

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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## YOUR PROPHESED FUTURE!





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

## Was Jesus a “Nice” Person?

Is this crazy stuff? Why would I ask a question like this?

The answer is that **billions** of human beings have a completely distorted idea as to *who* the real Jesus Christ was, *how* He actually lived His life here on earth and *what* He truly taught! An **in-correct** understanding of all these questions will definitely affect your part in **eternal** life.

*Think!*

The vast majority of mainstream Protestants and Catholics have a **completely unbiblical** concept of *how* Jesus of Nazareth looked and acted, and *what* He would really do in many, many situations. This affects their *entire attitude* toward Christianity and toward their relationship with God Himself.

The **key**, of course, is *whether* we human beings will actually **believe** the Bible. For the **real** Jesus would **not** be widely accepted in modern Christianity or in “nice” society today. He did not teach that “all religions are equal,” or that we will “go to heaven” as our reward if only we will “be nice” to one another. The **true** Jesus Christ of the Bible cried out, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

If you are honest with yourself, you will have to admit that **this** Jesus Christ of the Bible would be rejected if He were to appear in the flesh today. How would our modern ministers and other leaders react to Jesus’ statement to the Syro-Phoenician woman who asked for healing for her daughter? Jesus said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs” (Matthew 15:26).

Wow! How would that “politically incorrect” statement come across in a meeting of the “Ministerial Alliance”?

Please understand. Jesus deeply loved all peoples. But He was not coming with a message that

“everybody is saved right here and now.” God has a Plan through which most people will have their one opportunity for salvation at the Great White Throne Judgment. In today’s age, people of all kinds are being called as “firstfruits”—but only a very few. Most of the people hearing Christ’s message then—and even today—are hearing it only as a “witness.”

So, when dealing with the Samaritan woman, Jesus forcefully stated, “You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22). How dare Jesus make such a “prejudicial” statement? **But He did!** For God did indeed give His primary revelation, at first, to the Israelitish people who were first given the “oracles of God,” as the Apostle Paul acknowledged in Romans 3:1–2. Indeed, Jesus’ faithful “bond slave,” the Apostle Paul, told the Gentile Christians at Ephesus, “Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:11–12). “Having *no hope* and *without God* in the world”? That is *exactly* what God told these Gentiles who did not know or understand the true God of Israel.

Paul reminded the young evangelist Timothy “that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:15–16).

When Timothy was a child, the “Holy Scriptures” he knew were the Old Testament scriptures. Most of

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# YOUR PROPHESED FUTURE!

By Roderick C. Meredith

*What is really ahead for those who trust  
and obey the God of the Bible?*

**You do not have long to wait!**

Most of you know that prophetic events are moving very swiftly these past few years. The Eternal God is certainly “breaking” the pride of American and British power as He prophesied so many years ago (Leviticus 26:19). Our finances, our way of life and our entire future are going to be dramatically changed within the next 10 to 15 years. The United States, many of its allies—especially the English-speaking peoples—and indeed much of the world will undergo revolutionary changes within this generation! A “New World” is coming soon!

Many assume that confusion and suffering will continue. Others who have no hope believe that our world will literally blow itself up—as even Jesus said could happen if God did not intervene (Matthew 24:22). However, Jesus directly foretold that a genuine world government will be set up at the end of this age, administering God’s law under His benevolent rule.

Yet Satan has massively deceived the vast majority of this world—perhaps including many of you! I was deceived for the first 19 years of my life as I grew up in a “mainstream” Protestant church. I felt that God had no specific purpose for my life. I assumed that, if I was a “good boy” and did not do too many

bad things, I would just “float off to heaven” when I died, and would have basically **nothing** to do. Most professing Christians have this kind of vague idea about their future, for a very real Satan the Devil has deceived them! Notice how Scripture describes Satan: “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the *Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world*; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9). The Apostle Paul was inspired to describe Satan as “the god of this age,” who has **blinded** those who do not believe, “lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Satan has put forth a false “paradigm” of the entire plan and purpose of God! A “paradigm” is a model or outline of an idea or theory. The “mainstream” paradigm of Christianity is that you “just believe” on Christ, go through certain church rituals, and then you will “float off to heaven” with virtually **nothing** to do.

But that is **not** what God clearly says in the Bible! You need to know the *Truth*. Jesus said, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17). For your Bible very clearly explains the truth of the very *definite future*. It is **real**. As you watch the swift-moving prophetic events—events we in this Work have *told you about for decades*—you will know that *this very future* is drawing near!

So, what is that magnificent future?

## YOUR FUTURE

God’s word clearly states that those who serve Him in this age will become kings and priests in a *future world government*, teaching people God’s *entire way of life*. This coming government will be set up—*within the lifetimes of most of you reading this*—when Jesus Christ returns to this earth as King of kings: “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever’” (Revelation 11:15). Since Christ returns as King “of” kings, **who** will be the **other** kings? The answer is clearly stated in the inspired “Song of the Saints,” which praises Christ and states, “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and *have made us kings and priests* to our God; and *we shall reign on the earth*” (Revelation 5:9–10). Notice! The eternal reward for faithful Christians is

not floating off to heaven. Rather, it is the awesome opportunity to serve under Christ the King, to bring *peace* and joy to the people right here *on this earth!*

This is *exactly* what God inspired the prophet Daniel to write, hundreds of years before the Apostle John: “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Daniel 7:27).

For true Christians, those who are willing to *understand* and to *obey* the instructions of God and the Bible—they are instructed to look forward to **ruling** over cities *on this earth*. In rewarding His “faithful” servants in the famous “Parable of the Nobleman,” the returning Jesus Christ is pictured as stating, “Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, **have authority over ten cities**” (Luke 19:17).

The Apostle Paul was inspired to instruct the Corinthian Christians, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” (1 Corinthians 6:2–3).

This entire passage reveals that the “saints will judge the world.” God is talking about the true saints of God who are *learning and practicing right government* (vv. 1–2). Paul was also inspired to write, “If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?” (1 Corinthians 6:4–5). God inspired the Apostle Paul to teach His people that they must learn to *practice*

*right government*. They must learn to exercise proper wisdom in order to “judge” the world in Christ’s coming government. They must develop such wisdom so that they could even be used to “judge angels” in Tomorrow’s World as Spirit-beings in God’s very Family—as the angels are to be our *servants*, even more directly than now! This matter of **right government** is absolutely **basic** in understanding God’s Plan and His purpose in working with His people today!

### AN ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT

Scripture sets forth a *governmental structure* in the Kingdom of God. Christ will be “King of kings” (Revelation 19:16). King David of Israel will be king *over all twelve nations* of Israel, *resurrected* and placed right back in his old job. Describing the “latter days,” the prophet Hosea wrote, “Afterward the children of Israel shall return, and seek the LORD their God *and David their king*. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the *latter days*” (Hosea 3:5). And Jesus told the apostles, “And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and *sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel*” (Luke 22:29–30). Then, as we just read in the Parable of the Nobleman, individual Christians will be placed in charge of local governments *all over the earth*. So the organizational structure over Israel in Christ’s coming government is as follows: first, Jesus Christ as King of kings; then, King David over all twelve “tribes” or **nations** of Israel; then, each of the twelve apostles being given authority over one of the nations of Israel.

No doubt other key positions will be occupied by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Elijah, Elisha and other great men and women of God. It should be obvious—based

upon God’s revelation, which is the “mind of God”—that Abraham, the “father of the faithful” (Romans 4:11) will have a *very high* position as a key advisor to God over all the earth, helped by Isaac, Jacob and others.

As David anciently was placed over all the House of Israel—which has now become the mighty nations of America and the British-descended nations and the peaceful, democratic nations of northwestern Europe—perhaps Daniel may be given the opportunity to rule, under Christ, over the activities of the Gentile nations. For he was used by God to interact with them in a very powerful way under the *greatest* Gentile empire of all, ancient Babylon (Daniel 2:37–49). And *Moses*—who was used by God to actually institute His form of hierarchical government—will perhaps be used by God in a key position to coordinate the activities of *all the earth* and the various governing bodies established under Christ.

Additionally, many individual saints—today’s *true* Christians who are the “overcomers” (Revelation 2:26–27)—will be given direct authority to govern individual cities (Luke 19:17). Notice that the highest accord given by God to *any* of the “seven churches of Revelation” (Revelation 2–3) is accorded to the *Philadelphia* church, which was *faithful* to God, and to the “**key of David**”—which has *everything* to do with *right government*. And what is the reward of the Philadelphians? God tells them, “He who **overcomes**, I will make him a **pillar** in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name” (Revelation 3:12).

*Think about it!* If we truly go “all out” to give our lives to our Creator, our wonderful opportunity

to assist Christ in straightening out this world is *specifically explained* in the Bible! **Why** has “mainstream” Christianity never taught you this magnificent **Truth**?

My friends, is all this information about the awesome opportunity for true Christians *ruling the world* under Jesus Christ just a *newly invented* idea of some small group? **No way!**

For many, many respected historians specifically record the fact that the early Christians were taught *this very Truth!* Edward Gibbon, the famous historian who wrote the monumental and highly respected work, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, wrote about the practices and beliefs of the early Christians. He wrote **not** as a theologian, but as a secular historian who tried to get his facts **straight!** Here is what Gibbon wrote about the early Christians:

“The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of the creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition which was attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed to six thousand years. By the same analogy it was inferred that this long period of labour and contention, which was now almost elapsed, would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand years; and that Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection” (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, p. 403).

**Why** did the developing Roman church not continue this teaching? **Why** was this not taught through the Dark Ages, and then by the Protestant churches? **Why?** Gibbon continues, “But when the edifice of the church was almost completed, the temporary support was laid aside. The doctrine of Christ’s reign upon earth was at first treated as a profound allegory, was considered by degrees as a doubtful and useless opinion, and was at length rejected as the absurd invention of heresy and fanaticism” (*ibid.*, p. 404).



That, my friends, is **why** many of your Protestant and Catholic friends think that *you* are “fanatic” if you come to finally believe *what the Bible actually says* about heaven, hell, the very **purpose** of human life, and the **opportunity** you and I will have in Christ’s soon-coming Kingdom. That is one reason **why** we are commanded by God to “come out” of the modern religio-political system that God labels “Babylon” (Revelation 18:4)!

We who truly *believe* God’s *inspired word* must look forward to and actually **prepare** ourselves to fully learn and practice God’s government *today*. Then, we will be *very familiar* with the basic principles of how it ought to work and thus *far more prepared* to take our positions as kings and priests in Christ’s soon-coming government! **Why** have you never been taught these basic truths before?

