

TOMORROW'S WORLD

November-December 2012 www.TomorrowsWorld.org

UNNATURAL DISASTERS

THE MOVIES FROM REEL TO REAL





A personal message from the Editorial Director, Richard F. Ames

Why Are We Here?

Greetings, friends! Our Editor in Chief, Dr. Roderick C. Meredith, has asked me to start writing these “Personal” messages a couple of times each year, so he can devote more time to other pressing projects. At age 82, Dr. Meredith remains more productive than many men far younger, and his dedication to the Work of God is an inspiration to all of us at *Tomorrow’s World*. You can look forward to reading Dr. Meredith’s next “Personal” message in the January-February 2013 issue of this magazine.

As some of you readers may be aware, this December marks the 60th anniversary of Dr. Meredith’s ordination as an Evangelist of Jesus Christ. We here at *Tomorrow’s World* are grateful for his continuing example of leadership, service and going “all out” to preach the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God to a world that desperately needs to hear the truth about God’s plan for mankind.

I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Meredith 50 years ago, in the autumn of 1962, when he taught my “Freshman Bible” class at Ambassador College. Over the years, I have been encouraged again and again by his example of dedication and zeal. No doubt it is Dr. Meredith’s continuing example that has allowed God to use him so powerfully to stand up for the truth, even while so many others have turned away from that truth, compromised, or distorted the message for their own personal gain. In an important sense, Dr. Meredith’s servant leadership is a foundational reason why we at *Tomorrow’s World* are here, continuing to proclaim the message of God’s Church, the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God, in sharp contrast to so many who call themselves “Christians” but whose daily lives demonstrate their love for the world, and their ignorance of God’s revealed purpose for their lives.

As you will see in my article on page 16 of this issue, “True Christian Success,” there is so much more to life than the pursuit of wealth, power, status and pleasure. God does not forbid us from having physical success—indeed, He wants us to have life “more abundantly” than those who do not obey Him (John 10:10). But, in order to do this, He teaches us to keep our physical efforts in harmony with our spiritual pursuits. As Christians, we are to seek the coming Kingdom of God, and the righteousness of God, first and foremost (Matthew 6:33). If we put God first, delighting in His ways, He promises that He will not only meet our needs; He will give us the desires of our heart (Psalm 37:4). Of course, those will be Christian desires, not carnal lusts and vile passions.

All around us, we see a world that does not know its purpose, in which billions of people are suffering. The global financial crisis continues to plague the United States and many other Western nations. The U.S., already the world’s greatest debtor nation, will soon face enormous added expense on top of its already massive financial obligations! A *Barron’s* article titled “Watch Out!” warns that “the costs of eldercare will drain the federal budget.” And: “For years, politicians and retirees could safely ignore the crisis facing America’s Social Security system. The problems lay in a distant, hazy future, far beyond the next Election Day and the next round of golf. This is now changing; the ground is starting to shake. The first of America’s 78 million baby boomers are turning 66, which means they’re eligible for full Social Security benefits.... In short, the future has arrived, and it doesn’t look pretty” (June 18, 2012, p. 23).

As our Western nations ever more brazenly reject the Ten Commandments and God’s way of life, we

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RESIST DEMONS!

By Roderick C. Meredith

Can you protect yourself against forces of evil that seem to be growing increasingly powerful in our world?

Wild and almost inexplicable things are happening. Seemingly “deranged” individuals are killing people in public places once thought safe. And unusual instances of *suicides* are increasing—often involving people who “seemed” normal just before killing themselves!

Why is all of this happening? What very few people—even most so-called “experts”—realize is that there is a very *real* “spirit world.” Satan the Devil is a *powerful* spirit being spoken of *many times* in your Bible. And Satan has a literal army of “demons”—fallen angels who rebelled against God along with him. The Devil uses these fallen angels to influence, deceive, discourage and even

“possess” human beings whom he specifically wants to attack.

Do you, personally, truly believe that the Bible is inspired by God? *If* you do, then this article can help you immensely. Otherwise, you are just reading “another man’s opinion.” May God help you *understand* His inspired word! What does He tell us about demons? What did Christ do? “Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, ‘Could this be the Son of David?’ Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, ‘This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler

of the demons.’ But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: ‘Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. *How then will his kingdom stand?*’” (Matthew 12:22–26).

These verses show that Satan the Devil has a “kingdom”—a kingdom filled with *demons*! Revelation 12:3–4 certainly indicates that Satan’s powerful influence caused about one-third of the entire angelic host to follow him in his rebellion against the Creator. There are *a lot of demons* out there! So, when the prophesied end-time “*spirit war*” breaks out, with Satan and his demons fighting against the armies of heaven (Revelation 12:7), millions of Satan’s fallen “angels” will be “cast out with him” (v. 9).

We are now entering a time of “spirit warfare” more dramatic than anything this world has experienced for a long, long time! For it is prophesied that, before the end of this present age, one of Satan’s *human* servants will *literally* make *fire* come down upon the earth in the sight of men (Revelation 13:13).

Satan and his demons infest this world’s atmosphere. So, your Bible calls Satan, “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who *now works* in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). He and his demons have *tremendous influence* in this world—in its society, its media and in the way human beings are often led to think. For Satan is a **murderer**. He and his demons resent the fact that—unlike the angels and the demons—we human beings are made in the “image” of God Himself, and that we have the awesome potential of becoming **full sons** of God. Therefore, Satan and his demons will try in every way they can to *prevent this from happening*.

As the ultimate **murderer**, Satan will attempt to **destroy** human beings in many different ways—through *religious deception*, political activity, wrong education and false “knowledge.” He and his demons are busy injecting attitudes of lust, envy, hatred and murder into often-unsuspecting human beings. Since Satan is the ultimate **liar**—the “father” of lies (John 8:44)—he and his demons even try to put a subtle “twist” of evil on seemingly noble ideas and activities, to *confuse* gullible human beings and turn them away from our Creator, the only *true* God.

MEDIA INFLUENCE

Western society, especially our *media*, continues to *saturate* people’s minds, from their very childhood, with strange images of an *unreal world*—often involving weird spirit beings, strange space creatures, horrible violence, and unusual characters portrayed sympathetically, like those in the Harry Potter series and the recent rash of “vampire” books and movies. It is no wonder that the minds of young people are so often confused between what is reality and what is *not reality*. Watching all this **stuff**, they also obviously become confused between what is good and what is evil.

Of course, most young people take all of this bizarre activity for granted. Some who read this article may even laugh that we at *Tomorrow’s World* are taking such things far too seriously. However, those of us who grew up at a time when there was *no such thing* as television or the Internet to make all these “weird

worlds” available—including many dark, foreboding “escapist” worlds, invented by cynical writers and producers who are *often influenced greatly* by liquor and drugs, and who commonly have *absolutely miserable marriages and family lives*—know that there is a different and better way.

What is the answer? It is not found in our human reasoning. For if we are willing to understand, we will find that only the inspired word of the Creator, who gives us life and breath, can show us the true

way to overcome the evils of this world, and live the way that brings ultimate peace and happiness.

King David of Israel—the “man after God’s own heart”—was inspired to declare, “I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. A

perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness” (Psalm 101:3–4). Yet, misguided humans are *continually* putting all kinds of “wicked” images and things before their eyes.

Countless millions of our young people pour into their minds graphic images of violence, perverted sex, cruelty, weird “space creatures” and “space wars”—projecting themselves into unreal worlds and situations where they are not involved with normal situations and decent standards of behavior. This naturally *perverts* their capacity to think logically and rationally—and certainly obstructs them from thinking *spiritually*, according to God’s word.

The Eternal God commands us, “Give no regard to mediums and



familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 19:31). God’s word continues, “And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 20:6–7).

The idea of dealing with “spirits” seems very fascinating to some people.

So, it is no surprise that many films and television programs have been devoted to portraying human contact with the spirit world as exciting, fascinating and even *helpful!* But what does this do? It involves bringing confused human beings into relationship with *demon spirits*—who will try to deceive and ultimately *destroy* those who interact with them!

All too often, modern psychologists and others confuse demonic activity with mental and physical illnesses such as schizophrenia. Yet many books on psychology acknowledge that schizophrenia is a “catch-all” term, which psychiatrists use to describe all kinds of unusual mental and emotional aberrations that they and others often do not really understand. Frankly, they *cannot* understand these matters of the spirit, because such understanding is revealed by the Almighty God—whom they basically *reject* and refuse to heed!

How do demons work on troubled and confused human

minds? The *Charlotte Observer* ran an article describing a situation that certainly sounds parallel to—and may well have been—such an example of demonic influence on a man who had lost his job, and in deep discouragement was considering suicide. “The job was gone, the gun was loaded, and a voice was saying, ‘You’re a waste, give up now, do it now.’ It was a command, not a suggestion, and what mattered at that moment—a winter evening in 2000—was not where the voice was coming from, but how assured it was, how persuasive” (August 7, 2011).



Notice how a *very persuasive* voice came into this man’s mind, telling him “do it now” as he was holding a loaded gun in his hand. This sounds very much like the persuasive voice Jesus heard nearly two thousand years ago, saying, “If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down” from the pinnacle of the temple. This voice assured Him that He would not be hurt. “For it is written, ‘He [God] shall give His angels charge over you’” (Matthew 4:5–6).

Truly, more and more “voices” are being heard throughout our land to influence confused human beings—more strong “urges” tempting people to do violent things, and even to kill themselves and others. But, for you who read the *Tomorrow’s World* magazine, it *need not be so!*

Certainly, Satan the Devil tries to deeply *discourage* human beings and draw them away from the Creator God by any means he can find. He may tempt them to live in false, imaginary worlds that confuse their

entire thought process and even their concept of life itself. He may tempt them by putting into their minds the idea of violence, sometimes connected to depraved sexual activities or other actions that would ultimately *destroy* their lives in many ways. For Satan—the *ultimate enemy* of mankind—certainly does want to *destroy* all human life (Matthew 24:21–22).

THE ONLY REAL ANSWER

Just opening your newspaper or turning on the television can give you countless examples of what I am describing. You may find a man who identifies himself with the comic book “Joker” character and commits real violence that kills people and destroys families. Or you may see a man who has imagined the fantasy life he could have if only he would kill his wife. Satanic violence is real, and it is widespread.

But you do not need to be affected, if you rely on the tools God has given to those who are willing to use them. I will now give you four “keys” to resisting these demons and Satan himself as Satan’s war on humanity becomes increasingly powerful. Though these four keys may seem **simple** or even obvious, may God help you to truly **use them** in your own life! If you do, they will certainly give you a protective barrier to **prevent** Satan the Devil and his demons from controlling your mind and leading you away from everything that is good and wholesome and right.

The **first key** is to build a strong relationship with the Creator God, the *God of the Bible*. Learn to “seek” God through genuine **study** of the Bible, which is His revelation to mankind. I suggest you begin your study with the book of Matthew

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Questions & Answers

Question: In Revelation 22:16, Jesus Christ describes Himself as “the Bright and Morning Star.” In Isaiah 14:12 we read of a “Lucifer” (Latin for “morning star,” from the Hebrew *helel*). Is the Bible in some way equating Christ with Lucifer? Please explain.

