote in *The Plain Truth* magazine, “No all-out full-scale war is prophesied between Russia and the United States. The famous prophecy of Ezek. 38 and 39 foretells a Russian invasion of Palestine, much later, not against the North American continent” (p. 2).

Remember, dear reader, that back then the vast majority of Bible “prophecy students” were proclaiming that Ezekiel 38 foretold a Russian attack on the North American continent! Often, as we have noted repeatedly, Mr. Armstrong *stood alone* in proclaiming the **Truth** of what actually *was and is happening* in world affairs.

Writing in *The Good News* in April 1952, Mr. Armstrong proclaimed (at a time virtually **no one** expected this): “Russia may give East Germany back to the Germans and will be forced to relinquish her control over Hungary, Czechoslovakia and parts of Austria to com-

plete the ten nation union. Europe will have a free hand to destroy America and Britain as prophesied” (p. 16).

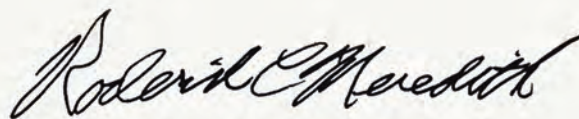
How could Mr. Armstrong possibly have known 37 years in advance that Russia was **not** to become America’s greatest challenge—and was **not** to attack us directly? How could he have known that Russia would, in fact, give East Germany back to the Germans and be forced to relinquish her control over Germany, Czechoslovakia and parts of Austria?

Because, my friends, there is a **real God** who inspired this information in His Holy Bible! That same God is speaking to your mind **now** through this Work! We have told you that *unless* America and the British-descended peoples come to a genuine *national repentance* such as has never been seen before, they will continue their downward spiral! Almost *everything* will seem to go wrong. For the Eternal God told our forefathers that if we do **not** obey His commandments and statutes, He would bring upon us “**terror**” and then “wasting disease and fever” (Leviticus 26:14–17). We have witnessed—and *will continue to witness*—all kinds of **terror**, including *terrorist attacks* on our cities, our seaports, our airports, our railway stations and our other forms of transport. And we will soon be entering a time of “wasting disease” such as we have *never experienced before*.

God tells us that if we will not repent, He “**will break the pride of your power**” (Leviticus 26:19).

To understand these facts, please write for our free booklets, *The Real God: Proofs and Promises* and *Prophecy Fulfilled: God’s Hand in World Affairs*. You need this vital information! You need to have the intellectual and spiritual honesty to *prove to yourself* that most of the “educated fools” around you who deny God’s existence are the ones who are *really* “out of touch”!

And you need—with *all your heart*—to get “in touch” with the **real God** who gives you life and breath, who is **now** intervening in human affairs before setting up His very **real Kingdom** or World Government to finally bring peace to a very confused world. May God help you to be willing to face genuine facts. And may He help you to act on the precious Truth that He alone can provide!



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QLD Brisbane QCTV 31 SUN 8:30 a.m.
 SA Adelaide Access 31 SUN 9:30 a.m.
 SA Adelaide Access 31 TUE 11:00 p.m.
 VIC Melbourne MCTC 31 SUN 7:00 a.m.
 VIC Melbourne MCTC 31 SUN 11:30 p.m.

BARBADOS:

St. Michael CBC 8 SUN 9:30 a.m.

CANADA:

BC Vancouver CHNU SUN 1:00 a.m.
 BC Vancouver CHNU SUN 4:00 a.m.
 BC Vancouver CHNU SUN 5:00 p.m.
 NS Halifax CHIF SUN 8:30 a.m.

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 Naval Bilinet 11 SUN 9:00 a.m.

SOUTH AFRICA:

Cape Town CTT SUN 11:00 a.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO:

Port of Spain CNC 3 SUN 7:00 a.m.

UK & NW EUROPE:

Gospel Sky TV 590 MON 7:00 p.m.
 WORD Sky TV 771 FRI 6:30 a.m.

UNITED STATES:

AK Anchorage KIMO SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Fairbanks KATN SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Juneau KJUD SUN 8:00 a.m.
 AL Birmingham WPXH WED 11:30 p.m.
 Dothan WTVY SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Montgomery WBMM SUN 7:00 a.m.
 AR Fort Smith KHBS SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Jonesboro KJOS SUN 7:00 a.m.
 AZ Phoenix KPPX WED 11:30 p.m.
 CA Bakersfield KGET SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Eureka KUVU SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Los Angeles KPXN THU 12:30 a.m.
 Monterey KION SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Palm Springs KCWQ SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Redding KHSL SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Sacramento KSPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 San Francisco KKPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 CO Denver KPXC WED 11:30 p.m.
 Grand Junction KJCT SUN 7:00 a.m.
 CT Hartford WHPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 DC Washington WPXW THU 12:30 a.m.
 FL Gainesville WCJB SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Jacksonville WPXC THU 12:30 a.m.
 Miami WPXM THU 12:30 a.m.
 Orlando WOPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Panama City WJHG SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Tampa WXPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 W. Palm Beach WPXP THU 12:30 a.m.
 GA Albany WBSK SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Atlanta WPXA THU 12:30 a.m.
 Augusta WAGT SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Columbus WLGA SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Macon WBMN SUN 8:00 a.m.
 HI Honolulu KPXO WED 11:30 p.m.
 Kailua-Kona KLEI WED 11:30 p.m.
 IA Cedar Rapids KPXR WED 11:30 p.m.
 Des Moines KFPP WED 11:30 p.m.
 Ottumwa KWOT SUN 7:00 a.m.
 ID Boise KNIN SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Idaho Falls KPIF SUN 7:00 a.m.