## CHRIST’S GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

Describing Christ’s coming government, we are told repeatedly that the *entire world* will be learning to “keep the commandments,” as Jesus instructed the young man who asked the way to eternal life (Matthew 19:17). Regarding the “latter days,” notice what God inspired Isaiah to write about them. “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). Notice that “out of Zion shall go forth the law.” Do you for one minute think God is talking about “traffic laws”?

From one end of the Bible to the other, God makes it plain that His basic spiritual laws are set forth in the **Ten Commandments!** These fundamental principles tell us **how** to love God and **how** to love our neighbors. These laws, along with God’s *statutes* in the Old Testament—as magnified by Christ and the apostles—will be the *firm basis* of Christ’s pattern of government in Tomorrow’s World.

The prophet Micah was inspired to tell us essentially the same thing regarding the *pattern of God’s government* in Tomorrow’s World: “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted

above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' *For out of Zion the law shall go forth*, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift

up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken" (Micah 4:1-4).

Notice that each one will sit under his *own* vine and fig tree. There will be property ownership and a correct form of capitalism. It will **not** be a form of communism or collectivism wherein the government usurps the authority over private property the way today's governments often do. A man will be able to reap the fruit of his own labor! For even the Sabbath commandment includes this statement, "Six days you shall labor and do *all your work*, but the **seventh day** is the Sabbath of the LORD your God" (Exodus 20:9-10).

In his early years, ancient King Solomon and all twelve nations of Israel were given *awesome blessings* for obeying God's commands. "So if you walk in My ways, to keep My *statutes* and My *commandments*, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days" (1 Kings 3:14). As Solomon—on the whole—obeyed these basic commandments to *live by God's laws* and have them properly administered, God tells us, "So Solomon reigned over



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all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. *They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life...* And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon" (1 Kings 4:21, 25). In

Tomorrow's World, therefore, there will be a degree of *peace and joy never before experienced* on a worldwide basis in all human experience!

Describing the peoples of modern Britain,

America and northwestern Europe returning from their captivity after the prophesied Great Tribulation, God's word describes the *peace* and the **blessings** they will then experience after this time of sorrow: "Instead of bronze I will bring gold, instead of iron I will bring silver, instead of wood, bronze, and instead of stones, iron. I will also make your officers peace, and your magistrates righteousness. Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls

Salvation, and your gates Praise.... Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended. Also your people shall all be righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified" (Isaiah 60:17-18, 20-21).

The Eternal God proclaims to our peoples regarding that coming time of restoration, "Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But you shall be named the priests of the LORD, they shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; *everlasting joy shall be theirs*" (Isaiah 61:5-7).

### ISRAEL: THE PROTOTYPE

Throughout the Bible, Israel is used as a *type* of all nations. Even as the Gentile nations will be "grafted into" *spiritual Israel* in

## YOUR ULTIMATE DESTINY



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Tomorrow's World (Romans 11), so will the *entire world* experience such blessings as all people learn to “seek” the true God of Israel—and to obey His law and His wonderful way of life, which brings peace.

Describing events in the “latter days” just ahead of us, the Eternal God tells what is going to happen to “all” the families of Israel as they return from the Great Tribulation (Jeremiah 30:24; 31–32). Then God continues, “Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the ends of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and the one who labors with child, together; a great throng shall return there. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, in a straight way in which they shall not stumble; for I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn” (Jeremiah 31:8–9).

As God brings back *literally tens of millions* of captives from the Great Tribulation that will come upon the American and British-descended peoples, many of our friends and relatives themselves may come back “with weeping and with supplications” (v. 9). People will finally be ready to **listen** to the Eternal God and what He clearly states in His inspired word! Then, as God says, “Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of the LORD—for wheat and new wine and oil, for the young of the flock and the herd; their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, and they shall sorrow no more at all” (v. 12).

So, Almighty God will wonderfully **ble**ss the modern descendants of Israel and Judah

if they finally come to genuine repentance and begin to obey His commandments and live His ways. For God will make a “New Covenant” with them at that time, “Behold, the days are coming”, says the LORD, ‘when



I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took

them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them’, says the LORD. ‘But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: *I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Jeremiah 31:31–33).

### GOD’S LAW IN PEOPLES HEARTS AND MINDS

Yes, God will then put His law in their minds and in their hearts. People will learn to have a **living faith** and truly **surrender** to *let Jesus Christ live within them*. A “key” *explanation of such faith* is found in Paul’s epistle to the Galatians: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20, KJV).

In Tomorrow’s World, under Christ’s direct instruction, people will begin to actually **do** this rather than just **talk** about how they “love the Lord”—while constantly **disobeying** nearly everything the Lord specifically taught!

God states, “And I will cause the captives of Judah and the

captives of Israel to return, and will rebuild those places as at the first. I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me. Then it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honor before all nations of the earth, who shall hear all the good that I do to them; they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and all the prosperity that I provide for it” (Jeremiah 33:7–9).

Describing this wonderful time of Christ’s soon-coming **rule** over this earth, God’s word tells us, “Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king’s Son. He will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice. The mountains will bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor” (Psalm 72:1–4).

Continuing, God states: “Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy. He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight” (vv. 11–14). Yes, the **needy** will be delivered, the **poor** will be helped and God will *redeem* the lives of all who are oppressed. The life of *every human being* of whatever sex, race or color will be “precious” in the sight of God and of His Spirit-born sons—which should include *all of us*—in the magnificent future promised for each of us, *if* we come to **believe** the word of God and **obey** what our Creator instructs us.

Truly, our prophesied future is **awesome!** ■



# Questions & Answers

**Question:** Most professing Christians believe that the saved will go to heaven at death. But they have little or no idea about what they will do in heaven. What does the Bible teach is the reward of the saved?

**Answer:** The belief in “going to heaven” at death is not only held by most professing Christians. People all over the world, of many religions, cling to a belief in some kind of afterlife—some type of “reward” or blissful afterlife after death.

Surprising as it may seem, neither Jesus nor the Apostles taught that the righteous go to heaven when they die! The “reward” Jesus promises His faithful followers (Revelation 22:12) is not heaven; in fact, its immediate focus involves ruling with Him on the earth. Note the admission of this secular encyclopedia:

“The dominant view in the early church seems to have been that until the return of the Lord upon the clouds of heaven to raise the dead, those who had died were asleep, and that they would be suddenly awakened to be given their new bodies, after which they would reign with Him on earth for a thousand years” (“Heaven,” *The New International Encyclopedia*, 1st edition).

The early Church of God, which Jesus Christ established, did not teach the concept of “going to heaven” as our eternal destiny. This idea did not gain wide acceptance until long after the Apostles had died. Rather, Jesus plainly told His disciples: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man” (John 3:13). The Apostle Peter said that obedient King David, a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22), “is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day... For David did not ascend into the heavens” (Acts 2:29, 34).

Even righteous King David did not go to heaven when he died! He is still dead, as are all the righteous men and women of God who have died. They are awaiting the resurrection from the dead, at which time they will receive spirit bodies that will never die (1 Corinthians 15:50–53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).

Eternal life is the gift of God (Romans 6:23), which Spirit-begotten Christians are to receive when resurrected or changed. But what is the “reward” Jesus will bring with Him?

Christ said that at His return He will reward all overcomers—all who grow in the spiritual character of God. Some will overcome and grow more than others, and Jesus said that He “will reward each according to his works” (Matthew 16:27; cf. Revelation 22:12).

God’s saints will not be strumming on harps up in heaven for eternity. Their destiny is infinitely more glorious and exciting! The Bible reveals that the “reward of the saved” will be rulership of the earth with Jesus Christ after He returns (Revelation 2:26; 3:21; 5:10). Jesus Christ and the resurrected Christians shall rule for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4–6). They will teach the nations God’s way of life, which shall bring lasting peace, prosperity and joy to all mankind. This does not mean that the resurrected saints may never visit heaven, wherein God the Father resides; the point is that they will have a job to do—and that job will be focused on doing God the Father’s will here on the earth, under the rule of Jesus Christ!

Scripture tells us that after God’s great Master Plan of salvation for mankind is complete, the surface of the earth will be purified by fire (2 Peter 3:10–12). A new earth and new heavens will emerge (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1). And the glorious new capital of the earth—the “New Jerusalem” sparkling with precious stones and with streets of transparent pure gold (Revelation 21:18–21)—will descend from heaven (Revelation 21:2, 10; 3:12). God the Father will then come and dwell **on the earth** in person, and will make the New Jerusalem the location of His glorious throne (Revelation 21:3, 22–23; 22:3–5), from where He and His immortal saints will rule the entire universe!

To learn more about this amazing plan that God has in store for His faithful saints, please write for your free copy of our booklet *Your Ultimate Destiny*. The surprising and breathtaking truth is that “heaven” is coming to the earth—the very headquarters from which the God Family will rule the universe forever!



# CHRISTMAS: *The Missing Message*

By Richard F. Ames

What does Christmas mean to you? For many people, it is the most festive time of the year. Families come together to exchange gifts under a Christmas tree, perhaps near a fireplace where a Yule log is burning. Children beg Santa Claus to bring them their most desired presents. All around are traditional decorations—holly wreaths, mistletoe, bright lights and tinsel. From time to time, one may even find a “nativity” scene and a sincere desire to mark the birth of Jesus Christ.

For most retailers in professing Christian nations, the Christmas season is the most profitable time of the year, accounting for up to 40 percent—sometimes more—of annual sales. Christmas-related promotions may begin weeks—even months—before December 25. Santa Claus and his reindeer have been used to sell products ranging from soda to electric razors!

This year, in a time of economic downturn, businesses are concerned that Christmas revenues may be weak. As one reporter noted during “back to school shopping” season last August, “Consumers who feel threatened by the economy may delay their frugality until November and December. Little Jimmy needs notebooks, pencils and clothes for school. He does not need an Xbox Kinect for Christmas” (Back-to-school shoppers aren’t scrimping—yet,” *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, August 18, 2011). It remains to be seen whether 2011 will reverse the anemic trends of some recent years.

Of course, for the wealthy, options abound. One famous upscale department store featured in its 2011 Christmas catalogue a life-sized edible gingerbread playhouse for children—at a price of \$15,000!