Answer: The Greek New Testament uses several words and phrases referring to “the morning star” in connection with Jesus Christ. In addition to Revelation 22:16, 2 Peter 1:19 mentions the “morning star” (*phōsphoros*) in connection with the ultimate salvation of the saints (by implication, when Jesus returns to resurrect the saints). *Phōsphoros* is a Greek proper name for the “morning star,” meaning “light-bearer.” In Revelation 2:28 we find the Greek phrase “the morning star” (*ton aстера ton prōinon*). “He who overcomes” (v. 26)—the victor in the Christian struggle—shall receive this reward directly from Jesus Christ, who was the “light” that came into the world (John 1:9; John 8:12).

The analogy is, just as the “morning star” is the herald of the dawn, so Jesus Christ is the herald of salvation as the King of the coming Kingdom of God on earth (compare Isaiah 60:1–5). He is “To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high [the sunrise] has visited us” (Luke 1:77–78). Moreover, the “Davidic King”—the Messiah or Christ prophesied to rise out of Israel—is symbolized as a “star” (*kokhav*) in Numbers 24:17.

Does all this have any connection with Isaiah 14:12, where we read: “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!”? First, examine the name “Lucifer” (which means “light-bearer”). It is the Latin proper name for the “morning star.” In the King James Bible, the name *Lucifer* is unchanged from the Latin Vulgate. It translates the Hebrew proper name for the “morning star,” *Helel ben Shahar*, meaning “Shining One, Son of Dawn.” The Greek Septuagint version uses yet another proper Greek name for the “morning star” to translate *Helel* in Isaiah 14:12: *ho Heōsphoros* (“the dawn-bearer”). All these proper

names and the New Testament names and phrases discussed above refer to one object: what we know today as the planet Venus (the brightest visible “star” known to ancient man) when it appears in the morning sky.

The being known as Lucifer was once one of the “morning stars” or chief angels (Job 38:7), and was also a “covering cherub” (Ezekiel 28:14, 16) like one of the two portrayed on the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:19–20). Perhaps this being was the “brightest” of three covering cherubs at God’s throne (the other two being Michael and Gabriel, the only other angels mentioned by name in the Bible).

Note also that five planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, with Venus again by far the brightest) all can appear as “morning stars” to the naked eye. As a “covering cherub,” Lucifer once walked among mysterious stones of fire at God’s throne (Ezekiel 28:14)—the very same stones or coals of fire that are shown in the midst of four cherubs likewise shown associated with God’s throne (Ezekiel 10:1–2, 6–8). Lucifer (called “the king of Tyre” in Ezekiel 28) is not mentioned in Ezekiel’s visions of God’s throne.

In any case, since Lucifer had to rise above the earth’s clouds in order to assault God’s throne in heaven (cf. Isaiah 14:12–14), and since he is described from a very earth-centered perspective, it follows that he had an office on earth before his rebellion against God. Many times throughout the Bible, directly and indirectly, he who became Satan the Devil is described as the past and present ruler of the earth. We can infer that as the chief “morning star,” he was once the herald of God’s Kingdom and government on earth. Jesus, the Christ, however, is now the “morning star”—because He will soon come to restore God’s Kingdom and government on earth, to put an end to Satan’s rebellion and (under his influence) mankind’s rejection of truth (cf. Acts 4:19–21).

Oh Canada!

Blessings at Risk?

CHANGE UNDERWAY

When Americans think of Canada, visions of expanses of wilderness or holiday locations may come to mind. Few, however, on either side of the border, realize the size and power of the economic relation between the United States and its northern neighbour.

The Web site of the Embassy of the United States in Canada, under the section *U.S.-Canada Economic Relations*, relates: “The U.S. and Canada enjoy the world’s largest and most comprehensive trading relationship, which supports millions of jobs in each country... The United States and Canada share a \$1.2 trillion bilateral trade and investment relationship with a highly integrated supply chain” (see canada.usembassy.gov).

North Americans often consider China, Latin America or Europe as primary trading partners, but note the following from the embassy Web site: “U.S. exports to Canada exceeded total U.S. exports to China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore combined in 2011.”

The United States is by far Canada’s largest market, absorbing more than 70 percent of goods and services exported, while Canada is the second largest source of imports for the U.S. The Embassy’s Web pages go on to demonstrate the size of economic activity at just one border crossing: “The \$120 billion in annual trade that crosses the Ambassador Bridge between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario is greater than all U.S. trade in goods with the United Kingdom.”

From the Web site of the Government of Canada’s Washington Trade office, a 2012 study reports that trade and investment with Canada directly supports more than eight million U.S. jobs. The study also reports: “35 states count Canada as their top export market” (see www.canadainternational.gc.ca/washington). Likewise, in Canada, millions of jobs are linked to this huge bilateral relation.

However, this situation is changing. A study by Toronto Dominion Economics concluded that Canada’s economic reliance on the U.S. has been in decline for the past ten years. In 2002, 84 percent of Canada’s exports went to the U.S., but by 2020 it will be 67 percent. Since 2002 Canadian exports to China have doubled and exports to Europe are up 83 percent. The article cites a number of factors including the rising value of the Canadian dollar, as well as growing difficulties in trade as a consequence of a “thickening” U.S. border (“Canada-U.S. Trade: North American Cousins Decoupling Economically,” *Huffington Post*, August 20, 2012).

Growing border restrictions (fuelled in part by the mistaken notion that the September 11, 2001 terrorists who attacked the World

Trade Center and the Pentagon came through Canada) were further intensified by recent “Buy American” policies put forward by the U.S. government, which neglected to recognize the integrated manufacturing supply chain in North America—and, as a result, caused losses even to American-owned businesses operating in Canada. More recently, political and business interests in Canada have been energized to seek other markets in the wake of U.S. decisions to restrict pipeline construction that would have increased imports of Canadian oil.

The recession of 2008 made many Canadians aware of the risks and dangers of being so dependent on one large market to the south—especially one whose economy was labouring under significant debt. As a result, since 2009, Canada has looked to broaden its trading relationships: “Canadian officials have signed or brought into force six free trade agreements and are currently negotiating 14 free trade agreements, including one with the European Union,





expected to be concluded sometime this year. A joint study by the European Commission and the Government of Canada estimated that once in force, such a free trade deal could increase Canadian exports to Europe by an additional 20 percent by 2014” (*ibid.*).

The European Union openly supports this arrangement, as the EU is already Canada’s second largest trading partner. Canada has concluded free-trade agreements with European non-EU economies, including Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, which came into force on July 1, 2009. An agreement under discussion with the EU will be more comprehensive than any previous agreement, including services, investment, intellectual property and tariff elimination.

The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Stephen Harper, has chosen to promote future economic development based on a policy of fiscal prudence and massive development of global trade in both resources and manufactured products. He is supported by a strong Canadian banking system, strictly regulated by government policy. The formula is winning adherents such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who offered high praise for this new economic direction during her recent visit to Ottawa. “She [Merkel] praised Canada’s budget discipline, promotion of economic growth and “not living on borrowed money” as models for the 17-nation euro region. ‘This is also the right solution for Europe’, Merkel said” (*Bloomberg News*, August 16, 2012).

Canada is also looking to Asia—and to China in particular. In February 2012, Prime Minister Harper made a state visit to China, where he discussed the nations’ mutual economic relationship. Canada is resource-rich, and China is resource-hungry. Canada, the largest supplier of energy to the U.S., is also anxious to increase energy exports. Chinese companies now own about 10 percent of the massive Alberta oil sands development as well as other resource and manufacturing interests. “He [Harper] said the two have also committed to complete a joint study this spring that will look at where Canada’s and China’s economies are ‘complementary’. ‘It will lead us to discussions to examine the feasibility and some of the potentials of a free-trade agreement’ Harper said”

(“Harper in China: free trade agreement with China in Canada’s sights?,” *Toronto Star*, February 11, 2012).

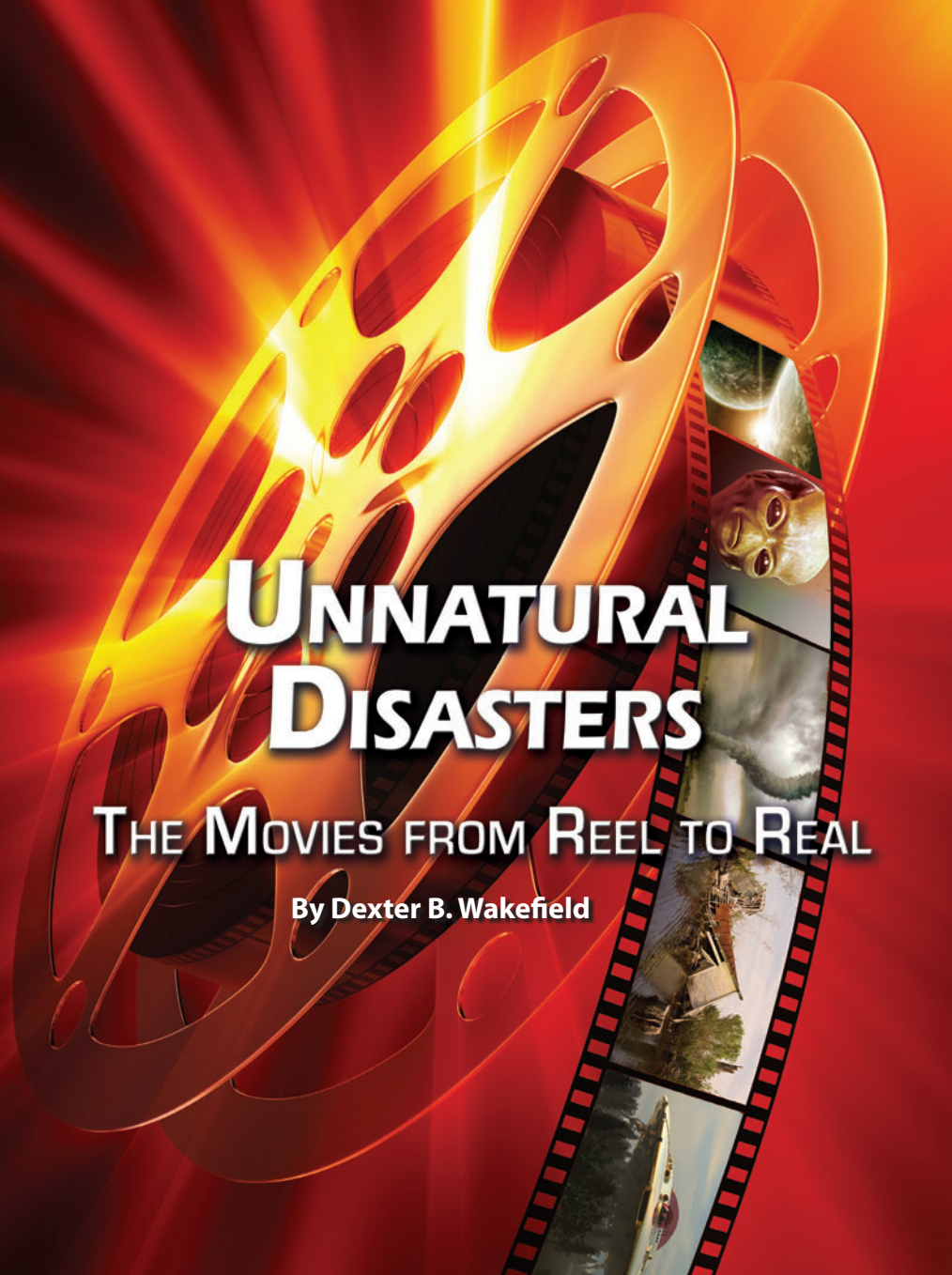
DEPENDENCE OR FRIENDSHIP?