IL Bloomington WHOI SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Chicago WCPX WED 11:30 p.m.
 Chicago WGN SUN 5:00 a.m.
 Quincy WDEM SUN 7:00 a.m.
 IN Fort Wayne WPTA SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Indianapolis WIPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 KY Bowling Green WBKO SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Lexington WUPX WED 11:30 p.m.
 Louisville WBNA THU 12:30 a.m.
 LA Alexandria KBCA SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Lafayette KLWB SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Lake Charles WBLC SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Monroe KNOE SUN 7:00 a.m.
 New Orleans WPXL WED 11:30 p.m.
 MA Boston WBPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Vineyard Haven WDPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 ME Bangor WABI SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Presque Isle WBPQ SUN 8:00 a.m.
 MI Alpena WBAE SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Detroit WPXD THU 12:30 a.m.
 Grand Rapids WZPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Lansing WLAJ SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Marquette WBKP SUN 8:00 a.m.
 MN Duluth KDHL SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Mankato KWYE SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Minneapolis KPXM WED 11:30 p.m.
 Rochester KTTC SUN 7:00 a.m.
 MO Columbia KOMU SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Joplin KSXF SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Kansas City KPXE WED 11:30 p.m.
 MS Biloxi WBGP SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Columbus WCBT SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Greenwood WBWD SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Hattiesburg WBH SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Meridian WTOK SUN 7:00 a.m.
 MT Billings KTVQ SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Bozeman KXLF SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Butte KBZK SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Glendive KWZB SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Great Falls KRTV SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Helena KMTF SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Missoula KPAX SUN 7:00 a.m.
 NC Charlotte WAXN SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Fayetteville WFPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Greensboro WGPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Greenville WEPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Hickory WHKY MON 7:30 p.m.
 Jacksonville WPXU THU 12:30 a.m.
 Raleigh WRPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 ND Bismarck KWML SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Fargo WDAY SUN 7:00 a.m.
 NE Lincoln KCWL SUN 7:00 a.m.
 North Platte KWPL SUN 7:00 a.m.
 NH Concord WPXG THU 12:30 a.m.
 NV Reno KREN SUN 8:00 a.m.
 NY Albany WCWN SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Albany WYPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Binghamton WBNG SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Buffalo WPXJ THU 12:30 a.m.
 Elmira WENY SUN 8:00 a.m.
 New York WXPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Syracuse WSPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 OH Cleveland WVPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Lima WBOH SUN 8:00 a.m.
 OK Oklahoma City KOPX WED 11:30 p.m.
 Tulsa KTPX WED 11:30 p.m.
 OR Bend KTVZ SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Eugene KMTR SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Medford KTVL SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Portland KPXG THU 12:30 a.m.

PA Erie WSEE SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Philadelphia WPPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Wilkes-Barre WOPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 RI Providence WPXQ THU 12:30 a.m.
 SC Charleston WCBW SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Myrtle Beach WWMB SUN 8:00 a.m.
 SD Rapid City KWBH SUN 7:00 a.m.
 TN Jackson WBJK SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Knoxville WPXK WED 11:30 p.m.
 Memphis WPXX WED 11:30 p.m.
 Nashville WNPX WED 11:30 p.m.
 TX Abilene KTXS SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Amarillo KVIH SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Beaumont KFDM SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Corpus Christi KRIS SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Dallas KPXD WED 11:30 p.m.
 Harlingen KSFE SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Houston KPXB WED 11:30 p.m.
 Laredo KGNS SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Lubbock KLCW SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Lufkin KTRE SUN 6:30 a.m.
 Midland KWWT SUN 7:00 a.m.
 San Antonio KPXL WED 11:30 p.m.
 Tyler KLTV SUN 6:30 a.m.
 UT Salt Lake City KUPX WED 11:30 p.m.
 VA Charlottesville WVIR SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Norfolk WPXV THU 12:30 a.m.
 Roanoke WPXR THU 12:30 a.m.
 WA Seattle KWPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 Spokane KGPX THU 12:30 a.m.
 WI Eau Claire WXOW SUN 7:00 a.m.
 Milwaukee WPXE WED 11:30 p.m.
 Wausau WTPX WED 11:30 p.m.
 WV Bluefield WVVA SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Charleston WLPX THU 12:30 a.m.
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 Parkersburg WCWP SUN 8:00 a.m.
 WY Casper KGWC SUN 8:00 a.m.
 Casper KTWO SUN 10:00 a.m.
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 Cheyenne KLWY SUN 10:00 a.m.

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 WORD—CH 373, SUN 7:30 p.m. ET
 ION—Ch 305

■ Dish Network

WGN—CH 181, SUN 6:00 a.m. ET
 ION—Ch 216, THUR 12:30 a.m. ET/PT

■ Canada

VISION, Toronto—SUN 5:30 p.m. ET; MON 1:30 a.m.;
 MON-FRI 3:00 a.m. ET
 ON, Toronto: Grace Television—Cable,
 THUR 2:30 p.m., SAT 5:00 p.m.,
 SUN 4:00 p.m., WED 9:00 a.m. ET

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WGN: SUN 6:00 a.m. ET

WORD: SUN 7:30 p.m. ET

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TOMORROW'S WORLD TELECAST



America's Fall and Europe's Rise

Airs December 3-9

Europe's growing power is foretold in Bible prophecy!

What Will Save America?

Airs December 10-16

Can a declining nation recapture its former glory?

Why Must Christ Come Again?

Airs December 17-23

Surprisingly few know the real reason for His return!

The Missing Message

Airs December 24-30

What do people overlook when they celebrate Christmas?

Schedule subject to change