Even for those of more modest means, “Christmas shopping” is one of the central traditions of the season. But the nature of Christmas shopping is changing in the Internet age. Earlier this year, British marketing firm eDigital Research reported that, in 2011, about one-third of consumers will be spending at least half of their Christmas-shopping budget online, while one in four will do up to three-fourths of their shopping on the Internet (“Gains for mobile shopping,” eDigital Research, August 24, 2011).

So, is Jesus’ message about consumerism? Is it a message of stress for those who rush about trying to stretch tight finances to purchase coveted consumer goods for friends and loved ones? Is it a message of guilt for those who do not spend enough, and a message of greed for those who are eager

to receive the generous gifts of those around them?

Many of the millions who exchange gifts this year will assume they are following a tradition established by the Magi—the “wise men” from the East who came to pay their respects to Jesus. But is there more to that story than the common traditions assume?



### THE MAGI

Scripture describes the arrival of the Magi in Jerusalem as they searched for the prophesied King of the Jews. “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him’” (Matthew 2:1–2).

What happened when they found Him? “And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (v. 11).

Had the Magi come to offer “birthday presents”? No! They had come to “worship” a child they had recognized as King of the Jews! They were offering tribute to a king!

Notice that Jesus was in “the house”—not in a manger—by the time the Magi visited Him! The Magi visited when Jesus was no longer a baby or an infant, but rather when He was a “child.” The *NIV Study Bible* comments about this visit: “Contrary to tradition, the Magi did not visit Jesus at the manger on the night of His birth as did the

shepherds. They came some months later and visited Him as a ‘child’ in his ‘house’” (pp. 1442, 1444).

Just how old was Jesus when the Magi came to visit? From Scripture we know an upper limit. An angel warned Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus (Matthew 2:13). King Herod was not looking for an infant to kill—he ordered the murder of all male children two years old and younger in the Bethlehem area (v. 16). Jesus had to have been at least several months old when the Magi came to worship Him!

### BIRTH OF A KING

As you can see, the true biblical account is quite different from the traditions that inventive men have created around it. The birth of Jesus was the birth of a king. What purpose was revealed to Mary, Jesus’ mother, regarding His birth? “Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end’” (Luke 1:30–33).

About 30 years later, Jesus began His full-time ministry. And what was His message? It was a message of a coming Kingdom—a Kingdom of which there will be no end! “Now

after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel’” (Mark 1:14–15).

The angel Gabriel announced that Jesus was to rule a Kingdom that would never end. Jesus Himself preached the gospel, the good news, of the coming Kingdom of God! One popular Christmas-time tradition today involves *Messiah*, the famous oratorio written in 1741 by English composer George Frideric Handel. Many of us have heard, set to Handel’s music, the stirring words from the prophet Isaiah, announcing the revelation of the Messiah: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a

Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).



Yes, Jesus Christ—the Messiah—is now preparing to return to this

earth and to establish world peace. He is the Prince of Peace. But, how will He establish world peace? Notice the next verse: “Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:7).

Can you imagine total world peace? Can you imagine peace and prosperity among all nations? This

is what will happen when Christ establishes His Kingdom on earth! The prophet Zechariah wrote of the time when all nations will send representatives to worship in Jerusalem: “And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles” (Zechariah 14:16).

### KEEP THE FEAST?

The New Testament Church of the first century knew the prophecies of Christ’s coming, and they knew Christ’s message—yet the New Testament Church did not observe Christmas! Rather, it observed the same Holy Days that Jesus Christ observed.

Have you ever observed the day of Pentecost? The New Testament apostles did. You can read the fascinating story in the book of Acts. You can read how thousands were converted on the day of Pentecost. Why were they observing the day of Pentecost? Because it was one of the annual Holy Days commanded in the Bible. As the *NIV Study Bible* states: “Pentecost is also called the Feast of Weeks (Dt 16:10), the Feast of Harvest (Ex 23:16) and the day of firstfruits (Nu 28:26)” (p. 1645).

The biblical day of Pentecost began the New Testament Christian Church! If you sincerely want to live by the Bible, you will also want to observe this biblical festival every year! Did you know that the annual Holy Days reveal God’s plan of salvation for all humanity? Consider another of the annual biblical Holy Days: the Feast of Trumpets. The Feast of Trumpets signifies the return of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. If professing Christians would observe the biblical Holy Days, they would understand the missing message. The

seven trumpets blown during the year-long Day of the Lord constitute the seventh seal of Revelation, the last book in your Bible. Here is the great announcement that will shake the governments of every nation on earth! “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become



the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” (Revelation 11:15).

We all look forward to that time, and I urge you, if you are not already following Christ’s instructions, to pray “Your Kingdom come!” The only way the world will ever experience lasting peace among nations is by Christ establishing world peace and teaching the nations how to achieve peace. The world must learn the way to peace. Christ and the saints will

re-educate the nations, and teach them to love God and to love their neighbors. Notice this inspiring prophecy, “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” (Isaiah 2:3).

Today, nations are warring against nations. World War III will envelop the whole world in a conflagration that must be stopped by the King of kings. The nations will gather at Megiddo and prepare to fight Christ at His coming. That battle is commonly referred to as Armageddon, and your Bible describes it as “the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:14).

The nations will lose that war! Christ will reign triumphantly! Thank God, that Christ was born to be the King over planet Earth. The seventh trumpet will announce to the world that the nations now belong to the King of kings. God’s loving plan for all humanity is revealed in the biblical festivals and

Continued on page 29

## THE HOLY DAYS: GOD’S MASTER PLAN



Instead of Christmas and other man-made counterfeit holidays that draw people away from God, why not celebrate the annual festivals God intended for His people?

Write for our **FREE** booklet, *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.TomorrowsWorld.org](http://www.TomorrowsWorld.org).



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for your hard work. You have enlightened me and have lifted my confidence. When I see all that is happening in the world, I am not alarmed, neither am I frightened or afraid because I know there will be order at the end of all this chaos, as is promised by our Lord and Savior. Please pray for me and my family, and for God to give us the strength and wisdom to guide us through these times.

D. C., St. Elizabeth, Jamaica

Thank you so much for your literature. I now know the truth and am enlightened by seeing prophecy coming true in the nightly news. I enjoyed the *Bible Study Course* and I keep it because it has a lot of information that a Christian needs in his walk with Christ.

W. C., Navasota, TX

I want you to continue sending me the *Tomorrow's World* magazine. It helps me a lot in my understanding of the Bible. Before, I did not know the meaning of the Bible prophecies. But when I began reading your magazines, my eyes were opened and I began to understand the signs of the times. Thank you so much for sending them free of charge.

P. M., Chula Vista, CA

Thank you for your free literature. It is a great source of study tools for better understanding of the Bible. Your teaching skills cannot compare to any other source. I've learned more in the past few months than I have in many years.

S. H., York, AL

As I grow as a Christian I always think of what I've learned from Bible study, your booklets, and your program. I give thanks to the Lord for giving me the understanding to guide me through this life. I never miss your program, and I look forward to receiving the *Tomorrow's World* magazine. Each time it comes I lose

myself in the articles, and use them in my personal Bible study. Thank you very much for rightly dividing the truth.

P. R., Mauston, WI

I just want to thank you so much for all the wonderful truth that you are sharing with so many around the world. I stumbled onto your program last Sunday and was very impressed—not to mention very comforted.

C. B., Miltion Mills, NH

I have already received two issues of your wonderful magazine. I must tell you that its articles are very interesting, above all the one about restoring original Christianity, which I consider essential and vital nowadays. This last topic has been in my heart because I'm really thirsty for the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

W. F., Nuevitas Camaguey, Cuba

I am so grateful that I requested your booklet, *Satan's Counterfeit Christianity*. So many of us, as you stated in this booklet, have taken on some of these wrong ways. When I finished reading, I repented to God for not knowing. I truly want to live and be a true Christian. I always pray and ask God for more wisdom and knowledge also understanding of His word. This booklet has opened my eyes.

G. L. Stockton, CA

I would just like to let *Tomorrow's World* know that I really enjoy reading your articles and booklets. They are packed with information. I just want to encourage you to keep doing what you're doing. I believe that the message that you provide is easy to understand. Sometimes when I pick up one of your booklets and start reading I can't put it down. I would definitely tell a friend about you all, because I feel like your ministry is a reliable source. Thank you!

C.F., Southern Pines, NC

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

# LONDON CA

## London Burns!

The charred and blackened timbers of buildings have been removed, but the scars will remain in the minds of some Londoners for a long time to come. For four nights last August, thousands of rioters ran amok through the streets of London. Copycat outbreaks took place in Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham and Bristol. After looting and vandalising shops, hooded youths proceeded to torch what remained. Well-organized thugs deliberately attacked police and fire-crews.

Cars, shops and private homes were engulfed by flames. Five people died in the maelstrom. A furniture store in Croydon, run by the same family for five generations, was burnt to the ground, after trading from the same premises since 1867 and surviving the London Blitz!

What amazed and shocked Londoners was that, when those arrested appeared in court in the days following the riots, there was a broad cross-section of offenders. Yes, the stereotypical poor and unemployed youths were there.

But so, too, were a father in his thirties, a postman and an eleven-year-old boy. Also arrested was the daughter of a wealthy businessman who already “had everything.” It is alleged that she stole £5,000 worth of electrical goods, even though she still lives at home with her parents, in a house set in large grounds with a tennis court!

What has gone wrong? Amidst the handwringing and introspection of politicians and police, the answers do not come easily. The hackneyed words of the humanists just do not ring true at all. Words such as, “poverty, racism and social disadvantage,” which are normally wheeled out as the cause of rioting like this, seem hollow when set against the viciousness of the attacks and the profile of the attackers. There was far too much evidence of calculated planning by gang leaders to simply explain this away as a spontaneous act.

Prime Minister David Cameron offered a sobering assessment of the situation. He said that Britain had

been “suffering from a slow-motion moral collapse for decades.” Speaking in his electorate in Oxfordshire, he continued, “This has been a wake-up call for our country. Social problems that have been festering for decades have exploded in our face.” He said that, “Society is riven with irresponsibility, selfishness and a lack of responsibility. Too many children grow up without fathers, schools fail to instil discipline and rewards are handed out without effort and criminal behaviour goes unpunished” (“Cameron promises to tackle ‘moral collapse’ after riots,” *The Times*, August 15, 2011, p. 3).

Many believe he is right.