Canada’s government and its businesses are reticent to continue solely to depend on the U.S. marketplace to provide long-term stability in trade and economic activity. Hence Canada is enhancing economic relations across the Atlantic and the Pacific. One may hope that this present trend does not lead to estrangement of these two friendly North American trading giants. Their natural wealth has long been the envy of much of the world. Their prosperity is sometimes assumed to be the result of industriousness, a large resource base and strategic location. Yet long ago they were warned not to assume this wealth was because of their efforts.

God tells His people to remember His blessings: “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18). As King David stressed in Psalm 15, relations predicated on honest dealings on all sides are always beneficial. It is vital to remember the more important aspects of life, dealing with one another honourably, decently and respectfully, in accordance with the principles God outlines for a happy, prosperous and peaceful life. Whether for individuals or nations, these principles are the path to success and happiness.

These nations would be most wise to make a serious effort to overcome trade disagreements, and not permit a God-given relation to drift apart. It is very important that Canadians and Americans continue to value the benefits of their unique relationship, realizing that their prosperity is really dependent on following the moral and ethical principles that God laid out for mankind and that desire for more material gain should not override friendship. In fact, their relation is more than friendship—it is actually a family relationship. These great nations are largely the descendants of two brothers. To learn more about this connection, please request our free booklet: *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*.

—Stuart Wachowicz



UNNATURAL DISASTERS

THE MOVIES FROM REEL TO REAL

By Dexter B. Wakefield

SPACE INVADERS! EARTHQUAKES! TSUNAMIS! WELCOME TO THE MOVIES... AND TO YOUR FUTURE?

One of the most successful genres of cinema in the last three decades has been the “disaster movie.” Digital special effects make it possible to create scenes of catastrophes far more realistic than ever before. In exciting sequences, cities are destroyed or humans encounter technologically superior beings bent on conquering earth. And it all looks *so real*. In fact, the scenes and characters seem so realistic and engaging on the screen that people can easily imagine such events actually happening.

But how would you react, if a reliable authority told you that there was an imminent invasion of non-humans coming to rule the earth? Would you help fight against them? After all, characters in the movies *always* resist the space invaders... and surely you want to be on the side of the heroes.

The idea of “space invaders” is taken seriously by some prominent scientists. Consider this: “British physicist Stephen Hawking says aliens are out there, but it could be too dangerous for humans to interact with extraterrestrial life. Hawking claims in a new documentary... that intelligent alien life forms almost certainly exist—but warns that communicating with them could be ‘too risky.’ ‘We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn’t want to meet,’ Hawking said. ‘I imagine they might exist in massive ships... having used up all the resources from their home planet. Such advanced aliens would perhaps become nomads, looking to conquer and colonize whatever planets they can reach’” (“Hawking: Aliens may pose risks to Earth,” *MSNBC*, April 25, 2010).

Interestingly enough, a similar movie plot played out in the successful film “Independence Day,” which was released in 1996, *well before* Professor Hawking’s 2010 comment. In that movie, space invaders with superior technology were bent on destroying human life in order to exploit the earth’s resources.

A BOOK OF SCIENCE?

Is the Bible just a compilation of ancient literary works? Should it be trusted as a book of science? Would you expect the Bible to contain information about a coming space invasion? Is it a book of literature, or of science, or of fiction?

Those questions present false choices. A better question would be, “Is the Bible a *book of history*?” It certainly is—and the history it contains is being consistently verified by modern archaeology.

Among many things, it is also an “instruction manual” for living a successful life.

Moreover, as history, the Bible is **unique** in that it contains both *past and future* history. “Prophecy” is another name for that future history. The God of the Bible tells us, “I am God, and there is none like Me, **declaring the end from the beginning**, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’” (Isaiah 46:9–10). *What God tells us about future events is as certain as the history that has already occurred.*

WHAT DOES FULFILLED PROPHECY LOOK LIKE?

Fulfilled prophecy may be as dramatic as a movie thriller. Or it may seem as routine as a story in your morning newspaper—except that the prophecy was given thousands of years ago. In one sense, God is an advance newscaster. For example, in 70AD, Roman soldiers destroyed the temple in Jerusalem while defeating a Jewish rebellion, and the Jews were soon scattered into what is often called the “Diaspora.” Yet, long before, God had foretold through His prophet Zechariah that the Jewish people would return from a scattering many centuries later, as part of a series of prophesied events occurring just before the return of the Messiah. “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a *cup of drunkenness* to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a *very heavy stone* for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it... In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and *like a fiery torch* in the sheaves;

they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but *Jerusalem shall be inhabited again* in her own place—Jerusalem” (Zechariah 12:2–6).

Indeed, after nearly two millennia of exile, descendants of the ancient kingdom of Judah reestablished their homeland in 1948 as the nation of Israel. Obsessed with destroying Israel, the surrounding Arab nations immediately attacked, but were “burned” and driven back. Then, in 1967, Jerusalem was retaken by the Israelis in the “Six-Day War,” and since that time, Jerusalem has been “a heavy stone” and an intractable political problem for all nations. Those events are history now, yet the prophet Zechariah recorded them millennia ago as “future history”!

What is some additional “future history” that you will see as news in the near future? *Tomorrow’s World* has long recognized some of the key developments we can expect:

- A ten-nation “United States of Europe” will form, led by Germany. It will not be a secular union as the EU is now, but will be led by a very charismatic religious leader and a powerful political figure. The political leader will not take his power by force; rather, the ten nations—or “kings”—will give it to him, probably for economic reasons. Britain will **not** be a part of this union.
- This great European leader will make an agreement with Israel that, among other things, will allow the Jews to resume religious sacrifices in Jerusalem.
- A powerful Islamic leader will arise and “push” at the European power. This will result in a European invasion of the Middle East that will defeat the

Islamic power. It will also end the sacrifices in Jerusalem (see Daniel 11).

- The cessation of the sacrifices in Jerusalem will begin a period of great trial in the earth, known as “The Great Tribulation” (see Matthew 24:15–22).
- To many observers unaware of Bible prophecy, these events—dramatic though they may be—will seem “normal” in their modern context, though they were, in fact, foretold long ago by a God who tells “the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done” (Isaiah 46:10).



God’s plan for humanity will not fail. Yet many observers will be blinded by secular assumptions that exclude the possibility that the Creator is real and is working out His plan.

THE MOVIES GET REAL

Beyond these political and military developments, other details of our “future history” will be so dramatic that they will seem remarkably like the catastrophes depicted in Hollywood disaster movies:

Earthquakes: Characters in the popular movie *2012* attempt to flee worldwide catastrophe brought about by astronomical events that cause changes in the earth’s crust, resulting in great earthquakes. As characters narrowly escape death, Los Angeles, California slips into the sea. Los Angeles was also destroyed in the 1974 box office hit, *Earthquake*, and other films as well. Destroying “L.A.” seems to be a preoccupation with Hollywood producers. The movie earthquakes

also produce massive tsunamis that destroy cities worldwide.

Students of Bible prophecy will recognize that Scripture describes great earthquakes just before the coming of Christ. The Apostle John recorded a remarkable vision that mentioned several great earthquakes. “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake... 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). This scripture alone could almost be taken as the screenplay for a modern disaster movie.

Other prophetic passages of Scripture also mention great earthquakes occurring before the end of this age. The Apostle Paul explained God’s motivation for this, quoting Haggai 2:6 that “now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain” (Hebrews 12:26–27).

Tsunamis: In recent years, many popular films such as *Poseidon*, *Tidal*

Wave and *2012* have depicted great destruction caused by massive waves of the sea. This echoes the biblical description: “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, *the sea and the waves roaring*; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (Luke 21:25–26).



Asteroids and Comets: Some disaster movies—such as *Armageddon* and *Deep Impact*—portray an asteroid or comet crashing into the earth, causing great damage. Once again, the Bible foretells of a similar event. “And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood.

A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter” (Revelation 8:10–11). When this finally happens, will people see it as a natural disaster, or recognize the biblical warning?

Disease Epidemics: Dozens of disaster movies in recent years have been built around the theme of disease epidemics. Films such as *Outbreak* and *Ebola Syndrome* echo Scripture’s warning that major disease pandemics will devastate the earth’s population at the end of this age. “So the first went

and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image... *They blasphemed the God of heaven* because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds” (Revelation 16:2, 11). Notice that, instead of recognizing God’s warning and correction, Scripture shows that many will blame God for their illness, and will harden their hearts against Him rather than turn from their sins. This hardening will set up a final prophesied worldwide rebellion against God, and a great battle between good and evil upon the return of Jesus Christ.

A BIBLICAL SPACE INVASION?

Alien Invaders: One of Hollywood’s most popular movie genres is the alien invader from outer space. The aliens may be cuddly, as in *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*, or benevolent as in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Or, they may be terrifying creatures bent on destroying mankind, as in *War of the Worlds*.

End-time prophecy in the Bible describes an extraordinary event in which a ruler with great power and glory will descend from the clouds to set up a kingdom on the earth. “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30).

Notice that this remarkable prophecy, given by Jesus Himself, states that “*all the tribes of the earth will mourn*” at the sight of Christ’s coming. Will people see these dramatic events as divinely fulfilled prophecy—or as natural events that they have already seen depicted very realistically in one way or another

in the movies? Will they see Christ as a Savior or an invader? The Bible indicates the latter.

The Apostle Paul warned Christians that a time of great deception will come on the earth: “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4).

Paul then reminded the brethren in Thessalonica about the prophecies he had shared with them. “Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?... And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and *lying wonders*, and with *all unrighteous deception* among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them *strong delusion*, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (vv. 5–12).

THE REAL ARMAGEDDON

The Bible foretells that Judah—the modern nation of Israel—will reinstate animal sacrifices, but that the sacrifices will be stopped by an unrighteous king who will occupy Jerusalem. This will occur as part of an invasion of the Middle East by a great European “king of the north.” The end of the sacrifices will begin a

series of catastrophic events over three and a half years that will culminate in what many on the earth will assume is an invasion by a hostile being and his armies. That “invasion,” however, will in fact be the long-awaited coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ—the King of Kings!