### RISK AND REWARD

*The Spectator*’s cover story for August 13, 2011, was titled, “Burning Issues.” Notice how the magazine assessed the cause of the riots: “There have been enough riots around the world in recent decades to give us a fair idea about what causes them. Poverty and political discontent are rarely

the primary triggers. Riots are, most of all about a calculation of **risk and reward**.” Clearly, those involved thought they could get away with it. But they should be seen for what they are—criminals committing the crimes of “breaking and entering,” with theft, destruction of property and arson. Some even faced charges of murder in Birmingham, after three young men died when they were allegedly run down on purpose by a car involved in the mayhem.

The rioters took the risk—and some got away with it. But more than 2,000 were arrested, and by mid-September just over 1,700 had been charged.

In the days following the riots, court data revealed new information about the offenders. According to reporter Andrew Gilligan, in *The Sunday Telegraph* of August 21, 2011, “Almost none of those charged with rioting in Ealing, Clapham Junction, Enfield and other places, come from the immediate areas... Of 26 people charged over the Ealing riots, only three came from Ealing itself” (“London



# LLING

riots were orchestrated by outsiders,” August 21, 2011, p. 4). The article concludes that there was a high degree of orchestration by well-organised professional criminals who were after high-value goods. This was not just a case of a spontaneous uprising as a result of police brutality. It was a mid-summer rampage that had been organised by gang leaders across the full breadth of London.

The Bible speaks about such times as these, yet most people are not aware of the connexion between the prophecies of the Old Testament and today’s modern nations. In particular, *Tomorrow’s World* continues to emphasise the special relevance of the Old Testament prophets to modern-day Americans, Britons and northwest Europeans—the modern-day descendants, along with the Jews, of the ancient tribes of Israel and Judah. For more on this connexion, please request your free copy of our informative booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. Order or read it online at [www.TomorrowsWorld.org](http://www.TomorrowsWorld.org), or request your copy from the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine).

Please notice God’s words to the modern-day descendants of Joseph, “I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. The people will be oppressed, every one by another and every one by his neighbor; the child will be insolent toward the elder, and the base toward the honorable” (Isaiah 3:4–5).

## WHEN A NATION REJECTS GOD

When a nation rejects God’s law as the basis for its morality, it is axiomatic that it instead adopts humanistic values and reasoning. And humanistic philosophy would have us believe that **human nature is inherently good**. But is it? Are we as human beings essentially good with a little bit of evil surfacing from time to time? The answer may surprise you. The prophet Jeremiah stated it succinctly. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can

know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). The Apostle Paul added, “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the **law of God**, nor indeed can be” (Romans 8:7).

The deception of many humanists is so profound that they will vehemently reject the simple statement that children need to be taught what is right and what is wrong. Yet truth, decency, the work ethic and kindness are not inherent in children. These are *learned* principles, which are derived from the “law of God,” as summarised by the Ten Commandments. You can learn more about these principles by requesting your copy of our free booklet, *The Ten Commandments*.



David Cameron

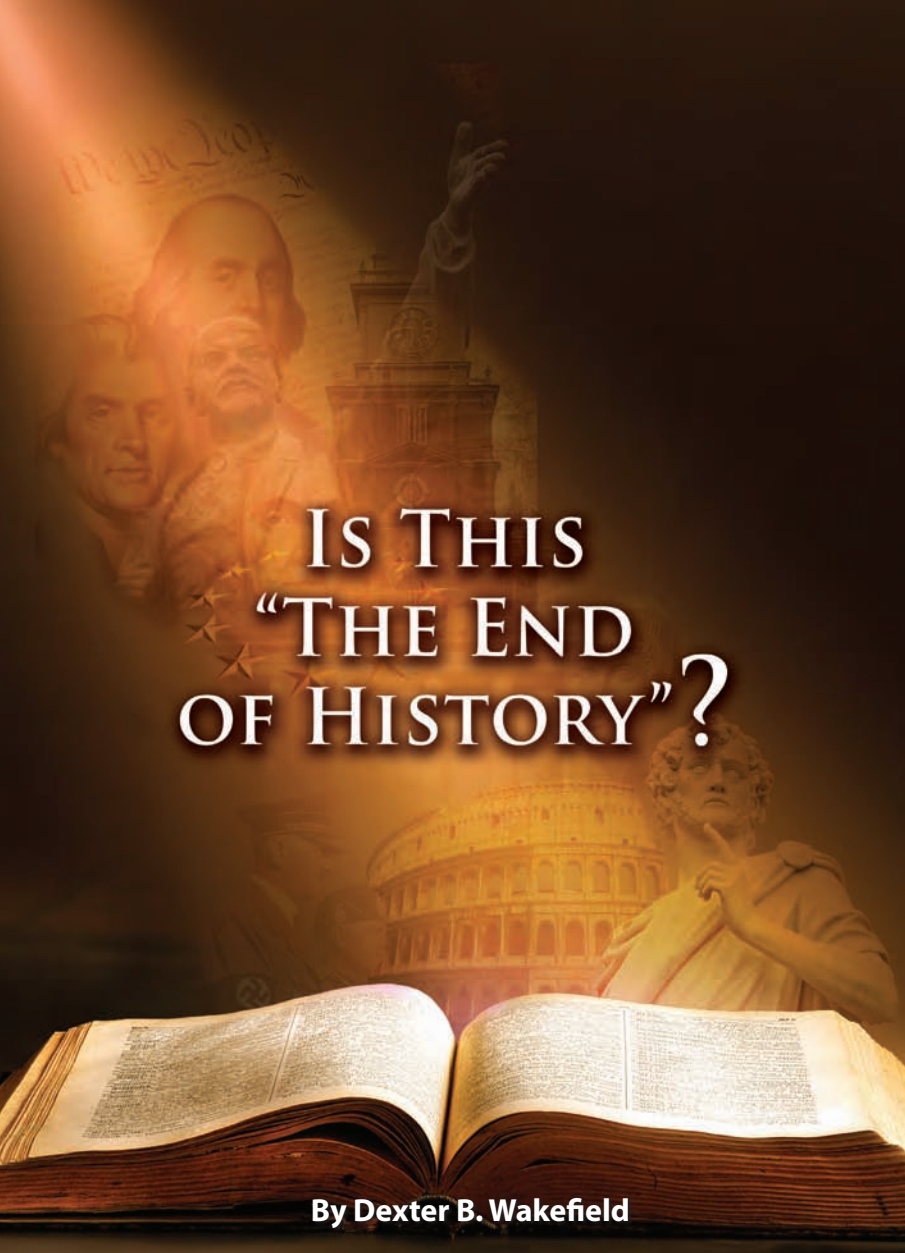
Prime Minister Cameron is talking tough now, but will his words be transmitted into action? If his Works and Pensions Minister, Iain Duncan Smith, has his way, yes they will—but Duncan Smith is not just carrying a big stick, he is carrying a carrot as well. He wants to implement similar policies to those that have worked in Boston, Massachusetts and in Glasgow, Scotland. These involve offering gang members education and protection. Many gang members admit they are unwilling participants in their

gang, pressed into it by intimidation and bullying.

By breaking the back of the gangs and locking up the ringleaders, violence, crime and extortion subside dramatically. “Then,” as Fraser Nelson said, writing in the August 20 edition of *The Spectator*, “decent people take back the streets as they did in New York, and suddenly those communities start to thrive.”

Many in Britain really do believe the nation has been given a last wake-up call. Unless the culture of “soft-on-criminals” not only changes, but is replaced with the empowerment of parents to better discipline their children, the country is going to descend into anarchy. Years of dithering by equivocating politicians has not worked. Will the government “blink first” or continue to stare down a failed and broken morality?

—Rod King



# IS THIS “THE END OF HISTORY”?

By Dexter B. Wakefield

In the wake of turmoil in the Arab world, many Western scholars and political leaders have assumed the region is on the verge of an “Arab Spring”—a flowering of Western democracy in a region formerly given to tribal and religious allegiances.

Common among these observers is the idea that Western-style liberal democracy is the best form of human government. Many consider liberal democracy not just a form of government, but rather the natural consequence of the intellectual and social evolution of mankind.

Perhaps the most famous of such theorists living today is Dr. Francis Fukuyama, currently a professor of political theory at Stanford University. Shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union, Fukuyama published a widely read essay in which he made a memorable statement: “What we may be witnessing is not just the end of the Cold War, or the passing of a particular period of post-war history, but the *end of history* as such: that is, the *end point* of mankind’s ideological

evolution and the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the *final form of human government*” (“The End of History,” *The National Interest*, Summer 1989, p. 4).

Was Fukuyama right? Will Western-style liberal democracy be “the final form of human government”? Does the whole world’s future look like the European Union and the United States? Many people hope so, but others have reached very different conclusions. So, what does the future *really* look like, and is it possible to know?

## THE BATTLE OF NARRATIVES

History is a story about the past, but the narrator’s point of view makes a big difference in how that story is told. Different narrators, with different worldviews, will include or exclude different facts, based on what they consider relevant and important. For example, a history of Jerusalem will sound very different if presented by an Israeli than if presented by a Palestinian. Context is important.

Political historians will from time to time try to craft a “*Universal History*” by identifying patterns, trends or principles in the past through which they can extend their historical narrative into the future, making it predictive. This is what Fukuyama did, by observing that concepts of human rights have evolved, leading to political changes that have generally moved in the overall direction of greater political and economic liberty (notwithstanding some violent and bloody conflicts along the way). For instance, the American Revolution ended the rule of a British monarch over British colonies in America, resulting in a new republic—The United States of America. Similarly, other peoples around the world have overthrown colonial or autocratic rulers and replaced them with liberal democracies.

Of course, this has not always been the case. It should not be forgotten that in post-World War I Germany, the National Socialist (Nazi) party came into power



through the exercise of democracy. Yet, even in this case, the overall trend saw Germany after World War II becoming a textbook model of democratic government. As with Germany, there have been many stops and starts, but Fukuyama is far from alone among political historians in seeing a long-term historical trend through which country after country moves inexorably toward adopting liberal democracy as the best and final form of government.

But what about other theories of the future? Karl Marx, author of *The Communist Manifesto*, offered a very different narrative of history, presenting a very different view of the future. Marx saw history as a series of clashes by different economic classes seeking material goods. He believed that the poorer working class would rise in revolt against the wealthier capitalist class, pushing back and forth throughout history until a final, perfect condition of society would be reached, which Marx called *communism*. Marx expected that communism would represent the end of the evolution of human political development. As such, borrowing a phrase from the German philosopher J.W.F. Hegel, (1770–1831), Marx said that communism would represent “*the end of history*.”

Marx’s vision of the future was once extremely influential, but now it is widely discredited. Toward the end of the 20th century, as the centrally planned economies of the Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China began to falter, the Marxist narrative came into disrepute. Was there a flaw in the “communism” these nations practiced? Or could communism simply not compete successfully against capitalist economies, being unable to offer the greater prosperity and freedom that the Western democracies seemed to provide?

As the Soviet Union teetered on the edge of collapse in 1989, political theorist Fukuyama discounted one other historical narrative that was largely unrecognized in the West—the narrative of Islamic *jihād*. By 1992, however, his view had become more complex. On the one hand, Fukuyama wrote that the “appeal of Islam is potentially universal,” yet on the other hand he dismissed the Islamic narrative as having “virtually no appeal outside those areas that were culturally Islamic to begin



with” (*The End of History and the Last Man*, pp. 45–46).

### HISTORY THROUGH ISLAMIST EYES

The Islamist ideology that Fukuyama noted but dismissed has turned out to offer a powerful narrative that appeals to many Muslims unhappy with Western values and ideals. In this view of history, the “end of history” will come when a great leader, the *Mahdi*, will soon rise to reestablish *the Caliphate*, in which an autocrat, the Caliph, will rule through Sharia law (derived from the Qur’an and the reported sayings of Muhammad).

As a first step toward world domination, Islamists expect the Caliphate to retake the territories that Muslim rulers formerly occupied at the peak of Islam’s expansion in the late Middle Ages. Interestingly, this restoration of the Caliphate harmonizes well with biblical prophecy that tells of a coming “king of the South” that will play a key role in end-time

events before the return of Jesus Christ (Daniel 11:40).

Several Muslim nations (e.g. Afghanistan, Iran, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen) are already governed by some form of Sharia law. Others, such as Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Pakistan, Syria, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, mix Sharia with other systems. Far from being viewed as oppressive, Sharia is seen as a divine alternative to corrupt secular rule. University of Maryland researchers polled Arab nations in 2008 and found that substantial majorities in Pakistan, Egypt and Morocco favored the establishment of the Caliphate—which would mean autocratic Islamist rule! This is a preference that most people in Western democracies struggle to understand. But it is clear that while most Western analysts of the Middle East favor political and economic liberty, many if not most of the Muslims they are studying would prefer to be governed by Islamic law.

### WHAT ABOUT THE “ARAB SPRING?”

Demonstrations for democracy led to the fall of the Tunisian government in December 2010, and since then the “Tunisian Wind” has blown through Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria and Libya, producing political unrest and popular demands for democracy. This phenomenon has been called the “Arab Spring.” The Western democracies look at these demonstrations through hopeful eyes and foresee Western-style liberal democracies on the horizon for the Middle East.

Western leaders are optimistic about democracy spreading to the Middle East, and will bankroll it if they can. At a G8 meeting last May, British Prime Minister David Cameron said Britain plans to commit GB£110 million to help the uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East

succeed. “There is a real case for saying if you can secure greater democracy and freedom in countries like Egypt and Tunisia,” the Prime Minister said, “that is good for us back at home. . . . That will mean less extremism, it will mean more peace and prosperity, it will mean there will not be the pressure on immigration that may otherwise face our country. . . . I want a very simple and clear message to come out of this summit, and that is that the most powerful nations on earth have come together and are saying to those in the Middle East and North Africa who want greater democracy, greater freedom, greater civil rights, we are on your side.” At that same meeting, U.S.

President Barack Obama committed the United States to an aid package that could total US\$4 billion.

But the West may be surprised at how the peoples of the Middle East vote when they are given the opportunity. The “Arab Spring” may turn into the “Islamist Winter.” Historians and theorists like Fukuyama see the history of the last century as a grand battle between totalitarianism (in both its socialist and fascist forms) and democracy—a battle they believe democracy has won. But there are others who see the coming century as a battle between Western values and Islamic values. Islamists agree, and their narrative of the next century is dramatically at odds with what many Western political theorists expect.

### **FUTURE HISTORY: THE 7,000-YEAR BOOK**

History can be seen as a nearly infinite collection of human interactions, conversations and conflicts—both great and small. Therefore, historians must make

choices among events to create a narrative of the past. The inclusion or exclusion of a single fact can greatly change how we perceive a historical event.

So, who is right? Whose perspective can be trusted?

Reality is the world as *God* sees it. So, has God provided His true and accurate narrative of world events? There is one book that gives a unique understanding of a 7,000-year period of history, during which God is working out His plan for humanity!



That 7,000-year book is the Bible. Though composed by writer after writer, century after century, the Bible maintains one consistent narrative and one point of view—that of the “God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” It begins in the book of Genesis, recounts 6,000 years of human misrule over planet Earth, then reveals the good news of Jesus Christ’s thousand-year rule on the Earth, followed by a time of final judgment. Though the Bible does give some information about the time before Adam and the time after the final judgment of humanity, its historical narrative is mostly about a 7,000-year “week” of thousand-year “days.” This concept was well known to Christ’s first followers. Consider these words of the Apostle Peter, written in a Millennial context: “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8).

Although the biblical narrative explains that the final thousand-year period will be a “Millennium”

under the benevolent rule of Jesus Christ, human history limits us in determining exactly when that final “day” of the 7,000-year week will begin. We can look at a few biblical milestones and compare them to lists of Israelite kings, but because of some uncertainties (such as how the kings’ accession years are recorded) we can only fix the start of the Millennium to within a general time frame God wants us to be aware of (Mark 13:28). “But of that day and hour no one knows” (Mark 13:32). Only He knows the precise timing.

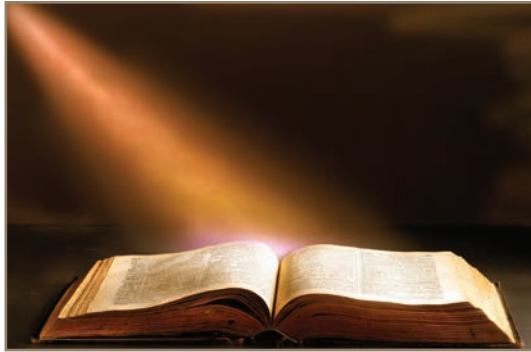
Human history is vast, but the “7,000-year book” contains the past and future history we need to know to understand God’s plan for humanity. It records the important conversations, instructs us in the right way of life, and contains the future history—the prophecy—that we need to know. The Bible lets us understand the past, present and future in the context of a *completed narrative of history*. And those with “eyes to see and ears to hear” can see its consistent purpose. It is a **narrative told by God.**

### **SEVEN THOUSAND-YEAR “DAYS”**

Historically, both the ancient Jews and the first-century Christian Church understood from Scripture that human civilization would consist of 6,000 years of human rule, followed by a thousand-year period under the rule of the Messiah (the “Anointed One” or, in Greek, *Christos*). Among the historians who mention this doctrine in the early Christian era are Irenaeus, Ketina, Lactantius, Victorinus, Hippolytus, Justin Martyr and Methodius. It is also found prominently in the writings of the Sanhedrin of Jesus’ day.

Scripture makes this clear. We read: “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment

was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and



reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4–6).

Most of today’s professing Christians dismiss this 7,000-year narrative of history altogether, or allegorize it in order to fit better with their own beliefs about humanity’s history and future. But, between God’s narrative and man’s, which do you expect will win out?

### BACK TO THE BATTLE

Long ago, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob challenged mankind to foretell what will happen in the future, and His challenge still stands! “Remember this, and show yourselves men; recall to mind, O you transgressors. 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 46:8–10).

It is clear that human predictions of the future are greatly affected by the events we think are relevant to our view of the past. But we do not need to rely on our own guesses—*God has given us a completed narrative of past and future history!* We just need to place world events into it correctly.

Most people, however, reject what God reveals and assume that they can be informed solely by the world around them. Those who do not “retain God in their knowledge” (Romans 1:28) will of course respond differently than those who are willing to let God’s word—His own narrative—inform them about their past and their future. Scripture acknowledges that there are spiritual matters that can only be discerned spiritually (1 Corinthians 2:14). God reveals that the world is in darkness, but God’s word illuminates it for us—if we are willing to see. Whose

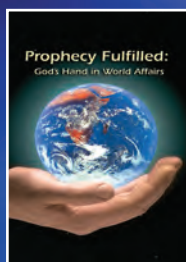
narrative of history do you trust? Fukuyama’s? The Islamists’? Some other?

### AND THE WINNER IS...

The Bible offers us God’s own narrative that presents us with *the actual* “final form of government.” Today’s Christians, taking part in that government, will be “kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:10). That reign will be under the overall rule of Jesus Christ, the King of kings. “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and *the government will be upon His shoulder*. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6–7).

This “end of history” will be just the beginning! Until then, we should follow Jesus Christ’s instructions in Matthew 6:10, where He told His followers always to pray, “Your kingdom come!” ■

## PROPHECY FULFILLED: GOD’S HAND IN WORLD AFFAIRS



God is working out a plan to bring human beings into the very Family of God. History is not a random series of events; it is God’s tool to bring people and nations into harmony with His way.

Write for our **FREE** booklet, **Prophecy Fulfilled: God’s Hand in World Affairs** or download it from the **Booklets** section of our **Web site** [www.TomorrowsWorld.org](http://www.TomorrowsWorld.org)

# PROPHECY Co

## Coming: A “United States of Europe”!

The burgeoning financial crisis spreading through the nations of the European Union is generating increasing calls for the creation of a *real federal government* for Europe—a United States of Europe! For many in the media and secular government circles, this is a *fresh new development* in the ongoing quest for a *politically unified* Europe. However, Bible prophecies have *long foretold* that such an event would occur at a critical time in human history—a time referred to as the “end of the age” and just before the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. These remarkable events in Europe bear watching, as ancient Bible prophecies *come alive* in our headlines today!

### THE RISING CHORUS!

Speaking in Berlin, former German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder called for the creation of a “United States of Europe... to avoid future economic crises,” declaring “we will have to give up national sovereignty” to a common government (“Former German leader calls for ‘United States of Europe,’” *Reuters.com*, September 4, 2011). This conviction is being voiced increasingly around the world!

At a conference in Paris, officials of the European Central Bank stated that dealing with the financial crisis in Europe would *require* the European project to be “completed” and that this would require a “federal government with a federal finance minister” (“Spectre of fresh EU treaty returns to haunt ‘incomplete’ Europe,” *euobserver.com*, September 6, 2011). The Council on the Future of Europe has issued a policy statement calling for *both a fiscal union and a political union* of the European states that will include a “common security, energy, climate, immigration

and foreign policy”—all administered by a central European entity—and that moves in this direction are “inevitable” (*ibid.*).