“And they *gathered* them together to the place called in Hebrew, *Armageddon*” (Revelation 16:16). The word, “Armageddon” derives from a place about fifty miles north of Jerusalem called “Har Megiddo” or Mount Megiddo. It is located on the edge of the Plain of Jezreel, which has ample room for great armies to *gather*. It sits astride the northern invasion route into Israel, and in ancient times was the scene of various battles. Notice that the armies only *gather* at Armageddon. The actual name of the battle is “*the battle of that great day of God Almighty*,” and it takes place at another location—the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:1–2)—which is the Kidron Valley in Jerusalem. The Kidron Valley lies between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives.

Incredibly, the nations of the earth—in a state of “strong delusion”—will go out to fight

against Christ when He returns—*just as they would fight an invading alien*. “Then the LORD will go forth and *fight against those nations*, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east” (Zechariah 14:3–4). In the movies, the hero always defeats the invading aliens—but this battle is not a movie script. They will be fighting Jesus Christ, who has “all authority in heaven and earth” (Matthew 28:18)—and the climax of the story is that the nations’ armies will be annihilated (Zechariah 14:12)!

FAITH ON EARTH?

God tells us that He will “shake the earth” to get the world’s attention. But will a world in spiritual darkness be able to recognize what is actually happening? Only those who are willing to look at these dramatic events through the eyes of faith will see. If we allow ourselves to be informed by faith, then we will believe what God says through His prophets. If not, in those days, only deception will remain. In the end, it will be a choice between the flesh and the Spirit. Jesus asked, “*when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*” (Luke 18:8). ■

THE BIBLE: FACT OR FICTION?



The Bible is filled with true history, accurate prophecy and vital wisdom for our times. There is real evidence that proves the Bible!

Request a **FREE** printed copy from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at www.TomorrowsWorld.org.

PDF, ePub and MOBI are also available.



LONDON CA

Have You Seen the Future?

The year 2012 has been a remarkable year for Great Britain. Many events have taken place that have turned the year into a veritable cavalcade of special moments. The Shakespeare World Festival at Stratford-upon-Avon, for example, was followed by Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, with a spectacular display of craft on the River Thames, and hundreds of celebrations around Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Wimbledon's Grand Slam tennis championship came soon after, which, together with other notable sporting events, culminated in the "greatest show on earth"—the 2012 Olympic Games held in the redeveloped East London Docks area.

What made the Olympics extra-special for many was the introduction of several technological improvements by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). This included: 3D broadcasts covering some 230 hours of events; 24 channels of live video using HD "chunked streaming" beamed to television, Internet, tablet computers and smart phones. A new live Interactive Video Player was specially introduced. Remote robotic cameras controlled by laptops were used to capture photos from unique vantage points around the Olympic Park. All this contributed to the viewing pleasure of some four billion people.

Amid all this, perhaps the most remarkable development was seen by just a few. The BBC showcased the next generation of television technology to selected audiences in the UK, Japan and America. Known as Ultra High Definition television or Super Hi-Vision (SHV), it is a joint venture between Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK)—the Japan Broadcasting Corporation—and the BBC. Tim Plyming, the BBC's Project Leader for SHV, wrote on his blog that, "The London 2012 Olympics will be the first time [this] ground-breaking technology will be used to deliver exceptional quality content in the UK."

MORE THAN THE EYE CAN SEE

NHK's engineers have developed the only three SHV cameras in existence, which enabled them to work with the BBC's test studios in central London to provide the first working opportunity of the SHV system to an international audience.

These new cameras produce a level of detail 16 times greater than High Definition (or 7,680 by 4,320 pixels). And whereas sound for most HD television uses a 5.1 multichannel system, the new technology boosts the sound to a mighty 22.2 multichannel, 3-dimensional audio system. In the BBC theatre, three layers of speakers were strategically placed around the room—an upper layer of nine channels, a middle layer of ten channels and a lower one of three. It was not just surround sound; it was total sound immersion!

The technology is so impressive that it reaches the limits of what the human eye is capable of absorbing. The sharpness of the images and the wide field of view (100 degrees instead of 30 degrees for HD) is so embracing it is as if the viewer is right there in real life; if you walk up to it and look at it close-up, there is little or no blurring or pixilation. It is stunning!

At the SHV demonstration, I asked Mr. Plyming how soon we can expect to see this new technology in people's homes. NHK began their work in 1995, so one might expect it to be soon—but, according to Mr. Plyming, it could still be ten years away.

I asked what applications it could be put to, and was told that the medical world especially can use it to televise live operations to teaching hospitals. The highly detailed images would allow students around the world to observe the finest of medical procedures. The benefits to education would also be profound.



LLING

Also present at the screening was NHK's principal research engineer Yuichi Kusakabe. He told me that there are others working with different technologies. But, from what I saw, this one will be hard to beat.

Using the Olympics for television breakthroughs is not new. The 1948 London Games gave the BBC its first trial of outdoor broadcasting, while the 1964 Tokyo Olympics ushered in colour television around the world. High Definition Digital (HDD) television, which replaced the analogue system, was initially trialed at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, though it took another 20 years for it to come into commercial production.

THE REAL TOMORROW'S WORLD FUTURE

It is perhaps somewhat ironic that one of the BBC's most successful and long-lasting television programmes on science and technology was called *Tomorrow's World*. From the 1970s to the 1990s, it gained a wide and enthusiastic following, with a high at one time of 10 million viewers per week, before the BBC put an end to the programme in 2003—four years after our *Tomorrow's World* telecast went on the air in the United States. It was just three years later that our telecast, devoted to proclaiming the Bible's spiritual message, was aired for the first time on SKY channel 590 here in the UK. The *Gospel Channel Europe* was the first to carry our programme here, and continues to do so on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. It can also be viewed on Sky 596 on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and Sky 591 on Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. If you have a Roku box (learn more at www.roku.com), you can watch the programme on your television set whenever you want, and you can always watch it on our Web site at TomorrowsWorld.org.

In many ways, our *Tomorrow's World* programme shares an excitement regarding the future not unlike what Plyming and his team exude, but our emphasis is different because of what we know from Scripture. We proclaim a world of moral excellence and godly character

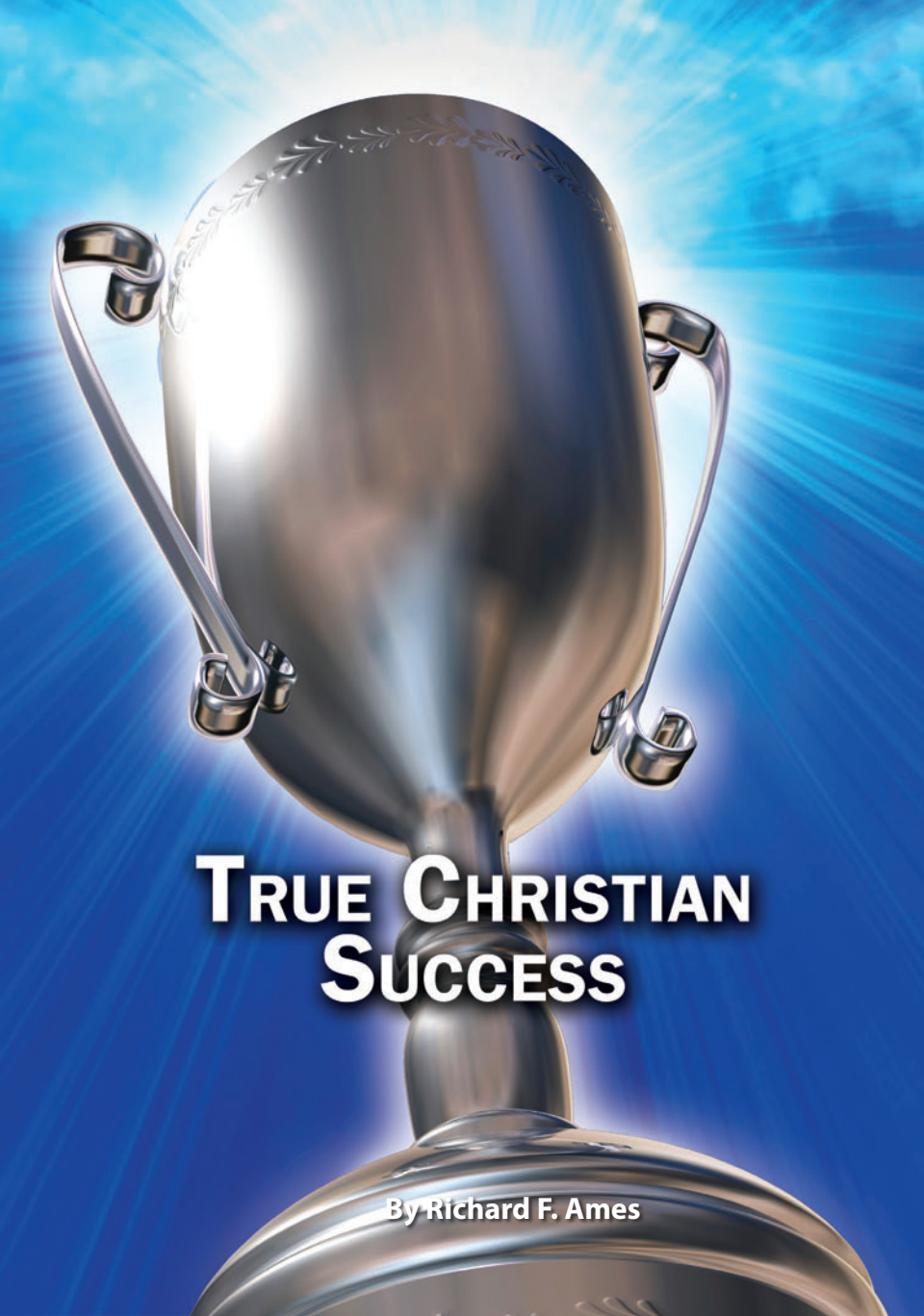
that must lie behind the development of the kind of technologies that advance and benefit society. We understand from Scripture that Jesus Christ, the Creator of all that is around us (Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16), will return to this earth to transform the spirit and mind of man. The spirit of this world—which includes vanity, competition, pride and iniquity—will be dramatically changed. That fundamental change will impact all areas of human endeavor, including science and technology. In the Kingdom of God, only those developments that positively affect human progress will move forward. Those devoted to war and destruction will become a thing of the past.

The Bible tells us that in the coming Kingdom of God, God's perfect law of love—as exemplified by the Ten Commandments given to Moses on stone—will be written on the very hearts and minds of all human beings (2 Corinthians 3:2–3). God tells us, “I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them” (Hebrews 10:16). A change will take place in human minds that will bring about a profound realignment of thoughts and actions. With Satan the devil bound and chained, his evil influence will be put away. Anger will give way to abiding love; greed and envy will be replaced by generosity and praise for others. Children will play safely and workers will be paid an honest wage for their work—with profligate bankers' bonuses, for example, a thing of the past.