Recently, the head of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, observed that dealing with the European debt crisis *requires* quicker and more decisive action, and that “the markets are *demanding more integration* at least in the euro area” (“Markets will drive a two-speed Europe, says Barroso,” *euobserver.com*, September 7, 2011). In New York, an official with Citigroup, the largest financial services firm in the world, said “the eurozone is likely to fall apart unless the European Union’s member states *fuse both on the fiscal and political level*... Europe needs to stand up and decide if it is going to be a ‘United States of Europe’ or a ‘patchwork quilt’ of independent states” (“Citigroup says only

‘United States of Europe’ will save euro,” *euobserver.com*, April 21, 2011).

This rising chorus of voices is beginning to *urgently echo ideas* that have been circulating in Europe for some time. Now the same ideas are being heard across the political spectrum in Germany. “German Euro-federalists have woken up after a long slumber. It is no surprise that Joschka Fischer, the Greens’ elder statesman, should call for the ‘United States of Europe’. More striking is that Gerhard Schröder, a former Social Democratic chancellor, uttered the same words, as did Ursula von der Leyen, the labour minister and a leading Christian Democrat” (“Germany’s euro question,” *The Economist*, September 10, 2011).

In his book, *The United States of Europe*, former Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt has pleaded for the creation of a federal government to establish a





# MES ALIVE

“United States of Europe.” He envisions a more deeply integrated Europe that could boost the continent’s economy and more effectively fight organized crime.

## ANCIENT PROPHECIES COME ALIVE!

While modern scholars and skeptics assume the Bible is nothing more than a collection of myths and legends, the God of the Bible boldly claims that He alone is capable of “declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying ‘My counsel shall stand’” (Isaiah 46:8–10). About 2,500 years ago, the God of the Bible revealed to the prophet Daniel that a fragile federation (iron and clay) with links to the ancient Roman Empire would arise in Europe just prior to the return of Jesus Christ to this earth (Daniel 2:34–44). During the first century AD, the Apostle John prophesied that the *relatively sudden rise* of a powerful *political “beast”* capable of making war will *surprise* the world, and that this beast will be aided by another beast—a *great religious leader* who will work signs and wonders and deceive the peoples of the world to follow the political beast for a period of 42 months—3½ years (Revelation 13). John predicted that *ten kings* will give their power and authority (surrender their sovereignty) to this political beast—and this satanic system will make war with the returning Jesus Christ (Revelation 17:12–14). The European political beast is also pictured as an *economic power* deeply involved with the merchants of the earth—who will mourn when Jesus Christ brings the whole system down at His return (Revelation 18).

In light of these ancient prophecies about the surprising appearance of a European power with war-making powers and links to the global economy, it is sobering indeed, to see world events developing along the same lines! Not only is the European debt crisis generating calls for a United States of Europe, the biggest EU countries (France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain) “want to develop a plan for a European Union military headquarters” to conduct military operations around the world—despite objections by Great Britain (“EU countries propose military headquarters,” *United*

*Press International*, September 9, 2011). This initiative could lead to the fulfillment of a long-cherished goal of creating a *European Army*. While Bible prophecies speak of *ten kings* being part of this European beast, it is worth noting that EU treaties provide an option that allows “*nine or more* member states to press ahead on an EU project without the others.” The “core” members of a newly minted United States of Europe could fulfill these prophecies in the days just ahead!

At the same time that the leading nations of Europe are proposing to forge ahead with federal European plans, comments are being aired about *reducing the status or the number* of countries in the 27-nation European Union. A growing chorus of politicians across the EU, including senior-level German lawmakers, are now openly discussing the “taboo” of excluding Greece from the euro zone (“Deficit Sinners’ Flags Should Fly at Half-Mast,” *Der Spiegel*, September 9, 2011).

Several founding members of the EU have proposed making highly indebted states “wards” of the European Commission to monitor their financial condition. “The prime minister of the Netherlands on Wednesday said that countries receiving aid should either cede control over their budgets or leave the euro zone. ‘Countries which are not prepared to be placed under administratorship can choose to use the possibility to leave the euro zone,’ the Dutch prime minister, Mark Rutte, said” (“European Leaders Escalate Tough Talk on Greece,” *New York Times*, September 8, 2011). The ideas currently under discussion—to *reduce the number* of nations in the eurozone or forge ahead with a *core group* of nations to form a United States of Europe—would certainly help these ancient prophecies *come alive today*—right before our eyes!

Contrary to what secular skeptics want to believe today, Bible prophecies have been inspired and preserved by a *real God*—the God of this universe—who is bringing to pass what He predicted thousands of years ago. This is why Jesus Christ warned “Watch... 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” at His coming (Luke 21:36).

—Douglas S. Winnail



# ON SHAKY GROUND

By Rod McNair

*Two hundred years after a historic earthquake struck the town of New Madrid, will we be ready when the next “big one” strikes?*

“At just past 2:00 a.m. on Monday morning, December 16, 1811, most of the residents of New Madrid, Missouri, were asleep when their reverie was suddenly broken by the sounds of their sturdy cabins creaking. The small town’s citizens were thrown from their beds, which began to shake violently. The floors heaved wildly, and the walls groaned, wrenching from their foundations.... Many of the cabins crumbled, falling to the ground in piles of rubble. Some caught on fire as the logs in the walls fell like toothpicks into the fireplaces that were meant to keep the residents warm that chilly night.” This is how author William Atkinson, in his book *The Next New Madrid Earthquake*, described the most powerful series of earthquakes the United States has ever experienced (p. 9). The temblors originated in what is now called the New Madrid Seismic Zone, an area stretching from west of Memphis, Tennessee into southern Illinois. By mid-March 1812, three earthquakes estimated at magnitude 7 to 8 on the Richter scale had struck, as had hundreds of

aftershocks. Shaking was felt from the Rocky Mountains in the western U.S. to the Capitol in Washington DC, and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Author James Penick points out that the area in which moderate tremors could be felt reached a shocking one million square miles (*The New Madrid Earthquakes*, p. 6).

Though the earthquakes were severe, casualties were low, as the area at that time was only sparsely populated. Those earthquakes of two centuries ago left their mark on the landscape of the Midwest. “The earthquakes caused the ground to rise and fall—bending the trees until their branches intertwined and opening deep cracks in the ground. Deep seated landslides occurred along the steeper bluffs and hillsides; large areas of land were uplifted permanently; and still larger areas sank and were covered with water that erupted through fissures or craterlets... High banks caved and collapsed into the river; sand bars and points of islands gave way; whole islands disappeared” (“Pentagon Nightmare: Fukushima on the Mississippi,” *WIRED.com*, August 24, 2011). Huge waves sank many boats and deposited others high up the banks of the Mississippi River. The big river even appeared to flow backward for a time as a result of these awesome temblors.

How would people cope if another monster earthquake were to strike the central U.S. today? Could this really happen? *Will it happen?*

## WHAT IF...

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has held exercises to find out how people may respond in the event of another major earthquake in the New Madrid area. On May 16, 2011, more than 10,000 rescue personnel gathered at 135 sites across the region to simulate the response to a 7.7 magnitude earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, combined with a secondary 6.0 quake triggered in the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone, centered at Mt. Carmel, Illinois (“National Level Exercise 2011 Quick Look Report,” Federal Emergency

Management Administration, June 14, 2011).

The results were chilling. Officials estimated a death toll of 100,000 out of 15 million people living in the quake zone. More than seven million would be displaced, with two million needing emergency shelter. Direct financial losses would total \$300 billion, with indirect costs soaring to double that. Furthermore, with 15 nuclear power plants in the region, the U.S. could have its own “Fukushima on the Mississippi,” with a disaster quickly spinning out of control.

Such a quake would bring truly disastrous consequences for the Midwest. “If the nightmare scenario comes, government officials worry that state and federal authorities will not be able to handle the ‘cascading failures’ that follow,” according to Paul Stockland, senior homeland security official for the U.S. Defense Department, at a recent Aspen Security Forum gathering. “A couple of things keep me up at night,” he said, explaining that another New Madrid quake is one of them. “[It is] so much bigger than anything we’ve faced—way beyond Hurricane Katrina” (“Pentagon Quake Nightmare: Fukushima on the Mississippi,” *WIRED.com*, August 24, 2011).

Experts agree that the “worst-case scenario” could be catastrophic, but they differ as to the probability of such a catastrophe. Some say a repeat of the 1811–12 quakes is long overdue. Others say the chances are slim. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates a 25–50 percent risk that a magnitude 6 or higher quake will strike the New Madrid Seismic zone in the next few decades, and that there is a 10 percent chance of a quake with magnitude 7 or higher (“New Madrid Earthquake Bicentennial Remains Central Topic

at Memphis Conference,” *USGS.gov*, April 15, 2011).

Should we be concerned? Most experts say it is impossible to predict an earthquake. Instead, they deal with probabilities—little better than guesswork, because quakes can strike anywhere, anytime. The 5.8 magnitude earthquake last August



View along one side of New Madrid fault “fissure” near the banks of the St. Francis River in Clay County, Arkansas. © Courtesy of U.S.G.S.

23 that struck near Richmond, Virginia—where no known fault is—is a reminder of this. Every family should prepare ahead of time for what to do in case of earthquake or other emergency.

Beyond this, there is a factor that cannot be ignored. There is a God of heaven and earth, who created all things, and who uses physical forces to accomplish His divine will. As sinning humanity spirals *out of control*, the Bible warns that there will be more—and more powerful—earthquakes to *wake us up!* Considering this clear warning from Scripture, we *all* should be concerned.

### HIGH PROBABILITY

Careful readers of the Bible understand that God uses weather events to humble us, to teach us lessons through suffering and to encourage us to draw closer to Him. When Jesus Christ addressed His disciples on the Mount of Olives, He

warned of what would happen in the days just prior to His return, saying: “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars... For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:6–8).

God has a plan for human history (see “Is This ‘The End of History?’” on page 16 of this issue). The first 6,000 years of that plan—mankind’s time to go its own way and *bear the pain and consequences for doing so*—will soon come to a close. Scripture warns that, just before this age ends, we will enter a time of calamity like none that has ever come before. As Christ said, these are just “the beginning of sorrows.”