Will there be room for SHV's television technology, or something like it, in our future? Who can say otherwise? God is not against the marvelous discoveries of the human mind. He does, however, have a problem with how many of these inventions are put to a wrong use in this present evil age (Galatians 1:4).

Truly, a wonderful world is coming! To learn more, read our booklet, *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?* Request your free copy from the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 30) or order online at TomorrowsWorld.org.

—Rod King



TRUE CHRISTIAN SUCCESS

By Richard F. Ames

WEALTH AND POSSESSIONS?

Carlos Helú is a Mexican businessman whose net worth is estimated at nearly \$70 billion, making him the richest man in the world as of late 2012. Is he the world's greatest success, ahead of American billionaires Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, Chinese billionaires Li Ka-shing and Lee Shau Kee, or Indian billionaires Mukesh Ambani and Lakshmi Mittal? Is Australia's Georgina Rinehart, with wealth estimated at \$18 billion, a little more successful than Canada's Thomson family, whose wealth is said to be just above \$17 billion?

God certainly wants us to be faithful stewards. He wants us to use natural resources and our God-given talents to help others. Carlos Helú has been described as a "strategic philanthropist," directing billions of dollars in charity to support education and health care in his native Mexico. Bill Gates and Warren Buffett have devoted large portions of their wealth to charitable causes, instead of spending it on themselves and their families. Of course, God does expect men and women to fulfill their God-given responsibilities toward their families, working as they are able to provide for their needs. The Apostle Paul gave this counsel: "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread" (2 Thessalonians 3:10–12).

But there is far more to success than mere financial prosperity. Oil tycoon J. Paul Getty, married and divorced five times, was famous for saying that he would happily trade his billions of dollars of wealth for just one happy marriage. He learned for himself that wealth cannot

*Are you seeking wealth, power and pleasure?
Should you be looking for something more?*

Are you successful? Do you have a big house? A nice car—or two? Have your investments recovered from the economic downturn that began in 2008? Do you have enough money for retirement?

These are some common goals and measures of success. Others define success by the number of friends, or the influence they have over other people. For some, simply "feeling good" is the measure of success—whether that goal is achieved by natural and legal means, or by illegal and unnatural substances and practices.

So, what is *your* idea of success? Your Bible reveals the truth about three common criteria for success—wealth, status and sensual pleasure—and shows how these are incomplete standards of success.

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buy happiness—a lesson ancient King Solomon had discovered thousands of years earlier. According to 1 Kings 11:3, Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines—but did he achieve true happiness? Solomon wrote: “I acquired male and female servants, and had servants born in my house. Yes, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me. I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all kinds. So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me” (Ecclesiastes 2:7–9).

Solomon was striving to experience “life to the full.” But what was the result of his experience? “Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; and this was my reward from all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 2:10–11). The NIV states it this way: “everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”

The wisest and wealthiest man of his time concluded that all his pleasure and wealth amounted to “vanity and grasping for the wind.” He saw that human activity separated from God amounts to vanity—meaninglessness and futility.

Many years ago, I had a friend who graduated at the top of his class with an economics degree from a prestigious university in the eastern United States. He owned a Corvette convertible, and enjoyed a life filled with female companionship, fine food and the best wine. Yet he confided in me that something was

missing. His wealth and business success did not bring him happiness.

We all must learn that fundamental lesson of life. Jesus taught His disciples what is called the parable of the rich fool—a lesson very appropriate for our present time. “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said,



‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry!”’” (Luke 12:16–19).

This rich man placed his confidence in the security of his possessions, which let him indulge in life’s pleasures. But notice the “wake-up call” he received: “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:20–21). We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10). Ultimately, putting your trust in financial gain leads to pain, sorrow, idolatry and death. As Jesus said: “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15). Indeed, Christ praised the poor widow who gave two mites, calling her a more generous giver

than the many wealthy men who gave ostentatiously to the temple (Mark 12:41–44).

Solomon made the famous statement that “vanity of vanities, all is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2). The word “vanity” or “vanities” occurs 35 times throughout the book of Ecclesiastes. Have you ever felt that your life has no meaning? Solomon continues: “All things are wearisome; more than one can express; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or the ear filled with hearing” (Ecclesiastes 1:8, NRSV).

Indeed, is mankind ever satisfied? Do acquisitive human beings ever get “enough”? Vanity, in the context of Ecclesiastes, is anything that does not have lasting value! Wealth by itself does not give life its value.

STATUS, POWER AND POSITION?

Worldly wisdom promotes the idea that men and women should strive to climb to the top of the corporate ladder at others’ expense, no matter what they must do to attain that goal. Many people see success in terms of the high position they can reach in business or politics—or simply in terms of the fame such a position provides.

Even the mother of James and John, two of Jesus’ disciples, asked Him to give her sons high positions in His kingdom. “She said to Him, ‘Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.’ But Jesus answered and said, ‘You do not know what you ask’” (Matthew 20:21–22). He explained that these positions were for ones chosen and prepared by God the Father (v. 23).

Jesus then revealed a key to true success. “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,

and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:25–28).

Who would be the greatest? The one in a high government position lording it over others? No! The greatest is a true servant—one who truly cares for and helps others! Notice that the Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, took little children up in His arms. He stooped down to wash the feet of His disciples (John 13). Jesus Christ sacrificed His life for us all! “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Jesus’ example was one of service, sacrifice and love. “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (Romans 5:10).

Whatever position we may hold in this life, it will never bring true success unless we use it in service toward others. Jesus taught the principle of service: “he who is greatest among you shall be your servant” (Matthew 23:11). And notice this warning for those who want the chief seat: “whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (v. 12). One of the measures of true success is the degree of service one is willing to give. False success depends on the *get* principle—the default characteristic of human nature!

Developing one’s intellectual prowess—accumulating knowledge—is an incomplete measure of success. God wants us to use our mind and intellect to learn *true* values and *true* knowledge. Unless we learn to practice true humility, our material knowledge may lead to intellectual vanity—a feeling of superiority and even of arrogance. “Knowledge puffs up,” as the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 8:1. Today, hundreds of millions pursue education that ignores or rejects God entirely. Their knowledge may help them in this present temporary life, but without God it is simply vanity! Paul wrote: “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among

Jesus then revealed a key to true success. “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:25–28).

you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their own craftiness’; and again, ‘The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile’” (1 Corinthians 3:18–20).

How often have you seen so-called “experts” use their knowledge to twist or dismiss the plain truth of Scripture? Truly, “the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.” Writing to the Greek Corinthians (who, as he observed earlier, “seek after wisdom”) Paul wrote: “For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power

of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:22–25).

True knowledge that goes beyond vanity is available only to those who humble themselves to live by God’s wisdom rather than the world’s. As Jesus prayed: “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes” (Matthew 11:25). Babes in Christ will have the greater wisdom and understanding. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those

who do His commandments” (Psalm 111:10). The sign of true success is not high status and influence; it is service and obedience to God.

PURSUIT OF SENSUAL PLEASURE?

Some seek pleasure as life’s ultimate goal. King Solomon, who “had it all,” wrote: “I said in my heart, ‘Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure’; but surely, this also was vanity” (Ecclesiastes 2:1). Today, millions seek pleasure through sexual immorality, drug abuse, alcohol abuse and seemingly every imaginable form of stimulation. Yet the Apostle John warned: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Continued on page 23



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you so much for your literature. If ever there was a time when truth was needed now would be that time, and if ever there was a place that revealed that truth, *Tomorrow's World* would be that place.

Thank you for bringing truth to the world. May God bless you all!

T. L., PEI, Canada

I just want to say what a blessing your ministry is in my life. In a world with a lot of confusion you are truly shining the light of God Almighty in this dark time we face.

B. K., Cape Town, South Africa

I would like to thank you for the monthly magazine that I receive from your ministry for it has really helped to give me a better understanding of the Holy Bible. After watching the morning program yesterday on TV, I would like to request the free copy of *God's Plan for Happy Marriage*. Thank you for the wonderful work and good message.

P. U., Tumbarumba, NSW, Australia

Thanks a lot to *Tomorrow's World*. I've just received my third copy of your magazine and I am really thankful that it's become an eye-opener to me. I really learned a lot and it makes it easy to understand the Bible now. I am praying that God will continue to bless your work of spreading the Good news. God bless to all of you. And please continue to send me your magazines.

A. L., Roxas, Philippines

I thank you for making me wiser with all the booklets of knowledge that you have sent to me. Truly I have learned a lot from you. May our Almighty God repay you for the job well done. Mine is to continue praying for you together with your team so as you may live longer and continue

spreading the gospel to all the corners of the world. Thanks to you.

S. K., Nakuru, Kenya

I really enjoy reading your booklets. It brings new revelations to me and eye-opening information about end-time prophecy, especially *Satan's Counterfeit Christianity*. Thank you so much. God bless you all.

L. R., Georgetown, Guyana

I don't write to many organizations but I need to tell you that in all my life I've never found a more in-depth and to the point magazine as *Tomorrow's World*. I don't know if I've ever received a magazine that holds my attention like this one. I read cover to cover and wait for the next one. Thank you so much for a wonderful tool. God bless to all of you.

D. S., Rockford, IL

I have a question for you after reading the article "The Big Puzzle" in the July-August *Tomorrow's World* magazine. If our souls do not go directly to heaven to be with Jesus when we die, why did He say to one of the thieves crucified next to Him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43)?

B. F., Pahoia, HI

Editor's Note: We know Jesus did not go to Paradise on the day He made that promise; He was in the grave for three days (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). So, did He make a failed promise? No! Punctuation in the *NKJV* and other English translations, such as the comma in Luke 23:43, was added by translators, reflecting their misunderstanding of the verse. A better translation into English would be, "I say to you today, you will be with Me in Paradise" or "Today I say to you, you will be with Me in Paradise."

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

PROPHECY Co

When Leaders Go Astray!

What is happening to the United States and Great Britain? These two nations, along with their Anglo-Saxon cousins, have dominated the world for the last 200–400 years. Yet, today, these nations are degenerating morally, divided politically, confused religiously and in deep trouble financially. In the eyes of the world, these affluent, once-dominant countries are seen as *nations in decline*. Few seem to understand what has led to this dramatic decline. However, ancient Bible prophecies that are *coming alive today* pinpoint an important cause!

THE IMPACT OF LEADERS

Many realize that our world is largely what our leaders have made it. In the 1930s, Nazi leaders gained control of Germany. To consolidate their grip on power, they revived ancient pagan rituals, indoctrinated a generation of youth into a cult of the Führer and goaded a modern industrialized nation into military adventures that ended in the ruin of Germany and the devastation of Europe.

A decade or so earlier, atheistic Bolshevik leaders seized power in Russia. They rejected religion, promoted Marxist ideology, and used propaganda and brutal force in their attempt to fundamentally change a nation. Their atheistic communist experiment claimed millions of lives and caused generations of suffering—but ultimately collapsed because it was built on a value system alien to the peoples of Russia.

America, Britain and the nations of their Anglo-Saxon cousins were built on a very different foundation than the failed experiments mentioned above. The Founding Fathers of the United States—like the formative leaders of Britain, Holland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa—were heavily influenced by principles derived from the Bible, principles that have molded

major aspects of Western civilization. Though their application was sometimes quite far from what the Bible actually prescribed, this gave their nations a foundation very different from what we see in the many nations that did not even make any attempt to adopt “Christian” principles. These nations’ leaders openly acknowledged their debt to, and even their reliance on, the God of the Bible, and credited Him for the success and prominence of their nations.



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Sadly, modern leaders of these same nations that were founded on Christian principles have largely *moved away* from that original foundation, even as their nations falter. Yet few are willing to “connect the dots.” Most fail to see a connection between this dramatic shift—from a religious to secular worldview, from Christianity to consumerism, from biblical

morality to “anything goes”—and the current state of decline, yet the clear parallels are there!

DEPARTURE AND DECLINE

Commonly overlooked today are the *prophetic warnings* that biblical prophets delivered to the ancestors of the modern Anglo-Saxon peoples. Isaiah warned the prosperous nation of Israel, “O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy [confuse] the way of your paths” (Isaiah 3:12), and “The leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed” (Isaiah 9:16). Isaiah also warned, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20). Jeremiah warned the prosperous nation of Judah, “Many rulers have destroyed My vineyard” (Jeremiah 12:10). He also warns in Jeremiah 22:13, “Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness” [scorning the laws of God—Psalm 119:172]. Jeremiah thundered



MES ALIVE

against the misguided leaders of Israel and Judah “who try to make My people forget My name... and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness” (cf. Jeremiah 23:13, 25–27, 32).

Sadly, this has also happened in America, Britain and other Anglo-Saxon countries over the last 50 years—during the same years that have witnessed the dramatic decline of these once-admired nations. Academic institutions that produce future leaders have been gradually taken over by secular activists who promote anti-American ideas, denounce the accomplishments of Western civilization and despise and undermine the biblical moral values that once set their nations apart from the world. The college radicals of the 1960s did not go away; many are now university administrators and tenured professors promoting their radical Marxist-inspired ideas to new generations across the Western world. This phenomenon has been recognized by American and British writers alike; see Peter Hitchens’ *The Abolition of Britain* for a solid account. It is no surprise that young people who have been programmed to tolerate pornography and accept homosexuality and same-sex marriage as normal, healthy alternative lifestyles will also support political candidates who promote the same messages—in spite of the fact that these unbiblical behaviors are *decidedly not* healthy or conducive to a healthy society (see “Homosexuality: Some Neglected Concerns,” *Journal of American Physicians & Surgeons*, Fall 2005, pp. 80–82).

Sadly, many liberal theologians have also bought into these same misguided ideas. It has been primarily the leaders of liberal churches who have championed the acceptance of homosexuality, the ordination of women and homosexual men, and the celebration of same-sex marriages. The consequence of promoting and adopting these modern “progressive” changes has often been acrimonious divisions of church congregations, and a dramatic decline in membership in once-prominent mainline denominations. The example of political leaders who say one thing and do something else, and religious leaders who promote ideas that stand in conflict with the Scripture that supposedly forms the basis for their

creeds, has led to a decline in respect for political and religious leaders across the Western world.

LEADERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Bible records the powerful influence of leaders—good and bad—on their nations. Jeroboam, the first king of the northern nation of Israel, had a powerful influence on the nation and every king after him. He turned away from God, adopted pagan ways and then led the nation in following his example—permanently! The Bible records that Jeroboam “sinned and who made Israel sin” (1 Kings 12:28–33; 14:16; 2 Kings 17:20–21). Misguided kings of Judah also turned that nation away from God. In spite of reform efforts by kings like Asa, Hezekiah and Josiah, both nations ultimately went into captivity *because* they followed leaders who turned away from God and His ways.

These Old Testament accounts are not ancient history that we can afford to forget; they are lessons of history recorded for our admonition today (1 Corinthians 10:11). Moses informed the Israelites when they came out of Egypt that if they obeyed God they would be blessed, “but if you do not obey Me... and if you despise My statutes... I will break the pride of your power” (Leviticus 26:14–19). Jeremiah warned the Israelites “you have forsaken the LORD your God... your own wickedness will correct you” (Jeremiah 2:19–20), and again, “Because they have forsaken My law... I will scatter them also among the Gentiles” (Jeremiah 9:13–16). Hosea records that because Israel has “forgotten his Maker” and considered the laws of God “a strange thing” they “sow the wind” and will “reap the whirlwind” and go into captivity among Gentile nations (Hosea 8:7–14). These traumatic events happened to the ancient nations of Israel and Judah, because they followed misguided leaders who “caused them to err” and turn away from God and His ways. Tragically, the Anglo-Saxon peoples, oblivious to the lessons of their own history, are doing the same thing today. Unless they repent and turn to God, the same fate awaits these modern Israelites in the not-too-distant future!

—Douglas S. Winnail

THE BEARS

The speaker at our business organization breakfast was a prominent attorney known for his service to the community. In his remarks, he commented on the pleasure he derived from working with the Boy Scouts of America program, especially the Cub Scouts.

He told of an experience with a group of Cub Scouts on an overnight camping trip. They had a great time tramping about the woods, hiking, swimming and enjoying other fun camp activities. After supper, and after talking around the campfire, it was time for the boys to go to bed.

It grew quiet as the boys snuggled down in their sleeping bags for the night, and the attorney and the other counselors were glad to have a respite from the busy activities of the day. But after a few minutes of silence, one boy spoke up with a tremor in his voice, to ask: "Counselor, aren't we going to say our prayers?" The counselor replied quickly: "Well, sure, we can do that. You can go first!" At that, the boy crawled out of his sleeping bag. On his knees, with great fervency, he prayed out loud, "Lord! Save us from the bears!"

Until that moment, there had been no discussion or concern about bears, and no other apparent interest in prayer. But as the young camper finished his heartfelt petition to God, the other campers—now alerted to the perils of sleeping in the woods—each, in turn, crawled out of his sleeping bag and presented his sincere, urgent prayer for protection from the bears.

This humorous and heartwarming story reminded us that we are sometimes unaware of a problem, real or imagined, until someone points it out to us.

In the perilous times in which we live, we certainly need to be alert to danger and to potential problems. And yet, we should not overreact, nor should we be fearful. The Bible has much to say on this subject. Danger, difficulty, trials and tests are nothing new in human experience, and the One who inspired Scripture gives us valuable instruction

and guidelines to meet the challenges of life with a calm spirit and with peace of mind.

For example, consider this pearl of wisdom: "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished" (Proverbs 22:3). Those who are wise notice what is going on around them, and are prepared when an evil or harmful situation is about to occur. Being aware, they can react so as to prevent harm or loss. We should indeed stay alert in every circumstance to what is happening around us.

Sadly, some are overly cautious—even fearful—without any real justification. Consider what we read in Proverbs 26:13: "The lazy man says there is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is loose in the streets." In this case the perceived danger is not real, but is only an excuse for avoiding action and failing to do what needs to be done.



(Matthew 6:33). Jesus Christ shared these comforting words with His disciples: "Do not fear, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Later on, the Apostle John was inspired to write, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18).

So, while we should always remain alert to the "bears" we may encounter in our lives, we should not be fearful, as long as we look daily to our heavenly Father for protection and peace of mind while we do our part to live as He would have us live.

To learn more, request our free booklet, *The Ten Commandments*. You can write to the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine) to obtain your own free copy, or you can read it online or order a printed copy at TomorrowsWorld.org. It will show you how your life can bear the fruits of living God's way!

—J. Davy Crockett, III

True Christian Success

Continued from page 18

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15–17). True success is lasting—it does not pass away—but lust and pride will meet their end, and those who embrace such vanity will pay the price.

Sex outside of marriage is taken as “normal” by many in today’s society. But consider this passage from the book of Proverbs—a father’s warning to his son, urging him to avoid harlots: “For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of hell.... Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house lest... you mourn at last, when your flesh and your body are consumed” (Proverbs 5:3–11).

Millions—even billions—are deceived and ruined by sexual temptations. They are sowing to the flesh and, as Galatians 6:8 warns, of the flesh they will reap corruption. God approves of our experiencing sexual pleasure—but in marriage! Pleasure by itself is not success; God wants us to enjoy life to the full within His laws and His precepts. Jesus Christ came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). God’s way brings fulfillment today without bringing regret and suffering tomorrow. “The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it” (Proverbs 10:22).

After all of his experimentation, King Solomon came to a final conclusion. “And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and

much study is wearisome to the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:12–14). The NRSV states it this way: “Fear God, and keep His commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone.”

Some professing Christians assume that it is impossible to keep God’s commandments. They invent amazing interpretations to excuse their lack of obedience to God the Father and Jesus Christ. Yet, as the Apostle Paul stated: “I can do **all things** through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Christians who have the power of God—the Holy Spirit—within them can rely on God’s power to live obedient and truly successful lives!

Scripture reveals the unseen and immutable laws of life. When we are in harmony with those principles and instructions, we are successful. From the beginning of the Bible to the end, we see that obedience to God’s way of life brings blessings, and disobedience brings curses. Without God, the world’s measures of success—possessions, power, position and pleasure—bring only

pain, suffering, failure and death. Those whose measure of success is self-indulgence, self-promotion and self-centeredness ultimately harm themselves and others.

God wants us to live happy, abundant lives. But many make the mistake of setting happiness as an end or a goal in itself. As a result, they become frustrated. Commentator Dennis Prager gave this principle: One “secret” to happiness “is realizing that happiness is a byproduct of something else. The most obvious sources are those pursuits that give our lives purpose—anything from studying insects to playing baseball. The more passions we have, the more happiness we’re likely to experience” (“A Simple Truth About Happiness,” *Reader’s Digest*, June 1998, p. 99). Of course, the greatest happiness comes as a byproduct of having the greatest purpose—seeking God’s Kingdom.

True success comes only through the Savior of the world, who taught us to live by every word of God. When we do that, through the power of the Holy Spirit—God’s gift to those who repent and are baptized—we live truly happy and successful lives, loving and serving others as we prepare ourselves for entry into the Kingdom of God and the Family of God. ■

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TOMORROW'S

Mind Your Mind!

How do you want to be remembered? What do you want your reputation to be? As infants, human beings think only of their own wants and needs. But as we move into the teen years and beyond, we become more concerned with what others think of us—and rightly so. We read, “Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right” (Proverbs 20:11).