God will use earthquakes in a *powerful way* as He intervenes dramatically on earth: “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’” (Revelation 6:12–17).

Do we believe God when He says this will happen? That He will literally shake the earth to wake

up His children who are going the wrong way? God is not pleased with the *moral degradation* of the U.S. and other nations that *profess* to be “Christian” while leading the world in behavior He says He “hates” (Malachi 2:16)! The Western nations kill unborn babies and call it “family planning” and a matter of “choice.” A *majority* of Americans now say they support same-sex “marriage” (“Connubial bliss in America,” *Economist*, July 30, 2011, p. 30) though the Bible—both Old Testament and New Testament—condemn homosexuality as an unnatural sin and abomination (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:27)!

Meanwhile, youths riot out of control in London streets, and “flash mobs” across the U.S. prey on retail stores in a disturbing new crime trend. Some 40 million Americans are *regularly* involved in pornography on-line, destroying their own character and ripping apart the fabric of their marriages and families. As the American Psychological Society reported, “Finding pornography on the Internet is as easy as Googling the word ‘sex,’ as the 40 million Americans who visit porn Web sites each year can attest” (*APA Monitor*, November 2007, p. 50). Americans are no more disciplined financially, as their nation staggers under skyrocketing debt while its economy stagnates. Many are sensing that *something has gone terribly wrong!*

How long will it be before God removes His blessing? How long before He allows the U.S. and other modern descendants of ancient Israel to suffer a “Haiti”-sized earthquake, or a “Fukushima”-type disaster? God warns us against the *foolishness* of not taking His *gentle* correction, lest He need to use more severe methods to get our attention: “Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. Because I

have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded... Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me... For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them” (Proverbs 1:23–24, 28, 32).

The end of this age is drawing near. Are we willing to serve the God of heaven and earth, or are we only trying to serve ourselves?

Jesus Christ commands us to repent! Sadly, most will not heed that warning. Christ said, “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 24:12–13).

### THE WORLD’S MOST DANGEROUS FAULT-LINE

Where is the most dangerous fault-line today? Fault-lines are fractures in the earth’s crust. When rapid movement occurs in a fault area, energy is released and earthquakes result. So, which rifts pose the greatest threat to the U.S.? Which pose the greatest threat to the United Kingdom, Canada and the other modern descendants of ancient Israel?

No, not the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Not the San Andreas Fault in California, or the Aleutian Megathrust fault-line in Alaska. Not the fault that spawned the Christchurch earthquake in New Zealand.

The greatest danger we face *does not come from a fracture in the earth’s crust—it comes from a fracture in our*

*relationship with God.* God inspired the prophet Isaiah to write: “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. *But your*

*iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear”* (Isaiah 59:1–2). Truly, the most dangerous “fault-line” is in the *human heart and mind.* The most dangerous condition is to be in rebellion against God!

Notice how Isaiah describes sinning humanity: “For your

hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity... The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways; they have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace” (Isaiah 59:3–4, 8).

How will God be able to get the attention of such sinful and rebellious people? For one thing, He will *shake* the earth mightily! The Apostle John recorded this event in advance: “And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found” (Revelation 16:18–20).





It is sobering to imagine an earthquake stronger than *ever before in history*, which will cause cities all over the world to fall! But even after such divine intervention, human stubbornness is so great that some still will not repent: “And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great” (v. 21).

But what about you? If God is calling you today, are you responding? Are you seeking Him with heartfelt repentance? Isaiah also urged us: “Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:6–7).

God is merciful and forgiving, if we are willing to repent and turn away from sin, and *genuinely* do our best to live His way through His help. **Are you willing?**

### SOLID AS A ROCK

Calamities will intensify as the end of the age draws near. But God does not leave us without encouragement or direction in the coming perils. Along with warnings about the future, Jesus Christ reassured us, “See that you are not troubled” (Matthew 24:6) and, “Do not be terrified” (Luke 21:9). We need not face the future with fear! We can be at peace, even in troublesome times. God admonishes us to be careful and watchful, and to endure trials patiently, for “by your patience possess your souls” (Luke 21:19). As the world begins to disintegrate and crumble around us, Jesus Christ *implores* us not to

be *discouraged*, nor *distracted* from following Him faithfully.

However, He also commands us to amend our ways and to live in truth, righteousness and obedience. Does that mean we can earn salvation? Of course not! Salvation is a gift from God, not wages earned as a debt owed to us (Romans 4:4). But God makes it clear that we do earn a wage if we practice unrighteousness: sin, wickedness and rebellion against God’s law. That wage is pain, suffering and, eventually, death! “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Christ inspired John to write that, in the end times, the “earth” will miraculously *help* God’s people in the coming calamitous days. Notice what John recorded will happen as His faithful people flee to a place of refuge to escape the Tribulation: “But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water [armies] out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. *But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed*

*up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth*” (Revelation 12:14–16). God will cause a great earthquake to swallow up armies and forces sent by the Devil to destroy God’s people. Clearly, God is the greatest protection and only defense in the coming days!

How can you make sure you will be standing on solid ground in the coming tumultuous times? How can you and your family endure the coming collapse of our nations? *Repent and obey God from the heart!* As David said, “Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved” (Psalm 55:22). Jesus Christ said, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock” (Matthew 7:24–25).

Do not let the coming earthquakes and other natural disasters catch you and your family off guard. Be ready for emergencies. Be prepared. Have a plan. But, most of all, *put your spiritual house in order*. God is our rock, our shelter, and our defense. When the “Big One” hits, make sure you are *standing on solid ground!* ■

## WHO CONTROLS THE WEATHER?



Will you obey God and reap His many blessings, or will you persist in rebellion and have to learn “the hard way” as end-time natural disasters increase? God is using the weather to “get our attention” if only we will listen!

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

# TOMORROW'S

## Turning Points

Nearly all successful people have had the experience of coming to a turning point in their lives. Faced with a difficult decision, and at serious risk of failure, they must make a choice. Will they give up and fail, letting circumstances get the best of them? Or will they set goals that will lead them to success in spite of adversity? At the moment when you or I are facing our greatest challenges, it may seem almost impossible to rise above them and work toward success. But it can be done—as many have demonstrated!

### FROM HOMELESS TO HARVARD

Liz Murray grew up in the Bronx, New York, reared by parents who were drug addicts. As a toddler still in a stroller, she would park herself outside the door while Mom and Dad busied themselves with preparations to shoot up with heroin or snort cocaine at the kitchen table. Because of their parents' addiction, Murray and her older sister were often neglected, and would routinely go hungry. Once, they were so hungry that they shared a tube of lip balm and a tube of toothpaste to eat!

When she was 15 years old, Murray left home. Her parents had separated, and she did not feel welcome at her mother's boyfriend's apartment. At first, she stayed with friends, but she eventually found herself homeless—sleeping in stairwells, on trains and in Central Park. During this time, she felt worthless. “For me, I remember a distinct feeling of sitting outside in the park, and I thought: How long would it take for somebody to realize I was gone and that I had sort of fell off the grid and been invisible, swallowed up into the ground, and the ground had shut over me? Like, my existence really didn't even matter” (“One Woman's Journey from Homeless to Harvard,” *NPR.org*, September 9, 2010).



When her mother died the following year, Murray had a realization that by being homeless in New York City at age 16, she was repeating the same pattern as her mother. Murray also recalled how her mother had shared her dreams for a better life, “Lizzie, one day, I'll get sober. Lizzie, one day, our lives will be better.” One day. It was always about ‘later’ and ‘one day’” (*ibid.*).

The sobering parallel—between a mother's unfulfilled life and the path her daughter's life was taking—is what brought Murray to her turning point.

While she was still homeless, Murray enrolled in an alternative high school where the teachers were supportive and encouraging. She thrived so well that she won a full scholarship to Harvard University. Now she is an author and motivational speaker, and is the founder and director of Manifest Living, a company that helps motivate adults to achieve their dreams.

Even though Murray's transformation was triggered by an event, the real change occurred in her mind. Because she did not want to end up like her mother, Murray understood that she had to change her outlook. As she told an interviewer, circumstances “taught me that life can change, that in one way, life is really a blank slate. Like, we get so invested in this is the way my life is, and I'm sure of it, but actually, every single day was a new chance. And I realized that I had the ability to carve out a life for myself, that it was in no way limited by what had already occurred in my past” (*ibid.*).

The same is true for anyone.

### MY PERSONAL CHALLENGE

While not nearly as dramatic, I was once challenged when facing what I believed to be an insurmountable



# YOUTH

obstacle—passing college math. I had struggled with math all through school, which led me to believe that I simply *could not* understand it. Because I had avoided any higher math courses in high school, the prospect of taking algebra and calculus in college terrified me.

The first test score of 30—followed by scores of 72, 32 and 31—confirmed to me that I was mathematically challenged. I will never forget the devastating feeling I had when I received my first mid-term report card showing that I was failing. I had visions of having to leave college in shame because of my grades. My parents' dream of their only college-attending child being a college success would be shattered. That thought greatly sobered me.

I had reached my turning point.

Quickly determining that it was my deeply rooted attitude that was preventing me from doing well in math, I resolved to change. I thought, "Phil, you are not too stupid to understand this—it's not that hard. You *can* do it!"

From that point on, I started to work hard to understand math. I averaged at least 3 hours a night doing math—every night of the school week. I attended every tutoring session. My friends would trade off helping me. For the first time I understood math, and something even more amazing happened—math began to be fun!

I surprised my friends, my instructor and especially myself by earning a score of 92 on my next test. The ultimate experience, though, came next. The incredible sense of accomplishment I felt at receiving a 100 on the next test is still one of the most rewarding memories of my life.

I knew at that point that I had turned around. I was on fire with a newborn love to learn, which ignited a better, more positive attitude in every aspect of my life. Instead of thinking, "I can't do it," I had proved to myself that I could. My work in all my classes improved, my

grade point average went up considerably by the end of the semester, and I did graduate.

As I look back, I see that I learned many valuable lessons from the whole experience. One was that once I changed my attitude toward math, the results changed. Instead of torturing myself by holding on to a negative attitude, being positive made success so much easier.

Another lesson was that it took the help of some caring people to help me out of my difficulties. This made a tremendous difference in my success, not only in math but also in every area of my life. By surrounding myself with positive, helpful influences, I was able to overcome a challenge that I never thought I could. Also, they made the battle

much more enjoyable!