However, reputation is not built by magic. Rather, it is established by **our actions and our words**. The decisions we make—regarding what we do and say, what we laugh at, how we spend our time and with whom we spend it—all reflect who we are. But what determines those decisions? How are they made? Do we have any control over them?



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HOW IS THE MIND MADE UP?

You have heard people say, “Make up your mind.” Or you may sometimes try to “change someone’s mind.” So, how does the mind change, and how is it “made up” in the first place? There are three basic building blocks. The first is *knowledge*, the second is *experience* and the third consists of our *emotions* or *feelings*.

As our bodies grow beyond infancy, we are changing in ways other than the physical. As we begin to crawl, walk and then run, our minds are also changing. We are learning about the world around us, and how we fit into it. As we grow, the people around us influence how our minds are “wired.” Our parents tell us the sky is blue and grass is green, and our minds form the concept of color.

Parents playing their God-given role take a leading role in this process of growth. God commands them to do so: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”

(Proverbs 22:6). Parents are to guide their children into a right way of thinking by teaching them the principles of life. God also commanded the ancient Israelites to teach His ways to their children: “You shall **teach** them diligently to your **children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:7).

However, parents are not the only ones who influence our minds. We are also taught, from our earliest childhood, by friends and playmates, by teachers and by the media. We store the *knowledge* that we collect from these different sources, and use it to create ideas and impressions that the mind draws on to understand our world.

In addition, we *experience* life. We compare what we have heard and read with what we have discovered firsthand through cause and effect. We eat a lemon and we learn what “sour” is. From that point on, we understand what something “sour” will taste like. Perhaps a parent says, “Don’t touch the stove, it’s hot!” We hear the words, but if we are compelled to experiment anyway, the experience of touching a hot stove will be seared into our mind from that day on!

Our mind is also stamped with our *emotions*. God has placed in our human minds the ability to experience a range of emotions that influence our thinking. We learn what it feels like to be excited, frustrated, joyful and angry. We learn to feel pleasure when our taste buds are tantalized by ice cream. We learn about anger when a playmate takes a toy away from us. And we learn about sadness when we have to move away from friends. All of these emotions—and how we exercise them in daily life—profoundly affect our mental development.



YOUTH

OUR MINDS AND OUR CHOICES

As we transition from childhood into adulthood, we begin to develop more independence. We begin to think for ourselves and make up our own minds. We decide what to wear in the morning, what to do with our free time and which friends to spend time with. Those decisions reflect our ability to apply facts, experience and even emotions from the past to current situations. This is what “thinking for ourselves” is all about. As we exercise *good judgment*, our parents gain confidence in us, and they feel able to give us more independence and responsibility. Ultimately, the role of parents is not just to enforce obedience to their rules; it is to develop in their children the mind and the character to apply the *spirit* of those rules to new and different situations. Indeed, as young people exercise their growing decision-making ability, the things they do, the words they say and the friends they make reflect the patterns of their growing minds. Naturally, as we grow, we will choose to walk in harmony with others of like mind. As the prophet Amos wrote, “Can two walk together, unless they be agreed?” (Amos (3:3)).

Eventually, when we enter into adulthood, we begin to face challenges that are bigger than what clothes to wear, or what to do with our free time. We face decisions such as what to do about further education, career and marriage. We face decisions about our fundamental beliefs in God, and we grapple with questions about our Creator and our ultimate destiny. We come to decisions about how we will obey God’s law, and how to apply it to daily life. We face the question of making a permanent commitment to God through baptism. One day, it seems that we look up from our daily activities and face an overwhelming array of challenges and choices. How we *handle* these choices ultimately reflects the state of our minds.



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THE MIND OF GOD

If you are wrestling with these decisions, and desire to serve God with understanding, then God may be calling you. Those whom God calls come to realize that their minds, by themselves, are not completely adequate for handling the challenges of life. From the account of Adam and Eve forward, mankind’s history has shown that the human mind is not up to the challenge of establishing peace and prosperity on earth, and in fact is at odds with God. We can humanly manage many of the simple physical decisions we need to make, but for the biggest challenges we absolutely need the mind of God. The mind of God brings love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22). These are all attributes that bring true happiness and contentment in life. But they are attributes of a mind that is in harmony with the mind of God. And if we can develop a mind in harmony with God as a young person, we will imprint a way of thinking that will result in good decisions, and a good life.

Who you are, and what you do, is a direct result of what you put into your mind. What knowledge, experiences and emotions fill your mind? Do you read and think about God’s words and God’s ways? Do you make decisions that allow you to experience the fruit of living God’s way? Do you ask God to guide you through His Spirit with you to have emotions that are guided by God or are you like a puppet on the string of the passing natural human emotion that courses through your mind?

Make a choice. Take on the mind of God to help establish you in a wise and fruitful way of thinking and feeling. *Mind your mind.*

—Jonathan McNair

Resist Demons!

Continued from page 6

and then read through the New Testament. It would be good, after reading the Gospels, to read the book of Acts and then go to the “*General Epistles*” such as James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude. These books were written by the very ones who actually *worked with* Jesus Christ in the flesh for three whole years, or who grew up with Him as His physical *brother*! Those of you who are familiar with the original order of books in the New Testament (write for our free booklet, *The Bible: Fact or Fiction?* to learn more about this) will understand that these “general” epistles were actually placed *before* the epistles of Paul, for good reasons. *Study them*, and they will give you a good foundation for Christian living and spiritual **strength** to resist Satan and his demons.

When you study, read examples of prayer in the Bible—especially the “Lord’s Prayer” in Matthew 6 which is the *outline prayer* that should be a model for all our prayers. And learn to talk to God *from the heart*—**not** repeating some rote words by memory. Learn to think carefully about what you read in the Bible, and *meditate* on what God is telling you in His inspired word and on the *meaning of life* from the point of view of your Creator Himself. Ask God to help you *think as He thinks* and to have the “mind of Christ” (Philippians 2:5). And do not neglect the Old Testament—the only Scripture that was available during Jesus’ own day, and from which He and His apostles preached regularly!

Guide your life so you are around others who *take the Bible seriously*. Learn to spend your time around good and wholesome people—**not** odd or disoriented people. For negative and ungodly people will *pull you down* unless you develop strong spiritual character. The Bible tells us, “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed” (Proverbs 13:20). So learn to choose your friends carefully and let yourself be influenced by people who are clean,

wholesome and *positive* in their outlook on life and will not tend to pull you down.

The **second key** is to become *aware* of Satan and the spirit world from the point of view of God and His word. Do **not** immerse yourself in the spirit world through Satan’s own propaganda, or books and films about demonism or dealings with “mediums” or “spiritists” and others involved in the occult. For Satan is a *very powerful* and persuasive false angel and was able to seduce our first parents, Adam and Eve.

But when you learn about Satan through the eyes of God’s word, the Bible clearly indicates that he and his demons **cannot** kill you or **force** you to do **anything** unless you yourself “go along” and make it possible. Therefore, the Eternal God instructs us in His revealed word, “Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil** and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:7–8).

So, we are directly commanded by our Creator **not** to “mess around” with Satan and his demons. We are to **resist** Satan and, instead, to “draw near to God.” As we have explained, we “draw near to God” by deeply and earnestly **studying** His revealed word—the

Holy Bible—and by *meditating* on that word and then *praying fervently* to God asking Him for His wisdom, His guidance, His intervention and His deliverance from Satan and every evil thing.

The **third key** is to develop a **strategy** to resist Satan and his demons. By building a strong relationship with God, as described above, you are well on your way! But, in order to truly resist, you need to *develop specific strategies* that will affect your mind, your life and the way you think!

One important part of any successful strategy involves being sure to avoid any **contact** with Satan and his demons. Be careful what type of movies or television programs you watch, what video games you play and what Web sites you visit. For many misguided (or even



deliberately evil) presentations put into your mind a totally *wrong slant* on life—on what is good and true, and certainly on the right approach to the evil spirit world that lies all around us. Satan is able to *confuse* and distract countless millions of people from the important matters of life by keeping them “entertained” by empty and evil offerings through television and other media. Satan and his demons are eager to simply take up our time, as much as they can, and keep us from devoting the time we should to genuinely **studying** the revelation from our Creator and thinking about the things that really matter.

Another part of a successful strategy will involve being sure to be around *positive* people—those who are wise and who focus on God’s will rather than foolish nonsense and perverted ideas. Also, be sure to go outside regularly, to soak in the sunshine and breathe fresh air! Look up at the moon and the stars and realize that the **Creator** made these heavenly bodies. Get *vigorous exercise*—if you are able—and experience the emotional “uplift” as the endorphins kick in and help you feel better about yourself and your life. Guide your mind to dwell on positive topics, rather than allowing your mental processes to “drift off” into discouragement, melancholy, self-pity or bitterness. As God tells us, “Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things” (Philippians 4:8). Yes, *these* are the topics to **meditate** upon, so the “peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (v. 7).

The **fourth and final** key is to realize that you are in a **spiritual war** against one of the most powerful spirit beings in the universe. Only God the Father and Jesus Christ are more powerful. And it is through the power of the Father and Christ that you can have power—*Their power*—to overcome Satan and his demons! You do not need to give in to the confusing, discouraging and life-defeating attitudes that Satan and his demons continually promulgate. With the help of the Holy Spirit, you must **fight** this war as though your life depended upon it! For, indeed, it does.

Describing this warfare, the Apostle Paul was inspired to tell us, “For the weapons of our warfare

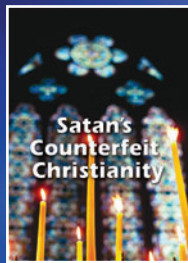
are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4–5).

Indeed, we need God’s help to cast out wrong thoughts and carnal pulls—often placed directly in our minds by Satan and his demons, if we allow them to do so. Instead of giving in to the demonic influences, we must continually work at “bringing every thought into captivity to the **obedience** of Jesus Christ.” We must *cry out* to God and ask Christ *to live His life within us through the Holy Spirit* (Galatians 2:20).

One of Satan’s favorite strategies is to pervert spiritual truths and turn them to his own purposes. Many of you may remember the *Star Wars* films, in which characters spoke often about “the force.” The encouraging truth is that we as Christians have the ultimate “force” in the universe working for us, *if we surrender to God and use that force with all our hearts!*

So, we need to recognize the **power** that is available through a **genuinely** close relationship with the Creator God—the God of the Bible—and through His Holy Spirit within us. God will help us if we ask and try to obey Him. He will **deliver** us from evil thoughts and passions placed in our minds by fallen angels, who are truly out to bring us down and destroy us. God has offered us the tools to absolutely **win** the spiritual battle ahead of us. So may God help and inspire all of us to **use** these four keys as a foundation for winning the ultimate battle—and finally becoming members of the very Kingdom of God, achieving the wonderful **purpose** for which we have been given life and breath! ■

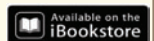
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Science vs. Doomsday 2012

If you listen to the right people—or, perhaps more accurately, the *wrong* people—you may have heard that in December of this year mankind will either experience the end of the world or the dawn of a new age.