Perhaps the most important lesson I learned was that true success only comes after diligent and continued effort. It took plain old work to break through my mathematical fog. I had to fight to catch up to where my friends already were, but I finally did it. The hard work paid off in the end.

## YOUR TURN

The Bible says, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Do you see yourself as a success or as a failure? Do you believe that who you are is already determined, and that there is nothing you can do about it? Perhaps your circumstances look bleak now, but that does not mean that they need to stay that way. We each determine much of the success of our own lives—and it starts in the mind.

One fact is sure: we all need to face turning points. The success of our lives can depend upon **how** we face them. As so many who have overcome their obstacles have shown, it is **our** choice.

—Phil Sena



# APPEARANCES

The story goes that a husband and wife were sitting at the counter in a diner, enjoying a cup of coffee, when the man nudged his spouse and said, “Honey, look at that old couple at the end of the bar! Someday, that will be us!” His wife glanced in that direction, then replied with some amusement, “But dear, don’t you realize that’s a mirror at the end of the bar? That’s us!”

Indeed, our mental self-image can be far from the reality of our situation. We seldom see ourselves as others see us. Yet if we are to grow in life, we need to have a proper mental image of ourselves—and of those around us.

We often tend to evaluate people by their outward appearance. For example, someone who is well groomed, well dressed and well spoken is usually afforded more respect and attention than someone who lacks those attributes. While this in itself is not an evil practice—and indeed there are times where grooming and attire are important—a wrong emphasis on this may lead us to be misled by a smooth-talking fraud, or to overlook the fine character and sound values of someone who may not be sophisticated or cosmopolitan in appearance.

Certainly, we should always put our best foot forward, and first impressions do last. Yet, we must not let this overshadow our appreciation of the vital attributes of good character, kindness and honesty. Taking the time to really get to know a person is absolutely essential if we want to determine who he or she really is.

The Bible contains some pointed instructions on this subject, from which we can learn valuable lessons. For example, when God rejected Saul because of his stubborn attitude and disobedience, Samuel was instructed to select a new king for Israel. The process led to the discovery of a young man whom no one had even considered at first.

Samuel first observed one of Jesse’s sons who appeared to be a good choice, “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at his

physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

After meeting Jesse’s other sons, none of whom God found acceptable, young David was summoned from the field where he had been caring for his father’s sheep. No one had thought of David, yet God saw something in him that others had overlooked. God’s judgment was proved, as David overcame many obstacles over a period of years to become the greatest king of Israel.

James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ, wrote on this subject in the New Testament. “My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ and say to the poor man, ‘You stand there,’ or, ‘Sit here at my footstool,’ have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?” And then, he continues, “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin” (James 2:1–4, 8–9).

In order to be well-rounded, and to be self-aware so that we can continue to grow, each of us needs to maintain an accurate self-image—one that is healthy but also realistic. And we should be equally careful to follow the admonition of the Apostle James and avoid showing partiality in our dealings with others, especially based on appearances. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “now we see in a mirror, dimly.”

Thankfully, the time will yet come when, in the Family of God, we will all know each other in truth. Request our booklet, *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?* to learn more about that wonderful soon-coming time.

—J. Davy Crockett, III



## Christmas: The Missing Message

Continued from page 12

holy days. Jesus and the apostles set us an example in observing biblical festivals and holy days, not pagan days and traditions with a Christian name. It is no accident that your Bible does not show Jesus or the Apostles observing Christmas—or any day set aside to commemorate Jesus' birth. Yet today, billions every year set aside December 25 as the day to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Why?

### DECEMBER 25?

You may be wondering whether anyone can even prove that Jesus was born on December 25. Many will be surprised to learn that we can prove He was **not** born on that date!

Consider what Scripture tells us. Joseph and Mary had traveled back to Bethlehem for the census mandated by Caesar Augustus. The city was crowded, so Joseph and Mary had to find alternative accommodations. Jesus was born in Bethlehem and placed in a manger or a feeding trough. Notice the setting and the time of year. "Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). Most Bible scholars plainly admit that shepherds were **not** in the field in December. The cold, rainy season began **long before** December 25. You can check most reputable Bible commentaries. Jesus was born in late September or early October near the time of an important biblical festival, the Feast of Trumpets.

*Who*, then, was born on December 25? As you can confirm in any reputable encyclopedia, December 25 was associated with the supposed birth of pre-Christian

deities long before anyone tried to claim it as the day of Jesus' birth. Mithra and Sol Invictus are two of the ancient figures for whom a December 25 birthdate is found.

### THE MISSING MESSAGE

Mankind's false traditions can distract us from the real meaning of Christ's birth and life. We saw that Jesus was born in the autumn of the

to produce sustainable agriculture: abundant fruits, vegetables, and grains. Christ will stabilize the weather to bring rain in due season. Children will play in the streets in peace (Zechariah 8:5). The nature of animals will become peaceable (Isaiah 11:6). People from all nations will come to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles and to worship the King, Jesus Christ (Zechariah 14:16).



**As December 25 approaches, what will you do? Will you go along with the false traditions of mankind, which hide the true message of Jesus Christ? Will you become caught up in consumerism, and in "Christian" festivities that were actually co-opted from false gods?**

year, not on December 25. He was born to be the King of a kingdom that would never end. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come" (Matthew 6:9–10).

We need the Kingdom of God! We are nearing the end of this age, the end of mankind's historic experiment with carnal societies and governments. The time is growing short, as we see many end-time prophecies coming to pass.

We can look forward to the return of Jesus Christ to this earth as King of kings. We can look forward to the coming Kingdom of God that will bring peace to all nations. Pray for the Kingdom to come! Look forward to His return as King of kings, and Lord of lords, as we read in Revelation 17:14 and Revelation 19:16. Christ and the saints will rule the world for a thousand years, as it states in Revelation 20:4–6. Look forward to a new world of peace and prosperity. All nations will have the opportunity

We are moving quickly toward the end of the present troubled age. And we are moving quickly toward the return of Jesus Christ to establish His peaceful millennial reign on planet Earth. Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14). He is coming as King of kings, and Lord of lords. Thank God that His Kingdom is coming! **That** is the missing message!

So, as December 25 approaches, what will you do? Will you go along with the fables that hide the true message of Jesus Christ? Will you become caught up in consumerism, and in "Christian" festivities that were actually co-opted from false gods? Will you look to false traditions—or will you look forward to the soon-coming return of the King of kings, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, to establish His Kingdom right here on planet Earth?

Do not let the false "Christmas" tradition distract you from the true message of Jesus Christ! ■

## Was Jesus a “Nice” Person?

Continued from page 2

the New Testament books did not yet exist! Paul says that these Old Testament scriptures are “able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” Paul saw no conflict between Old Testament scripture and Christian faith and practice, and confirmed that **all** Scripture (including the Old Testament) is profitable for *doctrine* and for *instruction in righteousness*. These are not the words of someone teaching that God’s Old Testament laws have been done away!

The Apostle Paul instructed Christians to “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). The Apostle John observed, “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked” (1 John 2:6).

These two, like all the Apostles, knew that Jesus Christ came to set the perfect **example**, and that Christians *ought to follow His example*, strengthened by the Holy Spirit. This was the commonplace understanding in the Apostle Paul’s day, as Christianity spread across the Roman Empire.

For Jesus Christ was a circumcised Jew (Luke 2:21–22; Hebrews 7:14). It was Jesus’ “custom” to keep the seventh-day Sabbath—right along with the other Jews (Luke 4:16). Far from abrogating God’s Sabbath, Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for “man”—**not** just the Jews, and that *He* was “Lord” of the Sabbath. So the Sabbath is, in fact, the true “Lord’s Day” as far as a day of rest and worship is concerned!

So, if you could somehow “look in on” true Christianity during the first century AD, what would you see? You would see a group of dedicated believers in Jesus as the promised Messiah. You would see a community of believers to whom the God of Israel, the God of Creation, was **real**. For these people would not just talk about the *person* of Jesus Christ. They would **do what He commanded**.

Do you now begin to understand that the true Christ of the Bible was absolutely “different” from the weak-looking “Sunday School Jesus” presented to most churchgoers today? Again, was Jesus not being “nice” when He told the religious leaders of His day, “Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city” (Matthew 23:33–34).

The *truth* is that Jesus Christ powerfully proclaimed the **one true God**. He powerfully proclaimed the **one way** that God intended. He did **not** endorse or consider in *any way* as “equal” all the other pagan religions of the world—past, present or future. He stated very clearly, “I am the **door** of the sheep. **All** who ever came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them” (John 10:7–8).

So, if you are willing to obey Jesus’ command, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word of God**” (Luke 4:4), then you will have to recognize that those who try to be “saved” or attain eternal life by following **anyone else** except the true Christ of the Bible are simply “out of line.” For God has and is now using *no one else* as the true revelator of God except Jesus Christ. That *true* Jesus Christ of the Bible will soon come back to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords—ruling the nations *on this earth*—not up in heaven! You need to realize that “He Himself will **rule** them with a **rod of iron**” (Revelation 19:15).

Why would Jesus use a “rod of iron”? Because, as the entire Bible indicates, God has allowed Satan the Devil to deceive **all nations**. In Revelation, the Apostle John writes about a final “spirit war” when the Devil will finally be cast down here for the last time: “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). Since people have been so *massively deceived*, hundreds of millions will literally **fight Christ** when He comes again as King of kings (Revelation 17:14).

The *true* Jesus Christ of the Bible really will “need” to use **overwhelming force** to convince people that He is the Son of God! People will need to be “shaken” in order to be willing to finally **obey** the true God of the Bible and *do what He says*.

Otherwise, they would continue their philosophizing, arguing and setting up their **own standards** of what *they* think is “nice” or “politically correct.” For *your good*, my friends, please learn to *study* and **believe** the literal words of your Bible and begin to “seek” the true God of the Bible, the true God of creation. God is **real**. You and I need to “get real” as the **end** of this age comes upon us.



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Fairbanks KATN SUN 6:00 a.m.  
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AL Dothan WTVY SUN 7:00 a.m.  
Montgomery WBMM SUN 7:00 a.m.  
AL Opelika WLGA SUN 7:00 a.m.  
AR Fort Smith KHBS SUN 7:00 a.m.  
Jonesboro KJOS SUN 7:00 a.m.  
AZ Phoenix KASW SUN 7:30 a.m.  
CA Bakersfield KGET SUN 8:00 a.m.  
Chico KHSL SUN 8:00 a.m.  
Eureka KUVU SUN 8:00 a.m.

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