Some claim that there is a mysterious “extra planet”—variously called Nibiru or Planet X—cruising around our solar system waiting to smash into the earth by the end of 2012. Others say that the planet’s magnetic field will flip—causing massive continental upheaval, cataclysmic volcanic eruptions, and world-ending floods. Still others predict calamities associated with Earth’s crossing the “galactic plane” of the Milky Way.

Why December 2012? Because a few are claiming that the Maya—an ancient, Mesoamerican empire—predicted that on December 21, 2012 (give or take a few days) the end of an age would come, bringing vast destruction or a new golden age of peace—or, perhaps, both.

But is there any reason to expect disaster this December? Many assert that reports from NASA and other scientific organizations back up their claims. The Maya are among the most studied and researched peoples of the ancient world. So, did they indeed make such predictions about December 2012?

The answer is a resounding “No!”

Consider the claim some have made that a wayward planet is lurking about the solar system, on a collision course with our planet,



soon to alter life on the earth forever, if not end it entirely. So, in mankind’s endless astronomical surveys of the night sky, has a “Nibiru” or a “Planet X” been seen amongst the stars, hurtling towards us in a dance of interplanetary death and doom?

Not at all! Despite all our looking, no such object has *ever been seen*. According to Dr. David Morrison of NASA’s official “Ask an Astrobiologist” Web site, his organization “has received thousands of questions about Nibiru and 2012,” and the answer is plain: there is no such space object in sight. He says: “To an astronomer, persistent claims about a planet that is ‘nearby’ but ‘invisible’ are just plain silly.” Even more bluntly, he

writes, “The purveyors of doom are promoting a hoax.”

America’s space agency has also weighed in on the possibility of a magnetic pole reversal and the consequences of such an event. The evidence of the earth’s crust and examinations of deep core samples taken from the ocean floor suggest that the earth has experienced pole reversals before—times when magnetic north and south have “switched sides.” However, none of these were associated with great destruction in any way: “The fossil record shows no drastic changes in plant or animal life... [T]here is nothing in the millions of years of geologic record to suggest that any of the 2012 doomsday scenarios connected to a pole reversal should be taken seriously” (“2012: Magnetic Pole Reversal Happens All the (Geologic) Time,” NASA.gov, November 30, 2011).

Well, then, perhaps crossing the galactic plane—an event some say the Maya predicted anciently to occur in December 2012—will do us in? Not according to space scientists. As astronomer Bruce McClure of *EarthSky.org* points out, “No, earth will not pass through the *galactic plane* in 2012, contrary to what you might have heard. Earth won’t be *physically* passing through the plane of the Milky Way galaxy anytime in the near future” (*EarthSky.org*).



His Hands

WHAT DID THE MAYA (NOT) SAY?

As one examines the science behind the many claims of coming global devastation predicted by 2012-ologists, one consistently finds that science does *not* back up the claim.

It seems that if the ancient Maya predicted any sort of global or cosmic hubbub to occur in December 2012 they were a little off. But did this ancient people ever truly predict the things ascribed to them?

The evidence says very clearly that they did not.

Though many amateurs, Maya hobbyists and New Age gurus claim to tease out 2012-related details from the many, many artifacts and records we have recovered from ancient Mayan culture—such as the impressively detailed Dresden Codex, and the famed post-colonial *Chilam Balam*—the powerful consensus of Maya scholars is that *not a single one* of these works predicts either doom and gloom *or* a grand new age of peace in 2012. Even the idea that the Maya calendar somehow “ends” in 2012 has been discredited by modern research. As Kansas University scholar Dr. John Hoopes, a specialist in pre-Columbian civilization, explains, “Nowhere in the databases of science does it say that the 2012 date is the end of the Maya calendar.” In fact, not only have Mayan references to dates far beyond 2012 been known for decades, a recent find in northern Guatemala in the Mayan

Xultun ruins has uncovered one of the oldest Mayan calendars ever discovered which also mentions dates thousands of years into the future (“Ancient Time: Earliest Mayan Astronomical Calendar Unearthed in Guatemala Ruins,” *Scientific American*, May 10, 2012). Abundant evidence demonstrates that the Maya believed time would, indeed, continue as it always had, long after 2012 had come and gone.

Indeed, as Dr. Robert Sitler, author of *The Living Maya*—an expert who has studied the Maya for decades—has noted in correspondence, “[T]he 2012 phenomenon arises from outside the Mayan cultural context and is only now being introduced in the Mayan world.”

Sadly, even though the idea has no basis in truth whatsoever, the notion of an ancient Mesoamerican civilization somehow looking through time to our day and seeing a specific date of global change and catastrophe has been too hard for many to resist—and, consequently, the hoax and hoopla has continued to today. Perhaps this is unsurprising, given the obvious turmoil around us in our world today.

WHAT IS PROPHESED?

For those familiar with Scripture, the verdict of science on the 2012 hysteria is not news at all. There is, after all, an Almighty God in heaven who *does* declare the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10) and reveals

prophetic knowledge of those things to come. And, unlike the periodic pronouncements of New Age gurus and prophet-wannabes through the years, His track record is perfect!

In the pages of Scripture, God makes it clear that there will, indeed, be collisions with bodies from space (Revelation 8:8–11), as well as cataclysmic, planet-altering earthquakes (Revelation 16:18–20). Yet that very same God also tells us of specific events that must *precede* these calamities: false and deceptive religious powers which must come into global authority (Revelation 13:11–14); a vast economic, military, political powerhouse that will dominate the entire world in league with the false world-wide religion (vv. 1–4); a period of two-and-a-half years of horrific persecution of true Christians and the descendants of Israel known in Scripture as the “Great Tribulation” (Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:14); and a year-long period of God’s vengeance on a rebellious world (Isaiah 34:8) right before the return of Jesus Christ—and the *true* end of this age!

Might something dramatic happen to our planet in December 2012? Certainly. We are living in dramatic times! But if something occurs, will it signal the imminent end of the world? Science casts great doubts on the validity of 2012-obsessed doomsday purveyors. Rather, it is God who makes the matter abundantly clear: the end of this age is coming soon—but it will *not* be on December 21, 2012!

—Wallace G. Smith

Why Are We Here?

Continued from page 2

will pay the penalties for greed, selfishness and sin. God warns us: “The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail” (Deuteronomy 28:43–44). Indeed, the two nations now holding the most U.S. debt are China with \$1.3 trillion and Japan with \$1.0 trillion.

Barron’s further reports: “Eventually, at the rate they’re growing, the combined cost of Social Security and Medicare alone will gradually take over most of the federal budget. Add in other programs, including Medicaid, and entitlements would swallow the entire budget” (*ibid.*, p. 24).

I have had the privilege of giving several *Tomorrow’s World* Special Presentations, where some of you may have heard me emphasize that there is a solution to all of these problems—a solution that only a very few are willing to apply. God gives a powerful warning that applies not just individually, but also to our nations as a whole: “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings” (Malachi 3:8). A tithe is a tenth of our increase or income. The Creator God owns the earth and the entire universe. He gives us every breath of life we breathe. But notice the national penalty for disobedience: “‘You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, *even this whole nation*. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it’” (Malachi 3:9–10).

If the peoples of our Western nations would repent, turn to God wholeheartedly and begin tithing, their financial curses would be reversed. God’s way is the way of love—the way of “give.” Robbery is a sin, and robbing from God brings a curse. Remember, God looks at the heart, not at the bank balance, of those who give offerings. Jesus commended the widow who contributed just two mites to the temple treasury as having given far more generously than the wealthy men who made a great show of their charity (Mark 12:41–44).

As long-time *Tomorrow’s World* readers know, God is not in this present age calling most of humanity to repentance. Most people who read this magazine’s warnings will not heed them. To the vast majority in our day, the message of the coming Kingdom of God is mainly a strong **warning** message. However, if you are among the **few** whose minds God is opening, and He is giving you **understanding** of the truth you are finding in the *Tomorrow’s World* magazine—and also on our telecast and *TomorrowsWorld.org* Web site—you have the opportunity to have **in your own life today** many of the blessings God will bring to **all the earth** in the coming Millennium and White Throne Judgment.

Most of mankind today is here to learn the lesson that a life of disobedience to God is vanity—futility. Mankind’s best financial systems, social programs, intellectual ventures and bold explorations will all amount to nothing if we are not obedient to God. But God is calling a relative few, even today, as “firstfruits”—those who in this present age will hear His message and obey Him, and in doing so will overcome “all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16). Yes, God calls His faithful people to be “overcomers” (Revelation 21:7). How can we do this? Through the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14)! It is through Him that we can overcome. Consider one of Dr. Meredith’s favorite verses in this regard: “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).

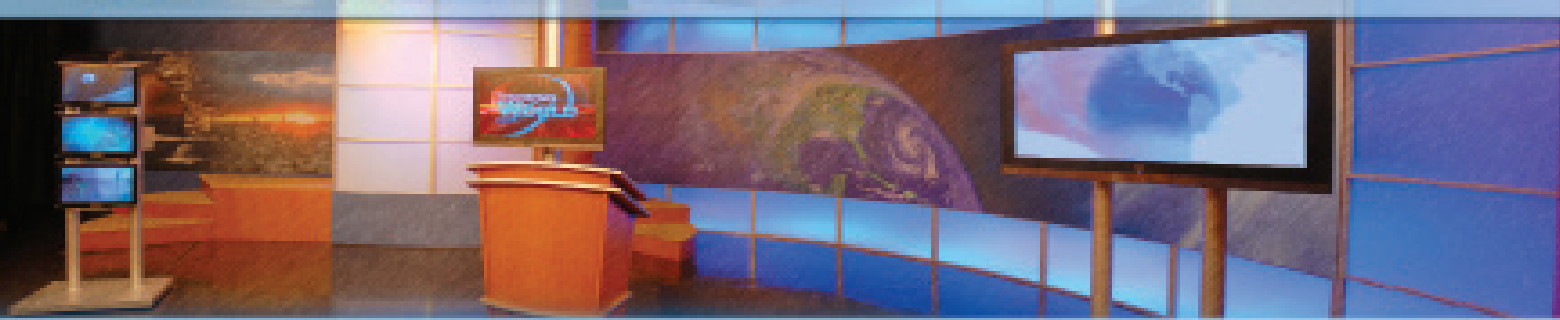
Through baptism after repentance, true Christians have “buried” their old carnal nature. They have allowed Jesus Christ to live His life within them, exercising His very faith as they go about their daily activities in obedience to His law and His will. True Christians are not just going through the motions of physical life. They are building God’s own character within them, day by day, as they use the Holy Spirit—which they received at baptism—to prepare for their coming birth into the Kingdom of God, at the resurrection, when Jesus Christ returns. For true Christians, *this* is “why we are here.”



UNITED STATES: P.O. Box 3810, CHARLOTTE, NC 28227-8010, www.TomorrowsWorld.org, PHONE: (704) 844-1970 ■
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